



Worship Celebration

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021 + 11 AM

*The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 23). This is our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, sharing God's renewing love with the world.*

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 11AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) and in the Sanctuary

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7PM (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Theme from *The Planets*

G. Holst/arr. David Pettit

Opening Prayer

*How good and beautiful it is, O God, when we live together in unity and love.
Gift us again with your Holy Spirit today,
that we might live as a blessing of unity and love for the world.
Break through the locks of our gated communities and hardened hearts.
As we worship you today, accept our doubts, heal our desire for certainty,
and by your Spirit's gentle touch, make us your Easter people:
forgiven and forgiving, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn

Christ Is Risen

UMH 307

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

*Christ Is Risen / Brian Wren / 1986 Hope Publishing Company
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Reaffirming our Faith—The Apostles' Creed

UMH 882

*We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Receiving a New Member into Our Fellowship - Janet Angus

As a member of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? *I will.*

As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? *I will.*

Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.
***We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.***
The God of all grace, who has called us to fuller life in Christ,
establish us and strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that we may live together in grace and peace. Amen.

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

Children's Message

First Lesson—Acts 4.32-35 (CEB)

³²The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 20.19-31 (CEB)

¹⁹It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²²Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

²⁴Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

³⁰Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Hymn

Christ Has Risen

TFWS 2115

*Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.*

*Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!*

*Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.*

*Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upper room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright.*

*They bemoan what is no longer, they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.*

*Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.*

*Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been—
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.*

*Christ Has Risen / John Bell / 1988 WGRG The Iona Community, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.
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Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Doxology

UMH 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*God of abundant grace, we live in a world where our worth often is tied to our wealth,
yet you have shown us how good and beautiful it is when we live together as one.*

*Although we do not yet share everything in common, as your first believers did,
we share these gifts today that they may be used for the common good.*

Bless these gifts with the same power of your Holy Spirit.

Bless our lives with your spirit of unity and love.

And bless all our ministries, that we may live as your Easter people:

your beloved community, transforming the world by your love. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

New Creations

*All we could see was darkness. Our hearts were formless and void.
You hovered over our waters. There was light at the sound of your voice.
With every new sunrise, we will come alive. You bring life where there is none.
In the wilderness, we'll remember this, you bring life where there is none.
Now we see streams in the desert, rivers in the wasteland.
Out of the dust, you make us new creations. Breathe in our dry bones, empty every grave,
because out of the dust, you make us new creations.*

*All we could see was darkness, the shadow of our old ways.
But when you said it is finished, there was light when the stone rolled away.
Now we see streams in the desert, rivers in the wasteland.
Out of the dust, you make us new creations. Breathe in our dry bones, empty every grave,
because out of the dust, you make us new creations.*

*You make all things beautiful. You make all things new, all things new.
Now we see streams in the desert, rivers in the wasteland.
Out of the dust, you make us new creations. Breathe in our dry bones, empty every grave,
because out of the dust, you make us new creations.*

*New Creations / Josh Baldwin, Ethan Hulse, Mark Campbell, Ben Backus / 2019 Bethel Music Publishing
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Benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

So, may we walk in God's love, live in God's love, and come more fully alive in God's love.

May the One who is love itself transform our doubts into faith and our sorrow into joy.

For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Postlude

We Know That Christ is Raised

C. V. Stanford

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe

Rev. Carrie Antczak

Music

Dr. Barbara MacGregor, *Organ*

Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*

Jeff Jaskolka, *Piano*

Liturgist

Sandy Marek

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

Holy God, I am full of thanks for a night of rest
and for this new day and all that now awaits me.
I go forward toward encounters
with family and friends, work and play,
and all that will bring me into contact with
others,
confident that you are with me.
Lead and guide me in the way
of a resurrected life.
Help me to notice the risen Lord today. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Holy God, you are my comfort
at the end of the day as at its beginning.
You pull me toward the goodness you desire.
I give you thanks for all that has come my way,
and I ask your enveloping power
to watch over me throughout this night.
Give rest to all your people.
Wherever there is pain or struggle,
may your grace bring peace. Amen.

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Additional Worship Opportunities:

Morning Prayer

Mondays through Fridays

9:00AM

via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/518014483>

Passcode: 170

Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays

7:00PM

via Zoom

Meeting ID: 848 4741 1964

Passcode: 195510

All are welcome to join us for a brief worship service to re-center and re-focus together around scripture and prayer in the middle of the week.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at
nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.



Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday, April 18

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Gifts to Native American Ministries Sunday provide scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians, strengthen and develop Native American ministries and communities—both urban and rural—and support Native American outreach.

Visit **<https://youtu.be/syPlxuJdPMw>** to learn more
and please consider giving generously on Sunday, April 18.



A Disciple's Path: Reconnecting with your Faith Journey

Have you been connecting with our church over the course of this unique time and are wondering, what's next? How can I become more involved with this congregation - or what is my next step in discipleship?

Members who would like to "begin again" or recommit to their discipleship, as well as new and old friends, are invited to consider joining us for an upcoming faith formation group that will help us all reconnect to our discipleship. The main goal is to encourage you to continue in your discipleship "path" wherever that may lead.

This group will meet virtually for the comfort and safety of everyone. If you are interested, please let us know and we'll add you to our list of friends who would like to do this together. We'll then send out a survey asking for your availability in terms of time and days. We hope to begin in late spring.

If there's any other way we can be of support to your faith journey, please share your ideas and needs. We're here to listen and support you!

For more information, contact Pastor Carrie at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Messy Church - "Begin Again"

May 16, 4-6 PM - Register starting April 15

There is so much to "begin again" with fresh eyes and renewed spirits. Messy Church is celebrating our chance to "begin again"! Register (beginning April 15) for our first Messy Church of 2021, happening May 16 from 4-6 pm. Participating families will receive a time slot to join us outside as we journey through the story of Noah's Arc and discovery that even when life is messy, God doesn't give up on creation. We'll be sure to have all the messy fun in a safe way.

To register or volunteer to help, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x 105.



Youth Ministry News

April 25, 5 PM

Our youth are excited to be serving Nehemiah Mission June 21-25! Their next meeting for planning is April 25 at 5 PM. There is still time to join us as either a youth, young adult, or adult chaperone. Stay tuned for fundraising opportunities you can support.

Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x 105 for more information.

Youth are also helping to plan and participate in the Creation Justice event on April 25. See **page 5** for details.



Children's Ministry Looking for VBS Volunteers

The Children's Ministry team is also considering hosting a completely outdoor Vacation Bible School in July. Before planning though, we'd like to know what volunteers may feel comfortable in helping us do so.

If you think you'd like to help, and would feel comfortable doing so, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x 105.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, April 12, 6:30 - 8 PM, via Zoom

Online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81259288501>

By phone: 1-888-788-0099, Meeting ID: 812 5928 8501

Join us on Monday, April 12, from 6:30- 8pm to discuss **Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life** by Barbara Kingsolver.

Author, Barbara Kingsolver, and her family abandoned the industrial-food pipeline to live a rural life - vowing that, for one year, they only buy food raised in their own neighborhood, grow it themselves, or learn to live without it. The book is an enthralling narrative that will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat.

If you have questions, please call **Janet Mallarnee** at 440-235-7331, **Betsy Meikle** at 440-243-5767, or **Jan Harlamert** at 440-243-7126.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Anyone is welcome to join. On April 8, We are starting a new book - **You're Loved No Matter What** by Holley Gerth.

As women, we tend to think that if we could only get our act together, life would be perfect. But you're not supposed to be perfect. You're supposed to be human. And humans are messy, flawed, glorious, and deeply loved. It's time to start living fully instead of just trying not to fail.

For more information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at 440-409-5931 or marylynn482@gmail.com.



Griefshare Support Group - New Participants Welcome!

New Session beginning Tuesday, April 20, via Zoom

For more information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at 440-409-5931 or marylynn482@gmail.com.



Celebrate God's Creation

Saturday April 17, 9:30 AM-Noon, and Sunday, April 25

To honor God's Creation, we will celebrate all His wonderful works and learn about climate justice on Festival of God's Creation Sunday at UMCB on April 25th. An outdoor activity will also be held that afternoon. (Details to come.)

We need your help. Please make a picture or sculpture of something being affected by CLIMATE CHANGE that we can show during the Sunday service. Take a picture of your creation and send it to **Wendy Jelinek** (snowleopard7001@yahoo.com) by **April 15**. [See page 13 of the April Caller for more information and ideas.](#) Have fun with it!



We will also work with Sustainable Berea for a clean-up in Berea on Saturday, April 17th from 9:30 AM-Noon. We will meet at the Coe Lake Gazebo. More details can be found at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA. To help plan for the event, please **sign up by April 10th** on UMCB's Facebook page or by contacting Kathleen at (440) 503-0123 or kjbradley123@gmail.com. *Submitted by Wendy Jelinek for the Festival of God's Creation 2021 planning team*

Equal Exchange - another way to care for God's Creation

The First Wednesday of each month, 6:30-7:15 PM, in the Church Vestibule

Equal Exchange items, which are made from organically grown ingredients, will be for sale on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-7:15pm. Just come up to the church's main entrance.

Unable to come to the church? Contact the **church office** at info@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x100** as it may be possible to make other arrangements.



Virtual Journey to Cambodia

Saturdays, April 17, 24, and May 1, 8:30 - 10 AM

Since January 2017, we have been cultivating relationships with the people of the Methodist Church in Cambodia through our United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. We have taken two trips there, in January 2017 and January 2019, and for the past couple of years have been supporting university students through financial scholarships.

On three consecutive Saturday mornings, April 17, 24, and May 1, you are invited to join us for a virtual journey to Cambodia, joining with others to discover the wonderful ways God is working in Cambodia, to learn more about their history, and to interact with their young people. Each day, we will meet via Zoom, and participants will receive daily trip updates by email before and throughout the journey.

Please contact **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) with any questions or to sign up.



Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

Wednesdays, 4:00-7:00PM, In Front of the Red Doors on Seminary Street

Collections of food for local food banks will continue with some changes. When you drop off your donation pull up to the red doors, flash your lights and beep your horn. A masked church member will come out to accept your donation.

If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, please feel free to participate with a monetary donation instead, either by mailing a check to the church office or online at www.umcb.org/donate. Please note "food pantry" on the description line. Thank you for supporting this effort.



Loose Change Offering

As a congregation committed to mission, our loose change offering gives a "boost" to the missions and programs that are strengthening our church and communities near and far. **April's selected mission is Youth Work Mission** - See Page 11 of the [April Caller](#) for more information. You can support this mission by either mailing in an offering, or doing so electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box to donate the mission or simply "loose change offering".



Spring Fling
April 17, 10am - 2pm, UMCB Parking Lot
(On the porch in inclement weather)

Please join us for the Spring Fling! We will be offering:

- *Gift Certificates for J&J Nursery (26240 Folley Road, Columbia Station), \$16.00 each
- *Homegrown "Indoor" Plant Sale
- *Grand Pacific Popcorn Co. - Depot Delight, Garlic Parmesan and Lemon Pound Cake Popcorn!

All sales will benefit UMW Local Missions.

Please contact **Carol McCleery**, mcmanistee7250@gmail.com or
440-234-9078, with any questions.

Pastoral Care, Prayer Requests, and Care Leaders

Please reach out to **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request. Likewise, if you find yourself needing food or other supplies and unable to get them, please contact me, and we will do our best to care for you. While we are apart from one another physically, we remain connected through our common mission and through our mutual concern and care. As an expression of our connection, we now have a team of “care leaders” who are making phone calls throughout the course of the week to check in, be in conversation, and share prayer requests.

If you have not heard from a “care leader” yet and would like to connect this way, or if you would like to serve as a “care leader,” please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.

Staff & Office Hours

For the protection of all, our staff continues to work from home whenever possible. If you contact the staff by email or phone message, please be assured they will respond as quickly as they are able. If your business requires a visit to the church building, please call in advance to ensure a staff member will be available.

You can reach the church office by email (ebarner@umcb.org), by leaving a voicemail on the church office phone (**440-234-3525 x100**) or by calling **440-710-4498** (Beth’s home office phone). All messages will be answered during office hours (9AM-3PM weekdays).

Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

As an expression of love for our neighbors and for the well-being of our entire community, each of us is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when we are eligible to do so.

All Ohioans age 16 and over are eligible to receive one of the vaccines. Visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> or call 2-1-1 (United Way’s 211 HelpLink) on weekdays between 8AM and 4PM to find information about where you can receive the vaccine once you are eligible.

If you have additional questions or can use assistance navigating this process, please do not hesitate to contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.



The many butterflies that grace our Sanctuary represent not only your loved ones but also your commitment to supporting our Global Mission Partners.

Thank you for your generous contributions.

