

Bear Fax



April, 2011

A monthly publication of Bear Creek United Methodist Church

Holy Week activities include Maundy Thursday dinner for the meta-family

You have heard of dinner and a movie? How about dinner and worship? Well, that is what we are doing. The dinner will be special, delicious and inexpensive. During dinner we will remember many of the ways God loves us with words and activities for the whole family. It will be a great time for all of us to gather and be in Christian community. We need reservations (on your presence slip or by e-mailing or calling the church office) to make sure we get it right.



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Holy Week Worship

April 17 Passion Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

Various readers and the congregation (as the crowd) will remember the last days of Jesus' life from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the last supper and garden of Gethsemane, to the resurrection.

April 21 Maundy Thursday - 7:30 p.m.

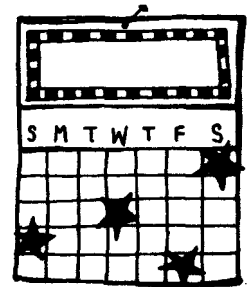
We'll start with dinner at 6:00 p.m. for our whole family, then at 7:30 p.m. we'll remember, mourn and celebrate Jesus' last meal with his followers in reading and Holy Communion.

April 22 Good Friday - 7:30 p.m. –

The traditional Tenebrae of Lessons and Carols is one of the most moving worship times of the Christian year. As we recount Jesus' final words and deeds, the room grows darker with the removal of candles until we sit in the darkness of Jesus' burial and pray for Easter to come.

April 24 Easter Sunday - 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

From darkness to light, from despair to unbounded joy, we celebrate Easter. We invite you to attend the 11:00 worship so that our Easter guests feel your presence and love.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, April 2

Community Concert 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 10

Amazing Grace 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Memory Loss Workshop
6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 21

Meta-Family Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Worship Service 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22

Good Friday Worship
7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Worship 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 27

Parenting our Parents
Workshop 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30

Youth Lock-in (overnight)

Pastor's Mumblings

Dear Bearcreekians,
I couldn't resist. This is sort of a printed Easter egg hunt. The riddles are below. You will have to search this Bear Fax for the answers.

Why is Easter like whipped cream and a cherry?

What does a Chinese restaurant serve for Easter?

Why are people always tired in April?

What do you call Easter when you are hopping around?

Where does Valentine's Day come after Easter?

We are in Lent and moving toward Easter. There are several opportunities this month to prepare for and celebrate Jesus' return. I hope you take the time to include some or all of these in your busy schedule. I am particularly excited by the Holy Week activities this year—meta-family dinner on Maundy Thursday, the Good Friday service of the removal of light, and of course the great celebration on Easter morning.

Thinking about Easter got me to wondering why we decorate and hunt eggs. I know that eggs are a symbol of rebirth and new birth just as Jesus' resurrection is new birth. The shell of the egg is associated with Jesus' tomb and the emerging chick with the emerging Jesus.

But why decorate the eggs, and why hide and hunt the eggs? I did some research but found nothing. So not only is the resurrection a mystery, but how we celebrate is a mystery.

What I do know is that God's love is being continually resurrected around me and in me. Jesus' return is a wonderful and inexplicable mystery.

Shalom, Dave O



Worship

Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Make worship a regular part of your life of discipleship. Whether the music is loud or soft, the sermon good or bad, our worship of God with our brother and sister disciples of Jesus will be just right.

April 3—4th Sunday in Lent

"Basilissa and Anastasia: Suffering Endurance"

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Acts 28: 23-31

April 10—5th Sunday in Lent

"Stephen: Dying Endurance"

Mission Moment: Change the World

Acts 7: 44-8: 1

April 17—Passion/Palm Sunday

A reading of Jesus' Passion from Matthew

Mission Moment: Matthew House Mother's Day Baskets

April 21—Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Meta-family Dinner
7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

April 22—Good Friday

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Lessons and Carols

April 24—Easter Sunday

"I Believe in Resurrection"

Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Matthew 28: 1-10



Fill a gift basket for a special mother!

For several years our congregation has honored many of the mothers served by Matthew House by presenting them with a Mothers Day basket filled with special gifts. We want them to know they are loved and remembered on Mother's Day.

Matthew House is a program that was developed to offer love and support to children and families who have a family member in prison. Often, those left behind are forgotten and left to struggle financially and emotionally. Mat-

thew House provides food, shelter, clothing, transportation, child care, and many other ways to help support these families.

