

MINISTRY
ON
THE
MARGINS

UMC BEREA
SUMMER 2024

Worship Celebration

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 2, 2024 + 10 am

Prelude

Sinfonietta

G. F. Handel

Words of Welcome

Opportunities for Ministry

+ Call to Worship

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2024.

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The psalmist declares, “Lord, you have searched me and known me.” Will you open yourselves to be searched by God?

Search us, O God, and know our hearts.

God searches you, knows you, and loves you,
and invites you to search out God in return.

Will you seek the heart of God?

We will search you, O God, to know your heart.

The Triune God who creates all and knows all is revealed
in running rivers and fluttering butterflies,
in warm sunshine and the smell of the earth.

Will you pay attention?

***We will pay attention, O God,
to your fingerprint of love on all of creation.***

Open our hearts today to encounter your love, holiness, and glory
that create and sustain all that was, is, and will be.

***We come today to enter the dance of the Trinity,
the all-knowing Creator and Sustainer of life.***

+ Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King (verses 1-5)

UMH 62

+ Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)

Music of Meditation & Reflection - *Near the Cross* arr. Lloyd Larson

Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What A Beautiful Name

Fielding, Ligertwood

+ Song

Believe for It

Winans, Lee, Wong, Hill

With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

Our ears and hearts are open.

First Lesson — Acts 8.26-40 (NRSVUE)

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson — 2 Corinthians 4.5-12 (NRSVUE)

⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’s sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Light will shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, ⁹persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, ¹⁰always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus’s sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us but life in you.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon - *Engaging the Eager and the Curious on the Margins*

Rev. Carrie Antczak

Communion - God's Relentless Invitation

Reprinted with permission of <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/>

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath

To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!

With gratitude, O God, we remember that it is through you we are made truly alive. Every creature and creation – the tiny ones, the scaly ones, the human ones, the leafy ones – all that is has been shaped by you. There is nothing on this earth that has not been touched by your Sacred hand. In your love for us, you claim us – individually and as a whole – as your beloveds. You will for us life abundant and you invite us into co-working with you towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.

And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another. Destructive and divisive powers lure us away from connection and relationship. We forget that we need each other. We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled. When injustice threatens our neighbors, we too easily cower or hide.

Like those who turned on Jesus when things became too difficult, we too are tempted to desert those most vulnerable.

But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin. In the life of Jesus, Love enfleshed, we are shown that the invitation to join in your work of transforming and healing and restoring is always open. No matter our past. No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us or the wrong we have done to others, you keep calling us back to you.

This relentless invitation of yours that entices with freedom and joy and forgiveness is such a threat to empire that it still attempts to crucify every incarnation of your love today. And so, we are reminded of the example given to us in the person of Jesus.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around a table with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

And so in remembrance of the One who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit would make us one in our commitment to the liberation of all your creatures and creations. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, that through these ordinary gifts, we might taste a glimpse of your Kingdom. May they be for us a reminder of what we are capable of becoming and what we are capable of accomplishing together. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Song

The Table

Tomlin, Cash, Jolley

Prayer after Communion

Reprinted with permission of <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/>

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

+ Hymn

We Are Called

TFWS 2172

+ Benediction

Postlude

He Is Exalted

Twila Paris
arr. Mark Hayes

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 open my eyes and ears to those around me.
Let me see with fresh vision and hear well
The questions, the needs, and the gifts
of those around me.
Give me courage to be a faithful witness
and offer Christ in all I say and I do.
Amen.

Evening Prayer

Thank you Lord for the love around me,
Thank you for the love I could offer today.
Forgive me for any unloving thoughts or deeds.
Renew my Spirit for a new day tomorrow
of shining Christ's light.
Amen.

Written by Rev. Carrie Antczak, 2024

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER

An Update on the Israel/Gaza Conflict

Today, June 2, 11 am, Fellowship Hall

Dr. Ellen Posman will join us today to share an update on the Israel/Gaza conflict with a focus on religion and American protests and policies. She will present and also facilitate a discussion.

Join the Thursday Bible Study!

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, via Zoom

Our next session will begin on June 13 with a new book on Proverbs. Everyone is welcome! Please come join us!

For more information, please contact

Mary Lynn Swartz at marylynn482@gmail.com
or **440-409-5931**.

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING

*Thank you to our guest pianist,
Lisa Miragliotta-Van Scyoc for sharing
her gifts with us in this morning's worship.*

Help Us with Summer Children's Church

This summer during our 10 am combined service, we hope to offer a Children's Church experience. Kids will participate in worship music with the whole congregation, and then either go outside or to the nursery for a Bible story and free play. We will need two adults each Sunday to be able to do this - and we're excited to be able to share Bible stories throughout the whole summer - will you help us?

Sign up here to make this a fun and faith-filled summer for our kiddos:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/60B0B45A5AB2BA1FE3-49726716-childrens#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B45A5AB2BA1FE3-49726716-childrens#/).

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

Register for Vacation Bible School by Saturday, June 8!

June 17-21, 9:30 am - 12:15 pm

The UMC of Berea

Let's explore the Beatitudes and stories of Jesus with our favorite pup family. We'll have games, activities, and story time all inspired by your favorite Australian family. Come join us as we learn about being Healers of God's Creation.

VBS is open to preschool - 3rd grade (completed). Older kids want to join the fun? They can join us as junior helpers for a discounted price (\$10). Recommended donation is \$25/child, with \$50/family cap. No family is turned away.

