



bearcreekumc.org

April 28th

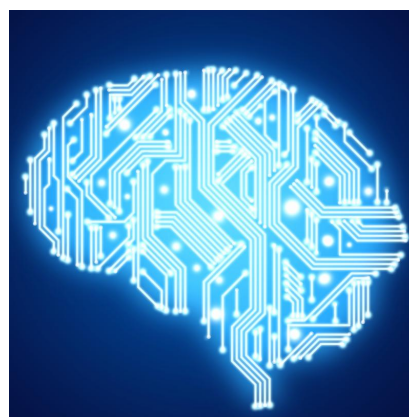
2016

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

Alternative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

Now we are in the aftermath of the flood, in that transition time when the news cameras slowly fade away and the headlines turn to another crisis. For most people the drama of last week will become a memory as life starts getting back to normal. For those whose houses were swamped, the hard work has just begun: sorting through what is salvageable, wrestling with insurance adjusters, scheduling contractors, buying everything that has to be replaced, trying to figure out how to pay for it all, and trying to process all the emotional baggage that comes with the package.



walk

This past Sunday we had four confirmations and three baptisms of young people. It was a great celebration, a spiritual milestone. Following the service, the paparazzi and mamarazzi captured the moment with pictures for another page in the scrapbook. The next day, these youth had to go back to school. Most of their classmates will be unable to relate to what this confirmation class has been through and what commitments they have made. Life is back to normal...except for those who knelt before God. Now the hard

work begins. We call that discipleship. Oswald Chambers said, "The 'show business,' which is so incorporated into our view of Christian work today, has caused us to drift far from Our Lord's conception of discipleship. It is instilled in us to think that we have to do exceptional things for God; we have not. We have to be exceptional in ordinary things, to be holy in mean streets, among mean people, surrounded by sordid sinners. That is not learned in five minutes." He means Jesus' disciples walk with him in real, ordinary life.

Discipleship means focusing on what Jesus is doing and then joining in on what he is doing. That comes together in the flood. Where there is hurt, Jesus offers healing. Where there is anxiety, Jesus offers peace. Where there is despair, Jesus offers hope. Where there is a sense of abandonment, Jesus offers love. Jesus offers himself; Jesus offers us, the Body of Christ. As we serve those who are in need we embody Jesus' presence in their lives.

We are doing all we can as a church to love our neighbors by providing:

- cleaning supplies,
- meals,
- childcare,
- prayers
- work teams, and
- a listening ear and a welcoming heart.

We are constantly assessing how we can offer the help that helps. Over the next several weeks our response will change as needs change. As we meet others' needs, here is what we need from you:

- patience,
- generosity,
- willingness to work,
- specific skills you may have,
- specific needs of the flood victims,
- you communicating this to our church staff and leaders so we know what we are dealing with and what we can offer.

Jesus will use whatever you give him, even if all you have is a little bread and a few fish. Additionally, he will provide the partnership of other churches and organizations and together we will get our area back on its feet. Jesus is out there walking on the water. Jesus will use whatever you give him, even if all you have is a little bread and a few fish. Additionally, he will provide the partnership of other churches and organizations and together we will get our area back on its feet. Jesus is out there walking on the water. It's time to get out of the boat and follow him.

Be the hands and feet of Christ.

Bear Creek was the hardest hit area during the recent flooding. Many streets are still underwater and the impact is overwhelming - physically, financially, emotionally and spiritually. Unfortunately, as life gets back to normal and other events steal the headlines, this flood will be just a memory for most; but for the residents of Bear Creek it will be an ongoing recovery process. The greatest challenge will be for homeowners who have no flood insurance. So much work remains to be done.



work

We know lots of people want to help. As our neighborhood's church, we are committed to providing long-term help. Though we were caught off guard by this disaster, we have formulated a plan to love our neighbors in tangible ways. Our intention is to continue this effort throughout May, then assess what needs to happen beyond that. To make this ministry a reality we need you to be the hands and feet of Christ. Please prayerfully respond to as many service opportunities as possible. Here is a list of opportunities to serve:

- Make / pack sack dinners* each Tuesday & Thursday beginning April 28
- Prepare and serve hot meals* each Wednesday beginning April 27
- Walk Bear Creek & Hearthstone and pray for / pray with our neighbors on:
 - ~ Saturday, April 30 - 11:00 a.m.
 - ~ Sunday, May 1 - 7:00 p.m.
- Join a work team - skilled labor (ie: drywall repair) and cleaning crews needed
- Donate cleaning supplies, clothes, canned goods and money - Saturday, April 30 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. - collection station in our parking lot
- Help us provide free child care (for infant to 5th grade) each Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for those repairing/cleaning their flood-damaged homes; April 30 - May 28
- **We have set up a disaster relief fund to benefit our local community. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to: *Bear Creek UMC* and write "flood relief" in the memo.**

Work teams will begin this Saturday, April 30 - meet in church parking lot at 9 a.m.
Contact the church office, 281.463.2330, to volunteer.

