

# Bear Creek Church

Services at 9:00 & 10:30am

Christmas Eve: Candlelight Service at 5:30pm

Christmas Morning: one service at 10:30am

**LOVE:** *David was 30 years old when he became king of Israel, and he reigned for forty years. Now, David wasn't perfect, but he put his trust in God and served him well. And God blessed King David, and Israel flourished during his reign. After God had given him success against his enemies, a palace was built for this great King of Israel. When the palace was finished and David was settled in his new home, he called for Nathan the prophet and said, "It is not right that I am living in a palace of cedar, while the house of God remains in a tent." David wanted to build a temple for God to take the place of the tent that had served as God's home for many years. That night God came to Nathan with a word for David. God would have a temple as David wanted, but it would not be built by David. But that wasn't all that God wanted David to hear that night. God wanted David to hear these words: This is what the Lord Almighty says; I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, and I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own. The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you; when your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you. I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

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.



**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).

**CHILDREN SINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE:** BCC children are invited to sing on stage at the beginning of our Christmas Eve Service. 3's-Kindergarten will be singing *Away in a Manger* with our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class. 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade will sing *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. We will be practicing these songs in Sunday school briefly but please try to practice with them at home as well. If they would like to participate, please arrive 15 minutes early to the service and meet us at the far side of the gym. They will sing first then join you for the remainder of the program. Please contact Kim Clark with any questions, [kdclark01@charter.net](mailto:kdclark01@charter.net).

## WANTING TO SERVE?

Contact us at:

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



BEAR CREEK CHURCH,  
MEDFORD OREGON



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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM IZMIR:** Dear Friends, as we approach the Christmas season, let us consider the amazing GIFT of God's reaching down to meet our greatest need for forgiveness and righteousness. In Izmir, we are beginning a push for our Christmas outreach, where we also hope to share this great kindness of Christ to our friends and neighbors. In Islam they are taught each man must stand for their own sins--no one can do anything for another person's sins. Pray for God to open their eyes to the unique position of Christ for the salvation of their souls.

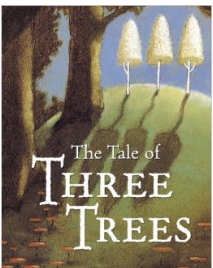
**Other news:** A high-ranking Turkish military officer became a Christian, was baptized this year and has been sharing Christ with his family. As we were writing this, he called Fikret with some amazing information. His daughter-in-law, his son and his wife have been searching questions beyond what the officer is able to answer. So they called for Fikret to come today and help them understand. How exciting for the officer to know his family is seeking the Lord!

Another new believer, a young musician, first came to our church on Easter Sunday! He was baptized at summer camp and has grown much since attending our church, but needs your prayer for encouragement and strength as he faces serious challenges to his faith. Pray for the Bible translation. The work is progressing strongly, yet many important issues rise up to delay Fikret's work including emergencies like car accidents and crises in the lives of church member. Pray for a protection and blessing over Fikret's translating time.

Have a blessed Holiday season, and thank you for your prayers and partnership in our work!

The Bocek Family

**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.



**AT THE BOOK TABLE:** *The Tale of the Three Trees* by Angela Elwell Hunt. This wonderful children's picture book belongs in every home with children, if not every home. An amazon reviewer describes it this way: "For three little trees who dream of what they will be someday - a holder of treasure, a fine ship, a hilltop beacon pointing to God - life proves to have something rather different in store. They are disappointed that their lives are so mundane. And, as the years pass, "the three trees nearly forgot their dreams." Yet each eventually gets its wish, although not in the way it had foreseen. When that happens, each discovers that things turned out just the way they should have. Readers will be reminded that God has plans for every one of his creations, that He never loses sight any of us. Children will learn that when they don't get what they want, it may be because something even better is in store for them." For Christmas or Easter or all year round.

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

## UPCOMING

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 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Game Night: A fun opportunity to get to know others in a casual atmosphere. Details to come.
Jan 24 & Feb 1	Protect Our Children Seminar - 6:15pm - 9:pm at Medford Public Library. No RSVP required
Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Mini Conference - more details to come.
Jun 29-Jul 3, 2017	BCC Campout