



Worship Celebration

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

January 2, 2022 + 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

"Shepherds" from A Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*God of light and love, shine upon our lives, as we seek to welcome the mystery of your love.
Guide us toward your true gift, for our hearts long to encounter with the holy.
Quiet our expectations, that we might be surprised by your presence in the unexpected.
Open our eyes and ears, that we might find you in unanticipated places.
Shine your light upon us, that we might perceive you more clearly
and experience your presence in all people. Amen.*

+ Hymn

The First Noel

UMH 245

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—Isaiah 60.1-6 (CEB)

60 Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the LORD's glory has shone upon you.
² Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,
the LORD will shine upon you;
God's glory will appear over you.
³ Nations will come to your light
and kings to your dawning radiance.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look all around:
they are all gathered; they have come to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
⁵ Then you will see and be radiant;
your heart will tremble and open wide,
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;
the nations' wealth will come to you.
⁶ Countless camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
They will all come from Sheba,
carrying gold and incense,
proclaiming the LORD's praises.

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 2.1-12 (CEB)

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

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

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

Sermon

+ Hymn

Carol of the Epiphany

TFWS 2094

Prayers of the People

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.

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.***

In wonder of your expansive embrace, we praise you, O God,
who welcomes the stranger, who reaches across every border.

Through your radical welcome, you reveal the limitations of our own imaginations.
You break down walls and boundaries we do not even realize we have erected.

Like the magi, guided by the light of a star, you call us all toward you.
You lead your people across borders of fear and into lands of curiosity and compassion.
You strengthen us as we journey, learning and unlearning stories about one another.
Gathered in your presence, we come to recognize the gifts of community,
abundant in difference and diversity.

Therefore, we join our voices with all the communion of your creation, singing praise to you:
***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.***

You move in mysterious ways, O God.
Our journey with you is filled with more questions than answers, yet all of it is gift.
Each time we think we have you figured out, you surprise us again,
revealing yourself in new and unexpected ways.
In Jesus, we perceive your radical welcome of strangers extending in challenging ways:
ways that disrupt our traditions and unsettle our comfort zones.
Jesus broke religious rules in order to include all people.
He lifted up the sacredness of every person and in places considered “unclean.”
He cared more about the well-being of the oppressed than his own reputation.
And he taught us to reconsider your presence among us.
But we resisted, sending your Word made flesh to the cross.

On the night of Jesus’ arrest, he shared a meal with his companions,
taking bread, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it, saying:
“This is my body, given for you and for all. Receive. Eat. Do this to remember me.”
After the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant. Share this to remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of all you have done to save us and make us whole,
we proclaim together the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

May the same Spirit that lifted Christ from the grave
now be poured out onto these gifts and onto us.
***Make this bread and cup to be your body and blood for us,
an extension of your welcome that knows no bounds.***
Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work of tearing down walls that exclude,
and point our lives and our attention toward your presence in the margins,
***through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to whom all honor and glory belong, now and forever. Amen.***

In collective longing for a taste of your beloved community here among us,
let us join together now in echoing the prayer Jesus taught us...

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Solo

Mary Did You Know

Buddy Green, Mark Lowry

+ Prayer following Communion

*Lord, now let your servants go in peace; your word has been fulfilled:
we have tasted and seen the salvation which you prepared
in the presence of all peoples,
a light to reveal your presence to the nations
and the glory of all your creation. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

We Three Kings

UMH 254

+ Benediction

As we leave this place of worship to go out in the world in service,
let us follow God's star on our journey.

*We will look for God's presence not in the places of power and privilege
but by giving attention to the ordinary, the simple, the quiet places of the world.*

There, may we be overcome with joy as we share our gifts with creation.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

J.S. Bach

***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*
Marlynda Dziak, *Vocalist, Guitar*
Courtney Popp, *Vocalist*

Liturgist

Betsy Meikle

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak

Star Word suggestions

If you would like to choose your own “star word” for 2022 but would like some suggestions, the following is a list of some possibilities to consider. As the magi followed the star to find God’s presence in the child, Jesus, you are invited to allow the word you choose—or the word that “chooses” you—to guide you closer to God’s presence in the upcoming year, trusting that God can and does use many signs (or “stars”) to lead us.

