



For weekly updates on events and activities,
please subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter at www.umcb.org.



Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA



Our cherished Youth Work Mission tradition is transforming (for at least this year) to an intergenerational mission experience! In July of 2022 - we're going to build a house in our parking lot! Keep reading...

We will be working with Help Build Hope, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in a "wall build". Community members of all ages (5-100) will have a variety of ways to participate in building the structure of a future Habitat home in our parking lot! The home will later be located in Northeast Ohio.

The week leading up to the build, field trips to Habitat homes in process (in Cleveland) will be available to learn more about the organization and meet other volunteers, and families who will live in these homes.

On Friday, a smaller team will cut wood, organize materials, and prep for build day. Team leaders will be trained. On Saturday, a large team of 100+ volunteers will rally together, and put together all of the walls of a future home. Many jobs will be available, including construction, leadership, hospitality, help with younger missionaries, and much more. We know that this team will consist of our greater community in addition to our congregation. We're excited to invite all of our community to participate in this project. Because most volunteers are only needed for one day, this is a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and groups.

One of the joys of the Youth Work Mission tradition is seeing the beautiful mentorships that happen between youth and adults. Working from home will allow us to include more adults from different generations, as well as younger youth. It is my hope to pair young disciples with older disciples as prayer partners.

The mission will take place in mid-July. The final dates will be determined very soon. In the meantime, please let Pastor Carrie know if you plan on participating and would like to be included in planning. Please begin praying about this mission, the family who will one day live in this home, and for the Spirit to bless us with hearts for service.

More information on Help Build Hope at: <https://www.helpbuildhope.com/>.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

This month's Loving Our Neighbors project is collecting pillows for refugees through the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. To make it more fun, label your pillow "Pastor Carrie" or "Pastor Nathan". Whoever gets the most pillows labeled with their name, will be attacked by church children with pillows during the 11 AM worship service, February 27.



LEAVE DONATIONS 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 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.

FEBRUARY LOOSE OFFERING BENEFITS SCAN

Our loose change this month will benefit SCAN, one of our local food pantries. As families continue to struggle with food insecurity, your loose change will add up into meals for them.

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".

Thank you for your generosity!



EQUAL EXCHANGE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 10-11 AM, BY THE PARLOR
Treat your sweeties to delicious Equal Exchange chocolates for Valentine's Day. . . or any day. Visit our table by the Parlor on February 6 to see our offerings.

Learn more about Equal Exchange at equalexchange.coop.

MESSY CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

4-6 PM, WESLEY HALL

Join us February 20 at 4 PM for a Messy Church celebrating all of the ways we express love and acceptance to all of God's children! Dinner will be served to-go. Invite your friends and neighbors for a fun afternoon of faith and friendship!

Questions or want to volunteer?

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



Homework Helpers

BEGINS MARCH 2, FOR 9 WEDNESDAYS

We are sharpening our pencils, and gathering our supplies and volunteers! We are excited to welcome a new group of students in March for homework help and tutoring. Last fall, we had seven students join us for our first session, and we're anticipating up to 25 new students this spring! If you enjoy working with students, please let us know if you'll join us in this mission to help our community children. We serve children K-12th grade - whether you enjoy working with the littles or the teens, we'll find you a great match!

Email **Laura Rushton** at jlaurush@gmail.com or **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org to learn more.



OUR CREATION JUSTICE FAIR IS COMING!

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

The countdown continues and we are one month closer to our Fair. We have partnered with a member of Ridgewood United Methodist Church in leading the Fair that will be held at UMC Berea on Saturday, April 23. Creation Justice embraces Climate Justice, Environmental Justice and Social Justice.

A Mission Statement has been developed to explain the purpose of the Fair -

To live our Christian values by articulating Creation Justice and identifying environmental damage and social injustices, as we work to make changes in our lives and culture that will address these problems.

One of the activities we have planned is a rain barrel workshop. Jared Bartley from the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District will be leading the workshop. If this is one of the activities you'd like to participate in there is a little prep work. You need to contact your city's Building Department to find out their regulations, if any, and whether you need a permit for the barrel. The rain barrels are 55 gallon drums, approximately 3' x 5'. They will be at church when you arrive but you will need to take them home that day. There will be a charge for this workshop. Sign up and payment will begin in March. We will share the details once they are finalized.

