

Worship Celebration



First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 26, 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
(1-888-788-0099, 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.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

From Heaven Above to Earth I come

Johann Pachelbel

Words of Welcome

+ Call to Worship

We meet here today to declare the gracious love of God,

for God comes among us not through an angel or messenger

but face to face, as a person, with an abundance of love.

Let us gather in the name of Jesus the Christ, Mary's Child, our Savior and Lord.

+ Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH 224

Lighting of All Candles

We light these candles once again in celebration of the light of life,
now with us forevermore.

The Word has become flesh and lives among us.

We have seen God's glory, full of grace and truth.

Glory to God! Amen!

We Grow in God's Word

Introduction to A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

As we join our hearts to lift our prayers to God, we invite you to share your joys and concerns. 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.

First Lesson—Genesis 3.8-15 (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Second Lesson—Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

Third Lesson—Isaiah 11.1-4a, 6-9 (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (vv. 1-2)

UMH 216

Fourth Lesson—Micah 5.2-5a (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Fifth Lesson—Luke 1.26-38 (CEB)

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

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (vv. 1, 2, 6)

UMH 215

Sixth Lesson—Luke 2.1-7 (CEB)

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

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1, 3-4)

UMH 230

Seventh Lesson—Luke 2.8-16 (CEB)

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

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Away in a Manger (vv. 1, 3)

UMH 217

+ Eighth Lesson—John 1.1-14 (CEB)

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

People: Thanks be to God

+ Affirmation of Faith

*God's will is made real not by conquest, domination, or manipulation,
but by gracious love, gladly given, willingly received.*

*Because of Jesus' birth, we know that God notices us,
that God cares about us day by day,
that God loves us, calls us to live as Christ's body,
and is always with us.*

*May we not only sing it with our lips but believe it in our hearts
and celebrate it through our lives:*

Christ the Savior is born! Thanks be to God!

+ Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH 246

Opportunities for Ministry and Giving 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

What Child Is This (vv. 1, 3)

UMH 219

*What child is this who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

Tune: 16th century English Melody / Text: William C. Dix, 1865 (Lk. 2.6-20, Mt. 2.1-12) / Public Domain

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*God of miracles, when Jesus was born,
angels, shepherds, sages, and animals
all rejoiced and gave thanks.*

Today, we delight in our opportunity to join in this festival of gratitude.

Thank you for naming us as your beloved children.

*Clothe us in your presence, and use us for the fulfillment of your purposes
in this world you so love. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Ninth Lesson—Colossians 3.12-17 (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

+ Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

+ Benediction

May Christ, who by Incarnation gathered earth and heaven into one,
fill us with inward peace and goodwill toward all.

May we be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness,
and patience.

May the peace of Christ control our hearts as we sing and live to God
with gratitude in our hearts.

And may the blessing of God, Emmanuel, be with us now and always.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Wake Shepherds, Awake

arr. Hermann Schroeder

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Music

Megan Denman, *Organist*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak

Liturgists

Orley Aten
Condit Dibble
Sandy Marek
Cindy McCowen
Linda McCowen
Linda Tucker

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 26):

Lord Jesus, as you listened to your teachers,
may I also, this day, listen to others
with care and grace,
and receive whatever wisdom they offer.
Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 26):

Loving God, you know every struggle
I have faced this day:
let me sleep in peace,
confident in your great love
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Global Migration Sunday

**Sunday, January 9 during both worship services
9 AM in the Sanctuary and online, 11 AM in Wesley Hall**

On Sunday, January 9, we will join with congregations throughout our East Ohio Conference to participate in “Global Migration Sunday,” raising our awareness to the experiences of some of our newest neighbors.

To help us continue to be in ministry with our newest neighbors and to learn more about ways that we can welcome them, our guest speaker during both morning worship services on Sunday, January 9 will be Liv Randall, Development Specialist for US Together in Cleveland. US Together was founded in 2003 in response to the growing needs of refugees and immigrants in central Ohio and now serves communities statewide through offices in Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo. As a mutual assistance agency, US Together was started by and still is run by former refugees. To learn more about US Together, visit their website at www.ustogether.us.

Please join us in worship on January 9, and invite others who might be interested in this important and urgent work of Christian ministry.



Blessing of Homes

Post-Epiphany (January 6, 2022)

In some parts of the world, there is a Christian custom of inviting God’s blessing on dwelling places, including both homes and workplaces, and upon all who live, work, or visit there. Along with prayers for God’s blessing, the front or main entrance is marked with chalk as a sign and reminder that we have invited God’s presence into our homes. This tradition is rooted in the visit of the magi to the place where the Christ-child resided (Matthew 2.1-12), and so it is most appropriately practiced near or during the season after the Epiphany, on January 6.

If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship for your home, please contact **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101) with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 6, 2022.



