



MARCH 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).

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA](http://www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA)



CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING

**LORD,  
EMPOWER US  
TO PURSUE  
JUSTICE.**

Deuteronomy 16:20

### GUEST PREACHER: DEACON NICK BATES, J.D.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19  
9 AM AND 11 AM WORSHIP  
10 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

On March 19, join us for our morning worship services and hear from our guest preacher, who will help us learn about how to advocate for justice and equity in our communities from the perspective of our faith.

Nick Bates has served as the director of the Hunger Network in Ohio since 2016. He comes to this work with nearly two decades of experience and expertise on state policy related to public budgets, homeless and housing issues, voting rights, and much more. He is a graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Capital Law School (2012). Nick was ordained as a Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2014, called to ministries of advocacy and social justice.

Between our morning worship services, at 10 AM, Nick will be with us in the Fellowship Hall for deeper conversation about the ministry of faithful advocacy. Invite others, and join us!

### NEW(ER) MEMBERS REUNION DINNER

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 6 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

In the past five years, we've been blessed to welcome almost three dozen new members into our congregation. This month, we're calling together all of these friends to share, reflect, and dream about the future of our life together at UMCB. If you became a member of this congregation 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!

If you have not done so already, please RSVP to **Pastor Nathan** at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101

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**FROM THE STATE OF OHIO  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

Did you know that the Ohio Department of Aging will make daily automated check-in phone calls to Ohioans, ages 60 or over? This free service started during the covid pandemic and is a wonderful peace of mind for the person receiving the phone calls and their loved ones.

These are automated phone calls and do not replace personal contact, but they do provide peace of mind. According to their website, persons can choose the time they want to be called. The automated service will try three times and if they do not get an answer, they will call the contact person and if that fails, they will call non emergency services.

If you'd like more information, check out the website at <https://aging.ohio.gov/care-and-living/get-help/staying-connected/about-staying-connected> or call 1-833-ODA-CHAT (1-833-632-2428).

**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 on Sunday, March 12 at 4 PM 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](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org).

Baldwin Wallace University  
March 15 & 16

**Please join us on campus as Dr. Lewis speaks on:**

**Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Heal the World**

BW's Office of Faith & Life is proud to welcome The Rev. Dr. Jacquie Lewis for our annual lecture series. More information and registration can be found at <https://www.bw.edu/events/2023/faith-life-lecture-series>.

**“LOVE GOD, NEIGHBOR, YOURSELF:  
IT STARTS WITH YOU”**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15  
7:30 PM, BW CHAPEL, SECOND FLOOR

**“UBUNTU: INTERRELATEDNESS  
THAT HEALS THE WORLD”**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 16  
10 AM, BW CHAPEL, SECOND FLOOR

**“WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT/  
EVERYTHING!”**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 16,  
2 PM, BW UNION, SANDSTONE III

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

**MEMBERS**

Molly Arthur  
 Betty Atherton  
 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  
 Ginny Thompson  
 Kathleen Wargelin  
 Mary Jane Weaver

**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)  
 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)  
 Gregory Smith (son of Marilyn K. Smith)  
 Laura Swartz Steele  
 Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk,  
 Renaissance)

**WE REACH OUT IN  
 CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE...**

...to the family & friends of Rev. John Caddey.  
 John went on to rest in God's eternal peace on  
 February 2. A memorial service will be held on  
 Saturday, March 4 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.

**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,  
 scan the QR code to the right or  
 visit our website at  
[umcb.org/contact](http://umcb.org/contact)  
 and subscribe in the  
 lower right column.



CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



## BIKING CROSS COUNTRY WITH RON ISGRO

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, NOON, FELLOWSHIP HALL  
\$10 PER PERSON

Luncheon & Program sponsored by United Methodist Women  
(now United Women in Faith)

## 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 on Ash Wednesday, 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.

LENT 2023



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

To help guide us in our “seeking God in the wilderness this Lent,” you are encouraged to incorporate this Lent devotional booklet published by “A Sanctified Art.” Beginning with Ash Wednesday, this weekly devotional follows the scriptures we will read and reflect on together during Sunday morning worship services.

Each week offers commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and reflection prompts. You are encouraged to walk through these weekly readings at your own pace throughout the season, following the rhythm that works best for you.