If you are interested in the 'Loving People and Planet' training that sparked the idea for our Fair, another session is coming up in Feb/March. Training is still online and consists of five 2-hour sessions from 7-9 PM. Eastern Time on February 20, 24, & 27 and March 3 & 10. The cost is \$25.00. Go to ww.umcreationjustice.org to sign up.

If you have any questions about the training or the Fair in general, please contact **Barb Dawson** at 440- 885-1672, **Wendy Jelinek** at 440- 826-9027, or **Betsy Meikle** at 440-243-5767.

Dear United Methodist Women,

I just wanted to say that I really appreciate the lunches you passed out during finals week. I had a very busy day and was not going to have time to eat lunch if I didn't receive one from you all. It made my day! I hope you have a very merry Christmas. Thank you so much!

from a BW sophomore

You're
Appreciated
more than
you know.



2021 MINISTRY REPORT

Many of the challenges and uncertainties that began in 2020 continued into 2021, and yet, we also have experienced and enacted incredible blessings through new ministries, renewed connections, and creative adaptations of ongoing ministries. In 2021, we resumed in-person worship opportunities and faith formation classes while continuing to provide online opportunities, also. We deepened our relationships with community partners, including our local schools, food pantries, and fellow congregations. We re-started our Messy Church ministry, connecting with a diverse group of families from our local community. We began a new Homework Helpers ministry, providing friendship and care for students and their families from our local schools. And we welcomed new members into the life of our congregation while also celebrating the lives of many saints whose faithful legacy we now continue.

With deep gratitude for your generous participation in our life together—through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness—here is just a small sample of the fruit of our ministry together in 2021. Together, we:

- welcomed **5** individuals into the life of our congregation through professing membership;
- worshiped together with an average of **74 individuals in person** and **189 households online** each week (**118 individuals in person** and **135 households online** since August 26, when we changed to our current worship schedule);
- sent a team of youth and adults to learn and serve at the Nehemiah Mission on the near-westside of Cleveland;
- began and continued multiple fellowship and study groups online and in person, including weekday morning prayer, Wednesday morning “parking lot” fellowship, and Tuesday morning Bible study; and
- in addition to meeting our congregation’s operating expenses in full, we also participated together in the larger body of Christ by **giving more than \$118,000 in 2021** to support transformative ministry both locally and globally, including:
 - **\$71,395** to support 100% of our United Methodist Shared Ministry goal for the fifth consecutive year;
 - **\$6,983** on “special giving” Sundays, including Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day;
 - **\$14,987** to support other UMC-related missions, including Africa University, disaster relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and Afghan refugee services through the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland;
 - **\$957** through our Christmas Magi Tree to support local ministry partnerships with Grindstone Elementary School, OhioGuidestone, and the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland;
 - **\$10,268** to support our global mission partnerships in Guatemala and Cambodia;
 - **\$11,446** in financial donations in addition to donations of non-perishable food items to provide food for our neighbors through local food pantries;
 - and **\$2,695** to support other local ministry partners including Berea Community Meals, Hanson House, the Saylor Christmas Shop, and others.

God is doing great things in, among, and through us, even amid ongoing uncertainty. As we continue holding fast to our mission in 2022—making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—may God’s beloved community become more real in and through our life together.

