

Our Vision: Connecting People with God and Each Other

Volume 64 Issue 6 June 1, 2025

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NEXT CREST JULY 1

Articles are due by Noon Friday, June 27

Send articles to: office@crestwoodchristian.org



Welcome to the Superbowl of children's ministry as we prepare to celebrate God's love through VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! It's hands down one of the most exciting seasons in the life of our church family as we share in the kids' enthusiasm during four days of action-packed fun. Why do we make such a big deal about VBS?

VBS opens doors. Our kids often invite friends and neighbors who have never been to church before. Several of our Crestwood families now call our church home thanks to VBS.

VBS changes lives. We are on a journey together as faith explorers. God was a game changer in the life of Moses, and the power of faith, hope, and love is a message we get to help our kids carry into the world.

VBS needs YOU. It takes a village to bring VBS to life and it doesn't happen without team Crestwood. Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or four days, every set of hands makes a difference. Each year our VBS program continues to grow.

It's a spirit-filled week of music, stories, crafts, snacks, games, and spiritual growth. Spread the word and join us on this incredible journey. You won't want to miss it!

Blessings, Missy

For more information about registration and how you can help make VBS the BEST ever, see page 7.

A WORD FROM KORY



When I took my first sabbatical back in 2016, I did a study of long-term pastorates, clergy who had served at least fifteen years in the same church. I wanted to know what helped these men and women remain in one place over the course of their ministry. I was only in my seventh year at Crestwood,

but I knew this was a place I wanted to be for a long time. Now in my 15th year, I can see the truths that I learned from those pastors about the benefits of staying in one place.

One of the things that I heard consistently from them was the importance of having pursuits outside the church to keep you engaged and invigorated. As you probably know, the church will take every moment you have to give and then politely ask for more, so, as a pastor, it's important to make sure you have a life outside the church, other hobbies or interests that spark your creativity and feed your soul.

I took that advice to heart and when I returned from sabbatical, I enrolled in the Leadership Lexington program. I had a wonderful time learning about our amazing community, and that experience has had the side benefit of 30 people (classmates and their families) becoming members of Crestwood. Wow! I never expected such a blessing to come from that program.

When I finished that in 2018, I began working on my Doctor of Ministry degree, which took about five years. The coursework was challenging and made me think about church and ministry in new ways, and the conversations with my classmates were deep and rich. My final project on ministerial evaluations continues to bear fruit for me personally and for my ministry at Crestwood.

Once I graduated in 2023, I began wondering, "What's next? What's the next thing that will fuel my ministry and my soul?" I was at a conference where my friend Erin Cash was presenting on the results of the Thriving Congregations initiative, a granted-funded program from Lexington Theological Seminary of which Crestwood was a part. I was fascinated by her findings and eager to explore further, so I asked Erin when she was going to write a book about what she learned. She said she just didn't think she had the time or motivation, so I said five words that have changed my life: "I'll write it with you!"

Boy, I didn't know what I was getting myself

into! We met to talk about this potential project and began to put together a framework. We then pitched it to Chalice Press, our denomination's publishing house, and much to my surprise, they said, "We'll print that!" That was in September 2024, and they said they wanted the book by the end of the year. Three months to write a book? When Erin and I both have full-time jobs and families and lives? Sure!

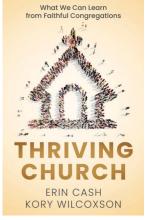
I used almost all of my free time outside of church to interview and write, and on Dec. 29, 2024, we turned in the final draft of the book. We would have been done sooner, but we had to completely redo one chapter. After it was done...finished...put to bed, we found out that the pastor of the church had been arrested. Oops! So, we had to start over but still made our deadline.

The process of making the book a reality has been a lot of fun and learning experience. From the title to the cover art to the endorsements, it's been a very hands-on, collaborative process. As I write this, my advance copies are supposed to arrive on my doorstep tomorrow, which feels a bit surreal. Did Erin and I actually write a book? Will anyone care? I guess we'll find out.

The things I learned while talking to the 10 churches featured in the book continue to inform my ministry at Crestwood every day. I was so inspired by their stories of perseverance, focus, and faithfulness. I hope those who read it will find hope, direction, and a reminder that God can work through any church, no matter its size, location, or ethnicity, to make God's kin-dom known here on earth. I'm excited for the book to be available and to share it with you. I pray it reflects well on Crestwood and on the ministry we have built together over these last 15 years. I can't wait to see what's next!

