

**Sunday Worship  
December 3**

***A Weary World Rejoices***  
***Sermon Series***  
Christmas on Mute  
*Luke 1:5-23*  
Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

**In This Issue...**

A Word from Kory .....	2
No Men's Breakfast .....	2
Prayer List.....	3
Advent Sermon Series.....	3
Christmas Eve Services .....	3
Calendar .....	4
Don't Be Puzzled.....	4
DWM Circle Meetings .....	5
November Service Project.....	5
Youth Corner.....	6
Crestwood Giving.....	6
Missy's Corner.....	7
In Remembrance .....	7
Ornament Processional.....	7
Holiday Bookmarks .....	7
New Members.....	8

**NEXT CREST  
DECEMBER 15**

Articles are due by Noon  
Monday, December 11  
[office@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:office@crestwoodchristian.org)  
859-266-0459



## ADVENT AT CRESTWOOD 2023

**ADVENT WORKSHOP!**  
**Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:30 AM**

Join us for the Advent Workshop! Families will build a Jesse tree craft with ornaments telling the stories of the Bible counting down to the birth of Christ. This project is designed with stickers for children and hole punching/string tying for adults. Kids can come in their pajamas, enjoy a hot cocoa bar, and eat delicious pancakes. You won't want to miss it!

**THE KENTUCKIANS CHORUS  
CONCERT**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7:00 PM**

The Kentuckians Chorus will provide us a free preview of their Christmas show! Join us for great music and some laughs. This is their "Thank You" for us letting them use our space for rehearsals.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 6 PM**

Join us as we spread holiday cheer to some of our neighbors and church members! We'll depart from church at 6 PM and share in some hot chocolate and fellowship when we're done. The whole family is invited to be part of the singing!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT**  
**Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:15 PM**

Join us for our children's Christmas pageant in the sanctuary. Our church Christmas dinner will immediately follow the program.

**ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
**Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 PM**

All are invited as we join together for a church family dinner and singing led by our children. Chef Shawn will be serving an Italian feast complete with dessert! Please plan to be a part of this meal as we **c o n n e c t** and celebrate. Please scan the QR code or click the link to RSVP no later than Dec. 10 by 2:00 PM.

[All-Church Christmas  
Dinner RSVP](#)



**LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**  
**Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:00 PM**

We are approaching the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. Memories of lost loved ones and the pain of present experiences and situations can become overwhelming. While the holidays are supposed to be full of joy, some of us experience sadness, grief, or anxiety. You are not alone. The Stephen Ministers invite you to a service acknowledging and seeking the LIGHT that comes into the darkness. Please invite friends to join you. A soup supper will be served at 5:30 PM. Please RSVP to the church office for supper if you plan to come.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS**  
**Payments due Dec. 10**

Each plant costs \$8. Call the office to place an order (859-266-0459) or [place your order online](#). The Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary by Dec. 22. If you are purchasing a plant, you are welcome to take it home after the Christmas Eve services.



## A WORD FROM KORY...



Ahh, Advent! I love this time of year. I so look forward to walking into the sanctuary on Sunday morning and seeing that space dressed in her Advent best. The tree will be up, the garland and wreaths will hang on the walls, and the paraments and banners, which have been green for what felt like years, will be the

royal purple of Advent, as a reminder that our King is coming once again.

I also love Advent because of the challenge it presents to me as a minister. How do we preach patience and anticipation, the themes of the season, when our whole culture is encouraging us to get our Christmas decorations out early and do all our shopping before Thanksgiving? As a society, we feel we are entitled to anything we want right when we want it, so waiting is a major inconvenience, not a natural part of life. Therefore, when it comes to something as joyful (and financially lucrative) as Christmas, why wait?

At this time of year, the Christmas creep that seeps its way into our Advent time threatens the holy magic of the season. When stores deck the halls with Christmas items in November, the message we're given is, "Hey, Christmas is here! Grab your stuff before you miss it!" Or, to paraphrase my minister friend Erin, this communicates a sense of "we've arrived" instead of the more appropriate Advent message of "we've got work to do."