In April the Missions Committee will again accept your Mother's Day basket donations for Matthew House. Baskets containing a list of ideas to get you started will be available in the narthex on Sunday, April 17. Pick up a basket and fill it with items any mother would enjoy—bath items, lotions, note cards, stamps, candles, and sweet treats

are just some of the possible gift ideas for the baskets.

Return your filled baskets to the church on Sunday, May 1, and they will be delivered to Matthew House in time to warm the hearts of many mothers on their special day! Thank you, and be watching for baskets on April 17!



Blessed
to
Give

Memory Loss: Understanding the Basics

Wednesday, April 13

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Is memory loss a normal part of aging? What are the warning signs of Alzheimer's? What is the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia? What should I do if I suspect my loved one has a problem?

Come and learn the differences between normal memory changes and Alzheimer's/dementia. This presentation will cover the basics, including risk factors, diagnosis, treatments, and resources. Led by Alzheimer's Association's Ruth Sanderson, R.N.

Please note: this class is not appropriate for the person with dementia. There is no fee to participate.

Walk for hunger on Sunday, May 15

Mark your calendar and join the team to fight hunger! The Red-Wood CROP Walk to Fight Hunger takes place on Sunday, May 15 in Redmond.

"We walk because they walk." "We" are your friends, neighbors and other caring people in our community. "They" are the 854 million people who go to bed hungry every night. "They" are people like us, but because of poverty, "they" must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks.

This is Bear Creek UMC's opportunity to help fight hunger in our own community as well as

around the world. All monies collected will go to Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations working together to eradicate hunger and poverty. It provides sustainable self-help and

development to disaster relief and refugee assistance around the world.

If you are unable to walk, you can still be of service by sponsoring our Bear Creek team. You may also "walk on the web" by personally donating or making e-mail requests of friends and family members anywhere!

Look for our CROP Walk table in the narthex beginning April 17, where you can sign up to walk or sponsor our church team.

Go to www.cropwalk.org or contact Jan Becker at 425.485.0665 for more information.





CHANGE THE WORLD

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

- Anne Frank

You cannot do everything, but you can do something.

One community, one person, one choice could be the catalyst needed to change the world. We want to change the world as we rethink church, and we want you to join the conversation.

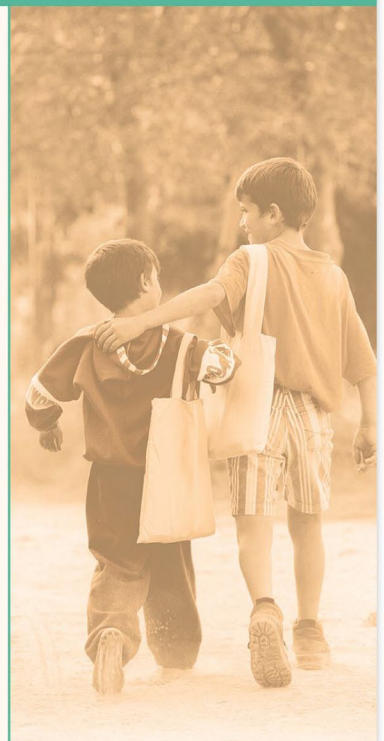
Changed lives can change the world, and lives change when people choose to be available, go where needed, and do what they can .

In 2011, people in churches and communities worldwide will focus on serving others and learning what it means to be, go, and do, but we cannot change the world alone. Come and be counted, because even though there is power in numbers, one person making one simple choice could make all the difference.

Join your church family on May 14 & 15 as we change the world. There will be a variety of opportunities for all ages as we participate in the following projects:

Cropwalk Hopelink Food Bank Acres of Diamonds Shelter

www.bcumc.org



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

RETHINKCHURCH®



**MAY 14-15, 2011
Get Involved**

Lord, what a gift!

Marian Arlin's legacy blesses us all

These past several years we were truly blessed to have a very special and wonderful woman in our congregation. Marian Arlin passed away in September and is sorely missed by us all. You probably saw Marian most often in the kitchen preparing for our coffee hour and offering a warm smile and friendly hello through the kitchen window. Marian was knowledgeable about many subjects, but she was especially willing to talk Mariner baseball! We will always remember Marian and her Christian spirit of hospitality and love at BCUMC.