KORY'S BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE

"Thriving Church: What We Can Learn from Faithful Congregations" tells the story of 10 churches that are faithfully following God's call and what we can learn about how each one bucks the conventional trend of "thriving churches." The book is now available for pre-order from Chalice Press. Click here to order one and Kory will be glad to sign it for you!



Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS: Brenda Crank, Stewart and Laura Crutchfield, Jeanne Jouett, the family of Jerry Woodall

<u>FAMILY</u>: the family of Michael Clifford (father-in-law of Lauren Clifford), Dixie Peden (mother of Heidi Guckenberger), Gaines Womack (cousin of Kendall Hart)

FRIENDS: Kenny Bond (of Ellen Williams), the family of Brenda Chambers (of Saralyn Kingsolver), Jodi Fitzgerald (of Steph Wallace), Chase Pemberton (of Crestwood), Ann Wheeler (of Crestwood)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: the Cristi family (of Crestwood), Frank Dickey, David Farmer (friend of Kimberly Sparks), Jo Fulkerson, Laurie Hart (granddaughter of Susan & Kendall Hart), Jordan & Ginny Sue Hemphill (brother & sister-in-law of Monte LaFrana), Charles Saunier (grandson of Annetta Carter), Tony Shartle, Henrietta Shores (granddaughter of Mary Beth Shores), Nathaniel Sligh (nephew of Kimberly Sparks), Carter Yates (nephew of Stephanie & Josh Moore)

<u>ARMED FORCES</u>: Alex Back (son of Andrea Back), Anar Aliyev (of Crestwood), Karlis Bowman (nephew of Debbie Gardner), Tristan Bowman (nephew of Debbie Gardner), Bud DeLacey (nephew of Matt & Michelle DeLacey), Connor Hankins (nephew of Lauren York), Matt Holman (son of Gaye Holman), Zoe McIntyre (granddaughter of John Sims), Ashlyn Marra-Sigler & Daniel Sigler (daughter-in-law & son of Pam & David Sigler)

HEART-TO-HEART MEMBERS: Carlene Adams, Karen Billings, Janice Boyd, Dick Featherston, Bonnie Flanery, Sylvia Griffin, Buzz Mattingly, John Sims, John & Carolyn Thomas, Lucy Wheeler

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

FUNCH = FUN + LUNCH...

...and YOU are invited! Come be a part of the wonderful conversation, delicious food, and laughter! We enjoy fellowship time over a potluck lunch, then play BINGO for prizes! Please plan to join us on Friday, June 27 at 11:30 AM in Chalice Hall for our next FUNCH gathering!



FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for First Sunday Fellowship on Sunday, June 1. Refreshments will be served in the narthex following both worship services.



Please make plans to stay a few minutes after worship to connect with your Crestwood family.

LTS RESOURCES FOR LAYPEOPLE

Did you know that Lexington Theological Seminary has a ton of webinars and Lay School of Theology lectures available...for FREE? Click the links below to access a rich reservoir of offerings from LTS. It's a great way to continue a lifelong journey of learning.

<u>Lay School of Theology Archives</u> <u>Vital Congregations Webinars</u>

Or visit:

https://lextheo.edu/archived-webinars/ https://lextheo.edu/archived-lay-school/

YOUTH SUNDAY 2025

On May 11, Crestwood celebrated and honored our wonderful youth at both services. We had 26 different youth participating in Youth Sunday, and they did it all - the prayers, the invitations, the music, and the sermons! What a spectacular morning it was, and we are so proud of these enthusiastic and committed young people!



SRO TRIP TO TOYOTA PLANT

COMING IN JULY! Seniors, Retirees. and OTHERS (SRO) will be rolling along to the Toyota Maufacturing plant in Georgetown on Tuesday, July 8. Once there, we will be rolling inside the plant on a tram for a onehour educational tour of how cars are made. The working robotics should be fascinating to see. The only walking we need to do is to the "Toyota Experience Center," where we will sign in and visit the gift shop. The tour is free. Before we tour the plant, we will have lunch at The Porch--a restaurant which serves breakfast and lunch only, and is just a ten-minute drive from Toyota. Many of you have been to the Toyota plant in prior years, but there may be new things for you to see. In recent years, Toyota added a huge paint plant and more assembly lines for the manufacture of their new models. And it is always a blessing to take a bus ride with other members of Crestwood, and perhaps even learn something new about them!

Meet at Crestwood—10:30 AM
Lunch at The Porch—11:15 AM
Toyota Plant Tour—1:30 PM (arrival time is 1:15 PM)
Arrive back at Crestwood—3:30 PM
Cost—Your lunch and a donation for gas.

Everyone is invited! Please call Jeanette Knowles at 859-554-5204 or email her at: <u>jeanettevalerie@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in taking this trip.

