



January 2023



The United Methodist Church of Berea

THE CALLER

For weekly updates on events and activities, please subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter at [www.umcb.org](http://www.umcb.org).

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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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101) with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 6.

YOUTH GROUP -

GAMES & THE BODY OF CHRIST

JANUARY 22, 5-6:30 PM, WESLEY HALL

It's ALL the games night! Bring a game to share if you'd like, and also enjoy large-group crazy youth group games! (Pssst... life-size hungry hungry hippos might make an appearance...) We'll have a devotion exploring what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

Bring a game night snack to share!

Youth Group brings churches from around the area together for faith, fun, and friendship. Ages 4th-12th grade are welcome, and we welcome young adult helpers! We'd love to grow our program, but could us some more adult help.

If you have a passion for youth discipleship, reach out to Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-355 x104.

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CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



You may know, in November someone created an email very similar to Pastor Nathan's and used that email to impersonate him and sent emails asking for Apple gift cards. This was the second time in two years that this has occurred with Pastor Nathan's email. A few months ago, someone did the same thing with Pastor Carrie's email. Impersonating someone to solicit money is illegal.

If you received any of these emails you should block the sender. If you sent any gift cards, and you haven't already done so, you should contact your local police or the FBI. They may be able to help get the money back. The sooner you report any loss, the better chance you have of recovering your money. Once it leaves the country it is very difficult to retrieve.

Retrieving any money sent is only part of the issue in this incident. The other issue is emails were created to impersonate Nathan and Carrie to solicit monthly. If you received any of these emails, you should block the sender and if you haven't already done so, please consider logging the incident with the FBI. They have a link on their website for the form which is titled 'Complaint Referral Form Internet Crime Complaint Center, <https://www.ic3.gov>. It will be helpful to read through the Frequently Asked Questions to learn all the information you will need to complete the form so you can gather it before you actually begin filling out the form.

If you are 60+ you can also contact the Department of Justice's National Elder Fraud Strike Force. Due to the significant increase in fraud against the elderly, they have increased their staff and created this task force which includes members from their Consumer Protection Branch, FBI, US Postal Inspector and Homeland Security. The telephone number to contact the Strike Force is 833-372-8311. An agent will talk with you to gather the information they need to file an incident.



## RING IN THE NEW YEAR!

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, Sherry Buehl, will speak about Flat Rock missions. Cost of the brunch is \$10 (\$5 will be donated to Flat Rock).

## UMW SUNDAY IS JANUARY 8

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.



SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

**MEMBERS**

Betty Atherton  
 Cass Beckman  
 Barbara Beihl  
 Heidi Blue  
 Carol Bodle  
 Hugh Burtner  
 Wilda Donegan  
 Molly Force  
 Carol & Bruce Forster  
 Debby Haas  
 Jan Heter (Arden Courts)  
 Elenore Long  
 Christine McMillin  
 Betty Miller (Renaissance)  
 Rev. Cal Myers  
 Donald Powers (Renaissance)  
 Lou Russell (Westlake Villages)  
 Russ Sanderson  
 Mary Lynn Swartz  
 Carol Thompson  
 Kathleen Wargelin  
 Sharon Williams

**MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)  
 Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)  
 June Demmerle (Generations)  
 Janice Kavander  
 Mary Lou McKissock (Kemper House, Strongsville)  
 Pat Sarka (Wesleyan Village, Elyria)  
 Barbara Scoon (Vista Springs, Parma)  
 Von & Marilyn Smith (Renaissance)  
 Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)

**MILITARY**

J.D. Ferut (grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs)  
 Ryan Hopkins  
 Bill Lambert (son-in-law of Corky Cline)  
 Josh Lambert (grandson of Corky Cline)  
 Ben Lebrun  
 Zachary New (grandson of Bob & Jackie King)

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan)  
 Dave & Jane Breakey (friends of the Brenneisons)  
 Marc Bittinger \*\*  
 Cheryl Cheff (mother of Corey Reams)  
 Dan Dietz (son of Joan Dietz)  
 AmyMarie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak)  
 Spencer Gehring  
 Sylvie Isgro-Schicker  
 Isaac Kowicki & Oliver Lawrence (great nephews  
 of Cindy Osborn)  
 Lillian and Lucas (family friends of the Howes)  
 Paul & Kathryn and children (family of Christine  
 and Andy McMillin)  
 Joann Mraz (friend of Nancy Schillace)  
 Jeanne Sowder (sister of Buck & Karen Caldwell)  
 Laura Swartz Steele  
 Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk,  
 Renaissance)

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



**PASTORAL CARE &  
 PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please contact **Pastor Nathan** at  
**440-234-3525 x101** or [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org)  
 if you would like to schedule an individual time  
 to talk or if you have a specific prayer request.

You can also submit prayer requests  
 at [umcb.org/worshipresources](http://umcb.org/worshipresources)  
 or by emailing the church office  
 at [info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org).

To receive Prayer Concerns by email,  
 visit our website at [umcb.org/contact](http://umcb.org/contact)  
 and subscribe in the lower right column.



### 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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x101** if you need help accessing a copy and if you plan to participate.

### 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.

### 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 Room 12.

For more information and Zoom details, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com) or **440-409-5931**.

(We will postpone the Friday GriefShare until the weather is decent - probably mid March.)





## NEW YEAR: NEW PRACTICES

Is one of your new year resolutions or 2023 faith commitments to participate in a small group? Or perhaps get your kids back to Sunday School? We hope you'll take the inspiration of a new year to start a new faith practice like small groups.

To learn all about the opportunities available for all ages, contact Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-355 x104.

TEACHING &amp; LEARNING TOGETHER

## 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

On January 9, we will meet in Room 13 for the combination in-person and zoom meeting. The discussion will be about **Blind Man's Bluff** by James Tate Hill. On February 13, we will discuss **The Orphan House** by Ann Bennett.

For more information, please contact **Betsy Meikle** at [meiklebetsyj@gmail.com](mailto:meiklebetsyj@gmail.com) or 440-243-5767.



## COVENANT MISSION PARTNERSHIP

In November of 2022, our missions committee enthusiastically decided that we would like to begin a covenant relationship with a mission partner in Cambodia - a geographical mission we already support. Entering this new relationship would allow us to really get to know the work of a particular missionary, support him in his work, and participate more fully in the mission God is blessing in Cambodia. We are hoping to enter this relationship with Patrick Booth, who hails from Ohio. Here's more about him and his work:

Patrick Booth is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as the co-director of Project ARK. Project ARK's mission is to tackle poverty as a culprit of human trafficking by equipping and restoring livelihood and dignity through the construction trade while introducing quality, affordable family homes into the Cambodian real-estate market.

To learn more about Project Ark go to: <https://umccambodia.org/ark/>.

In February, we will begin seeking your prayerful financial support. In the months to come, we will have the opportunity to write to Patrick, and perhaps have him help lead us (remotely) in worship. We look forward to being a part of this wonderful mission.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT . . .



## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR - ADOPT OF STAFF MEMBER OF GRINDSTONE ELEMENTARY!

We will again be asking you to “adopt-a-teacher or staff member” of Grindstone Elementary! Last year, teachers reached back to us with tearful appreciation of this mission. They were so appreciative of the cards and small gifts they received. Watch the Outreach board to select your staff member of choice!

We ask that you write a note of appreciation, and perhaps include a small gift card. (Ideas: Dollar Tree, Target, Amazon, any coffee shop, or local restaurant). If you include a gift card, please return to the finance office drop slot for safe keeping.

**Notes are due back February 1.**

# DINNER CHURCH

FOOD, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP

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.



## EQUAL EXCHANGE ITEMS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1  
10-11 AM, BY THE PARLOR

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, take to a coffee...or tea...break. Maybe even treat yourself to a piece of Equal Exchange chocolate. Stop by the fair trade table to the variety of yummy treats.

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).



## 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 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.)

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.

## HELP BUILD HOPE

Last summer, with your generous support and hard work, we were able to complete a frame for a Habitat for Humanity home that now awaits ground breaking this spring. Ask someone who was a part of this mission and you'll hear wonderful stories of coming together to make a real difference.

We hope to take part in this mission again in the summer of 2023. If you would be interested in helping us as a part of the core leadership team, please reach out to **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.

We need people who can help us reach out to our neighbors and local organizations to both financially support the project, as well as participate in the building. Together we can build up this community, as well as the community where this future home will go!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE



Movie and Game Night!  
Sunday, January 15, 4 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 4 - 6 PM, WESLEY HALL

Join us for a sing-along movie night including board games and other family-friendly fun! All ages are welcome to join us for a night of fun and games. A taco bar will make it a real fiesta!

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 - UMCOR SAGER BROWN

Our loose change this month will benefit UMCOR Sager Brown. Our church has a long relationship with this mission of the United Methodist Committee on Relief's Sager Brown depot, and we hope to continue to serve at the Sager Brown mission in the future. This is where many supplies are prepared to help those in need when disasters occur.

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".

Thank you for your generosity!





## PASTOR CARRIE IS TAKING SPIRITUAL RENEWAL LEAVE

Pastor Carrie will be taking January 31-March 5 as Spiritual Renewal time. She will start her journey with a trip to Israel! Please pray for her and her family while she is away. The rest of the month she plans on resting and renewing spiritual practices.

If you need her assistance with any advanced planning (think about Lent and March now), please contact her soon. She will not be checking email while she is on leave.

Thank you for supporting our pastors in their self-care!

## OUR 2022 NATIVITY PAGEANTS



The Storytime children  
at the  
UMW Christmas Luncheon



In the  
9AM Worship Service



In the  
11AM Worship Service



At Messy Church

SHARING GOD'S LOVE





## Magi Gifts 2022

The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We joined them, offering our gifts to support our community. Over \$1100 was collected to support three of our mission partners - Berea Community Outreach, Second Mile Outreach, and the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. For each star on our tree in the Sanctuary, a gift was given in memory or in honor of a loved one.

### Given in Memory of

Dean Rowland by The Choir

Carol Hemker, Pat Reese, Linda Donahue, Barb Rochford, Carol Isgro, Lydia Proctor, Nick Wik, Dick Vale, Laurie Garvin, Karen Maslyk, Charlotte Harlamert, Carol and Maclyn Ball, Carol Geopfert, Boyd Warnsman, Mary Pendell, Mary Gay, Ruth Haber, Bruce Hardy, Harriet Adams, Nancy Gehring, Paul Swaddling, Harriet and Dan Lansell, Jim and Carolyn Miser, Dr. John Robinson, Dr. Warren Berryman, Dr. Margaret Scharf, Dr. Warren Scharf, Gloria Wharton, Ken Williams, and Roger Smith by The Choir

Tom & Tommy Christian by Carrie & Jason Antczak

Bob & Louise Laughlin by Carrie & Jason Antczak

Valerie & Buck Stultz by Carrie & Jason Antczak

Harry & Marie Gregg by Karl & Cass Beckman

Virden & Roberta Beckman by Karl & Cass Beckman

Jean Tharp by Amelia Caldwell

Marie Douglas by Amelia Caldwell

My Parents by Sandra Demkowicz

Harl Evans by Barbara Evans

Loved Ones by Barbara Evans

Jim Gorsline by Marge Gorsline

My Parents by Carol Heskett

Marilyn Jelinek by Keli, Larry, & Wendy Jelinek

Helen & Edward Jelinek by Keli, Larry, & Wendy Jelinek

Frances & John Kubicek by Keli, Larry, & Wendy Jelinek

Mary Vlach by Keli, Larry, & Wendy Jelinek

John Kappeler by Carol Kappeler

Donna & George O'Brien by Ron & Dorene Larkey

Duane Dawley by Ron & Dorene Larkey

Robert Leece by Elaine Leece

Robert Ballas by Elaine Leece

Helen Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee

Bobby Meadows, Sr. by the Meadows Family

Kayla Haller by the Meadows Family

Dave Murnan by DeeDee Murnan

Gloria Wharton by Don & Mary Ann Obert

## *Given in Memory of (con't)*

My Husband, Kenny by Susan Pogue  
Dad, Mom, Jake, & Lori by Susan Pogue  
Lydia Proctor with love by Margaret Proctor & her Family  
Steve, Beverly, & Alice Holland with love by Margaret Proctor  
Carol Hemker with love by Margaret Proctor  
Jan Harlamert with love by Margaret Proctor  
Dave Robinson by Barbara Robinson  
Parents and Grandparents by Barbara Robinson  
My Mother, Jean Boyer by Sue Rollins  
My Husband, Jim Rollins by Sue Rollins  
Dean Rowland by Lin Rowland  
My parents, Bob & JoAnne Hahn by Laura Rushton  
Todd Simon by Russ & Ruthann Simon  
Ruth & Victor Petras by Russ & Ruthann Simon  
Marie & Joseph Simon by Russ & Ruthann Simon  
Lydia Creed Proctor, beloved mother and grandmother by Carol Ann Stepancik  
Alice & John Wintermute by Wendy Tully  
Jack & Marie Tully by Wendy Tully  
Woods Robinson (Rebecca's Father) by the Zeiter Family

## *Given in Honor of*

My Family by Sandra Demkowicz  
My Daughters & Granddaughter by Barbara Evans  
My Family by Carol Heskett  
Carol Thompson by Carol Heskett  
Ronald Corey by Carol Heskett  
Megan & Nathan Howe by Mary & Jack Howe  
Our Families by Megan & Nathan Howe  
Roy Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee  
Our Loving Families, past & present by Barb Peterson & Tom Riggle  
All my Family & Friends by Susan Pogue  
David Proctor with love by Margaret Proctor & his Family  
Dr. Barbara MacGregor by Margaret Proctor  
Julie, Larry, Owen, & Josie by Barbara Robinson  
My Family and My Friends by Sue Rollins  
Family & Friends by Lin Rowland  
My Daughters - Hilary & Jenny, my Sons-in-laws - Dan & Colin, and my Step Grandson, Josiah  
by Carol Ann Stepancik  
David G. Proctor, Sr., beloved father by Carol Ann Stepancik  
All my Siblings and Siblings-in-law, and all my Nieces and Nephews by Carol Ann Stepancik