Our church was also blessed by Marian's generosity as she went to be with the Lord. We very much appreciate the monetary gift she left to BCUMC in her estate. The Board of Trustees has been discussing this gift, reaching out to groups and members of the congregation, and researching and praying over what would be the best way for our church to use this gift.



A Special Gift

Since the Trustees' December meeting, this has been a careful and Christ-led task. The Trustees have tried to be good stewards for BCUMC and looked at the many different ways this gift can best help BCUMC now and in the future. After many hours of thought and discussion, a preliminary plan has been decided upon.

The Trustees are now in the process of working with two work/study groups to investigate the application and cost of some ideas. The kitchen group is analyzing the entire kitchen to see what can be done to improve it. We know Marian would be pleased to see some improvements in the kitchen that she spent so much time in.

The audio/video/sound group is taking on the task of looking into our current audio and video uses in the worship space and what would be required to expand this for our ever-changing needs and future possibilities. This would be limited not just to our worship time, but how our space is used by all groups in this building (Community Programs, Youth Group, and others). This work/study group is also looking at the sound system and the ability of our sound room operators to hear the sound in our worship space.

These two groups will take some time to do a thorough and comprehensive study. Upon the completion of their work, the Board of Trustees will review their findings and reports. Recommendations will then be taken to the Administrative Council. Please pray for God's will in these upcoming decisions. We trust that what is finally decided upon will please Him and make BCUMC a better place. Our hope is we have done the best we could to honor Marian's gift and her love for us.

Youth events planned for remaining school year

April 3 Spring Break - No youth group

April 10 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 p.m.

April 17 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Come help us plan for Youth Sunday 2011!

April 24 Easter Sunday—No youth group

April 30-31 Rockin' Lock-in
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Ultimate Capture the Flag, Midnight Cosmic Bowling,
and lots of food. Need we say more? Be there, and
bring a friend or two.

May 1 No Evening youth group

May 8 Mother's Day—No youth group

May 15 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 p.m.

May 22 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 p.m.

May 28-30 CONVO retreat for 9-12th grade

May 29 No Sunday Evening youth group



The buzz from Best Beginnings

March Madness most often refers to basketball, but at school there is a bit of that going on as well. Leprechauns made their annual appearance, adding to the already high energy level of the children coming back from midwinter break, daylight savings changes and way too much rain.

The main focus of March is parent-teacher conferences. Much like elementary school conferences, we close school for one class day and meet with parents for 20 minutes to review their child's progress during the year. We share with parents those skills their child has mastered, in the process of learning, as well as those who might need a little work over the summer.

Much of the preparation for all the end-of-school events takes place in March and early April. Materials are purchased and plans

put in place for the April Evening with Daddy event. Fifty some men will come to school the evening of April 18 to make cards, gifts and decorations for the May Mother's Day celebrations. It is a bit of madness to watch men who build our jets and create such sophisticated technology work so hard with paint, glitter and glue. Truly, it is one of the most wonderful nights of the year and an opportunity for the teaching staff to watch dads and kids work together.

The last Friday in March we procured several interesting animals from Denny's Pet World and brought them to share with all the four year olds. Usually a creepy spider, a gecko or lizard, a turtle and a soft bunny or hamster make their debut.

At our March staff meeting we had the opportunity to listen to two kindergarten teachers from

the Lake Washington School District speak about expectations for entering kindergartners, budget cuts and the impact on class sizes, and the cutting back of support staff. The expectations for young five year olds is very high. Being able to follow multiple directions, work independently, demonstrate patience and get along with one's peers seem to be key indicators of school success more than being able to recognize letters.

At Best Beginnings we work very hard helping children be successful in these areas so that they are as well prepared for public school as they can be. Sometimes the challenge is daunting, but those sweet smiles make it all worthwhile.

Sally Smith, Director
Best Beginnings Preschool

One Great Hour of Sharing asks for your help on April 3

Dear Friends:
Every year you are there, sharing hope through your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing underwrite United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) "costs of doing business," so that every penny of every gift made to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project—not on office administrative costs. Your support enables UMCOR to respond to natural and human-made disasters. Without you we would not be able to continue this important ministry of The United Methodist Church.

