



bearcreekumc.org

March 3rd

2016

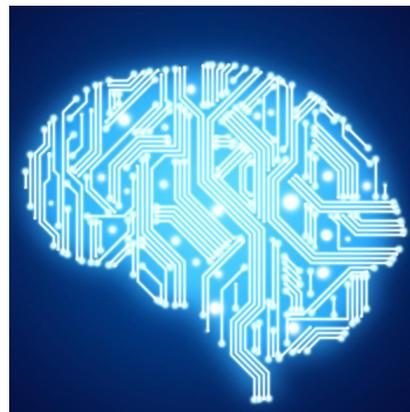
worship... walk... work...

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

Have you been to the cross? There isn't anything easy about love.

I hear people say, "I am a Christian but I don't think that means I have to be part of a church"... "I love Jesus but I don't want anything to do with the church"... "I can't stand the church with all its hypocrites"... "I am spiritual, not religious." Those are such easy answers that sound pious. In reality they are self-righteous. Essentially, they are saying, "Those people are not worthy of my time and effort and, certainly not, my love."



walk

Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is. He answered, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-38). Demanding...Strenuous...Tough...Love.

Love - that's the key. Love is the hard part of church and life because we can't be loving

in theory; we can only love in reality. True love is found most purely in the church because the church is the Body of Christ, where we are united with those he has called together rather than those we prefer to be with. You see, the church is nothing more than the greenhouse of love where the command of love is planted and the choice to love grows into a mature commitment to love until it finally bears the fruit of genuine love that sacrifices itself to provide more seeds. In the old movie, *Mrs. Miniver*, Mr. Ballard tells her, "What goes to make a rose, ma'am, is breeding... and budding... and horse manure, if you'll pardon the expression." The flowering of love involves a lot of dirt and compost as the church.

Discipleship means becoming like Jesus, loving like Jesus. The way we say it at Bear Creek UMC is that we live and love abundantly when we are shaped by worshipping the Father, walking with the Son, and working through the Holy Spirit. Another way we might say it is: love God, grow more in love, and love people. Together we discover a three-dimensional life.

So I'll see you Sunday when we are working on this loving thing.

BCUMC School Spirit Night @ Clay's

Thursday, March 10. 17717 Clay Road. 5 - 8 p.m.

Come out and help support your church school!



work

Willie's Spirit Night

Monday, March 7. Library Fundraiser. 4 p.m. to close.

Join us for Spirit Night to benefit the Bear Creek UMC Library.

Don't forget - for the library to receive 15% of the sale, you must

mention that you are there for BCUMC Library. Will be at the Copperfield location: 7092 Hwy 6 N, Houston, TX 77095.



work

Youth Summer Registration Open

Sign up today! District Camp. JUMMP. UM ARMY.

Visit the [youth page](#) on our website for dates, locations,

payment methods and registration forms. All trips require a \$100

deposit, due by April 24. All final payments are due by June 1. Questions? Contact [Lisa Gill](#) for more information.



walk

NEW TIME - Coffee in the Courtyard

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

The Hospitality Ministry will host Coffee in the Courtyard on Sunday mornings at **10:30 a.m.**, except for the third Sunday of the month when there is a Fellowship Breakfast. This is a great opportunity to invite guests to enjoy a cup of coffee and cookies and to also fellowship with those who attend a different service than you. If you attend the Traditional services, don't you miss visiting with your friends who attend the Contemporary service and vice versa? Let's meet in the courtyard! In the event of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.



walk

Book Fair

Sunday, March 20. FLC gym. 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Spring is right around the corner. Clean out those closets and dust off that bookshelf! **We are in need of new and used books**, which can be dropped off in the Library or church office during the week. Thank you for your continued support of our library.



work

Women's Bible Study

FLC 102. Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Have you ever said, "There's just not enough hours in the day"? Do you feel you don't have enough time to get all the things done that need to be done? Come to our Women's Bible Study on *Finding Balance*, the study of several women in the New Testament, beginning March 9, 2016. We will meet in FLC 102 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday through April 13, 2016. Facilitator is Virginia Garner.



walk

UMW Retreat

Real Love. Real Faith. Real Laughter.



walk

Come be filled by God's love. Be inspired to overflow into other's lives. Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24. Hilton Garden Inn - the Woodlands. Guest speaker is Karen Cunningham. Early registration: February 14 thru March 20. *Questions?* Contact [Pam Anthes](#) or [Cyndi Miller](#). For more information, click [here](#) to see the flyer with full details on prices for lodging and meals.

Hour of Prayer

Tuesday, March 8. Fellowship Hall. 7 - 8 p.m.

Join us for music and prayer. HeBrews Coffee House serves complimentary coffee from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. for those attending the Hour of Prayer.



walk

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26. Begins at 2 p.m.

It will be on the grounds of BCUMC. We are collecting candy and prizes to stuff eggs. Please drop off your donations at the church office. We are inviting the surrounding community, so we need lots of goodies!

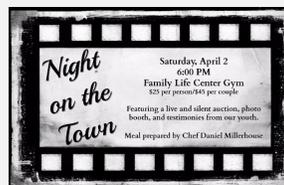


work

Night on the Town

Saturday, April 2. Youth Fundraiser.

Mark your calendars now! Our annual youth fundraiser that helps with the cost of mission trips, camps, and retreats is just around the corner. Chef Daniel Millerhouse will be catering our meal again this year, so get excited! We will need all hands on deck - including parents - to prepare for this amazing night. Auction items are needed, plus hands and feet to organize, sell tickets, take money the night of, serve the meal...the list goes on and on.



work

Youth [RSVP](#) to help. Adults [RSVP](#) to help. Questions? Please contact [Lisa](#) ASAP.

To make dinner reservations click [here](#).

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

Fellowship Friday / Energizers

March 18. Fellowship Hall. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and drinks are provided.



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. The theme for March is "St. Patrick's Day" and the entertainment is *Jubilee Banjo Band*.

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

Pray Together

Prayer Room in Wesley. Wednesdays @ 9:15 a.m.

CORRECTION: For six weeks, beginning February 24, we will change our meeting location to the **Prayer Room in the Wesley building**. Are you free on Wednesday mornings? Want someone to join with you in prayer? Come for *A Time to Pray Together* as we lift up our concerns and rejoice in our joys.



walk

Blessings, **James Sharp, Communications Director**

281.463.2330 X109

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