

Worship Celebration



And they
worshiped him
and

returned
to Jerusalem
with great
joy, and were
continually
in the temple
blessing God.

Luke 24:52-53, ESV

Ascension Sunday Seventh Sunday of Easter

*The **Easter Season**, also known as the **Great Fifty Days**, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost (this year, on June 5). This is our most joyous and celebrative season and the core of the entire Christian year. Together, we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the continual invitation and call from God to live as Easter people, practicing resurrection by sharing God's renewing love with the world.*

May 29, 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 "medium" 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

Partita on "Simple Gifts"

Noel Goemanne

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*God of mystery, on this unsettling day, you drew Jesus to your side—
promising to us your Spirit, your power, your mission, and your purpose;
calling us to trust a future we cannot yet see.*

*As we behold your presence this day, guide us into the depths of your love,
that we may glimpse the Spirit already working in our lives—*

revealing your truth and empowering us to bear witness to your resurrection.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Mystery, your Word, our Savior. Amen.

+ Hymn

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

UMH 312

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 - Ephesians 1.15-23 (CEB)

¹⁵ Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that ¹⁶ I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, ¹⁹ and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. ²⁰ God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, ²¹ far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. ²² God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, ²³ which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson - Acts 1.1-11 (CEB)

¹ Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, ² right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. ⁴ While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: ⁵ John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”

⁷Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. ¹¹They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

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

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

Sermon

+ Hymn

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vv. 1-4)

UMH 383

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

As we join our hearts to lift our prayers to God, we invite you to share your joys and concerns. If you are worshiping with us online, you can share your prayer request through the “comments” section on Facebook. And throughout the week, you can share your prayer requests with Pastor Nathan (440-234-3525 x101, nhowe@umcb.org), the church office (info@umcb.org), or through our website (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!

Offertory Anthem

Do It Again

Furtick, Redman, Brown, and Brock

+ Doxology

Alleluia, Alleluia (v. 1 and refrain)

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

Your goodness and grace, O God, call forth our worship and praise.

Your love and mercy, Compassionate One, call forth our gratitude and generosity.

***As an expression of our commitment to live as your Easter people,
we offer these gifts from our hearts.***

***Receive them, we pray, in the name of the Ascended One,
that our lives on earth may be filled with your Spirit. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

+ Benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

And now, Christ is ascended and fills everything in every way.

Therefore, we are not simply dismissed when our worship together is ended.

We are sent by the risen Christ, renewed in our mission and purpose:

to welcome one another as Christ in our midst;

to create spaces of justice and mercy for all;

to use the talents God has given us;

to rejoice in the wonder and goodness of God's creation.

So, let us go from this time of worship today in the power of the Holy Spirit

to help and to heal in all that we do, for Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

Postlude

BWV 553 in C Major

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

Condit Dibble

Music

Megan Denman, *Organist*

Courtney Popp, *Vocalist*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams

Marlynda Dziak

Debbie Haas

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, May 29):

Gracious God, we thank you

for bringing us through the night

and for making this new day.

You send us out rested and uplifted
by your presence.

Wherever we go, whomever we meet,
help us to be led in joy. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, May 29):

Wondrous Lord, we marvel at this day,

filled with marks of your love.

Now give us rest.

Comfort those in need, and keep them safe.

We bow our heads in gratitude

for food, work, friends, and family.

We rest now in your name. Amen.

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Day of Pentecost

Sunday, June 5

The Day of Pentecost is the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season and the third of the three great festivals that give shape to the Christian year (alongside Christmas and Easter). On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church as told in Acts 2. As you worship with us, you are encouraged to wear red or another fire-inspired color.



Volunteers Needed for The 50th Anniversary Strawberry Festival

Sunday, June 5, 12:30-2 PM

A reminder that the 50th Anniversary Strawberry Festival is just weeks away! Please join me **Sunday, June 5, 2022 from 12:30-2:00 PM.**

Currently, I am currently extremely short on volunteers! It takes MANY volunteers to make this event happen! Help during the event will be broken into shifts so no one works the entire event (except me)! Please consider helping!

Check the volunteer sign-up board in the Narthex or contact me (**Jill Bush**) at **440-667-3182** or **jill.bush@gmail.com** to see how you can help!

I look forward to seeing you all there!



Join us for PRIDE!

Saturday, June 4

Join us in showing our PRIDE! Supporting and encouraging the LGBTQA+ community is one way we share God's abounding love. So, we are excited to be marching in the Cleveland Pride march on June 4 for the first time! We are gathering names of those interested in joining us for either marching and/or hosting a table at the event. Final details are being worked out, but we anticipate this being an all morning and most of the afternoon commitment. We are grateful to be teaming up with Westlake UMC whose commitment to this mission field inspires us!

If you'd like to: march, table host, and/or create banners, signs, and prep other materials, please sign up at **<https://forms.gle/fdKdSrj8PLPKMJoF8>**.

Questions: Please contact either **Pastor Carrie** at **440-234-3525 x105** or **cantczak@umcb.org** or **Pastor Nathan** at **440-234-3525 x101** or **nhowe@umcb.org**.



Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday, June 12

The world is crying out for peace with justice and we have an opportunity to be part of that process. Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope that moves us to becoming a new creation in Christ. On Peace with Justice Sunday, we partner with other United Methodist congregations in a special offering to support advocacy around the world. Together we empower people and communities through systemic change in ways that bring true and lasting peace with justice.

The offering is administered by the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in this annual conference and around the world. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Church and Society globally. Consider making a generous gift by writing a check to this church with "Peace with Justice" in the memo line or donating online at **www.umcb.org/donate** and notating "Peace with Justice" on the other line.

Learn more at **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiGkFpqRWUM>**.



An Invitation to Provide Altar Flowers

You are invited to provide the altar flowers for our Sunday worship service. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one or to the Glory of God. Use one of the forms on the bulletin board just to the left of the office hallway door or online at www.umcb.org/donate to indicate your choice of date and how the flowers will be provided.

If you would like to share the beautiful flowers from your garden, that would be lovely. Please place them on the altar at least 30 minutes before the start of the 9 AM worship service Sunday morning.

If you prefer, the church is also happy to order with our florist on your behalf. Payment for these arrangements may be made by a check with "altar flowers" and the service date on the memo line or online at www.umcb.org/donate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Church Office** at 440-234-3525 x100 or info@umcb.org.



2022 East Ohio Annual Conference

June 9 – June 11, John S. Knight Center, Akron

All business sessions, worship services,

and celebrations livestreamed at www.eocumc.com/eoac22/livestream

Our annual conference will meet this year from Thursday, June 9 to Saturday, June 11 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. Our gathering will be shaped and focused by the theme, "Let Us Live Love," inspired by 1 John 4:7-13. All business sessions, worship services, and celebrations of the annual conference will be livestreamed at www.eocumc.com/eoac22/livestream. Don Moody and Jeff Zeager are lay members of the East Ohio Annual Conference from our congregation and will provide a report to our congregation following this year's session.

Please hold the annual conference, its members, and our bishop in your prayers as we come together to celebrate what God is doing among and through us and to listen for God's continuing call as we move forward in love.



Climate Justice Short-Term Study

Wake Up World: A Quick Curriculum for the Church on the Climate Crisis

Wednesdays, June 15 through July 20, 6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Our congregation has been invited to participate as a "pilot group" for a new curriculum that connects the current climate crisis with a United Methodist faith-filled response. Participants in this six-week study will gain a basic understanding of the current crisis, will be better equipped for talking meaningfully with others about the current crisis, and will be encouraged to respond to the current crisis through faithful action.

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



Griefshare

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Griefshare Support Group 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.



Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Calling everyone who would like to join our Bible Study on Thursdays. In the middle of June, we will be learning about the Parables, 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!

To order your book, please contact **Pastor Carrie**
at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.

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



Beloved Neighborhood Vacation Bible School

June 20-24, 9:30 AM-12:15 PM, A Berea Church Collaboration hosted at The UMC of Berea

Welcome to the Beloved Neighborhood, where we're glad to call you neighbor! Our goal is to share the love and joy of Jesus with your family, as we bring to life the work and ministry of Mr. Rogers. This is a collaborative ministry of several Berea churches with one message: **God loves you just the way you are!**

Register now!

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

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



Help Build Hope Wall Build

July 15 & 16, Our Parking Lot, Register at www.helpbuildhope.com/umcberea

A BIG thank you to everyone who has generously supported our Help Build Hope Intergenerational Mission project! We are getting very close to our actual build days! While we are doing wonderfully with our fundraising efforts, we still have some gaps to fill. If you have not yet made your donation towards this future Habitat for Humanity home, we encourage you to do so now! Donations can be sent to the church by check with "Help Build Hope" in the memo line, or given online at www.umcb.org/donate, using the other box with "Help Build Hope".

NOW it is time to form our serving teams! Whether you are nailing and building, offering hospitality, or helping with our children's activities, we need you to fill out the registration form, which can be found at www.helpbuildhope.com/umcberea. After you register, we ask for you to invite FOUR others by the **FOURTH of July!**

If you need assistance with registration or have questions,
please contact **Pastor Carrie** at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.



Metanoia Project

Over the summer we will be providing lunches for the educational programming of the Metanoia project - an organization that cares for those experiencing homelessness. We have been joyfully serving with Metanoia throughout the winter and are appreciative of the relationships we are building there.

For specific dates and needs, please contact **Laura Rushton**
at **567-303-1954** or jlaurush@gmail.com.

Our June Loose Change Offering will also benefit the Metanoia Project. Please consider supporting this mission by dropping your change in the offering plate, mailing in an offering, or donating electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box and marking it "loose change offering". Your generosity towards is greatly appreciated.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, May 29

*Ascension of the Lord Sunday
Seventh 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](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day - Offices Closed

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Lunch at Tony K's

Tuesday, May 31

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](#)

Wednesday, June 1

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Wednesday Griefshare

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

Thursday, June 2

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](#)

Friday, June 3

Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Saturday, June 4

PRIDE CLE

[Contact Pastor Carrie](#) / Register at sign up at
<https://forms.gle/fdKdSrj8PLPKMJoF8>

UMW Executive Board

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

Strawberry Festival Prep

Noon / Fellowship Hall/ Kitchen

Sunday, June 5

Day of Pentecost

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Fellowship Hour via Zoom

10 AM / [Join online](#)

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

50th Anniversary Strawberry Festival

12:30 PM / Front Lawn (weather permitting)

Creation Justice Team Meeting

2:30 PM / Room 13

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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 9AM - 3 PM

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.