



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

November 17th  
2016

---

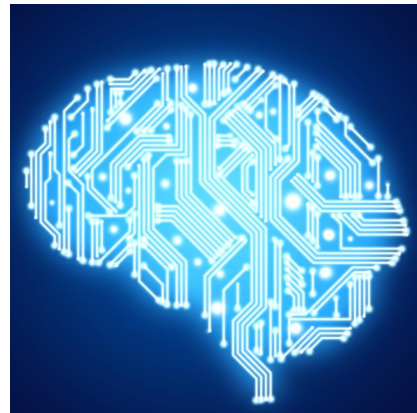
*worship... walk... work...*

---

## Alternative Thoughts

By someone on the church staff.

Dr. Bynum is taking a break to contemplate the finer points of turkey preparation and consumption. Oven roasted or deep fried? Basted or injected? Stuffed or not? Maybe he will reveal these answers in his next article. Have a great Thursday!



*walk*

---

## Advent Devotionals

First day in Advent - Sunday, November 27.

**Thank you** to all those who have signed up to write an Advent devotional. All dates have been spoken for and over half have been submitted. If you have signed up, but haven't yet written and submitted yours, please do so as soon as possible - Sunday, November 27 is the first day of Advent!



*walk*

If you currently receive the Bear Creek UMC e-News (sent each Thursday at noon), you will also begin receiving a daily Advent devotional (ending December 31). If you do not want to read the daily devotionals you may simply delete them. **Please note that if you unsubscribe, you will no longer receive the devotionals, however, you will no longer receive the e-News either.**

## Christmas Cards for Sale

Featuring original artwork by our Youth & Children.

Help our Children's Ministry fund their summer field trip by purchasing Christmas cards featuring artwork drawn by the youth and children of Bear Creek UMC. Cards will be available each Sunday in the narthex of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall through Sunday, December 11.



*work*

## Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

The church office will be closed November 23-25 for Thanksgiving. Most activities for those 3 days have been cancelled. Check our online church [calendar](#) if you are unsure about a particular event or activity.



*work*

## Financial Report

Help decorate our Sanctuary.

Below is a synopsis of our finances ten months through the year. Overall, year-to-date giving is about 9% short of budget and a decline of more than 12% compared with year-to-date October 2015. Our pastors, staff and church leadership have managed to make up slightly more than a third of the budget shortfall through controlling expenses and are working diligently to further close the gap as the church moves forward.



*work*

Total contributions	\$951,383
Total expenses	\$1,089,611
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$138,228</b>

Thanks to all who share in love at Bear Creek and continue to support the church with their prayers, presence, service and gifts!

**Did you know?** The average price for utilities each month is \$8,000, which accounts for almost 8% of the church's total annual expenses. This, combined with insurance, facilities maintenance, repairs, and landscaping have averaged approximately \$23,000 per month during 2016, or just over 20% of total annual expenses. Our Trustees Committee and Facilities Staff work diligently to maintain our facilities while keeping these costs to a minimum. We all owe this group a debt of gratitude for their selfless work in the service of our church, so when you see them on campus give them a big hug, or pat on the back, and say thanks!

---

## Advent Decorating

Help decorate our Sanctuary.

We need about 9-10 people and one more 12-foot ladder on Saturday, November 19th, starting at 9am as we decorate the Sanctuary for Advent. Contact [Bill Clark](#) to volunteer.



*work*

---

## *Following Jesus Cancelled*

No meeting on Tuesday, November 22.

We are cancelling to allow everyone to spend time with their friends and families.



*walk*

---

## *Breakfast Cancelled*

No breakfast this Sunday, November 20.

Unfortunately, we will not have our third Sunday breakfast in November or December due to scheduling conflicts. Our next breakfast will be Sunday, January 15, 2017.



*work*

---

## *Christmas Block Party*

New location this year. Sunday, December 4.

Our annual Christmas Block Party is Sunday, December 4 from 3:30 to 6:30pm in the parking lot of **Northwest Glass & Mirror Co.**, located at [5106 Hwy 6 N](#). This event is FREE to the community. We will have crafts, music, food and fellowship. There is a rumor that Santa may even make an appearance!



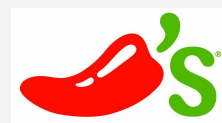
*walk*

---

## *Chili's Spirit Day & Night*

Sunday, November 27 from 11am to 11pm.

Support our Missions Team by having lunch AND dinner at Chili's at 5841 Hwy 6 N (W. Little York). We will have flyers in the church bulletins on Sunday, November 27 for you to take with you to ensure we get credit for your order. Thank you for your support!



*work*

---

## *Youth News*

Youth @5. Block Party. Parade of Lights. Consent form.

We will be creating our Parade Float decorations at Youth @5 (November 20 & 27) and we need all hands on deck!! If you would like to ride on the float, we MUST have your [Parental Consent Form](#). See Lea Bynum for your RSVP!



Check your weekly Youth Newsletter for all the latest updates and especially Summer 2017 Registration information. Contact [Lea Bynum](#) to be added to the newsletter or for any Youth related questions.

---

*walk*

## *The Day of Thanks & Giving*

Saturday, November 19 from 10:30am to 1:30pm.

The Missions Committee appreciates your help and hopes your family plans to join us as we celebrate The Day of Thanks & Giving. In addition to packing 500 food boxes, we will be putting together Christmas activity bags for the patients at Texas Children's Hospital, packing Man on the Street bags and making Christmas cards for The Holiday Project. these cards will be given to patients in nursing facilities.



*work*

There will be special "thanking" activities in which the children of our church can participate. The UMM will be providing lunch from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

---

## *AWANA on Wednesdays*

November 30 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



*worship*

**Please note: we will not have Awana on November 23**

**due to the Thanksgiving holiday.** 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, November 30, 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

---

## *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*

November 18. 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.



*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 December 16 from 10am to 1:30pm.*** The theme for December is *Christmas* and the entertainment is the Decibells (group of singers/entertainers).

## *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*

## *A Time to Pray Together*


Prayer Room in Ministry Village. Meets @ 9:15am.

Come to pray with us for the congregational needs of BCUMC and for what God puts on our hearts. We are trusting in His Promise, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ~ Matthew 18:20



*walk*

Blessings, **James Sharp, Communications Director**  
281.463.2330 X109

 Like us on Facebook