



bearcreekumc.org

May 12th
2016

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

Alternative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

I am sitting in the General Conference of the United Methodist Church for ten days of worship, discussion, debate, and discernment. I've been a spectator before, but this is my first time to attend as a delegate. What I have found fascinating is the challenge of communication. We have people from the United Methodist Church around the world and we have representatives of the full spectrum of theological understanding. We have heard extended discussion of what it means to be in holy conferencing: honoring each other with our full attention, seeking to understand more than to simply be heard, working for love rather than victory. We have gone through a long process of agreeing on the rules by which we will function. And in the good fashion of Robert's Rules of Order we have even voted on whether we are ready to vote. All of this to set the stage to deal with hundreds of resolutions being brought forward.



walk

This is a long, arduous process that leaves you wondering why we go through it.

But then there is worship.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, remembering when the disciples gathered together in one place to be in prayer and searching scripture and suddenly there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that all the languages of those drawn to the apostles could hear and understand. I have been given a vision of Pentecost at General Conference. As we have worshiped together we have spoken God's Word and words of praise in French, Portuguese, Swahili (with different dialects), Korean, Spanish, German, American Sign Language, and English. It's amazing how God's grace transcends all boundaries and obstacles.

In this information age we have so many means to be in touch, to interface. Yet, communication is as demanding as ever. Ironically, nothing - not emailing, not texting, not tweeting, not instagramming - has ever been found to top facetime. Not the app, but actual face-to-face, heart-to-heart conversation. And here's the good news: we have a Father who wants to speak to us just that way, who will speak to us if we will listen.

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord says:

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it (55:10-11).

Only when we set our hearts on God by gathering together to listen to God through his Word and speak to God through our prayers can we hope to be truly one, united in his kingdom, in his purpose for the world. Only then will we be willing to do the hard work of loving each other and being in fellowship with each other. Only then will we see the power of grace at work in this world.

On this Pentecost I will still be in Portland, but we will be united in worship through the Spirit (Colossians 2:5). Not even distance can separate us. God is that good at bringing us together.

Thanks for being the church.

Call to Action

Be the hands and feet of Christ.

Bear Creek was the hardest hit area during the recent flooding. 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



work

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.

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
- Prepare and serve hot meals* each Wednesday
- Join a work team - skilled labor (ie: drywall repair) and cleaning crews needed
- 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
- **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.**
- **We are in need of the following donations: bleach (tighten that cap!), paper towels, toilet paper, heavy duty trash bags (33 or 39 gal.), bug spray.**

On Sunday, please take your "cleaning supply offering" to the FLC Gym and place them on a table in the back.

Work teams will continue this Saturday, May 14 - 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.*

Third Sunday Breakfast

Family Life Center Gym. 8:00 a.m. May 15.

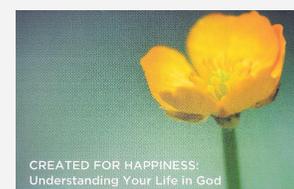
This Sunday the Betwixt and Between Sunday School class is preparing an amazing breakfast just for you, so make sure you're there to enjoy it!



work

UMW Summer Bible Study

Saturday, June 4. Fellowship Hall. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



CREATED FOR HAPPINESS:
Understanding Your Life in God

Start the summer spiritually refreshed! Summer Bible Study at

walk

the Creek will be based on the book *Created for Happiness:*

Understanding Your Life in God by Cynthia A. Bond Hopson and Sarah Heaner

Lancaster. The study will be facilitated by guest speaker Reverend Nancy Kellond, a former BCUMC member.

Rev. Nancy Kellond was a charter member of BCUMC and experienced her call to ministry on Bear Creek's first mission trip to Haiti, later becoming an associate pastor at Bear Creek. She has served many churches as pastor, was a delegate to General Conference, and has participated in many mission trips. Nancy currently is teaching, writing, preaching, and leading retreats. She is a facilitator of the Conference Ministry called "Laity Unleashed" for lay persons who want to further explore God's call in their lives. She is an artist and enjoys traveling with her husband Bill and visiting with their seven grandchildren.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Books are available for purchase \$11 (while supplies last) in the Bear Creek UMC office, between Sunday church services beginning May 8, or you may purchase your own E-Book. **A reservation is required for child care.** Please call the church office, 281.463.2330, to reserve child care before May 20. A love offering will be taken for a community outreach project that specifically benefits women.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with Joy.

Psalms 126:3

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 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.**



walk

1/2 Price Book Fair This Sunday

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

Thank you to all who donated books for our Book Fair! We asked for donations and you responded in a big way. Please



come by the gym this Sunday between 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and stock up on summer reading material. Remember, this is the **last Book Fair** until September.

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

Ohio Northern University Singers

Saturday, May 14. Sanctuary. **7:30 p.m.**

The Ohio Northern University Singers concert is this Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 pm. The concert is free, but a love offering will be collected to help defray tour expenses. A big THANK YOU to all who are opening up their homes and hosting the singers!



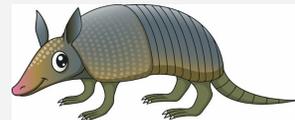
walk/work

Bring your family, bring your friends and come enjoy an evening of wonderful music!

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!** Click [here](#) for more details.

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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