

# ADVENT NEWSLETTER 2020



1882 Bellefonte Drive • Lexington, KY 40503 • (859) 266-0459 • [www.crestwoodchristian.org](http://www.crestwoodchristian.org)

## ADVENT STUDY

### Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation

At Christmas, we celebrate the greatest of God's gifts: the birth of Immanuel, God with us. Throughout the season of Advent, we're able to anticipate God's gifts to us and consider what they really mean. We want to help you dive deeper into the meaning of Advent with a four-week study called **Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation**. This resource from the Thoughtful Christian will help us consider familiar texts from the book of Isaiah through the lens of gifts. Embedded in these texts are gifts that God longs to give us and deeply desires for us to receive into our lives: peace, justice, joy, and salvation.

The study will be offered at two times:

**Mondays @ 7:00 PM, starting November 30 (led by Kory)**

**Thursdays @ 11:30 AM, starting December 3 (led by Trish)**

Links to the studies will be available in the Weekly email.

Also, join us for **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** on Sundays at 9:00 AM on Zoom for an ADVENT study. Email Trish ([trish@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:trish@crestwoodchristian.org)) for discussion points.

## ADVENT SERMON SERIES DETOUR!

Have you ever thought you were going a certain way, only to find that way was blocked? Detour! That's the theme of our 2020 Advent sermon series.

Every character in the Christmas story - Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men - all had to take detours from what they thought their lives were going to be. Many of us are experiencing detours as well, as COVID alters what we thought life was going to be like. In these sermons, we'll learn how God helped these people through their detours, walking with them into a new way of living and being.

Nov 29	Mary
Dec 6	Joseph
Dec 13	The Shepherds
Dec 20	The Birth Story
Dec 27	The Wisemen



On Sunday, November 29, we begin our annual journey to Bethlehem. This year has been one of many challenges and the journey is definitely different than in years past. We are going to hope that we make the most of this detour. In order to aid you in this effort, we are putting together packets with tools for the journey. Each pack will have a set of Advent votive candles (3 purple, 1 pink), a calendar with a daily scripture, a devotional booklet with readings by Henri Nouwen, a sheet with suggestions for service opportunities and suggestions for making this time meaningful, and maybe a few other surprises that will make this a meaningful road trip.

If you would like a packet, please email Trish ([trish@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:trish@crestwoodchristian.org) or call the church office) or pick one up in the breezeway. We may be separated this year, but we still travel together. May our efforts be such that we are renewed by the gift of the Christ.

## CRESTWOOD WORSHIP

### Online Worship

Available through Sunday email link

[Facebook page](#)

[YouTube channel](#)

### Drive-In Vespers

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM for Drive-In Vespers in the North Parking Lot, broadcast through your FM radio. Bring your own communion elements. We hope to see you!

"...prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3



## CHRISTMAS EVE KIDS SERVICE

**December 24 @ 5:00 PM**

For our Children's Christmas Eve service, we're inviting everyone to Zoom with us as we sing Christmas songs and share in a festive story about the birth of

Jesus. Kory, Trish, Brian, and Peggy will all be there to help us celebrate this meaningful time of year. We hope all our kids will join us at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve for this service.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83244450553>

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**Prelude @ 6:30 PM • Service @ 7:00 PM**

We know that Christmas Eve will be different this year than ever before, but we are committed to celebrate this most holy of nights as a church family. On December 24, we will host a hybrid worship service combining pre-recorded music with a live stream from the sanctuary. The service will feature all the familiar elements of Christmas Eve - amazing music, powerful solos, the reading of the Christmas story, and of course, the lighting of candles and singing of "Silent Night." And if you can't join us at that time, the service will be available to watch at any point afterward, so you can celebrate this special night at your convenience. We look forward to being with you on Christmas Eve!

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES DURING ADVENT

### DELIVER GIFTS/FOOD BOXES FOR THE REINDEER EXPRESS

**Friday, December 11**

This year, Crestwood is housing the NEST's efforts to help families have a bright Christmas. Crestwood is not on a bus line and this is the mode of travel for many families. We may need to assist. Volunteers will pick up a bag of gifts and a food box and deliver these items to the sidewalk/porch of one family. All will be done with safety in mind.

### SPONSOR AND/OR PACK LUNCHES FOR LEXINGTON RESCUE MISSION

As you know, the Lexington Rescue Mission had a fire that has made it impossible for them to cook and serve meals. During this time they are looking for volunteers to provide 75 lunches each day. Crestwood and Crestwood members have already completed and committed to 4 days. If you or your family would like to sponsor and/or make and deliver lunches, contact Trish ([trish@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:trish@crestwoodchristian.org)) and she will help secure a date. Each lunch service is about \$150.

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

**Monday, December 21 @ 7:00 PM**

On Monday, December 21, we will gather for worship via Zoom. This is the longest night of the year. For those who bear the weight of grief, illness, and other challenges, this season is difficult. The Longest Night Service is designed to remind us of the true message of Christmas: that light comes into the darkness. By being together and turning to the source of our comfort, we will worship God in the promise that we are not alone. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88399256803>

## A WEARY WORLD: REFLECTIONS FOR A BLUE CHRISTMAS CONVERSATION GROUP

**Thursdays, December 3, 10, 17 @ 6:00 PM**

We recognize that this season is not jolly and joy for everyone. For many this is a difficult season. Those who have lost loved ones during this chaotic year have had extra challenges on the grieving journey. The focus on family and togetherness opens wounds of brokenness and loneliness. Let's face it - the year has been a mess that has compounded any difficulty we may have to bear. We are offering a small group opportunity to share with those who understand as we reflect on these days through Kathy Escobar's book *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas*. Contact Trish if you're interested in this group.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2*



## ANGEL TREE 2020

Greetings, Crestwood Family,

Thank you for choosing to adopt an Angel again this season! In doing so you are providing a child with a Christmas memory to cherish for many years, maybe even a lifetime.

