



bearcreekumc.org

April 21st
2016

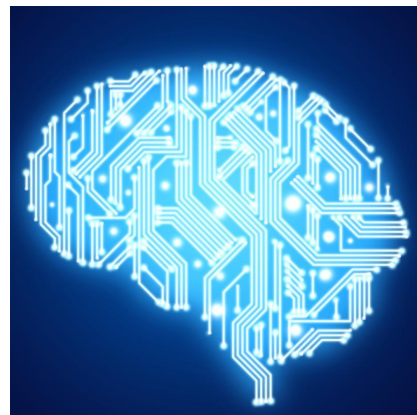
worship... walk... work...

Alternative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

What a week this has been!

Sunday night I was driving home from College Station when I was treated to a light show. It wasn't simply large bolts of lightning - there were those. No, I got to see the fingers of lightning that spread across the sky. It was awesome.



walk

Then came the rain. I thought it was just another heavy rain. Then the underpass at Prairie View was closed. Then people started driving with their flashers on. Then I got to the exit for home. I didn't make it home that night. Every path I tried was flooded. So I parked in a driveway of a business and I sat in my car and watched it rain...and rain...and rain. By Monday morning, the devastation was apparent: all those flooded homes, all those flooded cars, all those who lost their lives.

I was reminded, yet again, nature wins. Despite our vast knowledge, sophisticated technology, and profound power, nature wins. Whether through ravaging storms or

gradual decay, nature wins. No matter how much we think we are an advanced culture, nature wins. Nature always wins.

Kind of humbling, isn't it? In fact, it would be crushing if we were without the words of the psalmist who writes, "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!" (Psalm 93:4). When we are feeling engulfed, we have a safe harbor: the hands of the Lord.

I know some people refer to these destructive events as an "act of God." This was not an act of God; this was an act of nature. This was a sign of the brokenness of our world and our desperate need for God. *God does not desire suffering and death for any of us.* Instead, we celebrate the good news that the One who is over the raging waters plunges into the torrent with us. We are not alone; we are not abandoned; we are not helpless. We are helped; we are rescued; we are loved. While the storm may drive us to God, the storm will drive God to us.

This Sunday we get to come together to worship this good God, to thank God for being God.

Youth Summer Registration Open

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



walk

Summer registration deadline is this Sunday, April 24!

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.

For students that participated in this year's Night on the Town fundraiser, the discount from the total price will be \$75.00 per trip.

Children's Summer Registration

Sign up today! District Camp. Tennis. VBS.



walk

Summer registration deadline is this Sunday, April 24. 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.

Summer Fun Days & Science Camp

Register now through May 6. Tu, Wed, Th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



walk

Get ready for a fun-filled time when you attend our Summer Fun Days and/or Science Camp. Week One is June 14 to 16. Week Two is June 28 to 30. Registration forms are in the school office.

Summer Fun Days - \$80/week

[for 2 yrs before Sept. 1 (currently enrolled) and 3 yrs before Sept. 1 (new students) through entering kindergarten]

- High energy, developmentally appropriate activities
- Indoor & Outdoor play
- Loads of summer fun!
- Limited enrollment
- Staffed by BCUMC School teachers

Science Camp - \$90/week

(children that have completed kindergarten - 2nd grade)

- Hands-on
- Exploration
- Experiments
- Games
- Indoor & Outdoor
- Staffed by BCUMC School teachers

Croppin' at the Creek

May 13 and 14. Mother's Day Special.

Looking for a gift for your mom or daughter? Sign up and pay for yourself and your mom or daughter is **half price!** Click [here](#) for details and to register.



work

Saturday in Service Success!

Campus work day. Great work!



Thank you to all who participated in our Saturday in Service work day here at Bear Creek UMC. Click [here](#) to see photos our congregation in action.

work

BCUMC School Spirit Night

April 28. Freddy's. 5 - 9 p.m.

Come out to Freddy's Frozen Custard on Thursday, April 28 from 5 to 9 p.m. and support our school! Freddy's is located at 15518 Fm 529 Rd, Houston, TX 77095.



work

Click to add to your calendar: [iCal](#), [Google](#), [Outlook](#).

Ohio Northern University Singers

Saturday, May 14. Sanctuary. 7 p.m.

Bear Creek UMC Music Ministry is excited to host a concert by the Ohio Northern University Singers on Saturday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. Ohio Northern is a private United Methodist Church-affiliated university located in Ada, Ohio. The 39-voice ensemble also performed at Bear Creek UMC two years ago as a part of their 2014 U.S. concert tour.



walk/work

The concert is free. A love offering will be collected to help defray tour expenses. To further reduce expenses, we are asking members of our congregation to be host families for the choir members on Saturday evening. ***There will be a host sign-up sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex and Fellowship Hall before and after services this Sunday.*** Host families will take their singer(s) home after the concert and, on Sunday morning, provide breakfast and a ride back to the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know these students and to show off your Houston hospitality.

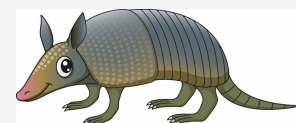
If you can host one or more singers, please contact either:

[Kay Kennedy](#) ~ 281-855-2520 or [Nancy Vickers](#) ~ 281 217-2185. Thank you!

Click to add to your calendar: [iCal](#), [Google](#), [Outlook](#).

Summer Reading Program

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



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.

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.



walk

Peanut Butter, Jelly and Tuna

Bring your donations on Sunday, May 1.

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.



work

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.

Rummage Sale this Summer

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.

work

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!

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

May 13. 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 May is "Mother's Day" and the entertainment is *Party of 2*.

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

FLC Room 101. Meets @ 9:15 a.m.

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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