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Summer Worship Schedule

Let's Worship Together!

Sunday Mornings

10 AM, Wesley Hall and online at [facebook.com/umcberea/live](https://www.facebook.com/umcberea/live)

From June 2 through September 1, we will be worshipping as a combined church on Sundays at 10 AM in Wesley Hall with a blended music style that represents both our traditional and modern services. This service will also be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/UMCBerea/live. We are doing this to accommodate construction taking place from June 24 - August 23 in the Sanctuary (see Page 2 for more details).

The blended service will provide each person with something enjoyable and familiar. Most people will not get everything that they want in terms of worship style but it gives us a chance to worship together, meet people that we may not know from the other service, and worship in an air-conditioned space during the hot summer months. Remember that worship is not about getting everything that we want but gathering and giving all of ourselves to God and to others. I encourage you to consider this in a positive light as we get to worship together in unity and share the same space with one another. I am looking forward to it.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve



FACILITY MANAGEMENT NEWS - UPCOMING PROJECT IN THE SANCTUARY

Some of you are aware that the Trustees have been planning a project to update the carpeting and floor tile in the Sanctuary.

- The Sanctuary carpet is badly showing its age and needs to be replaced.
- We don't know its exact age but estimates put it at over 40 years old.
- Because of the glue down process of broadloom carpet, waves in the carpet have been a trip hazard for some time.

It has been patched multiple times through several pew removal modifications and the patches are quite visible.

Unfortunately, the tiles under the carpet, pews and throughout the sanctuary contain asbestos. This means that the removal of the carpet needs to be done by a professional asbestos abatement company.

Because the project has lots of moving parts and requires timely oversight, Flats Construction has been hired as the general contractor and will coordinate schedules with the various contractors. Flats Construction is a subsidiary of JG Johnson, who oversaw our 2009 through 2020 multi-phase construction projects in the Education Building, the new Gathering Place expansion, and the addition of the Wesley Hall building.

The pews removed from the sanctuary during construction will be temporarily stored against the walls of Wesley Hall leaving nearly 40-plus feet in the middle of the room to hold Sunday morning worship. This space will be approximately the width of the narrower part of our Sanctuary.

After the asbestos abatement, new carpet and vinyl tile squares will be installed in the sanctuary and balcony. You can see samples of the color choices on display in the Gathering Place.

The pews will then be re-installed with an additional three inch spacing between pews. An aisle will be created laterally from the porch door to the Gathering Place door. The project is set to be scheduled in the time frame between June 24 and August 23. More details on the project schedule will be communicated when it has been finalized.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BEREA
1001 BROADWAY, BEREA, OHIO 44004
Date: March 10, 2024 Version: 01
Rev: Michele Mager
Rendered By: WFFW

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Not all of the quotes are in but a rough cost estimate is \$90,000. Funding will come from the Trustees' Capital Improvements fund. This fund can only be used for building upkeep. It cannot be used for daily operating expenses or for ministry/mission outreach expenses. The current fund balance is \$331,000 and there are no other major building initiatives on the horizon. Should any unforeseen building projects be necessary, we are comfortable that we will have sufficient funds to handle any such projects.

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



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#/>

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

CONNECTING . . .



SAHRING GOD'S LOVE

Messy Church CARNIVAL FUN & FAITH FAIR





SAHRING GOD'S LOVE



Congratulations and blessings on **Hope Louise Antczak, Josephine Ella Swartz, and Marcus James Thomas** on their Confirmation!

Many thanks to their teachers Nancy Buehler, Chuck Dixon, and Margaret Proctor.

And thank you to all who came to celebrate and welcome them during their reception!





SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

This list is updated periodically by removing names that have been listed for a significant time without any contact or new information. It is not our intention to remove anyone still in need of prayers. If you notice your name or that of a loved one has been removed and further prayers are needed, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office. Conversely, if you, your family member, or friend would like to be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know. Thank you.

