



bearcreekumc.org

April 6th
2017

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

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

It's hard to draw a crowd for Holy Week. Sure, we like Palm Sunday: there's the excitement of a parade! We love Easter: there's the joy of resurrection and new clothes and good food! But all the rest of that stuff...

- teaching in the temple...humdrum;
- the spectacle Jesus causes when destroying the temple... awkward;
- the Last Supper with talk about "my body" and "my blood"...unsettling image there;
- praying in the Garden of Gethsemane...very dark;
- the crucifixion with all the gory details and death and burial...glooomy;
- a Saturday sitting around thinking about a tomb...yawn.



walk

No wonder people prefer to skip the gory details and get on with the celebration.

But if you miss the context of Easter you miss Easter. If you don't know the whole story you miss the whole point. If you don't make the Holy Week journey you misunderstand who Jesus is.

As William Penn said, "No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown."

Let's face it, we don't like pain. Who wants to hurt or be around the hurting? We prefer to avoid grieving.

So we become calloused and guarded. We put up defenses to keep the threats at bay. We settle for detached numbness. We quit living life fully, mired in the status quo, never risking rollicking robustness.

In one of his last recordings, Johnny Cash sang a cover of a Nine Inch Nails song, "Hurt." He sang:
I hurt myself today
To see if I still feel
I focus on the pain
The only thing that's real...

I refuse to get to that place where I have grown hard and cold. I would rather be tender and alive, experiencing the whole adventure - even with its potential peril.

Holy Week is upon us. I praise God that Jesus was and is willing to enter our pain, to share in our sufferings, and to lead the way through agony. From a reliable source I hear that on the other side of calvary is jubilate, beyond defeat is triumph, through the tears there is delight, and with passion comes exuberance beyond our wildest dreams.

Holy Week

April 9 through 15.

Sunday, April 9: **Palm Sunday**

- 8:15 - Sanctuary
- 9:40 - Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 - Sanctuary



worship

Monday, April 10 @ 7pm (Fellowship Hall)

- Movie Night: *Jesus Christ Superstar* - Andrew Lloyd Webber's opera that rocked the world

Tuesday, April 11 @ 7pm (Fellowship Hall)

- Hour of Prayer
- Stations of the Cross

Thursday, April 13: **Maundy Thursday** @ 7pm (Fellowship Hall)

- The Journey of Jesus: A slideshow from the Bynums' trip to Israel
- Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 14: **Good Friday** @ 7pm (Sanctuary)

- *In Calvary's Shadow*: Tenebrae Service by the Chancel Choir

Saturday, April 15 @ 2pm

- Community Easter Egg Hunt (church campus)

Sunday, April 16: **EASTER!**

- 8:15 - Sanctuary
- 9:40 - Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 - Sanctuary

Easter Flower Cross

We have an Easter morning tradition of adorning a flower cross in the courtyard. We always have carnations available so everyone can join in but we also want to invite you to bring other flowers to include in the cross - share whatever is blooming in your garden!

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 14 @ 7pm in the Sanctuary.

The Chancel Choir will present *In Calvary's Shadow* during Good Friday services, April 14 at 7pm. Joining the choir will be singers from Cy Woods High School. The Chancel Choir is directed by Sean Saunders and accompanied by Diane Garrett.



In Calvary's Shadow is a deeply moving service of penitence and forgiveness. With elegant simplicity, it invites the faithful to experience Jesus' journey from betrayal to crucifixion with scripture readings and congregational singing. With arrangements of spirituals and gospel hymns, the piece also includes music by celebrated composer Victor Johnson.

Please join us as part of Bear Creek UMC's observance of Holy Week.

Croppin' at the Creek

April 21 and 22 in the Family Life Center.

Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22 - **Spring Special!** Looking for a gift for your mom, a mom friend or your daughter? Then look no further! Sign up and bring your guest and pay **half price** for them for the whole weekend or attending on Saturday (after your fully paid registration.) Woohoo! This will be a wonderful way to spend the weekend with them!



All crafters are welcome as we join together for fun and fellowship! We welcome all crafters... knitters, jewelry makers, scrapbookers (traditional and digital), etc. Our goal is to help you connect with other likeminded women, to be encouraged by them and to preserve your family's heritage! We promise you'll be glad you came! We are a fun group of ladies - we laugh, we cry, we eat - and the best thing is, we get things done!

Enjoy this fun and amazing weekend for only \$25 for Friday, \$50 for Saturday, or \$65 for both days. Your registration covers:

- Power in every room
- Table for Scrapbooking
- Table for shared equipment (Cricut, stamps, etc - as available)
- Water basin, soap and hand towels
- Coffee, water, and tea at meals
- Area to keep personal beverages cold (please mark your name for less confusion)
- Dinner provided on Friday evening
- Continental breakfast and box lunch on Saturday
- Light snack provided on Saturday evening (no dinner provided Saturday night; feel free to bring your own.)