**sack dinners and hot meals will be served from 6 to 7 p.m., so preparation time will vary depending on the size of the volunteer group preparing them.*

Flood Relief Drive

Saturday, April 30. Parking lot. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bear Creek UMC and the Deputy Memorial Fund will have a collection center set up in the parking lot of our church on



work

Saturday. We will be accepting donations of water, canned goods, clothing, cleaning supplies and cash/checks to benefit victims of the recent flooding. All donations will go to the American Red Cross to be dispersed to those in need in our local community.

We are asking for volunteers to help sort and load the donations into the 18-wheeler that will then deliver the donations to the *Red Cross*.

Questions? Contact Wendi Perez, 713.820.2146. Please make all checks payable to: *American Red Cross*.

Prayer Ministry to Flooding Victims

4th Tuesday.

The Prayer Ministry Team has decided to keep the *Hour of Prayer* on the 2nd Tuesday, but to change the 4th Tuesday to a new entity.



walk/worship

Following Jesus... is our name for this new event! You can contact [Linda Dunn](#) with any ideas for the format of the evening.

On this past 4th Tuesday, April 26, *Hour of Prayer* took our prayers to the street.

Following Jesus...we will walk, in prayer teams, on several different occasions through the Bear Creek area. Each time we will meet in the Bear Creek UMC parking lot out by the Ministry Village.

The dates and times are:

- Saturday, April 30 - 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 1 - 7:00 p.m.

Please join us to pray for our neighbors while **Following Jesus**.

In Christ's Love,
the BCUMC Prayer Ministry Team

Summer Registration Deadline

Extended through this Sunday, April 30.

If you have not already registered your child(ren) for Summer Camps/Events, the deadline has been extended.

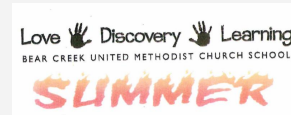
Please note: the price for District Camp increases by \$50 beginning May 1. Don't delay, register today!



walk

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

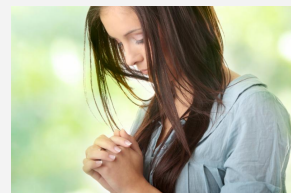
(children that have completed kindergarten - 2nd grade)

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

New Faith Group for Adults

4-week Study. Sundays @ 9:40 a.m. FLC room 211.

Not currently in a Sunday School class? Want to try one? Or, do you just want to learn more about prayer and how to



walk

pray? Join us as often as you can in the four weeks beginning May 8, continuing through May 29. Our study is *Before Amen* by Max Lucado, facilitated by Nancy Vickers. You will be provided with **simple tools to build a stronger, deeper prayer life.**

Safe Sanctuary Training

Required for those volunteering with children & youth.

We will have Safe Sanctuary training on the following days:

- Sunday, May 1 @ 12:30 p.m. in FLC 212-213
- Tuesday, May 10 @ 6:30 p.m. in FLC 102

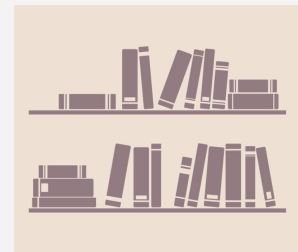


work

Books and Breakfast

May 15. Family Life Center Gym. Begins at 8 a.m.

You are going to want to be here for an awesome **3rd Sunday breakfast** prepared by the *Betwixt and Between* Sunday School Class. Also, that morning the library will have their last **Book Fair** until September, so make sure you come stock up on summer reading material. See you there!



walk

Library Special Display

Scale models on display. Limited time.

Our library has scaled models of the **Tabernacle**, **Solomon's Temple** and the **Ark of the Covenant** on display for limited time. Come by and take a look!



walk

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

BCUMC School Spirit Night

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

Come out to Freddy's Frozen Custard **tonight** - 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.

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



work

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.

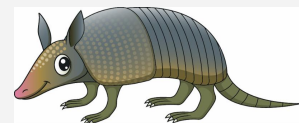
If you can host one or more singers, please contact either:

[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.



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!**

Peanut Butter, Jelly and Tuna

Bring your donations **THIS** 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

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.

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

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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