

December 5

The Promises of Christmas Sermon Series The Promise of Peace

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NEXT CREST JANUARY 10

Articles are due by Noon
on Wednesday, Jan. 5

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

**The Church Office will be
closed Dec. 27-Jan. 2**

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS

The power of the Christmas season is that it is pregnant with the promises of Emmanuel, the hope that God will become one of us and show us in new ways God's transformative power. How might Christmas be different for us this year if we look back at those promises and what they mean for us today? For our Advent sermon series, we'll be looking at the word of the prophets about the coming of Jesus, and how those promises can change our understanding of the challenges of this world. Join us for Advent as we lean into God's promises and await the birth of the Christ Child!

Dec. 5 - Isaiah 9 -The Promise of Peace

Dec. 12 - Service of Lessons and Carols

Dec. 19 - Isaiah 11 -The Promise of Light

CHRISTMAS EVE



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

5 PM	Children's Christmas Eve Service
7 PM	Candlelight Service (live-streamed)
10:30 PM	Organ Prelude
11 PM	Candlelight Service



A WORD FROM KORY...

Can you believe it's Advent already? Even though this season always sneaks up on me, I'm so excited that it's here. Some of my favorite moments of the year happen during Advent, and we're already off to a wonderful start with a decorated sanctuary and a Spirit-filled worship on Sunday. Hopefully, we are beginning to focus on our journey to Bethlehem.

Much ink has been spilled lamenting the loss of Christmas to cultural consumerism, so I won't belabor that point. But I will say that church should be the one place that continues to lift up the joy and hope of Christmas in order to transcend all the cultural debris. As followers of Christ, we have to stay keenly aware of the ways we can proclaim the good news of Christmas in a peaceful, persistent voice.

I read a book that can help us with that. It's called "The Advent Conspiracy," and the purpose is to help us recapture the spirit of Christmas in our daily lives. The authors believe Christmas can still change the world if we are willing to let the meaning of the season guide our thoughts and actions. As the book says, "It's not enough to say 'no' to the way Christmas is celebrated by many; we need to say 'yes' to a different way of celebrating."

The book gives four different ways we can proclaim the good news of Christmas this year, and I believe they are worth sharing:

1 – Worship Fully - It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

2 – Spend Less - What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? What about the fourth gift? Do you remember that one? Truth is many of us don't because it wasn't something we necessarily wanted or needed. Spending less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. America spends around \$600 billion during the Christmas season, and much of that goes right onto a credit card. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.

3 – Give More - I know what you're thinking. "Wait, didn't they just say I should spend less, and yet here they are telling me to give more?" The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. And nobody modeled this more than Jesus. So what does this look like for you? Tickets to a ball game or the theater? A movie night? The main point is simple: When it comes to spending time with those you love, it's all about quality, not quantity.

4 – Love All - It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help. It's not that there's something wrong with the shopping mall—it's that the better story is about loving all.

I hope these four tenets give you some ideas of how you can make Advent more meaningful this year. What I like about them is that they don't completely forsake participation in the spirit of Christmas, but encourage doing so in a way that honors Jesus Christ and focuses on what's important about the holiday. Christmas can indeed still change the world. It starts with each one of us. Merry Christmas, church family!

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS: Rainey McDonald, the family of Georgia Meece, Bob Noel, Kayden Sovkoplas

FAMILY: Gary Caudill (brother of LaVonne Caudill), Glenn Davis (brother of Julie McDonald), the family of Ronnie Hensley (cousin of Lindsey Whealton and Ashley Brown), Greg Powell (brother of David Powell), Shirley Powell (mother of David Powell), Anisa Willis (daughter of Rose Willis)

FRIENDS: Karen Dove (of Joanne Brown), Martha Duttlinger (of Crestwood), Joan MacNair (of Joanne Brown), Becky Witt (Kimberly Sparks)

ARMED FORCES: Anar Aliyev (of Crestwood), Paul Baird (grandson-in-law of Minva Hodgins), Blake and Jill Chambers and family (grandson of Karen Billings), 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 Karen Billings), Zoe McIntyre (granddaughter of John Sims), Daniel Sigler (son of David and Pam Sigler), Dalcus Sparks (nephew of Andrea Back)

HEART-TO-HEART MEMBERS: Jean Aspley, Karen Billings, Margaret Buchanan, Joe Clark, Faye Cooper, Carolyn Floyd, Betty Shanklin, John Sims, John & Carolyn Thomas, 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, for those affected by COVID and natural disasters, and for God's spirit of reconciliation to bring healing during these difficult times.



