

## Worship Participants

### **Pastors**

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

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

Barb Dawson  
Joanne Mansfield

### **Liturgist**

Sandy Marek

### **Audio Video Elements**

Mark Williams  
Marlynda Dziak  
Debby Haas

### **Music**

Josh Kraybill, *Organist*  
Courtney McClain, *Choir Director*  
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*  
Victoria Penfound, *Hand Bell Director*  
Erin Perry, *Soprano*

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for my church family by Laura Rushton.

### ***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:***

Lord God, you have woken me from sleep;  
The night is gone, the day is here.  
Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ  
and help me to live honorably this day,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

#### ***Evening Prayer:***

God, my Savior, you are even nearer now  
than when I first learned to trust you.  
Help me to lay aside the burdens of the day  
and rest in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
my strength and my salvation. Amen.

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#### **Online Prayer Services During Advent**

***Nightly\*, 8 PM, [www.facebook.com/umcberea](http://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.*



#### **Holiday Hike**

***Sunday, December 10, 4 PM, Meet at Coe Lake***

Join us for our next hike on Sunday, December 10 at 4 PM, beginning at Coe Lake. The city lights will go on as it gets dark and we can enjoy the decorations, nature, and fellowship.



#### **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.



#### **Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer**

***Sundays, 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.



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

**Monday, December 11, 6:30-8 PM, Room 13 & on Zoom**

We will discuss **The Music of Bees** by Eileen Garvin. For more information, please contact **Betsy Meikle** at [meiklebetsyj@gmail.com](mailto:meiklebetsyj@gmail.com) or 440-243-5767.



### **GriefShare - Surviving the Holidays**

**Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 PM, via Zoom -or- Friday, December 15, 1:30 PM, Room 13**

We are going to be doing two sessions of Surviving the Holidays We all have some troubles getting through the Holidays, especially, if you have lost a loved one. We will learn a few techniques to help you through this time, Grief can strike us at any time, but especially the Holidays. Come join us and let us help you through them. For more information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com) or 440-409-5931.



### **Grindstone Appreciation - Cocoa Bar & Treats**

**Leave Donated Items in the Parlor Kitchenette by Wednesday, December 13**

Let's show some holiday love to our partner school, Grindstone! We will be providing a Cocoa Bar and treats for staff on December 14. If you'd like to donate holiday cups, napkins, or treats, please have them to Parlor Kitchenette by December 13. If you'd like to help with set-up, please let **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



### **Our Giving Tree Needs More Givers!**

**Take Tags from the Giving Tree in the Narthex Today**

**Return Unwrapped Gifts with Tags Attached by December 10**

Please consider picking up a star or two so we can bless the children of our community this Christmas 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.



### **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](http://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**.



### **Messy Church Star Trip . . . a Christmas retelling**

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

### **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.

**Unrestricted Endowments** - \$561,737.44 (Can be used for normal operating expenses)

**Restricted Endowments** - \$161,547.48 (These funds are designated for specific purposes)

**Capital Fund** - \$272,451.07 (These funds are designated for building maintenance, repair, and improvements)

**Memorial Funds** - \$62,091.42 (These are other designated funds given in the memory of loved ones who have passed)

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

# Happening at The UMCB this week:

## **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

## **Monday, December 4**

#### **Morning Prayer**

9 AM – 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

#### **Survivor's Fellowship**

11 AM/ Parlor, Lunch at Baker's Square /  
Contact Phil Gehring at [pgehrings@att.net](mailto:pgehrings@att.net)

#### **Staff Parish Relations Committee**

7 PM / Room 13

## **Tuesday, December 5**

#### **Morning Prayer**

9 AM – 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

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

#### **Stephen Ministers**

6:30 PM / Room 13

## **Wednesday, December 6**

#### **Morning Prayer**

9 AM – 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

10 AM / Room 13

#### **Parking Lot Fellowship**

11 AM / The Gathering Place

#### **Sisters Embracing Oneness Bible Study**

7 PM / Offsite / Contact Linda Short at  
[9short28@gmail.com](mailto:9short28@gmail.com)

## **Thursday, December 7**

#### **Morning Prayer**

9 AM – 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

#### **Storytime**

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

#### **Bell Choir Practice**

6 PM / Sanctuary / Contact [Tori Penfound](mailto:Tori Penfound)

#### **Thursday Bible Study**

6:30 PM / Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at  
[marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com)

#### **Choir Practice**

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

## **Friday, December 8**

#### **Morning Prayer**

9 AM – 9:30 AM/ via Zoom

#### **Rehearsal for Messy Church Star Trip**

7 PM / Sanctuary / Contact [Pastor Carrie](mailto:Pastor Carrie)

## **Saturday, December 9**

## **Sunday, December 10**

### ***Second 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