



bearcreekumc.org

March 17th

2016

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

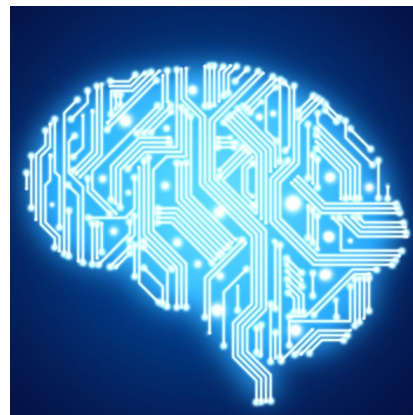
Alternative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

Throughout the Old Testament we see the rituals of presenting offerings: burnt offerings, peace offerings, grain and drink offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings, atonement. Constantly giving, sacrificing, watching much of it go up in smoke. The people of God were shaped by this rhythm of giving. It was expected:

"They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed"

(Deuteronomy 16:16). Then in the gospel we watch Mary break open the jar of expensive perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus (John 12:3). It was a ridiculous, impractical act of "waste" (vv 4-5). Yet, Jesus was honored by it (v 7).



walk

There's an extravagance to worship. Worship is synonymous with lavishness. Why? Because our God is an excessively generous Father. When we give to God we are made aware that God gives to us. This is never more evident than at this time of year. As we come to Holy Week, we can see the cross on the horizon, the ultimate sacrifice. All other religions make sacrifices for God but only our God makes a sacrifice for us. How else can we respond but in opening our uplifted hands in praise? And when we do

that we cannot hold on to things we value; we become givers. In an attitude of worship we discover that blessings are poured out to us not to increase our standard of living but to increase our standard of giving, celebrating with Martin Luther who said, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." It turns out that giving is a gift!

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

Book Fair

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

This Sunday is our Book Fair. After you have breakfast, shop for some new reading material!



work

Third Sunday Breakfast

This Sunday, March 20. FLC gym. 8:00 a.m.

Get ready for another fantastic feast, prepared this month by the *United Disciples* Sunday School class. Enjoy breakfast, music and fellowship. Bring the whole family & invite a friend!



work

Special Hour of Prayer | Holy Week

Tuesday, March 22. Fellowship Hall. 7:00 p.m.

The Prayer Ministry team will host a special Hour of Prayer, leading us in a time of contemplation through the Stations of the Cross. Focusing on a series of 14 images, with scripture readings and music, we will journey the Via Dolorosa (the Way of Sorrows) with Jesus.



worship

Rummage Sale this Summer

Sunday, July 15 & 16. Family Life Center Gym.

In July the *Family Missions Committee* will be sponsoring a rummage sale. Please start saving your 'treasures' for us. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help fund our continued

Angel Tree activities and our other community outreach events such as **The Day of Thanks & Giving**. We will be collecting items daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 10 through 13. No major appliances, non-working TVs or tube-type TVs please. Thank you!



work

Saturday in Service

April 16. BCUMC Grounds. 8:30 a.m.

Save the Date! Please plan to join us in service as the Board of Trustee provides our church members with a variety of projects on and off campus.

- Snack Breakfast from 8:30 to 9:00
- Commissioning at 8:45
- Projects begin at 9:00

List of projects to choose from:

Children's Ministries - making place mats for Assisted Living/Nursing Home residents

Sanctuary - checking pencils, pads, etc. are in order in pews

Sanctuary - deep clean pews

Deck and rail painting - Ministry Village

Playground - lay down pallet of grass

Power washing - designated areas

Man on the Street Bags (100 bags)

Parsonage clean up - two side yards and reconnect storage unit

Habitat for Humanity - deconstruction (18 yrs & older)

United Methodist Women - Mission of Yaweh and projects yet to be determined



work

UMW Retreat

Real Love. Real Faith. Real Laughter.



walk

The deadline to register and take advantage of Early Bird

Rates and guarantee a room for an overnight stay **is this Sunday, March 20**. Late Registration after this date is as space allows and rates for the Full & Partial retreat increase by \$50.

We have registration forms in the church office and also will have a registration table setup in the courtyard between church services.

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.

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!

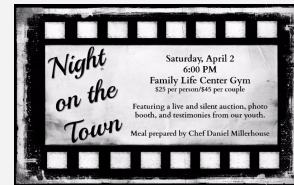


work

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

April 8. 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 "Spring Time" and the entertainment is Kathy Aaron.

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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