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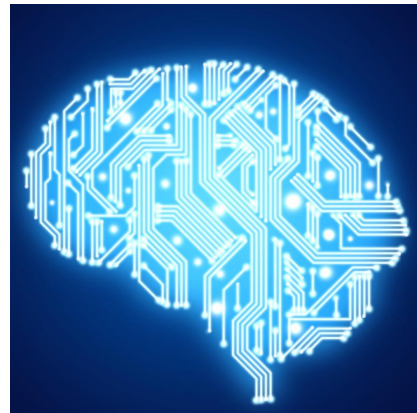
June 30th
2016

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

Altarnative Thoughts

by Dr. Jonathan Bynum

We have a mission: to make disciples. Jesus has chosen us to introduce him to all the people we encounter each day. Don't overthink it or overcomplicate it. When we introduce someone we draw attention to them, give their name, and share something about them that can be a point of connection with their new acquaintance. Pretty simple. And that's all Jesus is asking us to do for him. If that still freaks you out, here's a few suggestions.



walk

Pray for passion. Ask the Lord to refill you with the amazing, wonderful, crazy good news that Jesus loves you. Because if Jesus can love you - warts and all, sins and all - then he can love everyone. When the reality of his grace sinks in it sparks a fire in your soul that cannot be contained.

Smile. The father of Methodism, John Wesley, said, "Sour godliness is the devil's religion." Let the world know whose side you are on. Mother Teresa understood the power of a smile, "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." Smiles radiate. Smiles attract. Smiles welcome. Smiles connect.

Pay attention to first-time guests. We have a greeting time each week. We do that well, being warm and introducing ourselves. But there isn't enough time to get to know someone. So after the benediction, don't be in a rush to leave. Find that person you first met and go talk to them some more. Ask them questions. Offer them helpful information about the church. You might even invite them to lunch so you can enjoy more conversation with them.

Become friends with people who aren't Christians. The number one reason we are weak at making disciples is that we think everyone we know is a disciple already. That's because we insulate ourselves with other Christians, isolating us from those who haven't met Jesus yet. That's how untold millions remain untold. Make some new friends - especially that neighbor or coworker you think must be a heathen. Just remember, the Holy Spirit has already been tapping them on the shoulder.

Invite someone. Look at this data:

- According to Thom Rainer, only 2% of church people invite an unchurched person
- A 2003 study found 37% of Christians linked their conversion to being invited to church
- Martha Grace Reese's work showed 40% who joined first came because a friend invited

All you are doing is telling somebody why you are so glad to be a part of your church. You tell people about the restaurant you regularly patronize. Now care for your friends' souls as much as their taste buds. Even offer to pick them up so you can go to church together. You might be surprised by the results. Two words of encouragement: i) you won't be successful every time and ii) you need ask repeatedly, if necessary.

Disciples make disciples.

That's what Jesus said.

Independence Day Celebration

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

This Sunday, July 3rd we will have **a single worship service 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

Please note: We will have Nursery (birth to 2 yrs) and Lil' Church (3 yrs to 1st grade), but there will be no Sunday school.

Church Office Closure

July 1st and 4th for Independence Day.

Please note that the church office will be closed on Friday, July 1 and Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.



work

Church-wide Faith Groups

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

This fall we are going to begin a church-wide study for adults! We hope to have several groups of 8-10 people that will meet for 10-12



walk

weeks (Sept. thru Dec.) in multiple neighborhoods around the church so that attendance is convenient. This will be a great opportunity to reach out to a friend or neighbor.

We will need many volunteers to make this successful - hosts to open their homes to a group, facilitators to lead a group and, of course, participants to join a group. The curriculum, [Emotionally Healthy Spirituality](#), and training will be provided. Prayerfully consider how you will be involved. Contact the church office, 281.463.2330, to volunteer. Once we have hosts and facilitators, we will begin sign-ups for the various groups.

It's impossible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Let God make you whole!

Double Blessings

Bring your donations this Sunday, July 3 & again July 10.



work

BCUMC was challenged on Sunday to double our blessings through the Food Pantry. Last week the Houston Northwest Community Center Food Pantry was broken into and robbed of a significant amount their resources. We could easily be overwhelmed by anger. Instead, we are going to overwhelm others with love. We do what Jesus does:

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17-21).

We have already made the pantry more secure with deadbolt locks and fortifying the windows. Now we need to help refill the shelves. This Sunday, July 3, is our monthly offering of peanut butter, jelly, and tuna. **In addition, let's bring a second food offering on July 10.** Feel free to bring canned fruit, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, broth, soup, or canned pasta (like ravioli or spaghetti and meatballs). Finally, we offer a special thanks to HEB and Food Town for their generosity in response to this unfortunate event!

Youth Summer Activities

Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

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.



walk

KidZone Summer Activities

Don't miss out! Sign up today.

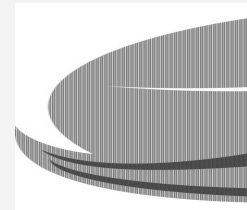
Tuesday Tennis at Ten

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!
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.

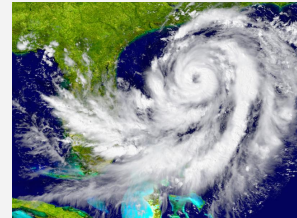


walk

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.

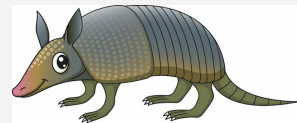


work

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:



work

- 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!

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!

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.



walk

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 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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