

# 390H 33ACS

All glörg bệ to Togl on high, and to all the earth be péace.



Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 + 9 AM

# We Gather as God's Children

**Prelude** What God Ordains is Always Good

setting by Paul Manz

#### Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

Redeeming Keeper of Promises,
your messengers remind us that you are the source
of peace, justice, mercy, and loving kindness.
As we prepare for the arrival of your beloved community
help us to shine as the body of Christ,
providing light and life for a sometimes gloomy and broken world.
Amen.

**+ Hymn** Hail to the Lord's Anointed UMH 203

#### Lighting the Second Candle on the Advent Wreath

For many of us, the call to come home is one of joy and hope.

We cannot wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with freedom and loving support. We cannot wait to go home.

But for others, homecoming can be fearful, bringing back memories that are not so good or healing.

We may be reminded of times when we did not fit in, when we did not measure up, when we were not loved like we needed to be loved.

The prophet Malachi tells us that even in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can grow us and keep us safe. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the road home always is under construction, needing mountains leveled and valleys filled in to make smooth the path that leads us home.

We light this second candle as a sign of our peace: an assurance that though the road is hard, it is well worth the journey. God longs to welcome us home.

(The second candle is lit)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you and hope to follow you. *We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.* 

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 2 and refrain)

**UMH 211** 

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.

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, © 1940, 1943, 1981, 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) / CCLI Song # 3063194 / CCLI License # 2333566 / Used with Permission. All Rights Reserved.

# 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—Malachi 3.1-4; 4.5-6 (CEB)

**3** Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me; suddenly the LORD whom you are seeking will come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming, says the LORD of heavenly forces.

<sup>2</sup> Who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can withstand his appearance?

He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap.

<sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.

He will purify the Levites

and refine them like gold and silver.

They will belong to the LORD,

presenting a righteous offering.

<sup>4</sup> The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in ancient days and in former years.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God. **People:** *Thanks be to God.* 

**Second Lesson**—Luke 1.68-79 (adapted from UMH 208)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

who has come to help and to deliver God's people.

The Lord has raised up for us

a mighty Savior from the house of David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old

to save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us;

to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember the holy covenant.

This was the promise God made to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah:

to rescue us from the power of our enemies,

so that we could serve without fear,

in holiness and righteousness in the Lord's sight, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender and deep compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us on the path of peace.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God. **People:** *Thanks be to God.* 

#### **Gospel Lesson**—Luke 3.1-6(*CEB*)

3 In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>4</sup> This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.

5 Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.
The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.

6 All humanity will see God's salvation."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God. **People:** *Thanks be to God.* 

#### Sermon

**Choir Anthem** Prepare Ye Marc A. Robinson

#### **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 <a href="www.umcb.org/worshipresources">www.umcb.org/worshipresources</a>.

#### **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!

#### The Great Thanksgiving

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.* 

It is a right, good, and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, who sent the prophet Malachi to announce your beloved community, the priest Zechariah to remind us of your deep compassion, and the baptizer John to proclaim your coming in Jesus.

You promise to give light to all who are in despair

and to guide our feet on the way of peace.

And so, with your creatures on earth and all the communion of 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.

Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus Christ,

for whose birth in our hearts we prepare with hope and anticipation, and for whose life, passion, death, and resurrection we give thanks unending.

On the night in which he gave himself for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "Receive, eat, all of you. This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat it, do so in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks, shared it, and said:

"This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world. Whenever you drink it, do so in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for a world too often overwhelmed by fear.

Creator of all, Light of the world, Spirit of truth and freedom, you are the One God to whom we offer our praise and our gratitude, now and forever. *Amen.* 

The Lord's Prayer

**Sharing the Bread and Cup** 

**Handbell Anthem** 

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Hal H. Hopson

#### **Prayer following Communion**

Thank you, God, for receiving all who seek you in this holy mystery and for giving all you are to every one of us: your body in our bodies. Send us now by your Holy Spirit to hear the cries of all lives who long for your coming, and let us be joined with them in your work that is making all things new; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

**+ Hymn** Heralds of Christ UMH 567

+ 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** Canticle of the Turning setting by Ron Schmoltze

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
Tori Lero, Handbell Choir Director
Courtney Popp, Choir Director
Margaret Proctor, Choir Director

# **Audio Video Elements**

**Advent Candle** Larry Jelinek

**Diane Pauley** 

Mark Williams Marlynda Dziak

# Liturgist

Margaret Proctor

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, December 5): Blessed are you, Lord God. By your tender mercy, the dawn breaks upon us. Guide our feet this day in your paths of peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, December 5): Blessed are you, Lord God, for you have smiled on us this day and redeemed us from sin: from all that separates us from you and from each other. Give light to all who wait in darkness until we rest with you in perfect peace. Amen.

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# 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.



# **Light Candles on the Advent Wreath**

The season of Advent is beginning soon, and one of our worship traditions during Advent is to light candles on the Advent wreath to mark time as we move toward the Festival of Christmas. You will be asked to lead the congregation in a short reading and then light the candles on the Advent wreath. This is a great opportunity for individuals, couples, friends, and/or families with children to help lead in worship.

If you would like to help lead in worship in this way on December 12, or 19, please contact Pastor Nathan (<a href="mailto:nhowe@umcb.org">nhowe@umcb.org</a> or 440-234-3525 x100).