Children & Youth register here:

<https://forms.gle/52GUwcMhEWzyRdG16>

Volunteers make VBS PAWsible! We could still use a few substitutes and extras! Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/Ebjgig2HqnyoFfCGA!>

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

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,
COMPASSION, & JUSTICE**

“Feed the Kids”

Food Collection Begins Sunday, June 16
Financial Contributions accepted anytime
Bag Packing - Sunday, July 14
Bag Distribution - Monday July 15, 5 pm

We will again be participating in the Berea Area Ministers’ “Feed the Kids” summer food program. We will be collecting food items beginning **Sunday, June 16**. Financial donations can be made anytime.

This month’s loose change offering will also support “Feed the Kids”. 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*”. Thank you!

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

Enjoy Equal Exchange this summer!
First Sunday of each month,
New time - 11 am

How does some refreshing peppermint iced tea sound? You can easily make some with Equal Exchange tea. That, along with all our other favorite teas, coffees, cocoa and chocolates, will be for sale this summer on the first Sunday of each month after the combined 10 am worship service. Thanks for your continued support of a fair wage and healthier work and living environment for farmers and for all God’s children!

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.

The May 26 Loose Change Offering totaled \$31.50. These funds will help support Feed the Kids, a summer food program to help sustain our community’s children over the summer months.

**United Methodist Commission on Relief
(UMCOR) Kits for Midwest Mission**

Donation Deadline - Monday, June 10

***Place Donations in the Collection Bin near the
Entrance to Wesley Hall***

Our East Ohio Conference collects items for Midwest Mission every year during Annual Conference. This year's focus is on Personal Dignity Kits. Please consider donating any of the following items: hand towel (no kitchen towels), washcloth (no dishcloths), toothbrush (individual; no multipacks), bar of soap (3-4 oz.), shampoo (12-19 oz.), deodorant (2-3 oz. - stick, roll-on or pump), lotion (8-10 oz.).

Thank you for participating in this life-changing mission. Items are distributed locally and globally whenever disaster strikes.

Learn more about UMCOR at
<https://umcmmission.org/umcor>.

2024 East Ohio Annual Conference

Thursday, June 13 - Saturday, June 15

John S. Knight Center, Akron, Ohio

Annual Conference is coming! On Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15, United Methodists of the East Ohio Conference will come together to worship, spend time with one another, learn about all the amazing things happening in our conference, and make decisions concerning our future. God is doing something great in our denomination and God has called all of us to be an integral part of God’s mission in the world! Please, pray for everyone involved.

United Women in Faith/ UMW

School Is Out!

Place donations in the marked box by Room 13

And the kiddos are home. UMW, in cooperation with Second Mile Outreach, is collecting “Shelf to Table” snacks. Please consider donating: popsicles, tuna/cracker packs, chicken/cracker packs, nuts, individual fruit packs, Nutella/pretzel packs, yogurt pretzels...items that children can “pick up and snack.”

Please place your items in the marked box by Room 13. We’ll deliver the food to Second Mile. Thanks for your continued support and generosity. And the kiddos will thank you, too.

Happening at The UMCB this week:

For the most current information, please visit our online monthly calendar at www.umcb.org/upcoming-events.

Sunday, June 2

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Blended Worship Service

10 AM / Wesley Hall and Online at
<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Guest Speaker, Dr. Ellen Posman

11 AM / Fellowship Hall / Contact Pastor Carrie

Monday, June 3

Morning Prayer

9 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Steve

Survivor's Fellowship

11 AM / Lunch only at Jennifer's /
Contact Phil Gehring at pgehrings@att.net

GriefShare

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

Staff Parish Relations Committee

7 PM / Wesley Parlor

Tuesday, June 4

Morning Prayer

9 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Steve

Stephen Ministers

6:30 PM / Room 13

Wednesday, June 5

Morning Prayer

9 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Steve

Prayer Shawl Ministry

10 AM / Room 13 / Contact Rev. Linda at
lsmccowen@gmail.com

Parking Lot Fellowship

11 AM / Gathering Place

Thursday, June 6

Sisters Embracing Oneness Civil Rights Tour

Contact Rev. Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Morning Prayer

9 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Steve

Friday, June 7

Youth Annual Conference

Sisters Embracing Oneness Civil Rights Tour

Contact Rev. Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Morning Prayer

9 AM / via Zoom / Contact Pastor Steve

GriefShare

1:30 PM / Front Porch / Contact Mary Lynn Swartz at
marylynn482@gmail.com

Saturday, June 8

Youth Annual Conference

Sisters Embracing Oneness Civil Rights Tour

Contact Rev. Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School Registration Deadline -

see previous page for the registration link

Sunday, June 9

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sisters Embracing Oneness Civil Rights Tour

Contact Rev. Linda Short at 9short28@gmail.com

Blended Worship Service

10 AM / Wesley Hall and Online at
<http://www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos>

Church Office

Beth Barner

Mon. - Fri., 9 am–3 pm
(Remote on Tues. & Thurs.)
ebarner@umcb.org,
440-234-3525 x100
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Finance Office

Maryann Herron
Mon., Wed., Fri.,
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mherron@umcb.org
440-234-3525 x103

Facilities Manager

Mark Williams
Hours vary based on need.
mwilliams@umcb.org
440-234-3525 x102

BW Campus Minister -

Judith Hammer

Hours vary based on need
jhammer@umcb.org
440-234-3525x104

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

Hours vary based on need
(Saturday Sabbath)
sknisely@umcb.org
440-234-3525 x101

Rev. Carrie Antczak

**Pastor of Christian
Formation & Outreach**
Hours vary based on need
(Friday Sabbath)
cantczak@umcb.org
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