These booklets will be available in two forms: digital and hard copy. Hard-copy booklets are available in the Gathering Place. The digital e-reader version can be accessed on your computer or mobile device. To protect the work of those who created this resource, we are not sharing the link here but you can find it in the Welcome to Lent 2023 email sent on February 16 or contact the church office at [info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525x100.



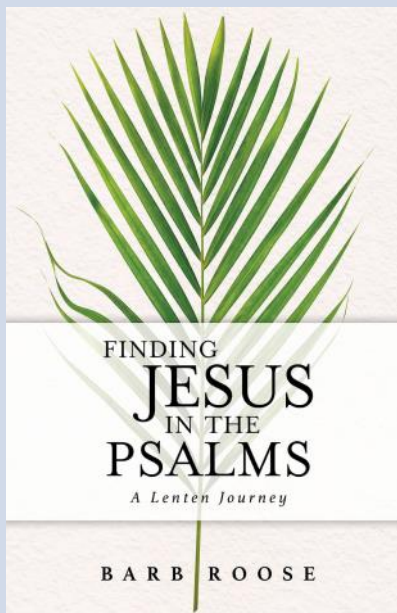
## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS, 10 AM, 2ND FLOOR

Children aged preschool - 8th grade are invited to join Sunday School for lessons about Jesus this upcoming season. If you haven't been in awhile, this is a great time to jump back in. Age-appropriate lessons exploring the life and ministry, and death and new life of Jesus, will bring hope to the lives of our young disciples.

For more information, contact **Pastor Nathan** at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.

## ADULTS & YOUTH: FINDING JESUS IN THE PSALMS



SUNDAYS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 26, 10 AM, PARLOR  
led by **Rev. Linda McCowen** ([lsmccowen@gmail.com](mailto:lsmccowen@gmail.com))

OR TUESDAYS BEGINNING MARCH 7, 9:30 AM, ROOM 13  
led by **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org), 440-234-3525 x101)

OR MONDAYS BEGINNING MARCH 6, 7 PM, ROOM 13  
led by **Pastor Nathan** ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org), 440-234-3525 x101)

All youth (9<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## 4 WAYS TO OBSERVE LENT

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter. The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.

- **Give It Up** - Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.
  - Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.
  - Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.
- **Plug In** - Consider adding something that helps you connect with God.
  - Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.
- **Serve** - Start a new routine of service.
  - Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor.
  - Step up to volunteer in a local church.
  - Visit a Nursing Home.
- **Share It** - Make it a communal event.
  - Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.

*(Taken from <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/4-ways-to-observe-lent>)*

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2

9 AM, SANCTUARY AND ONLINE  
 ([WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE))

11 AM, WESLEY HALL

Palm/Passion Sunday begins Holy Week by embodying its sharp contrast. In the palm procession, we experience the joyous inaugural parade of Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. In the concluding reading of the Gospel, we are confronted by the story of Jesus' passion or suffering. By this sharp contrast, we are reminded of our various seasons of faithfulness: that our lives are filled with both suffering and joy, times of following Jesus closely and times of falling away.

*Scripture focus: Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21.1-11; Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14-27.66*



*Palm Sunday*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

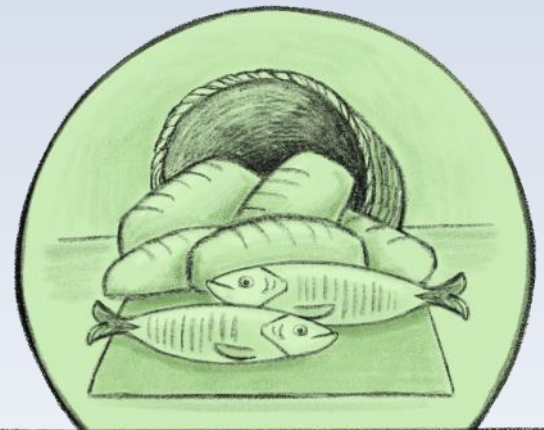
APRIL 6

NOON, SANCTUARY  
 OR

7 PM, SANCTUARY AND ONLINE  
 ([WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE))

On Maundy Thursday, named for the command or "mandate" from Jesus to love one another, we remember Jesus' example of servanthood and celebrate the Lord's Supper. Join us in worship in the Sanctuary at Noon for an abbreviated worship service or in the Sanctuary or online at 7 PM for a worship service including music. Both services will include Holy Communion. The 7 PM service this day concludes with the ancient practice of stripping the altar table as a dramatic demonstration of Jesus' abandonment during the events of this night and Good Friday. Our worship together on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are celebrated as one continuous worship service.

*Scripture focus: 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-35*



*Maundy Thursday*



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (CONT'D)

### GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7

NOON, MEETING AT COE LAKE WITH 1 PM  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT KIWANIS PAVILION

7 PM SANCTUARY AND ONLINE

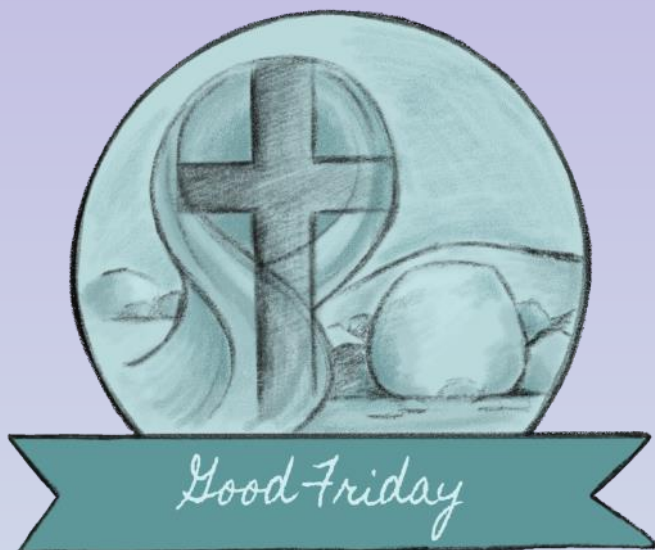
([WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE))

Good Friday is the second of the Great Three Days—or *triduum*—consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

The noon worship service on this day will be a “cross walk” in collaboration with the Berea Area Churches. We will meet at the Kiwanis Pavilion at Coe Lake at noon, walk a short route through downtown Berea while carrying the cross and reading scripture, and conclude with a brief worship service back at the Kiwanis Pavilion beginning at 1 PM.

The 7 PM worship service will meet in our Sanctuary and include scripture and songs to help us contemplate the passion of Christ. The invitation of this entire day is to draw near to Jesus’ cross and to join him in his experience of suffering, abandonment, and death.

*Scripture focus: Psalm 22; John 18.1-19.42*



*Good Friday*

### HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 8

7 PM, SANCTUARY AND ONLINE

([WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE))

Holy Saturday is the third of the Great Three Days, and our worship together this day concludes the service begun on Maundy Thursday and continued on Good Friday. Before the triumph and celebration of Easter Sunday, this is a day to hold silence, to be still and to know God’s presence, and to remember that we are always waiting for the fullness of resurrection.

*Scripture focus: Genesis 1.1-2.4a, Ezekiel 37.1-14; 1 Peter 4.1-8; Matthew 27.57-66*



*Holy Saturday*



## BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

### UPCOMING BOOK DISCUSSION

*BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: INDIGENOUS  
WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE,  
AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS*  
BY ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 6:30 PM, PARLOR

Join us for a conversation about the book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. From the author's website:

*Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.*

([www.robinwallkimmerer.com/books](http://www.robinwallkimmerer.com/books))

Copies of *Braiding Sweetgrass* 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.



## Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

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

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM, OFFSITE OR VIA ZOOM

The Women's Study that meets on Wednesday evening is studying **The Color of Compromise** by Jemar Tisby.

If you are interested in joining this study, please contact **Linda Short** at 440-785-6047 or [9short28@gmail.com](mailto:9short28@gmail.com).

### THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

We are studying **Women Rise Up**. This book deals with women from the Bible how they were mistreated. Join us to learn about injustices done to the women of olden times, many of which are still happening today!