abundance	daring	humility	provision
acceptance	delight	humor	purpose
acknowledgment	deliverance	imagination	quietness
activity	direction	inspiration	receptivity
adventure	desiring	integrity	recreation
affection	discern	interdependence	rejoicing
affirmation	discipleship	invitation	relationship
affirming	discipline	journey	release
amazement	discovery	joy	remembrance
assurance	eagerness	justice	renewal
availability	embracing	kindness	repentance
awakening	empowering	laughter	restoration
balance	encouragement	life	rest
beginning	endurance	light	seeking
belief	exaltation	listening	service
birthing	exploration	longing	sharing
blessing	faith	maturity	silence
calling	family	meekness	simplicity
caring	fellowship	ministry	stillness
challenge	festivity	miracle	surrender
change	firmness	music	sustenance
cheer	flexibility	mystery	teaching
choice	focus	neighbor	tenderness
comfort	forgiveness	newness	thankfulness
commission	foundation	obedience	thoughtfulness
commitment	fruitfulness	offering	time
communion	generosity	open-hearted	together
companionship	gentleness	open-minded	trust
complete	gladness	opportunity	unity
concentration	grace	participation	vitality
constancy	gratitude	patience	welcoming
content	growing	peace	wholeness
continuity	harmony	perspective	wisdom
counsel	healing	piety	witness
courage	help	possibility	wonder
creativity	hope	practice	worship
curiosity	hospitality	presence	zeal

Morning Prayer

(week of Sunday, January 2)

Glorious God,
each day provides opportunity
to awaken to the radiance of your presence,
and to welcome your blessing into my life.
Help me to draw more closely to you,
that I may manifest your love more deeply
in the world. Amen.

Evening Prayer

(week of Sunday, January 2)

Holy Christ,
thank you for sharing your life with me today.
As darkness blankets the earth,
be with all who suffer from sickness,
hunger, or lack of shelter.
Kindle in them the warmth of your presence,
and surround them with your love. 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. From Liv Randall:

The Cleveland area has been welcoming refugees into our community for decades, and we are about to see the most refugees coming to the area since the 1990s (over 1200 people). The best way to welcome our new neighbors is by educating ourselves about what refugees go through to get here. US Together's "Refugee 101" presentation will provide a foundation of information that covers definitions related to refugee status, how persons get to the United States, the resettlement process, how to help, and more!

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.



UMW (United Methodist Women) Sunday

Sunday, January 9

The UMW is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Join us as we recognize our UMW and their many contributions locally and globally.



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.



Human Relations day

Sunday, January 16

On Human Relations Day, we recognize the connections we have with our neighbors. We partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, with life-affirming ministry that shares God's love.

We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to resources, as a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. Thank you for partnering your spiritual and financial gifts to build up what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the beloved community."

Please give generously by writing a check to this church and write "Human Relations Day offering" in the memo line or give online at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box and marking it "HR Day".

(adapted from <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/special-sundays/human-relations-day-pastor-and-leader-kit>)



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**.



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.



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.



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.



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**.



January Loose Offering Benefits UMCOR Sager Brown

Loose change put in the offering plates this month will benefit the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** mission station in Sager Brown. We've become keenly aware of the need to continue to support relief efforts over the past month. Sager Brown typically hosts thousands of volunteers each year that put together needed supplies for communities experiencing disasters. Sager Brown has been a vital part of our own congregation's mission activity. While they have not been able to host in the past year, they've continued their work with virtual mission trips, and are preparing now for the eventual arrival of in-person service again. Your loose change is appreciated!

You can also 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".



Change the World Fair & Messy Church

Sunday, January 16, 3:30-5:30 PM, Wesley Hall (Fair)

4-6 PM, Fellowship Hall (Messy Church)

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.



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*



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.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

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

Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting

7 PM / Room 13

Tuesday, January 4

Morning Walk

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

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 AM / Room 13 and via Zoom / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Stephen Ministers Meeting

6:30 PM / Room 13

Wednesday, January 5

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Thursday, January 6

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, January 7

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, January 8

UMW Executive Board

9 AM / Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 9

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

Creation Justice Fair Team Meeting

1:30 PM / Contact Barb Dawson (440- 885-1672)or
Wendy Jelinek (440- 826-9027)

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.

