



bearcreekumc.org

September 8th
2016

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

Alternative Thoughts

By Dr. Jonathan Bynum.

Icebergs are intriguing. When you spot one you have to remind yourself that it's literally the tip of the iceberg you see, with a mere 10% visible above the waterline, while 90% is concealed. The origin of the word means "ice mountain." What you are seeing is literally a chip off the old block: icebergs form when a large piece of freshwater ice breaks off a glacier. It begins to float freely in the ocean. By all appearances, icebergs are liberated, undisturbed, and alluring. But beware, what is kept hidden can sink us and those around us in a tragedy of Titanic proportions.



walk

So it is with us. People see 10%, but 90% is kept beneath the surface, hidden from others and sometimes so deep that it's hidden even from us. But we like it that way: we feel safely protected, the truth about us masked by the surface. We are convinced we are floating freely. Yet, we are haunted by the secrets that truly define us and we sense the constant threat that we will collide with someone else, losing a part of ourselves and sinking others.

This week we start our church-wide study: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. During the next 8 weeks we want to explore the 90%. Please understand that this is not a quick-fix sermon series. You have to be willing to do the work of reflecting on the truth of God's Word, having honest conversations with people you trust, and facing your secrets. The benefits are worth it: instead of keeping up appearances, we can finally be who God made us uniquely to be. You see, emotional health and spiritual maturity are inseparable; we cannot be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature.

We have been praying, "We want to want what you want for us." I hope that through this study you will have those God-sized desires remade into a God-shaped will so you will feel more alive than ever.

See you Sunday when we take our first steps to health and healing.

It Begins!

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. Begins this Sunday.

You can:

- be free
- be empowered
- be a mature follower of Jesus
- be authentic

You can quit:

- avoiding conflict in the name of being a nice Christian
- trying to ignore your anger, sadness, and fear
- staying so busy working for God you don't spend time with God
- feeling manipulated because you live without boundaries

We are offering you:

- sermons
- small groups
- seven biblical, reality-tested ways to break through to the revolutionary life Christ meant for you

Here's what to do:

- sign up for a small group this Sunday (click [here](#) for list of small groups)
- purchase the resources to enrich your experience:
 - Workbook (for small group participants) - \$8*
 - Devotional (a twice-daily devotional to reinforce the study) - \$9*
 - Book (if you like to read and want to study more in-depth) - \$10*
- listen to the sermons
- pray for transformation



walk

Food Ministry

Use God-given skills. Be a blessing. Build relationships.

If that sounds appetizing to you, then share your culinary and hospitality gifts with the church family. We want to build a team of people who will take the lead in making and serving meals at a variety of church functions. Please call, 281.463.2330, or [email](#) the church office.



work

Trunk-or-Treat

Saturday, October 29. BCUMC parking lot. 4 to 6pm.

Our annual Trunk-or-Treat is next month! We need your candy and your cars. We will award the top three best-decorated car trunks with gift cards to popular area restaurants. Contact [John Henley](#) for more information or to sign up. Thank you for your support!



work

Thank You from HNwCC!

Your continued generosity is appreciated.

On Sunday, September 4 you, our awesome congregation, brought **188 pounds** of peanut butter, jelly and tuna. Thank you for your support of the HNwCC Food Pantry.



work

Fellowship Friday Milestone

Recognition and celebration of a vital ministry.

It is with great pleasure I write to inform you that the Gathering Place®, aka *Fellowship Friday*, at Bear Creek UMC is celebrating a milestone. September marks the eleven year anniversary since we started the Alzheimer's Care Team® Gathering Place *Fellowship Friday* at Bear Creek United Methodist Church.



work

Team Leader, Dot McLaren, along with Co-Leader, Janet Oswald, have served with passion and joy. The tireless contributions of ALL Care Team members make *Fellowship Friday* what it is: a time of companionship, laughter, and joy. Their ministry has a positive effect on the Care Partners® and their loved ones which cannot be measured.

Although the real meaning of a team's service lies in the relationships of care and compassion for the Care Partners® they serve, we at Care Partners® would like to recognize the scope of their commitment to serving your congregation and the community. The number of people served, the hours of care donated, and the number of team members are an expression of their dedication. We believe that you and your congregation will applaud their effort and join us in celebrating their accomplishments.

- Number of care partners (families) served since 2005 - **177**
- Number of hours of dedicated service since Care Team formed - **18,676**
- Number of Care Team members since inception - **70**

I am bringing these remarkable accomplishments to your attention with the hope that it may be possible for you and your congregation to take advantage of the team's anniversary to affirm this ministry, undertaken on behalf of the congregation.

The love, commitment, and compassion of each volunteer is a testament to their faith and an answer to the call to care for our brothers and sisters in need of our support. I hope you will join with me in honoring their work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Many blessings to you,

Karen Pettit, MA Theology
Care Team Coordinator

Bear Creek Elementary School Mentors

One hour, once a week. Lifetime impact.

Partnering with Bear Creek Elementary School is a fantastic way to reach out to our church's immediate neighbors. The most urgent need is for mentors to meet with one student for one hour each week for one school year. Days and times are very flexible and all meetings are at the school during school hours. Bear Creek Elementary has a great number of students that need some extra one-on-one attention-someone to talk to and give them a "helping hand." Most mentors play games with their student-a great way to "break the ice."



walk

Please consider helping the children by volunteering to be a mentor through Katy ISD's KEYS (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success). It's a rewarding experience to make a difference in a child's life!

For more information, contact [Martha Brown](#) at 281-396-2468 or visit the Katy ISD [website](#).

The Sunday Market

October 2. Courtyard. 9:00am to 12:30pm.

The Bear Creek **United Methodist Women** present The Sunday Market. Select from our most popular homemade goodies, including:

- brownies
- bar cookies
- cake balls
- cakes
- pies
- pickles
- note cards
- soup mix
- trail mix



work

Chamber Choir

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Would you like to sing beautiful music but can't rehearse every week? Chamber Choir is the group for you! The Chamber Choir will rehearse twice a month on Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. The group will sing occasionally at the 11:00 a.m.



work

Sunday service, as well as during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Chamber Choir members must read music and have some choral experience. To audition, schedule an appointment with Sean Saunders (choir director) on either Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7 p.m. or Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Contact [Sean](#) to set up your audition time. You do not need to have anything specifically prepared for the audition.

Hour of Prayer (H.O.P.)

September 13. Fellowship Hall @ 7:00pm.

Come to the H.O.P. and be part of praise and worship to our awesome God! The Hour Of Prayer is an offering; we read God's word aloud, sing His praises and call out to Him for His mercies. Please join us next Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall as Chris Tyree leads us in worship.



worship

Croppin at the Creek

October 7 & 8. Sign up online. FLC gym.

Visit our [website](#) for details. Your family will thank you and adore you for working to put albums together just for them! So print your photos, organize your supplies and sign up today!



work

[Registration](#) and payment **must** be made in advance.

Online Church Directory

Coming soon. Opt out if necessary.

In a few weeks we will place a link on our website that will allow you to access an electronic version of our church directory. If you are an active member in Shelby (church administration software), then you will have access to your information (including the ability to update it) as well as other members' basic information (name, address and phone number - PLEASE NOTE: birth dates have been removed due to security concerns).



work

If you do not want your information to be accessible to others, you may opt out by [emailing](#) or calling the church office, 281.463.2330; however, doing so will also negate your ability to use the online directory.

Library Spirit Night

Monday, September 12.

Come out **between 5 and 8 p.m.** and support the Bear Creek UMC

Library for our Spirit Night at Chic-fil-A, 6175 Hwy 6 N (on the NW corner of Hwy 6 and West Little York). **Make sure to mention the BCUMC Library when you order and we'll receive 10% of your purchase.** We hope to see you there!



Houston West Emmaus

October 6-9 for men. October 13-16 for women.

There are slots left for both the Women's and Men's Walks in October. Let's make sure we fill up both of these walks as soon as possible. You can start by asking someone if you can sponsor them. They will be flattered, they will be excited, but most importantly, they cannot say yes unless you ask them!



Whom will you sponsor?

Men's Walk: October 6 - 9

Women's Walk: October 13 - 16

Pilgrim and sponsorship forms found [here](#). October Prayer Clocks are open for [sign-up](#).

AWANA on Wednesdays

September 14 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



Bear Creek United Methodist is devoted to nurturing your children with scriptural teaching, fun activities, and opportunities to cultivate great friendships that last forever.

Here are a few things to remember:

- On Wednesday, September 14, please drop off (6:30) and pick up (8:00) your child in the Tree House on the second floor of the Family Life Center.
- Fill out a new Kidzone Registration ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) form for 2016-17.
- Pay the \$20.00 registration fee per family for 2016-17.

Please contact me if you have questions concerning any ministry to children here at Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

Thanks,
John R. Henley
281.463.2330

Blood Drive

Please donate! Save the Date - September 25.

We are partnering with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host a church-wide blood drive on Sunday, September 25. Come have breakfast and then donate blood in the FLC gym between 8:30am and 1:30pm.



Did you know that giving blood can actually be good for you?

Preserves cardiovascular health

You can reduce your blood viscosity by donating blood on a regular basis.

Reduces the risk of cancer

The reduction of iron stores and iron in the body while giving blood can reduce the risk of cancer.

Burns calories

People burn approximately 650 calories per donation of one pint of blood, according to the University of California, San Diego.

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

October 21. Fellowship Hall. 10:30am.

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 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Only drinks are provided.

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 September 9 from 10am to 1:30pm.*** The theme for September is "Italy" and the entertainment is Jim Connors.



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 @ 9:15am.

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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