Shalom,
Pastor Nathan

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 6, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Green)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Isaiah 6.1-8 (9-13)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalms 138 (UMH 853)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1 Corinthians 15.1-11</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Luke 5.1-11</i></p>	<p><i>For Reflection and Conversation:</i></p> <p>When have you experienced the holiness of God's presence? How do you share with others the stories of your experiences? In this week's Gospel story, Jesus asks the disciples to try again to catch fish. What characteristic within you helps you to keep trying, to start again, even after disappointment or failure?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 13, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Green)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jeremiah 17.5-10</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalms 1 (UMH 738)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1 Corinthians 15.12-20</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Luke 6.17-26</i></p>	<p><i>For Reflection and Conversation:</i></p> <p>The repeated word "blessed" in this week's Gospel does not simply describe a state of happiness or bliss; rather, it refers in a theological sense to one's standing before God. What is one change you can make in your own life before God that would bring you into closer alignment with Jesus' understanding of blessedness?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 20, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Green)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Genesis 45.3-11, 15</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalms 37.1-11, 39-40 (UMH 772)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1 Corinthians 15.35-38, 42-50</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>John 6.27-38</i></p>	<p><i>For Reflection and Conversation:</i></p> <p>How has God sent you to preserve what is good and healthy? How is your family living up to the wisdom that Joseph showed in caring for the people of Egypt and, eventually, even his own family?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 27, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(White)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Exodus 34.29-35</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Psalms 99 (UMH 819)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1 Corinthians 3.12-4.2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Luke 9.28-36 (37-43)</i></p>	<p><i>For Reflection and Conversation:</i></p> <p>How might God be inviting you to become more aware of your daily blessings, opportunities, and, even, mistakes? How do you feel when you become more aware of these things?</p>

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, February 6):

God, I give thanks this morning
as I watch the beauty of the newborn day,
listening to the first stirrings,
pondering the miracle of my own breath
and your presence in it all.
Increase my strength and attention this day.
Whenever I perceive a need,
help me to respond, "Send me!" Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, February 6):

Thank you, God, for the gift of this day.
Like the fisherfolk who became disciples,
I have put in a day of work.
As evening comes, it is time to rest.
Reassure me now with the calming words of Jesus:
"Do not be afraid. Come be with me."
Amen.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, February 13):

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this day.
Guide my steps as I face choices
to care for the earth or not,
to show compassion toward others or not,
to care for myself or not,
to be true to Christ or not.
May each choice draw me closer to you. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, February 13):

Tonight, I come home to you in prayer, O God.
Thank you for guiding me throughout this day,
even when I was not aware of it.
Now I give this day back to you,
entrusting all that I did
and all that I left undone
to your compassionate care.
May I rest now in your peace. Amen.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, February 20):

In the morning when I rise, O God,
you are with me.
You preserve my life day by day,
and in response, I rejoice at the new dawn.
Guard me this day, guide my feet and hands,
give me stillness and patience,
so that I may give delight to myself
and to those I meet. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, February 20):

Lord, throughout this day
you have rescued me from harm and despair.
Protect me now through the night,
that I may awaken renewed
and ready to serve.
My refuge is in you. Amen.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, February 27):

God of waking and sleeping,
we give you thanks
that you have brought the morning
and opened our minds to a new day.
Give us new courage
for all that will unfold in the coming hours.
Help us to perceive our neighbors
as you perceive them. Show us the way of peace.
Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, February 27):

God of all compassion,
for all that we have done today
that bears good fruit, thank you.
For all that we have done today
that has missed your purposes, forgive us.
Restore us to your strong foundation,
and reassure us of your love. Amen.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 1
9:30 AM, ROOM 13 OR ZOOM

Each Tuesday morning, February 1 through March 1, all are welcome to join us in Room 13 or via Zoom (meeting id: 820 9742 9994) for a weekly Bible study focusing on the theme of “Engage.” Together, through scripture and conversation, we will explore a variety of ways that we can experience God’s presence and participate with God through our actions. There is an optional student book that will be available.

For more information, to get a book, and/or to express interest in participating, please contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS AND ANIMATE: SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Lent begins March 2, and that week classes will also begin for those exploring new membership or those who wish to renew their discipleship journey. Participants will join the church or recommit on Easter Sunday.

Contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101 to share your interest in participating.

We also hope to offer a Sunday morning and weekday evening (via Zoom) opportunity to participate in the class “Animate: Spiritual Practices”. This class will explore 7 practices that bring us closer to God: Prayer, Food, Worship, Sacraments, Money, Service, and Community. Those currently participating in Animate: Bible are welcome to join, as well as those new to the Animate series.

Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105 to share your interest.

GRIEFSHARE

TUESDAYS, 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, FEBRUARY 14, 6:30-8 PM, VIA ZOOM

We will meet February 14 at 6:30 PM via Zoom to discuss **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah.

For more information and the Zoom link, please contact **Betsy Meikle** at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com or 440-243-5767.



ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP LEGO CHALLENGES!

