



Worship Celebration

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Global Migration Sunday

United Methodist Women Sunday

January 9, 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 and Grow in God's Word

Prelude

Voluntary in A Major

John Stanley

Words of Welcome

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—Luke 3.15-17, 21-22 (CEB)

¹⁵The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷The 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."

²¹When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

+ Hymn

Loving Spirit

TFWS 2123

+ Renewing Our Baptismal Covenant

Sisters and brothers in Christ:

Through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit initiates us into Christ's holy church,
incorporates us into God's saving work,
and gives us new birth through water and the Spirit.

Today, we come to these waters to renew our commitments together
to Christ who has raised us, to the Spirit who has birthed us,
and to the Creator who is making all things new.

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you,
will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

***We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.***

Will you allow the Spirit to use you as prophets to the powers that be?

***We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves.***

Will you proclaim the good news and live as Christ's body on earth?

***We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in grace,
and promise to serve Christ as Lord in union with the church
which Christ has opened to people of all cultures, ages, and ethnicities,
all orientations, identities, and abilities.***

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together,
wherever you are and in all you do?

***We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.***

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in our scriptures
and in the life and ministry of Jesus the Christ,
nurturing one another in living that faith together?

***With God's help, we will live in the way of Jesus Christ,
embracing one another with a community of faith, hope, and love,
putting our whole trust in God, One in Three and Three in One.***

The Spirit of the Lord is with us. ***Even so, come, Lord Jesus!***

Almighty God, the life you birthed into us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.

Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of your Spirit,

or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound

and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit! ***Come upon us, Holy Spirit!***

Come upon these waters. ***Come upon these waters.***

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy and grace.

***Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice,
renewing in us the resurrection power of Christ.***

Let these waters make us long for your beloved community.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father! ***Glory to you!***

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord! ***Glory to you!***

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness! ***Glory to you!***

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One, always in community!

All glory is yours, now and forever! Amen.

Remember that you are baptized and be thankful.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has given us.

As members together in the body of Christ

***and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we will faithfully live as disciples through the ministry of the church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified and the beloved community may be revealed.***

The God of all grace, who has called us,

now establish and strengthen us in the power of the Holy Spirit,

that we may live together in grace and peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 2.13-22 (CEB)

¹³When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him.” ¹⁴Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.*

¹⁶When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

¹⁸*A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and much grieving.*

Rachel weeping for her children,

and she did not want to be comforted,

because they were no more.

¹⁹After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰“Get up,” the angel said, “and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead.” ²¹Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee.

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

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Liv Randall, *Development Specialist for US Together in Cleveland*

+ Hymn

A Place at the Table

***For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair,
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

***For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!***

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Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

As we join our hearts to lift our prayers to God, we invite you to share your joys and concerns. You can submit your prayer request any time during the week to Pastor Nathan (440-234-3525 x101, nhowe@umcb.org), the church office (440-234-3525 x100), or online at www.umcb.org/worshipresources.

Choir Anthem

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. John Carter

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

UMH 95

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Public Domain

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Inviting God, even when our welcome is imperfect, by your grace, you perfect us.
May the gifts we offer be multiplied by your love as we seek to bless others' lives.
Empower us, by your Holy Spirit, to strive always for equity, to feed the hungry,
to include the outcast, to welcome the traveler,
and to reunite families in your name.
In the spirit of Jesus, who was welcomed in a foreign land, we pray. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth

TWFS 2241

+ Benediction

Thanks be to God for God's presence among us!
*May God's grace remind us that we are all on the move:
from hurt to healing, from confusion to courage,
from wandering to being welcomed home.*

By that same grace, may we, then, be a church who helps all people
find wholeness and a sense of home.

May it be so. Amen.

Postlude

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Guest Speaker

Liv Randall,
*Development Specialist for US
Together in Cleveland*

Music

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

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak

Representing UMW

Wendy Jelinek, *Usher*
Sandy Marek, *Usher*
Molly Arthur, *Greeter*
Nancy Buehler, *Greeter*
Carol Anne McCleery, *Liturgist*

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, January 9):
Loving God, we begin this new day
in the sure knowledge that you have claimed us.
In all that we do, keep us mindful
of actions that are pleasing in your sight.
In all that we say, make us attentive
to the witness we give to the world. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, January 9):
As evening comes and we end our labors,
we thank you, Jesus, that you have been with us.
If we have disregarded your fellowship,
forgive us.
Where we have strayed from your path,
correct us.
Let us rest in you. Amen.

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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>)



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.



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.



Griefshare Support Group

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**.



Animate Bible Study

Sunday Mornings Beginning January 16, 10 AM, Chapel

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".



POSTPONED - Change the World Fair & Messy Church

Due to the current surge in COVID cases, we are postponing the Change the World Fair until May 2022. Please stay tuned for an exact date. We hope you will be able to join us then and continue to build your teams who are making a positive difference in our communities. We hope to resume Messy Church on February 20.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, January 9

Baptism of the Lord, Global Migration Sunday, UMW Sunday

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)

Monday, January 10

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivorship Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Rivals Sports Grill

Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

6:30 PM / Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 11

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](#)

Griefshare

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

Sustainable Berea

6:30 PM / Room 13

Church Council

7 PM / Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 12

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Thursday, January 13

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 14

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, January 15

Caller Submissions Due

Submit your articles to info@umcb.org or the church office mailbox.

Sunday, January 9

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, Human Relations Sunday

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

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

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.