

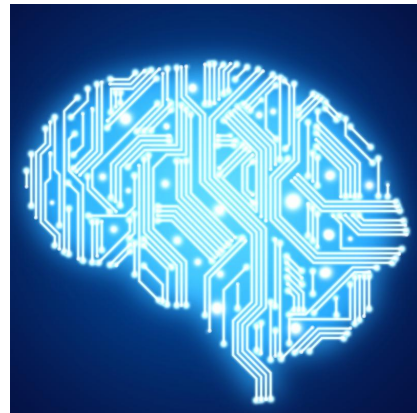
January 12th
2017

worship... walk... work...

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Thom Rainer is one of the leading researchers of church trends and data. A recent study of unchurched people (defined as someone who has not attended a worship service in the last six months) uncovered some surprising insights.



walk

1. Most unchurched do indeed have some church background. Almost two-thirds of them (62 percent) went to church regularly as a child. Most people would not find it odd, at all, to be invited to church.
2. Most unchurched quit church because they got out of the habit of churchgoing. Some leave churches for negative reasons, but that is not true of the majority. You can help people get back into the habit with a simple invitation.
3. One-third of the unchurched have plans to go to church in the future. One of three unchurched Americans are actually planning to return to church. Invite three people and you increase the odds of getting favorable response.
4. The unchurched are very open to a gospel conversation. Nearly half (47%) would interact freely in such a conversation. Another third (31%) would listen actively without participating. That means eight of ten unchurched people would welcome a conversation about Jesus. Another 12% would discuss it with some discomfort, and only 11% would change the subject as soon as possible.
5. If you invite them, they will come. 55% said they would attend church if invited by a family member. 51% said they would attend church if invited by a friend or neighbor. Sure your invitation to church might get rejected, but mostly not.

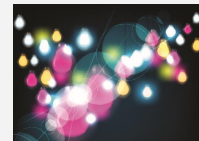
"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). People you already know are waiting. In this new year, in this God-given moment, will you commit to being invitational?

Right now, stop and pray that the Spirit would open your eyes to three unchurched people who need you to invite them to church. Write their names down on a piece of paper and each morning pray for the opportunity to invite them. Then ask them to come with you to church - or to join your small group in the new church-wide study. Be confident because the Holy Spirit is already working on their hearts way ahead of you. And don't ask only once. I have a friend who invited a neighbor every Easter for seven years. When she finally said yes, she was touched by the love of God and soon became one of the most committed members of that congregation.

Parent's Night Out

Children's Ministry Fundraiser.

On Saturday, January 14 from 6 to 10pm, the BCUMC Children's Council is hosting Parent's Night Out. For \$15 per child / \$25 per family you can drop off your child(ren), age 12 months to 5th grade, and enjoy an evening out. We will provide snacks, games, movies and crafts for the kids. Please provide a sack dinner if your child is not eating before drop off. **Registration and payment deadline has been extended to this Friday, January 13 at noon.** Contact [John Henley](#) or call the church office, 281.463.2330, to register.



work

The Wesleyan Way

New church-wide study beginning February 12.

This study is authored by our very own Bishop Scott Jones. Small groups will be forming soon. **Host homes and group leaders are needed.** Please contact [Nanette Radke](#) or call the church office, 281.463.2330, if you are interested in either hosting or leading a small group.



walk

- Cultivate a faith that matters, a faithful way of life.
- Experience grace and love as taught by John Wesley.
- Connect to God's purposes for you and the world.
- Grow in spiritual maturity.

Super Q

UMM Super Bowl BBQ Fundraiser.

Don't miss out! For the next three Sundays (January 15, 22 & 29) the UMM will be taking orders for BBQ in the Courtyard after each of the three services. Pick up your BBQ on Super Bowl

Sunday (February 5) after any of the services. **There will be a new item on the menu**



work

this year! Thank you.

Sanctuary Decorations

Bill Clark needs assistance.

This Saturday, January 14 at 9am, Bill Clark will be in the Sanctuary taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations. He is looking for 6 volunteers to help him. It won't take long and his back will really appreciate you!



work

SW District Leadership Development

Saturday, January 28 from 9am to 1pm.