HELP US FEED OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS!

Each day, a member of our Blessing Box Team comes to church faithfully morning and evening to restock our Blessing Box with food for hungry fami-



lies. The dedicated team of people (who have been doing this work for years) needs additional help! Right now, there are only 4 people who are doing this work that means each person is responsible for one week per month. If we could find 4 more willing hands, our Blessing Box Team would be 8 people strong, and each person would only be responsible for approximately 3 or 4 days per month! If you live close enough to Crestwood to be able to come by the church twice a day for a few days each month and help keep the blessing box filled, please email Steph Wallace (steph@crestwoodchristian.org) and let us know! You will need a door code - if you do not already have one, you can email Jim Cristi, our facilities manager, and he can help you with that. It is easy work, but so vital to keeping hungry families fed in our community. Please, won't you help us out in this important act of service to our community?

CONGRATS, GRADS!

Congratulations to Julia Blackburn, Eliana Brancato, and Madison Guy, who we honored on Youth Sunday for their graduation from high school. We're so proud of you, ladies!



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LET'S MAKE THIS HOUSE A HOME!



Please consider volunteering to build our Habitat for Humanity house during the final phase! Our Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build House is coming along nicely! The contractors are currently working on the house. Volunteers will be able to return to work beginning June 26. The dates to finish the house are as follows:

June 26-27

June 10-11

June 17-18

July 24-25

Work starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:30 PM. Work part of the day if you like! The address is 634 Maple Ave. Please bring a refillable water bottle. A lunch may be provided, but please bring a lunch in case it is not. Contact Jordan Amis at jordana@lexhabitat.org to tell him you are coming, or just show up!

Volunteer jobs will include wiping down walls, painting, spackling, caulking, installing baseboards, vinyl siding, window seals, blinds, cleaning, landscaping, etc. Hope you can come and help!

PRAYER & POEM WORKSHOP

Sometimes we need to put something on our schedule in order to make time for it. We invite you to join us for a Prayer and Poem workshop on three consecutive Sundays in June (June 1, 8 and 15 from 4:00 to 5:00 PM in the Bradford Room). Come for as few or as many sessions as you wish; they are open to all with no advance registration required. Join us to spend quiet time in contemplation, focused on composing prayers or spiritual poems, whether for your private devotions or to be shared. A conducive environment and prompts to spark inspiration will be offered. Denise Woodside Murray will facilitate.

PASTOR'S CLASS PART 2

We celebrated our second round of baptisms on May 4 as we baptized three more youth from this year's Pastor's Class. Congratulations to Eliza York, Briggs Hall, and Ella Hall. Your church family is proud of you!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Constance Huff



Gina Potter



Alan and Sherry Mong



Bob and Donita Henry

THANK YOU, CRESTWOOD

Dear Crestwood family,

As I prepare to graduate with my Masters of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary this month, I am simply overwhelmed with gratitude for all the ways you have supported me in this endeavor. From the generosity of the scholarship that made it financially possible to the constant, unwavering emotional support you have provided me over the past four years, I can honestly say I would never have made it to this point without you! Over the past four vears. I have grown and learned so much about what it means to serve God and stand for all that Christ believed and taught, and it has changed me forever in ways I can barely explain. I am so thankful for Kory encouraging me back in 2021 to follow this call and go to seminary in the first place, and to all of you for making it possible. Thank you simply does not cut it - there are no words powerful enough to explain how grateful I am for my Crestwood family. I cannot wait to start on the next stage of my journey, which is getting ready for my ordination into ministry on July 27. Thank you for being with me every step of the way!

With deepest gratitude,

Steph Wallace

CELEBRATING STEPHANIE WALLACE

Please join us Sunday June 8 following the 10:45 AM service in Chalice Hall as we celebrate Steph's completion of her Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary. There will be a cake reception with a basket for cards and notes. LTS graduation will be held on Friday June 13 at 10:00 AM in Crestwood's sanctuary and all are invited to attend. Steph's ordination service will be forthcoming on July 27. Congratulations Steph, we are so proud of your hard work and dedication!



Dear Crestwood family,

Thank you so much for your lovely expressions of gratitude on the occasion of my 25th anniversary at Crestwood. To say that I was surprised is definitely an understatement. It continues to be a blessing and a privilege to be Crestwood's organist and to work with an amazing and supportive staff. I am filled with gratitude for the past 25 years and look forward to many more.

