



Worship Celebration

Third Sunday of Easter

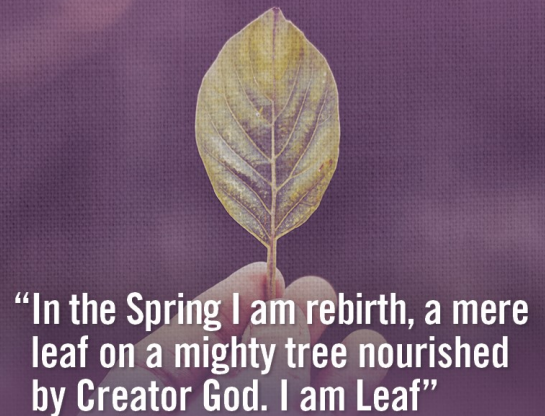
April 18, 2021 + 11 AM

*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.*

Native American Ministries Sunday

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. 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/syPIxuJdPMw> to learn more and please consider giving generously.



FROM THE POEM, "I AM LEAF" BY BOE HARRIS-NAKAKAKENA

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY



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 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)

If you are worshiping 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

How Firm a Foundation

arr. J. Linker

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Come to us, O God, for we are here and we are waiting—
waiting and hoping that your word of peace will calm our fearful, doubting selves.
Open our hearts to the message you would share with us today
through song, scripture, prayer, and silence,
that we might reach out, touch you, and believe.
Help us receive our identity as your beloved children.
Help us live into this identity, today and always, that we might share your love with others.
Awaken us to your presence, Loving God, and transform us. Amen.*

Hymn

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

*Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.
Fear of death no more can stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.
Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.*

*Easter People Raise Your Voices / William M. James, Henry T. Smart / 1979 The United Methodist Publishing House
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Reaffirming our Faith—The World Methodist Social Affirmation

UMH 886

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again;
and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.
We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action:
through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;
through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference;
through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life;
through the search for security by those military and economic forces
that threaten human existence;
through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ:
to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity;
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.
Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. 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—1 John 3.1-7 (CEB)

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn't recognize him, it doesn't recognize us.

² Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure. ⁴ Every person who practices sin commits an act of rebellion, and sin is rebellion. ⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Every person who remains in relationship to him does not sin. Any person who sins has not seen him or known him.

⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you. The person who practices righteousness is righteous, in the same way that Jesus is righteous.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Luke 24.36b-48 (CEB)

Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ³⁷ They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones like you see I have."

⁴⁰ As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of baked fish. ⁴³ Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴ Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Hymn

Christ Is Risen

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.

For I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave! Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave!

The prodigal is welcomed home, the sinner now a saint.

For the God who died came back to life and everything has changed.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave! Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave!

***O death, where is your sting? O fear, where is your power?
The mighty king of kings has disarmed you.
Delivered and redeemed, eternal life is ours. O praise his name forever!
Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave! Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave!
And all throughout eternity our song will be the same: Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave!
And on the day you call me in to heaven's sweet embrace,
I'll see your scars, your open arms, the beauty of your face.
Through tears of joy I'll lift my voice in everlasting praise.
Hallelujah, Christ is risen from the grave!***

*Christ Is Risen / Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson, Matt Brock / 2017 Capitol CMG Paragon
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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

***Generous God, you put your love into human form in Jesus,
who lived, died, and was raised as the first fruits of your new creation.
Receive now these offerings, that your grace may live today through the work of your church.
We offer these gifts along with our time, our commitment, and our love,
that the world may witness, without doubt, that Christ is alive today.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

We Know That Christ Is Raised

UMH 610

***We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!
We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!
A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia!***

We Know That Christ Is Raised / John Brownlow Geyer / Used by permission. One License A-737772

Benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

The risen one comes to us, opening our minds and hearts,
so let us go forth from this time of worship strengthened,
as we claim our identity as God's beloved children.

And may God's promised peace be with us all, for Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune

D. German

***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

Rev. Linda McCowen

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.

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

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, 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 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**.)



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. 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 or **440-234-3525 x 105** for more information.





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!

New Session beginning Tuesday, April 20, via Zoom

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



Festival of God's Creation

Sunday, April 25

There's still time... Kids & adults can still 1) take/find a **photo**, 2) **draw** a **picture** or 3) make a **sculpture** of an **animal, insect or plant** being affected by **CLIMATE CHANGE** which will be included in the church service. Send your photo or a picture of your drawing or sculpture to Wendy Jelinek (snowleopard7001@yahoo.com) by **April 15**. One website to find wildlife affected by climate change is <https://defenders.org/climate-change-guide> or check the **April Caller** for other resources. **Have fun with it!**

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



Gratitude Walk

Sunday, April 25, Wallace Lake, 2 PM

Also on April 25, we will gather at Wallace Lake at 2 PM for a gratitude walk. We hope you will join us for this other way to appreciate God's creation.

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



Virtual Journey to Cambodia

Saturdays, April 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 two more consecutive Saturday mornings, April 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".

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).