

Worship Participants

Pastors

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Terry Macha
Sandy Marek

Liturgist

Carol Anne McCleery

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debby Haas

Music

Carmen Massaro, *Organist*
Courtney McClain, *Choir Director*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*
Bruce Biggin, *English Horn, Oboe*

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:

Light of the world,
You greet me this morning with new possibilities.
Shine brightly, I pray,
until I see into the dark places of this world,
and into the dark places of my own life.
I want to follow you in paths of justice,
speak up with you for liberty,
and bend with you toward the brokenhearted,
even the broken places within myself.
I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise—
and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day.
Let me dream this night
of all the great things you have done.
As darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow,
I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness can overcome.
To anyone who mourns or sits in prison
or fears danger this night,
bring peace that only you can give.
You are faithful, and I know you will do this.
In Christ. Amen.

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Online Prayer Services During Advent

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



The Longest Night

Thursday, December 21, 7 PM, Chapel

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. All are welcome to join us for a time filled with scripture, prayer, candlelight, & Holy Communion. Together, we will remember and give thanks for God's abiding presence even in the longest or loneliest of nights. Invite others, and join us.



Christmas Eve Worship

We welcome and invite everyone to come join us and celebrate the birth of Christ. While we graciously welcome others, let us also be hospitable by welcoming and inviting Christ into our hearts, into our homes, and into our lives.

On **Christmas Eve morning (Sunday December 24)**, our worship will include our annual "**Come as you Are,**" **Christmas pageant** at **10 AM** in the **Sanctuary** and online at www.facebook.com/umcberea instead of our 9 AM and 11 AM services.

The remainder of the day we will offer three unique worship experiences in three separate spaces.

- The **4 PM** service will take place in the **Sanctuary** and online at www.facebook.com/umcberea. It will be **traditional** in nature with the **Choir** and **Hand Bell Choir** present.
- At **7 PM** we will have a **modern** worship service with the **Praise Band** in **Wesley Hall**.
- Then at **11 PM** we will have a **traditional and intimate** service in the **Chapel**.



Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 31, 10 AM, Sanctuary and online at www.facebook.com/umcberea

The Sunday after Christmas, December 31, we will be having a hymn sing at 10 AM, instead of our usual two services. The pastoral staff will be taking the week off after Christmas to recuperate, travel, and visit with family during one of the few times that kids are home from school. This will provide the opportunity for the church to gather in a unique and enjoyable way without the need for pastoral staff. You will all get to lift up your voices and sing your favorite hymns together!



Blessing of Homes

Post-Epiphany (Beginning January 7, 2024)

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 7.

If you would like to share in this brief and simple ritual of worship for your home, please contact **Pastor Steve** at sknisely@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x101** with a day and time that would be convenient for you, beginning January 7, 2024.



Save-the-Date: Youth Mission and Lock-In

January 14-15

We are excited to be hosting the East Ohio Conference's Youth Mission Event in conjunction with our Heroes of Justice Lock-In! **RSVP's accepted now!**

Let **Pastor Carrie** (cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**) know you're able to be a hero!



Messy Church Star Trip . . . a Christmas retelling

TODAY! - December 17, 4-6 PM, Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary

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. Join us and bring your family and friends! Questions? Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.



Equal Exchange - Last chance . . . for 2023!

TODAY! - Sunday, December 17, 10-11 AM, by the Parlor Kitchenette

Do you need a last minute gift for your family, friends, postal carrier or hairdresser/barber? How about some chocolate minis, a delicious chocolate bar, or a box of peppermint tea to warm up with on a cold winter day?

When you purchase these items, which we sell at cost, you are giving a gift that also improves the health of all people (especially the farmers) and the earth and provides those who work so hard to have a living wage. Thanks for your support of this important mission and may you have a blessed, peaceful Christmas.

Wendy Jelinek for Church & Society



Loose Change Supports Berea Community Outreach

Berea Community Outreach's mission is to support residents and connect the community by lending a hand to make a difference. We are grateful to partner with BCO for community raking day and more. Thank you for supporting this local partner who seeks to strengthen our community. You can support this mission by dropping your change in the offering plate, mailing an offering to the church, or donating electronically at umcb.org/donate using the "other" box and designating it as "loose change offering".

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.

Year-to-Date Giving through 12/10/2023: \$336,436

2023 Budgeted Giving: \$410,881

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

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Traditional Worship

9 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Formation for All Ages

10 AM / Adults - First floor,

Children - Second floor, Youth - Third floor

Modern Worship

11 AM / Wesley Hall

Messy Church Star Trip

4 PM / Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary

Online Prayer Service

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

Monday, December 18

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

Survivor's Fellowship

11 AM/ Parlor, Lunch at Olive Garden/
Contact Phil Gehring at pgehrings@att.net

Online Prayer Service

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

Tuesday, December 19

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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

Online Prayer Service

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

Wednesday, December 20

Grindstone Appreciation Donations due Today

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

Prayer Shawl Ministry

10 AM / Room 13

Sisters Embracing Oneness Bible Study

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

Online Prayer Service

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

Thursday, December 21

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](#)

Choir Practice

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

The Longest Night Service

7 PM / Chapel

Online Prayer Service

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

Friday, December 22

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

Saturday, December 23

Online Prayer Service

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

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship with Come as You are Pageant

10 AM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service

4 PM / Sanctuary or Online at

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

Christmas Eve Contemporary Worship Service

7 PM / Wesley Hall

Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service

11 PM / Chapel

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25

Staff Holiday - Church Offices Closed

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

No Survivor's Fellowship

Tuesday, December 26

Staff Holiday for Christmas Eve - Offices Closed

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM/ via Zoom