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NEXT CREST FEBRUARY 1

Articles are due by Noon on
Tuesday, January 26.

If you would like to receive
the *Crest* by mail,
please contact the
church office at
office@crestwoodchristian.org
or (859) 266-0459.

2021 JANUARY/FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE



The thought of a “spiritual discipline” may conjure up images of a monk in a brown robe praying 23 hours a day or a religious zealot living in poverty as a missionary in a third-world country. But actually, spiritual disciplines are simply ways we stay in relationship with God. They are disciplines because we have to intentionally focus on practicing them. As we do, we become closer to the people God created us to be. After all, the word “discipline” comes from the same root as “disciple.”

January 10	The Practice of Celebration
January 17	The Practice of Slowing
January 24	The Practice of Prayer
January 31	The Practice of Confession
February 7	The Practice of Listening
February 14	The Practice of Reading Scripture

In this sermon series, we’re going to look at some disciplines that we can practice every day as we go about our lives. 2020 was a challenge to our faith in many ways, so 2021 represents a fresh start as we seek to grow in our relationship with Christ. Join us as we learn how we can practice these spiritual disciplines – no brown robe required!

RECONCILIATION SUNDAY JANUARY 17

Some Pharisees from the crowd told him, “Teacher, get your disciples under control!” But he said, “If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise.” Luke 19:39-40



The Rocks Are Crying Out: Show Up, Speak Up, Stand Up reminds us that, like those first-century disciples following Jesus into Jerusalem, we must lift our voices to acknowledge the divine message and the divine messenger that is Christ with us. We are the ones to break the silence of oppression and suppression of human dignity. We, too, are compelled to “stand up” to witness to Christ’s profound love on behalf of those who are without hope because of historic oppression in our communities. Your generosity to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens the work and witness of congregations to be the vicarious presence of Christ where we serve. Your giving promotes programs that provide anti-racism and pro-reconciliation education. Your generosity strengthens our voice to shout “Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed are WE, the ones who come in the name of the Lord!” We thank you in advance for your generous giving on Reconciliation Sunday, January 17!

A WORD FROM KORY



Well, I don't know if I've ever been so excited and relieved for a new year to arrive as I am for this one! While some of the challenges of 2020 will carry over into the new year, 2021 brings with it the hope of a vaccine, a return to some form of normalcy, and the joy of a year full of potential. See ya, 2020! Don't let the door hit you on the way out.

While 2021 promises a lot of good things for us, it also feels like we at Crestwood are starting out a little behind the 8-ball. Brian Miller's abrupt departure has left us with a huge void on our team, and I don't mean just in terms of responsibilities. Brian was an integral part of our staff and a wonderful team player. His creativity, work ethic, and sense of humor will be sorely missed.

I know you have questions about the circumstances surrounding his departure, and I wish I could give you the answers. I can say that your church leadership did an excellent job of balancing the compassion and grace of God with the strict adherence to the policies we have put into place. I am so thankful to serve with such faithful, dedicated leaders.

So, now what? Unfortunately, this is not a new situation for Crestwood. Since I arrived in 2009, we have endured almost every kind of staff crisis, including firings, sudden departures, retirements, illnesses, and even senseless tragedies. I feel like we have been understaffed far more than we've been fully staffed, so going into 2021, we again face a familiar obstacle.

But it's not an insurmountable one by any means. Trish and I have worked as a two-person team before, and I'm thankful that we do so very well. I couldn't ask for a better colleague and teammate than Trish as we seek to give our all to serve God through Crestwood. We complement each other so well, using our varied gifts and strengths to minister to this wonderful congregation. She's a tireless worker who has a heart bigger than our Mission Center. I'm constantly learning from her how to be a better minister and more faithful person.

We are also so blessed with a strong staff who go far beyond just doing their job. Most of you have no idea the time and dedication these folks have given us, so if you have a moment, please say a word of thanks to Maureen Howell, Lynn West, Peggy King, Frank Spragens, Jane Johnson, Rhiannon White, and Griffin Allen. Crestwood is only as good as the team that serves it, and we are blessed with the best team I've ever had the honor of working with.

As we move into 2021 without a youth minister, the whole staff is committed now more than ever to making sure our youth have the most powerful, meaningful experience possible. Trish and I will be working with the youth leaders and sponsors to continue ministering to our youth via Zoom and other methods. We have great kids here at Crestwood and Trish and I are excited about spending more time with them and helping them grow in faith.

