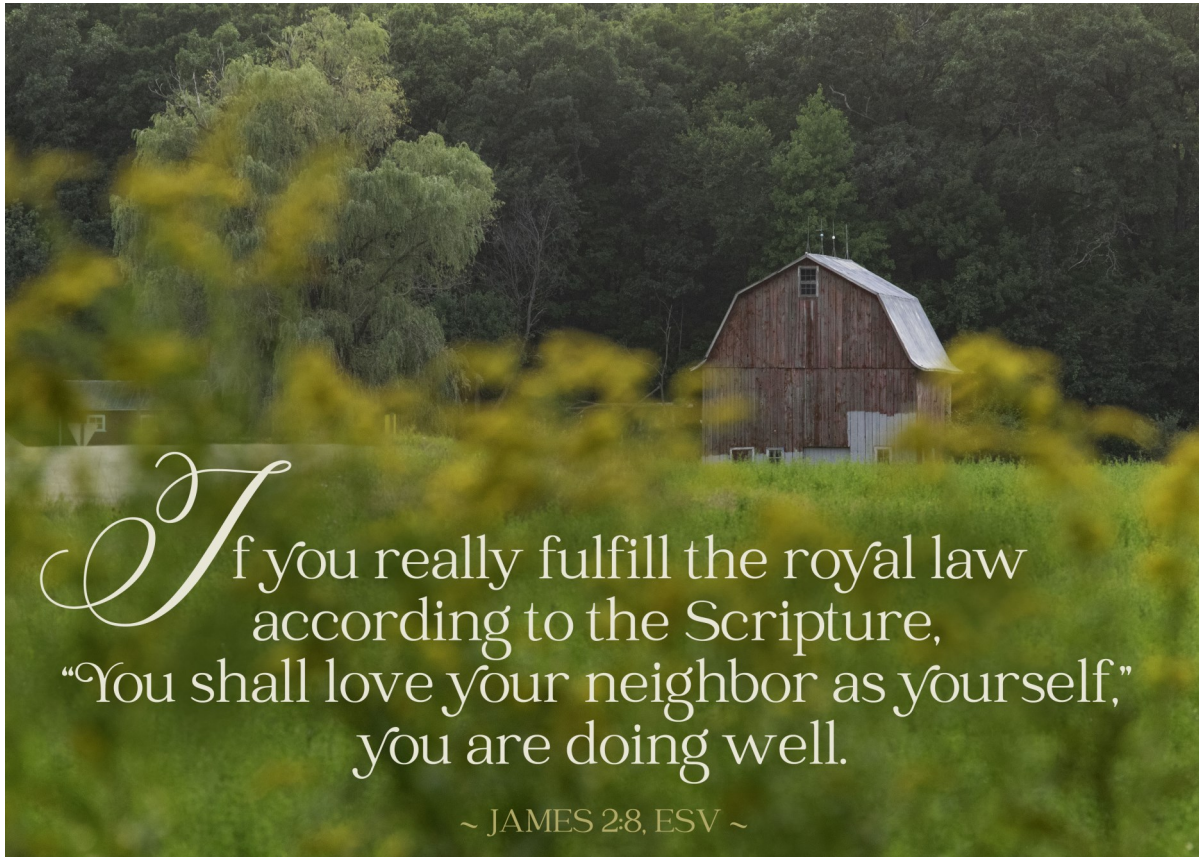


Worship Celebration



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021 + 9 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 United Methodist Church 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 9AM in-person in the Sanctuary and online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

Sunday at 11AM in-person in Wesley Hall

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

In accordance with CDC guidelines and our county's current "high" transmission risk, we require that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear face masks throughout their time in our building.