One Great Hour of sharing will be celebrated on April 3, 2011. We are asking you to increase your giving so that UMCOR can do more to offer restoration, healing and hope to the many people in need around the world. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering makes UMCOR's ministries available in the United States and across the globe. It is on your behalf that UMCOR works to alleviate human suffering in more than 80 countries.

Jesus teaches us to bring healing and restoration wherever we can. That's what you do through the work of UMCOR and your gifts

to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your ongoing investment in our mission.

Grace and peace,
The Reverend Cynthia Fierro Harvey
Deputy General Secretary
United Methodist Committee on Relief

Answers to pastor's riddles on p. 2.

1. Because it's always on a sundae!
2. Colored eggrolls!
3. Because they've just finished a March.
4. Hoppy Easter!
5. In the dictionary.

Bear Chat

Church needs funds for paint and lighting

After 11 years of service in the Northwest environment, the church is in need of a coat of fresh paint. We need to pressure wash, caulk, and repaint this year.

Unfortunately, due to our current budget shortfall, we cannot add this significant amount of cost to the church/trustees budget. While we are still working on an

estimate, it will probably be in excess of 100 gallons of paint.

Other urgent needs include replacement light bulbs throughout the building and interior paint.

Individuals who would be willing to contribute a gallon or more of paint can donate \$25.00 per gallon. Just put the desired amount in an envelope marked

“paint” or write “paint” on the memo line of your check.

For lighting donations, please mark your envelope or check as “lighting.”

Any amount given toward these church needs will be appreciated!


The Bear Creek UMC
Board of Trustees

Basic lay-speaking course offered

The New Basic Lay Speaking Course will be offered at Shoreline UMC on Friday evening, April 15, and Saturday, April 16. Participants must be able to attend both Friday and Saturday sessions. Certified Lay Speakers can receive Advanced Course credit for this New Basic Course. Deadline for registration is March 30. The Registration form is attached. For questions contact: KathrynLGarnett@comcast.net.

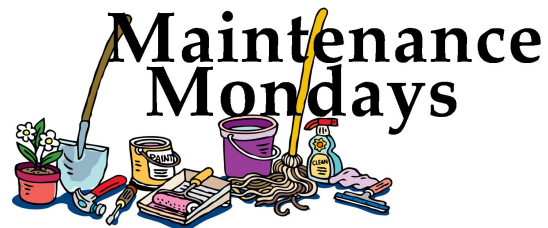
2010 FINANCE REPORT

Amount budgeted for 2011	\$364,290	
2011 Offerings <i>to date</i>	\$67,912	92.0%
2011 ahead/(behind)	(\$5,932)	-8.0%
Projected Y/E Overage (Shortfall)	\$41	



Tuesdays 6:00 a.m.
Shari's Restaurant
at Totem Lake
All are welcome!

**MEN'S PRAYER
♦ BREAKFAST ♦**



Chuck McKee, Gordy Brown, Gordon Kyle and crew are working around the church most Mondays to take care of items that need maintenance or repair.

Please come and help at 10:00 a.m. any Monday that you are available. All hands are welcome!

Also, if you see things around the church that need attention, let the church office or Chuck McKee know.

The Holy Land trip is ON!

The dates have been set for Bearcreekians to travel to the Holy Land with educational opportunities. For those committed and those interested, our next meeting is Monday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room. For more information contact Dave O.

Bear Creek United Methodist Church

A family place
of belonging

16530 Avondale Road N.E.
Woodinville WA 98077-9178

425-788-2953
info@bcumc.org

David Orendorff, Pastor
pastor@bcumc.org

We're on the Web!
www.bcumc.org



The Bear Fax is published monthly and is offered electronically or by mail. To change the format in which you receive the newsletter, contact the church office or news@bcumc.org. The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of each month.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



On the Horizon

Tuesday, May 10
Interfaith Blood Drive at BCUMC
1:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 15
CROP Walk

Saturday, May 28
Babysitting Course 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 4
Women's Group Brunch/Auction 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 5
Graduate Recognition/Potluck

Sunday, June 12
Youth Sunday/Confirmation/Last day of
Sunday School

Sunday, June 12
Amazing Grace Seminar

June 18-19
Family Bible Camp

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

**Midweek at Bear
Creek**
Wednesdays
6:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

Office hours
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays

Growing in love for God and neighbor through worship, study and service.