

Worship Celebration

Third Sunday of Advent

Divine Interruptions

Week 3:

God's Annunciation to Hannah

December 11, 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](http://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)



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Saturday, December 24

4 PM Traditional Worship Service with Choirs
in the Sanctuary &
online ([www.facebook.com/
umcberea/live](http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/live))

7 PM Modern Worship with Praise Band,
in the Sanctuary

11 PM Traditional Worship, in the Sanctuary

Each service will include beautiful music, a message of hope, and the traditional passing of candlelight while we sing "Silent Night." Invite your friends, family members, and neighbors, and join us as we celebrate the gift of God's presence with us in Jesus Christ.

Artwork by Tessa Canterbury

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Words of Welcome

+ Call to Worship

Come together, people of God.

Let us pray and praise and listen for familiar words of revolutionary change.

The Living God does great things for us and through us. Holy is God's name.

***God tumbles the mighty, raises the humble, scatters the schemers,
feeds the hungry, and dismisses the overfed.***

Come together, people of God. Let us wait for the Lord.

Our spirits glorify the Living God, even while we wait.

We rejoice in God, our Savior!

+ Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213

Lighting the Third Candle on the Advent Wreath

Sometimes on our journey, our feet grow heavy and our shoulders feel burdened.

***Sometimes when we're preparing, the busyness overwhelms us,
and we get lost in the doing, the planning, and the running from thing to thing.***

And somewhere along the way, we lose our sense of "why."

Why are we doing all of this? Why is this journey and this waiting necessary?

At least part of the reason is the peace: the peace of waiting in God's presence.

We forget that peace when we get so caught up in too many to-do lists.

***We forget that peace when we worry more about meeting expectations
than connecting with each other.***

Our call in this Advent season is to be attentive:

to notice the One who is coming already at work among us.

The third Advent candle is lighted.

We light this candle as a reminder of God's presence:

with us in our waiting, with us in our questioning, with us in our busyness.

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

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 4 and refrain)

UMH 211

***O come, thou root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Text: Henry Sloane Coffin, Laurence Hull Stookey, © 1940, 1943, 1981, 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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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 - 1 Samuel 2.1-10 (CEB)

2 Then Hannah prayed:

My heart rejoices in the LORD. My strength rises up in the LORD!

My mouth mocks my enemies because I rejoice in your deliverance.

² No one is holy like the LORD— no, no one except you!
 There is no rock like our God!

³ Don't go on and on, talking so proudly, spouting arrogance from your mouth,
 because the LORD is the God who knows, and he weighs every act.

⁴ The bows of mighty warriors are shattered,
 but those who were stumbling now dress themselves in power!

⁵ Those who were filled full now sell themselves for bread,
 but the ones who were starving are now fat from food!
 The woman who was barren has birthed seven children,
 but the mother with many sons has lost them all!

⁶ The LORD!
 He brings death, gives life, takes down to the grave, and raises up!

⁷ The LORD!
 He makes poor, gives wealth, brings low, but also lifts up high!

⁸ God raises the poor from the dust, lifts up the needy from the garbage pile.
 God sits them with officials, gives them the seat of honor!
 The pillars of the earth belong to the LORD;
 he set the world on top of them!

⁹ God guards the feet of his faithful ones,
 but the wicked die in darkness because no one succeeds by strength alone.

¹⁰ The LORD! His enemies are terrified! God thunders against them from heaven!
 The LORD! He judges the far corners of the earth!
 May God give strength to his king
 and raise high the strength of his anointed one.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson - Luke 1.46-55 (CEB)

⁴⁶ Mary said,
 "With all my heart I glorify the Lord!
⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.
 Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me.
 Holy is his name.
⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone,
 from one generation to the next,
 who honors him as God.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.
 He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty-handed.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
 remembering his mercy,
⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

+ Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

UMH 216

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

Magnificat

Rob Landes

+ 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

***Just as the one who has planted waits patiently for the rains to nourish the crops, O God,
you call us to be patient as we wait for our gifts to bear fruit and bless others.***

***As we wait, help us to trust that you fill the hungry with good things
and show mercy to your people.***

***Give us wisdom, Generous God, to be good stewards of your gifts,
and give us strength to be holy instruments of your love. Amen.***

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

The King of Glory Comes

TFWS 2091

+ Benediction

Go and tell others what you have witnessed of God's presence in this world.

We will go and tell others the hope we have found through Christ's love.

