

# Bear Creek Church

Services at 9:00 & 10:30am

Christmas Eve: Candlelight Service at 5:30pm

Christmas Morning: one service at 10:30am

**Peace:** Picture a man named Abraham. He was 75 years old and married to Sarah, who was also well along in years. They had been married for a lifetime, yet they had no children. God came to Abraham in his old age and said,

Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Let's be clear: God was asking a lot of Abraham. "Leave everything you know and go to a place I will show you. Put your trust in me and I will bring you to a place that will someday be known as Canaan. I will make you a great nation! You don't have any children yet, but just trust me, you will."

Yes, God asked a lot of Abraham. But God promised Abraham even more. He promised descendants, blessings, and protection on the journey. God asked a lot, promised a lot, and Abraham had faith. As he embarked on this journey he put his trust in God. And God gave him peace. The peace that filled Abraham as he embarked on a very unknown, dangerous, and difficult journey is the same peace that God offers to us today in the midst of our unknown, dangerous, and difficult journey. God asks a lot, but he promises so much more. What peace!

Advent is the time of year when the church prepares for the celebration of the birth of Christ so long ago, while anticipating His return. To help us in our worship, we light Advent candles to represent themes of this season. The Advent candles and readings focus on four things that God gives to us through his Son's birth: hope, peace, love, and joy. The season of Advent ends on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ candle to celebrate this child, this gift, this salvation that God promised and delivered to His children.



## WANTING TO SERVE?

Contact us at:

[ServeBCC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ServeBCC@GMAIL.COM)



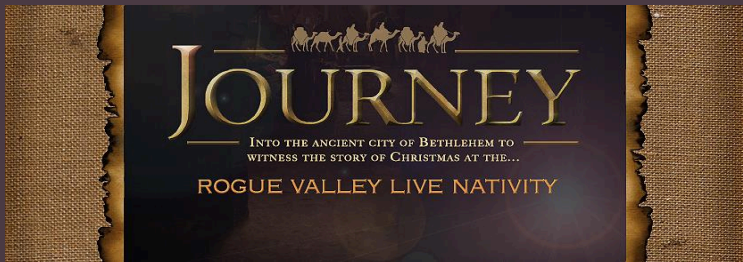
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MEDFORD OREGON



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**JOURNEY**  
INTO THE ANCIENT CITY OF BETHLEHEM TO  
 WITNESS THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS AT THE...  
**ROGUE VALLEY LIVE NATIVITY**

**Experience 1<sup>st</sup>-Century Bethlehem**

at the Jackson County Expo in Central Point

**Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 9pm**

**Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-8pm**

Free performances begin every half hour. After your journey to Bethlehem, enjoy crafts for the kids, warm

drinks, treats and music in the Mace Building. Don't miss the experience! You'll be guided through events leading up to the birth of Christ. For more information, go to [www.RogueValleyLiveNativity.org](http://www.RogueValleyLiveNativity.org)

**GIVE A GIFT:** It's time once again to do our Bear Creek Church Jesus-reflecting thing and shop for gifts for residents of Weaver House, a residence for adults with disabilities run by Living Opportunities. Find a gift suggestion on the little Christmas tree in the hallway, go shopping and have it back by Sunday, Dec. 11. With questions contact Anne Meador at [almeador@aol.com](mailto:almeador@aol.com). And thanks!

*Respite Morning*

For kids 6 mos-12 years from any area family affected by disability (We love you!)

Hosted in the St. Mary's School gym by the Bear Creek Church Disability Ministry Team and our BCC volunteers

**Saturday, December 10, 9-noon**  
**(8-1 for volunteers)**

All guests and all BCC volunteers sign up here:  
<http://www.bearcreekchurch.org/respite-day>

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** with the Weeks Family on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: "Join us for a night of Christmas caroling and spreading God's love throughout our neighborhood. We will start at 6:00 and then come back to our house at about 7:30 -8:00 for fellowship and maybe some worship around the fire pit. Smores, coffee and sharing Christmas memories are usually what happens." Contact Charlie at either [charliepweeks@gmail.com](mailto:charliepweeks@gmail.com), or 541-778-7261.

**FELLOWSHIP NIGHT FOR LADIES 13-25:** Every first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm Anne Meador will host a great opportunity for fellowship, with games and activities. Call Anne at (541) 261-6919 if you have any questions

**AT THE BOOK TABLE:** Raising our kids in the nurture and admonition of the Lord is no easy task. As 2017 approaches, parents may be thinking about devotional material for the new year. Check out Sally Michael's fine God-centered books for children, such as *God's Wisdom, God's Providence, God's Word, and God's Battle*. I wish these books had been written when my children were growing up! For parents of older kids and teens, *Keeping Your Kids on God's Side* by Natasha Crain is a must have, and excellent for adults too, as it offers concise answers to questions about God, the problem of evil, difficult scripture passages, science, and much more. Christmas is coming too...books are the best gifts, don't you agree?

**See [www.bearcreekchurch.org](http://www.bearcreekchurch.org) for a list of our current small group opportunities**

**UPCOMING**

- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Respite Morning for kids 6 mos-12 years, families affected by disability (9am-noon). Register at [bearcreekchurch.org](http://bearcreekchurch.org)
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at BCC - 5:30pm
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Morning Service at BCC - 1 service only at 10:30am
- Jan 13 Women's Game Night: A fun opportunity to get to know others in a casual atmosphere. Details to come.
- Jun 29-Jul 3, 2017 BCC Campout