But we can't do this alone. We need you. We need your support, we need your prayers, and most of all, we need your grace. We are doing our best to serve you as you deserve, but we are going to fall short. We will make decisions with your best interests in mind, but you may not always agree. We will return to in-person worship, but it may not be as soon as you would like. We get it. So we ask for your grace.

It's easy during these times to get frustrated that things aren't the way they used to be, to get impatient at what seems like a slow return to normal. I feel your frustration and impatience. No one wants to gather together on Sunday again more than me. Until that happens, if I could, I'd spend every waking hour on the phone, calling you to check in, hearing your voice, reconnecting with you. But I'm trying hard to model self-care during these difficult times. If we don't take care of ourselves, we won't be able to take care of anyone else.

I love you, Crestwood. I miss you like crazy. And I can't wait to see you again on Sunday morning.

PRAYER LIST: JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Jean Ham, Traci Letcher, Mike and Dianne Toll

FAMILY: **Derrie Edge** (sister-in-law of Chrystal Schoeder), **Helen Kemp** (grandmother of Katie Neal), **Barbara Lively** (grandmother of Rhiannon White), ***the family of Stewart Parrish** (of Colette Lane), **Chris Reams** (son-in-law of Joanne Brown), ***Hazel Grace Smith** (great-niece of Kimberly Powell), **Ann Spragens** (sister of Frank Spragens), ***David Wilkinson** (uncle of Doug Wilkinson)

FRIENDS: **The family of Andy Berger** (of Linda Williams), **Aileen Dalton** (of Christie Oliver), **Cellina Gantley** (of Kathy Stone), **the family of Barbara Hoffman** (of Carolyn and Joe Clark), **Anne Kopenhafer** (of Gayle Hutcherson), **the family of Matthew Lin** (of Libby Wachtel), ***the family of Rev. Harold Tackett** (of Monte LaFrana), **Janet and Gary Taylor** (of Kathy Stone)

ARMED FORCES: **Anar Aliyev** (of Crestwood), **Paul Baird** (grandson-in-law of Minva Hodgins), **Blake and Jill Chambers and family** (grandson of Joe and Karen Billings), **Travis Cramer** (son of Rick and Cathy Tittmann), **Daniel Day** (grandson of John and Carol Royse and son of Tracy Day), **Bud DeLacey** (nephew of Matt and Michelle DeLacey), **Scott Eldridge** (of Pamela Wainscott), **Andrew Lynn** (grandson of Joe and Karen Billings), **Daniel Sigler** (son of David and Pam Sigler), **Zoe Sims** (granddaughter of John Sims), **Dalcus Sparks** (nephew of Andrea Back)

HEART-TO-HEART MEMBERS: Jean Aspley, Karen Billings, Margaret Buchanan, Carolyn Floyd, Carl and Jean Ham, Georgia Meece, John Sims, Mary Janice Towles

OUR WORLD COMMUNITY: We pray for the inmates of the Fayette County Detention Center and their families, for the peace of God to rule in the hearts of our local and national leaders, and for God's spirit of reconciliation to bring healing during these difficult times.

**Names added this week. Names are included on the prayer list for one month. If a name has been removed that you would like added back on, please contact the church office.*



TRISH TALK

Dear Friends,

Finally 2021! Last year was full of the unexpected, unprecedented, and unbelievable. In the midst of the pandemic, renewed awareness of racial brokenness, a divisive political season, and all of the consequences of those events, it was a hard year. Here at Crestwood, we were separated, unable to gather for worship, study, fellowship, or even celebrate the lives of those that passed. We are in the search process again for a new Minister for Youth and Young Adults. 2020 -- we are not sad to see you go. I acknowledge there were some blessings. There are always blessings -- some days we just have to look harder than others. But now it is 2021. All will surely be right with the world, right?

Probably not. Vaccines are on their way but the winter ahead will be difficult and COVID-19 will still be a threat and a grave reality. The wounds of racism are deep and systemic; we must remember that problems are not fixed just because they are no longer headlines. We have much work to do. We will have a new president, but it will be up to each individual to begin to bring unity in their circle of influence. 2021 is here but that does not mean that the challenges of 2020 are over. (Except, I do find that there is plenty of toilet paper. That challenge may really be behind us.)