Bruce Akins
 Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan)
 Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)
 Barbara Beihl
 Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)
 Marc Bittinger
 Heidi Blue (Pleasant Lake Villa)
 Carol Bodle
 Jean & Lee Brenneison
 Hugh Burtner
 Terre Christian (Pastor Carrie's mother)
 Rev. Rollin Conway
 Phoebe Cooke & Family (family of the Thuraus)
 Wilda Donegan
 Eileen Stevens Doud (daughter of Paul Harlamert)
 AmyMarie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak)
 Molly Force
 Bruce Forster (Parkside)
 Carol Forster (Vitalia)
 Spencer Gehring
 Jan Heter (Arden Courts)
 Sylvie Isgro-Schicker
 Larry Jelinek
 David Knisely (father of Pastor Steve Knisely)
 Dorene Larkey
 Nancy Leeseberg (Justin T. Rogers Hospice)
 Elenore Long
 Helen Madis (Renaissance)
 Julie & Aaron Mansfield (family of Joanne Mansfield)
 John Marting
 Christine McMillin
 Paul & Kathryn and children (family of the McMillins)
 Sean McNichol (friend of the Knisely family)
 Sean (brother of Bobby Meadows)
 Betty Miller (Renaissance)
 Roy Miller (Western Reserve-Medina)
 Janet Neal (friend of Jill Bush)
 Kim Pride (friend of Tom Marek)

Lou Russell (Westlake Village)
 Pat Sarka
 Dick Schuerger (friend of Debby Hass)
 Pat Slater (Renaissance)
 Joan Smith
 Marilyn Smith (Renaissance)
 Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk, Renaissance)
 Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)
 Mary Jane Weaver (Generations)

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE

... to the Family & Friends of Sam Weaver, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Friday, April 26. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, May 2.

... to the Family & Friends of Cheryl Gray, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Wednesday, May 15. A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday, May 21.

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, scan the QR code or visit umcb.org/communications.





SAHRING GOD'S LOVE



BLANKET OF CARE MINISTRY

We are currently working on a ministry that systematically and comprehensively provides care, visitation, and communion to people who are either homebound, living in retirement homes, or residing in medical facilities. We would love you to help with this ministry. Even if you could commit to visiting one person a month, that would be helpful to our church family. Our hope is to provide a warm blanket of care to the many valued and beloved people of our church who are unable to participate in the worship and ministries of the church.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact **Rev. Linda McCowen** at lsmccowen@gmail.com or 440-234-7211.

OUR HONOR BOOK

Under the Memorial Book in the Narthex near the door to the Memorial Garden is a Book of Honor. It is filled with the names of people who have done something special and they have been thanked or remembered with a monetary gift to the church. Reasons for the gifts can be a wedding, baptism, an act of kindness, or a job well done.

Take a look at the book as you pass by and perhaps you will think of someone you would like to honor. Honorariums can be made by contacting Finance Secretary, **Maryann Herron**, at mherron@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x103.



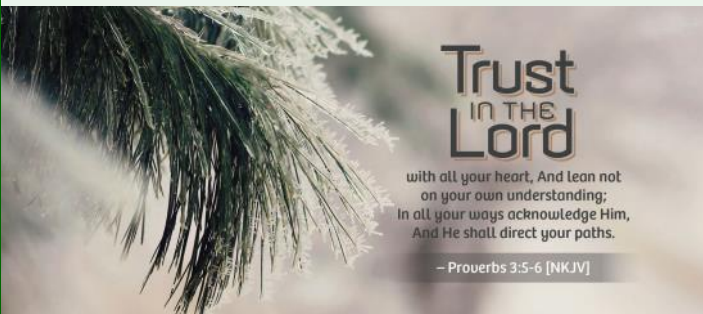
TEACHING & LEARNING . . .

JOIN THE THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY!

THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

We have finished with our Forgiveness series. We will take two weeks off (May 30 & June 6). Then, on Thursday, June 13, we will start a new book on Proverbs. Everyone is welcome! Please come join us!

For more information or to be added to our list and receive the Zoom information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.



MONDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

Although we planned a little step back for the summer, there is need for starting a new group. We will follow the same 13-week format with a video and workbook discussion, meeting on Monday evenings. All are welcome. Please join us to find out that you are doing well and the things that are happening are really okay.

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



Updates on the Israel-Gaza War with a focus on Religion and American Protests and Politics

Dr. Ellen Posman, presents and facilitates discussion



June 2, 11 AM
Fellowship Hall
United Methodist Church of Berea

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER

LAST CHANCE -
REGISTER BY SATURDAY, JUNE 8!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
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!>

Hosted by United Methodist Church of Berea, Christ United Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

GOD SAYS I AM...



