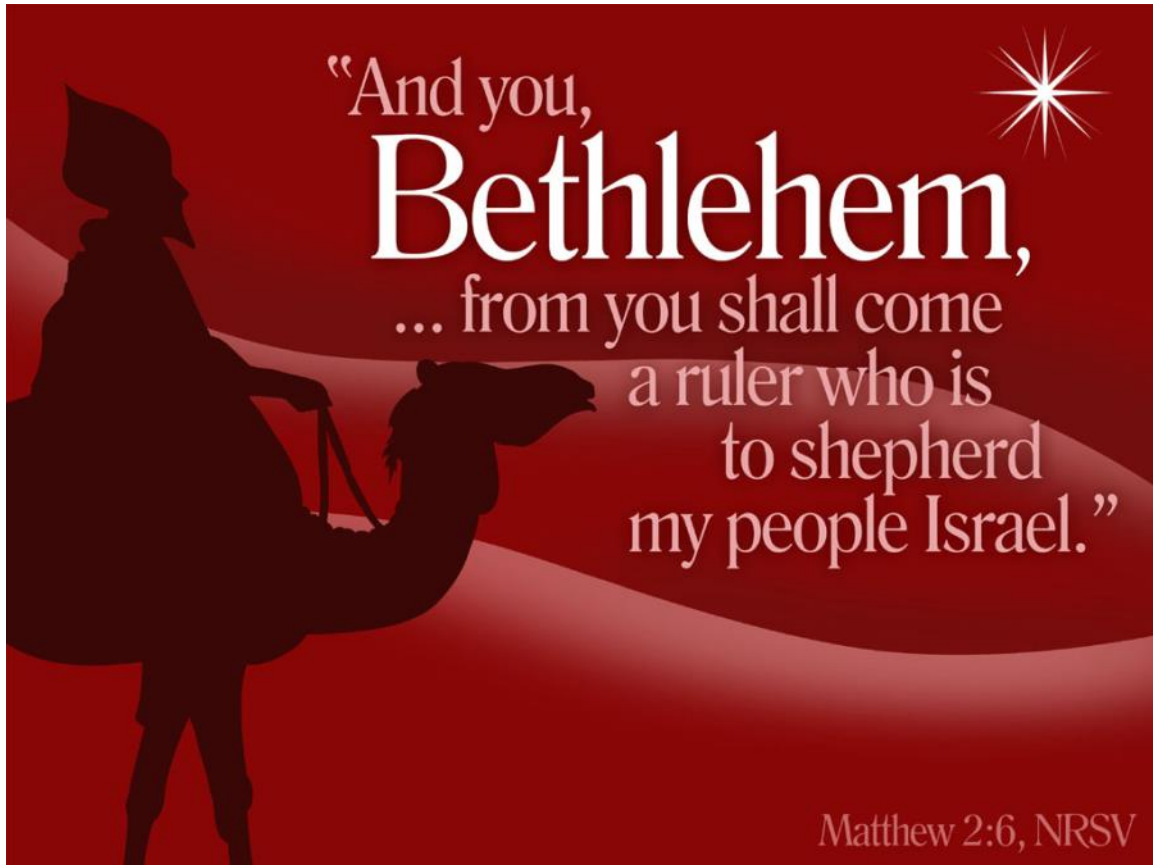


Worship Celebration

Epiphany of the Lord

God Accompanies All People



January 1, 2023 + 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, id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

II. Sarabande from Suite Pour Le Piano

Claude Debussy

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*God of promise and light, open our eyes and ears this morning,
that we may notice your presence all around us.*

*Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness—
promises fulfilled in the child of Bethlehem.*

*May we, like the magi, have a star to guide us on our journey
to find the one who truly sets us free.*

*May this time of worship bring us closer to you,
that the good news of the birth of love in human flesh
may transform our lives this year. Amen.*

+ Hymn

The First Noel

UMH 245

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—Isaiah 60.1-6 (CEB)

- 60** Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the LORD's glory has shone upon you.
- 2 Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,
the LORD will shine upon you;
God's glory will appear over you.
- 3 Nations will come to your light
and kings to your dawning radiance.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look all around:
they are all gathered; they have come to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
- 5 Then you will see and be radiant;
your heart will tremble and open wide,
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;
the nations' wealth will come to you.
- 6 Countless camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
They will all come from Sheba,
carrying gold and incense,
proclaiming the LORD's praises.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—Matthew 2.1-18 (CEB)

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

¹³ When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him.” ¹⁴ Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. ¹⁵ He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.*

¹⁶ When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry. He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

¹⁸ *A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and much grieving.
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she did not want to be comforted,
because they were no more.*

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

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

Sermon

+ Hymn

Carol of the Epiphany

TFWS 2094

Prayers of the People

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!



