

## Sunday Worship

**December 17**

A Weary World Rejoices  
Sermon Series  
Connecting to Christmas  
Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

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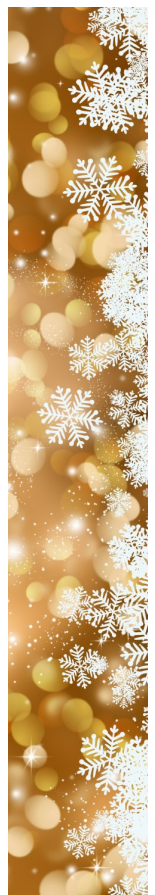
## NEXT CREST JANUARY 15

Articles are due by Noon  
Thursday, January 5

Send articles to:  
[office@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:office@crestwoodchristian.org)



**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON  
MAY THE HOPE, LOVE, JOY, & PEACE OF CHRIST  
SHINE BRIGHTLY IN EACH OF OUR HEARTS.**



## 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

### Sunday, December 17

- 8:30 AM - Worship Service
- 9:30 AM - Sunday School
- 10:00 AM - Choir Practice
- 10:45 AM - Worship Service
- 12:00 PM - Congregational Meeting
- 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

**The Church Office will be closed:  
Monday, December 25 through  
Monday, January 2**

**\*There will be no Worship and Wonder or  
Nursery for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,  
and New Year's Day services.**



## Joys and Concerns

**MEMBERS:** Joe Clark, Terry Fisher, Jo Fulkerson, Peggy Harris, The Family of Jeanna Ott, John Royce

**FAMILY:** **Laurel Cardinale** (great-niece of Joanne Brown), **Bob Chapman** (brother of Pat Nielsen), **Cindy Ebersold** (sister of Pat Nielsen), **Samuel Hammons** (great nephew of Kim and David Powell), **Virginia Sue Hemphill** (sister-in-law of Monte LaFrana), **Emily Barr Richards** (of the McDonalds), **Jim Wallace** (father of Scott Wallace), **The Family of Dorothy Wray** (mother of Sonny Wray)

**FRIENDS:** **Kent Grannis** (of Doug Wilkinson), **Ricky Gray** (of Susan and Kendall Hart), **Noelle Parsons** (of Crestwood), **The Family of Ted Warriner** (of the McDonalds), **Valerie Sims** (of Crestwood)

**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.

### POINSETTIA PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias this Christmas.  
If you have not paid for your order yet, please be sure to do so.  
Contact the church office ASAP if you'd like to add an order.  
Thank you!





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



All are invited as we join together for a church family dinner. Chef Shawn will be serving an Italian feast and DWM is providing dessert! A special thank you to all of our volunteers. Please plan to be a part of this meal as we connect and celebrate.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:00 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!



**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.

**NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The Church Office will be closed from Dec. 25-Jan. 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Starting Jan. 2, the new office hours will be Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM.



**YOUTH CORNER** By Steph Wallace

I hope you and your families are enjoying the anticipation this Advent season - waiting for Emmanuel - God with us - and all the promise that Christ brings as our savior. I hope you and yours will be there for all the fun - from the pageant and the Family Christmas Dinner on Dec 17, to the special services on Christmas Eve! Please note that there are no regular youth group meetings again until Sunday, January 7, 2024.

**Calendar of events through January, 2024:**

**Sunday, December 17:**

No regular youth group

- 5:15 PM- Christmas Pageant in Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM - All church fellowship dinner - Gym

**Sunday, January 7:**

Regular Youth Groups

- Chi Rho - 4:00 - 5:00 PM
- CYF - 4:00 - 5:00 PM

**Sunday, January 14:**

- ALL youth are invited to the 34th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Worship - Central Christian Church, 6:00pm (details will be forthcoming as the event is finalized)

**Sunday, January 21:**

- ALL youth field trip to Battle Axes - times, cost, etc. will be announced in January

**Sunday, January 28:**

- Wake up with Wallace - 9:40 AM at Panera Bread, corner of Zandale and Nicholasville Rd.

Regular Youth group meetings in afternoon:

- Chi Rho - 4:00-5:00 PM
- CYF - 5:00-6:00 PM

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!

**FUN + LUNCH = FUNCH!**

All adults who are interested in some fellowship while enjoying good food, please plan to join us for FUNCH! FUNCH will take place on Friday, December 29, at Cheddars Restaurant at 3604 Walden Drive (behind Bates Creek Bld.) at 11:00am. Come join us for a time of fellowship and good conversation! We will also be discussing plans for future FUNCH events in 2024.

**THE 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
COMMUNITY WORSHIP  
January 14, 2024, 6:00 PM  
Central Christian Church (DOC)  
219 East Short Street, Lexington, KY 40507**

You are invited to join a service to celebrate and remember the important legacy, ministry, and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will host the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Worship Service on Sunday, January 14, at 6:00 PM.

This year's preacher is Rev. Dr. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones, Pastor of the historic Witherspoon Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Music is being led by Lutisha Coleman-Morton and Marion Rogers.

This service also will be livestreamed on Central Christian Church's Facebook and YouTube pages. A reception will follow the service. We hope you will attend and help spread the word!



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON 2024 BUDGET**

**Sunday, Dec. 17, after 10:45 AM service**

At the November 15, 2023, the Administrative Board approved the 2024 budget recommended by the Finance Committee.

It was a difficult task to achieve a balanced 2024 budget to meet the mission and priorities of Crestwood in a challenging financial environment. However, since the Board meeting, we have received additional pledges or increases in pledges of approximately \$21,000 which has allowed us to increase the percentage of Outreach giving in the original budget presented to the Board from 10.05 % to 12.45%. Overall we are still budgeting for a decrease in pledges from 2023 of \$19,365.

The majority of ministry teams requested no increase in their budgets or increases of \$500 or less. The Property budget was increased by \$23,120. Fifteen thousand (\$15,000) of this increase is for the cleaning service and are funds that were re-allocated from Personnel. The Finance Committee budget was increased by \$9,904 due to an anticipated increase in our insurance premiums of fifteen percent (15%). Personnel requested an increase of \$27,395.00, which includes increased health premiums and raises for staff.

Even with the additional pledge revenues noted above, in order to achieve the required balanced budget, and fund our Outreach giving at 12.45 %, after much discussion, Finance asked Personnel to remove the funding for the full-time associate minister position for 2024. This position, with salary and benefits, was funded at \$98,000. The Administrative Board has appointed a task force to look at staffing needs for Crestwood, with a goal of completing its work by late summer. Recommendations from the task force will be available in time for the budget preparations for the 2025 budget.

Thank you to the members of the Finance team for their work in a challenging financial environment to create a budget to meet the mission and priorities of Crestwood. We know that each member of the congregation prayerfully considers the level of giving to Crestwood. If there are any questions about the budget, please feel free to contact me at [erwachtel@twc.com](mailto:erwachtel@twc.com) or 859-536-1665.

Libby Wachtel Chair  
Finance Committee

	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	Year to Year Change	Percent Change
Total Giving	886,225	870,860	-15,365	-1.7%
Parents Day Out Revenue	49,995	43,800	-6,195	-12.4%
Transfer from Contingency Reserve	2,423	0	-2,423	-100.0%
Endowment Fund Income	15,800	15,800	0	0.0%
Other Receipts	46,700	47,141	441	0.9%
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,001,143</b>	<b>977,601</b>	<b>-23,542</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>
Debt Service	13,100	13,100	0	0.0%
Outreach Local	20,383	24,937	4,554	
Outreach World	20,383	24,937	4,554	
Disciples Mission Fund	40,767	49,874	9,107	
Ministerial Education Fund	7,090	8,674	1,584	
Total Outreach	88,623	108,422	19,799	22.3%
Personnel	545,360	474,710	-70,650	-13.0%
Administration	20,000	20,500	500	2.5%
Music	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%
Adult Education	400	300	-100	-25.0%
Caregivers	500	500	0	0.0%
Children	15,500	16,000	500	3.2%
Connections	0	0	0	
Fellowship	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
Finance	37,815	47,719	9,904	26.2%
Library	200	250	50	25.0%
Parents Day Out	49,995	43,800	-6,195	
Property	188,880	212,000	23,120	12.2%
Safety & Security	9,500	9,500	0	
Shalom & Social Justice	0	0	0	
Stewardship	200	200	0	
Technology	9,000	8,200	-800	-8.9%
Worship	4,400	4,400	0	0.0%
Young Adult	0	0	0	
Youth	10,500	11,000	500	4.8%
Other	170	0	-170	-100.0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,001,143</b>	<b>977,601</b>	<b>-23,542</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>

## Food Boxes for The Nest are FILLED!

Our youth, with the help of their families and other Crestwood members and friends, were able to fill 400 boxes with food for families in need this year. Thank you to everyone who made this amazing project a success - those who donated money to help buy the food, as well as those who donated time and effort to build boxes, unload all the food, and then pack it into the boxes on Dec 3. We are so thankful to be able to provide this tangible love to 400 families in our Lexington community again this year!





## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Kenzie Claus and Andrew,  
Sarah, Catie Clay and  
Maxwell Jefferson



Scott, Sherry, Ollie  
and Julie Peace



Howard and Barbie  
Roberts



Robert, Erin, Brie and Izzy  
Bookman





## ADVENT WORK- SHOP RINGS IN THE SEASON

On behalf of children's ministry, thank you to those who volunteered and participated in this year's advent workshop. Families made Jesse trees and enjoyed a hot chocolate bar. The Men's Group prepared a delicious pancake breakfast.. It was a great time for all!



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

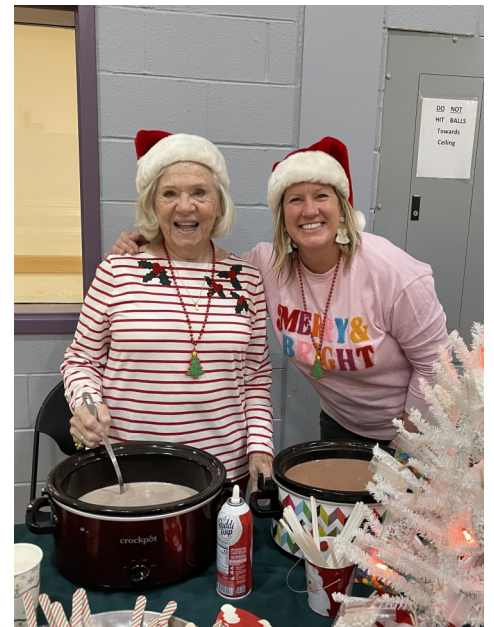
Dear Crestwood Families,

It's hard to believe how fast these weeks have flown by. Our season kicked off with a great Advent Workshop. Thanks to your generosity, 180 children will have angel tree gifts waiting for them on Christmas day. Our neighborhood school has blessed Crestwood with inspirational bookmarks made with love. The Christmas pageant is in full swing, and we are a few short days away from breaking bread together during our fellowship dinner. As we close out 2023, I would like to express my gratitude for the many ways you continue to support our children at Crestwood. You are making a true difference in the lives of children throughout our community. I can't wait to see what 2024 has in store!

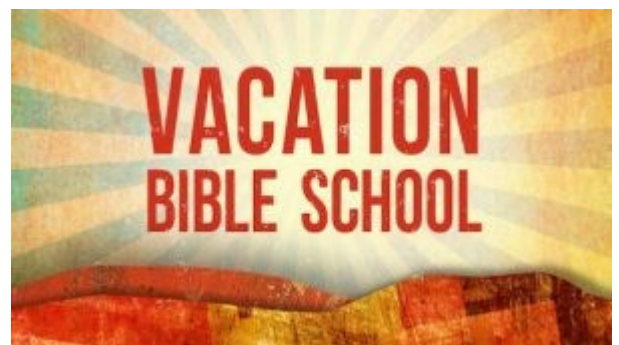
Remember to take home an inspirational bookmark made by the children of Glendover. They can be found on the Christmas trees in the children's wing and next to the chapel. Winter care items may be donated and left under the tree through Epiphany.

With Hope,

Missy



# SAVE THE DATE!!!!



## Vacation Bible School June 24 - 27, 2024

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

# THE CREST

## Crestwood Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

*Return Service Requested*

### **SRO TO DANVILLE** **January 9, 2024**

Danville, here we come again! We will be visiting the GLASS National Art Museum and other exhibits in the Art Center of the Bluegrass. The highlight of the day will be the museum collection of internationally known artist Stephen Rolfe Powell, who is widely recognized as a hot glass master of color. The Art Center acquired the collection in 2023 with the goals of keeping the collection together and sharing it with the public. The museum also features works by Dale Chihuly and Lino Tagliapietra along with other prominent artists. We will enjoy lunch at the "Murrini," which is located in the Art Center. Murrini seamlessly blends the flavors of art and cuisine. This artsy restaurant features small plates, sandwiches, salads, charcuterie, sweets, wine, and other specialty beverages.

Leave Crestwood Mission Center Parking lot at 10am; return about 3:00 PM. **COST:** Van gas donation. lunch on your own with prices between \$12-\$20 plus tip. Museum is **free** thanks to a generous donor.

**Please email or call church office**  
**by January 5, 2024**

#### **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  
Steph Wallace, Student Associate Minister  
Missy Wallace, Children's Minister  
Rev. Kelly Hale, Interim Pastoral Care Minister  
Frank Spragens, Music Director  
Jane Johnson, Organist  
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist  
Amber Combs, Childcare Director  
Tara Monzon, Parent's Day Out Director  
Jim Cristi, Facilities Manager

#### **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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#### **WEBSITE**

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