So what now? I can only speak for me. I choose to go into 2021 with the same hope and expectation that I always hold at this new beginning. I will continue to seek to see the best in others. I will work on my relationship with God so that when I am presented with opportunities to be used by God there is a better chance of me stepping up. I will work on growing in my discipleship so that my voice, resources, actions, and energy are reflective of the One I say I follow. I will recognize that 2020 presented many challenges but we met them and are stronger for it. I will hope to continue to build on that strength to make the world...or at least the parts that depend upon me...a better place.

January 6 is the 30th anniversary of my ordination. It is also Epiphany. When I was in seminary, Peter Morgan taught a class and said that Epiphany is "a time for naïve-like living and dream-like visionaries." It was the perfect day to ordain a 24-year-old optimist who knew God's love could change the world. Thirty years later I still hold to that same truth. Crestwood, I am grateful that God has merged our paths and I look forward to facing this year, whatever it may bring, with you.

Blessed to share the journey,
Trish



Lego Challenge Game Night coming this month for kids of all ages!

SHARING THE LOVE AND SHINING THE LIGHT

Christmas is God's love coming to us and that was made known in very tangible ways! We thank God for the opportunities to be a blessing to those in need this year.

CRESTWOOD'S DECEMBER GIVING THROUGH LOCAL OUTREACH:

Salvation Army Angel Tree - \$1,500

New Life Day Center - \$156

Purchased 24 pairs of gloves and 48 hats

Adopted 6 angels from the **Angel Tree** as well as helped another family with gifts for their children.

Bridge Fund provided \$1,025 in rent assistance and \$403.96 in KU assistance, helping 9 families stay in their homes and keep their electricity.

Angel Tree: 197 children will receive a sample of God's love and generosity through your efforts!

NEST Food Boxes: 342 families will be fed this week because of you!

32 Veterans at Thompson Hood who have no family will receive gifts because of the gifts of the DWM circles.

Our **Blessing Box** continues to bless folks who need a little help keeping food on their table.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday at 9:00 AM, a group of thoughtful adults gathers on Zoom to share, learn, and hopefully grow in our faith and faithfulness. All are invited to join in! Beginning January 10 we will be looking at various spiritual disciplines and following the sermon series on John Ortberg's book *The Life You Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Books can be purchased at most local booksellers and on Amazon. Questions? Ask Trish.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: LUKE

Thursdays at 11:30 AM, all are welcome as we read the Bible and discuss as we go. No preparation -- just participation! Connect with folks in a great way as we read the Gospel of Luke together. This is a way to be with folks as well as learn and grow in your faith. Questions? Ask Trish.

WEEKLY ZOOM MEETINGS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays @ 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83891775670>

SOUL CARE CAFÉ Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM

Have a thought on Sunday's sermon? Want to know what's going on with the church? Just need to vent or see a friendly face? Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Kory leads this group, which includes scripture reading, prayer, and a chance to check in and see how everyone is doing.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93130030767>

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY @ 11:30 AM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7893516366>

ZOOM FAITH GROUP Saturdays @ 12:30 PM

Let's Zoom together on Saturday mornings! These are challenging days and having a group to connect and grow with is important. If you want to join the group, email Trish at trish@crestwoodchristian.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULT: Sundays @ 9:00 AM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7893516366>

3rd - 5th GRADE: Sundays @ 9:15 AM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82979668809>

PARENTS OF YOUNGSTERS: Sundays @ 11:00 AM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83548975590>

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT GREENHOUSE17

GreenHouse17 nurtures lives harmed by intimate partner abuse by providing safe shelter and counseling.

Items especially needed:

Ladies underwear sizes 6-10

Towels

Twin size bedding (bedding in a bag)

55-gallon trash bags

Disposable plates, cups, napkins, and eating utensils

Please place all items in the designated container marked "DWM" in the glassed-in breezeway between Chalice Hall and the Administration Wing.

If you prefer, monetary donations are also accepted - please make checks payable to Crestwood Christian DWM and write "GreenHouse17" on the memo line. Please send to the DWM Treasurer Carol Rogers.

Anyone is welcome to donate. For more information, please contact Kathy Stone at 368-8327.

