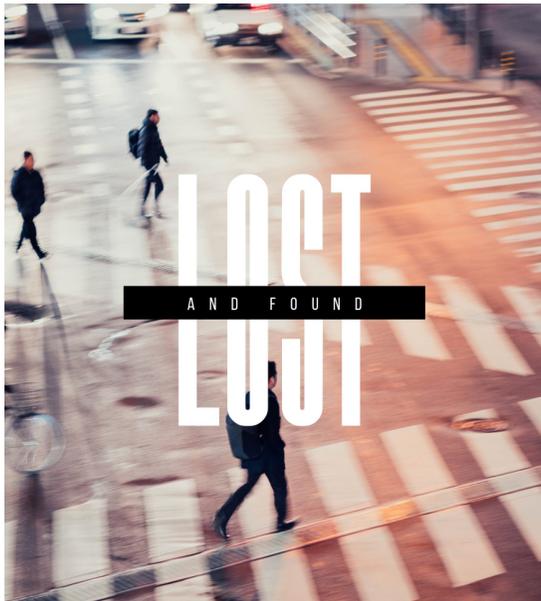




www.beargrass.org

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.



LOST AND FOUND SERMON SERIES

The season of Pentecost is a time for us to celebrate God's gift of the Spirit to the Church. Leigh will wrap up the "Living it UP" series and begin a new one called "Lost and Found" that will run through the end of October. The series will focus on stories from Luke 15-17 and continue to help us think about what a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led life looks like.

STRATEGY SESSION UPDATES

By Leigh Bond

The strategies from our small group sessions were shared with the members of the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) on August 19. Small groups of MLT members will meet and begin to process and prioritize potential strategies in our four target areas—worship, grow, serve, and stewardship. These will be presented at the October MLT meeting. Feel free to contact me or any of the ministers or MLT members if you have any questions.

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.**" 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. He will also facilitate a session at 10:00 am in the sanctuary for all of our adult Sunday School classes and anyone else who is interested. 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 about those in the coming weeks.



JIM NICOLAUS RECOGNIZED AS ELDER EMERITUS

By Mike Puckett

Our 9:00 am worship service on July 28 featured a celebration of 40-year Beargrass member and servant-leader, Jim Nicolaus. For a personal life which has demonstrated Christian concern, honesty, and integrity; for the unselfish devotion of his time and talents to our church and God; for his extended Board service and leadership, with distinction as an elder, Jim was recognized as the 44th Elder Emeritus of Beargrass Christian Church. He was joined at the celebration by wife Jean, daughters Jennifer and Jessica and their families, and brother Jeff.

Jim, Jean, and their daughters Jennifer and Jessica, relocated to Louisville in 1978 with General Electric. The family found Beargrass on their first Christmas Eve here, and the family quickly became immersed in the life of this church family. As Jim grew in faith during the 1980s, he was first invited to become a deacon and then an elder. Recognizing his leadership qualities, his church family asked that he serve this church at its highest lay level—that of Board Chair. He did so in the celebratory year of 1992, when Beargrass turned 150 years old as a Disciples congregation. During his four decades here Jim has served as Fellowship Class president; has led the Evangelism Division; has chaired the personnel, nominating, music, and evangelism committees; and led the search team which brought us Dr. John Hull in 1998.



Even with his considerable leadership qualities and administrative skill set, what many call to mind most vividly about Jim’s service are two things. First, he has continually blessed this congregation with his artistry in building backdrops for our youth programming, vacation Bible school, Christmas choral events, Summer Sing productions, the Farmers Market...the list seems endless. The second vivid memory is the remarkable graciousness, gentle spirit, warmth, and love with which Jim has always served God and this church family.

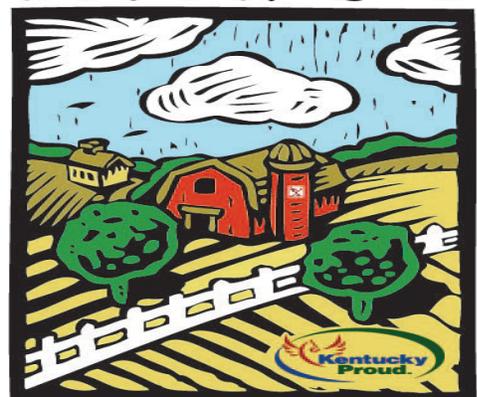
FARMERS MARKET HONEY TASTING

Many of our farms cultivate honey and **Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**, you will have the opportunity to taste the flavor varieties inherent in honey production.

Besides being sweet and delicious, there are many health benefits to eating local honey. If you have a sore throat, take some honey. Honey has powerful antimicrobial properties which can sooth your raw tissues. Due to its natural anti-inflammatory effect it will help heal the wound more quickly. Did you know honey can help ease a sore stomach and aid hydration? Honey is also a natural antiseptic and has been used to treat wounds for hundreds of years. It can kill bacteria in and around a wound. Local honey has long been identified as helping allergies. The small amount of pollen in the honey can help build up tolerance.

September is National Beekeeping Month! Come on out to the Farmer’s Market on Saturday, September 7 to taste, enjoy, and learn about honey.

