



Worship Celebration

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Festival of God's Creation

April 25, 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, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **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 8 AM (beginning May 2) In-person in the Sanctuary

Sunday at 11AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) and in-person 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)
Wednesday Evening Prayer will be moving to the North lot beginning May 5 (weather permitting).

Bring your lawn chair.

(Face masks and physical distancing required for all in-person worship.)

If you are worshipping with us from home, either by phone or online, 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

Sheep May Safely Graze (Psalm 23)

J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship—Psalm 104.24-33 (UMH 827)

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom, you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,

creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan whom you formed to play in it.

These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you give to them, they gather it;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever, may the Lord rejoice in his works,

who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1-4)

UMH 62

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, O praise ye! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam!

O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain, by which all creatures ye sustain, O praise ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,

O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfoldest blessings on our way, Alleluia! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, let them God's glory also show!

O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reaffirming our Faith—A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
*to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one in divine love for the world.*

Today is the day God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life, weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference, favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness, humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

***Today is the day God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives, gives sight to the blind, and sets the oppressed free.***

And so shall we.

Vocal Solo

This Is My Father's World
Christine McMillin, Vocalist

UMH 144

***This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.***

***This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.***

***This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.***

***This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.***

***This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.***

***This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad!***

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—Psalm 23 (CEB)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

² He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

he leads me to restful waters; ³ he keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.

⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff—they protect me.

⁵ You set a table for me right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶ Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 10.11-18 (CEB)

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That's because he isn't the shepherd; the sheep aren't really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ He's only a hired hand and the sheep don't matter to him.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that don't belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

¹⁷ "This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Vocal Solo

All Creation Sings

B. MacGregor

Mitchell McVeigh, Vocalist

Count the stars, shining in the midnight sky, watch the clouds softly drifting through the air.
Sun and moon shine on their way, quiet night and peaceful day. All creation sings, God is here!

Feel the rain, giving life to plants and trees and flowers, with the sun nourishing the fertile soil.
Fields of grain to give us bread, fruits to ripen, all are fed. All creation sings, God is here!

Hear the birds singing happily to greet the day, dolphins play in the deep and shining sea.
Creatures great and creatures small, we can love and care for all. All creation sings, God is here!

See the world, awesome gift to us from God's own hands, we are one with all people of the earth.
Lord of love and power and grace, help us keep this sacred space. All creation sings, God is here!

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!*

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Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:
You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it.
Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence.
Where we have destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.
Where we have taken beauty for granted, have mercy upon us.
Where we have become disconnected from the creatures with whom we share this planet,
grant us your peace.
Renew us in the water of our baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit,
and sustain us with the bread of new life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of your new creation, we pray. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

WS 3129

*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

*God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ, reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.*

*Touch the Earth Lightly / Shirley Erena Murray, Swee-Hong Lim / 2005 Hope Publishing Company
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Benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

So let us go now to serve, even when serving involves risk.

Let us go now to care, even when caring is hard.

Let us go now to love, in truth and in action, for Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Postlude

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God (Psalm 19)

B. Marcello

***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*

Liturgists

Sam Allen
Christine McMillin

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer

God of surprising revelations,
I thank you for rest and renewal.
I thank you that when you come to your people,
you speak peace and invite faith in you.
Give me ears to hear your will for me,
hands that are open to others,
and senses to perceive the beauty in your world;
in Jesus' name, Amen.

Evening Prayer

For all that has happened this day, O God,
I give you thanks.
Even for the challenges I faced, I thank you.
Now give me rest,
secure in your never-failing arms.
Let my dreams center
in what is pleasing and good,
bringing me to a new day with thanksgiving.
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.

Beginning on May 2, Evening Prayers are moving to the North Lot.

All are welcome to join us for this mid-week opportunity to center in prayer, scripture, and our community with one another. Bring a lawn chair, wear your face masks, and join us on the lawn at the north end of our church building every Wednesday at 7 PM (weather-permitting).

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



“When in Our Music God is Glorified”

UMCB has been blessed with the glorious voices of our BW students: Grace Dahl, Lucy Hoy, Logan Byerly, and Mitchell McVeigh. Their talents and gifts enhanced our worship services and provided so much beauty to our music experience. We are collecting your cards and notes, expressing your gratitude, to be given to each senior. Please drop your notes/cards at church or mail to the church office to: Grace Dahl (December graduate), Lucy Hoy (May graduate), Logan Byerly (May graduate) and Mitchell McVeigh (May graduate). Thank you and may God continue to bless them.



Youth Ministry News

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

Contact **Pastor Carrie** at [**cantczak@umcb.org**](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x 105** for more information.



Messy Church - "Begin Again"

May 16, 4-6 PM, Registration open now

Messy Church begins again! Register to join us for an outdoor faith-filled fun event! We'll learn about Noah's Ark and how we can with God's help "begin again". Messy church always has fun, messy activities, stories, and a meal. This time around, dinner will be to-go. We look forward to seeing our Messy friends again and meeting new friends!

Email [**cantczak@umcb.org**](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) with an adult name and number of children and ages. You will receive your staggered arrival time the week before the event (sometime between 4 and 5:45). Masks are required. (Registration closes when we reach our limit or **May 10.**)



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**](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105**.



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**.



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!

A new session has just started, via Zoom

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



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".



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.



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

April 5 and 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.

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**.

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).

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Festival of God’s Creation- Gratitude Walk
Rescheduled - Sunday, May 2, Wallace Lake, 2 PM

To honor the memory of Reverend Kenneth Williams and allow time for family and friends to celebrate his life, the **Gratitude Walk** originally scheduled for Sunday, April 25 will be held on **Sunday, May 2 at 2 PM** at Wallace Lake. We hope you are able to join us that day.

Submitted by Wendy Jelinek for the Festival of God’s Creation 2021 planning team



Thanks to our crew who helped with Sustainable Berea in cleaning up our community!