



bearcreekumc.org

March 9th
2017

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

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Are you daily continuing in your journey deeper into grace? Are you more like Jesus now than you were ever before? Is the light of Christ growing more evident in you? Do you find yourself loving God and people more and more? Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit abundant and sweet in you?



walk

In the latest edition of the *Circuit Rider*, Paul Franklyn's article, "The Methodists Way of Making Disciples: 3-5-5-1," describes John Wesley's foundational instruction for growing in faith and love. The overlooked key in most Christians' lives is the necessity of the church. There are no isolated followers of Jesus; there is no Christianity separate from the church; no one can live out their faith apart from the fellowship of other believers. Wesley was adamant that Christians need to "watch over one another in love." By organizing Class Meetings, he provided a support structure to make that a reality. Franklyn lays out the basic curriculum of the Methodist life:

3-General Rules

A *rule* is a *way of life*. Wesley summarized the Christian life in three simple guiding rules:

1. Do no harm.
Avoid evil and do not participate in activities that do no honor God or respect other people.
2. Do good.
Wesley described this as, "Being in every kind merciful after their power; as they

have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men."

3. Stay in love with God.

He actually said, "By attending upon all the ordinances of God." We participate in the worship and work of the church so that our love for God increases.

5-Character of a Methodist

What is to identify us as Methodists are the habits we have, the way we live:

1. A Methodist loves God.
2. A Methodist rejoices in God.
3. A Methodist gives thanks.
4. A Methodist prays constantly.
5. A Methodist loves others.

We aren't different from other Christians in this, except that we emphasize the discipline required-hence, our name (we have *methods*, practices, we follow). We are marked as followers of Jesus because we reflect Jesus in our daily lives.

5-Means of Grace

Wesley recognized our tendency to allow the love of God and others to grow cold and us to drift away from the gift of God's grace. We are always in need of grace. Because our Father loves us and knows us, he provide us with "means of grace"-ordinary channels that God uses to draw us into a more faithful relationship with him. Included are:

1. Praying
2. Searching scripture
3. Receiving the Lord's Supper
4. Fasting
5. Conferencing (worshipping together and meeting together)

We reorder our lives by sharing in this outward signs, words, and actions that point to an invisible divine grace.

1-Wesleyan Covenant for Renewal

The journey with Christ is hard. Our paths sometimes develop potholes. Wesley offered a way for us to renew our commitment to Christ through five steps:

1. Confide in God
2. Compose your spirit
3. Claim the covenant
4. Choose faithfulness
5. Connect to God in prayer

Then rekindled Christians worshipped together as a sign of their promises to God.

While this looks like a lot, it's not. It's just falling in love...together...with God.

Safe Sanctuary Training

March 19 @ 12:15pm. Open to all.

Safe Sanctuary is a set of policies and procedures we implement in order to keep our kids in a safe and nurturing environment. Safe Sanctuary training is required for all adults working with children under the age of 18.



work

Throughout the gospels, Jesus provides teachings on providing a peaceable kingdom for all of God's people, including our most precious gifts, our children and youth (Matthew 5:9, Luke 18:15-17). The peaceable kingdom begins with sanctuary.

Safe Sanctuary certification renewal is required every year. Our next Safe Sanctuary training is Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 12:15pm in FLC 212-213 and should take approximately 30 minutes. To help expedite the training, please [download](#), print and complete and/or sign Appendix C, D, F, G-1, G-2 and H. Contact the church office, 281.463.2330, for more information.

Books with Friends

Book Club in the Library. Open to all.

Join us three times this year for a book discussion group sponsored by the BCUMC Library and the UMW.



Our first meeting will be April 23 from 4:00 to 5:30pm in the Library and/or Narthex of the Fellowship Hall. Our first book is *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*, by Beth Moore. You are responsible for purchasing your own book, which is available at [Lifeway](#) for \$12.49 (half-price until March 20, 2017!) You will also find a description of the book here.

We will meet again on June 10 and October 29. Books for those dates will be communicated once they are determined. We hope to see you there!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15 @ 2pm.

The BCUMC Children's Council would appreciate your assistance with this year's Egg Hunt. We need non-chocolate candy, empty plastic eggs and volunteers to help work the event. You may drop off your donation at the church office. Contact [John Henley](#) if you would like to help during the event.



BCUMC UMW Lunch at the Creek

Old-fashioned Fried Chicken Dinner.

The Bear Creek UMC United Methodist Women invite all ladies to a dinner on Sunday, March 26 at 12:15pm in the Family Life Center gym. The guest speaker is Dr. Jacque Colbert; her topic is: *Iron Sharpens Iron - Women's Strengths*.

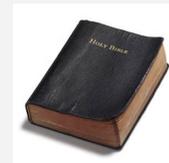


There will be door prizes and a silent auction. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Courtyard between services on Sunday, March 5, 12 and 19 or in the church office. Questions? Contact [Cyndi Miller](#).

Women's Sunday Evening Bible Study

FLC 102 @ 5pm.

As Christians, we are not promised lives of ease. Often it takes just a small moment of beauty to regain hope and continue on when life is chaotic and unpredictable. Only when we learn to spot the lovely in the midst of hardship can we experience the transcendent peace of God that keeps us persevering when we want to give up.



walk

In this 7-session Bible study, Annie F. Downs examines the ordinary people of the Bible - fishermen, gardeners, women, soldiers - to reveal the moments they found beauty in the darkest circumstances and hope in God's timing. Because they trusted in this: He makes everything beautiful in His time.

Join us in Room 102 of the Family Life Center from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, February 26 through March 12.

Youth News

Have a fun and safe Spring Break!

Come join us at 9:30am as we continue our study of Jesus' Parables and Worship at 11:00am this Sunday, March 12. These will be our only Youth activities this week, due to Spring Break (*NO Youth @5 or Wednesday Faith Groups*). Our regular schedule resumes on Sunday, March 19.



walk

We are asking all students and parents interested in having **Night on the Range** to please come to the planning session on Sunday, March 19 at 4:00pm in FLC 205/206.

Contact [Lea Bynum](#) or [John Henley](#) with questions.

AWANA on Wednesdays

March 15, 2017 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



worship

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, March 15, 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

March 17, 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. 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 March 10 from 10:00am to 1:30pm.*** The theme for March is *St Patrick's Day* and the entertainment is Bear Creek UMC School Children. ***Please note that Fellowship Friday will not meet in April due to Good Friday.***

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

