



FEBRUARY

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This Lent, let's get...

*Back
to
Basics*



LENT 2024

BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Lent is the perfect time for us "get back to basics" of Christian life and practice. Join us in worship as we take a deep dive into what it means to accept God's grace for us, and offer it to others. Marvel at God's forgiveness of us, and learn more about our own journeys to forgive others. Reflect on what it means to be reconciled to God, and what hope can be found in reconciling with others.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday begins the 40 day Lenten period of preparation for the Easter celebration of the risen Christ. The ashes that we receive on Ash Wednesday are a meaningful symbol of the fragility of our lives and represent us taking up our own crosses and dying to ourselves in a manner that leads to life in Christ. Lent is a wonderful journey where we are beckoned to deepen our relationship with Christ and cultivate ourselves to better reflect Christ in our daily lives.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

8-10 AM AND NOON - 2 PM

THE FRONT PORCH (ON SEMINARY STREET)

Scripture demonstrates that Christ often meets us where we are along our journey. In the spirit of Christ's example, and in an attempt to effectively reach new people and our church family with acts of mercy and grace, we will be offering the imposition of ashes outside of the church walls.

We will be stationed within the porch area of UMCB. We can administer the ashes in your car, you can meet us under the porch area, or if you would like to receive them in the sanctuary, we can accompany you to the warmer confines of the church and minister to you there. "Ash and Dash", as I affectionately call it, will take place from **8-10 AM** and from **NOON-2 PM**.

Pastor Steve

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7 PM, SANCTUARY AND ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](https://facebook.com/umcberea/live)

(NO FACEBOOK ACCOUNT IS NEEDED.)

BULLETINS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT [UMCB.ORG/WORSHIPRESOURCES/](https://umcb.org/worshipresources/)

We will gather on this solemn night as we come before the Lord to seek grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation for all that we have done and all that has occurred in our life. It is a marking point to pledge our fidelity to Christ and commit ourselves for 40 days (and beyond) to be formed into the image of Christ. We will worship, love, listen, and sing as we receive the imposition of the ashes and as we partake in communion on this holy and sacred day.

If you have questions regarding our
Ash Wednesday opportunities,
please contact Pastor Steve at

sknisely@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.



LENT 2024 WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ENGAGE OUR FAITH (A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF REFLECTION & RESET)

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 21, 7 PM, THE CHAPEL

During this season of Lent we will be offering a regular Wednesday night service in the Chapel at 7 PM as a way to reflect, reset, and stay engaged in our walk with Christ. The service will vary from week to week with offerings of communion, group engagement, moments of reflection, times of prayer, as well as other spiritual practices and moments.

LENTEN PRAYER

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN UPCOMING COMMUNICATIONS

7 PM, ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](https://www.facebook.com/umcberea/live)

Similar to what was offered in Advent, we will spend approximately 10-20 minutes in prayer, reading Scripture, and engaging in various practices of spiritual formation.

If you have questions regarding our Lenten Worship & Fellowship opportunities, please contact Pastor Steve at sknisely@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.

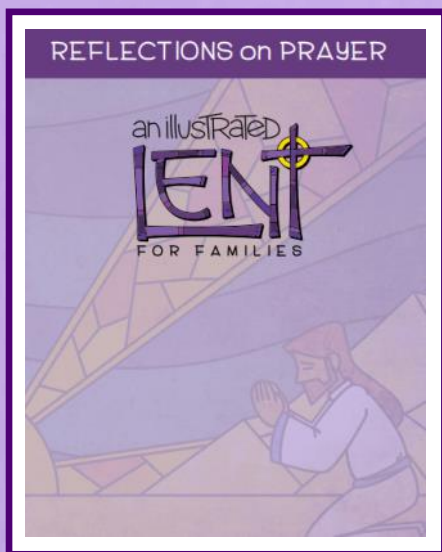
LENT 2024 FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

REFLECTIONS ON PRAYER - AN ILLUSTRATED LENT FOR ALL AGES!

AVAILABLE OUTSIDE ROOM 12

Pick up a packet outside of Room 12 to take home and grow in faith with those at home! These devotions and coloring pages encourage us to grow in our prayer life this Lent.