Crestwood Christian DWM invites all women to visit one or more of our Circles during September through May.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

*Due to current COVID-19 restrictions on small groups, our circles are meeting virtually this month.**

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, January 18, 6:30 PM on Zoom

Mary Taylor will present the Bible study "The promise of God's presence: *O God, do not be far from me.*"

Naomi Circle

Tuesday, January 19, 10:00 AM on Zoom

Susan Neff will present the Bible study "The promise of God's presence: *O God, do not be far from me.*"

Dorcas Circle

Wednesday, January 20, 10:00 AM on Zoom

Linda Ransdell will present the Bible study "The promise of God's presence: *O God, do not be far from me.*"

**An email will be sent out before the Zoom meeting with a link to join in using your smartphone, tablet, or computer, or a telephone number to call.*

Please check *The Weekly* e-newsletter on Tuesdays for any updates to the meeting information listed above.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Tuesday, April 14

10:00 AM on ZOOM*

Derek Feldman, KY Refugee Ministries

**Zoom link will be emailed prior to the meeting date.*

Join women from churches all around Lexington who

Agree to differ, Resolve to love, Are united to serve

In Christ's Name

ALL are invited!

Crestwood DWM is a participating organization with Church Women United. Mary Taylor of Crestwood is the board secretary and may be contacted at 223-8206.

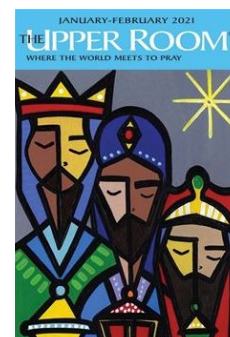


CRESTWOOD MASKS

We still have a few of these high quality masks available on a first come, first served basis. The \$10 cost of each mask may be paid by cash, check, or online. If you would like a mask, please contact the church office.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL GUIDES

The January-February issue of the *Upper Room* is available in the breezeway between Chalice Hall and the sanctuary. That entrance is unlocked on weekdays from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you would like to receive it as a PDF document, please contact the church office.



JANUARY



Friday, January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 2

- 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Zoom Faith Group - Zoom

Sunday, January 3

Online Worship

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School - Zoom
- 9:15 AM 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom
- 11:00 AM Parents of Youngsters Sunday School - Zoom

Tuesday, January 5

- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group
- 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, January 6

- 10:00 AM Soul Care Café - Zoom
- 11:30 AM Heart-to-Heart Team - Zoom
- 2:00 PM Open Sanctuary

Thursday, January 7

- 10:00 AM Stephen Ministers - Zoom
- 11:30 AM Bible Study - Zoom
- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group

Saturday, January 9

- 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Zoom Faith Group - Zoom

Sunday, January 10

Online Worship

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School - Zoom
- 9:15 AM 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom
- 11:00 AM Parents of Youngsters Sunday School - Zoom
- 12:15 PM DWM Board Meeting - Zoom

Monday, January 11

- 7:00 PM Property Team - Zoom

Tuesday, January 12

- 6:30 PM Childcare Council - Zoom
- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group
- 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, January 13

- 10:00 AM Soul Care Café - Zoom
- 2:00 PM Open Sanctuary

Thursday, January 14

- 6:00 PM Finance Team - Zoom
- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group

Saturday, January 16

- 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Zoom Faith Group - Zoom

Sunday, January 17 - RECONCILIATION SUNDAY

Online Worship

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School - Zoom
- 9:15 AM 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom
- 11:00 AM Parents of Youngsters Sunday School - Zoom
- Noon Elders Lunch - Zoom
- 5:00 PM Youth

Monday, January 18

Church Office Closed

- 6:30 PM Mary Martha DWM - Zoom
- 7:00 PM World Outreach - Zoom

Tuesday, January 19

- 10:00 AM Naomi DWM - Zoom
- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group
- 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, January 20

- 10:00 AM Dorcas DWM - Zoom
- 10:00 AM Soul Care Café - Zoom
- 2:00 PM Open Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Administrative Board - Zoom

Thursday, January 21

- 11:30 AM Bible Study - Zoom
- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group

Saturday, January 23

- 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Zoom Faith Group - Zoom

Sunday, January 24

Online Worship

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School - Zoom
- 9:15 AM 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom
- 11:00 AM Parents of Youngsters Sunday School - Zoom
- 5:00 PM Youth

Tuesday, January 26

- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group
- 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, January 27

- 10:00 AM Soul Care Café - Zoom
- 2:00 PM Open Sanctuary

Thursday, January 28

- 11:30 AM Bible Study - Zoom
- 6:30 PM God's Girls Reading Group

Friday, January 29

- Noon FUNCH - Zoom

Saturday, January 30

- 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Zoom Faith Group - Zoom

Sunday, January 31

Online Worship

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School - Zoom
- 9:15 AM 3rd-5th Grade Sunday School - Zoom
- 11:00 AM Parents of Youngsters Sunday School - Zoom
- 5:00 PM Youth

.....Notes of Thanks..... Notes of Thanks.....