I admit to being an Advent purist. I don't like when the red and green of Christmas tries to bully its way into my purpl-y Advent. And this has gotten me into trouble with some of you. I bristle at the idea of singing Christmas hymns during Advent (and others on staff agree with me). To those of you who are upset by this, I sincerely apologize. I know how meaningful those songs are, I love singing them as much as you, and just like every other year, we need some joy in our lives. But my inner Scrooge recoils when we sing "Joy to the world, the Lord is come" because the Lord hasn't come yet. The rest of the world is telling me that we shouldn't have to wait for Christmas. I believe Sunday worship is the one place that should still hold onto that feeling of expectation.

I don't begrudge those of you who love to

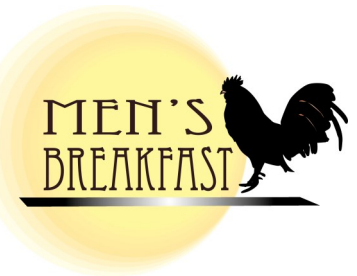
sing your Christmas music as early as possible. It's good music and it carries wonderful memories for us. I always look forward to the adult choir's Lessons and Carols, the kids' Christmas pageant, the fellowship dinner and sing-a-long, and our all-church caroling. I even enjoy singing Christmas carols when I hear one on the radio. So I'm not 100% Grinch.

I know some of you would strongly disagree with me; in fact, some of you have. You want your Christmas music, and you want it now! That actually proves my point about our reluctance be expectant, but I won't point that out to you lest I make you even more upset with me. Instead of lamenting the wait to get to the little town of Bethlehem, what if we sing our Advent hymns – and there several good ones – with the same passion and wonder with which we sing "Silent Night"? I love the minor tone of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," and "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" captures the mood of Advent. If we let ourselves experience the anticipation of Advent when we sing "Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming," then it makes the arrival of the Christ child on Christmas that much more meaningful.

O Advent, where art thou? Probably buried under Black Friday flyers and drowned out by all-Christmas music radio stations. But not in church. Church should be the one place we don't put the sleigh before the reindeer. Let's celebrate the Christian year in its proper order, where Advent always comes before Christmas. I promise we'll sing our favorite Christmas carols about the faithful coming and the angels we have heard on high and how baby Jesus was away in a manger. But, until then, we've got work to do.

## NO MEN'S BREAKFAST IN DECEMBER

For December, there is NO Men's Breakfast. Instead, we'll be providing a pancake breakfast for the families that will be attending the Advent Workshop this Saturday. Can you help? If so, let Kory know. I expect we'll be starting around 8:45 AM or so.



### Joys and Concerns

**MEMBERS:** The Family of Lucy Booker, Joe Clark, Jo Fulkerson, Peggy Harris, The Family of Jeanna Ott

**FAMILY:** **Samuel Hammons** (great nephew of Kim and David Powell), **The Family of Betty G. Rehm** (stepmother of Libby Wachtel), **Emily Barr Richards** (of the McDonalds), **Jim Wallace** (father of Scott Wallace)

**FRIENDS:** **Melody Fiely** (of Karen Trommer), **Ricky Gray** (of Susan and Kendall Hart), **Jacob Moore** (of Crestwood), **The Family of Ted Warriner** (of the McDonalds)

**ARMED FORCES:** **Alex Back** (son of Andrea Back), **Anar Aliyev** (of Crestwood), **Karl Bowman** (nephew of Debbie Bowman Gardner), **Matt Holman** (son of Gaye Holman), **Daniel Day** (grandson of John and Carol Royse and son of Tracy Day), **Bud DeLacey** (nephew of Matt and Michelle DeLacey), **Zoe McIntyre** (granddaughter of John Sims), **Ashlyn Marra-Sigler & Daniel Sigler** (daughter-in law & son of David and Pam Sigler)

**HEART-TO-HEART MEMBERS:** Karen Billings, Margaret Buchanan, Joe Clark, Dick Featherston, Sylvia Griffin, Jacqueline Lindsey, Buzz Mattingly, Betty Shanklin, John Sims, John & Carolyn Thomas, Buddy & Lucy Wheeler

**OUR WORLD COMMUNITY:** We pray for the victims & loved ones impacted by violence, inmates of the Fayette County Detention Center & their families, for an end to the war in Ukraine, for the peace of God to rule in the hearts of our local & national leaders, for those affected by COVID & natural disasters, & for God's spirit of reconciliation to bring healing during these difficult times.



### **ADVENT SERMON SERIES: A WEARY WORLD REJOICES**

As we move into the Advent season, we recognize that the story of birth of Christ carries with it the full range of human emotions: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. Christmas for us can be equally charged with emotions, as we seek to celebrate the joy of the season in the midst of stress, grief, and the burden of responsibilities. If we're honest, sometimes Christmas can simply make us...tired. So how do we still rejoice in the midst of our weariness? For Advent, we'll be exploring that question as we look at Luke's version of the birth of Jesus. Join us as we learn how to rejoice in the midst of our worldly weariness.

Dec. 3 - Luke 1:5-23 - Christmas on Mute

Dec. 10 - Lessons and Carols service

Dec. 17 - Luke 1:24-45 - Connecting to Christmas

Dec. 24 - Luke 1:57-66 - Is There Room to Be Amazed?



### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Sunday, Dec. 24**

(in addition to regular Sunday morning services)

5:00 PM Children's Service

7:00 PM Candlelight Service

(live-streamed)

10:30 PM Organ Prelude

11:00 PM Candlelight Service

## DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR

### Saturday, December 2

9:30 AM - Advent Workshop - Gym  
9:30 AM - Sanctuary Decorating

### Sunday, December 3

8:30 AM - Worship Service  
9:30 AM - Sunday School  
10:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:45 AM - Worship Service  
4:00 PM - Combined Youth Group- Food Box Filling  
5:30 PM - Youth Group Pizza Dinner

### Monday, December 4

7:00 PM - Local Outreach - MC3

### Tuesday, December 5

9:00 AM - Library Team - Library  
7:30 PM - Kentuckians Chorus Christmas Concert

### Wednesday, December 6

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

### Thursday, December 7

9:30 AM - Stephen Ministers - Chapel  
11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room  
7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

### Saturday, December 9

9:30 AM - Fall Cleaning Day - Bradford Room

### Sunday, December 10

8:30 AM - Worship Service  
9:30 AM - Sunday School  
10:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:45 AM - Worship Service  
4:30 PM - Combined Youth Group - Holiday Party

### Monday, December 11

6:30 PM - DWM Julia Circle - Bradford Room/Kitchen  
6:30 PM - Book Club - Chi Rho Youth Room

### Tuesday, December 12

2:00 PM - Property Team - Bradford Room

### Wednesday, December 13

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room  
2:00 PM - Safety & Security Comm. - Bradford Room

### Thursday, December 14

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room  
6:00 PM - Finance Team - Bradford Room  
7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

### Saturday, December 16

9:00 AM - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 17

8:30 AM - Worship Service  
9:30 AM - Sunday School  
10:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:45 AM - Worship Service  
5:15 PM - Children's Pageant and Dinner  
6:00 PM - All-church Fellowship Dinner

### Tuesday, December 19

9:45 AM - DWM Naomi Circle - Bradford Room

### Wednesday, December 20

10:00 AM - DWM Dorcas Circle - Chalice Hall  
1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room  
6:00 PM - All-church Caroling

### Thursday, December 21

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room  
5:30 PM - Longest Night Dinner - Chalice Hall  
6:00 PM - Longest Night Service - Sanctuary  
7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

### Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:30 AM - Worship Service  
9:30 AM - Sunday School  
10:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:45 AM - Worship Service  
5:00 PM - Children's Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 PM - Candlelight Service  
10:30 PM - Organ Prelude  
11:00 PM - Candlelight Service

### Monday, December 25 - Monday, Jan. 1

Office Closed

### Sunday, December 31

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

### DON'T BE PUZZLED!

Do you know we have an extensive collection of puzzles available free of charge? In our Admin Wing, there are several bookshelves full of puzzles to help you pass the time and challenge your brain. Stop by and pick one up or drop off a puzzle you no longer need. We're glad to provide this to our Crestwood community!





# DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



## DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT: CHRYSALIS HOUSE

We are delighted to accept churchwide donations to our monthly DWM Service Projects. Please refer to the full article in this month's Crest for more information & a list of items requested.

### CIRCLE MEETINGS

*Please join us for our special Christmas gatherings!*

#### Julia Circle – earlier date/time

**Monday, December 11, 6:30 PM @ Gretz House**

**CHRISTMAS POTLUCK** – please bring a side dish to share!

PLEASE RSVP to Sara Gretz [sara3696@outlook.com](mailto:sara3696@outlook.com) or 859-227-3684

#### Naomi Circle

**Tuesday, December 19, 9:45 AM in the Bradford classroom**

Christmas Program.

#### Dorcas Circle

**Wednesday, December 20, 10:00 AM in Chalice Hall**

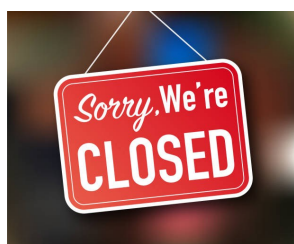
Katherine Steckler will provide Christmas Music.

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



## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed from Monday, Dec. 25 to Monday, Jan. 1. If you need immediate assistance, please contact one of the ministerial staff. Merry Christmas!



## December Service Project: Chrysalis House



The mission of Chrysalis House is to provide family oriented support for women with substance use disorders. Established in 1978, Chrysalis House is Kentucky's oldest and largest licensed residential treatment program allowing women to

keep their infants and toddlers with them during treatment. It is a comprehensive agency that provides mental health treatment, case management, domestic violence counseling, computer training, GED tutoring, vocational training, job placement assistance, and children's services. Their specialty is helping pregnant mothers become substance abuse free. Chrysalis House has a high success rate with graduates staying sober, working in jobs that support their families, earning their GEDs, living in their own housing, and giving back to the community that once supported them.

The following items may be left in the Giving Lane marked DWM, under the sign for Disciples Women's Ministries. This area is in the hallway leading to the Administrative wing of the church.

- Diapers
- Diaper wipes
- Bath towels
- Baby bath soap
- New socks
- New underwear
- Adult winter coats
- Sweatpants and sweatshirts
- Nonperishable food items
- Personal care items such as body wash, shampoo, deodorant

For those who wish to make a monetary contribution, you may write a check made payable to Crestwood Christian DWM with the letters CH in the memo line. Please mail your check to DWM treasurer Monte LaFrana 4000 Weber Way Lexington, Ky 40514.

For more information, you may contact DWM service coordinator Tracy Lovan at 859-948-1955 (call or text) or email at [thelovans@gmail.com](mailto:thelovans@gmail.com) As always, donations will be collected and driven to the agency's location.

Chrysalis House website: [www.chrysalishouse.org](http://www.chrysalishouse.org)

## YOUTH CORNER

By Steph Wallace

Advent is upon us! This is a time of joyous anticipation and waiting. It's the season when we get ready to celebrate anew the greatest gift ever given to humanity - God's own son, Jesus Christ... Immanuel, which means "God with us." Every Christmas we claim this amazing gift of love and grace again as we celebrate Jesus coming into the world as a baby in a manger. I am so grateful that we get to spend this season celebrating as a family together at Crestwood!



December also brings our youth group opportunities for serving others. To begin with, on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 9:00 AM, youth will be setting up, serving, and cleaning up at the pancake breakfast prior to the family advent workshop. There will be a collection at this breakfast for the youth mission fund. Any youth who can help us that morning, please be at church by 9:00 AM.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, we will be completing our biggest service project of the year - filling 400 boxes with food items for The Nest! We welcome anyone's help - all youth, their parents and siblings, other family members, church members. If you want to join us, your help will be greatly appreciated! We will begin work at 4:00 PM in the youth rooms, and when we finish (around 5:30 PM) there will be a pizza dinner for everyone in Chalice Hall.

Finally, we will finish off our first semester of youth programming with the Youth Holiday Party and Gift Exchange on Sunday December 10 from **4:30-6:00 PM** in the CYF room. On Dec. 17, instead of regular youth groups, our youth will participate in the Christmas Pageant at 5:00 PM. After that, we will take two Sundays off (Dec. 24 and 31), and youth meetings will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

### **Calendar of events for December, 2023:**

**Sunday, Dec. 3:** Food Box Filling Day! ALL youth, families, and volunteers invited!

- 4:00-5:30 PM in Chi Rho/CYF rooms
- 5:30-6:00 PM - Pizza dinner in Chalice Hall

**Sunday, Dec. 10:** All Youth Christmas Party!

- 4:30-6:00 PM in CYF room - Please bring a WRAPPED gift for the gift exchange (gift should cost between \$15-\$20 and be suitable for anyone in youth group)

**Sunday, Dec. 17:** No regular youth group

- 5:00 PM - Christmas Pageant in Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM - All church fellowship dinner

Until I see you in church, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

### **Children & Youth Ministries 2023 Calendar**

#### **December**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 2  | Advent Workshop  |
| 3  | Angel Tree Gift Returns & Mittens/<br>Scarves Tree Decorating<br>Youth filling Nest food boxes 4:00 –<br>6:00 PM |
| 10 | Youth Christmas Party 4:30 PM  |
| 17 | Children's Christmas Pageant and<br>Church Holiday Dinner 5:15 PM  |
| 24 | Christmas Eve Services 5:00 PM,<br>7:00 PM, & 11:00 PM   |

### **CRESTWOOD GIVING**

In November, Crestwood's Local Outreach gave the following to support our brothers and sisters in need:

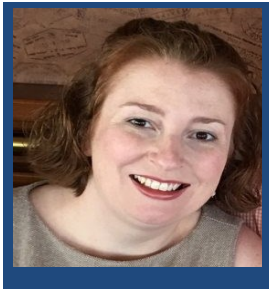
**Bridge Fund** helped pay the following bills:

\$200 to Columbia Gas  
\$130 to KY American Water  
\$159 to KU Electric  
\$133 to KU Electric

Additionally, Local Outreach donated \$2,700 to **Lexington Rescue Mission**.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we can continue to serve our community and show hope and love to those who need it most.





## Children's Corner

### Missy Wallace

Greetings Crestwood Families,

It's time to put on your running shoes because the Advent season is finally here! Our children did a remarkable job leading worship a few weeks ago on Universal

Children's Sunday. What a beautiful way to prepare our hearts in celebrating how the unconditional love of a tiny baby changed the world forever! Being led by children is a precious gift, one that only THEY can give us.

The administration wing is overflowing with bags, preparing for our angel tree deliveries. Thank you to everyone who adopted angels. In gratitude for the generosity our church has shown, the children of Glendover Elementary created inspirational bookmarks for us. Please take one as you walk by the Christmas trees to remember the little hands and grateful hearts that shine bright with God's love.

Are you ready for Advent Workshop? Are you ready for a children's Christmas pageant? Are you ready to welcome visitors and share in our church holiday meal? Are you ready to spread the love of Christ? Let's lace up our shoes friends because this is going to be a JOY-FILLED Advent season.

With Hope,  
Missy

## GREAT JOB, CRESTWOOD KIDS!

The children of Crestwood did an amazing job leading worship on Universal Children's Sunday! We also dedicated a tapestry in memory of Sue Ann Cowgill. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the past, present, and future of Crestwood!



Please remember and hold the loved ones of these Crestwood friends in your prayers.

## REMEMBERING CRESTWOOD FRIENDS



IN MEMORY OF  
LUCY BOOKER



IN MEMORY OF  
JEANNA OTT

## ORNAMENT PROCESSIONAL

Sunday Dec. 3 during the second service, children will line up in the narathex at 10:40 AM for an ornament processional to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree. We will enter on the opening hymn and youth will be in the front to hang the ornaments before children return to their seats.

## HOLIDAY BOOKMARKS

Hello dear friends at Crestwood, my name is Joshua Boone and I am the Art Educator at Glendover Elementary School. I would like to start out by thanking you all for the wonderful things you do for our community. I personally believe that a local church can be a beacon of hope for a community. Over the last several weeks students have been creating Holiday themed bookmarks. We have donated these bookmarks to you as a small act of gratitude for all that you. Students from Kindergarten through fifth grade designed each holiday bookmark. Students were also instructed to add a small positive message within their bookmark to spread some positivity during this holiday season. Please enjoy the wonderful artworks our students have created, and have a lovely holiday season. Sincerely, Mr. Boone and the students at Glendover Elementary.



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

# THE CREST

## Crestwood Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Please give a warm  
welcome to our newest  
members!

Karen and Jay Trommer

#### **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. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson, Senior Minister  
Steph Wallace, Student Associate Minister  
Missy Wallace, Children's Minister  
Rev. Kelly Hale, Interim Minister of Pastoral Care  
Frank Spragens, Music Director  
Jane Johnson, Organist  
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist  
Amber Combs, Childcare Director  
Tara Monzon, Parent's Day Out & Nursery Director  
Jim Cristi, Facilities Manager  
Erin Laswell, Office Administrator

#### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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Erin Laswell	<a href="mailto:office@crestwoodchristian.org">office@crestwoodchristian.org</a>

#### **WEBSITE**

[www.crestwoodchristian.org](http://www.crestwoodchristian.org)