



WORSHIP-GROW-SERVE



LENT 2019: A SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY

By Leigh Bond

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and I hope you will be with us for worship at 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. Lent is also a time when we begin to see signs of growth in the natural world around us. The words “length” and “lengthen” are associated with the Lenten season. This is a time of the lengthening of our days—more light which provides for more growth. Lent is a time to turn our hearts to God and live more fully and abundantly.

The worship theme for Lent will be “Opportunity.” As we reflect upon these passages we can find courage and strength to make life-giving choices and changes. As you prepare for worship each weekend, I encourage you to read and reflect upon these texts:

- March 09/10 A Tempting Opportunity
- March 16/17 Youth Sunday
- March 23/24 An Opportunity to Be Fruitful
- March 30/31 An Opportunity to Come Home
- April 06/07 An Extravagant Opportunity
- April 13/14 An Opportunity to Cry Out



OPPORTUNITY: CHOICES AND CHANGE

March 6, 2019 - 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary

by Dr. Susan Lowe

In reflecting on Isaiah 58:1-2 and Lent, Lara Blackwood Pickrel wrote, “Isaiah says that God is far more interested in what we are willing to fast for. Suffering isn’t the point. Instead, the point is freeing up space, time, money, and energy for the sake of what God loves: justice and compassion. Giving up an expensive habit frees up money that can be spent helping others. Giving up something that consumes my time gives me more time I can use for the sake of my community. This type of fasting—fasting for—is what God calls us to choose as we walk in the way of Jesus.”

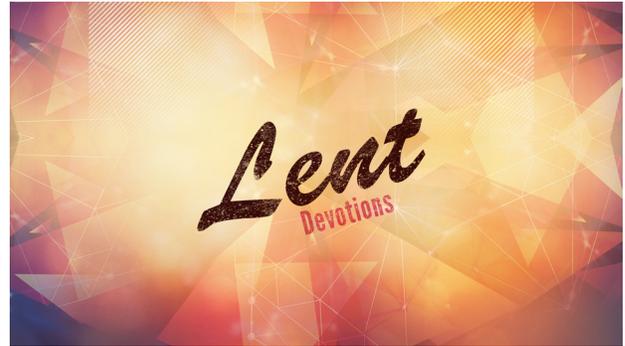
What choices will you make this Lent to draw you closer to God?

How will these choices bring change?

I hope you will be present as we consider such questions and join together in this meaningful service of communion and ashes.

LENT DEVOTIONS - REFLECT AND SHARE YOUR VIEW

Lent, the season of the Christian year that is typically observed as a time of simple living, prayer, and fasting leading up to Easter. Many spend the time in self-examination and reflection as modeled by Jesus in Matthew 4: 1-11 in which he prayed and fasted for forty days before beginning his ministry.



As we journey through this season of Lent, we invite you to join our devotion and photo-a-day spiritual practice. Each day, we encourage you to reflect on the scripture passage provided, and in light of that, take a picture of how you perceive the word of the day. You don't have to be a great photographer. This project is more about the spiritual practice of paying attention and being intentional.

Email your pictures to dee@beargrass.org or share it on social media with the hashtag #Lent2019_BCC. No explanation is needed, after all, a picture is worth a thousand words. Please note, there will not be scripture or reflections on Saturday and Sunday, however, a word of the day is provided to reflect upon and photograph. Throughout Lent we will combine some of the photos submitted into creative and engaging videos meant to facilitate a time of reflection and devotion.

Let's start this forty day journey together sharing glimpses of our lives with one another. May this be an intentional time, even for a few minutes a day, to pause, remember, and reflect.

BEARGRASS PRAYER GROUP

Many thanks to Dr. Rex Cox for his 10+ years of leading our weekly prayer group at Beargrass! We give thanks for his dedication and discipline in leading this group over the years and thank all who have participated in this meaningful ministry.

THIS LENT, the group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in March (12, 26) and April (9, 23) at 12:15 p.m. in Room 114. Rex will offer biblical passages and/or poems to reflect upon and lead the group in lifting up those on our prayer list. Contact Rex (coxrex@bellsouth.net) if you have any questions or are interested in joining this group.

Following Lent, the prayer group will take a break through the summer. Please thank Rex if you see him and stay tuned in the Fall for details as the group resumes.

LENTEN PRAYER NETWORK

Prayer has left the building! This Lent we are inviting folks to come together during the week to meet over lunch (or coffee) and pray for one another as well as our prayer list.

Work downtown? Pick a spot to gather with other church members, invite a co-worker, and have a meaningful time of prayer, food, and fellowship!

Work in Prospect? Do the same!

Groups can meet once a week or once a month, whatever works best for each group. We hope to have groups meeting all over town throughout Lent.

Contact Dr. Susan Lowe (susan@beargrass) or call the church office at 896-1161 if you are interested in organizing or being a part of one of these groups.

