

Worship Celebration

Pentecost + Heritage Sunday

May 23, 2021 8 AM + 11 AM

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 in-person in the Sanctuary

Sunday at 11AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos) and in-person in the Sanctuary
(Face masks and physical distancing are required for all in-person worship.)

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

Wednesday at 7PM (Evening Prayer) in-person in the north lot (weather permitting).
Bring your lawn chair. *(Face masks are recommended for all outdoor 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

Come, Holy Spirit

Nicolas de Grigny

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

Wind of God, present since before creation, fall on us now.

Whisper to us. Shout to us. Comfort and guide us.

Set us on fire anew, and revive our spirits to love and serve.

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

*Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face,
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion, lives that are holy and hearts that are true*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones.*

Gather Us In/ Marty Haugen / 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

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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 2.1-21 (CEB)

¹ When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

⁵ There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. ⁷ They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them?" ⁸ How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" ¹² They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵ These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! ¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *In the last days, God says,*

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

¹⁸ *Even upon my servants, men and women,*

I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

*¹⁹ I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
²⁰ The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.
²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson—Romans 8.22-27 (CEB)

²² We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. ²³ And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. ²⁴ We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Recognition of the 25th Anniversary of The Order of Deacons

How will we know where Deacons are?

Where all the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable are met. Where we gather the gifts of the church and take them to the world and gather the needs of the world and bring them to the church.

How will we know where Deacons are?

Where we look upon the path, grass worn down from their movement from the altar to the gutter and back again, where we will come to see with striking clarity, the link between the blood in our chalices and the blood in our streets.

How will we know where Deacons are?

Where all people respond to the challenge to live, not in the love of power but in the power of love.

Today we celebrate together the ministry of the Deacons among us, doing the critical work of proclaiming God's Incarnate Word in speech and deed to those who desperately need to hear it and who may not have the opportunity. We rejoice that our Deacons lead us in pulling back the veil that hides the suffering outside our church doors, urging us to follow in ministry to heal bodies and society of the ills that we face. We thank our Deacons for doing the difficult work of leading us into suffering while holding the light of Christ's hope for the world.

Source: adapted from "Holy Rescuers" by Ven. Irma Wyman in Soundings, August 2001

Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians

TFWS 2223

***We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians, by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians, by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians, by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*All praise to the Father from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians, by our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*They'll Know We Are Christians / Peter Scholtes/ 1966 F.E.L. Publications. assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation
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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.

Handbell Choir Anthem

Grazioso

Arnold B. Sherman

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

*O God, we bring our offerings to you—our gifts, our talents, ourselves—
and we ask that you would bless us and use us
to make known your beloved community in this world.
In Jesus' name, in the Spirit's power, we pray. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

In the Midst of New Dimensions

TFWS 2238

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

*Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

*As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

*We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

*Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

In the Midst of New Dimensions / Julian B. Rush / 1994 Julian B. Rush / Used by permission. One License A-737772

Benediction

May the Spirit of God, sent forth to create and re-create,
stir in our hearts and minds and souls a vision of God's new creation.
Go from this time of worship, filled with the Spirit of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Deacons

Rev. Linda McCowen
Rev. Linda M. Short

Music

Jeff Jaskolka, *Piano (8AM)*
Tori Lero, *Handbell Choir Director*
Dr. Barbara MacGregor, *Organ (11AM)*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*

Liturgist

Rev. Linda M. Short

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, May 23):

God of newness and delight,
you greet your world again with light and life.
I awaken to your presence behind, before,
beneath, above, and within me.
I thank you for another day.
Let me be a peacemaker today
in all my relationships, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, May 23):

Good and Holy One,
you have led me through this day
to a time when I can close my eyes and dream.
I thank you for the people you have sent
my way today,
for the work I have had to do,
for the food, shelter, and safety you have given.
Amen.

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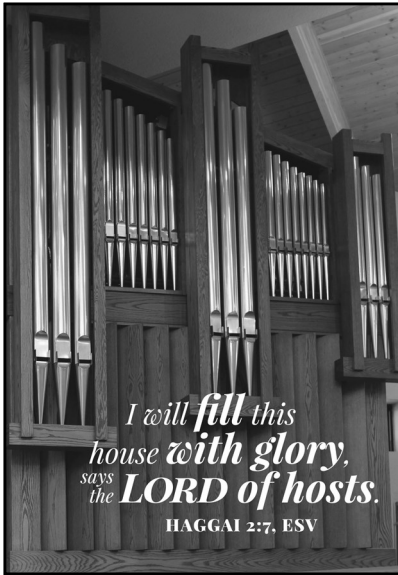
FROM OUR ORGANIST

Last Fall, my husband Mark retired after 55 years as a practicing CPA. Since then, I've been contemplating my own retirement as organist for The United Methodist Church of Berea.