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

Evening in the Country

Bela Bartok

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*God of us all, your grace and mercy fill our lives every day,
yet all too often, we ignore your presence in our lives.
We treat your children unequally, deeming some to be more important than others.
We forget that our daily actions need to bear witness to our faith.
Open our eyes to the presence of Christ in one another.
Open our ears to the needs of our community.
Open our hands to serve those needing your justice.
Open our hearts to receive your Holy Spirit. In the name of the risen Christ, Amen.*

+ Hymn

When the Church of Jesus

UMH 592

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.*

First Lesson—James 2.1-9, 14-17 (CEB)

¹ My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory. ² Imagine two people coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy rags. ³ Then suppose that you were to take special notice of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my feet."

⁴ Wouldn't you have shown favoritism among yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

⁵ My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Don't the wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Aren't they the ones who insult the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

⁸ You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbor as yourself.* ⁹ But when you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, and by that same law you are exposed as a lawbreaker....

¹⁴ My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? ¹⁵ Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. ¹⁶ What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

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

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Lesson—Mark 7.24-37 (CEB)

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. ²⁵ In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁸ But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter." ³⁰ When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹ After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. ³² Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. ³³ Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and said, "*Ephphatha*," which means, "Open up." ³⁵ At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly.

³⁶ Jesus gave the people strict orders not to tell anyone. But the more he tried to silence them, the more eagerly they shared the news. ³⁷ People were overcome with wonder, saying, "He does everything well! He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who can't speak."

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

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

+ Hymn

A Place at the Table

***For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.***

***And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair.***

***And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.***

***And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live.***

***And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

*A Place at the Table / Shirley Erena Murray, Lori True / 1998 Hope Publishing Company
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Prayers of the People

As we join our hearts to lift our prayers to God, we invite you to share your concerns and joys. You can submit your prayer request any time during the week to Pastor Nathan (440-234-3525 x101, nhowe@umcb.org), the church office (440-234-3525 x100), or online at www.umcb.org/worshipresources.

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

You are invited to give your tithes and offerings online (www.umcb.org/donate), by mailing a check to the church office, or in one of the offering plates located just inside the back wall of the Sanctuary, either on your way into or out of the worship space. Through whatever means you give, thank you for your generosity and ongoing commitment to making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

+ Doxology

UMH 95

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Public Domain

The Great Thanksgiving

If you are worshipping with us from home, you are invited this morning to have some simple Communion elements ready—perhaps a bit of bread, a cracker, and/or some juice—to receive as we participate together in the holy mystery of Communion. We will receive the elements at the same time, though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing is sacramental as our spirits interact with God's and with one another's. If the risen Christ is present in all times and places, then surely Christ really is present among us even when we are apart. Through God's grace, we trust that we are held in communion with God and with each other.

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

With boundless joy, we give thanks to you, O God of all Creation.

From the first spark of life and Spirit, you set the whole world in motion;
you breathe life into humanity and weave love into every creature.

***Your love amazes us, O God, for even when our love turns to doubt or fear,
your love remains constant and sure.***

You delivered our ancestors out of captivity,
and deliver us daily from the bonds that prevent us
from living as people made in your image.

***You have spoken to us through your prophets
and still speak truth to us through one another.***

And so, in fellowship with creation and with all your saints,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Nurturing God, you help us to know your grace through Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit descended upon him and was manifest in his ministry.
Through his teaching and example, you show us how to be with one another,
how to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves,
and how to proclaim the good news of your grace, peace, and love.
In an act of unimaginable love, you deliver us from despair
and make covenant with us through water and the Spirit.
***When Jesus died and rose again, he promised to be with us always
in your word and Holy Spirit.***

On the night in which he gave himself fully for us, Jesus gathered with the disciples.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said:
“Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.”

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you, shared it, and said:
***“Receive, drink. This is my life, poured out for you and for all for freedom from sin.
Share this to remember me.”***

And so, in remembrance of all your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Come now, Lord Jesus. ***Come now, Lord Jesus.***
Come now, Holy Spirit. ***Come now, Holy Spirit.***
Come and fill these gifts of bread and wine.
***Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
and make us into one body with Christ, building up one another in love.***
May we, who are baptized into Christ’s death, be raised into newness of life.

