



www.beargrass.org

**We are Beargrass Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
part of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
Guided by the love of God
and a commitment to an open Table,
we worship with hope,
grow together as a community of faith,
and serve with generosity and a passion for justice.**

STRATEGY SESSION UPDATES

By Leigh Bond

Thanks to all of the people who participated in our strategy sessions earlier this year. As you can imagine, a lot of ideas and perspectives were shared and a lot of notes were taken. Dr. Susan Lowe took on the challenging task of compiling and summarizing the notes from the sessions. We shared the summary with our consultant, Dr. John Wimberly, and he helped us to identify some common themes, potential strategies, and “next steps.” We will share this information with the members of the Ministry Leadership Team on August 19 and begin to process and prioritize potential strategies. The good news is that we are already making some great progress. For instance, there were a number of suggestions about better communications—and our new Communications Coordinator, Dee Decker, has already been able to get a number of things “up and running” such as the online devotionals and broader use of social media. Please feel free to contact me or any of the ministers if you have any questions.

“LIVING IT UP” SUMMER SERMON SERIES

The season of Pentecost is a time for us to celebrate God’s gift of the Spirit to the Church. During June and July, the theme for the messages has been “A New Spirit.” We have considered and given thanks for God’s gifts of gratitude, peace, hope, freedom, compassion, growth, and glory. Leigh will begin a new series in August called “Living it UP.” We will take a look at a number of passages from Luke and think about what a Spirit-filled life looks like. The messages will continue to complement the “Summer Stretch” which Dee Decker has provided for the church family. We hope you find it to be UP-lifting!



THE BEARGRASS CHOIR IS BACK

The Beargrass Choir is back after their annual summer break! They have worked very hard this year and took on a number of additional performances and projects. We are pleased to welcome them back to the 11:00 am worship services. Rehearsals have resumed on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Child care is available. If you love to sing and would like to get involved, this is a wonderful time to get started. If you have questions, please contact Daniel Spurlock at 643-0201 or booksds@aol.com.

beargrass FOREVER - growing a legacy of faith

By Leigh Bond

The members of the Endowment Team have been working hard to prepare for a new ministry called "**beargrass FOREVER—growing a legacy of Faith.**" This effort will provide opportunities for members and friends of the church to consider including Beargrass in their "end of life" plans.

A good friend, Rev. Randy Johnson, will be preaching at the Sunday services on September 8. Randy has worked with the Christian Church Foundation for years and is extremely knowledgeable and passionate about this important ministry for congregations. We will follow up Randy's presentation with small group gatherings in September and October. Be looking for more details in the coming weeks.

AN ENDOWMENT IS FOREVER

By Leslie Geohegan - Endowment Team Chair

The Beargrass endowment was established more than 35 years ago by some forward-thinking elders of the Church. The purpose of the endowment is

to provide financial resources for the immediate and future mission of the Church and its witness and service to Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. . . .
to secure and support the ongoing legacy of the ministry of the Church.

Since inception, the endowment has received gifts of almost \$1.2M. Out of the subsequent \$900K in earnings on these gifts, the endowment has distributed \$885K back to the Church for mission and ministry. The annual distributions have grown considerably from \$15K in the 1980's to \$54K for the 2019 budget.

The impact of these gifts reaches so many different areas of the work of Beargrass:

- from outreach and the Helping Hand ministry to the music ministry and resources in the Church library
- from college and seminary scholarships for our young adults to continuing education for our ministers
- from Church operations and capital improvements to support for ministerial programs and special projects

But what if we grow the endowment? Imagine the possibilities!

As we as a Church live out the call to action in our Purpose Statement, we as individuals are called to consider ways we can grow in faith and serve with generosity - how to express our gratitude for what God has given to us and for what Beargrass has meant to us.

Over the next several weeks, watch for the stories of those who have given or those who have felt the impact of the gift through **beargrass FOREVER growing a legacy of faith**



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION

AUGUST 18 | 10:00 am

Children should report to their current Sunday School classrooms where they will be escorted to the sanctuary for the promotion ceremony. After promotion, they will be taken to their new classrooms with their new teachers.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the ceremony. At the end of Sunday School hour, parents should pick up their children from their new classrooms and introduce themselves to their children's new teacher. Contact Steven Straub (steven@beargrass.org) with any questions.

SPACE FOR GRACE KICK OFF

AUGUST 18 | 4:30 - 6:30 pm

A special kick-off is planned on Sunday, August 18 for **children and youth (grades 3-12) and their parents**. The night will include inflatables, games, get-to-know-you activities, and parent meetings.

Parents need to plan to stay the entire time as they will be involved in both meetings and activities. **Everyone** needs to wear tennis shoes.

Childcare is available for younger siblings on the ARK wing. Contact Steven Straub (steven@beargrass.org) with any questions.

FALL JYF KICKOFF TRIP

AUGUST 24 | 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Calling all incoming third, fourth, and fifth graders and their friends!! Our JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) fall trip will be to The Beach water park near Mason, Ohio on Saturday, August 24.

