

Worship Celebration

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Divine Interruptions

Week 4:

*God's Annunciation to
Mary & Joseph*

December 18, 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)

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

Pastorale on "Divinium Mysterium"

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome

+ Opening Prayer

*Holy One, you send us new life in so many forms.
Open our minds, that we may recognize it.
Open our hearts, that we may receive it.
Open our bodies, that we may embrace it.
Open our spirits, that we may live it.
Open us this day and all days. Amen.*

+ Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1-4)

UMH 211

Lighting the Fourth Candle on the Advent Wreath

One of the reminders of this Advent season is our need for companions

*We live in a "do-it-yourself" culture that celebrates the individual,
but faith is not something we do on our own.*

We need other people to support and strengthen and encourage us along the way.

The Gospel of Matthew reminds us that when God chose to come among us in Jesus,
God chose to trust people to make that happen.

God trusted Mary and trusted Joseph—and trusted them to trust each other.

*In turn, we can trust God to be faithful
through the lives of others as we continue alone our journey of faith.*

This morning, we light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love
as our circle of light becomes complete.

The fourth candle is lighted.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
that God may teach us the ways of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 5 and refrain)

UMH 211

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery.
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.*

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 1.18-25 (CEB)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³ *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

+ Hymn

People, Look East

UMH 202

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

Like a Child, I Wait

Ruth Elaine Schram

+ 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

***In this season of giving, O God, receive our gifts and transform them
into gifts that help others to know your presence in their lives each day.
May we welcome weary travelers; may we provide shelter for those who need it;
and may our lives be gifts to all your children. Amen.***

The Amazing Story of Christmas

Leader: God invites us to participate in the story.

With disciples of every time and place, let us open our eyes and ears
and listen to the story of when God came to us in Christ.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

Part 1: Mary and Joseph

Hymn

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

UMH 215

While we sing the hymn, those who want to portray Mary and Joseph are invited forward.

Part 2: The Animals

Hymn

The Friendly Beasts

UMH 227

While we sing the hymn, those who want to portray goats, sheep, cows, or donkeys are invited forward.

Part 3: The Angels

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 1 and refrain)

UMH 238

While we sing the hymn, those who want to portray angels are invited forward.

Part 4: The Shepherds

Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (vv. 1-2)

UMH 251

While we sing the hymn, those who want to portray shepherds are invited forward.

Part 5: The Wise Persons and the Star

Hymn

We Three Kings (vv. 1-4)

UMH 254

While we sing the hymn, those who want to portray wise persons are invited forward.

Part 6: Conclusion

Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH 246

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Benediction

Go now to prepare a place in your hearts and homes for God With Us, Emmanuel.

Go now to prepare a welcome for the Child-child.

Go now to prepare an opening for the Holy Spirit, the breath of God among us.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Postlude

Fugue on "Vom Himmel Hoch"

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

Linda Tucker

Music

Don Jackson, *Organist*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Logan Byerly, *Vocalist*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debbie Haas

Morning Prayer

Thank you, good and gracious God,
for the morning light and for another day
in which to live out what it means
that you have magnified my soul.
Show me how to trust in you this day—
how to offer myself to you. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Good and gracious God,
we give you thanks that you
have made real in this world the breath of life,
the life of hope.
Keep us safe throughout this night,
and wake us to rejoice and to live in peace. Amen.

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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.



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.



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.



Advent Yoga with Jen Marshall

Tuesday, December 20, 7 PM, Parlor

Join us Tuesday, 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.



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.





Messy Church Christmas

TODAY!, 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**.



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.



Dinner Church

Wednesday, January 4, 6 PM, Wesley Hall

We welcome you and our neighbors to join us for Dinner Church! Dinner Church 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!

Church friends, 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 **440-292-6194** or nbuehler75@gmail.com.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

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](#)

Monday, December 19

Morning Prayer

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at Bob Evans

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Women's Bible Study /

Contact Katie Flynn at kathryn.flinn@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 20

Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday Bible Study

9:30 AM / Room 13

Advent Yoga

7 PM / Parlor

Wednesday, December 21

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

The Longest Night Service

7 PM / Sanctuary

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite /

contact Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Thursday, December 22

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 23

Christmas Eve Holiday for Staff - Offices Closed

Morning Prayer

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

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Traditional Worship with Choirs

4 PM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Christmas Eve Modern Worship with Praise Band

7 PM / Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Traditional Worship

11 PM / Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Christmas Day Worship Service at The Renaissance

10:45 AM / The Renaissance

26376 John Rd, Olmsted Township, 44138 /

[Contact Pastor Nathan](#)

Monday, December 26

Christmas Day Holiday for Staff - Offices Closed

Morning Prayer

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

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch TBD

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Women's Bible Study /

Contact Katie Flynn at kathryn.flinn@gmail.com