

Bear Creek Church

Services at 9:00 & 10:30am

Christmas Eve: Candlelight Service at 5:30pm

Christmas Morning: one service at 10:30am

New Year's Day: one service at 10:30am

Joy: In the Old Testament, the word “joy” is nearly always associated with an act of God, and even more specifically, with an act of God delivering his people. The people of Israel found themselves in need of God’s deliverance on more than one occasion. When they were enslaved in Egypt, God set them free. As they traveled to the promised land, God proved to the Israelites over and over again that he was far stronger and more powerful than the enemy nations who opposed them. When the nation of Israel was carried off into captivity by the Babylonians, again they cried out to God to rescue them, and God delivered them and brought them back to Jerusalem.

Each time they were rescued, the Israelites were joyful and rejoiced in God’s love for them. But each time they soon forgot God’s deliverance and turned away from God.

In a cold and dirty stable in the small, unimportant town of Bethlehem, God again delivered his people. This time, however, it was not just for a time, not just until the next warring nation came across the river. This time it was forever, for eternity. God sent his Son to deliver his people not just from enemies who threatened them, but from their sin that separated them from himself.

We can imagine the joy on the faces of the shepherds as they made their way to the stable. We can almost see the joy on the faces of the wise men who traveled great distances to find this new king. And we can feel the radiant joy of Simeon and Anna in the temple as they came face to face with the Savior of the world.

God sent himself to us to bring us life and never-ending joy. Today, as we celebrate Advent and think of joy, let’s not forget. Let’s remember and live each day in the knowledge and understanding of what God has done for us. We are delivered! How can we not be joyful?

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.



BEAR CREEK CHURCH,
MEDFORD OREGON



WWW.BEARCREEKCHURCH.ORG
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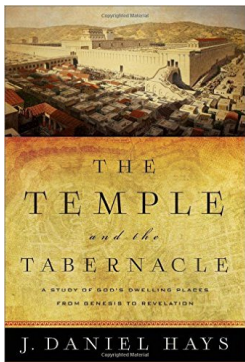


BEAR CREEK CHURCH
P. O. BOX 4732
MEDFORD, OR 97501

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 5th/6th grade class. 1st-4th 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

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TONIGHT

with the Weeks Family: "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, or 541- 778-7261.



NEW AT THE BOOK TABLE: *The Temple and the Tabernacle* by J. Daniel Hays. This beautiful book traces the history of God's presence with his people in the Tabernacle and Temple, his leaving them due to their persistent and shocking sin, never to return until 400 years later the Son of God Himself walked into to the Temple. Visually stunning and theologically rich, this full-color resource brings together the latest scholarship and archeological discoveries to make God's dwelling places come alive for modern believers. It places these important structures in their historical and theological contexts, connects them with the overall biblical story, and shows how they bring meaning and depth to the faith of Christians today.

End of Year Giving

Christmas Morning is the last Sunday to give. Remember that you can give up to December 31st using any of the following options:

1. Give ONLINE
BearCreekChurch.org/Giving
2. Give by TEXT
Text the dollar amount to:
(541) 214-BEAR (2327)
3. Give by MAIL
P.O. BOX 4732
Medford, OR 97501

See www.bearcreekchurch.org for a list of our current small group opportunities

UPCOMING

Dec 24 th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at BCC - 5:30pm
Dec 25 th	Christmas Morning Service at BCC - 1 service only at 10:30am
Jan 13 th	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 th	Women's Mini Conference - more details to come.
Jun 29-Jul 3, 2017	BCC Campout