



bearcreekumc.org

August 11th
2016

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

Altarnative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

As I was walking this week, for some reason my mind started thinking of the church from an industrial engineering perspective. In a factory the most important people are those immediately involved in manufacturing the product. Therefore, you want them to be equipped with all they need to make the highest quality items possible. However, it doesn't matter what you create if you don't have a customer.

Ultimately, the customer is the most important person in the factory; the factory workers are there to serve the people who are not even there in the factory.



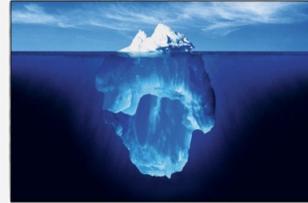
walk

In the church we get very confused about our mission. Often, we think the church-and God, for that matter-exists to attend to the needs of the church. We think like club members rather than servants of Christ. Jesus has said to us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). The Body of Christ lives to serve the people who do not know Christ. Employed for this work the church invests in equipping us for our labor of love: letting the Holy Spirit lead us, telling the good news, and renewing the face of the earth. We share the love of God that God produces in us.

So there's your industrial theology for the day.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

8-week church-wide study. Begins September 11.



walk

Do you:

- avoid conflict in the name of being a nice Christian?
- try to ignore your anger, sadness and fear?
- stay so busy working for God that you don't spend time with God?
- feel manipulated because you live without boundaries?

Through sermons and small groups we are offering you seven biblical, reality-tested ways to break through to the revolutionary life Christ meant for you. You can be whole as the Holy Spirit is unleashed so you can know the power of an authentic life in Christ.

You will see sign-up tables beginning August 21. To enrich your experience the following items will be available for purchase:

- Group workbook - \$10
- Daily devotional - \$9
- Book - \$8

Giving Glory

Give in Faith.



walk

We have now closed the books on the first half of 2016 and it has become clear that this is a difficult year financially. June was a particularly problematic month, running a deficit of \$32,000. That shot our year-to-date deficit up to \$100,000. Because other churches in our area are experiencing similar circumstances (and some much worse), a lot of the struggle is attributed to rising flood waters and plunging oil prices.

We will not fret, though. In times of abundance, we give in thanks; in times of scarcity, we give in faith. At all times we give because that is what love does. God dares us through the prophet Malachi (3:10), "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

It's time for a second half comeback in 2016. If you are out of work and unable to give, we will pray and we will watch what God can do. If you can give even a little more, please give and we will watch what God can do. We believe, "Nothing will be impossible with God" (Matthew 19:26).

Bear Creek Elementary School Mentors

One hour, once a week. Lifetime impact.

Robert Frost said, "I am not a teacher, but an awakener." If you will commit to spending time with a student at Bear Creek Elementary School for one hour on one school day each week of the school year you will positively influence the rest of that child's life. Katy ISD calls this KEYS: Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success. You go not to tutor but to motivate



work

and support so these kids know they matter to somebody. As followers of Jesus let's go share life!

If you would like to get involved this school year, check out the [KISD website](#).

Breakfast next Sunday!

Third Sunday Breakfast. August 21.

The United Disciples Sunday School class will be preparing and serving breakfast next Sunday, August 21. Bring your appetite and a friend!



work

Back-to-School Reminders

Fall schedule. Updates.

- **AWANA** begins August 31
- Beginning August 21, **Lil' Church** moves to the Bride's Room
- **BCUMC School** Parent Orientation is August 30 and the first day of school is August 31
- Beginning August 21, **Cristo Reina's** Sunday morning worship time moves from 11:00 to 11:30
- **Youth @ 5** begins August 21
- Beginning August 21, **Sunday morning Youth** will meet at 9:30 and 11:00 - your choice!
- **Wednesday Night Dinner** begins September 7



work/walk/worship

Prayer Assignments

Putting good habits into practice.

During the sermons series, *How to Pray*, our pastor has given us assignments to work on our prayer lives. Here is a recap of the first two weeks:

- Start every prayer with, "Our Father...and when you say "Our Father", smile.
- Add the words, "Our Father, we want to want what you want for us," and (at least once or twice a day) after you say those words, spend at least two minutes in silence so we can start to learn to listen to what God wants for us.



worship

Come this Sunday to learn how powerful it is to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Women's Bible Study

Sundays. FLC - Room 102. 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

God's heart is moved by your cries for help, your shouts for joy, your unspoken worries. We know Him to be a God of unparalleled power and authority, but Mark's account of Jesus paints Him as a deeply personal and intimate God too. In *The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For*, follow Jesus though His days of early ministry all the way to the cross. It's there we discover what it means to be the recipients of His excessive compassion and the very reason for His all-consuming passion."



walk

Join the Sunday Night Women's Bible Study for this 6-week study by Lisa Harper in Room 102 of the Family Life Center. Classes are 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. August 14, 21, 28 and September 11 & 18. If you would like further information, please call Marilyn Wetzel (832) 606-7942.

Backpack Blessing & Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 21. All Services.

Sunday, August 21 we are asking kids to bring their backpacks to worship. During the children's time at all worship services, and during prayer time at Faith Matters, they will be invited to come forward and receive a special blessing for the coming school year.



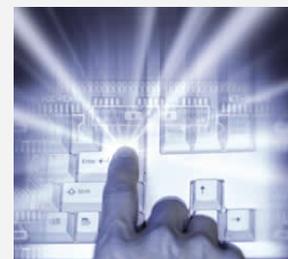
work

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

Energizers

August 19. Fellowship Hall. 10:30 a.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.



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. **Our next meeting is August 12 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** The theme for August is "Flying Kites" and the entertainment is Matt Wallace.

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