TRISH TALK

As we begin this holy season, I want to share a favorite poem written by Ann Weems:

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars,
not hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.
This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made
known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry
chaos let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.

Blessed to share this journey with you.

Trish

REMEMBERING GEORGIA MEECE



Georgia Meece passed away Sunday, Nov. 21. Her memorial service was Friday, Nov. 27, at Crestwood. Georgia was a faithful member of Crestwood and a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Her influence has been felt throughout our denomination and she will be truly missed. Please hold Georgia's family in your prayers.

ADULT EDUCATION THROUGH THE WEEK

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

All are invited to join this class in person or on Zoom. We will study and discuss scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary. Trish will be leading this class.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83125044207>

PARENTS OF YOUNGSTERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

This group is for anyone journeying through the joyful challenge of raising kids! We meet at 9:40 a.m. in Mission Center 4 (near the gym). Everyone is welcome!

TUESDAY HUNGERING FOR GOD LUNCH GROUP

Looking for a way to connect to God and your church family? Kory leads a virtual small group called "Hungry for God." Each week, we'll take a religious word ("grace," "forgiveness," "faith") and explore its deeper meaning. This group is designed for people who want a midday time to take a breath, share a conversation, and grow closer to God. If you're at work, you can take your lunch break and log on. If you're at home, fix yourself something to eat and join us! Wherever you are, we hope you'll take a few moments during your day to connect with us. A link will be sent out every Tuesday morning as a reminder.

TUESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday at 8 p.m., our Men's Bible Study will meet in the Chapel and via Zoom. All men of Crestwood are welcome to join us, no prior knowledge, experience, or participation needed! Join us as we dive more deeply into God's word and connect with each other.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Dan Pence teaches a Bible Study in the Bradford Room. The class is currently studying 1st Timothy. All are welcome!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. a group gathers for fellowship in Chalice Hall. At 11:30 a.m. the class begins a time of study. The class is taught by Trish Standifur. All are welcome!

WELCOME, KERRY AND SUSIE

Kerry and Susie Joliffe joined Crestwood on Sunday, Nov. 21. We are excited to have the Joliffes as part of our church family! Please make sure you greet them and make them feel welcomed.

The Joliffes
1797 Farmview Dr.
Lexington, KY 40515



WELCOME, JEANETTE

Jeanette Knowles joined Crestwood on Sunday, Nov. 28. Jeanette has been a part of Crestwood for a long time, so we're so glad she made it official. Welcome!

Jeanette Knowles
828 Malabu Drive
Lexington KY 40502



DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 1

9:30 AM Library Team - Library
11:30 AM Heart-to-Heart Team - Zoom
1:00 PM Bible Study - Bradford
7:00 PM Combined Youth Zoom
8:00 PM Keeping Christmas - Zoom

Thursday, December 2

9:30 AM Stephen Ministers - Zoom
11:00 AM Bible Study - Chalice Hall
7:00 PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 5

8:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Choir Practice - Choir Room
10:45 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:30 PM Advent Workshop - Chalice Hall
3:00 PM Combined Youth Groups

Monday, December 6

7:00 PM Local Outreach - Zoom
7:00 PM World Outreach - Bradford

Tuesday, December 7

12:00 PM Hungry for God - Zoom
7:00 PM Kentuckians Chorus Concert
8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, December 8

1:00 PM Bible Study - Bradford
7:00 PM Combined Youth Zoom
8:00 PM Keeping Christmas - Zoom

Thursday, December 9

11:00 AM Bible Study - Chalice Hall
6:00 PM Finance Team - Zoom
7:00 PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, December 10