Animate Bible Study

Sunday Mornings Beginning January 16, 10 AM, Location TBD

If Pastor Carrie’s sermon on the Bible got you wondering even more questions about Bible study and the life of faith, this class may interest you! Join us for this 7-week short-term study of the Bible: how it came to be, what’s really in there, and how the Bible speaks to our souls. Pastor Carrie and Rev. Linda McCowen will lead the class Sundays at 10 AM (location TBD). Participant books are \$15.

To register, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Baptism Workshop

January 9, 10 AM, Youth Room

Our upper elementary and youth students will explore the sacrament of Baptism on January 9 at 10 AM. Please keep our students in your prayers. We are asking parents of students to send pictures of their baptism with them to this workshop.



Griefshare Support Group

Beginning Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

We will be starting up a new session in January. It is a thirteen week session filled with some reading, some questions, some laughter, and a few tears - all in the comfort of your home. Come meet some new friends who share the same concerns and thoughts as you might have. We will talk about feelings, about doubts, and about problems getting back to a new normal way of life.

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



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, January 10, 6:30-8 pm, Fellowship Hall

We will discuss **Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker** by Jennifer Chiaverini.

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



Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Thursday Night Bible Study will begin a new study. Ladies, come learn more about the Women of the New Testament. Books will be available Sunday morning in Pastor Carrie's study table. Elizabeth's life challenges us to care for others. Women like Herodias and Sapphira warn us against turning away from God toward bitterness and dishonesty. Visit with us to learn about these delightful women.

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



December Loose Change Offering Supports Missions in Guatemala

All this month, loose change offerings will support our mission partners serving in Guatemala. Jingle all the way to the offering plate to make a joyful noise for Guatemala as they seek to empower and encourage women community leaders. You can support this mission by either mailing in an offering, or donating electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box and marking it "loose change offering". Thank you for your generosity!



Equal Exchange

Sunday, January 2, 10-11 AM, by the Parlor

Learn more about Equal Exchange at equalexchange.coop and thank you for helping others by purchasing fairly traded, organically grown products. May you each have a blessed Christmas and peace in the new year. *Submitted by Wendy Jelinek, Church and Society*



January's Love Your Neighbor - Adopt-a-Grindstone Staff Member

This month's "Love Your Neighbor" focus is appreciation of the staff at our partner school, Grindstone Elementary. You're invited to "adopt" a staff member by plucking a heart with a name off of the outreach board starting in January. Simply write a Valentine or Thank you note and place it in the box. You are also welcome to include a small gift card if you choose. Ideas include: Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, 5 Below, bookstores, local restaurants, and more. (If you choose to do this, place in the finance office mail slot.) There are 72 staff members, so we need your help in making sure each staff member is adopted! You are free to take more than 1! Cards are due back by February 6.



Support Our Local Food Pantries

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

Please place donations of non-perishable food in the cupboard between 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 prefer, 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.



Change the World Fair & Messy Church

Sunday, January 16, 3:30-5:30 PM (Fair) & 4-6 PM (Messy Church), Wesley Hall

We are happy to share that we will again be hosting a "Change the World Fair", in conjunction with B.W.'s MLK week events, **Sunday, January 16, 3:30-5:30 PM**. Organizations, ministries, and other project leaders are invited to share how they are changing the world, and invite others to join them.

Messy Church will happen from 4-6 pm, as usual, but purposely overlapping to allow all ages to find ways that they can make a difference. Messy guests will explore all kinds of ways they can change the world as well.

The wonderful overlap means that all are invited to take a dinner to go as they head out to transform the world!

Come join us and bring a friend!

Questions or want to volunteer? Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



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 5 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.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, December 26

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Fellowship Hour via Zoom

10 AM / [Join online](#)

Formation for All Ages

10 AM / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Monday, December 27

Church Offices Closed (Christmas Day Holiday)

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivorship Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Goldie's Deli

Tuesday, December 28

Church Office Open 9 AM - Noon

Morning Walk

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

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Wednesday, December 29

Church Office Open 9 AM - Noon

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Thursday, December 30

Church Office Open 9 AM - Noon

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Handbell Choir

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

Women's Bible Study via Zoom

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

Choir

7:00 PM / Sanctuary /

Contact [Courtney Popp](#) or [Margaret Proctor](#)

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve - Church Offices Closed

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, January 1

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 2

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Fellowship Hour via Zoom

10 AM / [Join online](#)

Formation for All Ages

10 AM / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Monday, January 3

Church Offices Closed (New Year's Day Holiday)

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivorship Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Olive Garden

Contact Pastor Nathan at

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

Contact Pastor Carrie at

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

Sunday Morning Formation Opportunities

Sunday School (Preschool – 6th grade)

10 AM, Second Floor

Youth Bible Study (7th-12th grade)

10 AM, Youth Room (RM 31)

Sunday Scripture Readings Reflection (Adults)

10 AM, Fellowship Hall

FaithLink (Adults)

10 AM, Room 13

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday, Friday: Beth works from home

Email: ebarner@umcb.org or info@umcb.org

Church office phone: 440-234-3525 x100

Work cell phone: 440-710-4498

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.

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 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.