

ADVENT

a season of preparation

HOPE PEACE

JOY

Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Pastorale

J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome

+ Call to Worship

Listen to the words of promise and hope, and share this great good news:

God is not distant or uncaring,

but moves with loving power to meet us as we gather.

The Living God is in our midst, rejoicing over us with gladness,
renewing us in love, and lifting us up with words of hope.

Thanks be to God for the One who is coming.

Thanks be to God for the new world about to be born.

+ Hymn

People, Look East

UMH 202

Lighting the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

When we come home, it is a reunion:

embracing those we know and love and being embraced by them.

Whether we wake up to them every day or travel many miles to be with them again,
it is a joy to come home.

The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home.

The prophet invites us to imagine being liberated, being unburdened,
being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself,
surrounded by those who love us without condition.

John the Baptist reminds us, though, that it takes choices to live in this joy.

It doesn't just happen.

We choose to experience life as a joy by how we love others,
by how we serve and give and care for others, impacting the world around us.

We build and experience joy as we welcome one another with Christ's love.

We light this third candle as a sign of our joy,
trusting that, by grace, we are on our way home.

(The third candle is lit)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 6 and refrain)

UMH 211

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

O Come, Come, Emmanuel / Tune: Thomas Helmore, Public Domain / Text: Henry Sloane Coffin, Laurence Hull Stookey,
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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.*

First Lesson—Zephaniah 3.14-20 (CEB)

¹⁴ Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem.

¹⁵ The LORD has removed your judgment;

he has turned away your enemy.

The LORD, the king of Israel, is in your midst;

you will no longer fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day, it will be said to Jerusalem:

Don't fear, Zion.

Don't let your hands fall.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.

He will create calm with his love;

he will rejoice over you with singing.

¹⁸ I will remove from you those worried about the appointed feasts.

They have been a burden for her, a reproach.

¹⁹ Watch what I am about to do to all your oppressors at that time.

I will deliver the lame;

I will gather the outcast.

I will change their shame into praise and fame throughout the earth.

²⁰ At that time, I will bring all of you back,

at the time when I gather you.

I will give you fame and praise among all the neighboring peoples

when I restore your possessions and you can see them—says the LORD.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Luke 3.7-18 (CEB)

⁷ Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? ⁸ Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

¹⁰ The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

¹¹ He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³ He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

¹⁴ Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

¹⁵ The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." ¹⁸ With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

+ Hymn

Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)

UMH 210

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 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

Choir Anthem

An Advent Alleluia

Berta & Sonja Poorman

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

My Soul Gives Glory to My God (vv. 1, 5)

UMH 198

***My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.***

***Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress.
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness. Amen.***

Text used with permission of the Medical Mission Sisters (© 1978, 1987).

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

How can we thank you, God, for all you have given us?

Turn our gratitude into generosity through our resources and our lives.

Bless our gifts, and send us out into your world

as signs of your hope and your love.

In your name, we pray. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

UMH 706

+ Benediction

May the door of God's welcome swing wide open in our hearts and in our lives.

May the humility of Christ's birth in Jesus remind us of all we have to offer.

And may the Spirit lead us into more possibility and more hospitality

than we could imagine, as we go out to share God's welcome with all.

May it be so. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. David N. Johnson

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Helen Rathburn

Music

Megan Denman, *Organist*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*

Advent Candle

Jean Brenneison

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 12):

God, surely you are my salvation.
I begin this day without fear, trusting you,
for you are my strength.
Help me to meditate all day on the thought
that you are rejoicing in me.
Keep me aware of your presence in others,
and bring me home to you at the close of the day.
Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 12):

Thank you, God, for the gift of today
and for guarding my heart and mind
in Christ Jesus.
All that I did and left undone,
I now give over to your safekeeping,
trusting in your peace that passes understanding.
Be my rest as I sleep tonight,
and renew me in your love. Amen.

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Worship Bags & Boxes Now Available

At the back of the Sanctuary (ask an usher if you need help locating them)

Worship Bags and Boxes are available for the young and young at heart at the back of the sanctuary. Bags are geared for preschool-elementary age, while boxes are geared for older children - adults. (Water for pens for water wow books can be attained in any restroom.) We hope these hands-on activities will bring renewed enjoyment of worship to our younger disciples.



The Longest Night Worship Service

Tuesday, December 21, 7 PM in the Sanctuary and Online

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on Tuesday, December 21 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary or online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live) for a worship service of scripture, prayer, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Invite others, also, and join us as we reaffirm together our faith in God's presence with us, even in the darkest and loneliest seasons of our lives.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Friday, December 24

4 PM in the Sanctuary

7 PM in the Sanctuary and Online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/live)

8:30 PM on the Porch and front lawn (with the Christmas story, candles, and "Silent Night")

11 PM in the Sanctuary

Worship with us on Friday, December 24 for the Great Festival of the Incarnation, the celebration of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ. Opportunities will be provided to gather inside, outside, and online, so please join us—and invite others to join us, too—in whatever setting is most comfortable to you as we celebrate God's gift together. Each service will include beautiful music, a message of hope, and the traditional sharing of candlelight.



Advent and Christmas Worship Series: "Coming Home"

Sundays, 9 AM in the Sanctuary and online, 11 AM in Wesley Hall

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year and focuses our attention on an invitation - the invitation to remember and to act like we are heading home, toward God's beloved community. Beloved community is the home where all are family, where peace resides and justice abides. Advent reminds us that we should not be complacent or satisfied about the way things are but, instead, anticipating and working toward God's dream for this world—a beloved community, in which all can come home. Join us—and invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join us, too—as we “come home” to God's hope, peace, joy, and love.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, December 13, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

We will be discussing "The Orphan's Tale" by Pam Jenoff.

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



Advent Study - Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

Wednesdays, December 1 - December 22, 7 PM, Room 13 - OR -

Tuesdays, November 30 - December 21, 9:30 AM, Room 13 - OR -

Sundays, November 28-December 19, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to join us for this four-week Bible study experience to help prepare us to celebrate God's presence with us in Christ during the upcoming Christmas season. In the midst of so much cultural uncertainty and conflict, we will reflect together on the significance of the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

For more information, please contact **Pastor Nathan**
at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100.



Ecumenical Youth Group Holiday Party

December 12, 5-6:30 PM, Youth Room (Third Floor)

Join us December 12 at 5 PM for some holiday fun! This time we'll meet up in the youth room on the third floor. Bring a “white elephant” gift and a friend!

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



Bookstore Inside Room 12

Need to pick up a book for a study or a devotional? The table inside room 12 currently has: **A Disciples Journal** - \$15, **2022 Disciplines** - \$10, **Incarnation** (Advent Study) - \$12, and **#Truth** (for youth) - free. Please place your cash or check inside the lock box located on the table. Exact change will be needed.



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.



Messy Church Christmas

December 19, 4-6 PM, Wesley Hall

A Very Merry Messy Christmas to you as we play out the nativity story in different creative ways, find ourselves in the story of God's love, and celebrate together! Come join us and bring a friend to this fun celebration!

Questions or want to volunteer?

Contact **Pastor Carrie** at

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



EQUAL Exchange Offered Next Sunday!

Sunday, December 19, 10-11 AM, by the Parlor

Try a new Equal Exchange product - Dairy free milk chocolate! We are now offering a new product - milk chocolate made with coconut (vs. cow's) milk! Stop by to inquire and purchase some for a Christmas gift . . . or one for yourself! Of course, we will also have our other chocolate bars and minis, hot cocoa, tea and coffee available for purchase.

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*



Support Our Local Food Pantries

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

Over the past year, food insecurity has been on the rise. As the holidays approach, please consider making a donation to support our local food pantries. Especially appreciated at this time of year are non-perishable to make holiday meals. For example, stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy mixes, green beans, mushroom soup, dried onions, pie crust mix, canned pumpkin (spices already added, please), and cranberry sauce.

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.



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!



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.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, December 12

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](#)

Sunday Morning Advent Study

10 AM / Fellowship Hall, on Zoom / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Sunday Afternoon Walk

3 PM / Meet at Lake Isaac

Ecumenical Youth Group Holiday Party

5 PM / Youth Room (Third Floor)

Monday, December 13

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivorship Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Maya Mexican

Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

6:30 PM / Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 14

Morning Walk

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

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Tuesday Morning Advent Study

9 AM / Room 13, on Zoom / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Wednesday, December 15

Caller Submissions Due. Submit articles to info@umcb.org or in the church office mailbox.

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

UMW Circle

9:30 AM / Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Evening Advent Study

7 PM / Room 13 and via Zoom / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Thursday, December 16

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 \[marylynn482@gmail.com\]\(mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com\)](#)

Choir

7:00 PM / Sanctuary /

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

Friday, December 17

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, December 18

Sunday, December 19

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](#)

Sunday Morning Advent Study

10 AM / Fellowship Hall, on Zoom / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Messy Church

4 PM / Wesley Hall

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, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday, 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.