FEBRUARY 27
5 PM, WESLEY HALL

Building the Beloved Community - one lego brick at a time!
Join us for fun lego challenges, a devotion, and snacks!
Open to 4th-12th grade.

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

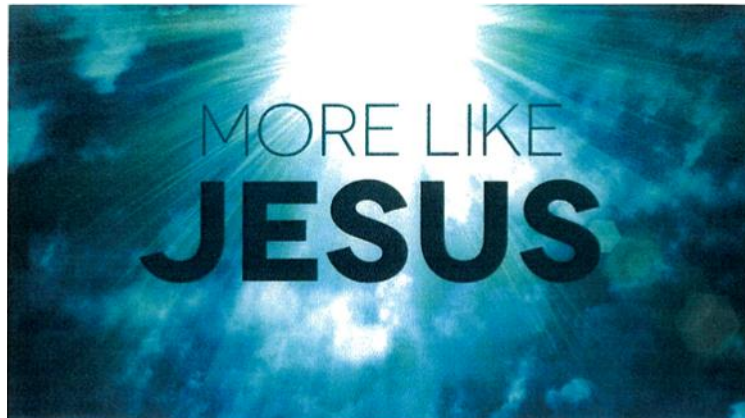
LEGO DONATIONS

Donated Legos are much in need! Please leave them in Pastor Carrie's office.

*(Images by
TheresaMuth
from
Pixabay.com.)*



TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



MORE LIKE JESUS - A WOMEN'S RETREAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 7-9 PM AND SATURDAY, APRIL 2 9 AM - 3 PM

Cost is \$25.00. Check made out to **Mary Lynn Swartz**.

Complete registration form below and return with check to:
Mary Lynn Swartz at 482 Woodmere Dr., Berea, OH 44017

Questions? Contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Dietary Needs or Restrictions: _____

What to Bring:
The book **Get Your Life Back** by John Eldridge, Bible, and Journal
A snack to share for Friday night



CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Janet Angus	Christine McMillin
Betty Atherton	Betty Miller
Barbara Beihl	Rev. Cal Myers
Heidi Blue	Donna O'Brien
Carol Bodle	Donald Powers
Wilda Donegan	Lou Russell
Molly Force	Russ Sanderson
Carol & Bruce Forster	Jo Swanson
Carol Heskett	Ron Teutsch
Jan Heter	Carol Thompson
Elenore Long	Kathleen Wargelin

MILITARY

J.D. Ferut (grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs)
 Ryan Hopkins
 Bill Lambert (son-in-law of Corky Cline)
 Josh Lambert (grandson of Corky Cline)
 Ben Lebrun
 Zachary New (grandson of Bob & Jackie King)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Debbie and Augie (parents of Stacey Antczak)
 Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan)
 Marc Bittinger
 Max & the Conway Family (grandson of Rollin and Anne Conway)
 Susan Davidson (sister of Robert Haas)
 David Dawley (Nephew of Ron & Dorene Larkey)
 Amy Marie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak)
 Anthony Echols (grandson of Georgiann Baesel)
 Spencer Gehring
 Sylvie Isgro-Schicker
 Paul Luster (Friend of Orley & Julie Aten)
 Joan Mraz (friend of Nancy Schillace)
 Jeremy Piper
 Janice Pitzer (sister of Jean Brennieson)
 Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk)

MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)
 Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)
 Jack Irey (Renaissance)
 Janice Kavander
 Mary Lou McKissock (Kemper House, Strongsville)
 Pat Sarka (Wesleyan Village, Elyria)
 Barbara Scoon (Generations)
 Von & Marilyn Smith (Southwest Commons)
 Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE...

... To Richard Fletcher, the Fletcher Family, and the friends of Clede Fletcher, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on January 2, 2022.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org if you would like to schedule an individual time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request.

You can also submit prayer requests on our website at www.umcb.org/worshipresources or by emailing the church office at info@umcb.org.

To receive Prayer Concerns by email, visit our website at www.umcb.org

and subscribe on the front page (bottom of the right column).



CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING

The Caller

The United Methodist Church of Berea
170 Seminary Street
Berea, OH 44017
www.umcb.org

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 157
BEREA, OHIO**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office (440-234-3525 or info@umcb.org) to remove your name from the mailing list.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We live into our mission by:

