

Participants

Pastors

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

Liturgist

Sharon Williams

Music

Eric Charnofsky, *Pianist*
Courtney McClain, *Choir Director*
Margaret Proctor, *Choir Director*

Audio Video Elements

Mark Williams
Marlynda Dziak
Debby Haas

About Today's Bulletin Image

"Visit of the Three Wise Men", 1973, JESUS MAFA.

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

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.**



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.



Human Relations Day

Sunday, January 14

What is Human Relations Day? Human Relations Day is a denomination wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. Our gifts are part of building "the beloved community." Please consider giving generously on Sunday, January 14.



Youth Mission and Lock-In

January 14-15 - Registration is limited and **ends TODAY!**

We are excited to be hosting the East Ohio Conference's Youth Mission Event in conjunction with our Heroes of Justice Lock-In! Register your student: <https://forms.gle/d3vaTk1FVhPDhFyc7>.

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



Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

Monday, January 8, 6:30-8 PM, Room 13 or via Zoom (ID: 815-5894-6774, passcode: 942297)

The book for January 8 is **Walk with Me** by Kate Clifford Larson.

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



A New Year, a New Spiritual Practice

Available in the UMCB "bookstore" in Room 12

Looking to start out the new year with a new spiritual discipline? Or just need a new copy for a new year? The Upper Room's Disciplines are now available for \$10. These books include a scripture suggestion, short devotion, and prayer for each day of the year, and follows the lectionary. We also recommend, A Disciple's Journal, which also follows the lectionary, but with more room for reflection, daily prayers, and a Wesleyan emphasis to each week. Copies are \$15.



Sisters Embracing Oneness starting a new study: Race Transformation Conversations

Weekly on Wednesdays, January 10 - March 27, 7-9 PM, Offsite/via Zoom

Sisters Embracing Oneness Invites you to join them in a new study about racial justice, beginning Wednesday, January 10 and ending Wednesday, March 27 from 7-9 PM. The study will be led by its author, Dr. Angelle Jones. You may participate in person at our home or via zoom.

To register, please contact **Rev. Linda Short** at **440-785-6047**.



GriefShare

Wednesday starting January 10, 6:30 PM, via Zoom or Fridays starting January 12, 1:30 PM, Room 13

We will start again in January with two new sessions and hope that others will join us.

For more information, contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or **440-409-5931**.



You are Invited to a UMW Luncheon/Program

Wednesday, January 17, Noon, Fellowship Hall

UMW is hosting a luncheon/program at Noon on Wednesday, January 17. Our speaker is a representative from the Alzheimer's Association and will share some new developments in the treatment and care of those struggling with Alzheimer's. We will also learn about resources that are available to help us navigate the challenges of Alzheimer's. We would love to have you join us... \$5 for a light lunch and program.



"Dressing Up" for the New Year

UMW is partnering with Second Mile Outreach in a New Year's food collection: bottled salad dressings and cooking oil. Please place your donations in the marked box across from the Gathering Place. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated. Happy New Year!!



Love Your Neighbors Project - TLC Room at Berea Midpark High School

The TLC rooms are confidential and available to identified students and families in need. The school counseling department maintains and manages the items in the rooms. Students are able to 'shop' for basic necessities to support their overall health and wellness." Your support in providing for the BCSD's most vulnerable students would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made by purchasing items on the TLC Room's Amazon Wish list (<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3KE3R1ODPNZC9>). The selected items will be shipped directly to the schools (please select "TLC Rooms % Sarah Hastings as your shipping address). Additional options include buying gift cards (grocery store or Amazon - and put in the finance office mailbox) or by donating high need items (new socks, underwear, sweat suits, coats, and hygiene items) directly in the outreach bin. A list of needed items will be posted on the outreach board near the collection bin.

Morning Prayer:

Bright Morning Star,
your light has come,
and the birth of Jesus
has overwhelmed us with joy.
Like the magi of long ago,
may we be drawn to you
and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

Radiant Morning Star,
you are both guidance and mystery,
Visit our rest with disturbing dreams,
and our journeys with strange companions.
Grace us with the hospitality
to open our hearts and homes
to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany of the Lord

Baptism of the Lord

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

Church and Society/Creation Justice

12:30 PM / Room 13

Volunteer Opportunity - Metanoia Meals

Contact Laura Rushton at jlaurush@gmail.com

Monday, January 8

Morning Prayers

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Survivor's Fellowship

11 AM / Parlor, Lunch at the Perkins /

Contact Phil Gehring at pgehrings@att.net

Read & Grow Book Discussion Group

6:30 PM / Room 13 or via Zoom /

Contact Betsy Meikle at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com

Tuesday, January 9

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Sustainable Berea

6:30 PM / Room 13

Church Council Meeting

7 PM / Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 10

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Parking Lot Fellowship

11 AM / The Gathering Place

GriefShare

6:30 PM / via Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com

Sisters Embracing Oneness Bible Study

7 PM / Offsite / Contact Linda Short at

9short28@gmail.com

Thursday, January 11

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

Bell Choir Practice

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

Thursday Bible Study

6:30 PM / Zoom / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com

Choir Practice

7 PM / Parlor / Contact [Courtney McClain](mailto:CourtneyMcClain)

or [Margaret Proctor](mailto:MargaretProctor)

Friday, January 12

Morning Prayer

9 AM - 9:30 AM / via Zoom

GriefShare

1:30 PM / Room 13 / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at

marylynn482@gmail.com

Saturday, January 13

Sunday, January 14

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day

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

EYG Heroes of Justice Lock-in

4 PM / Wesley Hall