Dear Friends,

Since our doors at **Christian Care Communities** opened in 1884, friends like you have helped offer older adults an unprecedented level of care. More people than ever need the strength and comfort of Christian Care Communities' important services. With your gift of \$766, you join others who have made a commitment to help continue our mission of enhancing the journey of life for Older Adults.

James W. Patton, Vice President-Mission Advancement

Dear Friends of LTS at Crestwood Christian Church,

The **Lexington Seminary** community is blessed by your generosity and kindness. We thank you for valuing the word of the Seminary and joining with us in preparing men and women for service in Christ's church. On behalf of our students, thanks for your partnership and gift of \$1,337. We are grateful!

Mark V. Blankenship, Vice President for Advancement

Dear Friends,

On behalf of **The Salvation Army** and those we serve, I would like you to know of my deep gratitude for your contribution of \$1,500. Ordinarily, the holiday season is such a special time as our community comes together to ensure everyone can join in the celebration. However, this year has been full of new challenges with more opportunities to help. As in the past, hundreds of the needy will still need hot meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Many more families here in Central Kentucky will depend on The Salvation Army for groceries through our Food Angel program. In addition, thousands of children will look for gifts under the tree on Christmas morning. Because of those like you, we anticipate meeting each of these requests with love and joy!

Sincerely,

Major William Garrett, Central KY Area Coordinator

Dear Friends,

It is so heartening to receive a gift from a steadfast donor who understands that men and women facing hardships like homelessness, addiction, and mental illness are worthy of help. Your donation of \$1,000 allows the **Hope Center** to continue saying "yes" to everyone who comes to our doors seeking help. Because of you, help for everyone who needs it is here and free to them. It saves lives. Your gift will be used to house and help more than 650 of the most vulnerable in Lexington each day. As Daniel said, "I wouldn't want to put a number on how much a recovering man is worth, because it is more than a dollar figure." We are so grateful that you understand that, too. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice James, Interim Executive Director

Dear Crestwood Christian Church,

Thank you for your donation of \$1,500 to the **Community Action Council** Help 4 Home Program. In an incredibly challenging year your contribution will assist us as we are on the front lines during this pandemic, safely helping individuals and families access shelter, food, and utility and rental assistance. You may have seen that we have helped young women and families with small children obtain baby formula, diapers, and personal care products, and we are continuing to prioritize the importance of education, using virtual learning to help us teach our Head Start students and engage our youth. Thanks to you, we have been able to help over 420 families avoid eviction, with more effort continuing.

Best regards,

Sharon Price, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support with Angel Trees during the Christmas season! You help support so many of our students and their families. I greatly appreciate your assistance in making our Christmas holiday gift program possible!

Alaina, FRC Coordinator, **Liberty Elementary School**

BLESSING BOX...

The Blessing Box outside of the Children's Wing entrance continues to help our neighbors when they need to stretch pantry items. When you have extra, please consider contributing to the box, and share with others that this box is available if they need something. Suggested items include: mac and cheese, canned/bag tuna, canned/bag chicken, peanut butter, rice, beans, canned pasta, pasta, canned spaghetti sauce, crackers, canned vegetables, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes, muffin mix, cereal, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, lotion, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, and toilet paper.



1882 Bellefonte Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40503-2046
(859) 266-0459 Fax: (859) 266-0450

THE CREST

Crestwood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Return Service Requested



CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Online Sunday Worship – 10:00 AM

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kory Wilcoxson, Senior Minister
Rev. Trish Standifur, Associate Minister
Peggy King, Children's Coordinator
Maureen Howell, Office Administrator & Pianist
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Rhiannon Jackson, Children's Music Director
Jane Johnson, Organist
Elizabeth Napier, Childcare Director
Tara Monzon, Parent's Day Out Director
Griffin Allen, Communications Intern
Lynn West, Facilities Manager

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