bearcreekumc.org

December 10th

2015

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

Poinsettia Order Form

In your bulletin this Sunday. Order by Dec. 20.

worship

Christmas poinsettias will beautify our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall during the 2015 Advent season. If you purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please include that information so it can be included in a special bulletin insert. You may take your poinsettia(s) home after the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Questions? Please call the Bear Creek UMC office at 281.463.2330. *Please write "Poinsettia" in the memo line of your check.* You may place your form and check in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Thank you!

Youth Christmas Party

Youth Lounge. Sunday, December 20th. 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

walk

Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon of yummy food, games, and gifts as we celebrate the end of the semester and the Christmas season. We'll have a white-elephant-style gift exchange, so please bring a

$10 - $15 gift to the party. We need to know how much food to provide, so please RSVP to Lisa here.

Also, Mid-Winter (Ignite) and Planet Wisdom registration is now open! Visit the youth page on our website for more information and to register.

Christmas Cantata

worship

Celebrate the birth of Jesus. Sunday, December 13th.

Pause in the hustle and bustle of the season to celebrate the story of Jesus' birth in music and spoken word. The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Sean Saunders, organist Diane Garrett, the cantata orchestra, and narrators Ron Hilton and Meredeth Buchman present ***Shout the Good News*** at 11:00 a.m. on December 13th in the Sanctuary. *Shout the Good News* is a celebration not only of Jesus' birth, but of those messengers who helped fulfill God's purposes. What better opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends to join you for a Christmas Experience?! Plan to attend and get in the true Spirit of the Season.

Greeters for Christmas Eve Services

work

Greeters needed. Excellent ministry opportunity.

The Hospitality Ministry is seeking volunteers to greet at the following Christmas Eve services:

7 p.m. Contemporary (Fellowship Hall) - Two couples near parking lot curb, two couples near Family Life Center directing guests to the Fellowship Hall, and two couples at the Fellowship Hall.

9 p.m. Traditional (Sanctuary) - One couple near parking lot curb and one couple at the doors to the Sanctuary.

11 p.m. Traditional (Sanctuary) - Two couples near parking lot curb and two couples at the doors to the Sanctuary.

- A couple can be two singles.
- Greeters need to arrive **at least 30 minutes** prior to the start of the service.
- After the service, greeters need to go back to the entrance and show guests where to place their extinguished candles.

If you can help, please contact Joyce Evans, 713.937.0899. Thank you!

Paper Shredding Event

Church parking lot. December 12th.

work

The Board of Trustees is sponsoring a paper shredding event at the church this Saturday, December 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot. This event is free to the public. There is no need to remove staples or small paperclips. All shredding will be done on site that day. This is a great opportunity for adult Sunday School classes and other ministry groups to clean out their storage closets.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

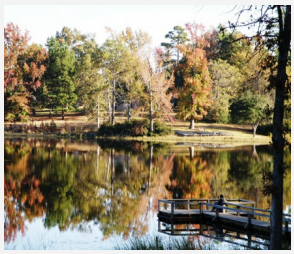
A tangible way to express our love for others.

work

Are you looking for a way to reach out to people and express God's love? Touching those who are in need of prayer, comfort, and blessing with the gift of a prayer shawl is a way to serve. Please consider joining this effort by creating a shawl or by donating needed support materials. Prayer shawls are often provided for gifting at the pastors' discretion and are provided to the Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital Labor and Delivery and Antepartum Department to mothers experiencing bereavement. If you would like to join this ministry effort or would like to recommend someone to receive a shawl, please contact the church office, 281.463.2330.

Break at the Lake

Relaxation. Fellowship. Recreation. Prayer.



walk

Would you like to have a restful weekend in a quiet setting? Then *Break at the Lake* is for you! Please join our Bear Creek UMC Family January 8-10, 2016 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas for a weekend of relaxation and Sabbath Rest. Too often we work, work, work and forget that Sabbath was given as a **gift** to us. *Break at the Lake* is an opportunity to rest and be with our church family and has been an annual event for the Bynum family for over 10 years. We would love for you to join us this year, as Jonathan leads us in worship and celebration of Sabbath.

The weekend is purposely unstructured, so that you may have time for a quiet walk, fishing, board games or a nap! We will have breakfasts in our common room, with Saturday lunch and dinner in Lakeview's Sparling Cafeteria and an evening bonfire, complete with S'mores. The David Barber Challenge Course will be open for our use on

Saturday afternoon and provides a beautiful setting among the trees, as well as time to refresh, whether you are a climber or are cheering on those on the High Ropes Course. Accommodations are reserved for us in Camp Hearn, which opened June 2015, and each family will be in their own dorm-style room with bathroom facilities and heat/AC.

We hope that you will set aside time to rest, which is especially valuable after a busy Christmas Season, and start the new year off right by joining us at Lakeview. Reservations may be made for this affordable weekend by completing the form and leaving your payment in the church office. Please contact Lea or Jonathan Bynum if you have any questions or for more information.

Online and Text Giving

Electronic giving. From your smartphone.

worship

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!

KidzRock Christmas Program

December 13th. Fellowship Hall @ 5 p.m.

worship

Support KidzRock by attending their Christmas Program, *An Unplugged Christmas*, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior through the gifts of music and song.

Coffee in the Courtyard

Sunday mornings after the 11 a.m. Service.

walk

The Hospitality Ministry Team will host *Coffee in the Courtyard* this Sunday, December 13th following the 11 a.m. worship service. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and to invite guests to enjoy a free cup of coffee. In the event of inclement weather, we will move to the Family Life Center.

Fellowship Friday / Energizers

December 11th. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

walk

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. Dessert and drinks are provided.

Christmas Party at Clay's on December 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring a $10.00 gift, marked male, female or neutral, if you want to participate in the gift exchange. Everyone is responsible for buying their own lunch.

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 December is "Christmas" and the entertainment is *Decibels.*

SW District Leadership Training

walk

January 30, 2016. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Sugar Land First UMC (431 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land 77478) from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. Online registration begins mid-October. Register by January 15th - $10; after January 15th - $20. ***Acts 1:8***

Western Prayer Wall

walk

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.

Pray Together

walk

FLC 101. Wednesdays @ 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.

Our Giving

Finance Committee Update on Giving.

walk

The Finance Committee wants to keep you up-to-date on our financial situation. Below you will see that we are running behind on our budgeted needs. To fulfill our financial obligations for 2015, we have a December budget of $211,745. In additional to that, we have a special Christmas offering of $26,800. As you are able, please prayerfully consider how you can fulfill your pledged giving for 2015 and stretch yourself to give beyond that so this can be a financially Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for Bear Creek UMC.

	Actual	***Budget***
Annual	TBD	$1,450,000
Year-to-Date	$1,125,388	$1,148,255
November	$93,640	$104,720

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

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