



bearcreekumc.org

March 30th

2016

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

Alternative Thoughts

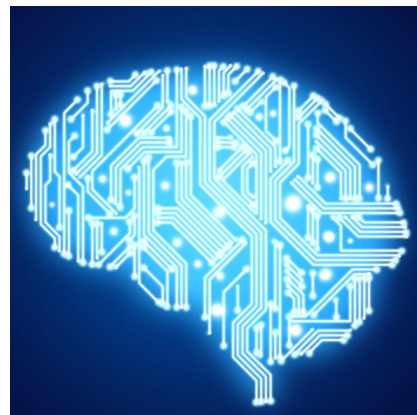
by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

When I got married I never imagined how much I would change, how much I would have to change, how much I needed to change. I was in love and I had to learn the true nature of love. Marriage is a relationship that redefines your center. There was I; there is we. Now you are committed to care about your spouse's needs, desires, and dreams as if they were your own.

Because it's not natural, it requires time and effort to learn the joy of sacrifice.

Somewhere along the way (and we backslide and we have to rediscover it over and over) have to become want to. That's love - not simply as an end product, but the willingness to grow as you make the journey together. After all these years, though I'm still not the husband I want to be, I have more love for my bride than ever.

The way of love is the way of discipleship. We don't read the Bible and share in Sunday school and listen to sermons so we can learn all the requirements we have to meet to satisfy God. Being a disciple is growing in love. The church (that's each of us and all of us) is the bride of Christ. We have this groom who ridiculously loves us - and it's not



walk

because we are the belle of the ball. If we ever were Snow White, we drifted. Yet we are loved. In response, we want to please the groom. But it's hard: it feels like doing things because we have to. Love keeps us working at it, changing, growing. Have to fades into want to (and we backslide and we have to rediscover it over and over). One day a complete change will take place when we will love fully and completely. Until then, we keep at it day after day.

Single Worship Service - April 3

10:30 a.m. Only one Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

This Sunday we will have only one Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please make note of this special service. **Also, there is *no* Children's Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., but we *will* have Children's Sunday School at 11:00 a.m.** Thank you!



worship

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

Children's Summer Registration

Sign up today! District Camp. Tennis. VBS.

Visit the [children's page](#) on our website for dates, locations, payment methods and registration forms. District camp requires a \$100 deposit, due by April 24. Questions? Contact [John Henley](#) for more information.

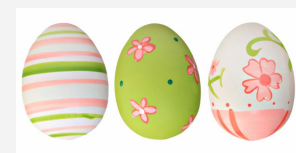


walk

Thank You!

Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers.

We had a great turnout for our egg hunt on Saturday and we know that it wouldn't have happened without our terrific volunteers, so Thank You!



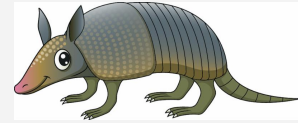
work

Also, if you have plastic eggs that you no longer need, we would love it if you would bring

them to church. We will have collection baskets in the office and the Narthex of the Sanctuary. This will help us get ready for next year's hunt, as we hide several hundred eggs every year.

Summer Reading Program

Mondays in June and July. 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.



walk

Get ready for the Summer Story Program (for 1 year to kindergarten) and the Summer Reading Program (must have completed 1st through 6th grades) happening on Mondays: June 6, 13, 27 and July 11, 18, 25 in the Bear Creek UMC Library. Come **Read Your Way Across Texas!**

General Conference

Message from Dr. Bynum.



walk

I want to encourage the church to pray, each day at 9 a.m., leading up to General Conference, which takes place May 10 to 20. Upper Room is providing a resource of [60 daily devotions](#) (**link has been corrected**) that can be downloaded as a pdf and/or receive daily emails or texts from them to prompt prayer.

UMCOR

Flood relief. Help our neighbors here in Texas.



work

The Advance Number for UMCOR Domestic Disaster response is 901670. *Texas Flooding* should be in the memo and all checks made out to UMCOR, **not** Bear Creek UMC. Visit the UMCOR [website](#) for more information about their relief programs around the world.

Peanut Butter, Jelly and Tuna

Bring your donations on Sunday, April 3.



work

It's that time again. The response has been fantastic - let's keep it going and please note that we are also collecting tuna.

The Houston Northwest Community Center food pantry is located on our church property. **On an average pantry night 125 families are served, representing 600+ individuals.** We will have greeters at the door on the first Sunday each month to accept your donations.

Saturday in Service

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



work

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

Visit our [website](#) for a complete list of projects. Visit the Saturday in Service table in the Courtyard on the following Sundays to sign up: March 27, April 3 and 10.

Please note: Seekers Sunday School class is leading projects #2 & #3 (Sanctuary 2a & 2b), but all adults are welcome to sign up. Also, the sign-up sheet for project #1 (Children's Ministries) will be in the Tree House and for project #12 (Youth) will be in the Youth Lounge on Sunday mornings rather than at the sign up table in the Courtyard.

UMW Retreat

Real Love. Real Faith. Real Laughter.



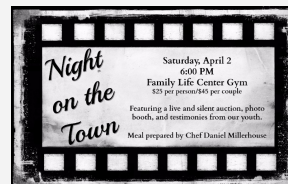
walk

Registration for the Women's Retreat is continuing through Sunday, April 17. Registration forms are available [online](#) and also in the church office. Additionally, there are two more Sundays you may register between church services - Sunday, April 10 and Sunday, April 17.

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.

Night on the Town

This Saturday, April 2. Youth Fundraiser.



work

We hope you have made your reservations and are looking forward to attending this fabulous event. Bring your appetite!

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

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.

On April 6 we will return to our normal location. 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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