

Worship Celebration

Second Sunday of Easter + Festival of God's Creation

April 24, 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/live)

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 "low" community level, face masks are not required in our building. Although face masks will not be required, you are welcome to continue wearing a mask if you choose to do so. Please respect the various comfort levels and risk levels of those around you. If you are experiencing symptoms, please stay connected with us from home until your symptoms are ended.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Sonata Op. 27 No. 2, Allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*Eternal God, who was and is and is to come,
you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things.
Make yourself known to us in this time of worship,
for in you, we live and move and have our being.
Bring your beloved community here on earth—here in Berea—
that all may know your glory and find courage to face each day.
Like Thomas before us, we often struggle to believe the mystery of your resurrection.
Yet you work in and through our doubts,
leading us ever deeper into the mystery of Christ
through the power of your Holy Spirit.
May we perceive your glory amid our doubts and proclaim with Thomas,
“My Lord and my God!”
Amen*

+ Hymn

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

+ Affirmation of Faith—“A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed”

God in the Spirit, revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
*to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one
in divine love for the world.*

Today is the day God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

***Today is the day God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.***

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016.
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Blessing of Payton Lane McKinzie

Payton Lane McKinzie was born on April 5, 2022, to Lindsay & Shane McKinzie. Pat Beckman is the proud Great Grandmother.

Hail the day on which a child, Payton Lane McKinzie, was born.
Rejoice! Let us all sing and praise her that gave birth to a child for whom she longed.
Greet this day with joy. Our hearts are glad.

Let us pray.

***O Creator, who dost all human beings create,
thou hast a great worth on us conferred by bringing us this little child.
Amen.***

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 - Acts 5.27-32 (CEB)

²⁷The apostles were brought before the council where the high priest confronted them: ²⁸“In no uncertain terms, we demanded that you not teach in this name. And look at you! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. And you are determined to hold us responsible for this man’s death.”

²⁹Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than humans! ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God has exalted Jesus to his right side as leader and savior so that he could enable Israel to change its heart and life and to find forgiveness for sins. ³²We are witnesses of such things, as is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson - John 20.19-31 (CEB)

¹⁹It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” ²²Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

²⁴Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

³⁰Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

+ Hymn

Touch the Earth Gently

***Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.***

***We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!***

***Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.***

***God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ, reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.***

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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

Praise Him!

Craig Courtney

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 162

*Alleluia, alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia, Give praise to his name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.
Alleluia, alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia, Give praise to his name.*

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+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*Beginning and End, you are the source of every blessing.
We behold your glory in the skies and touch your mystery all around us.
In the beauty of our awakening, our doubts give way to a deep and abiding joy.
In gratitude for your renewing presence, we offer you our gifts and lives,
that we may be living signs of resurrection
as we seek to live as your disciples. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story

UMH 156

+ Benediction

Believe where you have not yet perceived.
Our hearts will lead the way.
Trust where you have ample reason to doubt.
Our spirits will lead us home.
Hope where you have cause to despair.
Our lives will be filled with joy and peace.
Go with God's blessings to share those blessings with others.
We will, for Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

Postlude

BWV 556

J.S. Bach

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Carol McCleery

Music

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

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, April 24):

Gracious God, you are the God
who is and was and is to be.
Thank you that Christ has freed us
to be your community,
serving you and the world.
Give me a deeper sense,
as I move through this day,
of what it means to affirm
that you are my "Alpha and Omega,"
my A to Z. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, April 24):

Jesus, tonight I remember that your gospel
gives me the power to forgive any and all,
through the gift of your Holy Spirit.
Breathe your peace into me
so that even if I pierced you today,
I can still see you coming to embrace me
with your freedom and love this night.
Amen.