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

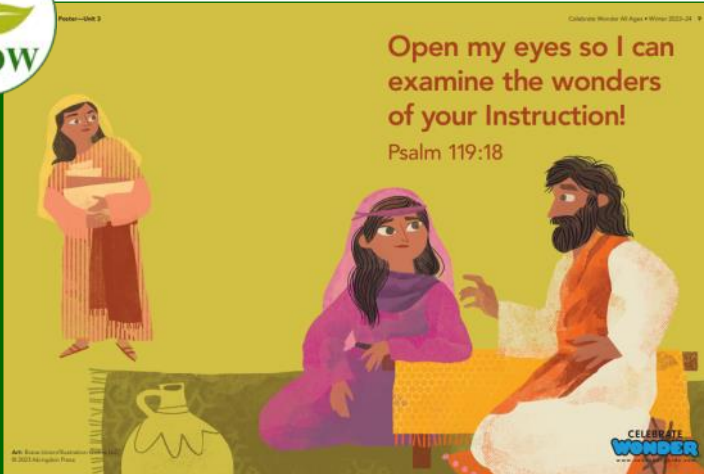


COLOR YOUR WAY THROUGH LENT!

SUNDAYS, 10 AM, WESLEY PARLOR

Join the Mandala group as they color their way through Lent! They will be utilizing the **Reflections on Prayer** packet as well. They will share a short devotion, scripture, prayer and coloring. Find them in the Wesley Parlor (in the hallway adjacent to Wesley Hall) at 10 AM on Sundays during Lent to add some color and reflection to our Lenten journey!

Questions? Please contact Rev. Linda McCowen at ismccowen@gmail.com or 440-234-7211.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month, children will focus on Jesus as "Guide" and will learn about the Lord's Prayer, and hear more Jesus stories.

Their memory verse (Psalm 119:18) is right here - grown ups can memorize this with them! What a great verse to pray!



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6:30-8 PM, ROOM 13 OR VIA ZOOM

Our discussion on February 12 in Room 13 at 6:30 PM is about **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen.

For more information, please contact **Betsy Meikle** at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com or 440-243-5767.

YOUTH WORK MISSION

We are excited to share that we will joining our Conference and Jurisdiction in mission again this year! Stay tuned for informational meetings. Let Pastor Carrie know NOW if you have a youth or adult chaperone who are interested in participating.

2024 UMVIM NCJ YOUTH MISSION JOURNEY DES MOINES, IOWA

Sunday, June 23rd - Saturday, June 29th

Pack your bag and air mattress because we are traveling to Des Moines, IA, where you will immerse yourself in learning about how to alleviate poverty. You will participate in volunteer opportunities, fellowship, worship and more during your journey together!



For more information about Youth Events
or to express your interest in participating in the Youth Work Mission Journey,
please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



MIDWEST MISSION PROJECT FEED



We were thrilled to host around a hundred youth and their adults this weekend to construct **25,200 meal kits** for the United Methodist Committee on Relief who will distribute these meals to those in need around the world. Read more about this amazing event at

ecumcnews.com/2024/01/19/project-feed-packs-thousands-of-meals-and-builds-connection-among-east-ohio-youth/

We also got inspired by the Heroes of Justice in our past, and looked forward to our youth being justice heroes now and in the future!

YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 6 PM, ROOM 31

Our Ecumenical Youth Group meets at 6 PM after Dinner Church. This quarter, we will be sharing skits based on the stories of Jesus. Our youth love to make puppets and act our stories. Young people 4th grade and older are welcome to join us for this fun time of faith growth.

For more information about Youth Events
or to express your interest in participating in the Youth Work Mission Journey,
please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

We have started a new Bible Study for 2024, I am sure that many of you have heard or read **Jesus's Calling** by Sarah Young. She has a series of Bible Studies, "Experiencing God's Presence". Have you ever wondered about how God's presence restores you or how it strengthens you? Come along on our journey and we will explore these questions and more on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM.

For more information, please contact

Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.



WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 10
6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

-OR-

FRIDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 12
1:30 PM, ROOM 13

We have started out new sessions and have wonderful ladies sharing with us. We have some emotions coming and have already found companionship in friends. Have you ever wondered about self care, grief and your friendships, or being stuck? In Grief? Come join us, either on Wednesdays Nights via Zoom or Friday afternoons in Room 13, and we will guide you to the answers.

For more information, please contact

Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.

Soul Care Retreat Manual

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 13
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, THE UMCB PARLOR
FACILITATOR: DEACONESS SHERRI BUEHL

*Has this cold snap gotten to you ?
Think ahead to April, when we will be offering a
one day Retreat with Sherri Buehl and talking
about Soul Care.*

Soul Care retreats are for people of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures who desire spiritual renewal. By seeking wellness for our whole selves, we can deepen our understanding of self and the divine. This new approach to enrichment is a welcoming event focused on giving care to the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

You're invited! Let us gather for a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal. Take this opportunity to leave your to-do list behind with your dirty clothes in the hamper and dirty dishes in the sink. Make time for YOU as we experience a Soul Care Retreat with learning, sharing, laughing, and relaxing.