GIFTS TO BEARGRASS

By Marikeith Mercke

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

- In memory of Catherine Stoess: John and Jean Briscoe
- In memory of William Bruce Hamilton: William and Eugenia Hamilton
- In memory of Becky Greenwell: Becky Van Cleave, Alan and Mary June Forsythe
- In memory of Harold Diamond: Richard Barnett
- In memory of Kathy Willinger: Steve and Kay Nolan, Sammy and Lisa Smith, Michael and Carolyn Smith, Thomas and Cathy Dawson, Charles and Anne Crow, Jerry and Robin Brown, Matt and Leigh Gillies, Pat and Edward Butler

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Led by Dr. John Hull
Wednesdays at 10:30 in Room 202
Beginning March 13

LIFE LESSONS II

"We all have lessons to learn during this time called life...these lessons are the ultimate truths about our lives; they are the secrets to life itself. I wanted to write one more book, not on death and dying but on life and living." Elizabeth Kubler Ross *Life Lessons: Two Experts on Death and Dying Teach Us About the Mysteries of Life and Living*, p. xv

This Lenten season, join Susan Lowe and Juanita Hagan as they facilitate discussion on some of life's greatest lessons: time, patience, power, surrender, and forgiveness. The authors, David Kessler and Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, use stories from their experiences of being with those who are dying to share great insights and challenges on living life to the fullest. **Group discussion will be held on Sunday evenings from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Room 114 beginning March 10 and ending April 7.**

Call the church office or contact Susan Lowe (susan@beargrass.org) with questions or to share interest in participating. Copies of the book can be obtained from the church office for \$10 or purchase on your own until supplies run out.

GREEN CHALICE

The origins of our relationship with the earth and its creatures lie deep in our Christian tradition, especially our biblical heritage. We are challenged to return to our biblical roots to rediscover our intimate connections with creation. We return to see ourselves again as part of the very earth from which we are made and which sustains us on a minute to minute basis.

This Lenten season, Green Chalice will share some interesting resources and guest speakers for your Sunday School class, if you are interested. All of this will culminate on Easter followed by an Earth Day celebration the weekend of April 28.

We hope you enjoy this resource with several ideas to start your Lenten Creation Care practice:

https://www.historicchristchurch.org/download_file/view/205/



ST. MAM'S REVERSE LENTEN CHALLENGE

During Lent we want to challenge each individual or family to donate a minimum of \$1 per day for 40 days. Do you really need that coffee each morning on your way to work? Those dollars will help support the many St. MAM missions that benefit those in need in our community. Last year, over 6000 services were provided to our neighbors, right here in St. Matthews. In addition, Metro Government just proposed a 50% cut in our ministry's funding beginning July 1. Your support is desperately needed as we continue our 47 years of service to the community. Send your donation to St. MAM, 201 Biltmore Rd. 40207.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Beth Fryar was our first new member of 2019. She attended the Newcomers Class and has been attending worship. Beth has discovered that she already knows many of the folks in our church family. Members of her family have Disciples connections, so she feels like she is “coming home.” Welcome Beth via email at ebfryar@aol.com.

The Meyer family is back at Beargrass—Nate, Karin, and their children: Kadin, Jackson, Grayson, and Emery. Karin is the daughter of Rick and Pat Beck. Nate was the principal at Fern Creek High School for many years and is now working with numerous schools in JCPS. Karin is teaching at Bates Elementary. The Meyer’s are experiencing the “perfect storm” with regard to their children’s schools—all four are at different levels—college, high school, middle school, and elementary school! Nate’s email is nrmeyer@yahoo.com and Karin’s is karinmeyer@yahoo.com.

Jo (Josephine) Causey attended the Saturday services for two weeks and felt right at home—so much so that she made a decision to join the church quickly! She retired recently and now enjoys reading, walking, and cooking.

Nancy Wesolosky has also been attending the Saturday service regularly and decided to establish a dual membership with her home church, Neville Island Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. She enjoys quilting, crochet, knitting, and playing bridge. Nancy also volunteers extensively with Locust Grove, Habitat for Humanity, and Hosparus for Veterans.

Tony Ellis married **Laura Curth** a few years ago. They have a beautiful daughter, Ainsley Grace, who was dedicated recently. Tony joined the church as a part of the dedication service. He is an attorney with the Ellis Law Group. He and Laura enjoy cooking, hiking, biking, traveling—and especially enjoy spending time with Ainsley. Tony’s email is aellis@theellislawgroup.

MARCH 2019 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

01	World Day of Prayer at Crescent Hill United Methodist	10:00 am
05	Chalice Group Discusses <i>Resist and Persist - Faith and the Fight for Equality</i>	6:30 pm
06	Ash Wednesday Service OPPORTUNITY: Choices and Change	6:45 pm
09	Pack 115 Trivia Night	6:30 pm
10	Newcomers Class begins	10:00 am
	Blood Pressure Screening	9:45 am
	Life Lessons II with Susan Lowe and Juanita Hagan kicks off	5:00 pm
17	Youth Sunday	
21	DWM Book Club <i>Mrs. Sherlock Holmes</i> by Brad Ricca	6:30 pm
22	Camp Work Weekend	
23	Message in Music with the Derby City Quartet	5:30 pm
28	Library Book Club <i>The Great Alone</i> by Kristin Hannah	1:30 pm

Give online www.beargrass.org



NEW WIFI PASSWORD

WorshipGrowServe17