Through Christ, with Christ, in christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup Anthem

No Outsiders

*You are a refuge. You have no borders.
When I was a stranger knocking at your door, you took me in.
With no questions and no conditions,
when I was a sinner, running from your grace, you called me friend. You called me friend.
There are no outsiders to your love. We are all welcome, there’s grace enough.
When I have wandered, Lord, your cross is the open door.
There are no outsiders. I’m not an outsider to your love.*

*You are the harbor in every tempest.
When my soul was shipwrecked, tossed upon the waves, you calmed the storm.
You are the Father; there are no orphans.*

*Every tribe and nation gathered in your arms sings with one voice. Sing with one voice.
There are no outsiders to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.
When I have wandered, Lord, your cross is the open door.
There are no outsiders. I'm not an outsider to your love.

I was tired. I was poor. I was thrown upon your shores.
I was homeless and afraid 'til I heard you call my name.
And now I'm ransomed, I'm restored. Resurrected, I am yours.
I am loved, yes, I belong. Oh, my soul has found its home.
There are no outsiders to your love. We are all welcome, there's grace enough.
When I have wandered, Lord, your cross is the open door.
There are no outsiders. I'm not an outsider to your love.*

*No Outsiders / Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson, Hank Bentley, Ed Cash / 2017 Capitol CMG Paragon
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Prayer following Communion

***Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

UMH 581

+ Benediction

Having been fed by God's own presence, let us go forth to feed others.
Having shared in table fellowship, let us go to nurture all our relationships.
Go out in peace. And may the grace of Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you and guide you, this day and in all the days to come.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Allegro Maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn

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

Worship Participants

Pastor

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Cindy McCowen

Music

Grace Dahl, *Vocalist*
Megan Denman, *Organist*
Courtney Popp, *Vocalist*

Video Production

Mark Williams

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, September 5):

Generous God,
you are my maker and I trust in you.
Surround me with your favor today
that I may hear the cry of those in need
and share my resources with those in poverty;
in the excellent name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, September 5):

Good and constant God,
I have endeavored to love my neighbor today.
Yet the needs are so great
that I find my faith falling short.
In your mercy, let the favor of Christ
surround me with strength.
Restore me as I rest in you. Amen.

*Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.
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Rally Day is Next Sunday!

Next Sunday, September 12, 10 AM

We're excited to be offering in-person faith formation programs for all ages, as well as some online offerings for adults. Join us next Sunday, Rally Day, for the kick-off to the faith formation year. Here are the Sunday Morning Formation offerings:

For Children/Youth

Sunday School

Preschool – 6th grade
10 AM, Second Floor

We'll gather as one big family and then break out into smaller age-related groups.

Youth Bible Study

7th-12th grade
10 AM, Youth Room (RM 31)

Dig deep into Bible Stories chosen by youth.

For Adults

Sunday Scripture Readings Reflection

10 AM, Fellowship Hall
Join us for a time of reflection and discussion of the morning's scripture readings. An informal group with heartfelt sharing and prayer.

FaithLink

10 AM, Room 13
Join us for discussion on current events as they relate to living faithfully.

Please be sure to register both children and youth using this link:

<https://forms.gle/RkW1paMmykgDMCP47>.

This is a once-a-year form and helps us to stay up-to-date on your family's needs.

