

# BEARGRASS NEWS



**Worship** Regularly **Grow** Intentionally **Serve** Generously

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 11 BEARGRASS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) DECEMBER 2018



By Leigh Bond

This week we make the transition between the end of the long season of Pentecost and the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season—so ready or not—here we go! This weekend we will begin to include the lighting of the Advent candles during our services. On Sunday evening we will hear the Beargrass Choir with a 20-musician orchestra and 30-voice children's choir from Our Lady of Lourdes present the cantata, "Invitation to a Miracle," at 6:30 pm.

I hope that you will make attendance in worship and participation in outreach a priority during December—especially on Christmas Eve. We are encouraging everyone to reach out to a family member or friend or someone who "has a history with our history" with an invitation to attend one of our services. We will have numerous opportunities to make a difference in people's lives by sharing our gifts and invitations.

The theme for the upcoming sermons will be inspired by the choir cantata. I pray that our hearts and minds will be open and alert to the signs of God's hope and peace and joy and love. Here are the sermon titles and scripture texts for this upcoming series:

- December 1/2     *An Invitation to Hope*
- December 8/9    *An Invitation to Peace*
- December 15/16   *An Invitation to Joy*
- December 22/23   *An Invitation to Love*
- December 24     *Invitation to a Miracle* (5, 8, 11 pm)
- December 29/30   *"Lessons and Carols"*  
(one 11 am service on Sunday)

## Advent Christmas Calendar

- December 1/2 and December 8/9: Alternative Giving Fair
- December 2: (6:30 pm) Beargrass Choir with Orchestra Christmas Cantata, Reception to follow
- December 7: (7:30 pm) Louisville Philharmonia Christmas Concert
- December 8: (9 to 11 am) Holiday Breakfast with Santa
- December 8: (1:30 pm) Louisville Philharmonia Christmas Concert
- December 9: (3 to 5 pm) Christmas Caroling
- December 16: (10 am) Children's Christmas Pageant
- December 16: JYF and Youth Christmas Parties
- December 19: (6:30 pm) DWM Children's Christmas Concert (Reception follows)
- December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (5 pm – 8 pm – 11 pm)
- December 29: (5:30 pm) Service of Lessons and Carols
- December 30: (11:00 am) Service of Lessons and Carols

## Christmas Caroling

Join us in spreading the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christmas to those in our church family who aren't able to get out as much anymore. Caroling to homebound members will take place on Sunday, December 9. We will gather just before 3 pm at the church and hit the road to carol to as many folks as possible. We will return to the church around 5 pm for some hot beverages and cookies. Please contact Steven Straub by December 6 if you plan on coming (steven@beargrass.org or 896-1161) so we will know how many groups to send out caroling!

**Gifts to Beargrass**  
By Marikeith Mercke



The Beargrass Christian Church Memorial Fund has received the following donations:

In memory of Michael Karem from Mike and Peggy McClusky, Fred and Suzanne Karem

In memory of Robert Williams from Ruth Compton, Kirk and Julia Williams and Art and Suzy Grunewald

In memory of Barbara Knight from Steve and Terry Haag, Ronald and Susan Musick, Tom and Cheri Klausing

In memory of Carol Jean Smith from Charles and Nancy Hazelton and Beth Devine

In memory of Doris Cowell from Ann Buckingham

In memory of Brandon Nall from Ann Buckingham and Tyler Nall



**Pedal Power Needs Bike Donations**

Christmas is a great time to donate. Bikes can be dropped off at the garage in the back parking lot of the church anytime Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Also volunteers are welcome to help make bike repairs Those wanting to help can meet with other volunteers on Wednesday's from 3:00 to 5:00 and on the first Saturday morning of every month.

Follow Pedal Power on Instagram at pedalpowerbcc.

**Financial Peace University Returns to Beargrass in January**

Financial Peace University is Dave Ramsey's class that will help you take control of your money, plan for your future, and transform your life.

The 9-week class will meet Sunday evenings from 5:00-6:30 from January 13 through March 10. Childcare (infants to grade 2) and programming (grades 3 and up) will be available. There will also be a free preview and information session at 5:00 on January 6. Doug and Allison Dawson will facilitate the class.

Each class includes a video, group discussion, and a practical assignment specific to you. You'll learn how to do the following:

- Budget, save, and pay off debt.
- Get on the same page with your spouse.
- Identify which types of insurance you need.
- Plan and save for major expenses.
- Invest for your future, give generously, and more.

The cost ranges from \$80 to \$120, depending on which membership option you choose. More details can be found at [www.daveramsey.com/fpu](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu), and Beargrass will have some memberships available to purchase.

Email announcements and news items to [michelle@beargrass.org](mailto:michelle@beargrass.org)

To submit items for the weekly E-News or bulletin, please submit by Tuesday.

For the most updated information follow Beargrass Christian Church on Facebook and on Beargrass.org.



## Advent Devotional Booklet Available

Copies will be available this weekend. The booklet offers a meditation and prayer for each day of the season. This year's booklet was written by Carol Merritt and is titled "I Am Mary." She says: "As we enter this Advent season together, may we learn to long and love deeply, and may we get a glimpse of what it means to 'bear' God (as Mary did)." Plan to pick up a copy—this will be a helpful spiritual guide for the season.

