

# Worship Celebration

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Divine Interruptions

*Week 2:*

*God's Annunciation to  
Abraham & Sarah*

December 4, 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](https://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

*Gracious God, Womb of Life, you know the desires and hopes we carry  
even when they seem to us too fragile to express.*

*You are the God of Hagar, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Mary:  
accompanying your people as they journey toward you.*

*Accompany us, O God, in our Advent waiting.*

*Give us faith to trust you and to prepare for you,  
rejoicing that with you, nothing is impossible.*

*We worship, live, and pray in the name of the One we anticipate. Amen.*

### + Hymn

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

UMH 203

## Lighting the Second Advent Candle

What seems impossible to us is possible for God.

Unconcerned by their old age or by their young age, God came to Elizabeth and to Mary,  
inviting them to become an essential part of God's purpose.

Undeterred by the criticism of those around them, Elizabeth and Mary chose joy.

*The second Advent candle is lighted.*

We light this candle because we, too, choose joy.

We, too, believe the impossible is possible and that we are chosen and essential.

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

### Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 6 and refrain)

UMH 211

***O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
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 17.15-17; 18.1-2, 9-15; 21.1-3, 6-7 (CEB)

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, you will no longer call her Sarai. Her name will now be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and even give you a son from her. I will bless her so that she will become nations, and kings of peoples will come from her."

<sup>17</sup> Abraham fell on his face and laughed. He said to himself, Can a 100-year-old man become a father, or Sarah, a 90-year-old woman, have a child?

**18** The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah?"

And he said, "Right here in the tent."

<sup>10</sup> Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!"

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I'm no longer able to have children and my husband's old.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son."

<sup>15</sup> Sarah lied and said, "I didn't laugh," because she was frightened.

But he said, "No, you laughed."

**21** The LORD was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the LORD carried out just what he had promised her. <sup>2</sup> She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac.

<sup>6</sup> Sarah said, "God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me." <sup>7</sup> She said, "Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I've given birth to a son when he was old!"

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

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

### **Gospel Lesson** - Luke 1.35-45 (CEB)

<sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> Nothing is impossible for God."

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

<sup>39</sup> Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. <sup>40</sup> She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. <sup>43</sup> Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

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

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

### **Sermon**

### **+ Hymn**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

UMH 209

## 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 worshipping 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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org)), the church office ([info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org)), or through our website ([www.umcb.org/worshipresources](http://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](http://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

*Will We Know Him*

Don Besig & Nancy Price

## 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.***

It is right and good and joyful, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away, failing to love as you love, your love remains steadfast.

You do not forget your promises or abandon what you have made.

You deliver us from captivity, shape us as your covenant people, and speak prophetic truth.

You call us to awaken, to be attentive,

and to live as people called by you in every time and place.

And so, with your people on earth and the whole of creation, we praise your name as we join in 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.***

Holy are you, and blessed is your holy name.

In the fullness of time, you took on our human image, coming among us as a fragile baby, a mighty prophet, a wise teacher, a loving savior: revealing your presence in the world.

***Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, Christ continues to reveal your presence among us now.***

Through your powerful love and endless welcome, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sin, and led on your path of justice and peace.

On the night before his death, we remember that Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said: ***“Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.”***

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you, shared it, and said:  
***“Drink from this, all of you; this is my life in the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

And so, in remembrance of these and all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving  
as children of the One who was and is and is to come.  
Use us, by your grace, to live your loving presence in the world,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
***Make them be for us the body and blood, the life and love, of Christ,  
that we may be the body of Christ for the world, redeemed and renewed by your grace.***  
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world,  
until Christ comes again, welcoming all people to feast together at your table.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
***all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.***

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

#### **Sharing the Bread & Cup**

**Hymn**

*Toda La Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting)*

UMH 210

**Organ Interlude**

*Prelude on Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

#### **+ Prayer following Communion**

***Thank you, God, for receiving all who seek you in this holy mystery.  
Thank you for giving all you are to every one of us: your body for our bodies.  
Send us now by your Holy Spirit to share in the lives of all who long for your coming,  
and let us be joined with them in your work of making all things new;  
through Jesus Christ, for whom we wait. Amen.***

## **We Go Out to Serve in God’s Name**

**+ Hymn**

*Heralds of Christ*

UMH 567

#### **+ Benediction**

May the door of God’s welcome swing wide open in our hearts and in our lives.  
***May the humility of Christ’s birth in Jesus remind us of all we have to offer.***  
And may the Holy Spirit lead us into more possibility than we have imagined,  
as we go out now to share God’s welcome with all.  
***Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.***

**Postlude**

*Hallelujah Chorus from “Messiah”*

George Frideric Handel  
arr. Josh Kraybill

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

## Worship Participants

### **Pastors**

Rev. Nathan Howe  
Rev. Carrie Antczak

### **Liturgist**

Sharon Williams

### **Music**

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

### **Audio Video Elements**

Mark Williams  
Marlynda Dziak  
Debbie Haas

### **Morning Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God:  
by your tender mercy  
the dawn of your new world  
is breaking upon us.  
Guide our feet this day  
into paths of peace;  
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

### **Evening Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God:  
you have smiled on us today  
and redeemed us from all sin.  
Give light to all who wait in darkness  
until we rest with you in peace;  
through Jesus Christ, Amen.

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### **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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101 to sign up.



### **Come as You Are Christmas Pageant**

**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](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## **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!



## **Advent Yoga with Jen Marshall**

***Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesdays, December 14 & 21, 7 PM, Parlor***

Join us Wednesdays 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](mailto:meiklebetsyj@gmail.com) or 440-243-5767.



## **Equal Exchange Items**

***TODAY, 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](http://equalexchange.coop).



## **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](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## **Dinner Church**

***Wednesday, 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](mailto:nbuehler75@gmail.com) or **440-292-6194**.



## **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](http://www.umcb.org/donate).

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



## **Spice Up the Holidays!**

***Donations collected through 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!





## **Messy Church Christmas**

***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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 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](#)

## **Monday, December 5**

### **Morning Prayer**

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

### **Survivors Fellowship**

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at The Brew Kettle

### **Women's Bible Study**

7 PM / Women's Bible Study / contact Katie Flynn at

[kathryn.flinn@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.flinn@gmail.com)

## **Tuesday, December 6**

### **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, December 7**

### **Morning Prayer**

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

### **Storytime**

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

### **Dinner Church**

6 PM / Wesley Hall / [Contact Pastor Carrie](#)

### **Advent Yoga**

7 PM / Parlor

### **Women's Bible Study**

7 PM / Offsite / contact Linda Short at

[9short28@gmail.com](mailto:9short28@gmail.com)

## **Thursday, December 8**

### **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 9**

### **Morning Prayer**

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

## **Saturday, December 10**

## **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

### **Church Office - Beth Barner**

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

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

[ebarner@umcb.org](mailto: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](mailto:mherron@umcb.org) 440-234-3525 x103

### **Facilities Manager - Mark Williams**

Office Hours vary based on need.

[mwilliams@umcb.org](mailto:mwilliams@umcb.org) 440-234-3525 x102

### **Pastor Nathan Howe & Carrie Antczak**

Office Hours vary based on need.

[nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) 440-234-3525x101

[cantczak@umcb.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@umcb.org)) and one of the pastors will respond as soon as possible.*