



bearcreekumc.org

December 22nd
2016

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

Christmas Services

December 24 and 25, 2016.

Christmas Eve Services*

December 24, 2016

Family Service in Sanctuary @ 5pm

Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall @ 7pm

Pre-worship Christmas Concert in Sanctuary @ 8:30pm

Traditional Service in Sanctuary @ 9pm

** child care is available*

Christmas Day Services

December 25, 2016

Combined Traditional & Contemporary Service in Sanctuary @ 10am

Cristo Reina (Spanish) Service in Fellowship Hall @ 6pm



worship

Christmas Giving

Double December needed for a strong finish.

We talk about finances a lot around Christmas for three reasons:

1. You can't avoid talking about money with so much of it flowing on Black Friday and Cyber Monday and Spend-Way-Too-Much every other day.



work

2. It's the end of the year and we, as a church, need a Double December-twice as much giving in December over any other month-in order to pay our bills and finish the year on firm financial footing.
3. The story of Christmas is about holding nothing back; the theme of Christmas is giving; the essence of Christmas is sacrifice.

Here is a Christmas text from John (3:16): *For God so loved the world that he **gave** his only Son.*

Here is a Christmas text from Paul (Philippians 2:5-7): *Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but **emptied himself**, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.*

Corrie Ten Boom said, "The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its **donation.**"

Please consider how you can have a greater measure of life and a joyous Christmas through that extra gift for your church before the end of the year.

Church Financial Report

by Rick Wilson.

Below is a synopsis of our finances year-to-date November 2016. Overall, year-to-date giving is about 6% short of budget and a decline of 10% compared with this time last year. Our pastors, staff and church leadership have managed to make up 60% of the budget shortfall in giving by controlling expenses and are working to further close the gap as the church moves forward. Over the last few months, our giving has increased, reducing some of the shortfall as well. I believe that we will make up much, if not all, of the remaining deficit with our final tithes and offerings of the year, if we have faith and jump in the water at Bear Creek - prayerfully and sacrificially giving as He calls each of us to do. I'm in. Are you??



Total contributions	\$1,074,572
Total expenses	\$1,191,851
Deficit	\$ (117,279)

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

Did you know?

Year-to-date 2016, the church has spent over \$100,000 funding our core ministries and our missions' programs (Angel Tree, Day of Thanks & Giving and Flood Relief to name a few), our youth and children's programs (including mission trips, camps, and VBS) and our library's Summer Reading Program. About half of this money was given directly to these programs through designated giving and fundraising activities. The remainder was provided by the church operating budget. In addition, our families supported these ministries by providing mountains of children's gifts, food items, clothing, flood relief items, and books. With each of your gifts another family is fed on Thanksgiving, a child's face lights up as they see their gift under the Christmas tree, our youth and children are spiritually fed, and the Good News is spread in our community and beyond! Thanks for supporting this life-changing work of the church during 2016!

Church Office Closures

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The BCUMC church office will be closed December 23, 26 and 27 for the Christmas Holiday and December 30 and January 2 & 3 for the New Year's Day Holiday.



work

Christmas Lunch

Don't spend Christmas Day alone.

If you do not have plans to join family members for Christmas, you are invited to stay after the 10am worship service on Christmas Day for a Christmas meal at Bear Creek UMC. Instead of eating alone, cooking when you do not have the energy, or finding a restaurant when most will be closed, come to the Family Life Center to join with others in our church family and share a meal in the gym. [RSVP to the church office by 5pm today so we know how much food to prepare.](#)



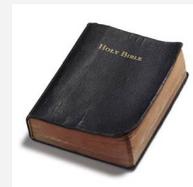
work

There was no room in the inn, but we will have a plate for you in the gym. Merry Christmas! ~ BCUMC Prayer Ministry

Ladies' Daytime Bible Study

Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30am.

Would you like to grow another step in your journey as a child of God? Rob Fuquay explores what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the Bread of Life"; the Light of the World: the seven I-Ams in The Gospel of John. Come study these with us and learn about **The God We Can Know** beginning January 11, 2017 continuing through February 22, 2017. We will meet in FLC 102 from 10:00 to 11:30am. Facilitator will be Virginia Garner. Study books will be available after December 25th in the office for \$10. Please purchase one before class starts and read Chapter 1 before coming to class.



walk

Following Jesus

December 27 @ 7pm in Wesley Building.

Hanukah begins this year on Christmas Eve. How does Jewish Hanukah and the Christian Life intersect? Come find out! We meet in the Prayer Room in the Ministry Village.



walk

EHS Materials

Please return DVDs and unused material.

For you leaders or hosts of our Emotionally Healthy Spirituality study, please return the DVDs and any unused materials to the church



Emmaus Prayer Clock

Sign up to pray for pilgrims.

The Walk to Emmaus Men's Walk #95 is February 16, 2017 through February 19, 2017. Click [here](#) to sign up to pray for the pilgrims and the team. Thank you!



Youth News

Merry Christmas!

We have had several opportunities to celebrate Jesus this Advent (Sunday School lessons, parties, gift exchanges) and now we have the opportunity to celebrate with our worship on Saturday night - what a wonderful time to come together as the Body of Christ! The Youth are asked to come and help with worship during the 5pm **Family Worship Service** in the Sanctuary, as we will be assisting with the "No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant". Bring your family and friends and come celebrate with us. The Youth will not have any meetings during the Christmas break, so see you in worship! Read your Youth Newsletter for more Youth information. Contact [Lea Bynum](#) with questions.



AWANA on Wednesdays

Resumes January 11, 2017 @ 6:30pm in the FLC gym.



Awana will not meet for the next three weeks during Christmas break. We will resume on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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, January 11, 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

January 19, 2017 @ 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. Dessert and drinks are provided. Come join us for games and Christian fellowship.



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 January 13, 2017 from 10am to 1:30pm.** The theme for January is *New Beginnings* and the entertainment is *Grandma's Boy Friends*.

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 - Ministry Village. Wednesdays @ 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