## 2018 Alternative Giving Fair December 2 and 9

Sponsored by the Outreach Division  
by Barbara Clark and John Hull

The Alternative Giving Fair is a long-standing tradition for Beargrass that provides an opportunity for us to look outward as we enter the Christmas season. Reimagine your Christmas gift giving and consider a donation to a worthy outreach organization to help those less fortunate throughout our community, nation, and world. As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child we invite you to be a blessing to others. Spend some time in the Gathering Space on December 2 and 9 and talk to representatives from the following organizations:

**Lighthouse Academy** at Newburg provides a free after school program for elementary and middle school students from the Newburg area. Homework completion, reading and math tutoring, and enrichment programs are provided, along with a hot meal from Dare to Care. The mission of Lighthouse Academy is to provide youth in our community a safe place to learn and grow through educational, spiritual, and economic programs.

**Fed with Faith** is dedicated to helping the homeless population in the greater Louisville area. They work on the front lines, serving meals and collecting and delivering donations of blankets, coats, and other much-needed items. Their efforts are toward direct support of those in the streets, shelters, and homeless camps. Beargrass members have been an integral part of this ministry.

**Beargrass Prisoner Re-entry Assistance** supports individuals re-entering society from the correctional system as a means of sharing God's love for all. The program assists with housing, obtaining documents, food stamp applications, transportation, clothing, furniture, and employment. The program has worked with released inmates for over ten years and has a much higher success rate than is true for the general population of Kentucky prisoners.

**Habitat for Humanity** puts God's love into action. Habitat of Metro Louisville brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope through housing solutions of home ownership, community development, and home repair. Habitat's work is home building, but our purpose is to change lives. Homes form essential building blocks for families and communities when coupled with strong relationships and healthy neighborhoods.

**The Salvation Army** is an international movement which is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Each year the Salvation Army helps millions of people in the areas of hunger relief, housing and homeless services, Christmas assistance, youth camps and recreation, prison ministries, elderly services, veterans affairs services and more.

**Hope for Tomorrow Children's Home** (Guatemala) provides a stable family group to meet the physical, educational, medical, psychological, nutritional and spiritual needs of each child in its care. As a Christ-centered program, it provides a spiritual climate that encourages each child to realize God's calling and ensure opportunities to increase their spiritual growth. Numerous Beargrass mission teams have served at Hope for Tomorrow in recent years.

**WaterStep** provides safe water to communities in developing countries. It trains people to use safe water solutions like water purification, health education, and well repair, empowering communities to take care of their own water needs for years. Three quarters of a billion people do not have access to clean water. More people die every year from diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation than from armed conflict.



### Children's Christmas Pageant December 16

On Sunday morning December 16, the children of Beargrass will present a Christmas Pageant at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. To participate in the pageant, a child simply needs to report to their Sunday School classroom at 9:55 on the morning of the 16th.

Following the pageant, children will return to their Sunday School classrooms to take off their costumes and enjoy some holiday treats. For the safety of all children, parents need to pick their children up from their classrooms, not the sanctuary, at the conclusion of the pageant. Please contact Steven Straub if you have any questions.

### JYF Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 16, all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited to the JYF Christmas Party from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Upper Room. Activities will include games, crafts, a service project, and a Christmas video. Contact Steven Straub if you have any questions.

### DWM Christmas Program

This December, the DWM Christmas Program will feature the children and youth of Beargrass in a special concert. On Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m., the Melody Makers, the Children's Choir, the Children's Handbell Choir, and some youth musicians will present a musical concert entitled "Do You Hear the Sounds of Christmas?" The entire congregation is invited to the program in the sanctuary. A reception will be held in Chalice Hall following the concert.

### Holiday Pancake Breakfast

All Beargrass families are invited to a holiday pancake breakfast on Saturday morning December 8 from 9 – 11 am. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested. No reservations are required. The breakfast meal will include pancakes, sausage, and breakfast beverages. Children will also have the opportunity to have their picture taken with a special visitor from the North Pole. There will be opportunities to make some Christmas crafts as well.

The breakfast we hope will be an outreach opportunity. It is a great event to invite families who might be looking for a church home to visit Beargrass outside of worship. All proceeds from the event will benefit a scholarship fund to help children attend VBS, church camp, and mission day camp.

### Summer Dates 2019 – Mark Your Calendars NOW!!

Junior Camp (for those who have completed 4th or 5th grade) – June 24-28, 2019

Mini Camp (for those who have completed 3rd grade) – June 7-9, 2019

Camp 101 (for those who have completed 1st or 2nd grade; parent/guardian attends with child) – June 28-30, 2019 OR July 26-28, 2019

Vacation Bible School – June 9-13, 2019 (children ages 4 through completion of 5th grade)

Mission Day Camp – July 2019 TBD (for those children who have completed 3rd through 5th grade)

### Beargrass Youth Ski Trip January 4th - 5th, 2019

This year Beargrass's Youth Ministry will be spending one night at the Quality Inn in Lawrenceburg, IN and offering two days of skiing at Perfect North! We will depart from the church EARLY Friday morning and return Saturday evening.

Students can choose their own ski trip package to include one or two days of skiing, a group beginners lesson and snow tubing. For an additional fee, students can also opt in for night skiing on Friday night January 4th.

All transportation and meals and event T-shirt are included in the price.

All students MUST be registered for the event by Wednesday, December 19th! Contact Rob Shrader for more information at [rob@beargrass.org](mailto:rob@beargrass.org).