

# Worship Celebration



## *Baptism of the Lord*

January 8, 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](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, id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)

# We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Improvisation on the tune *Be Glorified*

Bob Kilpatrick

## Words of Welcome

### + Call Worship

Created in God's image, the image of love,

***we gather as God's children.***

Beloved by Christ, who loves us well,

***we gather as the body of Christ.***

Blessed by the breath of God, who fills our bodies,

***we gather in the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Come, let us worship together the God of Life and Love.

### + Hymn

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

UMH 57

### + Affirmation of Faith - The Nicene Creed

UMH 880

## 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 - Acts 10.34-43 (CEB)

<sup>34</sup>Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. <sup>35</sup>Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! <sup>37</sup>You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. <sup>38</sup>You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, <sup>41</sup>not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

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

### Gospel Lesson - Matthew 3.13-17 (CEB)

<sup>13</sup>At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. <sup>14</sup>John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup>Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. <sup>16</sup>When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. <sup>17</sup>A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

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

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

### Sermon

## Renewing Our Baptismal Covenant

Siblings in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism,  
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water—  
water poured over and immersing us,  
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,  
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,  
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,  
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today, we come to the waters again,  
to renew our commitments in each other's presence  
to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us,  
and the Creator who is making all things new.

As we do so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

***We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.***

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

***We accept the freedom and power God gives us  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.***

Will you proclaim the good news and live as Christ's disciples,  
embodying Christ's presence on earth?

***We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in God's grace,  
and promise to serve Christ as Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all cultures, ages, abilities, sexualities, genders, and ethnicities.***

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together,  
wherever you are, and in all that you do?

***We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.***

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the scriptures  
and the life and ministry of Jesus Christ?

***We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church  
as we put our trust in almighty God,  
in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.***

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

***Even so, come, Lord Jesus!***

Almighty God, the life you birth in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.

Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

***Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!***

But sometimes, we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit,  
or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound,  
and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

***We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!***

Come upon us, Holy Spirit! ***Come upon us, Holy Spirit!***

Come upon these waters. ***Come upon these waters.***

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy and grace.

***Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.***

Let these waters renew in us your resurrection power in Christ.

***Let these waters make us long for your beloved community.***

Most Holy God, Abba, Father! **Glory to you!**  
Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord! **Glory to you!**  
Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness! **Glory to you!**  
Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!  
**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

Loving Spirit

TFWS 2123

### 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 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!



Offertory Choir Anthem

Judah's Land

arr. David N. Johnson

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

**God of love and new life, you are glorious and strong.  
Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters,  
naming and claiming us as your beloved.  
As we hear your voice speaking into our lives, calling us your children,  
now may these gifts that we bring be a blessing to others  
that all people may know your love and grace. Amen.**

## We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

At the Font We Start Our Journey

TFWS 2114

+ Benediction

Beloved of God, we are created to love.  
**Loved by God, we are created to bless.**  
So, let us go forth now in the power of the Holy Spirit, to love and to bless God's world.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

Sent Forth by God's Blessings

arr. John Leavitt

***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**

Megan Denman, *Organist*  
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*  
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*

### **Audio Video Elements**

Mark Williams  
Marlynda Dziak  
Debbie Haas

### **Morning Prayer**

God, you make old things pass away  
and declare new things are becoming.  
As I am renewed in by baptism today,  
help me to confirm these promises in my life.  
Amen.

### **Evening Prayer**

Holy One, you stretched out the heavens  
and spread out the earth.  
Now as I sleep, safe and secure in your presence,  
remind me again that I am your beloved child.  
Amen.

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### **Celebrate UMW Sunday**

**Today during Coffee Hour (10-11AM) in The Gathering Place**

Join us for Coffee Hour following the 9 AM service as we celebrate UMW Sunday.  
Thank you for your support and generosity.



### **Blessing of Homes**

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, 2023.



### **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 use 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.



## **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.



## **Dialogues on Sexuality Resumes**

*Sundays, 10 AM, 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 discuss has changed to **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.



## **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](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. (We will postpone the Friday one until the weather is decent - probably mid March.)

Questions? Please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com) or 440-409-5931.



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



## **Messy Church Movie & Game Night**

***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**.



## **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! 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.**



## **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.

Please contact **Laura Rushton** at [jlaurush@gmail.com](mailto:jlaurush@gmail.com) or **567-303-1954** for details regarding the time and items needed. Upcoming dates are **Monday, January 16 and Sunday, January 22**. Monetary donations are welcome, too!



## **Help Build Hope**

We hope to take part in this mission again in the summer of 2023. 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!

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**.

# Happening at The UMCB this week:

## **Sunday, January 8**

*Baptism of the Lord*  
*UMW Sunday*

### **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

### **Creation Justice Team Meeting**

1:30 PM / Room 13

## **Monday, January 9**

### **Morning Prayer**

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

### **Survivors Fellowship**

11 AM / Parlor / Rivals Sports Grill

### **Trustees**

5 PM / Room 13

### **Read & Grow Book Discussion Group**

6:30 PM / Room 13 & Zoom

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

7 PM / Women's Bible Study /

Contact Katie Flynn at [kathryn.flinn@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.flinn@gmail.com)

## **Tuesday, January 10**

### **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

### **Church Council**

7 PM / Fellowship Hall

## **Wednesday, January 11**

### **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

## **Wednesday, January 11 (cont'd)**

### **GriefShare**

6 PM / Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at  
[marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com)

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

7 PM / Offsite /

contact Linda Short at [9short28@gmail.com](mailto:9short28@gmail.com)

## **Thursday, January 12**

### **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 13**

### **Morning Prayer**

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

## **Saturday, January 14**

### **UMW Executive Board**

10 AM / Fellowship Hall

## **Sunday, January 15**

*Second Sunday After the Epiphany*

*February Caller Submissions Due - Submit articles to*  
*[info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org) or the church office mailbox.*

### **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

### **Messy Church - Movie & Game Night**

4 PM / Wesley Hall, Fellowship, Sanctuary