June 6 will be my last Sunday playing for worship, completing seven years of service that I began in June 2014. We are planning to relocate to our home in St. Augustine, Florida, where we hope to see a lot of sunshine!

I've enjoyed working with the staff and members of the congregation and am gratified to have been a part of the church's ministry. Thank you all for this opportunity.

Soli Deo Gloria - To God be the Glory
Barbara MacGregor



We are collecting your cards and notes, expressing your gratitude for Barbara MacGregor's ministry, to be given to her during her last worship service with us on Sunday, June 6. Please drop your notes/cards at church or mail them to the church office. Thank you.



Sunday Afternoon Hike

Sunday, May 30, 4 PM, Rocky River Nature Center

Enjoy the beauty of God's creation! All are welcome to join us for a hike on the trails near the Rocky River Nature Center on Sunday, May 30. We will begin our walk from the Nature Center at 4 PM.

If you plan to join us, please RSVP by the end of the day on **Thursday, May 27** to Pastor Nathan at **440-234-3525 x100** or nhowe@umcb.org.



Tuesday Morning Walks

Tuesdays, 7:30 AM, Meet in the Wallace Lake parking lot

It's always a joy to get outside and get moving. It's also a great way to care for the bodies God has given us and to experience God's presence in creation.

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 AM. We meet in the parking lot by Wallace Lake and head out on the all-purpose trail that runs beside Valley Parkway. Join us any week!



Opportunities to Serve in Worship

As we continue living our new normal with regard to indoor, in-person worship opportunities for our whole congregation, you are invited to help us offer meaningful worship both online and in person in the Sanctuary by serving in the following ways:

- Serving as an usher, greeting worshipers as they enter the building and providing any needed information.
- Serving as a liturgist, reading scripture lessons.
- Serving on the "A/V team," learning from Mark Williams how to assist with the livestream worship service.

You can express your interest by completing the form at www.umcb.org/worshipresources.

You can also contact Pastor Nathan at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org

for more information and to express your interest.



Peace with Justice Sunday

May 30, 2021

One of our denomination's six Special Sundays with offering, Peace with Justice Sunday is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. The offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conferences and around the world. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Church and Society globally.

For example, Global Peace with Justice grants include:

- an East Congo roundtable to discuss equitable educational justice—especially how to address the illiteracy that makes Pygmies vulnerable to deception and exploitation,
- “Letting Girls Be Girls” health education programming and services for young girls in the Rotifunk community of Sierra Leone, and
- an Economic Empowerment program for Gypsy women in Canon Nagar, India.

Learn more at www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice and please consider giving generously in support of Peace with Justice Sunday.



Youth Work Mission

May 23, 5 PM

Our youth are excited to be serving Nehemiah Mission June 21-25! 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.



Children's Ministry Looking for VBS Volunteers

The Children's Ministry team is excited to host a completely outdoor Vacation Bible School in July. This year, we're going to where the kids are! VBS will be held Monday evenings in July at a local playground. This VBS alternative is just half an hour! Kids and parents or caregivers will enjoy a short Bible story, craft, and game, and be sent home with a snack. Volunteers are needed to help with each 10-minute activity. Can't help every Monday? No problem! You can sign up for one time or more!

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**.



GriefShare Support Group - New Participants Welcome!

via Zoom

GriefShare Programs are designed for help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, friend or animal. It is a warm caring place, to be you and share a little of how you are feeling with others, in the same situation.

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



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Anyone is welcome to join. We are currently studying **You're Loved No Matter What** by Holley Gerth.

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.

May's Loose Change Offering will support **Berea Community Meal**. *In cooperation with St. Paul's Lutheran and other Berea churches, they offer community members a free meal on the last Wednesday of each month.*

Each month, you can support by either mailing in an offering, or donating electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the “other” box and marking it “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.

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.

Please note: *Beth will be on vacation from Wednesday, May 25 through Tuesday, June 1. During this time, all urgent voicemails left on the church office phone will be forwarded to other staff members. Urgent e-mails sent to ebarner@umcb.org or info@umcb.org will be handled in this manner as well. Non-urgent messages will be answered once Beth returns to work (Wednesday, June 2).*