

Worship Celebration



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 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)

While our county is at either a “medium” or a “low” community level rating, face masks will be optional in our building. If you are immunocompromised or at higher risk for severe disease, please consult with your healthcare provider about wearing a mask or taking other additional precautions. Higher quality masks, including N95s and KN95s, are especially encouraged as they provide additional protection both to the wearer and to those around them.

If you are experiencing symptoms—including but not limited to a cough, fever or chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, or congestion—please practice caution and stay connected with us from home until your symptoms are ended.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Words of Welcome

+ Call to Worship

Sheltered by God,

we come now to worship.

Invited by Christ,

we come now to pray.

Welcomed by the Spirit,

we gather as God's people.

Through our worship, let us attend to the presence of God.

+ Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

TFWS 2008

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 - Nehemiah 5.1-13 (CEB)

⁵ Then there was a great protest of the people and their wives against their fellow Jews. ² Some said, "With our sons and daughters we are many, and we all need grain to eat and stay alive."

³ Others said, "We have to mortgage our fields, our vineyards, and our houses in order to get grain during the famine."

⁴ Still others said, "We have had to borrow money against our fields and vineyards in order to pay the king's tax."

⁵ "We are of the same flesh and blood as our kin, and our children are the same as theirs. Yet we are just about to force our sons and daughters into slavery, and some of our daughters are already slaves! There is nothing we can do since our fields and vineyards now belong to others."

⁶ I was very angry when I heard their protest and these complaints. ⁷ After thinking it over, I brought charges against the officials and the officers. I told them, "You are all taking interest from your own people!" I also called for a large assembly in order to deal with them. ⁸ "To the best of our ability," I said to them, "we have bought back our Jewish kin who had been sold to other nations. But now you are selling your own kin, who must then be bought back by us!" At this they were silent, unable to offer a response.

⁹ So I continued, "What you are doing isn't good! Why don't you walk in the fear of our God? This will prevent the taunts of the nations that are our enemies! ¹⁰ I myself, along with my family and my servants, am lending them money and grain. But let's stop charging this interest! ¹¹ Give it back to them, right now. Return their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses. And give back the interest on money, grain, wine, and oil that you are charging them."

¹² They replied, "We'll return everything, and we won't charge anything else. We'll do what you've asked."

So I called the priests and made them swear to do what they had promised. ¹³ I also shook out the fold of my robe, saying, "So may God shake out everyone from their house and property if they don't keep this promise. So may they be shaken out and emptied!"

The whole assembly said, "Amen," and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson - Nehemiah 2.1-5(CEB)

2 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, the king was about to be served wine. I took the wine and gave it to the king. Since I had never seemed sad in his presence, ²the king asked me, "Why do you seem sad? Since you aren't sick, you must have a broken heart!"

I was very afraid ³and replied, "May the king live forever! Why shouldn't I seem sad when the city, the place of my family's graves, is in ruins and its gates destroyed by fire?"

⁴The king asked, "What is it that you need?"

I prayed to the God of heaven ⁵and replied, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, please send me to Judah, to the city of my family's graves so that I may rebuild it."

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

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

Sermon

Michael Parisher
Provisional Deacon
Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland

+ Hymn

The Voice of God is Calling

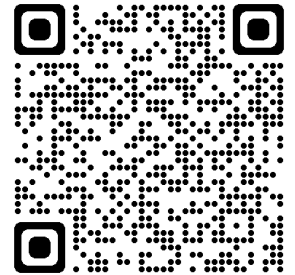
UMH 436

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. 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 or scan the QR code to the right), by mailing a check to the church office, or in the offering plates that are passed through the worship space. Through whatever means you give, thank you for your generous and ongoing participation toward making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!



Choir Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Tom Fettke

+ 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

***Generous God, open our hearts and our hands
to be as generous with others as you are with us.
Bless the gifts that we offer you,
that they may communicate your love for others.
May we be generous givers with our attention and our lives,
that other may find in us welcoming and loving friends.
In gratitude, joy, and commitment, we pray. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

When the Church of Jesus

UMH 592

+ Benediction

In times of trouble and in times of joy,
God in the Spirit is our refuge and strength.
Christ be with you in the week ahead,
sending us to serve, leading us to love.
Thanks be to God. ***Amen.***

Postlude

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Guest Preacher

Michael Parisher
*Provisional Deacon,
Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland*

Liturgist

Orley Aten

Music

David Kazimir, *Organist*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debbie Haas

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and
in honor and celebration of Barb Robinson's birthday.

Morning Prayer (week of Sunday, September 25):

My God,
out of the darkness,
you bring the light of morning.
Let my love for you
not waste at noonday
but burn until evening comes again. Amen.

Evening Prayer (week of Sunday, September 25):

My God, Most High,
this day is done.
I rest now in your shelter;
I abide in your shadow.
I place all my trust in you. Amen.

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October Worship Series: The Micah 6.8 Challenge

Sundays, October 2 – October 30, 9 am and 11 am

In a season of political polarization and rising social distrust and division, we are called to relate with one another in a different, more life-giving way. We are called to embody, to practice, and to inhabit the beloved community of God.

During the month of October (five weeks leading up to the next national election, on Tuesday, November 8), we will explore and re-commit to the simple yet profound teaching of the prophet Micah who, in a time not unlike our own, wondered what God required of us and discerned this enduring response: *...to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.*

By God's grace and through our life together as a community of faith, we are able to love our neighbors and to reclaim these three essential practices. Together, on the five Sundays of October, each of us will be invited to reflect on five themes and to share them with our neighbors: October 2—*Being Just*, October 9—*Being Kind*, October 16—*Being Humble*, October 23—*Loving Your Neighbor*, October 30—*Where Religion and Politics Meet*



World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 2

On World Communion Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support young adults and make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. The remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduate students in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training. These funds are administered by the General Boards of Higher Education and Ministry and Global Ministries.

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Together God's church can be a beacon to navigate the ongoing global trauma of the COVID pandemic, the impact of a tumultuous political climate in the U.S. and the anxiety of a looming denominational separation.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope that can guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination.

When you give generously on World Communion Sunday, you partner with talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for Christ.

Learn more at <https://youtu.be/AMfCkCs-uOY>



Dinner Church "Practice" Meal and Worship

Wednesday, October 5, 6 PM, Wesley Hall

We are excited to be launching a new church experience called "Dinner Church". The mission of Dinner Church is to "build bridges by breaking bread". In short, we are providing a welcoming church experience for those in need of a meal, fellowship, and an introduction to Jesus.

The first Wednesday of each month at 6 PM, we'll open our doors and hearts to neighbors with a delicious meal and casual worship. We're asking our church family to help provide the meal with "staged potlucks", by serving food, and serving as table hosts. Check the Outreach board each month for needed food items and serving opportunities. This October 5 we'll have a "practice" meal and worship. We encourage you to join us and learn more about how you can be a part of this ministry!

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



Youth Group

Sunday, September 25, 5 PM, Tyler Field (499 Nobottom Road)

This month, the youth group will host "Kickball for a Cause" at Tyler Field (499 Nobottom Rd.), September 25, at 5 PM. The winning team gets to pick the cause we support with our \$5 donations per player. We'll wrap up with pizza and a devotion. Adult helpers are needed.

If you can join us, please let **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105** !



The ABC's of LBGTQ

Tuesday, September 27, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

Join us as we grow in our inclusivity as a church by learning more about our LGBTQ+ siblings. We'll learn about what each of those letters mean, grow in our respect and understanding, and learn how we can be strong Christian allies. Expect a focus on respectful vocabulary, a bit of history, and sharing our experiences.

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



Women's Bible and Book Study on Racism

Wednesday, October 5, 7 PM, at the home of Linda Short and Robin Kaiser

Using the book, "Oneness Embraced," by Tony Evans. You can order a book through thriftbooks.com. Bring the book, a Bible, pen and paper, and download a copy of the participant guide available from Linda.

