

LENSES OF LENT: SEEKING CLARITY

By Dr. Susan Lowe

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and is a day in which we remember our mortality. It is a day of reflection and repentance, a day in which we begin to take a deeper look within and wrestle with questions about our life and living, about our relationship with God and others. Nurya Love Parish says, "Ash Wednesday exists to wake me up to the fact that the measure of my days is the relationship I have with God." As we think about the measure of our days, our relationship with God, on this day, we are invited to commit to disciplines during Lent that will help us focus more clearly on the important things in life. Lent is a time for us to seek clarity in who we are as followers of Christ. I hope you will join us on Ash Wednesday and engage in various disciplines throughout the Lenten season that bring clarity of vision to your life and living. We will all be invited to reflect on daily e-mail devotions, to participate in educational opportunities (Discipleship class for our 5th graders, Faith Legacies in Dying and Living for adults, as well as many other opportunities!), and engage in service projects (Habitat for Humanity). Join us Wednesday, February 26th at 6:45 p.m. for a meaningful time of worship and reflection as we begin this Lenten season.



EPHIPHANY 2020

The theme for the messages and worship services during the season of Epiphany is "Eyes to See." The stories that are usually associated with the season are the discovery of the Christ-child by the magi and the baptism of Jesus. The wise men followed the light of the star and saw Jesus for the first time. The gift of the Spirit to Jesus during his baptism helped people see him in a new way. Generally speaking, an epiphany is a moment of sudden revelation or insight—"aha" moments. In the church we talk about "God moments"—times when we catch a glimpse of the glory and greatness of God—and times when we "get it" and gain a clearer sense of what God is calling us to do.

The "Eyes to See" series is part of a year-long emphasis called "2020 Vision." When we hear the number "2020," we can't help but think of eyesight. (And it would be an oversight for us to ignore the opportunity to embrace it thematically!) So as the year unfolds we will focus on variations of the theme: "The Lens of Lent," "Recognizing Resurrection," "Pentecost Perspectives," and "Visions of Advent." I hope to see you 'round the Table often this year. And I pray that we will all see God and ways to serve God's people more clearly.

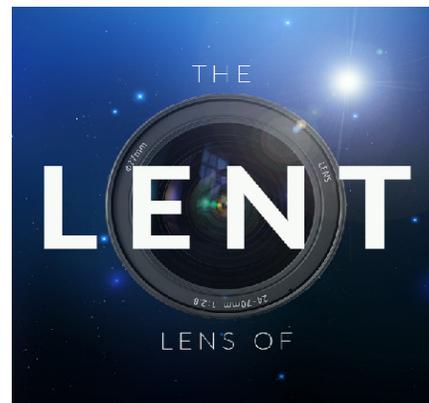
LENT e-DEVOTIONS RETURN

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.

This year, as we journey through this season of Lent, we invite you to participate in an e-devotional and photo-a-day spiritual practice. We encourage you to reflect on the scripture passage, 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. There will not be scripture or reflections on Sunday.

Email your pictures to dee@beargrass.org or share it on facebook with the hashtag **#lensoflent2020**. No explanation is needed, after all, a picture is worth a thousand words. 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 PODCAST: 2020 VISION

Beargrass moved beyond the walls of the building in 2019 with the launch of the Beargrass Christian Church Podcast. Since the August, 2019 launch we have published **36 episodes, 758 minutes of content and had 1,585 downloads!**

For 2020, we have greater clarity on the purpose of the Beargrass Podcast. We're excited to see how God will use this new tool to grow and connect our family of faith in the coming year.

Our focus in 2020 is to provide more interviews with members and leaders of Beargrass, episodes on family and faith, spritual disciplines, and looks behind the scenes at Beargrass. The Beargrass Christian Church Podcast is a great way to introduce your friends and family to Beargrass - It's also a wonderful tool to deepen your faith.

You can find the Beargrass Christian Church Podcast on iTunes, Spotify, and Google Podcast for easy listening on the go. You can also access our podcast from our website at www.beargrass.org.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP



Thanks to a partnership between YMCA and Pedal Power, this young adult now has reliable transportation that allows him to pursue a better life. He wrote to YMCA Safe Place in search of help obtaining a bike. He wanted to search for a job and continue in a program through Goodwill, but not having money for bus fare everyday was an obstacle to acheiving these goals.

Corbin Hannah, Director of Outreach Services, at YMCA Safe Place Services reached out to Bob Callander with Pedal Power for help. Through the ministry of Pedal Power, transportation is no longer a barrier to a better life for this young man and the 5,000 others this important ministry has served over the last eight years. Our community is truly blessed by their ministry and service.

PARENT AND ME DRIVE-IN

Children ages 2 through Kindergarten are invited to a special event in Chalice Hall! A Parent and Me Drive-In will be held on **Friday, February 21 from 6:00-7:30 pm**. Children will have the opportunity to pick out their car, customize their car's features, and take their car to a car wash. At the end of the night, the children will enjoy snacks while watching a Veggie Tales movie on the big screen. The night promises to be an event little children will not want to miss! Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, February 19 so enough supplies can be purchased. Contact Steven Straub (steven@beargrass.org) with any questions

SAVE THE DATE - PACK 115 TRIVIA NIGHT

- Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 6:30-9:30 pm
- \$10 per person
- Childcare available

More details to come in the March newsletter!



Join in on the fun, **Friday, February 28 at 6:00 pm at Copper & Kings Distillery**. You will have a great night of food and fun while helping raise funds to support the Beargrass Christian Church Youth Group Camp and Mission funds. There will be a silent-auction, live music, dinner provided by Martin's Barbecue, and a cash bar. As if that wasn't enough, we've even lined up couples from the Sunday school classes to go head to head in the "Not So Newlywed Game!"

Tickets are \$40 per person OR \$350 for a table of 10. Tickets will be on sale Sundays in the gathering space on Sunday, February 2, 9, 16 from 9:00 - 11:00 am or through the Church office Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

BEARGRASS EMERGENCY AND SAFETY TEAM (B.E.S.T.) UPDATE

Beargrass has a long history of being known as a friendly and welcoming place. We never want to take away from that important first impression. At the same time, we have a responsibility to our members and visitors to make sure their time in our church is truly one of sanctuary, whether he or she is the Governor of the Commonwealth, or the first-time visitor from the prison re-entry program.

With this balance in mind, B.E.S.T. has recommended to the Church Ministry Leadership Team that the existing off-duty sheriff be in uniform and that an additional, off duty, uniformed law enforcement officer be outside the church building, walking the perimeter of the property and keeping in touch with designated church members inside via radio.

The recent interruption of the 9:00 am service by a felon with a violent history has made it apparent that having a professional available within seconds, as opposed to minutes, is the best course of action.

We anticipate our congregation will welcome these law enforcement professionals into our fold, much as a school resource officer becomes a part of the school climate, building a rapport with students. Thank you for your welcoming presence.

In addition, we are taking steps to make our childcare area (the Ark Wing), more secure. Toward that end, parents may be asked to utilize only the sanctuary side doors during worship services for dropping off and picking up their children. At those times, the doors at the library end of the hallway will be locked and entry will not be possible.

Thank you for your flexibility and cooperation as we implement these new procedures. Our goal is to continue to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all who come to Beargrass.

FROM CHRISTIAN CARE COMMUNITIES

"Thank you for your kind and generous gift of \$5,500. Your concern for those who need special care to live lives of dignity and security enables Christian Care Communities to offer care and support to over 5,000 elders and their families each year.

We rejoice together as partners! Because of generous support, including yours, the ministries of Christian Care Communities reach all across Kentucky. The love of Christ is experienced by those Elders we serve together."

BEARGRASS PARTNERS WITH OTHER (DOC) CONGREGATIONS TO “RAISE THE ROOF”

Beargrass, Douglass Boulevard, and J-Town Christian Churches are joining forces to “Raise the Roof” on a Habitat home in the Park Springs Subdivision: 13505 Park Springs Lane, Louisville for Mohamad Almjareesh and Jajah Thiab and their family.

The family is originally from Syria and lived in Jordan and Kuwait before moving to the United States in 2016. Mohammad and Najah have seven children, ranging in age from 16 to one and a half years of



age. Mohammad has been workin at Ingram Micro for the past two years and is excited to have his dream of owning a home finally come true.

Work will begin on Thursday, February 27 and continue through Saturday, February 29 start at 8:30 am each day. Volunteers can choose to work all day or serve a morning or afternoon shift.

Beargrass has also taken on organizing lunch for Saturday, February 29th. We need help organizing the feeding 35-40 volunteers and Habitat work crew members. This is a great opportunity for those who are not comfortable with construction to still be involved in the build!

For those volunteers that can not attend the Build but would like to participate, Habitat needs volunteers to help build wall sections for the Raise the Roof home in their Build Center on February 13th & 14th. 8:30am-2:30pm. The Build center is located at 1620 Bank St., Louisville 40203.

For additional information or sign-up to volunteer, contact Keith Aultman (kjaultman@gmail.com).



20 YEARS OF BEARGRASS BABIES

This month marked 20 years of Dodi Hance caring for the babies and young children of Beargrass. Welcoming and loving the youngest of our family of faith, Dodi has become a favorite among the children and their families. You are likely to find Dodi smiling and laughing with a youngster close by almost anytime the Beargrass doors are open

Providing a consistent caring presence for the young children of Beargrass is something Dodi loves and can’t imagine not doing. After 20 years of service, she doesn’t plan on stopping anytime soon.

Dodi was recognized January 26, 2020 in the 11:00 am service. Several people commented on the Beargrass Facebook page celebrating her service. Sarah Yoder noted that Dodi had cared for her children’ almost 20 years ago. Many stated their thankfulness for Dodi and the difference she has made to countless children and families. Perhaps Sarah Druien Gold said it best, “20 years of blessings! What a great lady!”

GIFTS TO BEARGRASS

Beargrass Christian Church received the following donations:

- In honor of Dale and Carroll Senior - Yvonne Schmidt
- Genny Morgan - Susan Phipps

The Beargrass Christian Church Memorial Fund received the following donations:

- In memory of Ann Northcutt - Donna Lytle, Roger and Jenny Noonan, Charles and Katharine Boyer, Ann Buckingham, Richard Barnett, Karl and Marcy Russ, Connie Hatfield, Betty Noel, Harvey Morris, Trudy Grotzinger

The Beargrass Christian Church Pastoral Care received the following donations:

- In honor of Wilbur and Betty Perkins