



[bearcreekumc.org](http://bearcreekumc.org)

June 23rd  
2016

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

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## Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

One of my favorite authors is Timothy Keller, founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. Here is something he said that grabbed me: "We only fully grasp the gospel when we understand, as Paul did, that we are the worst sinner we know."

I said it grabbed me. I didn't say I liked it.

After all, there are a lot worse sinners around here. I'm not going to name names, but you know who you are.

On second thought, you probably don't...

Still, I'm pretty sure I'm not the worst.

Sure, there are those unrighteous thoughts nobody else can know about. And I say some things under my breath that nobody else can hear. And sometimes I get annoyed with people - but I don't let on. And I can't say I really love my enemies: if they strike me on the cheek I will, at the very least, pummel them in my heart. And I don't pray as much as I should. And I'm not always a willing servant like Jesus. And...

I don't need to go on. You get the idea. Just a lot of little stuff. But how can I be the worst sinner? Keller must be overstating it. You know how preachers are.

Except, I noticed something in my monologue here: there are worse sinners only if I am



*walk*

the benchmark being used to measure. I am here at the center of the conversation, hogging all the attention.

However, if God is at the center and if God is the standard then I am in deep trouble. Jesus said, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). I wish I could temper those words but Jesus doesn't leave any wiggle room.

God's purity, God's holiness, God's goodness is the standard by whom we are all judged. Standing next to God I am painfully aware of how unclean I am. "We're all sin-infected, sin-contaminated. Our best efforts are grease-stained rags" (Isaiah 64:6 Msg). My best is still a mess.

Since I know me more than I know anyone else, I know sin's stain goes all the way to the core. I am the worst sinner I know.

That's why the good news is so good.

In the 7th chapter of Luke, Jesus was invited to dinner at a Pharisee's house. His host became offended when a disreputable woman barged in and started washing Jesus feet with her tears, drying them with her hair, and anointing Jesus with expensive perfume. Jesus proceeded to tell a story about a two debtors - one owed a little and one owed more than he could ever repay. The banker, knowing neither could pay, forgave what each owed. Jesus asked Simon, "Which of them will love him more?"

The more sin, the more forgiven. The more forgiven, the more love.

If I really get that I am the worst sinner I know then I will be filled with so much grace and love that in the joy of that grace and love I will pour grace and love out to others.

I am glad somebody told me what a sinner I am and what a giver Jesus is.

See you Sunday when we worship and celebrate what a great God we have!

## *Youth Summer Activities*

Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

### **UM ARMY**

Our UM ARMY youth and adults leave for Jacksonville, TX this Sunday afternoon. Please be in prayer for them for safe travel, safety at their worksites and that God will be glorified in all that they do and say.

### **District Camp**

Our district church camp, for both Jr. and Sr. High students, is July 11-15 at Lakeview MCC in Palestine, TX.

### **Off-campus VBS**

We are going to have a two-day, off-campus VBS the third week of July. Details will be communicated soon.

Click [here](#) to view/download/print our summer calendar.

Contact [Lea Bynum](#) for more information regarding any of these activities.



## *KidZone Summer Activities*

Don't miss out! Sign up today.

### **Tuesday Tennis at Ten**

Meet at Bear Creek UMC Gym. Bring a sack lunch.

Play tennis, eat, and have fun with your family and friends!

Cost: one can of tennis balls!

June 28 and July 5, July 19, July 26

### **Secret Service Thursdays**

Meet at the church gym, share God's love, go out to eat!

Parents are needed for transportation.

Pre-registration forms are available in the church office.

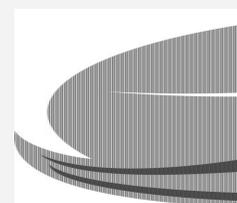
Who: 3 years to new 5th graders

When: July 7, 21 and 28

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cost: \$5 to \$10

Contact [John Henley](#) for more information or to sign up for any of these activities.



walk

## *Thank You*

To our VBS volunteers.