Register by **Sunday, October 2**, by contacting **Linda Short** at **440-785-6047** or 9short28@gmail.com.



Women's Small Group Study

Monday evenings at 7 PM

We invite you to join us to do a close reading of one chapter of the Bible, pray together, and enjoy each other's company. No homework.

If interested, please email **Katie Flinn** at kathryn.flinn@gmail.com.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, October 10, 6:30-8 PM, Parlor

The Read and Grow Book Discussion Group will meet in the Parlor hereafter. On October 10, we will discuss **The Oysterville Sewing Circle** by Susan Wiggs. On November 14, we will discuss **The Last Train to London** by Meg Waite Clayton.

For more information, please contact

Betsy Meikle at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com or **440-243-5767**.



A Special One-Time GriefShare Meeting

Sunday, October 9, 2:30 PM, Parlor

This is a one time program for those who have lost a spouse. We will have a short introduction, watch a video and discuss the video. Please plan to come and see and view and maybe get some questions answered about your feelings and emotions and maybe the feeling of hopelessness.

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



GriefShare Support Group

**Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, via Zoom or
Fridays, 1:30 PM, Room 13**

We are starting a new GriefShare session! We are offering encouragement and help after the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend or pet.

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

Thursday Night Bible Study is open to all who want to explore the Bible and learn more about Jesus and ourselvesour next book in September will be on "Miracles".

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



Healthcare Heroes

Donations can be placed in the bin near the Outreach Board by Room 13

This month we collect notes of appreciation, candy, and tea for our healthcare workers. The cards will be given to Chaplain Jared Littleton to share with the staff of Lakewood Cleveland Clinic hospital.

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



Loose Change Offering - Second Mile Outreach & Church Street Ministries.

Join us in supporting this important outreach 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".

Church Office - Beth Barner

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 AM -3 PM,

Tuesday, Friday Beth works from home 9AM - 3 PM

ebarner@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x100

Cell: 440-710-4498

Finance Office - Maryann Herron

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 AM -3 PM

mherron@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x103

Facilities Manager - Mark Williams

Office Hours vary based on need.

mwilliams@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x102

Pastors Nathan Howe & Carrie Antczak

Office Hours vary based on need.

nhowe@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x101

cantczak@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x105

***Please note:** Friday is a day of Sabbath for our pastors, a time to rest and restore. We kindly ask that you please refrain from calling or texting them on this day. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact the church office (440-234-3525 x100, info@umcb.org) and one of the pastors will respond as soon as possible.*

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, September 25

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Formation

10 AM / Children - Second Floor

Youth - Second & Third Floors

Adults First Floor

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Youth Group - Kickball for a Cause

5 PM / Tyler Field / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Monday, September 26

Morning Prayer

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at Goldie's

Disciples' Path

6:15 PM / Parlor / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Tuesday, September 27

Morning Prayer

9 AM – 9:30 AM/ via Zoom /

[Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 AM/ Room 13 / [Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Angus Memorial

11 AM / Sanctuary

The ABC's of LGBTQ

7 PM/ Fellowship Hall / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Wednesday, September 28

Morning Prayer

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

Storytime

10 AM/ Room 11 (Nursery)/ [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

Grief Share

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

Thursday, September 29

Morning Prayer

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

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6 PM / Sanctuary / [Contact Tori Penfound](#)

Thursday Evening Bible Study

6:30 PM / via Zoom / [Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at](#)

marylynn482@gmail.com

Choir Rehearsal

7 PM / Sanctuary / Contact [Courtney Popp](#)
or [Margaret Proctor](#)

Friday, September 30

Morning Prayer

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

Grief Share

1:30 PM / Room 13 / [Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at](#)

marylynn482@gmail.com

Saturday, October 1

UMW Executive Board

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 2

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Formation

10 AM / Children - Second Floor

Youth - Second & Third Floors

Adults First Floor

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall