

Worship Participants

Pastors

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely, Ph.D.
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Liturgist

Christine McMillin

Music

Don Jackson, *Organist*
Courtney McClain, *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.**

Morning Prayer:

God of all creation,
I greet your new day with thanksgiving and praise.
Do not let me neglect the needs of those I meet today,
and keep me faithful to your ways,
for I want to live for you. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day.
Where I failed to do your will, forgive me.
Grant me peace throughout this night,
and if I should die,
welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

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United Methodist Student Sunday

TODAY, November 26

When you give to the special offering on United Methodist Student Day, you invest in a channel of hope for young leaders who bring their Wesleyan values into their schools and professions. Please consider giving generously to help deserving, young adults continue their education and their faith journeys. (Taken from <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/specialsundays>)



Hanging of the Greens

Today following each worship service

You are invited to help prepare our worship spaces for Advent following each worship service today. All are welcome and appreciated!



Online Prayer Services During Advent

Nightly*, 8 PM, www.facebook.com/umcberea

During this season of Advent, Pastor Steve will be offering a nightly* prayer service at 8pm on Facebook. During this time, we will engage in prayer, read Scripture, sing, practice spiritual disciplines, and engage in reflection (among other practices that deepen our faith). The purpose is to help each of us engage and connect with God. The hope is also that we might enter a time of rest and reflection, helping us to sleep well and begin the next day refreshed knowing that God loves us and is with us. Furthermore, this prayer time is a great opportunity to engage our online community, our wider church community, new people seeking to find Jesus and/or a new church family.

**Not Fridays (Pastor Steve's Sabbath Day), ends on Saturday, December 23.*



Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer

Sundays Beginning December 3, 10 AM, Wesley Parlor

Color, pray, and reflect as we journey once again through the peaceful spiritual discipline of Mandala work. Join Rev. Linda McCown and friends for reflective group work. Or, pick up a book from Room 11 (outside Carrie's office) for your own personal devotion during the season.



Auditions for Messy Church Star Trip . . . a Christmas retelling

***Auditions - This Friday, December 1 and Rehearsals - Fridays, December 8 & 15, 7 PM, Sanctuary
Messy Church - December 17, 4-6 PM, Wesley Hall***

December 17, Messy Church will put on it's first drama production of "Star-Trip" a retelling of the Nativity Story in the style of Star Wars. Older kids and adults are welcome to participate!

Questions? Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



Dinner Church- Thanksgiving Style!

TODAY, November 26, 5 PM, Fellowship Hall

Cook one extra casserole and stick in the freezer until Sunday! OR use up those leftovers in a creative way! Join us for a Thanksgiving style Dinner Church, where everyone is a part of the family - God's family. We'll share our blessings, challenges, and hopes during worship, then enjoy a family game night after! All ages together for this special Dinner Church.

Please reach out to **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105** to learn how you can help.



Giving Tree

***Take Tags from the Giving Trees Outside Each Worship Space
Return Unwrapped Gifts with Tags Attached by December 10***

We are pleased to again share that we are sponsoring 25 children from the Berea Community Outreach to bless with Christmas presents. The giving tree with tags with specific requests is located outside of each worship space (It will travel on Sundays!). Please take a tag, and share your contact information on the sign up sheet.

Gifts should be returned, unwrapped, by December 10, with the tag attached. Parents and Caregivers will have the joy of wrapping the gifts themselves. Wrapping paper is also graciously appreciated.



Stock up with Stocking Stuffers from Equal Exchange

Sunday, December 3, 10-11 AM, Outside the Parlor

Equal Exchange chocolates make great stocking stuffers. Don't do stockings? That's okay. Equal Exchange also has hot cocoa, coffee, and teas to warm your Advent and make Christmas extra cozy! Help provide a fare wage for those who work hard to grow this beneficial food item and in a way that does not harm God's creation. Buy and enjoy Equal Exchange teas, coffees, and more. Learn more at equalexchange.coop.



Star Light, Star Bright - Giving for Local Missions

Forms/Donations due by Friday, December 15

This year's giving toward to the Star Tree will bless the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland and Berea Community Outreach. Giving a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one is the perfect way to bless their name this Christmas season. Your loved one's name will be printed on a star and put on our Star Tree for the Christmas season. A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin and the January Caller.

You can make your donation (in any amount) and complete the form online at www.umcb.org/donate. Paper forms are also available in the back of each worship space. Forms & donations may be mailed to the church, Please specify "Star" in the other box online or in the memo line of your check. Forms and donations must be turned into the office or submitted online by **December 15**.

Financial Snapshot

As the leadership of UMCB, we desire to be intentionally transparent with the church finances. Over the coming months, we will be providing some "snapshots" of these finances in our church communications. Together, these "snapshots" will help inform our discussions of the fuller picture in the new year.

Budgeted Year-to-Date Giving \$362,162

Actual Year-to-Date Giving \$308,177

Difference (\$53,985)

November 19, 2023 Collection \$8,466 (Operating Fund), \$6,000 (Organ Fund)

Stay tuned as there is more to come. We are grateful for your constant generosity!

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, November 26

Reign of Christ Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday

United Methodist Student Day

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Hanging of the Greens

10 AM / Sanctuary

Formation for All Ages

10 AM / Adults - First floor,

Children - Second floor, Youth - Third floor

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Hanging of the Greens

Noon / Wesley Hall

Dinner Church - Thanksgiving Style

5 PM / Fellowship Hall / Contact [Pastor Carrie](#)

Monday, November 27

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Survivor's Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at Maya Mexican /
Contact Phil Gehring at pgehrings@att.net

Tuesday, November 28

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

10 AM / Room 13 / Contact [Pastor Carrie](#)

Wednesday, November 29

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Parking Lot Fellowship

11 AM / The Gathering Place

Sisters Embracing Oneness Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite / Contact Linda Short at
9short28@gmail.com

Thursday, November 30

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Storytime

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

Bell Choir Practice

6 PM / Sanctuary / Contact [Tori Penfound](#)

Thursday Bible Study

6:30 PM / Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at
marylynn482@gmail.com

Choir Practice

7 PM / Parlor / Contact [Courtney McClain](#)
or [Margaret Proctor](#)

Caregivers of LGBTQ+ Kids & Youth Support Group

7 PM / Gathering Place / Contact [Pastor Carrie](#)

Friday, December 1

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Auditions for Messy Church Star Trip

7 PM / Sanctuary / Contact [Pastor Carrie](#)

Saturday, December 2

UMW Executive Board

10 AM / Room 33

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Equal Exchange for Sale

10-11 AM / By the Parlor

Formation for All Ages

10 AM / Adults - First floor,

Children - Second floor, Youth - Third floor

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Church and Society/Creation Justice

12:30 PM / Room 13