



Worship Celebration

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Festival of the Christian Home

May 9, 2021

8 AM + 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 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

arr. John Behnke

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayer

Spirit of love, remain in us and in our worship.

*Whisper your song of love in our hearts, that love may flow through every word we hear,
every thought we think, every word we speak, and every song we sing.*

*Spirit of power and grace, remain in us, that we may remain in your love
and proclaim your song of love for all. Amen.*

Hymn

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.*

*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) / Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio, Joel Raney, John Newton
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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 10.44-48 (CEB)

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, ⁴⁷"These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" ⁴⁸He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 15.9-17 (CEB)

⁹“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹²This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Hymn

Down in the River to Pray

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

O sisters, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down.

O sisters, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
and who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

O brothers, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down.

Come on, brothers, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

O fathers, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down.

O fathers, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
and who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

O mothers, let’s go down, come on down, don’t-cha wanna go down.

Come on, mothers, let’s go down, down in the river to pray.

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

O sinners, let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down.

O sinners, let’s go down, down to the river to pray.

Down in the River to Pray / Traditional, Christina M. Laberge / J.W. Pepper & Sons, Inc. / Used by permission.

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.

*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

*Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts and all who are gathered with us in your spirit,
 that we may remain in your love and that your love may remain in these gifts.
 In your loving name, we live and pray. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

Hymn

Because He Lives (Amen)

*I believe in the Son. I believe in the risen One.
 I believe I overcome by the power of his blood.
 Amen, amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
 Amen, amen, let my song join the one that never ends because he lives!*

*I was dead in the grave; I was covered in sin and shame.
 I heard mercy call my name; he rolled the stone away!
 Amen, amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
 Amen, amen, let my song join the one that never ends!*

*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, because he lives, every fear is gone.
 I know he holds my life, my future in his hands.
 Amen, amen, I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
 Amen, amen, let my song join the one that never ends because he lives!*

Because He Lives (Amen) / Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, William J. Gaither
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Benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Created by God, let us go to love all of creation.

Blessed with love, we are bound together by love.

Called and sent to love, let us go now to love one another, for God is love and Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

UMH 672

*God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,
 with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you,
 daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unflinching round you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

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Postlude

Hymn to Joy

L. Beethoven/arr. John Behnke

***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 (11AM)*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Jeff Jaskolka, *Piano (8AM)*

Liturgist

Sandy Marek

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, May 9):

Holy One, I begin this day breathing in your love.
Keep me mindful of all the marvelous things
you are doing around and within me today.
Help me to feel my friendship with Jesus
and his confidence in me.
By your grace and with your strength,
may I bear the fruit of Christ's love today.
Amen.

Evening Prayer (Sunday, May 9):

God, you are both judge and friend.
Even as I review my day,
I give it over to you.
I let go of the good, the bad, the in-between,
trusting in your care.
I am content this night to abide in your love.
I breathe in your joy and your peace.
Amen.

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PSALM 30:4, NRSV

“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. Thank you and may God continue to bless them.



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!



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**.



GriefShare Support Group - New Participants Welcome! ***via Zoom***

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

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**.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, May 10, 6:30 - 8 PM

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

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

Join us on Monday, May 10, as we discuss **The Lost Girls of Paris** by Pam Jenoff. *A remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around three women and a ring of female secret agents during World War II.* Each month's discussion is led by a different member of the group.

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.



Messy Church - "Begin Again"

May 16, 4-6 PM, Registration Closes Tomorrow (May 10)

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.**)



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.



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. *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.



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.

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).