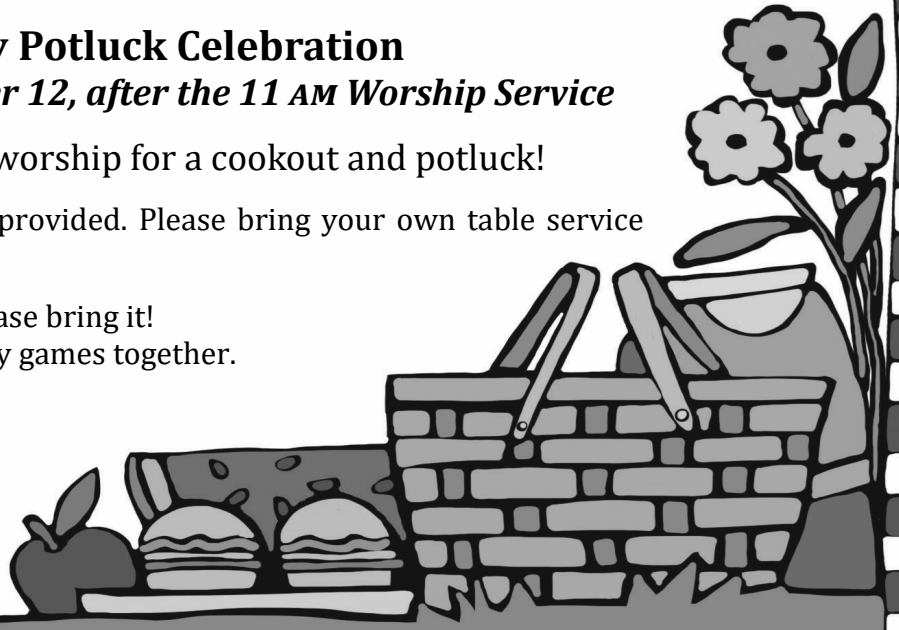
Rally Day Potluck Celebration

Next Sunday, September 12, after the 11 AM Worship Service

Join us after 11 AM worship for a cookout and potluck!

Burgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring your own table service and a side dish to share.

Have a fun outdoor game? Please bring it!
We'd love to enjoy some family games together.



Read & Grow Book Discussion group

Monday, September 13, 6:30-8 PM, Fellowship Hall

The Read and Grow Book Discussion Group will start meeting in Fellowship Hall on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8 PM. On **September 13** we will discuss **Searching for Sylvie Lee** by Jean Kwok.

If anyone has questions, please contact either
Betsy Meikle at 440-243-5767 or **Janet Mallarnee** at 440-235-7331.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Thursday Night Bible Study will be doing Women of the Old Testament by Gladys Hunt. It is a twelve week study and it will take us from Eve through Esther with stops for Ruth, Abigail and other favorites ... please come join us !

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



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 any 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.



Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord: Join our Music Ministry

We are combining our Chancel and NEWSingers Choirs to form a **new choir** that will sing during the 9 AM worship service on Sundays in the Sanctuary. The choir rehearses on **Thursdays at 7 PM in the Sanctuary**, beginning this Thursday, September 9.

For more information, please contact **Courtney Popp** (cpopp@umcb.org) or Margaret Proctor (margaret.proctor@sbcglobal.net).



The **handbell choir** is always looking for new joyful ringers, and you do not need to have any prior music experience to participate. The handbell choir rehearses on **Thursdays at 6 PM** in the Sanctuary.

For more information, please contact **Tori Lero** (tlero@umcb.org).

The **praise band**, which helps to lead our 11 AM worship service in Wesley Hall, always is open to welcoming new singers, joining their voices to help the congregation sing praise to God.

For more information, please contact **Jeremy Piper** (jeremy@jeremypiper.com).



Loose Change Offering for September

September's Loose Change Offering will support Saylor Christmas Shop. Is it beginning to look a lot like Christmas? Only four months away! What a great time to start setting aside some change to make a difference in the holidays of children supported by OhioGuidestone. Jingle all the way to church on September 12 to get in the Christmas generosity spirit!

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. 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".



UMW Circle Meeting

September 15, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

Calling ALL women! UMW is reaching out to invite you to our first Circle meeting of the "new" year. Please join us on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 9.30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Learn about our plans for the year as we gather in fellowship.