Register [online](#) now! \$10 online or \$20 on-site. Takes place at [Christ UMC](#), 3300 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479. Childcare is available.



work

SW District Welcomes Bishop Scott Jones

Saturday, January 14 from 9:30am to Noon.

All Clergy and Laity are invited to Christ UMC (3300 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479) this Saturday as they host a welcoming event for Bishop Scott Jones. Bishop Jones will be conducting an interactive presentation based on his book, "The Wesleyan Way". Lunch will be provided afterward by [RSVP](#) only.

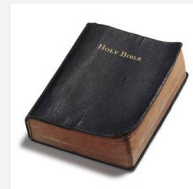


walk

Sunday Night Ladies Bible Study

FLC 102 from 5:00 to 6:30pm.

Relationships are messy. We struggle to get along, especially with those who disagree with us. We often find ourselves divided, even as Christians. How can we work out our differences and disagreements in a loving way while still remaining true to what we believe? The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth about this very thing!



walk

The Sunday night ladies Bible study begins a 6-week study by Melissa Spoelstra, entitled *First Corinthians - Living Love When We Disagree*, beginning January 8, 2017.

Emmaus Prayer Clock

Sign up to pray for pilgrims.

The Walk to Emmaus Men's Walk #95 is February 16, 2017 through

February 19, 2017. Click [here](#) to sign up to pray for the pilgrims and the team. Thank you!



Youth News

Brainstorming. Midwinter. HNwCC help.

All Youth are encouraged to come for the Brainstorming Session at Noon on Sunday in Rooms 205/206. **We want to hear what you would like to see YOUR Youth Ministry do in 2017.** Lunch will be provided. Also please note that your form and commitment to attend (\$115) Midwinter Camp at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center February 17-19 are due this Sunday. We also have a great opportunity to serve from 2-5pm at the HNwCC Food Pantry (come and go is fine). Youth @5 will be held as usual, so if you would like to stay all day - awesome!



Check out your Youth Newsletter for all the specifics and info on registration deadlines for upcoming activities - contact [Lea Bynum](#) or [John Henley](#) with questions.

AWANA on Wednesdays

January 18, 2017 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



Bear Creek United Methodist is devoted to nurturing your children with scriptural teaching, fun activities, and opportunities to cultivate great friendships that last forever.

Here are a few things to remember:

- On Wednesday, January 18, please drop off (6:30) and pick up (8:00) your child in the Tree House on the second floor of the Family Life Center.
- Fill out a new Kidzone Registration ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) form for 2016-17.
- Pay the \$20.00 registration fee per family for 2016-17.

Please contact [John Henley](#) if you have questions concerning any ministry to children here at Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

Online and Text Giving

Electronic giving. From your smartphone.

We now offer online and text giving on our website. Both options are facilitated through Shelby Systems, Inc., our church administration software, which is highly secure. You will find links and instructions on the [giving](#) page of our website.

Thank you for your faithful contributions that allow us to continue the various ministries of Bear Creek United Methodist Church!



worship

Energizers

January 19, 2017 @ 10:30am.

Energizers, a group of active adults age 50-plus, enjoy gatherings that include day-long excursions. We meet on the third Friday of every month at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and drinks are provided. Come join us for games and Christian fellowship.



walk

Fellowship Friday, an Energizers outreach ministry, provides a loving, welcoming and fun environment for family members with mild to moderate memory loss who do not require skilled care. This program, a partnership between Interfaith CarePartners and BCUMC, is designed to give caregivers some much needed time away. **Our next meeting is January 13, 2017 from 10am to 1:30pm.** The theme for January is *New Beginnings* and the entertainment is *Grandma's Boy Friends*.

Western Prayer Wall

FLC 101. Leave a Prayer Request.

Been to the Holy Land? If it's too far or you've already been, visit our BCUMC Western Prayer Wall any time during church office hours or on Sunday. Please leave your prayer request in the crevices of the wall. Thank you - the Prayer Ministry Team.



walk

A Time to Pray Together


Prayer Room - Ministry Village. Wednesdays @ 9am.

Come to pray with us for the congregational needs of BCUMC and for what God puts on our hearts. We are trusting in His Promise, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ~ Matthew 18:20



walk

Blessings, **James Sharp, Communications Director**
281.463.2330 X109

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