



Worship Celebration

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude *Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs from Messiah* arr. Josh Kraybill

Words of Welcome

+ Call to Worship

+ Hymn *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Day* UMH 269

+ Prayer of Invitation

Bell Choir Anthem *Lord, Speak to Me* arr. Sandra Eithun

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 2.15-17; 3.1-7 (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 4.1-11 (CEB)

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

+ Affirmation of Faith

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Choir Anthem *Revive Us Again* William P. Mackay & John J. Husband
arr. Mark Hayes

+ Doxology (to the tune of *Amazing Grace*, UMH 378)

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn *Amazing Grace* UMH 378

+ Benediction

Postlude *Minuet in G* Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Worship Participants

Pastor
Rev. Nathan Howe

Liturgist
Barb Peterson

Music
Josh Kraybill, *Pianist*
Courtney Popp, *Choir Director*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*

Audio Video Elements
Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debby Haas

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.**

Lent 2023 Theme—Seeking God in the Wilderness

Throughout the season of Lent—forty days of preparing for the Festival of Easter—our scriptures take us into multiple forms of wilderness. We begin Lent giving attention to the wilderness—the “wild-ness,” the inescapable uncertainty—of our mortality: “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Then, on the First Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness where the Spirit guides him, and he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. But through Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness—fasting, resisting, and wandering—he is shaped and formed for his ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the Spirit who guides us to remember who and whose we are. There is no wilderness that is too harsh or too threatening for God’s love.



Sunday Afternoon Walk

Sunday, March 12, 4 PM, Bradley Woods Reservation

Enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, both outdoors and in each other! All are welcome to join us as we explore the trails of the Bradley Woods Reservation, which is along the border of North Olmsted and Westlake. If you plan to join us, please RSVP by the end of the day on **Thursday, March 9** to **Pastor Nathan** at 440-234-3525 x101 or nhowe@umcb.org.



New Members Reunion Dinner

Thursday, March 16, 6 PM, Fellowship Hall

We’re calling together all of our new friends who have joined the church in the last few years to share, reflect, and dream about the future of our life together at UMCB. If you became a new member in the last five years (or so), please let us know if you’ll be joining us. We’re excited to hear your stories and continue to be in ministry with you! Please RSVP to **Pastor Nathan** at nhowe@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101



Ecumenical Youth Group - Escape the Church!

Sunday, February 26, 5 PM, The UMCB Third Floor (EYG is open to 4th-12th graders.)

Join us February 22 at 5 pm for an escape room game - Escape the Church! Using Bible clues and more teams will compete to get out first! Bring a snack to share!



Read & Grow Book Discussion

Monday, March 13, 6:30-8 PM, Room 13 & on Zoom

On March 13 we will discuss "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom. The book for April 10 is "Book of Joy" by Dali Llama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. For more information, please contact **Betsy Meikle** at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com or 440-243-5767.



Exploring the UMC Social Principles

Sunday mornings, 10am, Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to join a hope filled group who strive to build God’s beloved community through active learning. We are exploring the UMC Social Principles to understand what the Bible says, what the UMC says, what the facts are, and how we can take action. We celebrate our faith in action. Please join the conversation as we discuss Hunger & Poverty and Food & Farmworker Justice. in the next two weeks.



Finding Jesus in the Psalms

***Sundays beginning February 26, 10 am, Parlor, led by Rev. Linda McCowen
or Tuesdays Beginning March 7, 9:30 am, Room 13, led by Pastor Nathan
or Mondays Beginning March 6, 7 pm, Room 13, led by Pastor Nathan***

All youth (9th grade and up) and adults are welcome to seek Jesus in the psalms this season. Through her Lenten study, *Finding Jesus in the Psalms*, Barb Roose will guide us through a meaningful encounter with the psalms, including reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus. Books are \$14 and available in Room 12. (*Youth and College students need not pay for books.*)



Dinner Church

Wednesday, March 1, 6 PM, Wesley Hall

What is Dinner Church? It's the original way Jesus connected with his disciples! When we come together over food and fellowship, we can share our faith and invite others to grow in faith too. So bring a dish - but more valuably, bring a friend or neighbor! We need your help by inviting new folks, or folks we haven't seen in awhile, to join us for dinner and faith conversations. 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, March 5, 10-11 AM, by the Parlor

Did you give up chocolate or coffee for Lent? Then be sure to try our Equal Exchange teas. We have a variety of flavors to choose from.

And don't forget, the Easter Bunny loves supporting farmers around the world who are paid a fair wage for their hard work and producing their items in a sustainable manner. Help the Easter Bunny and buy your basket stuffers - chocolates, coffee, and teas - from our Equal Exchange sale!



CPR/AED Training

Tuesday, March 21 or Saturday, April 1, 9 AM - 2 PM, Cost = \$25

Wear comfortable clothes, bring something to drink and a light lunch, you must be able to kneel, bring something to kneel on if you would like. If you have any questions, please contact **Julie Swartz** at swartz.j34@gmail.com.



Remember or Honor a Loved One by Supporting Our Global Partners in Mission this Easter Forms due to the Church Office by Monday, March 20

This Easter, we are inviting you to give missionally and fill our worship space with symbolic new life in the form of seed paper butterflies. Each butterfly will represent a donation made in memory or honor of a person of your naming. The funds donated will support the important ministry of our global partners in mission. (There will be some lovely flowers decorating our worship space as well.)

Request butterflies by **Monday March 20** online at www.umcb.org/donate or by using the forms available at the back of each worship space. Your donation can be made by a check mailed to the church or online at www.umcb.org/donate with the memo "butterfly".

After Easter, we invite you to come take your butterfly from our display or request it be mailed to you. You can then plant your butterfly to enjoy lovely spring flowers. (Directions will be included for planting.)

Morning Prayer

Holy God, as this new day surrounds me
like a garden with a thousand trees,
give me enough knowledge
to obey your commandments
and to choose the fruit that gives life. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Where can I hide from you, O God?
You have found me here,
shivering in the evening breeze.
This is all I ask: wrap me in your mercy,
and let me rest in you. Amen.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

For the most current information, please visit our online monthly calendar at www.umcb.org/upcoming-events.

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent

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

Youth Group - Escape the Church

5 PM / Third Floor

Monday, February 27

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Nathan

Survivors Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor / Bagley Grill

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Women's Bible Study /

Contact Katie Flynn at kathryn.flinn@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 28

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Nathan

Tuesday Bible Study

9:30 AM / Room 13

Wednesday, March 1

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Nathan

The Wednesday Group

11 AM / The Gathering Place

Dinner Church

6 PM / Wesley Hall

GriefShare

6 PM / Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite /

contact Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Thursday, March 2

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Nathan

Bell Choir Rehearsal

6 PM / Sanctuary

Thursday Evening Bible Study

6:30 PM / Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com

Choir Rehearsal

7 PM / Parlor / Contact Courtney Popp

or Margaret Proctor

Friday, March 3

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Nathan

GriefShare

1:30 PM / Room 13 / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com

Saturday, March 4

UMW Executive Board

10 AM / Room 33

Rev. John Caddey Memorial Service

11 AM / Sanctuary

Sunday, March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

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

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