

“But I say to you that listen,

Love
your enemies,
do good

to those who hate you,

bless
those who curse you,

pray
for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

Worship Celebration

*Seventh Sunday
after the Epiphany*

February 20, 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

We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit

Dietrich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*Loving God, heal us with your presence, that we might love one another well.
Show us your truth. Embolden our courage,
that we might live into the opportunities you place before us.
Strengthen our resolve to share your love and your ways,
and remind us that your grace always is present
through the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

+ Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail

UMH 549

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 - Genesis 45.3-11, 15 (CEB)

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

⁴Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. ⁵Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. ⁶We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. ⁷God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. ⁸You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

⁹"Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. ¹⁰You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. ¹¹I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.'

¹⁵He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Gospel Lesson - Luke 6.27-38 (CEB)

²⁷"But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. ³¹Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

³² “If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶ Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God*

Sermon

+ Hymn

This Is My Song

UMH 437

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

Give Me Jesus

Spiritual
arr. By Benjamin Harlan

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 and Commitment

***O God, your goodness and generosity are without limit or condition.
Help us to give in an echo of your generosity, and use us for your good.
Remind us always that every person is your beloved child and our beloved sibling.
In the name of Christ, we pray and live. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

UMH 428

+ Benediction

Go with God's blessings.

As followers of Jesus, we will love our enemies and do good to those who hate us.

Go with God's calling.

As disciples of Christ, we will bless those who curse us and pray for those who persecute us.

Go in the Spirit of Christ.

As people of the Way, we will live into your dream of a better, more beloved world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Allegro from Sonata II

Felix Mendelssohn

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Linda Tucker

Music

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

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak

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.

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Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 2

Noon in the Sanctuary

7 PM in-person in the Sanctuary and online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

The season of Lent—forty days of preparing to celebrate Easter and to live more fully as Easter people—begins each year on Ash Wednesday, this year on March 2. Join us in the Sanctuary at noon for an abbreviated worship service or in the Sanctuary or online at 7 pm for a worship service including music and Holy Communion. Both worship services will include the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality and intent for our hearts and lives to be changed. Worship with us as we begin our Lenten journey.



Ecumenical Youth Group Change of Plans

Sunday, February 27, 2:30-5 PM, the Toboggan chutes

All you can sled for \$13. Open to 4th-12th grade.

Please RSVP to **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



Animate Bible Study

Sunday Mornings, 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 in the Chapel. Participant books are \$15.

To register, contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



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

Beginning in Lent

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.



Animate: Spiritual Practices

Beginning in Lent

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 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**.



Sew for the Earth Gathering

Saturday, February 26, 1-4 PM, Fellowship Hall

Join the Creation Justice Team on Saturday, February 26 from 1 to 4 PM in Fellowship Hall to sew cloth napkins for the Sew for the Earth project. Napkins will be offered to participants that attend our Creation Justice Fair on April 23, 2022. Sewers and non-sewers are needed.

If you are interested in participating at church or if you are interested but cannot come to church on February 26, please contact **Barb Dawson** at **440 885-1672**.



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.



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. Thank you for your generosity!

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".



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.



February's Love Your Neighbor - NEW Pillow Collection

This month's Loving Our Neighbors project is collecting new unused 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.



Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations

As an expression of love for our neighbors and for the well-being of our entire community, each of us is encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when we are eligible to do so. All Ohioans age 5 and over are eligible to receive one of the vaccines.

Visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-provider-dashboard> 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 nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, February 20

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Messy Church

4 PM / Wesley hall

The Porch (BW Campus Ministries)

7 PM / Chapel

Monday, February 21

President's Day - Offices Closed

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivorship Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Red Lobster

Tuesday, February 22

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](#)

Wednesday, February 23

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Thursday, February 24

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Handbells

6 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](#)

Friday, February 25

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, February 26

Sew for the Earth Gathering

1-4 PM / Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 27

Transfiguration 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

Ecumenical Youth Group Lego Challenge

5 PM / Wesley hall

The Porch (BW Campus Ministries)

7 PM / Chapel

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.