Order your pictures, gather your supplies and register now: Friday night or Saturday or both! [Registration](#) must be made in advance. **Deadline is April 19th.** Come and create lasting memories! Proceeds will benefit local women's and children's missions/charities.

Palm Sunday Celebration for Youth

April 9 @ 5pm.

The BCUMC Family Missions Committee invites all BCUMC Youth to join us for a special Palm Sunday Celebration - *Fellowship, Fun and Food* - on Sunday, April 9 from 5 to 7pm.



walk

Special activities include:

- Test your skills on the basketball & soccer inflatables (Score the most goals and baskets and win the prizes)
- A Palm Sunday Scavenger Hunt
- Enjoy hot dogs & chips provided by the UMM
- Finish the evening with a super Sundae Bar (Everything you need to make the best sundae ever!!!)

Please plan to join us!

Save the Date

May 7 in the FLC gym.

We will have a blood drive Sunday, May 7. More details will follow. Please mark your calendar to donate!



work

Church Office Closures

April 14 and 17.

Please be aware that the church office will be closed on Good Friday, April 14 and Easter Monday, April 17.

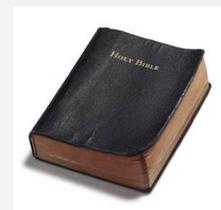


work

Women's Bible Study

April 23 @ 5pm in the FLC 102.

Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy is a women's Bible study of Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy. This 6-week study by Kelly Minter delves into the virtuous character of Ruth, her unique relationship with her mother-in-law Naomi, and her blossoming love with Boaz. If you've ever felt devastated, struggled



walk

as a stranger, longed to be loved, or wept along the way, you'll find a loyal sister in Ruth.

This Sunday evening women's bible study will begin on April 23, 2017 from 5:00 to 6:30pm in room 102 of the Family Life Center. Join us!

Hour of Prayer

April 11 @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hour of Prayer is during Holy Week on Tuesday, April 11. It will be a special service of going to the Stations of the Cross digitally! Pastor Bynum will again lead the service. Come enjoy the experience with us! You do not have to even leave your seat, but plan to have your heart warmed!



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](#). You will also find a description of the book here.

We will meet again on June 3 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.

Our Community Easter Egg Hunt is just over a week away! We will have three different egg hunting areas on the playground: ages 0-2 years in area #1, ages 3-6 in area #2 and ages 7-10 in area #3. The Easter story will be read to the families before the egg hunt. Contact [John Henley](#) if you would like to help during the event.



Saturday in Service

Saturday, April 8 @ 8:30am.

Saturday-in-Service is your opportunity to help support BCUMC Ministry & Missions with campus-wide service projects for a maximum of 3 ½ hours on Saturday, April 8th.



There are various projects on the BCUMC campus for all skill levels, including: painting,

adding sand to the playground, cleaning pews, light gardening, power washing, and more. Service projects for both children's and youth ministries are being planned. All projects are underwritten by the BCUMC Trustees, so all that is needed is your presence and willingness to help.

A light snack breakfast begins at 8:30am, with service projects starting at 8:45am. All projects will be completed before noon.

Please visit the Trustees table between services this Sunday with questions and to sign up, or email the church [office](#).

Youth News

Night on the Range tickets for sale.

The signup deadline for Summer 2017 activities is this Sunday! We need all Youth who would like to participate in JUMMP (Jr High Mission trip, \$100) or UMARMY (Senior High Mission trip, \$75) to let us know by bringing your deposit (check or cash) to the church office; we will then email you a link to the online registration. Registration for Summer camp at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center is fully [online](#), including payment. We want all of our Bear Creek Youth who would like to participate be able to, but we **must** receive your deposit check to get your registration started.



walk

Tickets for *Night on the Range* (\$20 / individual or \$35 / couple) will be offered before and after worship services on Sunday, April 9. **Childcare is FREE, but must be reserved by April 23.** Please see a Youth to get your tickets and help support Youth Ministry trips this summer. Bless you in advance for your support, and if you aren't able to join us the evening of April 29 for good BBQ and entertainment, we appreciate donations of **any** amount, which will assist the youth in attending summer activities.

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

AWANA on Wednesdays

April 19, 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, April 19, 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.
- **We will not have Awana on April 12 due to Holy Week services.**

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

April 21, 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 May 12 from 10:00am to 1:30pm.** The theme for May is *Mother's Day* and the entertainment is Harbor Light Choir. ***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