Love, Jane Johnson

Dear Friends of LTS,

The Lexington seminary community is blessed by your generosity and kindness. We thank you for valuing the work of the seminary and joining with us in preparing men and women for service in Christ's church. When students reflect upon their opportunity to attend LTS, words cannot describe how enthusiastic and appreciative they are to be in the seminary's Master of Divinity program. If they could speak to you face-to-face, they would thank you for helping make their seminary education possible. So, on their behalf, thank you for your partnership and gift of \$439.46.

Mark Blankenship, VP of Advancement

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 22 after 10:45 AM service

There will be a congregational meeting on June 19 following the 10:45 AM service to elect the leaders for the 2025-2026 church year. All Crestwood members are encouraged to attend and participate.

NO MEN'S BREAKFAST IN JUNE

Because of travel schedules and the general busyness of the summer, there will be no Men's Breakfast in June or July. We'll see you again in August!

IN MEMORIAM

Jerry

Woodall



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VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up online to volunteer by clicking here.

Each volunteer will receive a Crestwood Faith Explorers T-shirt!

- Group Leaders/Assistant Leaders
- Games
- Snacks
- Crafts
- Music
- Storytelling
- Kitchen
- Registration
- Youth Helpers (Rising 7th grade)
- Confetti Cleanup Crew

VBS MISSION PROJECT

During VBS, our kids make a difference in the community by collecting donations. This year, we will be collecting nonperishable, individually packaged snacks for the family resource center at Glendover Elementary (fruit snacks, granola bars, etc). Help our kids reach their goal and challenge Kory to step outside his comfort zone. Previous challenges included eating insects and kissing chickens. Join in the fun, cheer on the kids, and stay tuned for this year's challenge! Donations will be collected June 22–26 at the ends of hallways leading to the sanctuary.

VBS REGISTRATION

Vacation Bible School is June 23-26! Registration is now open, and we are in the process of recruiting volunteers to serve the children of our community. It takes a village to bring VBS to life and we hope you will prayerfully consider joining us. Please sign up below and reach out with any questions you may have to Missy Wallace at missy@crestwoodchristian.org.

Click here for Child Registration

Or scan this QR Code



SAVE THE DATES

June 1 - First Sunday Fellowship

June 17 - VBS Decorating Night

June 20 - Online VBS registration closes

June 22 - VBS Sunday - dress for a spirit of adventure

with bright colors in worship!

June 23 - 26 VBS dinner at 5:30 PM;

program 6:00 - 8:15 PM

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MISSION BUILDING TRIP TO WESTERN KENTUCKY!



Twelve Lexington Disciple church members volunteered in a successful mission building trip to Western Kentucky April 27-May 2. The trip's purpose was to help rebuild after the tornadoes of 2021 and 2024. Crestwood and its World Outreach Ministry Team helped sponsor the trip. Crestwood's volunteers were Lucy Wells, John Brown, and Steve Seithers. We stayed at a former high school in Earlington, KY.

Under the leadership of the Fuller Disaster Rebuilders we were able to work on a house blitz, where we tried to get as much of the house built in one week as we could. Working with a total of 35 volunteers from all over the U.S., we were able to get the walls built, the roof trusses installed, and the roof sheeting completed and taped. We were also able to get metal roof sheeting and vinyl siding on half the house! Other groups will come and finish the house. What joy and fun we had in fellowship and in helping others!

This was our sixth mission trip to Western Kentucky. It will take several years to rebuild Western Kentucky. But thanks to Crestwood and volunteers we are making an effort!

Please save the following dates for our next trip Sept. 28 -Oct. 3. If you are interested in going, please contact Steve Seithers at 859-519-9096.

JUNE CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE (except where noted otherwise)

8:30 AM - Worship Service

9:30 AM - Sunday School

10:00 AM - Choir Practice

10:45 AM - Worship Service

Sunday, June 1 - FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Noon - Shalom Social Justice - Bradford Rm