Offertory

Winter Snow

Audrey Assad

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In wonder of your expansive embrace, we praise you, O God,
who welcomes the stranger, who reaches across every border.

Through your radical welcome, you reveal the limitations of our imaginations.

You break down walls and boundaries we do not even realize we have built our lives inside.

Like the magi, guided by the light of a star, you call us all toward you.

You lead your people as we journey, learning and unlearning stories about each other.

Gathered in your presence, we come to recognize the gifts of community,
abundant in difference and diversity.

And so, with your people on earth and your whole creation,
we praise your name and join our unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You move in mysterious ways, O God.

Our journey with you is filled with more questions than answers, yet all of it is gift.

Each time we think we have you figured out, you surprise us again,
revealing yourself in new and unexpected ways.

In Jesus, we perceive your radical welcome of strangers extending in challenging ways:
ways that interrupt our traditions and unsettle our comfort zones.

Jesus broke religious rules in order to include all people.

He lifted up the sacredness of every person and in places considered “unclean.”

He cared more about the well-being of persons oppressed than his own reputation.

And he taught us to reconsider your presence among us.

But we resisted, sending your Word made flesh to the cross.

On the night we betrayed and abandoned Jesus, he shared a meal with his companions,
taking bread, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it, saying:

“This is my body, given for you and for all. Receive, eat; do this to remember me.”

After the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant. Share this to remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of all you have done to save us and make us whole,
we proclaim together the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

May the same Spirit that guided the magi, that sent Jesus into ministry,
that lifted Christ from the grave, that inspired the church throughout the years,
now be poured out onto these gifts and onto us.

**Make this bread and cup to be your body and blood for us,
an extension of your welcome that knows no bounds.**

Fill us with the courage and faith to join you in the work of tearing down walls that exclude,
and point our lives and our attention toward your presence in the margins,

**through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to whom all honor and glory belong, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Solo
Hymn

O Holy Night
We Three Kings

Adolphe Adam
UMH 254

Prayer following Communion

*Lord, now let your servants go in peace; your word has been fulfilled:
we have tasted and seen the salvation which you prepared
in the presence of all peoples,
a light to reveal your presence to the nations
and the glory of all your creation. Amen.*

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

+ Benediction

Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to know.

We go to spread the good news of God's love, the hope of righteousness and justice.

Follow the star that will guide you on your journey—
this week, this year, and forevermore.

We go forth, as the magi of old, transformed by the presence of a child.

May the blessing of God rest upon you and fill you with joy and peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, arr. Dave Brubeck

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, *Vocalist*
Marlynda Dziak, *Bowed Psalterly*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debbie Haas

Morning Prayer

Glorious God,
each day provides opportunity
to awaken to the radiance of your presence,
and to welcome your blessing into life.
How often I forget that I am your home.
May every bright place and darkened corner
grow ever more luminous
as I bear your light this day. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Holy God, I thank you
for sharing your life with me today.
As darkness comes and blankets the earth,
be with all who suffer from sickness,
hunger, or lack of shelter.
Kindle in all persons the warmth of your presence,
and surround them with your care.
With gratitude for the blessings of this day,
now I rest in you this night. Amen.

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Blessing of Homes

Post-Epiphany (January 6, 2023)

In some parts of the world, there is a Christian custom of inviting God's blessing on dwelling places, including both homes and workplaces, and upon all who live, work, or visit there. Along with prayers for God's blessing, the front or main entrance is marked with chalk as a sign and reminder that we have invited God's presence into our homes.

This tradition is rooted in the visit of the magi to the place where the Christ-child resided (Matthew 2.1-12), and so it is most appropriately practiced near or during the season after the Epiphany, on January 6. If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship for your home, please contact **Pastor Nathan** (nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**) with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 6, 2023.



Ring in the New Year and Celebrate UMW Sunday

Saturday, January 7, NOON, Fellowship Hall

Celebrate the NEW YEAR with brunch! Everyone is invited to a post-holiday brunch on Saturday, January 7, at NOON. We'll be serving a variety of soups, salads, and pies. Our guest, Sherri Buehl, will speak about Flat Rock missions. Cost of the brunch is \$10 (\$5 will be donated to Flat Rock).

Then continue the celebration on Sunday, UMW Sunday. Join us for Coffee Hour following the 9 am service. Thank you for your support and generosity.



Dialogues on Sexuality Resumes

Sunday, January 8, 10 AM, Parlor

Beginning January 8, at 10 AM in the Parlor, we will continue our series of dialogues on sexuality. Even if you didn't join us for the first half, you're welcome to join us now as we discuss more specific topics around the Queer experience and inclusion in faith community.



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, January 9, 6:30-8 pm, Room 13 & on Zoom

We will discuss **Blind Man's Bluff** by James Tate Hill on January 9. Then, on February 13, the discussion 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**.



Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursdays beginning January 12, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Our Bible Study is open to anyone and everyone. We will be studying **Women Rise Up** by Katey Zeh. Books will be available in Rm 12. For more information and Zoom details, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or **440-409-5931**.



GriefShare

Wednesdays beginning January 11, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

We will restart the Wednesday GriefShare group on January 11, again on zoom. All are welcome to join us as we talk about feelings, about doubts, and about problems getting back to a new normal way of life. Questions? Please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or **440-409-5931**. (We will postpone the Friday one until the weather is decent - probably mid March.)



Faith and Protest: The Role of Gospel Music in Movements for Social Change

Sunday, January 15, 10 AM, Fellowship Hall

Cleveland-based singer/musician Erin Nicole Neal will discuss the history of gospel music from an African American experience and how it had evolved from the age of slavery to the civil rights movement to more modern times. Gospel music influenced culture, and, in particular, its impact on the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s as activists incorporated freedom songs and protest songs amid the struggle for Civil Rights. The music carried them through marches, jail, demonstrations, and police brutality, as they carried on unabashedly singing, “We Shall Overcome” and “Up Above My Head, I Hear Freedom In The Air” and many more. Erin will demonstrate gospel songs utilized in Civil Rights, as well as Gospel songs throughout its evolving history and discuss why Gospel music was influential in culture and utilized in the Civil Rights struggle.



Upcoming Book Discussion: *Wholehearted Faith*

by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu

Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 PM, Parlor

At the time of her death in 2019, at the age of 37, Rachel Held Evans was recognized widely for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books which have guided, edified, and helped to shape countless Christians as they seek to live a just and loving faith. *Wholehearted Faith* is the book she was working on at the time of her death; in it, the author wrestles with God’s grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging. 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.



Equal Exchange Items for Sale Today!

Today - Sunday, January 1, 10-11 AM, Outside the Parlor

Start the new year off with something delicious that also supports a fair trade economic system that treats people and the planet with care. Equal Exchange items are for sale today between the 9 AM and 11 AM services. Peace and blessings to you in the new year. *Wendy Jelinek for Church and Society/Creation Justice team.*

Dinner Church

Wednesday, January 4, 6 PM, Wesley Hall

Bring a dish - but more valuably, bring a friend or neighbor! We are ready to fully launch this new ministry and now need your help by inviting new folks, or folks we haven’t seen in awhile, to join us for dinner and faith conversations. At our last Dinner Church, participants remarked how great it was to share a meal, catch up with people from different worship services, and meet some new faces. A sign-up sheet for food and help with set-up and clean-up is available on the Outreach board by Room 13.



Metanoia Project Meals

Monday, January 16 and Sunday, January 22

As winter closes in, low temperatures can be dangerous for people who lack housing. The seasonal Metanoia Project offers food and overnight shelter for unhoused people in the Ohio City neighborhood. Their hospitality centers are located at Franklin Circle Church and Bethany Presbyterian. A small team from UMCB delivers dinner to one of these centers a few times a month. You can help by donating part of the meal or joining us to serve the meal.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, January 1

New Year's 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, January 2

New Year's Day Holiday for Staff - Offices Closed

Morning Prayer

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Olive Garden

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Women's Bible Study /

Contact Katie Flynn at kathryn.flinn@gmail.com

Tuesday, January 3

Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday Bible Study

9:30 AM / Room 13

Stephen Ministers

6:30 PM / Room 13

Wednesday, January 4

Morning Prayer

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

Storytime

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

The Wednesday Group

11 AM / Gathering Place

Dinner Church

6 PM / Wesley Hall

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite /

contact Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Thursday, January 5

Morning Prayer

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

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

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

Choir Rehearsal

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

or [Margaret Proctor](#)

Friday, January 6

Morning Prayer

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

UMW Set-up

4 PM / Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 7

UMW Executive Board

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

UMW Program - Flat Rock Missions

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 8

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

Church Office - Beth Barner

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9 AM - 3 PM

Tues., Fri. From Home 9AM - 3 PM

ebarner@umcb.org 440-234-3525 x100, Cell: 440-710-4498

Finance Office - Maryann Herron

Mon., Wed., Fri. 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

Pastor Nathan Howe & Carrie Antczak

Office Hours vary based on need.

nhowe@umcb.org 440-234-3525x101

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