# 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.



## **Stocking Stuffer Swap**

Monday, December 6, 8 PM, Fellowship Hall

Partnering with Buy Nothing Berea, The UMCB will host this fun event for parents of young children, Monday, December 6th at 8 PM in Fellowship Hall. Participants may bring your small toys and trinkets their kids no longer play with and swap for new! Paired socks, mittens, etc. are also great! Hot cocoa and snacks provided - masking required when not actively eating/drinking. This is a great way for our church to support young families and create a more sustainable world.



# **Sunday Afternoon Walk**

December 12, 3 PM, Lake Isaac

All are welcome to join us for a walk near Lake Isaac, part of the Big Creek Reservation, located just south of Fowles Road in Middleburg Heights. We will gather in the parking lot at Lake Isaac and, from there, have access to a 1.2-mile trail through the woods and the all-purpose trail that runs alongside Big Creek Parkway.

If you plan to join us, please RSVP by the end of the day on **Thursday, December 9** to **Pastor Nathan** (<a href="mailto:nhowe@umcb.org">nhowe@umcb.org</a>,440-234-3525x101).



# 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 (<a href="www.facebook.com/umcberea/live">www.facebook.com/umcberea/live</a>) 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.



#### **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 рм, 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 significant 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 <a href="mailto:nhowe@umcb.org">nhowe@umcb.org</a> or 440-234-3525 x100.



# **Advent Calendars Available for All Ages**

At the back of each worship space

At the back of each worship space, pick up your *Advent Around the World* kit! Create a paper chain to count down the days - learning each day of another country and their Christmas traditions. Pray for that country and then place a star sticker on your included world map. A great reminder of God's expansive love for all of creation!



# **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 <a href="mailto:cantczak@umcb.org">cantczak@umcb.org</a> 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 #Truth (for youth) - free,

Please place your cash or check inside the lock box located on the table. Exact change will be needed.



# **Thursday Night Bible Study**

#### Thursdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

This month we will continue and complete our study of the women of the Bible. We are currently deciding what we will study next. Please join us.

For more information and Zoom details, contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at <a href="marylynn482@gmail.com">marylynn482@gmail.com</a> or 440-409-5931.



### **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 <a href="marylynn482@gmail.com">marylynn482@gmail.com</a> or 440-409-5931.



## **The Giving Tree**

#### Return Unwrapped Gifts and Gift Cards by Sunday, December 12

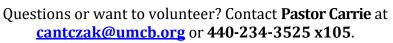
The Giving Tree in the Narthex contains items from the children's wish lists that we obtained from Berea Community Outreach. If you decide to "adopt" a child and bring in a gift, please do not wrap it. Put it in a bag with the bell taped on the outside. You may donate wrapping paper and a card, if you wish. If you get a gift card, place it in an envelope with the bell taped on it, and put it in the finance director's mail slot on her door. All gifts and gift cards must be returned by **December 12**. Thank you so much for participating in this ministry!



# **Messy Church Christmas**

#### December 19, 4-6 рм, Wesley Hall

A Very Merry Messy Christmas to you on December 19 from 4-6 PM 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!







# **EQUAL Exchange Offered TWO Sundays in December**

#### Sundays, Today & 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 on the first or third Sunday of December 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 <u>equalexchange.coop</u> 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 <a href="www.umcb.org/donate">www.umcb.org/donate</a>. 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 <a href="https://www.umcb.org/donate">www.umcb.org/donate</a> 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 <a href="https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/">https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/</a> 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 <a href="mailto:nhowe@umcb.org">nhowe@umcb.org</a> or **440-234-3525** x**101**.

#### REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE BY HELPING OTHERS

The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We join them this year, offering our gifts to support our community.

In lieu of poinsettias this year, we invite you to make a financial gift to support three of our mission partners - OhioGuidestone, Grindstone Elementary Emergency Fund, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. While we will have some poinsettias for our Christmas services, we will also have a tree decorated with ornaments, in honor or memory of your loved ones or families. Make any size donation and an ornament will be put on our tree with the name your request.

Donations may be mailed to the church, marking "Magi" in the other box.

You can also make your donation and complete the form online at <a href="https://www.umcb.org/donate">www.umcb.org/donate</a>.

Forms and donations must be returned /submitted online by **December 15.** 

A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin as well as the January Caller.



6	ORNAMENT FORM
Your Name:	
	(as you wanted printed on the listing)
Your Phone:	
	(in case we have questions)
In Memory of:	
In Honor of:	

DONATIONS MUST RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 15, 2021.

# Happening at The UMCB this week:

**Sunday, December 5** Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

**Fellowship Hour via Zoom** 10 AM / <u>Ioin online</u>

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

Monday, December 6
Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM - 9:30 AM / Contact Pastor Nathan

**Survivorship Fellowship** 

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Max & Erma's

**Trustees Meeting** 5 PM / TBA

Stocking Stuffer Swap

8 PM / Fellowship Hall /See page 7 for details

Tuesday, December 7
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

**Stephen Ministers** 6:30 PM / Room 13

Wednesday, December 8 Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM - 9:30 AM / Contact Pastor Nathan

**Wednesday Evening Advent Study** 

7 PM / Room 13 and via Zoom / Contact Pastor Nathan

Thursday, December 9
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

<u>Friday, December 10</u> Morning Prayer via Zoom

9 AM - 9:30 AM / Contact Pastor Nathan

Saturday, December 11

**Sunday, December 12** Traditional Worship

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

Fellowship Hour via Zoom

10 AM / <u>Join online</u>

**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)

Contact Pastor Nathan at 440-234-3525 x101 or <u>nhowe@umcb.org</u> Contact Pastor Carrie at 440-234-3525 x105 or <u>cantczak@umcb.org</u>

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 (including the Christmas story, candles, & "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.