St. Matthews



Farmers Market
At Beargrass Christian Church

PRIMARY ADVENTURES

This fall, our outing group for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders will experience some exciting journeys together! **Primary Adventures** will take 3 or 4 trips during the school year so that the children of Beargrass can get to know each other better through fun and fellowship outside of the regular worship experience. The group will take adventures to places such as pottery painting, movie theaters, and others.

The first outing for the Primary Adventures will be on Sunday, September 22. We will meet at church in the Activities Building at 12:15 pm and travel to a local bowling alley for lunch and bowling. The cost per child will be \$15.00. Please make a reservation by calling the church office (896-1161) or emailing Steven (steven@beargrass.org) by Thursday, September 19 so that the bowling alley will know how many people to expect and Steven can arrange appropriate transportation.

Parents: We could use some extra chaperones for our outings. If you would be willing to chaperone, please let Steven know.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Children's Sunday will be held at Beargrass on Sunday, September 29 at the 9 am and 11 am worship services. Children will be taking an active part in the service by leading worship, including singing, leading prayer, serving communion, and much more.

While the JYF group will provide the primary leadership for the service, all children will be involved in different aspects of worship. The Children's Choir, Children's Handbell Choir, and the Melody Makers will also participate in the service.

Plan to be at church on Sunday, September 29. You don't want to miss this meaningful worship experience!

www.beargrass.org



WEDNESDAY EVENING KICKS-OFF

Programming for children and youth will resume on **Wednesday, September 4.**

Children in grades 1-5 can participate in music and Bible study through November 20. Childcare is available in the ARK wing for children kindergarten age and under.

6:00 - Children's Bell Choir (room 200)

6:30 - Children's Choir and Bible Study (room 203)

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to build relationships and study the Bible together.

5:30 pm - Hang Time (youth space)

6:30 pm - Chi Rho/CYF Bible Study (youth space)

BEARGRASS GOES BEYOND THE BUILDING

Beargrass is moving beyond the walls of our building as we launch Beargrass Christian Church Podcast!

Episodes feature sermons, conversations with ministers, special guests, and information on upcoming events.



Upcoming episodes include:

- Conversation with **Rev. Julie Richardson** living into "On Your Left" at home and in community.
- **Rev. Rob Shrader** talks race and justice and reflects on Youth Mission Trip 2019 to Birmingham, Alabama.
- **Discovering the Enneagram** with certified Enneagram trainer and Spiritual Director, Nina Maples.
- **beargrass FOREVER** with Rev. Randy Johnson.

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.

OFFERING HOPE TO ANOTHER REFUGEE FAMILY

BY Mike Puckett

Rutigerera Nsanzimfura entered his 5th airport, Louisville International, when he touched down on the evening of August 15. Forty-eight hours earlier he had departed Kigali, Rwanda, a country in which he had spent 23 of his 27 years in a refugee camp. When greeted by a dozen or more from Beargrass and Kentucky Refugee Ministries, his reaction to the welcome sign and to God's love shining through all those unfamiliar faces, brought deep and visible emotion from even the most stoic of the welcoming group. Then when Rutigerera first visited Beargrass during worship and Sunday school ten days later, on August 25, he tugged at our heartstrings once more with his comments during a discussion of human rights, as he spoke through an interpreter of being born a second time when he touched down in America.

The Congo has long been one of the world's most violent, inhumane, and unforgiving environments. It is estimated that 20 million people (half of its population) died during its colonization in the first half of the 20th century. Conditions have not improved since it gained its independence from Belgium 60 years ago. Two wars in the 1990s alone caused the deaths of another 5.4 million. It was that violence which forced Sayiba Twahirwa, his wife Ancille, and their 4 year-old son, Rutigerera, to flee to Rwanda in 1996 (along with much of Sayiba's extended family). Sayiba and Ancille welcomed son Jean and daughter Cecile in 2001 and 2003, respectively, in the refugee camp.

Now in their late 50s, these parents of three no doubt have dreamed of a better life in America for their three children. When Sayiba and the rest of his family arrive on September 3, he also will reunite with four of his siblings in Louisville who also fled the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1996 and, rather amazingly, have preceded him here by two years. The long and joyful embraces of two aunts and an uncle with Rutigerera at Louisville International on August 15 were additional elements of the deep emotion of that first evening.

Transitioning to life here will not be easy for any member of this family of five. They all face a new language (Kinyarwanda is native to them), new cultural norms, and a host of adjustments unimaginable to us. Yet, the prospects of peace, freedom, education, housing, jobs, and most importantly, dignity and hope, are within the realm of possibility for each of them now. These are all things we tend to take for granted on a daily basis, but have been denied each of them for most, if not all, their lives. Rutigerera's brief but soulful comments brought this home to everyone who was fortunate enough to be in his presence in the Agape classroom on the morning of August 25. And his beaming smile continually depicts deep gratitude to the Beargrass church family for our small role in offering him and each of his loved ones the opportunity of life anew.

GIFTS TO BEARGRASS

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

- In memory of Wanda Crosier - R. B. and Peggy Adams

THANKS TO BEARGRASS

- Jean Anderson wishes to thank her Beargrass family for all the cards, calls, flowers, and support.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Give a warm welcome to Ron Brouillette! Ron is a long-time friend of Pam Olmstead, who introduced him to the church family. Since that introduction, Ron has become very involved in the life of the church and especially enjoys the Fellowship Class.

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.

ONLINE GIVING:
WWW.BEARGRASS.ORG