Go and be strengthened by the One who scatters the proud
and brings down the powerful from their thrones.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Postlude

Vom Himmel Hoch ("From Heaven Above")

Johann Pachelbel

***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

Josh Kraybill, *Organist*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debbie Haas

Morning Prayer

Holy God, at the dawning of this new day,
new life blossoms like the crocus
and fresh promises well up like a spring.
As I go forth in your presence,
confirm my resolve to worship you,
strengthen my hands to serve your people,
and keep me always in your holy way. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Almighty God, my soul rejoices
at the great things you have done today—
giving daily bread for my hunger,
showing endless mercy for my sin.
As you have blessed my ancestors,
bless and keep me this night;
in Jesus' name, Amen.

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Come as You Are Christmas Pageant

Next Sunday, December 18, Worship Services at 9 and 11 AM

You are a part of God's story! Let's celebrate the coming birth of Jesus with a retelling of the story that includes all of us! Young and Wise are encouraged to pick up a costume or prop on their way into worship to help us retell the Nativity story. No rehearsals, no lines, just a beautiful picture of God's family celebrating that very first Christmas scene and story.

Questions? Want to help with prep? Contact **Pastor Carrie**
at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



The Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21, 7 PM, Sanctuary

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, December 21 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary for a time filled with scripture, prayer, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Together, we will remember and give thanks for God's abiding presence even in the longest or loneliest of nights. Invite others, and join us.



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.



Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

9 AM in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM at the Renaissance (26376 John Road, Olmsted Falls)

Christmas Day this year falls on a Sunday, and we are going to expand our worship opportunities.

On Sunday, December 25, there will be one worship service in our building, at 9 AM in the Sanctuary. Join us as we sing carols, read scripture, and celebrate the ongoing gift of Incarnation, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Our second worship service on Christmas Day will be at the Renaissance (26376 John Road, Olmsted Falls) at 10:45 AM.

If you would like to help lead our Christmas Day worship service at the Renaissance, providing music, reading scripture, or otherwise worshipping alongside our friends there, please contact Pastor Nathan at nhowe@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101**.



UMW Circle Christmas Brunch

Wednesday, December 14, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

A reminder that the Christmas brunch is this Wednesday, December 14 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.



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**.



Advent Yoga with Jen Marshall

Tuesdays, December 13 & 20, 7 PM, Parlor (Please note the change of the day of the week.)

Join us Tuesdays December 13 & December 20 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.



Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer

Sundays, 10 AM, Parlor

Join us Sundays at 10 AM 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!



Messy Church Christmas

Next Sunday, December 18, 4 - 6 PM, Wesley Hall

It's the story of Christmas, brought to life, by YOU! Join us for a delightful afternoon of creating our own Christmas pageants! Santa is sure to stop by and share the story-telling with us! Let's celebrate God's greatest gift together! A holiday dinner will cap off this celebration!

Extra volunteers needed for this popular community event!
To sign-up to help out, please sign up on the Outreach Board (by Room 13)
or contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



Spice Up the Holidays!

Donations collected through Next Sunday, December 18 outside Room 13

UMW is collecting spices to donate to Second Mile Outreach. Please place your donations, by Sunday, December 18, in the marked basket by Room 13. Second Mile will distribute the spices in their Christmas food boxes. Thanks for spicing up the holidays!



Loose Change Offering - Guatemala

This month's loose change will benefit our mission partners, The Association for Mam Christian Women in Guatemala. Your support recently helped fund an addition to the community building where women are learning business skills and trades that will support their families. Your support truly makes a difference! Help us continue to support these industrious women as they pursue health and well-being for themselves and their families.

You can support this mission by either mailing in an offering, or donating electronically at www.umcb.org/donate using the "other" box and marking it "loose change offering".



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, December 11

Third 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

Monday, December 12

Morning Prayer

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at Perkins

Read & Grow Book Discussion

6:30 PM / Parlor & via Zoom /

Contact **Betsy Meikle** at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Women's Bible Study /

Contact Katie Flynn at kathryn.flinn@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 13

Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday Bible Study

9:30 AM/ Room 13

Sustainable Berea

6:30 PM / Room 13

Advent Yoga

7 PM / Parlor

Wednesday, December 14

Morning Prayer

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

Storytime

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

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite /

contact Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Church Office - Beth Barner

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9 AM – 3 PM

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

ebartner@umcb.org,

440-234-3525 x100, Cell: 440-710-4498

Thursday, December 15

January Caller Submissions Due - Submit articles to info@umcb.org or the church mailbox.

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, December 16

Morning Prayer

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

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Traditional Worship with the Come As You Are Pageant

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 with the Come As You Are Pageant

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Messy Church Christmas

4 PM/ Wesley Hall, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary /

[Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

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

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

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.