Noon - Youth Mission Trip Info Meeting -Chalice Hall

4:00 PM - Prayer/Poem Workshop - Bradford Rm

Monday, June 2

7:00 PM - Local Outreach - MC3

Tuesday, June 3

9:00 AM - Library Team - Library

Wednesday, June 4

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library

6:00 PM - Young Adult Group - The Cellar

Thursday, June 5

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

6:00 PM - Personnel Team - Bradford Room

Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost Sunday

4:00 PM - Prayer/Poem Workshop - Bradford Rm

Tuesday, June 10

2:00 PM - Property Team - Bradford Room

Wednesday, June 11

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library

Thursday, June 12

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

6:00 PM - Finance Team - Bradford Room

Sunday, June 15 - FATHER'S DAY

Youth Mission Trip leaves for Charleston

12:00 PM - Elders Lunch - Chalice Hall

4:00 PM - Prayer/Poem Workshop - Bradford Rm

Tuesday, June 17

5:00 PM - Decorating for VBS

Wednesday, June 18

1:00 PM - Bible Study - MC3

Thursday, June 19

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

Sunday, June 22

Regular Sunday Schedule

Monday, June 23

5:00 PM - Vacation Bible School

6:30 PM - Crestwood Book Club - MC8

Tuesday, June 24

5:00 PM - Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, June 25

5:00 PM - Vacation Bible School

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library

Thursday, June 26

5:00 PM - Vacation Bible School

11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room

Friday, June 27

11:30 AM - FUNCH - Chalice Hall

Sunday, June 29

9:40 AM - Wake Up with Wallace - Nicholasville Rd. Panera

LITURGISTS NEEDED

Lend your voice to our worship services! We're looking for liturgists for both services on Sunday morning.

The liturgist leads the congregation in the Call to

Worship and reads the first scripture (both of which are provided during the week before). We'd love to have you be part of leading worship on Sunday, so please sign up. No previous experience necessary! Here's the link:

<u>Liturgist Signup</u>

Youth Corner By Steph Wallace

Happy summer! As we conclude our youth program for the season, I want to express my profound gratitude for the way our Crestwood Youth rise to every occasion in the most spectacular, servant fashion! Youth Sunday was a glorious example of our youth sharing their extensive gifts with our church family, and I could not be more proud of all their hard work. They are all such compassionate, gifted, and caring people and I am so humbled by their servant hearts every day! They are the light of the world, and they sure know how to let their lights shine! We congratulate our three high school seniors, Julie Blackburn, Eliana Brancato, and Madison Guy, and ask that you hold them in prayer in the coming months as they embark on their college endeavors.



Our youth mission trip this summer will be to Charleston, SC from Sunday, June 15 - Friday, June 20. We are leaving very early in the morning on June 15. Please pray for traveling mercies and a meaningful serving and learning experience for the 13 youth and 5 adults who are going on this trip. We plan to share stories and pictures from our experiences after we return.

If there is anything I can do for you or yours, please let me know. I will be reaching out to all youth families in July with detailed information about the fall schedule, upcoming youth events, and necessary forms to fill out prior to kicking off our new season in August. There will be a Friday Night Fellowship coming in July, and details will be shared in the next few weeks. I simply cannot imagine going all summer without at least one special fellowship night with these amazing youth! My prayer for each of you is that you will have a restful, enjoyable summer filled with blessings!

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.

2025 SUMMER SERMON SERIES - MO BLESSINGS, MO PROBLEMS

Sure, you've watched "The 10 Commandments" or "The Prince of Egypt"...but do you know the REAL story of Moses? This summer, we'll pick up our shepherd's crook and walk alongside the man who went from a fateful beginning to an Egyptian outcast to one of the most important figures in the history of the Judeo-Christian faith. We'll watch him part the Red Sea, give the 10 commandments, and meet God face-to-face. Join us as we spend some time learning about the greatest delivery man in history!



June 1 - The Birth of Moses - Exodus 2:1-10

June 8 - The Burning Bush - Exodus 3:1-15

June 15 - The Exodus/Passover - Exodus 12:1-14

June 22 - Parting the Red Sea - Exodus 14:10-31

June 29 - Manna from Heaven - 16:2-15

July 6 - 10 Commandments - Exodus 20:1-20

July 13 - The Golden Calf - 32:1-14

July 20 - Moses Sees God - Exodus 33:12-23

July 27 - Moses' Shining Face - Ex. 34:29-35

August 3 - Choosing to Live - Deut. 30:11-20

August 10 - Death of Moses - Deuteronomy 34:1-8

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

THE CREST

Crestwood Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Return Service Requested

CRESTWOOD CARES

Your Generosity as a Congregation Makes It All Possible!

In May, Local Outreach gave \$1500 to the New Life Day Center.

Our Bridge fund made the following payments: \$138 and \$234 to KU to help two different families with past due charges, who were facing shutoff.

World Outreach gave \$595 to The Christian Church in KY (DOC Region) and \$2,333 to Habitat for Humanity.

Additionally, we collected \$1720 in donations for tornado relief in Laurel County so far!

Your love and generosity changes lives!



CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship — 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 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
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Jane Johnson, Organist
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Church Office office@crestwoodchristian.org kory Wilcoxson Kelly Hale kelly@crestwoodchristian.org missy Wallace Steph Wallace Frank Spragens fspragens@yahoo.com

facilitiesmgr@crestwoodchristian.org

WEBSITE

Jim Cristi