Beautiful
Ecclesiastes 3:11



Accepted
Romans 15:7



Bold
I John 5:14



Redeemed
Galatians 3:13



Protected
2 Thess 3:3



Courageous
Deuteronomy 31:6



Kind
Luke 6:27



Strong
Isaiah 40:13



Loyal
John 15:13



COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK & FROZEN YOGURT

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 6:30 PM, MEET AT THE
BEREA "TRIANGLE" CLOCK TOWER

(REGROUP AT 7:30 PM AT
IGLOO FROZEN YOGURT, 44 FRONT ST.)

Join us Sunday, June 23 at 6:30 PM, meeting at the Berea "Triangle" clock tower. We will break into small teams and cover our neighborhood and city with prayer. Some will go by foot or wheels, and some will go by car. We'll regroup at 7:30 PM to enjoy Frozen Yogurt at Igloo and share our experiences. We'll consider what's next in our "Fresh Expressions" ministries.

Bring walking shoes, a bike, or other mode of transportation - and an open heart!

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



"FEED THE KIDS"

FOOD COLLECTION -

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 16

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.

Save-the-Date: We will be collecting food items beginning **Sunday, June 16**. Financial donations can be made anytime.

We will pack bags on **Sunday, July 14**, and distribute them on **Monday, July 15** beginning at 5 PM.

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

This month's loose change will also benefit this ministry. 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 for your generosity!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE





Pride in the CLE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

10 AM, MEET OUTSIDE TOWERCITY
230 W. HURON RD., CLEVELAND, 44113

11 AM, PARADE

"We are marching in the love of God"... join us and other United Methodist congregations in marching (and singing of course) in the Cleveland Pride Parade on June 1. This is just one of many ways we can grow in our ministry with the LGBTQ+ community.

Plan on arriving downtown and meeting just outside of Tower City around 10 AM. The Parade steps off at 11 AM. Feel free to stay afterwards and enjoy all of the booths and meet and greet all of our lovely neighbors.

Let **Pastor Carrie** know to look for you at cantczak@umcb.org or **440-234-3525 x105!**

UNITED METHODIST COMMISSION ON RELIEF (UMCOR) KITS FOR MIDWEST MISSION

DONATION DEADLINE - MONDAY, JUNE 10
PLACE DONATIONS IN THE MISSIONS COLLECTION AREA BY ROOM 13

We are collecting items for Personal Dignity Kits for the Midwest Mission. Our East Ohio Conference collects items for this 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.)

Please place donations in the Missions Collection area by Room 13.
The deadline is Monday, June 10.

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

Interesting in learning more about UMCOR?
Take a look at the website
<https://umcmmission.org/umcor>.

Cindy McCowen
On behalf of the Creation Justice/Church & Society Team





...and **KNOW** that I am **GOD**

PSALM 46

The United Methodist Church General Conference

| CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Church,

I wanted to provide you with a final update on General Conference as there was much that was decided.

- 1) Bishop Tracy S. Malone has become the President of the Council of Bishops.
- 2) The number of US Bishops was reduced from 39 to 32 and the number of African Bishops was increased by 2.
- 3) Seventy eight percent of delegates voted in favor of The Worldwide Regionalization Plan. Regionalization places the US, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines on an equal playing field, allowing each region to adapt and contextualize The Book of Discipline. In other words, one region will not hold unequal power over another, and instead of having one Book of Discipline to guide the entire church, each region will have their own Book of Discipline reflecting their ministry context. I believe this will make the church more equitable, more adaptable, and provide more long-term unity. It still needs to be ratified by 2/3 at the Annual Conferences this year. This should not be a difficult feat to achieve, considering the popularity of the legislation.
- 4) All exclusionary and discriminatory language regarding homosexuality and the LGBTQIA+ community has been removed from the Book of Discipline.
- 5) The church has allowed a definition of marriage that falls within what I would call a Wesleyan both/and, even though the solution is connected by an “or.” It states, “Within the church, we affirm marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith (adult man and woman of consenting age or two adult persons of consenting age) into union with one another...” This was proposed by a delegate from Zimbabwe so that regions, churches, and individuals can choose the definition they would prefer to follow and because homosexuality is a crime or illegal in some parts of Africa.
- 6) Clergy are now allowed to perform same-sex weddings and are no longer subject to charges or disciplinary action for doing so.
- 7) Deacons have been given sacramental rights within the context of their ministry. This means that they are now allowed to bless the elements in the midst of worship services and when ministering to others. I fully support this decision to empower our deacons. Therefore, they no longer have to depend on me alone for the blessing of the elements.
- 8) Deacons have also been given the right to be called “Pastor,” as I believe they should.
- 9) The conference budget was set and is 38-41 percent lower than the previous General Conference in 2016. This is because of declining membership, giving, and 25% of churches disaffiliating in the last eight years.