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





TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



### YOUTH ICE CREAM SEDER

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 5 PM, WESLEY HALL  
RSVP BY MONDAY, MARCH 20

Calling all ice-cream eaters! Join the youth on this special celebration of the year of grace God has provided for us. We'll honor our faith ancestors with a special Seder celebration - ice cream style! With each yummy topping, we'll reflect on this past year and how God has journeyed with us.

Please RSVP by **Monday, March 20** to **Pastor Carrie** at 440-234-3525 x105 or [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org).

*EYG is open to 4th-12th graders.*

### 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.

In March we will discuss topics in the categories of Economic Justice, Civil & Human Rights, and Peace with Justice. Please join the conversation Sunday mornings at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall.

### GRIEFSHARE

WEDNESDAYS , 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM OR  
FRIDAYS, 1:30 PM, ROOM I3

We are offering encouragement and help after the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend or pet. New members welcome!

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



COMMUNITY . . .

# CPR AED

# TRAINING

Are you interested in learning how to perform CPR and use an AED? We will be offering two opportunities to learn.

**When:** Tuesday, March 21 or Saturday, April 1

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2PM

**Where:** UMCB

**What you need to know:** 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.

**Cost:** \$25

If you have any questions, please contact **Julie Swartz** at [swartz.j34@gmail.com](mailto:swartz.j34@gmail.com).



A Ministry of The United Methodist Church of Berea

# DINNER CHURCH

FOOD, FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP

## 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).



SUNDAY, MARCH 19  
4 - 6 PM, WESLEY HALL

CANDY DONATIONS DUE BY MARCH 15  
IN THE BIN BY THE OUTREACH BOARD

Let's celebrate Lent & Easter as we learn more about Jesus and enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt! Invite your friends and neighbors to this fun and faith-filled event. Egg Hunt is indoors, so we'll hop and skip our way to eggs no matter the weather!

Donations of candy, and extra help needed! Candy can be donated in the bin by the outreach board (near Room 13). Please do so by **March 15**.

We need help ahead of time, and at Messy Church. Extra helpers, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at **440-234-3525 x105** or [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE



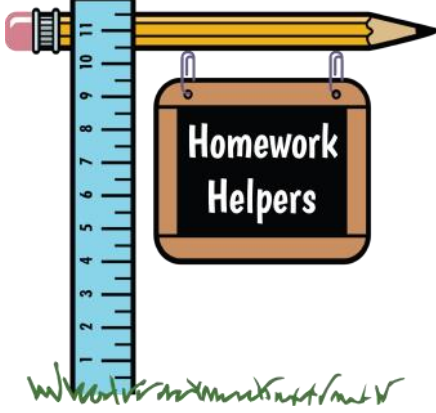
## HELP BUILD HOPE

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 are excited to announce, with the support of Church Council, we look forward to building MORE hope this upcoming year. Fundraising will begin soon and our wall build will be **September 22-23**. you are welcome to make a donation now if you'd like. Also please start thinking of local businesses you'd like to invite to support this mission.

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

## TUTORS NEEDED FOR HOMEWORK HELPERS 2.0!



**Location:**

Grindstone Elementary School

**Students:**

K-4, needing help in possibly both math and reading

**Day/Time:**

Wednesdays, March 15-May 10, choose between a morning or afternoon 1 hour slot. You will meet with two students, one at a time, for half an hour each.

**Background Checks:**

Fingerprinting will be required but at no cost to you.

**Why we're optimistic about this:**

The school is partnering with us! Which means we don't have to search for kids, they are selected by teachers as the ones needing some help. Teachers will be providing the materials. And we don't need to worry about transportation for the kids - they'll already be there!

Grindstone is hopeful that this spring session will be a "beta test" for an even larger program next year, which we'll get to help build. So very exciting! ***If you're available to serve as a daytime tutor, please let us know as soon as possible so we can start matching tutors to students.***

*To learn more about serving, contact Laura Rushton at [jlaurush@gmail.com](mailto:jlaurush@gmail.com) or 567-303-1954.*

### LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS CAMBODIA MISSIONS

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".

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE



### 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!

Learn more at [equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop).