**"... teach me your ways
so I may know you and
continue to find favor
with you."**

Exodus 33:13, NIV





RECYCLE YOUR CASSETTE TAPES

DEPOSIT THEM IN THE
TERRACYCLE
RECYCLING BIN
IN THE GATHERING PLACE

Do you have any Cassette tapes you no longer use (or want) but hesitate to add them to the trash?

If so, please place them in the TerraCycle recycling bin located in The Gathering Place (near the piano). TerraCycle is able to recycle hard-to-recycle items such as cassette tapes because they work with brands and retailers who fund the recycling process for specific items.

Questions? Please contact
Cindy McCowen at
clmccowen@aol.com
or **440-234-3985**.

Thank you for
your recycling efforts!



MESSY CHURCH - MARDI GRAS FEBRUARY 18, 4 PM, WESLEY HALL

Join us February 18 at 4 PM as we celebrate God's power, faith in Christ, and our call to seek justice! Our guests will enjoy creating parade floats together, worship focused on faith, justice, and power, and a Lenten kick-off pancake dinner! This will be a FUN one to bring your friends and neighbors together. Beads awarded to anyone showing kindness throughout the afternoon! 😊

To get more information on how to help,
please contact **Pastor Carrie** at
cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105**.

FEBRUARY LOOSE CHANGE SUPPORTS SECOND MILE OUTREACH

This month, our loose change offerings will support Second Mile Outreach which houses the food pantry we contribute to. In addition to your loose change, you can support their efforts by donating shelf-stable food and toiletries. You can also shop at their thrift store!

To learn more about their work visit secondmileoutreach.org/.

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".



FEBRUARY LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR -
ADOPT & APPRECIATE A STAFF MEMBER
OF GRINDSTONE ELEMENTARY

RETURN CARDS BY FEBRUARY 18
TO THE BOX NEAR THE OUTREACH BOARD
OR THE FINANCE MAIL SLOT

This month, we encourage you to “adopt” a staff member from Grindstone Elementary and write them a note of appreciation. You may choose to include a small gift or gift card. (Ideas for gift cards: Target, Dollar Tree, Coffee Shops, etc.)

The last two years, the staff members have truly appreciated this. We look forward to doing it again with your help! Look on the Outreach Board to choose a name (or more than one!). Return a card to the box near the board, or to the Finance mail slot if it includes a gift card. **Due date: February 18.**

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

DINNER CHURCH - SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 5 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Dinner Church is now well established on our calendar and has regular attenders and volunteers. Praise God! Our next step is to really focus on inviting and bringing folks who need a church, and who need Jesus. The goal of Dinner Church is to create a space which is welcoming and easy-going so that our community can be introduced and matured in Christ.

Upcoming months will focus on the Sermon on the Mount - the foundational teachings of Jesus and a great place to start for those who are unfamiliar with Jesus. *I ask that you commit to inviting at least one person or family to Dinner this month. It's also still a potluck for us who are showing hospitality - so have fun coming up with yummy winter dishes!*

We will begin our series including this video, which you can check out ahead of time if you'd like!
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/sermon-on-the-mount/>



SECOND MILE OUTREACH
PRESENTS:

MAGIC SHOW

BEREA-MIDPARK HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

25
FEB
2:00PM

165 E. BAGLEY RD. BERA

\$5.00 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

\$10 FOR ADULTS

\$30 FOR FAMILY PASS

WE ARE TRYING SOME MAGIC TO
MAKE A REPLACEMENT TRUCK
APPEAR!

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED
FAMILY MAGIC SHOW

Tickets on sale at:

Second Mile Shop
or

<https://SMOMAGICSHOW.eventbrite.com>



Lost & Found



Missing your favorite hat?

Misplaced your reading glasses?

Only have one glove left?

Check out The UMCB Lost & Found located on the bookshelf next to the Facilities Manager, Mark's office. We've accumulated quite the collection and are running out of room.

All unclaimed items will be rehomed on
March 1, 2024.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



WITH GRATITUDE

What a comfort it was to receive a set of four booklets, *Journeying Through Grief* when our father, Dr. Edgar B. Moore, went to his eternal rest a few years ago. Our church's Stephen Ministry sends them out to members who have experienced death of a loved one. The booklet arrives every three months. We read the booklets and passed them on to our family members so that they could benefit from them.

We recently lost our mother, Mrs. Gracelouise Sims Moore. As before, we have begun to receive the booklets. They allow grieving families as ours to know that others care. We are grateful for this outreach during a difficult time for us.