Questions? Please contact **Nancy Buehler** (440-234-7613 or nbuehler75@gmail.com)



Food Collection for Local Food Pantries

Donations can be left in the cupboard between the Narthex and the Library

Our collections of food to support our neighbors through local food pantries continue, but no longer on Wednesday evenings. Instead, please place donations of non-perishable food in the cupboard between the narthex (the hallway outside the Sanctuary) and the library anytime you are in the building. (If you need help finding the right location, talk to one of the pastors or other staff.)

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.



New Day and Time for Equal Exchange

This Sunday and the first Sunday of each month, 10-11 AM, outside the Parlor

Equal Exchange fair trade items will now be available on the first Sunday of each month from 10-11 AM. (between the two church services). Please stop by to purchase coffee, tea, hot cocoa or some chocolate. Thanks for your continued support of this mission! *Submitted by Wendy Jelinek for Church and Society*



Launching the Homework Helpers After School Program

As we get ready to kick off our after-school program on September 22nd, we welcome your prayers as we begin something new and exciting that will support our community's young people. We are still accepting applications from students to participate in our program.

For an application form, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105!



Supporting our Healthcare Heroes at Fairview Hospital

Join us in loving our neighbors this month by considering these ways to support our healthcare heroes:

1. Get the COVID-19 vaccination if you are able and keep masking up! We can do this together!
2. Write a short note of encouragement or have your little ones draw pictures. Address them to "Dear Healthcare Hero" so that the card can be given to heroes serving in a variety of roles. Keep in mind that the recipient may come from a different faith.
3. Donate pocket sized hand lotion, regular sized candy bars, boxes of tea (with individual wrappers so boxes can serve many workers), and bags of hershey kisses.

A Loving your Neighbors box will be available near the Outreach board near the offices. We will also put out supplies for notes during the month of September. Thank you to everyone who is doing their best to bring about health and wholeness to our community! And thank you to Rev. Lisa Morrison, Spiritual Director of Fairview Hospital for helping us with this mission of thanks!

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, September 5

Traditional Worship

9 AM, Sanctuary or Online at
<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Fellowship Hour via Zoom

10 AM / [Join online](#)

FaithLink via Zoom

10 AM / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Sanctuary

Monday, September 6

*Labor Day - Office Closed
No Survivor's Fellowship*

Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM – 9:30 AM / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Tuesday, September 7

Morning Walk

7:30 AM, Wallace Lake / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM – 9:30 AM / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Stephen Ministers

6:30 PM, Room 13

Wednesday, September 8

Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM – 9:30 AM / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Thursday, September 9

Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM – 9:30 AM / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Handbell Choir

6:00 PM, Sanctuary / [Contact Tori Lero](#)

Women's Study via Zoom

6:30 pm / [Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at marylynn482@gmail.com](#)

Choir

7:00 PM, Sanctuary / [Contact Margaret Proctor](#)

Friday, September 10

Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM – 9:30 AM / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Saturday, September 11

Sunday, September 12

RALLY DAY

Traditional Worship

9 AM, Sanctuary or Online at
<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Fellowship Hour via Zoom

10 AM / [Join online](#)

FaithLink via Zoom

10 AM / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Sanctuary

Rally Day Potluck

Following the 11 AM worship / UMCB lawn

Contact Pastor Nathan at

440-234-3525 x101 or nhowe@umcb.org

Contact Pastor Carrie at

440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org

Church Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday: Beth works from home

Wednesday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Thursday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Friday: Beth works from home

*When working from home, Beth can be reached by email
(ebarner@umcb.org) or cell phone (440-710-4498).*

*She will also return voicemails left on the
church office phone (440-234-3525 x100).*

Many of our staff members have hours based on need. If your business requires a visit to the church, it may be helpful to call in advance to ensure the staff member you wish to see will be available.

Office Mask Policy

As an expression of love for our entire community, especially those with compromised immune systems or who are unable to be vaccinated, visitors to the staff offices are required to wear face masks regardless of their vaccination status. Masks will be provided for those who do not have them.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.



The Rich & The Poor

THE THINGS
COMMON:

THEY ARE COMMON TO THEM