Thank you to all of our adult and youth VBS volunteers - you have impacted over 100 children this week by sharing the love of Christ with them through songs, games and stories.

Also, thank you to everyone who prepared and delivered snacks for our VBS volunteers - they were delicious and greatly appreciated.



work

## *Hurricane Information*

Be prepared for hurricane season.

At our last Church Council meeting it was suggested that we make hurricane information available to our congregation.

Please [click](#) here to view and/or print a PDF containing valuable information to help you prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.



work

## *iPray*

Prayer apps. Daily reminders.

We always want to equip you for your daily journey with Jesus.



walk

So, have you ever thought of using your smartphone as a prayer tool? There are apps available to help you be more regular in your conversations with God and to equip you to be a more consistent pray-er. Here are a few examples that are free in [Apple's App](#)

[Store](#) (the same or similar apps are available for Android):

- *PrayerMate* - provides prayers and building blocks of prayers and lets you make index cards on the app to prompt your prayers
- *Christian Prayer Book* - offers prayers and poems to help you pray
- *Centering Prayer* - for those who want to learn contemplative prayer and cultivate a deeper prayer life.

There are lots of others, both free and for purchase. If you need a spiritual boost, try one of these to see if they help.

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## *Kroger Rewards*

Proceeds benefit children and youth.

If you have a Kroger Plus card, please register [online](#). Simply enter the number 83014 and click "confirm." A percentage of each sale will help to fund Bear Creek UMC's scholarships.



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If you use your phone number at the register, call 800.576.4377 and select *Option 4* to obtain your Plus Card number. In order for each purchase to count, you must swipe your Kroger Plus card or use your alternate ID when shopping. If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, please stop by the Customer Service desk at any Kroger store.

**Our supporters who shopped at Kroger between 2-28-2016 and 5-28-2016 have contributed \$68.89!**

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## *Following Jesus...*

Fourth Tuesday. Fellowship Hall.

On June 28 we will study *What Our Founding Fathers Believed*, led by Linda Dunn. Please plan to attend to recognize our country's history and to show your support of persecuted Christians worldwide who would love to have our unalienable rights. This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m.



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## *Patriots, Do Your Part!*

Sing with us in celebration of July 4th.

Show your love for the USA! The Chancel Choir invites you to sing "American Anthem" with us for the church's annual 4th of July celebration service on **Sunday, July 3**. We'll be wearing red, white and blue and stars and stripes - USA casual!!



*worship*

High school and college-aged students, and adults of all ages are welcome! Come to any of three choir rehearsals - 7:00 p.m. on June 15, 22, or 29 - or come to all three. Wave your flag, lift your voice and join us for fun and fellowship!

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## Independence Day Celebration

Worship. Music. Food. Fellowship. July 3rd.

On Sunday, July 3rd we will have worship in the gym from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., followed by a pot luck lunch. The UMM will provide hamburgers and corn dogs. If your last name ends with A-M, please bring a side dish; N-Z please bring a dessert. We hope to see you there!

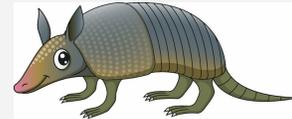


worship

## 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 27 and July 11, 18, 25 in the Bear Creek UMC Library. Come **Read Your Way Across Texas!** Click [here](#) for more details.



walk

## 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**.

Members of the Committee will be receiving donations in the FLC Gym during the following times:

- Sunday, July 10: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, July 11: 9 a.m. to Noon & 4 to 8 p.m
- Tuesday, July 12: 9 a.m. to Noon & 4 to 8 p.m
- Wednesday, July 13: 9 a.m. to Noon & 4 to 8 p.m

No major appliances, non-working TVs or tube-type TVs please. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



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

July 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. Only drinks are provided.

**UPDATE: We will meet over the summer!**



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**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 July is "Red, White and Blue" and the entertainment is Pat Gavin.

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## *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.



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## *Pray Together*

FLC 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.



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Blessings, **James Sharp, Communications Director**  
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