Recycling can be confusing! Our United Methodist Social Principles, ¶160, call us to action with these words **“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.”**

Where to start? How about with the basics. What can be recycled from home? The answer varies depending upon where we live and who handles our trash pick-up. For example, Kimble picks up the trash and recycling for Berea residents. Yet, UMCB contracts with Republic to pick up trash and items for recycling at the church. Many of the surrounding communities follow the guidelines set by the County. It’s easiest to look at what they all have in common.

### **Acceptable for Curbside Recycling**

Aluminum or metal food and drink cans - *Must be empty, clean and dry*

Paper, newspaper, cardboard and magazines - *Must be dry, Must be clean (not contaminated by food), No glossy or foil wrapping paper*

Cardboard - *must be flattened*

Glass bottles - *Must be empty, clean and dry, No glassware, mirrors, window panes or light bulbs*

Plastic Jugs and Bottles - *Must be clean and empty, Lids may be attached*

Many schools, non-profit facilities, or municipal parking lots have recycling bins from River Vally Paper or Paper Retriever for paper, cardboard or paperback books. It’s an easy solution for keeping items dry when it’s raining or snowing on garbage day.

Thank you for your recycling efforts both at home and at church. If you have questions, contact your municipality, the county or anyone on the Church & Society / Creation Justice Team.

*Cindy McCowen, Church & Society/Creation Justice Team*

### FOOD DONATIONS

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.)

Some items commonly requested during the winter months include:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ✓ canned soup and meats | ✓ dried pasta and sauces                     |
| ✓ dried beans           | ✓ instant coffee, tea, and powdered creamers |
| ✓ rice                  | ✓ baking mixes                               |
| ✓ oatmeal               | ✓ personal items like chapstick and tissues  |

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.



## METANOIA MISSIONS

VOLUNTEERS & FOOD DONATIONS  
NEEDED FOR  
MONDAY, MARCH 13 AND  
UNDAY, MARCH 26

The Metanoia Project provides overnight shelter and a nightly meal for 15-20 unhoused adults through the winter months, at two locations in Ohio City. A small team from UMCB has brought meals to the Franklin Circle hospitality center about twice a month since November. We are pleased to receive contributions from various members of our congregation as we put together these meals. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of this vital mission, either through their food and cash donations or their help with cooking and serving the meals. We had an encore of Taco Night on February 12, and minestrone was the main course on February 26.

Our upcoming dates are Monday, March 13, and Sunday, March 26. They are still looking for people to sign up for other dates in March, since they serve a meal every night and there are no cooking facilities at either of the sites. Monetary donations are welcome, especially now that we are also responsible for tableware, cups and utensils. They can no longer accept clothing, due to limited space.

Thank you for showing our neighbors in Ohio City that they are part of Christ's beloved community. We have been building relationships and learning more about the causes of homelessness in Cleveland.

For more information, please contact  
**Laura Rushton** at [jlaurush@gmail.com](mailto:jlaurush@gmail.com)  
or 567-303-1954.

*Submitted by Laura Rushton, Missions  
Committee Chair*



SAVE THE DATE: CREATION JUSTICE DAY OF  
LEARNING AND ACTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 9 AM – 3 PM

Following up on last year's Creation Justice Ministry Fair, this year on Earth Day, we will host in our building a creation justice event of the East Ohio Conference of our United Methodist Church. The day's schedule will include plenary and breakout sessions, information tables, and a panel discussion. Together with United Methodists from throughout East Ohio, we will learn more about how each of us, our congregation, and our community can respond to God's call to a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to more abundant life for all of God's creation.

Plans for the day are being finalized now, and we will share more details as they become available. Opportunities to serve likely will include:

- ⚙️ welcoming participants and helping them get to the rooms where we will be meeting;
- ⚙️ setting up spaces before the event;
- ⚙️ cleaning up spaces after the event;
- ⚙️ helping to set up for a lunchtime meal;
- ⚙️ helping to wash dishes and otherwise clean up following a lunchtime meal.

Whether you plan to come to serve or to learn, please be sure to participate in this exciting opportunity for fellowship, learning, and faithful action.

If you would be interested in helping by serving in some way, please contact Pastor Nathan at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.



Thank you for all your cards and prayers. They have made me feel so blessed and joyful.