Most Sincerely,
Cindie and M.L. Moore



SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Bruce Akins	Elenore Long
Molly Arthur	John Marting
Cass Beckman	Christine McMillin
Barbara Beihl	Betty Miller
Heidi Blue	(Renaissance)
Carol Bodle	Lou Russell
Jean Brenneison	(Westlake Villages)
Lee Brenneison	Russ Sanderson
Hugh Burtner	Linda Short
Wilda Donegan	Pat Slater (Renaissance)
Neven Eilbeck	Joan Smith
Molly Force	Von Smith
Carol & Bruce Forster	Vivien Swaddling
Jan Heter (Arden Courts)	MaryLynn Swartz
Larry Jelinek	Kathleen Wargelin
Dorene Larkey	Sam Weaver
Nancy Leeseberg	Patty Worthem

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan)
Marc Bittinger
Vicki (friend of Jean Brenneison)
Terre Christian (Pastor Carrie's mother)
AmyMarie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak)
Spencer Gehring
Sylvie Isgro-Schicker
David Knisely (father of Pastor Stephen Knisely)
Isaac Kowicki & Oliver Lawrence (great nephews of Cindy Osborn)
Anne M. (friend of MaryLynn Swartz)
Sean (brother of Bobby Meadows)
Julie & Aaron Mansfield (family of Joanne Mansfield)
Paul & Kathryn and children (family of Christine and Andy McMillin)
Sean McNichol (friend of the Knisely family)
Joann Mraz (friend of Nancy Schillace)
Dick Schuerger (friend of Debby Hass)
Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk, Renaissance)
Alan Wohlfield (family of Pam Antczak)

MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)
Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)
Janice Kavander
Roy Miller (Western Reserve-Medina)
Pat Sarka
Von & Marilyn Smith (Renaissance)
Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)
Mary Jane & Sam Weaver (Generations)

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)

WE REACH OUT INCHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO ...

... to the Family & Friends of Barbara Scoon, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Wednesday, January 3. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 3 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.
... to the family & friends of Luella "Lou" Thorne, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Wednesday, January 3. A Memorial service was held on Friday, January 19.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact **Pastor Steve** sknisely@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x101) or **Pastor Carrie** (cantczak@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x105) if you would like to schedule a time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request.

You can also submit prayer requests at umcb.org/worshipresources or by emailing the church office at info@umcb.org.

To receive prayer concerns by email, visit umcb.org/communications.

2023 YEAR END STATEMENTS

Year End Statements are currently available on the table in the Narthex. If you would like your statement mailed or emailed to you, please contact **Maryann Herron**, Finance Director at mherron@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x103.

CHURCH FINANCES

Thank you for your continued giving and self-sacrifice to The United Methodist Church of Berea. I believe that together we can position the church to flourish and grow in the coming years.

Here are the numbers that we discussed during the January 21 Sunday Services.

2023

Planned spending	\$554,140
Actual spending	\$508,482
Variance	\$ 46,658
(underspent)	

2023

Planned giving	\$409,400
Actual giving	\$391,507
Shortage	\$ 17,893

Reserves

12/31/23 Current Cash Balance	\$ 115,041
12/31/23 Investment Balanc	\$1,095,523
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 532,460
Restricted Funds	\$ 183,355
Capital Improvement	\$ 309,229
Memorials	\$ 70,473

2024

Planned spending	\$540,148
Planned giving	\$390,000

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask

Pastor Steve

(sknisely@umcb.org, 440-234-3525x101),

Carol Ann McCleery, Treasurer

(mcmanistee7250@gmail.com),

or

Maryann, Finance Director

(mherron@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x103).

STAFF SCHEDULE

Church Office - Beth Barner

Mon. - Fri., 9 AM –3 PM

(Remote on Tues. & Thurs.)

ebarner@umcb.org

Office: 440-234-3525 x100

Cell: 440-710-4498*

**answered during office hours*

Finance Office - Maryann Herron

Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 AM –3 PM

mherron@umcb.org

440-234-3525 x103

Facilities Manager - Mark Williams

Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 AM –3 PM

(may vary based on need)

mwilliams@umcb.org

440-234-3525 x102

BW Campus Minister - Judith Hammer

Office hours vary based on need

jhammer@umcb.org

440-234-3525x104

Pastor of

Christian Formation & Outreach

Rev. Carrie Antczak

Office hours vary based on need (Friday Sabbath)

cantczak@umcb.org

440-234-3525x105

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

Office hours vary based on need (Saturday Sabbath)

sknisely@umcb.org

440-234-3525 x101

We kindly ask that you only call or text our staff during office hours to allow them time to rest and restore.

We also ask that you extend the same courtesy to our Pastors on their Sabbath day.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, call 440-234-3525 x104 and one of the pastors will respond as soon as they are able.