This year, because of COVID-19, our process will be a little different; however, the need is greater than ever. Following is the step-by-step process for adopting your Angel(s):

**Choose** any Angel, or group of sibling Angels, through the sign-up link below. If you need help, please contact Peggy King at [peggy@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:peggy@crestwoodchristian.org). When choosing your angel(s), please take note of the number associated with your choice(s) as these numbers will be used to match your gift to the correct child. If your number also has a letter beside it (101a, 101b, etc.) that means this child has siblings. Please plan to shop for all siblings in this group so that gifts are consistent within that family.

**Shop** for your Angel. Please remember, the gift suggestions are meant to be a guide, not a list to be fulfilled.

**Package** your gifts. Please do not wrap your gifts. If you wish, you may include a roll of wrapping paper and some ribbon with your gift. Place unwrapped gifts in a black trash bag (to keep little eyes from seeing gifts before Christmas). Trash bags will be available at Crestwood in case you don't have any. If you have chosen siblings or multiple Angels, please use a different bag for each child.

**Contact-Free Drop off:** You may drop off your gifts on Saturday, December 5, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Enter the North Parking lot, drive through the circle overhang, and pop your trunk. A volunteer will retrieve your gift(s) and get them tagged for you.

Or you may bring your gifts to Crestwood Monday - Friday, from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and leave them in Lollis Chapel (enter from North parking lot). Tie or fasten the bag(s) securely. A table will be set up inside with your numbered sticker(s) along with your name. Place the corresponding sticker on each bag. If you have adopted sibling Angels, please be sure to tie these bags together.

**Gifts need to be at Crestwood no later than Monday, December 7 at Noon.**

Thank you so very much! You have now given a child more than a gift. You have given a child hope, joy, and a memory. And who knows where this will lead!

**To Choose an Angel, [click here](#).**

## THE NEST FOOD BOXES

Our Youth Ministry is asking for your monetary donations to supply the goal of 300 food boxes for The Nest, which will cost an estimated \$6,000 (\$20 a box). Your generosity last year allowed us to fill 325 food boxes and give a financial donation to help supply other needs at The Nest.

Due to the pandemic and in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible, we are only asking for monetary donations to help cover the cost of the food. We will order the food and have it boxed at a later date by our Youth Ministry. Send your donation to Crestwood Christian Church.



Thank you for continuing to make an impact in our community, especially for the 300 families who will receive these food boxes. We can do this! We will do this! We are Crestwood!

For checks, write in the memo: **The Nest Food Boxes**

For cash, write on the envelope or note: **The Nest Food Boxes**

For online giving, note before submitting: **The Nest Food Boxes**

## DECEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR

**Dec 4-6**

Youth Families Fill The Nest Food Boxes

**Dec 11 @ 5 PM**

2nd Friday Game Night on Zoom

**Dec 13 @ 4:30 PM**

Virtual Youth Christmas Party on Zoom

**Dec 20 @ 5 PM**

Youth Merge via Zoom

Theme: Ugly Sweater

**Dec 27**

No Youth Gatherings

Due to the unusual circumstances this year, we will not be ordering poinsettias. Instead, please consider using your money toward Angel Tree gifts or Nest food boxes. Thanks for all you do for Crestwood and our community.

# ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

**Crestwood's Alternative Christmas Giving** will be observed November 15 – December 6. The worship service in coming Sundays will feature the various agencies Alternative Christmas Giving supports. The agencies are listed below. *Please complete and include this form with your gift so that we know which agency/agencies you are supporting when Alternative Christmas gifts are distributed.*

This form is also available on the Alternative Christmas Giving table located in the breezeway to Chalice Hall. Cards are available to send regarding your gift in honor/memory of someone.

**ARBOR YOUTH SERVICES** cares for At-Risk and Runaway Youth

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRESTWOOD'S BRIDGE FUND** provides a "bridge" for families temporarily in need

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**CENTRAL KY MUSIC ACADEMY** gives musical training for low income children

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**GREENHOUSE17** assists women who are survivors of domestic violence

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** addresses international poverty and hunger

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**MILITARY MISSIONS** supports deployed military personnel

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATHANIEL MISSION** provides medical and dental care, and gives daily support to Lexington's neediest

Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check** \_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_ **Online** \_\_\_\_ **(check one, please!)**

If you choose to make your donation online, please go to [www.crestwoodchristian.org/about/give](http://www.crestwoodchristian.org/about/give) and follow the link in the paragraph **Online Giving with Credit/Debit cards**. Once on the Online Donations page, select Payment. In the **Special Instructions** box, please indicate **Alternative Christmas Giving**.

**For all giving options for your Alternative Christmas Gift, please complete this form and:**

**Mail to:**

**Crestwood Christian Church  
1882 Bellefonte Drive  
Lexington, KY 40503**

**OR**

**Drop it off in the box provided  
on the Alternative Christmas  
Giving table located in the  
breezeway.**