Ginny Thompson

## 2022 Financial Report

In the February edition of *The Caller*, we provided a “2022 Ministry Report,” sharing some data-points to provide a surface-level representation of the lives you impacted, the love you shared, and the beloved community you have been building through the life of our congregation in the past year. As we continue to give thanks for your faithful prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness that make a real difference in the world in the direction of God’s dream, the Finance Committee wanted to provide a brief “2022 Financial Report” for your awareness and consideration.

**We give thanks and celebrate significant growth among our many ministries in 2022**, including:

- ◇ welcoming 9 new members as professing members of our congregation;
- ◇ increasing our onsite worship attendance by 47% and our online worship attendance by 15%;
- ◇ deepening our commitment to creation justice ministries;
- ◇ celebrating God’s love by participating in our first Pride in the CLE parade;
- ◇ expanding our Vacation Bible School program to include multiple congregations and 45 children and their families;
- ◇ partnering with more than 150 of our neighbors to build the walls for a Habitat for Humanity house through “Help Build Hope”;
- ◇ participating in the Metanoia Project, sharing food with unhoused neighbors on the near west side of Cleveland;
- ◇ distributing 113 bags of food, each with three days’ worth of food for local children through “Feed the Kids”; and
- ◇ expanding our Messy Church ministry and beginning a new Dinner Church ministry.

**Financially, however, like many of you and your households, our congregation was challenged in 2022** by difficult economic circumstances, resulting in our first year-end deficit in a number of years. Our total income for the year was \$476,529, and our total expenses were \$511,173. By using some of our cash reserves, we were able to pay all our bills and operating expenses, including 100% of our Shared Ministry Goal for the sixth consecutive year. Unfortunately, this means that we have begun 2023 with less of a financial “cushion” than we would prefer.

This deficit in 2022 is related to many of the same financial pressures each of our households faces, including an increased cost of utilities and other items needed to maintain our building (for example, our annual budget just for utilities in our church building is a little more than \$47,000). In 2022, 81% of our operating budget went to maintain our excellent building and to support and compensate equitably our incredible staff team, which provides day-to-day leadership of our many ministries.

*(Continued on next page)*



## 2022 Financial Report (cont'd)

**And yet, you also have continued to be incredibly generous, and your generosity makes a real difference. In 2022, in addition to the \$67,982 our congregation gave to support United Methodist Church ministries and mission through our Shared Ministry Goal, you also gave more than \$53,000 to support a variety of direct mission partnerships including:**

- ◇ \$6,497 on “special giving” Sundays, including Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day;
- ◇ \$11,482 to support other UMC-related missions, including UMCOR Sager Brown, UMCOR’s International Relief Fund, UMCOR’s U.S. Disaster Relief Fund, the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland, and Africa University;
- ◇ \$21,665 to support local ministry partnerships with Grindstone Elementary School, Second Mile Outreach, SCAN, OhioGuidestone, Habitat for Humanity, Berea Animal Rescue, and the Berea Community Meal; and
- ◇ \$13,813 to support global mission partnerships in Cambodia and Guatemala.

**That’s more than \$121,000 given directly to mission and ministry partnerships in 2022! Even during a season of economic stress throughout our community, you have been so generous!** Thank you for your generous and faithful participation in God’s work through the life of our congregation. If you have any questions regarding this 2022 Financial Report, please contact any of us.

Peace,  
 Carol McCleery, Finance Committee chairperson  
 Cindy McCowen, Treasurer  
 Maryann Herron, Financial Secretary  
 Nathan Howe, Pastor



REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE  
BY SUPPORTING OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS IN MISSION THIS EASTER.

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](http://www.umcb.org/donate) or by using the forms below. Your donation can be made by a check mailed to the church or online at [www.umcb.org/donate](http://www.umcb.org/donate) with the memo "butterfly".

*A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Easter bulletin as well as the May Caller.*

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.)



**Butterfly Request Form**

**All forms and payments are due to the church office by Monday, March 20.**

*If donating online, please put the amount in the "other" category and specify "butterfly" as the description.*

*If mailing a check to the church office, please write "butterfly" on the memo line.*

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone or Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(in case we have questions)*

**My donation is made in**

**memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

- After Easter, I wish to...**
- take my butterfly from the church display.
  - request that my butterfly be mailed to me.

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_