

*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 commitment and a
passion for justice.*

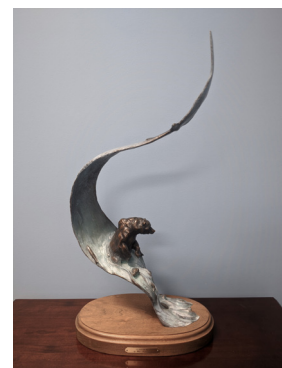
**DECEMBER ADVENT CHRISTMAS
CALENDAR**

- 01** Advent Begins and Decorating Party!
- 08** Alternative Giving Fair at 10:00 am
- 08** "Sing Christmas!" at 6:30 pm
- 14** Holiday Pankcake Breakfast at 9:00 am
- 15** Alternative Giving Fair
- 15** Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:00 am
- 18** Children's Christmas Concert at 6:30 pm
- 22** Christmas Caroling at 3:00 pm
- 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5:00 pm features children's choirs.
8:00 pm music from our Praise Team.
11:00 pm Beargrass Choir sings
- 29** One Service at 11:00 am

WE ARE BEARGRASS - "SURVIVAL"

Beargrass has been gifted this classic piece of sculpture from the creative genius of noted artist/ sculptor Blair Huhlestein of Loveland, Colorado. The piece captures a stark and realistic moment in nature focusing on a grizzly bear working hard to feed itself while a bald eagle soars overhead. The realism portrayed in the nearly perfect rendition of the bear and the myriad of fish swimming upstream to escape the outstretched claws of the bear transports the viewer to the river shore where one can almost hear the water rusing by. In some way, this simple vignette depicts the daily life we live as we navigate our way through this world trying to survive the harsh realities that surround us.

The wisp of water becoming the sky while the eagle flies above creates a spiritual essence not unlike what we feel when we stumble through our worldly existence and are then borne up by the presence of God to calm us, rescue us, and reassure us that God is always there. And so it is. We survive by our faith and through the mercy, love, and grace of our Creator. This depiction of life also represents Beargrass Church's mission in this community and in our world.



"Survival" is lovingly donated to the community of Beargrass Christian Church by members who wish to remain anonymous. As "Survival" visually ties with the Beargrass name and spirit, the donors believe Beargrass should be its home. We offer thanks for this beautiful gift that represents who we are so well.



BEARGRASS CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Christmas! The season of joy! And what better way to express joy than through singing! Nothing warms our hearts more than the familiar carols and songs of the season. Some describe the beauty of a sparkling winter night; of snow, tinsel, and twinkling lights. Some celebrate the joy of giving and receiving gifts, or of simply gathering around a fire to bask in the warmth of friendship and love. But the real joy of the season is in celebrating the birth of the Christ child; a birth foretold by prophets-one who would come from heaven and bring salvation to a broken world.

On **Sunday, December 8 at 6:30 pm** we will celebrate in song! We will sing of love, hope, peace, and especially joy in a beautiful musical cantata entitled *Sing Christmas!* that features the Beargrass Choir, Our Lady of Lourdes children’s choir along with an orchestra. We are especially happy this year to have as special guests our own Beargrass Chamber handbell choir and the Beargrass Praise Singers from the Sunday morning 9am service. A reception will follow the performance.

Come hear this beautiful Christmas music, including favorite Christmas carols along with narration proclaiming the joy of Christmas. Your hearts will be inspired and quickened in preparation of the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING 2019

Are you ready to spread Christmas joy for all to hear? Well, we are spreading as much joy as we can to our Beargrass members who aren’t able to get out as much anymore by spending some time caroling to (and with!) them. We will do this on **Sunday, December 22nd from 3-5 p.m.** So we can contact people beforehand and ensure we have enough transportation, please **RSVP by Monday, December 16th** to susan@beargrass.org or by contacting the church office at 896-1161. This allows us to know how many groups we can have and therefore how many people we can bring joy to that day!!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

This Advent, Beargrass will be providing daily devotions delivered to your email written by the ministers and staff of the church. The devotions will be in



conversation with the sermon series and the Beargrass Choir Cantata *Sing Christmas!*

Monday’s email will feature a short overview of the week’s theme (hope, peace, joy, love) and a suggested “Advent Action” for the week. Tuesday through Saturday devotionals will include a daily scripture reading, a reflection written by one of the ministers at Beargrass, and a prayer.

If you already receive the weekly e-news you will automatically receive the Advent e-Devotions. If you do not receive the e-news sign up today at www.beargrass.org

NEW WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERING

No cash? No problem. We have unrolled new electronic ways to give your tithe and offering to Beargrass.

- Text “give” to 833-759-5930
- Scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin
- Sign up for automated giving by visiting our website www.beargrass.org and click “Give”

Of course you can always write a check and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

We hope these new ways of giving will make it easier for you to participate in this important act of worship. Remember, there are cards in the pew backs that you can place in the offering plate that say, “I gave online” if you would like to participate in the offering during the service.

Please contact the church office with any questions at 502-896-1161.

HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

All Beargrass families are invited to a Holiday Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning **December 14 from 9 – 11 am. The cost is \$5 per person.**



No reservations are required. There will be opportunities to make crafts and children can also have their pictures taken with a special visitor from the North Pole. This 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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This December, the Disciples Women Christmas Program will feature the children and youth of Beargrass in a special concert. On Wednesday, **December 18 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 "The ABC's of Christmas." The entire congregation is invited to the program in the sanctuary. A reception will be held in Chalice Hall following the concert.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday morning December 15, the children of Beargrass will present a Christmas Pageant at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. To participate in the pageant, children need to report to their Sunday School classroom at 9:55 am. Following the pageant, children will return to their Sunday School classrooms. For the safety of all children, parents need to pick children up from the classrooms, not the sanctuary, at the conclusion of the pageant.

JYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday, **December 15 from 5:00-6:30 pm** all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited to the JYF Christmas Party in the Upper Room. Activities will include games, crafts, a service project, and a Christmas video. Contact Steven Straub if you have any questions.

"SEASONS" OF THE CHURCH

Have you ever wondered what "Ordinary Time" means and what exactly makes it ordinary? What about "Easter Tide" or "The Season of Pentecost"?

Beargrass member, Lee Smith, will offer a two-week presentation about the liturgical calendar on Sunday, **December 1 and 9 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Class.** Lee is a consultant and holds a Master of Divinity in Liturgical History from Yale University. We hope you join us!

DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Our Dementia Caregiver Support Group has been meeting for over 10 years now. While we regret the reason why people are gathering together, we are grateful that help, hope, and support through relationships built and resources shared are found by those who come. Over the last several years we have hosted a Christmas brunch for those caring for a loved one with dementia. Our brunch this year will be held on **Thursday, December 12th at 10:30 a.m. in chalice hall.** If you are caring for a loved one with dementia, please join us for this informal gathering. There will be great food and fellowship along with some music for you to enjoy. To **RSVP, please contact David Horn at david@hornllc.com, by Sunday, December 8th** so we can have enough food.

THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr. Leigh Bond announced his retirement effective December 31, 2020. As a result, it is necessary to form a committee to search for our next Senior Pastor. The Search Committee members have been selected and unanimously approved by the Ministerial Leadership Team. The committee is chaired by Linda Sewell, with Denise Hatfield, Allison Dawson, Barbara Decker, Stacey DeCoste, Bob Gilewski, Justin Key, Donna Knight, and Mike Puckett. Rob Shrader will serve as ministerial support and Sydney Travis, Board Chair, ex-officio member.

The search committee will be sharing more information about the search process and next steps after the first of the year.

REFUGEE UPDATE: A DOUBLE BLESSING

By Mike Puckett

When Rutigerera Nsanzimfura arrived in Louisville on August 15, he expected to be joined here by his parents and two siblings less than three weeks later. Yet they remain in a Rwandan refugee camp. In the midst of that moratorium the security and medical clearance documents of Rutigerera's family members expired....so they wait, tragically and inexplicably, for all five of them. While saddened by his family's delay, Rutigerera has made substantial progress here—his English has improved rapidly; he has all necessary medical appointments behind him; and he is interviewing for full-time employment. Thanks to Lauri Carrico and family, he has even visited Beargrass for worship several times.

You'll recall that Beargrass members had supplied the furnishings for a three bedroom apartment in the Beechmont neighborhood. Rutigerera resided there for some six weeks but was then re-located to live with the family of an aunt who had resettled in Louisville two years earlier. All furniture was left behind with the exception of the television, washer, and dryer which followed Rutigerera.

Now, I'm happy to report that a newly-arrived refugee family is the beneficiary of Beargrass's earlier generous donations and efforts. Nyota Lalimwabo and her five children, one of the first families to arrive here post-moratorium, were greeted by KRM and Beargrass at the airport on the evening of November 6. They were escorted to the south-end apartment vacated by Rutigerera, and their joy at the blessing of the furnished apartment was quite evident. While Beargrass has not undertaken a full co-sponsorship of this family, they are the beneficiaries of your care and concern already. Now, with the arrival of Nyota and her children, God has placed two families fully in our sights and on our hearts, both of whom need our love and assistance, and most assuredly, our prayers. Thanks for your ongoing generosity and compassion.... thanks for being Beargrass. If you would like to play a role in that assistance, financial or otherwise, please feel free to reach out to me at any time (mike.t.puckett@gmail.com or 502.593.7148).

ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

Give a gift that reflects the true spirit of the holidays! Help raise needed funds for nonprofit organizations while showing your appreciation for the special people in your life. Give a gift that gives twice! Sunday, **December 8 and 15 at 10:00 am** in the gathering space

2019 Participating organizations: Light House Academy, Fed with Faith, Hope 4 Tomorrow Child Center and Orphanage, Habitat for Humanity, Water Step, Beargrass Prison Re-entry, and Just Creations – a not-for-profit Fair Trade store that has been providing unique, handmade products created by artisans and farmers worldwide. Just Creations invests in people and builds relationships with like-minded organizations, trading partners, and individuals to create change around the world.



NEW RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT FUND

An anonymous donor gifted \$50,000 to Beargrass Christian Church to establish a new restricted endowment fund, "Beyond the Walls." The purposes of the fund are as follows:

- Financially encourage and support participation in both youth and adult mission trips through scholarships granted to Church members. The purpose is not to reduce the overall cost of the trip to the whole group, but to defray or eliminate the cost to individuals who otherwise would not be able to participate.
- Financially support or provide seed money for establishing NEW "Beyond the Walls" mission projects, with emphasis on the local community. The funds are not intended to maintain project operations into subsequent years. Examples of how the funds could be used include: creating a community garden in the food desert, building affordable housing in low-income areas, purchasing children's books for a summer reading program, opening a used clothing store, or other diverse ministries designed to benefit underprivileged individuals or areas in the local community

Visit www.beargrass.org/beargrassforever today to learn how you can help grow a legacy of faith!