Continued on Next Page



...and KNOW that I am GOD

PSALM 46

The United Methodist Church General Conference

| CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE

- 10) A decision was made to lower the apportionments that local churches provide to the denomination. The “base rate” was previously 3.29%, and it has now been reduced to 2.6%, a .69% reduction.
- 11) The Eurasian Conferences disaffiliated. I have read that this is for more practical reasons than theological. Currently, it is dangerous to be associated with the US in Russian and Eastern European countries.
- 12) Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline, which allowed for churches to leave the denomination with church property and assets, has been removed.
- 13) A provision allowing churches to reaffiliate will be included in the Book of Discipline.
- 14) Many climate justice initiatives were successfully passed. “Petitions approved on consent calendar April 30 include establishing a Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator in each annual conference; urging every church to establish or strengthen its green team, and calling on churches to support legislative and policy efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions ‘up to and beyond net-zero.’”
- 15) The church offered an apology for anyone who has been victimized, hurt, or harmed by sexual misconduct in any of our UMC churches. We are now in full communion with the Episcopal Church. This will need approval from the Episcopal Church. It means that we can interact in more collaborative ways. For example, clergy from the UMC will be able to serve in the Episcopal church, and vice-versa.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

Council of Bishops President,
Bishop Tracy S. Malone
sent delegates home with this message:

As you go forth from General Conference, tell the world about Jesus. As you go, tell them about his love. As you go, be love. Be joy. Be peace. Be patient. Be kind. Be good. Be faithful. Be gentle. Be the body of Christ. As you go, be still and know that God is God, and God can be trusted. Let us walk together, beloved of God and let us never grow weary or tired of doing the work of the kin-dom. Amen.

*Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.
(umcresources.org)*





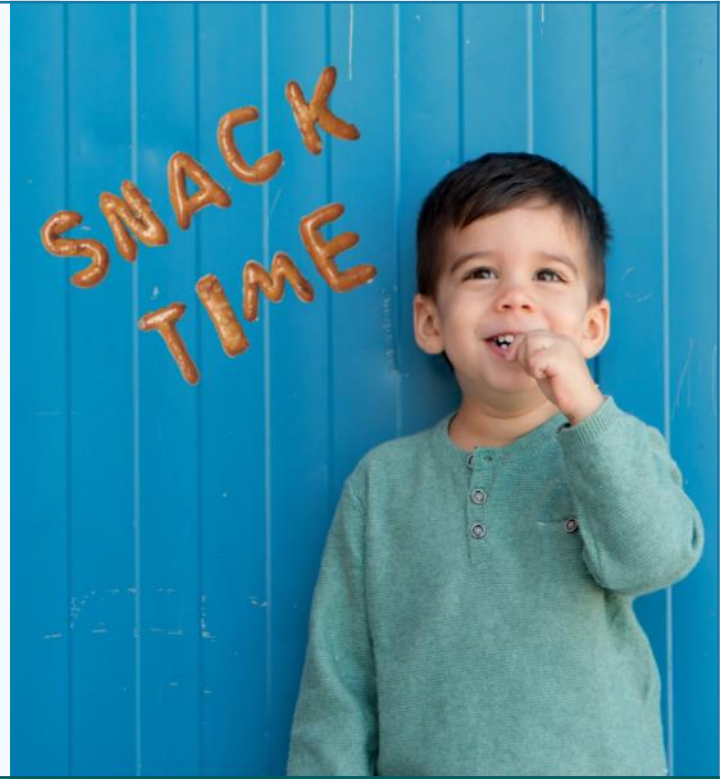
UMW

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.



EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ISAIAH 40:31 (NIV)



2024 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 - SATURDAY, JUNE 15,
JOHN S. KNIGHT CENTER, AKRON, OHIO

Church,

Annual Conference is coming! On Thursday, June 13 through Saturday, June 15, United Methodists of the East Ohio Conference will gather at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio. We 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.

I always love annual conference because it reminds me that we are a part of something bigger than our local church. I am extremely grateful to serve here at the United Methodist Church of Berea, but I am also proud to be a part of the United Methodist Church and serve alongside so many gifted clergy. 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, join me in praying for everyone involved and all those attending the 55th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve