

Sunday Worship

Jan. 21
Back to Sunday School
Sermon Series
Jesus Walks on Water
Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

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2024 SERMON SERIES

Starting in the new year, we'll be going "Back to Sunday School" to look at some of our most beloved stories from the Bible through grown-up eyes. We learned these as children, but how will we hear them differently as adults? Join us as we take a new look at these familiar stories.

Jan. 21 - Jesus Walks on Water

Jan. 28 - KY Region's Men's Chorus leads worship

Feb. 4 - Daniel in the Lion's Den

Feb. 11 - Zaccheus

KENTUCKY REGIONAL MEN'S CHORUS AT CRESTWOOD

Join us at the 10:45 AM worship service on Jan. 28 as we host the Kentucky Regional Men's Chorus! Male voices from Disciples churches across our state will join together to share their gifts as they help us lead worship. It's truly an honor to host this group, so please make plans to attend and welcome them to Crestwood. We know God will bless us through the gift of their music!



CRESTWOOD CRASH COURSE

Are you new to Crestwood and would like more information about the church? Or have you been here awhile and want a refresher on this wonderful congregation? Join us in January for our Crestwood Crash Course! During these three weeks you'll learn all you ever wanted to know about Crestwood...and maybe some things you didn't even know you wanted to know! Everyone is welcome to join us for these classes. We'll meet at 4 PM in the Bradford Room.

Jan. 21 - A church on the outskirts of Lexington:
The history of Crestwood

Jan. 28 - Who runs the church?
Governance and decision-making at Crestwood

Feb. 4 - How do I get involved?
The programs and ministries of Crestwood

NEXT CREST FEBRUARY 1

Articles are due by Noon
Monday, Jan. 29

Send articles to:
office@crestwoodchristian.org



A WORD FROM KORY...

I received a handwritten note a few days ago from a frequent guest at Crestwood. The note, addressed to Missy and me (the family has small children), read, "We just wanted to thank you both so much for welcoming our family to Crestwood this year! You have both been so gracious with your time and hospitality, making it easier for us to feel our way into finding a church home. Our children are loving the time we've spent at Crestwood this year - thank you for welcoming them in. We look forward to joining the church officially!"

Praise God! We've had quite a run of new members since Dec. 3, with a total of 41 people choosing to make Crestwood their church home. That's more than we usually have in a year! Each week we see more new faces in our pews as people are looking for a church home. In fact, you might look around and not recognize many faces. How does that make you feel?

My first response is, "That's a good thing!" After all, having people visit your church is an important part of welcoming new members and growing the church in order to serve God better. We want to see new faces on Sunday morning, and we want to make them feel welcome. Based on the past few months, I say we're being faithful to that calling.

However, if all the new faces are a little disorienting, I understand, and it's OK to feel that way. Many of us want church to be a familiar place. In a world that changes so rapidly, we feel our church home should be a place of stability and comfort. We want to know that when we go there, we'll feel that we're with family. And when a bunch of new people start coming, we lose that feeling. All of a sudden, we're surrounded by strangers, not family.

Granted, more visitors to worship on Sunday can also mean more challenges. More babies in the nursery mean more staff are needed. More people mean more bulletins and more communion supplies. It is harder to find a place to sit when there are more guests in the pews. And some of them may look, talk, act, and sing differently from us. I don't say this facetiously; I honestly recognize that more guests on Sunday changes our worship

experience. What's happening to our church family?

Forty-one new members in six weeks. That's a lot of new faces to get to know, which takes an effort on our part. We have to be willing to step out of our pew and extend a hospitable welcome, just as someone did to us our first time here. As you may remember, it's not an easy thing to visit a church for the first time. It can be an anxious experience, filled with questions: Will I know when to stand and sit? What if my child is unruly? Will I be told I'm going to Hell? Will people like me? How our guests answer those questions is up to us.

So, we have work to do. We have to be ready for a full nursery and a stream of people coming through the door. We have to be ready to move over in our pew so someone new can sit there, or to get up and sit with someone who is visiting with us so they don't feel alone. Our hope is that as we make them feel welcome, they will in turn do the same for someone else in the future. You don't grow a church with pastors or programs; you grow it with people who embody the love and hospitality of Christ.

Are you willing to serve as a greeter or usher, welcoming everyone who comes through the doors on Sunday? Let me know. Are you willing to lend your voice to worship as a liturgist? Let me know. Do you have an idea about how we can be more hospitable to our guests? Let me know. The only way we're going to fulfill God's vision for us to connect people to God and each other is if each of us does our part to make someone new feel at home. We are doing our best to shine God's light into this world, and people are taking notice. Let's make sure they see the hospitality of Jesus when they step into our building. Keep up the good work, Crestwood.

2024 PASTOR'S CLASS

Do you have a fifth grader who's interested in learning more about their faith and ready to consider baptism? This year's Pastor's Class will start on Sunday, Feb. 18. The class is designed to help children learn about the basics of their faith and the church as they prepare to make their decision about baptism. Baptism Sunday will be April 14 this year. If your child is in the 5th grade or above and would like to take the class or if you have additional questions, please let Kory know.

JANUARY CHURCH CALENDAR

Monday, January 15

6:45 PM - DWM Mary Martha Circle - Bradford Room

Tuesday, January 16

9:45 AM - DWM Naomi Circle - Bradford Room

Wednesday, January 17

10:00 AM - DWM Dorcas Circle - Chalice Hall
1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room
7:00 PM - Administrative Board - Bradford Room and Zoom

Thursday, January 18

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

Sunday, January 21

8:30 AM - Worship Service
9:30 AM - Sunday School
10:00 AM - Choir Practice
10:45 AM - Worship Service
12:00 PM - Elders Lunch Meeting - Chalice Hall
3:15 PM - Combined Youth Group Field Trip
4:00 PM - Crestwood Crash Course - Bradford Room

Wednesday, January 24

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room
7:00 PM - Endowment Committee - Bradford Room

Thursday, January 25

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

Sunday, January 28

8:30 AM - Worship Service
9:30 AM - Sunday School
9:40 AM - Wake Up with Wallace - Panera Bread
10:00 AM - Choir Practice
10:45 AM - Worship Service
4:00 PM - Crestwood Crash Course - Bradford Room
4:00 PM - Chi Rho Youth Group
5:00 PM - CYF Youth Group

Wednesday, January 31

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS: Joe Clark, Jo Fulkerson, John Royse, Sandra Thompson

FAMILY: **Dan Carey** (cousin of Fran Allen), **Bob Chapman** (brother of Pat Nielsen), **Stewart Crutchfield** (son-in-law of Betty Barton), **Cindy Ebersold** (sister of Pat Nielsen), **Emily Barr Richards** (of the McDonalds), **Henrietta Shores** (granddaughter of Mary Beth Shores), **Jim Wallace** (father of Scott Wallace)

FRIENDS: **Jake and Kathleen Cyr** (of Crestwood), **the family of JoAnn Ellington** (of Fran Allen), **Peggy King** (of Crestwood)

ARMED FORCES: **Alex Back** (son of Andrea Back), **Anar Aliyev** (of Crestwood), **Karlis 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 and loved ones impacted by violence, inmates of the Fayette County Detention Center & their families, for an end to the war in Ukraine and Israel and Gaza, 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.



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

We are delighted to accept churchwide donations to our monthly DWM Service Projects. Please refer to the full article in the church newsletters for more information & list of items requested.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

January Bible Study: On Fire Yet Not Burned Out
(Exodus 3:15 and Exodus 18:14-24)

Mary Martha Circle

Monday, January 15, 6:45 PM in the Bradford Room
Join us for Bible study, prayer, service, and fellowship!

Naomi Circle

Tuesday, January 16, 9:45 AM in the Bradford Room

Alice Hays will lead the Bible study, and Eleanor Congleton will be our hostess.

Dorcas Circle

Wednesday, January 17, 10:00 AM in Chalice Hall
Tracy Lovan will present our Bible study program.

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

SRO TRIP TO DANVILLE GLASS MUSEUM



JANUARY DWM SERVICE PROJECT



GreenHouse17 is a non-profit organization committed to ending intimate partner abuse in families in the community. The shelter is located in rural Fayette County and serves individuals and families in 17 counties. They are located on a 40-acre farm. Residents farm the land to offer nature-based healing, nutritious farm-to-table produce and job training for survivors. Specially trained crisis counselors are available to help survivors 24 hours each day and 365 days a year for crisis intervention and stabilization through individual and group counseling as well as assisting with children's services.

GreenHouse17 can accept only NEW supplies and not previously owned items, as their policy dictates due to Covid protocols. NEW items needed are as follows:

- Adult and children's toothbrushes
- Sanitary pads and tampons
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash and soap
- Hair brushes and combs
- Textured hair care products such as hair oil, deep conditioners, wide tooth combs
- Lotion
- Adult and children's underwear
- Pull up diapers, all sizes
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- NEW Twin size bedding, especially "beds in a bag" that includes comforter
- Gift cards to Walmart, Kroger, and Target

For those who wish to make a monetary contribution, please write a check made payable to Crestwood Christian DWM with the word "Green17" in the memo line. Please mail your check to 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. As always, donations will be collected and driven to the agency's location.

GreenHouse17 website: www.greenhouse17.org

STAR WORD STORIES

Happy New Year! I hope that as you have been praying over your Star Word, your conversations with God are bringing you joy and growth. As we move further into the new year, I invite you to share your stories with Steph Wallace, so we can all see how this project is making a difference in our lives. Here is a story from a congregation member who shared her journal entry the day after she received her Star Word:

January 1, 2024

The New Year begins! Yesterday Steph Wallace preached a sermon called "Gifts and Guiding Stars." As we left the sanctuary, we were invited to select a gold star with a word to contemplate in the new year -- a "Star Word" or "Guiding Star."

My word is "Learn." Some people seemed to dread their word, seeing it as likely to be an unwelcome or difficult assignment, a New Year's Resolution you didn't even choose. But I was excited about the prospect and am pleased with "Learn." What does it mean? What should I do about it?

My first thought (very me) was to make a list of things I'd like to learn in 2024. But almost as fast, I thought that was too much me and not enough God. Too much me because it reduced a spiritual exercise intended for the whole year to a list (SO very me) of tasks to be accomplished in order to achieve closure so I could think of myself as successful. To define the limits and prescribe the thing from the get-go. On my terms, with limited (if any) inspiration from the Holy Spirit (although I might have prayed about it for a few minutes first).

Next I thought I'd look up "learn" in my Bible's mini-concordance and see where that led. But this too was me wanting to rush to "the right answer," to figure out what my Star Word indicates God wants of me for 2024. And get it all mapped out on January 1. Again, I didn't take the time to meaningfully pray, asking the Holy Spirit to guide me to helpful insight. And the worthlessness of my self-guided effort became apparent pretty quickly.

The citation whose brief synopsis "spoke" to me -- "that each of you should learn" -- was 1 Thessalonians 4:4, which is about avoiding sexual immorality. Not one of my many regular sins. So where am I, after racing this way and that, trying to discern what "Learn" means for me in 2024? I'm now thinking I will pray about it more intentionally (and not just once), and enter the year with "Learn" at the forefront of my mind, so that I might recognize what God offers me when it comes, all throughout the year. Maybe, instead of my own half-baked hurrying from one possible "solution" to another, I will try a bit of Psalm 37:7 and "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him." Maybe I'm starting to learn something already.

YOUTH CORNER

By Steph Wallace



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I am so very thankful for each and every one of you in our youth programs here at Crestwood... What a year 2023 was for us - filled with so many blessings! We now eagerly anticipate all that God has in store for us in 2024! We will take fun trips, spend a great deal of time and energy serving others as we are called to do as disciples of Jesus, and grow in our faith through learning, serving, and relationship-building. For the upcoming weeks, here is what you need to know:

Winter Jam is coming on Sunday, February 4! If you want to join us for a wonderful afternoon and evening of worship and great music, please let me know as soon as possible how many tickets you want - this is a family event, so all are invited! Tickets are \$20 each, but right now I only need to know how many tickets you want, and I will collect payment later. Please email steph@crestwoodchristian.org this week and let me know how many tickets to purchase for your youth or for your youth and family/friends.

Youth Calendar of Events for rest of January:

Sunday, January 21

Combined Youth Group - Field Trip to Battle Axes

Chi Rho & CYF - Meet at church by 3:15 PM; we will return to church around 6:00 PM. Bring \$20 cash with you!

Sunday, January 28

Wake up With Wallace Breakfast

9:40 AM-Panera Bread (2300 Nicholasville Rd).

Regular Youth Groups

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!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Kyle, Dana, and Will
Adamson



Josh, Stephanie, Jacob,
Jadon, and Katelin Moore



Kevin and Missy Wallace



Matt, Rebecca, Wyatt,
Xavier, and Isabelle Anderson

WELCOME TO CRESTWOOD, MARY!



We are pleased to welcome Mary Van Kesteren as our new Office Administrator! Mary comes to us with a wealth of experience both nationally and globally. We're excited to have Mary join our staff team, and we know she will be a valuable addition to our church family.

Please make sure you take a moment to welcome Mary to Crestwood! The office hours will be 10:00 AM -4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

It's been a few years since we've updated our church directory and we need your help! We want to have information that is as up-to-date as possible for all members of our church family. There are a couple of ways to update your information. First, you can click the link below and look at your entry. If you have any changes, you can email them to office@crestwoodchristian.org. Second, a paper copy of the directory will be available on Sunday in the Narthex. You can read it over and make changes directly to it. Thanks for your help on keeping our church family connected! NOTE: we hope to be able to provide a new picture directory this spring.

[Church Directory Link](#)

LEARN ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On Monday, February 12, at 7:00 PM, the Local Outreach Committee is hosting a discussion on affordable housing led by Johan Graham. Everyone is invited to join us in Bradford Room.



ARE YOU GIFTED IN USHERING?

We're looking for people to serve as Ushers for our Sunday morning worship services. All that is required is the ability to smile and hand out bulletins. If you think you meet those criteria, let Kory know you are interested. Help us extend Christ's hospitality on Sunday morning!

Children's Ministry Missy Wallace



Greetings
Crestwood Families,

I love that special moment where we celebrate the ways God moved through us in this past year, then begin to envision where God might be leading us in the future. Reflecting on Advent, I rejoice at the courage of our children in sharing the birth of Christ during the pageant. The kids did an amazing job, and it was wonderful to have over 120 people share in our church Christmas dinner following the program.

January is one of my favorite months in the ministry cycle because it's where we pause to take a breath after a busy Advent season. There is space to dream big because we have the gift of a new year that God has given us. The start of Lent is on the horizon and groundwork for bigger projects like Vacation Bible School begins. Our church family is growing, and our renewed fellowship team is eager to keep us connected.

As we buckle up and dive into what this year holds, I would like to encourage all of us to try something new. Maybe there is an area of ministry that piques your interest. Maybe there is a new family in church you could strike up a conversation with. Maybe you are on the verge of making a new lifelong friend but just don't know it yet. Let's greet each other with a spirit of adventure as we explore the realm of new possibilities because with God, ALL things are possible.

Blessings,
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

THANK YOU NOTES

Crestwood Christian,

Thank you for the gift cards and candy. It was so thoughtful of you. Thank you also for your partnership with Glendover. We are lucky to have your support. Merry Christmas!

The Staff at Glendover Elementary

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Crestwood Friends,

Thank you for your donations totaling \$10,465 to help families, and especially children, in Appalachia. We are so grateful for your generosity to CAP's Sandy Valley Region Christmas Basket Program. Your financial support brings hope and support to those whom we serve, and will certainly bring a Merry Christmas to the families receiving this gift you make possible.

With Deepest Gratitude,
Guy Adams, President

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
Jim Cristi, Facilities Manager
Mary Van Kesteren, Office Administrator
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Jane Johnson, Organist
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist
Amber Combs, Childcare Director
Tara Monzon, Parent's Day Out Director

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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WEBSITE

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