

Worship Celebration

First Sunday of Advent

Divine Interruptions

Week 1:

God's Annunciation to Hagar

November 27, 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

Wachet auf, ich ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

Awaken us, O God, as we seek to draw near to you.

Open our hearts and our minds to your presence,

and wake us up from the sleep of inattention that holds us back.

Prepare us to receive your love, even as we prepare our lives to celebrate your new creation.

In joyful hope, we live, worship, and pray. Amen.

+ Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

Lighting the First Advent Candle

We shall light the Advent candles,
praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us
to look outward in love and to look forward in hope.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and among us now.

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us
how to be patient when things take time,
how to live for Christ day by day,
and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and among us now.

The prophets declare that in days to come
God will judge between the nations and reconcile many peoples.

The first Advent candle is lighted.

We light this candle because we refuse to let go of the prophets' hope
that weapons can be transformed into tools of cultivation
and that nation shall not lift up weapon against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and among us now.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1 and refrain)

UMH 211

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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We 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 16.7-13 (CEB)

⁷The LORD's messenger found Hagar at a spring in the desert, the spring on the road to Shur, ⁸and said,
"Hagar! Sarai's servant! Where did you come from and where are you going?"
She said, "From Sarai my mistress. I'm running away."

⁹ The LORD's messenger said to her, "Go back to your mistress. Put up with her harsh treatment of you." ¹⁰ The LORD's messenger also said to her,

"I will give you many children,
so many they can't be counted!"

¹¹ The LORD's messenger said to her,

"You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son.
You will name him Ishmael
because the LORD has heard about your harsh treatment.

¹² He will be a wild mule of a man;
he will fight everyone, and they will fight him.
He will live at odds with all his relatives."

¹³ Hagar named the LORD who spoke to her, "You are El Roi" because she said, "Can I still see after he saw me?"

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

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

Gospel Lesson - Luke 1.26-38 (CEB)

²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

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

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

Sermon

+ Hymn

View the Present through the Promise

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.

Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.

***Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing
in the hope past faith's conceiving: Christ will come again.***

Prove the present with the promise, Christ will come again.

Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.

***Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving
be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.***

Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.

Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.

***Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating
to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.***

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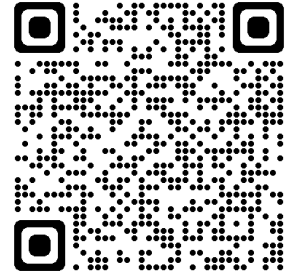
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Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

As we join our hearts to lift our prayers to God, we invite you to share your joys and concerns. 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!



Today is United Methodist Student Day. By giving today, you are partnering with the next generation to walk in God's path by supporting young leaders who bring their Wesleyan values into their schools and professions. Your contributions are an acknowledgment that the church has confidence in them and in their abilities. Please consider giving generously.

Choir Anthem

Trust The Lord

Tina English Davis, arr. John Purifoy

+ Doxology

My Soul Gives Glory to My God (vv. 1, 5)

UMH 198

***My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.***

***Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress.
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness. Amen.***

Text used with permission of the Medical Mission Sisters (© 1978, 1987).

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

***Gracious God, as we bring our gifts to you,
we bring more than money; we bring our whole lives.
Transform us through our giving, that we may grow closer to you.
Help us to share your peace and love with others
as joyfully and generously as you have shared your gifts with us.
In your holy name, we wait and pray. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

O God of Every Nation

UMH 435

+ Benediction

During Advent, we and our whole world are longing for the presence of God.
Yet even as we wait, the One for whom we wait both sees us and hears us.
By God's grace, may we go out into the world to look and to listen for signs of Christ's coming.
***And may the joy, the hope, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be our constant companion.
Thanks be to God. Amen.***

Postlude

Improvisation on the hymn tune *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

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

Worship Participants

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Margaret Proctor

Music

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

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debbie Haas

Morning Prayer

Lord God, you have woken me from sleep;
the night is gone, the day is here.
Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and help me to live with integrity this day,
to the glory of your enduring name. Amen.

Evening Prayer

God, my Savior, you are even nearer now
than when I first learned to trust you.
Help me to lay aside the burdens of the day
and rest in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
my strength and my salvation. Amen.

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Hanging of the Greens

TODAY! following the worship services

You are invited to help prepare our worship spaces for Advent following each worship service today. All are welcome and appreciated!



Lighting Candles on the Advent Wreath

As we count down the Sundays leading up to Christmas, in worship we will light an additional candle each week on the Advent Wreath. This is a great opportunity especially for families with children to participate in a tangible ritual, but of course individuals, couples, or any other grouping is more than welcome, too!

Contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101 to sign up.



Children's & Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 4, 5 PM, Above the Barre

Save-the-date for this fun evening of gymnastics fun, gift exchange, and pizza!

Children and youth of all ages are welcome - we ask caregivers of children under 12 to stay to help supervise.

RSVP by **November 30** to **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer

Sundays, 10 AM, Parlor

Join us Sundays at 10 am beginning November 27 to bring color and light to the Advent Season! We'll be working contemplatively, sharing scripture, and heartfelt reflections.

Pick up a book now from room 12, for \$10. We have plenty of colored pencils, but feel free to bring your own colors of choice!



Upcoming Book Discussion

This Is How It Always Is: A Novel by Laurie Frankel

Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 PM, Parlor

In this novel from 2017, Frankel shares the story of a family with five boys in which the youngest feels he's something entirely different—a girl. Through the course of the story, readers are invited to reflect on the role of family and change, including the way changes often are both miraculous and hard to navigate. All are welcome to join us.

Copies of the books are available through most library systems, but please contact **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101** if you need help accessing a copy and if you plan to participate.



Advent Yoga with Jen Marshall

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Parlor

Join us Wednesdays November 30, December 6, December 14, & December 21 in for Advent Yoga with Jen Marshall. Stretch your spirit and your body as we contemplate what it means to serve a God who took on flesh. No prior yoga experience necessary!

Bring a yoga/exercise mat if you have access to one; if not, a beach towel will also work.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, December 12, 6:30-8 pm, Parlor and on Zoom

Dates on which we will discuss the upcoming books are changing! The discussion has moved to **Becoming** by Michelle Obama will be on December 12. We will still discuss **Blind Man's Bluff** as planned. Then, on February 13, the discuss has changed to **The Orphan House** by Ann Bennett. Our meetings will be scheduled as partly zoom and partly in-person.

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



Equal Exchange Items

Sunday, December 4, 10-11 am, by the Parlor

Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolates make great stocking stuffers or gift basket fillers. Visit the Equal Exchange table on Sunday, December 4 and stock up for all your holiday gifting. Thank you for your continued support of farmers around the world who are paid a fair wage for their hard work in producing these items in a sustainable manner.

Learn more at equalexchange.coop.



Dinner Church

December 7, 6 PM, Wesley Hall

We welcome you and our neighbors to join us for our first Dinner Church event! Dinner Church is our newest ministry which combines a worship experience with a fellowship dinner. Community members who may not be able to join us on Sundays for worship, those who especially need community and/or a meal, and those who are just new to church are our expected guests. Please invite your friends and neighbors to meet us around the dinner table!

Please sign up to bring a dish, help set up or clean up, or help with hospitality for these dates. Sign up sheets are on the outreach board, or you can contact **Nancy Buehler** at nbuehler75@gmail.com or **440-292-6194**.



Learn More about Habitat for Humanity

Friday, December 9, 10 AM, Habitat ReStore, 2110 West 110th Street, Cleveland

Learn more about connecting with Habitat for Humanity. You're invited for a short tour of the Habitat ReStore and a trip to a construction site (about 1.5 hrs).

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



The Giving Tree

Gifts Due by December 11

Please remember not to wrap gifts, but place them in a bag with the star attached to the outside. You may include wrapping paper if you wish. All gift cards should be in an envelope with the star on the outside and placed in Maryann's mailbox.

Our Loose Change offering for November will also support the Giving Tree and Berea Community Outreach.



Remember or Honor a Loved One by Helping Others

The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We join them, offering our gifts to support our community.

We invite you to make a financial gift to support three of our mission partners - Berea Community Outreach, Second Mile Ministries, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. While we will have some poinsettias for our Christmas services, we will also have a tree decorated with ornaments, in honor or memory of your loved ones or families. Make any size donation and an ornament will be put on our tree with the name your request. A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin and the January Caller.

Forms are available in the back of each worship space. Forms & donations may be placed in the church office mailbox or mailed to the church. (Please note "Magi" on the memo line of your check.) You can also complete the form and make your donation online at www.umcb.org/donate.

Forms and donations must be returned /submitted online by **December 12**.



Support Our Local Food Pantries

Donations can be left in the cupboard between the Narthex and the Library

Our collections of food continue. Please place donations of non-perishable food in the cupboard between the narthex (the hallway outside 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.)

During the school year, single serving items such as fruit cups and cheese or peanut butter crackers are especially appreciated. This is also a great time to start donating items for holiday dinners such as green beans, mushroom soup, and canned pumpkin.

If you are not planning already to make a trip to the grocery store, 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.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent
United Methodist Student Day

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

Monday, November 28

Morning Prayer

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at Bagley Grill

Missions Committee

7 PM / Parlor

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Women's Bible Study / contact Katie Flynn at
kathryn.flinn@gmail.com

Tuesday, November 29

Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday Bible Study

9:30 AM/ Sustainable Berea
6:30 PM / Room 13

Wednesday, November 30

Morning Prayer

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

Red Cross Blood Drive

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

Storytime

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

Book Discussion: THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS IS

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

Grief Share

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

Advent Yoga

7 PM / Parlor

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite / contact Linda Short at
9short28@gmail.com

Thursday, December 1

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
\[marylynn482@gmail.com\]\(mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com\)](#)

Choir Rehearsal

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

Friday, December 2

Morning Prayer

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

Grief Share

1:30 PM / Room 13 / [Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at
\[marylynn482@gmail.com\]\(mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com\)](#)

Saturday, December 3

UMW Executive Board

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Children & Youth Christmas Party

4 PM / Above the Barre / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)