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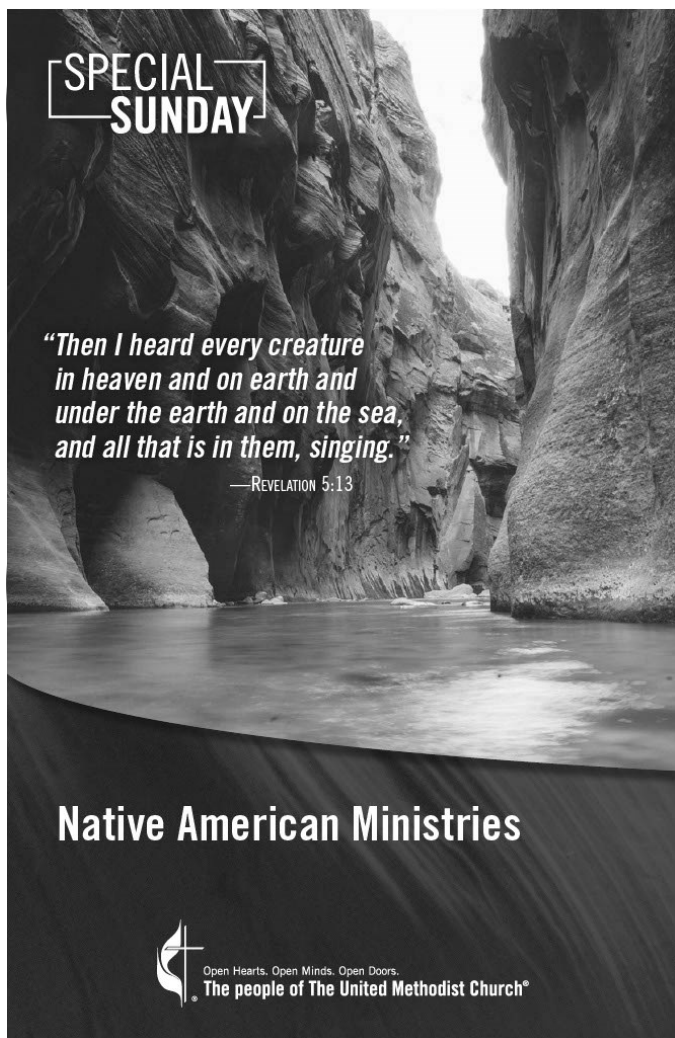
Celebrating our 2022 Graduates!

Sunday, May 1, during Worship & 10 AM Fellowship

Join us as we celebrate our soon-to-be graduates on May 1 during worship, and with cake and punch during the 10 AM hour. May God Bless each of these students as they launch into their next chapter in life!

Brendan Akins
Sam Allen
Becca Morrison
Owen Swartz
McAllister Thomas
Elyssa Ulman
Jenna Wood

Congratulations also to Dr. Jennifer Marshall, who graduated in January with her PhD in Evaluation and Measurement from Kent State.



Native American Ministries Day

Sunday, May 1

On Native American Ministries Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support the ministries of First Americans who integrate their culture and tradition with United Methodist theology. Our special offering today equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus with the fullness of their culture and heritage. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Native American United Methodist ministries nationally.

Please be part of reparation and celebration through your support of Native American Ministries Sunday. Consider making a generous gift by writing a check to this church with "NAMS offering" in the memo line or donating online at www.umcb.org/donate and notating "NAMS offering" on the other line.

Learn more at <https://youtu.be/syPIxuJdPMw>.



Help Build Hope Kick-Off

May 8 in Worship

with Guest Preacher Michelle Killin-Keith from Habitat for Humanity

We are excited to be getting closer to our Help Build Hope event where we will be constructing a house frame for a future Habitat for Humanity house, July 15-16, right in our parking lot! Registration for helping with the build days is now open! There will be opportunities for all skill and age levels to participate in helping this house come together. Ages 5 and older are welcome. Register at www.helpbuildhope.com/umcberea, and then invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

We will be celebrating the start of this mission in worship on May 8th, during the Festival of the Christian home worship services. Guest preacher Michelle Killin-Keith will share with us inspiration from Habitat for Humanity. In-person registration for the event will also be available, as well as a donation display of love in the gather place.

Sunday, May 8 will be one our "one big ask" for support in completing this project. We ask that you prayerfully consider your generosity in financially supporting this mission. With the help of local sponsors and this congregation's support, the \$15,000 mission will surely bless the future family who will call this house we build, home.



Upcoming Book Discussions

At the heart of our discipleship journey—growing in our love of God and neighbor—is the ongoing challenge and opportunity to perceive ourselves and each other more fully and more truly as God’s beloved children. Please join us for one or both of these conversations around books that can help us grow in this sacred work.

Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference

by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu

Tuesday, April 26, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness

by Gregory Boyle

Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

To express your interest in participating in either of these discussions please contact **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or nhowe@umcb.org.



Ecumenical Youth Group

Sunday, May 1, 2 PM, Wesley Hall

RSVP for our big Spring event on Sunday, May 1! We’ll be participating in an afternoon of service as we “challenge” other participating churches in a service scavenger hunt! This event will begin at 2 PM, and wrap up with pizza at 5 PM at our church.

Let Pastor Carrie know now that you’d like to participate at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**. (We also need extra adults to help with this experience!)



Griefshare

Beginning Tuesday, May 3, 1:30 PM or Wednesday, May 4, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

We will be starting a new session of Griefshare Support Group in May. It is a 13-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, May 9, 6:30-8 PM, Fellowship Hall

On May 9, we will meet in person in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8 PM. The discussion will be about **Division Two** by A.X. McMillian. You may find the book in Pastor Carrie's office for \$10.

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



Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Calling everyone who would like to join our new Bible Study on Thursdays. We will be starting **Growing Older and Wiser** is another LifeGuide Group study. We will discover how God can effectively and powerfully use those who have grown wiser with the passing years. We will be able to have our group study and then some personal reflections on what we have discussed. Please come and join us! Thank You!

For more information and Zoom details, contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.

Registration is now open!



Children: <https://forms.gle/89joFG8THjFqQSEd9>

Volunteers (Adults and Youth): <https://forms.gle/N2uRy37vHnXezFuQ6>

Equal Exchange Sale

Sunday, May 1, 10-11 AM, by the Parlor

EE is committed to environmentally responsible farming practices and the fair trade principles on which they were founded and, with our support, will be able to continue to pay their farmer partners well above market prices. Learn more about Equal Exchange at equalexchange.coop.



Boss Chick n Beer Fundraiser for Help Build Hope

Wednesday, May 11, Boss Chick n Beer (120 Front Street, Berea)

On Wednesday, May 11, come join in support of the Help Build Hope project by having a meal at Boss, Chick, n Beer. Show the flyer at <https://www.umcb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BOSS-FundraiserFLYER-UMethodist.jpg> on your smartphone, print the flyer to give to the cashier, or just tell the cashier you are there to support Help Build Hope and 10% of sales from your meal will be donated.



Coe Lake Clean-up Sponsored by Sustainable Berea

Saturday, April 30, 10 AM - Noon, Meet at the Coe Lake Gazebo

Sustainable Berea would like to invite the community to join our fellow volunteers to clean up Coe Lake from fishing lines, cigarette butts, cans, cups, trash, etc. Please bring your own gloves and bucket or bags. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Come and join us to help keep Coe Lake waste free.

Questions? Contact **Kathleen Bradley** at **440-503-0123**.



Youth v Gov Film Screening and Discussion

Saturday, April 30, 3 PM, Wesley Hall

All are welcome to join us for a screening and discussion of a powerful new film addressing our sacred duty to care for creation, "Youth v. Gov."

This film follows 21 young Americans who file a ground-breaking lawsuit against the United States government, asserting that it has willfully acted over six decades to create the current climate crisis, thus endangering their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. After viewing the film, please stay with us for a discussion and light dinner (food and beverages will be provided).

For more information, please contact **members of our Creation Justice team** at info@umcb.org.



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.



Save the Date - UMW's "Cluck and Clutter"

Saturday, May 14, 10 AM - 4 PM, Wesley Hall

On Saturday, May 14, UMW is sponsoring a "Cluck and Clutter" sale in Wesley Hall from 10 AM - 4.00 PM. Shop for a variety of treasures. Stay and buy a chicken dinner (with pasta salad and pie) and visit with friends. We'll also have J & J plant coupons for sale (\$18), as well as gourmet popcorn (Depot Delight and Lemon Pound Cake).

To reserve a table (or two or three), please contact **Nancy Buehler** at **440-234-7613** or nbuehler75@gmail.com). Donors will deliver, price, set up and remove their items. And please, no clothing.

All proceeds will benefit UMW missions, locally and globally.
Thank you for your support and encouragement.

THEN JESUS SAID
TO THOMAS,
"PUT YOUR FINGER
HERE
AND SEE MY HANDS.
REACH OUT
YOUR HAND
AND
PUT IT IN MY SIDE.
DO NOT DOUBT BUT
BELIEVE."

THOMAS
ANSWERED HIM,

"MY
LORD

AND

MY
GOD



Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, April 24 - Second Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday Afternoon Walk

4 PM / Bradley Woods / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

The Porch (BW Campus Ministries)

7 PM / Chapel

Monday, April 25

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivorship Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Baker's Square

Missions Committee

7 PM / Parlor

Tuesday, April 26

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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

Book Discussion

6:30 PM / Fellowship Hall / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Wednesday, April 27

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Homework Helpers

4 PM / Second Floor / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Thursday, April 28

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, April 29

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, April 30

Creation Justice Fair Team Meeting

9 AM - Noon / Wesley Hall

Sunday, April 24 - Third Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

Graduate Celebration 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 (RSVP Required)

2 PM / Wesley Hall / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

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, **Office Phone:** 440-234-3525 x100, **Cell:** 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.