Details: Meet at the 5/3 Bank across the street from the church at 8 am. (The parking lot will be packed because of the Farmer's Market.) Please bring a sack lunch and wear your JYF t-shirt. Cost is \$20 which covers admission to the water park, transportation costs, and dinner on the way home. We will return to church between 8:00 and 8:30 pm that evening. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, August 21 so transportation can be planned accordingly. Let Steven know if you have any questions.

Parents: We could use some chaperones. Contact Steven if interested.

BEARGRASS GOES BEYOND THE BUILDING

Beargrass is moving beyond the walls of our building as we launch Beargrass Christian Church Podcast! A batch of episodes "dropped" Thursday, August 1!

Each week of the *A New Spirit* sermon series is now available as well as a bonus episode with Dr. Susan Lowe. Episodes will feature sermons, conversations with ministers, and information on upcoming events.



Beargrass is listed on all major podcast directories (iTunes, Spotify, Google, and Stitcher) with a link to online giving, our website, and all our social media accounts. A podcast App is also available for all iOS and most Android devices to make listening easy and available on the go.

To add the app to your iphone:

- Go to <http://BeargrassCC.buzzsprout.com>
- Tap the "share" button at the bottom of the safari screen
- Tap icon labels "Add to Home Screen"
- Tap the Add button in the upper right corner

To add the app to your Android devices:

- Go to <http://BeargrassCC.buzzsprout.com>
- Tap the slide out option menu (three dots top right of screen)
- Tap "Add to Home Screen" towards bottom of list
- App icon is placed on your home screen

Having the App on your homescreen gives you direct access to our freshest content. The App automatically updates as soon as a new episode goes live.

If you have any questions or problems with loading the app, contact Dee Decker (dee@beargrass.org) or call the church office at 896-1161. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to invite friends and family to take a listen.

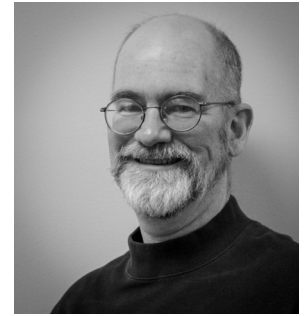
MESSAGE FROM DR. JOHN HULL

Dear Beargrass Family,
Words cannot express how grateful I am, both for the many years I had the privilege of serving with you at Beargrass as well as for the wonderful things you said and did as I finished up my time with you. I was overwhelmed by the kindness you extended to me and to my family during the last couple of weeks at Beargrass and the gifts of love and friendship you extended.

I am very excited for Beargrass and its future. You have so many outstanding people who serve and lead as you provide a place for others to serve, to learn, to be cared for and to worship. I look forward to watching Beargrass continue spreading the flame of hope and love to the community and to the world.

Caryn and I arrived in Colorado. We are still unpacking but the house is starting to take shape. Please look us up when you are in the Denver-Boulder area.

Thank you again for all you did as I wrapped up my time with you.
Blessings and peace,
John Hull



GIFTS TO BEARGRASS

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

- In memory of Wayne and Lois Jones - Jane E. Hourigan

The Beargrass Christian Capital Reserve Fund received the following donations:

- In memory of Jean Sampson - Thelma Jenkins, Bob Gilewski, Janice Sampson, Nancy Wilson
- In memory of Ophelia Corbett - Mary June and Alan Forsythe

THANKS TO BEARGRASS

- Avery Travis recipient of the R W VanNostrand Scholarship Award
- Jack Whittle recipient of the R W VanNostrand Scholarship Award
- Lexington Theological Seminary for the gift of \$10,000
- Christian Care Communities for donation of \$5,500 to help support their ministries to older adults.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Rev. Bob and Karen Sutton
- Bob Shrader
- Ginny First and Mike Shugart
- Justin Hardy
- Dana Cantrell
- Rev. Julie Richardson and her daughter, Madeleine Joy
- Robert "Bob" and Marsha Spears

MESSAGE IN MUSIC WITH "INFINITE REALM"

We are glad to welcome back the Southern Gospel singing group, "The Infinite Realm" Saturday, August 17 at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary for Message in Music.

Group members include:

- Steve Brown, tambourine/vocals
- Tony Gossom, guitar/vocals
- Ricky Mahoney, bass/mandolin/piano/vocals
- Dave Taylor, guitar/vocals
- Neal Wright, piano/bass/vocals
- Paul Wright, drums/vocals.

You won't want to miss the time of worship at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary—and bring some friends! We will share a "love offering" to support their music ministry.

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES AT BEARGRASS

Beargrass will host the Disciples Volleyball League on Thursday nights beginning on **September 19**. The league is open to men and women, high-school age or older. Folks may sign up as a team or as individuals. Cost per team is \$175 and includes 8 weeks of play plus tournament week. For more information contact Jim Sams III at 377-8427, or email him at jimsams@beargrass.org.