Noon Holiday Funch Group

Sunday, December 12

8:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Choir Practice - Choir Room
10:45 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
3:00 PM Chi Rho Youth Group
4:00 PM CYF Youth Group

Monday, December 13

6:30 PM Mary Martha DWM - Gretz's
7:00 PM Property Team - Zoom

Tuesday, December 14

12:00 PM Hungry for God - Zoom
6:30 PM Childcare Council - Zoom
8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, December 15

10:00 AM Dorcus DWM - Chalice Hall/Zoom
1:00 PM Bible Study - Bradford
7:00 PM Combined Youth Zoom
8:00 PM Keeping Christmas - Zoom

Thursday, December 16

11:00 AM Bible Study - Chalice Hall
7:00 PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 19

8:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:00 AM Youth - Wake up with Wallace
9:30 AM Sunday School
1:00 AM Choir Practice - Choir Room
10:45 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
Noon Elders Christmas Reception
3:00 PM Combined Youth Groups

Tuesday, December 21

9:45 AM Naomi DWM - Chalice Hall/ Zoom
12:00 PM Hungry for God - Zoom
6:00 PM Longest Night Service
8:00 PM Men's Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesday, December 22

1:00 PM Bible Study - Bradford
6:00 PM All-church Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 23

11:00 AM Bible Study - Chalice Hall

Friday, December 24

5:00 PM Children's Service
7:00 PM Candlelight Service
10:30 PM Organ Prelude
11:00 PM Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26

8:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Choir Practice - Choir Room
10:45 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

Monday, December 27 - January 1

Church Office Closed

All regular church activities cancelled

Youth Corner

What a blessing to have the holiday season upon us once again! This year I am especially thankful for being able to lead our awesome youth groups here at Crestwood. These young people truly inspire me with their intelligence, camaraderie, and kindness. My life is enriched every week by spending time with our Chi Rho and CYF youth members!



Here is what we have planned for the rest of 2021!

Youth Calendar for December:

Wednesday, December 1 - 7-7:45 PM

Combined Youth Zoom Game Night

Sunday, December 5 - 3-5 PM

Fill the Food Boxes Fiesta! All youth (and any adults who would like to help) please join us to fill 350 Nest Food boxes!

Wednesday, December 8 - 7-7:45 PM

Combined Youth Zoom Game Night

Sunday, December 12 - Chi Rho 3 PM, CYF 4 PM

Christmas craft/gift making

Wednesday, December 15 - 7-7:45 PM

Combined Youth Zoom Game Night

Sunday, December 19 - 9 AM

Wake up With Wallace - Donut Days (185 Southland Drive)

Sunday, December 19 - 3 - 5 PM

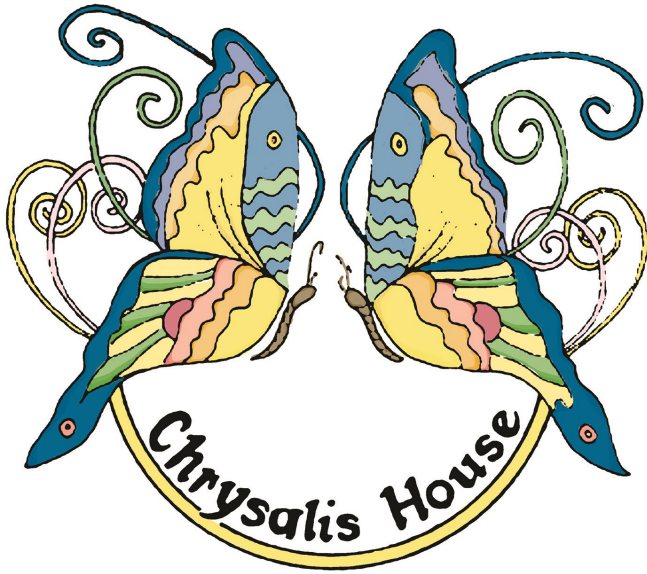
Combined Youth Holiday Celebration in CYF room

Wednesday, December 22 and Sunday, December 26 - No Youth Group meetings

As always, please call or email me if you have any questions, or if you'd like to get involved and help work with our wonderful youth here at Crestwood!

