



Live your Belief In God!

Three B.I.G. Truths

Think B.I.G. because God is a great BIG God who:

- ★ I s the creator
- ★ I s always with us
- ★ We can trust
- ★ We praise and worship

God loves us with a great B.I.G. love.

- ★ God loves us unconditionally
- ★ We are unique children of God
- ★ God changes us through love
- ★ Jesus shows us how much God loves us

We are part of God's great

B.I.G. world.

- ★ **We can care for God's creation**
- ★ **We can show God's love to others**
- ★ We belong to the community of faith

Sunday School begins September 7!

Beloved

What if you had never been told that, as important as it is, electricity can also be deadly? What if no one bothered to tell you that ingesting certain plants or chemicals could kill you? And what if you had never received any loving instruction about God and Jesus Christ?

Is it a matter of life and death for a child to know if a book of the Bible is in the Old or New Testament? Is it a matter of life and death to be able to name all of the 12 apostles? Not literally.

But it is vitally important our children know they are God's own beloved, that the Bible shows us the relationship between God and people, and that they know Jesus as comforter and savior. Sunday school is a wonderful place for children to grow in faith and to learn how much God loves them.

The benefits of regular Sunday school attendance even go beyond that of building a strong faith. They include significantly reduced use of alcohol and drugs, dramatically lowered risk of suicide, less incidence of depression; increased life expectancy by eight years, increased school participation, and far higher percentage of youth describing their lives as "very happy."

"In study, after study, after study, children who actively engage in a faith community on a regular basis are rewarded with a SIGNIFICANTLY reduced likelihood of problems and risks, and significantly improved odds of a happier, healthier, longer life. These studies show the same results for adults as well," states pastor Neil MacQueen, Christian education consultant.

The benefits of regularly attending Sunday school and church have been well-documented and statistically proven by research from Duke University, Indiana University, the University of Michigan, the Center for Disease Control, Barna Research Group, and the National Institute for Healthcare Research.

Let us, as parents and members of Bear Creek UMC, give our children and the children in our community all of these vital blessings. Building a Biblical foundation and experiencing God's love is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child.

Isn't it wonderful that someone cared enough about you to keep you safe? Isn't it wonderful that we have a way to enrich and bless the lives of our children? Aren't you glad you can offer that to your children?

Sunday School begins September 7.

Lift up the importance of Sunday School Classes. Participate.

To view the sources of these statistics, visit: www.sundaysoftware.com/stats.htm

The Nurturing Community

“The community provides the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity. We believe we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor, and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals. Primary for us is the gospel understanding that all persons are important—because they are human beings created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance. We therefore support social climates in which human communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of all persons and their growth.”

From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2004



“Matching Gifts Support Your Community Programs”

The Community Programs Committee’s purpose is to help develop community by offering worthwhile and enriching programs and activities as well as supporting certain benevolences. It uses the UMC Book of Discipline “nurturing community” description as its guiding principal.

The budget funding comes from “matched giving” programs through companies where members of our congregation work. These funds are all designated for secular use. That means Community Programs focuses on enriching peoples’ lives and creating community through classes and workshops that feature subjects such as better parenting, eldercare, stress management, financial education, and emergency preparedness. Subjects that can make a real difference in a person’s life.

Most programs are offered on Wednesday evenings so people can take advantage of the many activities already in place. Having a delicious dinner already cooked and waiting (at 6:00 p.m.) as well as quality childcare makes it easy on a family to participate in a class.

Bear Creek UMC, through its community programs, provides many wonderful opportunities for people with similar interests and concerns to meet and perhaps share dinner together before class. The gracious members of this congregation always make people feel comfortable and welcomed. Community Programs continues to grow, and Bear Creek has become known as the church that cares and does something about it.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Emergency Preparedness Fair

Sunday, October 26
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness