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT CHRYSLIS HOUSE



Chrysalis House is a substance abuse treatment program for women. They provide domestic violence counseling, job readiness training, medical care, and child services.

Items especially needed:

Feminine hygiene products (Tampax), twin sheets, deodorant, body wash, body lotion, bus passes (\$1 each), diapers.

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 "CH" on the memo line. Please send to the DWM

Treasurer Carol Rogers. Anyone is welcome to donate. For further information on this service project, please contact Kathy Stone at 368-8327.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Please note that masks are strongly recommended for all while inside the church buildings.

Mary Martha Circle – EARLIER DATE & TIME!

Monday, December 13, 6:30 PM at Sara Gretz's house

Christmas Pot Luck – *please bring a dish to share!*

Dorcas Circle

Wednesday, December 15, 10 AM in Chalice Hall and on Zoom

After a brief meeting, we will enjoy Christmas music by Katherine Steckler. Our Christmas luncheon will be afterward at The Cellar.

Naomi Circle

Tuesday, December 21, 9:45 AM in Chalice Hall and on Zoom

We will be sharing Christmas stories, then enjoying box lunches from The Mouse Trap.



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

A Note from Finance Ministry Team

The Finance Ministry team recommended the 2022 Proposed Budget, included to the right, for approval at the November 17 Administrative Board Meeting. The Administrative Board approved the proposed budget and the 2022 Proposed Budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 5.

The number of pledges received for 2022 was 115 compared to 132 in 2021. Due to the lower number of pledges approximately 29 % of the budget is based upon estimates of giving for 2022 compared to 23% of estimates of giving in the 2021 budget. We continue to receive two large pledges from two families.

Total receipts, which includes pledges and estimates and other receipts, e.g. use of building, are down from 2021 by 5.0%. The 2022 budgets for all the ministry teams remain the same or have decreased from 2021. The decrease in Personnel is due primarily to lower health insurance costs as fewer staff enroll for health insurance through Crestwood. Personnel has budgeted raises in 2022 for eligible staff.

Total Outreach giving is down by 7.6 %. The decrease is a result of the 5% decrease in receipts and the 0.51% decrease in the percentage of the budget allocated to Outreach. Budgeted Outreach giving for 2022 is \$140,836 compared to \$152,492 in 2021. The overall percentage allocated for outreach giving was decreased from 16.45% in 2021 to 15.94 % in 2022 (-0.51%).

Thank you to the members of Crestwood for providing the resources to Crestwood so that the Finance ministry team was able to recommend a balanced budget to the Administrative Board which sustains the work and mission of Crestwood. Thank you to the members of the Finance Ministry team for your service to Crestwood. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at (erwachtel@twc.com or 859-269-1665) or any member of the Finance ministry team.

Libby Wachtel
Chair
Finance Ministry Team

LOCAL OUTREACH GIVING IN NOVEMBER

November Local Outreach Giving

- Arbor Youth Services – up to \$500 to cover the cost of sheets and towels
- Lexington Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program - \$600
- Greenhouse17 - \$500
- Bridge fund provided rental assistance for 6 families (\$1213) and utilities assistance to 4 families (\$686.95)

Dinners were prepared and served by Local Outreach members at Lexington Rescue Mission and Nathaniel Mission's Family Night.



	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Y-Y change	pct change
Total Giving	927,000	883,540	-43,460	-4.7%
Other Receipts	49,300	48,050	-1,250	-2.5%
Endowment Fund Income	6,000	14,200	8,200	136.7%
One Time Gift for Debt Service	13,100	0	-13,100	-100.0%
Total Receipts	995,400	945,790	-49,610	-5.0%
Debt Service	13,100	13,100	0	0.0%
Transfer to Contingency Reserve	0	0	0	
Outreach Local	35,073	32,382	-2,681	
Outreach World	35,073	32,382	-2,681	
Disciples Mission Fund	70,148	84,785	14,637	
Ministerial Education Fund	12,200	11,267	-933	
Total Outreach	152,492	140,836	-11,656	-7.6%
Personnel	551,133	513,478	-37,657	-6.8%
Administration	26,600	26,000	-600	-1.9%
Music	6,500	5,500	-1,000	-15.4%
Adult Education	1,400	1,400	0	0.0%
Caregivers	500	500	0	0.0%
Children	13,800	13,300	-500	-3.6%
Evangelism	200	200	0	0.0%
Fellowship	1,550	1,550	0	0.0%
Finance	42,500	38,400	-4,100	-9.6%
Library	200	200	0	0.0%
Property	165,000	171,000	6,000	3.6%
Shalom & Social Justice	0	0	0	0.0%
Stewardship	600	0	-600	-100.0%
Technology	9,000	9,000	0	0.0%
Worship	2,700	3,400	700	25.9%
Young Adult	400	400	0	0.0%
Youth	7,350	7,350	0	0.0%
Other	475	178	-297	-62.5%
Total Expenditures	995,400	945,790	-49,610	-5.0%

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

Tis the season for giving! Alternative Giving celebrates the true gift of Christmas! This year we are highlighting the following ministries:

Arbor Youth Service, Bridge Fund at Crestwood, Central KY Music Academy, Green House 17, Heifer International, Lexington Rescue Mission, Military Missions, Nathaniel Mission, and New Life Day Center.

Your gifts to these programs will provide meals to music lessons and shelter to sheep! Learn more about these programs and what they do by clicking on the form below.

Each week the Friday Five will have a video link highlighting one of these ministries.

We have several ways for you to give through the Alternative Giving:

- 1) Visit the table at church, fill out a form, and write a check.
- 2) Visit the table at church, fill out the form, and make your payment online.
- 3) Click the form below, fill it out, and return it to church by email, post mail, or in person. Make your payment online (the link is on the top of the form) or send a check with the form.

See? It is easy to give gifts that will change lives this season!

[Click here to access form.](#)

HOLIDAY FUNCH FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 11:30 AM

All are welcome for fun and lunch! We will play games and fellowship. Lunch will be provided.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Please join us this Sunday, December 5 in Chalice Hall following the 10:45 worship service for fun and fellowship as we make some pretty Christmas tree ornaments. Kids are invited to come to church in their PJs for the festivities. Hot cocoa station and lunch will be served. Please RSVP here.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4AAAA628A6F49-advent1>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need a few folks to help us set up as well as during and immediately after this event. If you enjoy kids and Christmas you will love being a part of this! There are several volunteer spots available so click here to choose yours!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4AAAA628A6F49-volunteer>

KIDS ON A MISSION and KIDS ON A MISSION JR.

No meeting December 5
December 19 - Christmas Party!

KIDS CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Meets each Sunday immediately following the 10:45 service. The choir will perform on December 19 during children's time.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR
CRESTWOOD CHURCH STAFF!



Peggy

Jane

Frank

Cindy

Brianna

Stephanie

Trish

Tara

Kory

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

Dear Friends

Earlier this month, thanks to your help, we moved a wonderful older couple into a furnished apartment in a community devoted to the well-being of our elders. No longer isolated, this couple is enjoying making friends and participating in activities.

Your prayers and support make it possible for us to be there for these families in their time of need. Thank you for your thoughtful donations to Christian Care Communities. Your gift ensures that older adults in our state thrive mentally, physically, and spiritually in a safe environment. We could not do what we do without thoughtful generous donors like Crestwood Christian Church.

Sincerely,

James W. Patton
Vice President - Mission Advancement
Christian Care Communities

CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship — 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM

10:45 AM service is available on Facebook and YouTube

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kory Wilcoxson, Senior Minister
Rev. Trish Standifur, Associate Minister
Steph Wallace, Student Associate Minister
Peggy King, Children's Coordinator
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Jane Johnson, Organist
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist
Tara Monzon, Parent's Day Out Director
Brianna May, Facilities Manager

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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Frank Spragens	fspragens@yahoo.com
Steph Wallace	steph@crestwoodchristian.org

WEBSITE

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