

Connecting People with God and Each Other

Volume 65 Issue 1

January 15, 2026

In This Issue...

A Word from Kory.....	2
Prayer List.....	3
Accounting Change.....	3
Statements.....	3
Blood Drive.....	3
FUNCH.....	4
First Sunday Fellowship.....	4
"Souper" Bowl.....	4
Walk for Warmth.....	4
Book Club.....	4
Thank You.....	4
In Memoriam.....	4
Book Donations.....	4
Church Calendar.....	5
Welcome, Isaac!.....	5
New Task Force.....	5
Children's Ministry.....	6
Save the Dates.....	8
Youth Corner.....	6
DWM.....	7
Ornaments.....	7
Liturgists & Greeters.....	8

AFTER LIFE SERMON SERIES

Is there a heaven? What about hell? And what really happens when we die? These are the most common questions people ask their pastor, so let's talk about them on Sunday morning! Starting Jan. 25, Kory will be preaching a sermon series called "After Life," looking at these questions from a historical, theological, and practical angle. Ultimately, there are no answers to these questions, but that shouldn't stop us from asking them. Our prayer is that in asking the questions together, God will open our eyes to a deeper understanding.



Jan. 25 - Heaven: Beyond Harps and Halos

Feb. 1 - H-E-Double Hockey Sticks

Feb. 8 - What Happens When We Die?

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WORSHIP SERVICE

The 36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Worship Service will be hosted by Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 205 E. Short St., on Sunday, Jan. 18 at 6:00 PM. This annual community service, which was founded and continues to be coordinated by a diverse group of local Disciples of Christ congregations (known as "Disciples for the Dream"), celebrates and remembers the momentous legacy, ministry, and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King. This year's guest speaker will be Rev. Dikiea Elery from East Second Street Christian Church.



2026 PASTOR'S CLASS

Is your youth in fifth grade or above and curious about baptism? This year's Pastor's Class will start on Sunday, Feb. 22 (time TBD), and run for six weeks to help youth prepare to make a decision about being baptized. This class is fun, interactive, and a great way for youth to learn about their faith. If your youth is interested in participating, let Kory know. Looking forward to another great class this year!

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

It's time to update 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, a paper copy of the directory will be available in the narthex on Sunday. Please stop by before or after worship to update it. Second, if you'd like to review your entry electronically, email the church office and we'll send you a PDF to review. Thanks for your help on keeping our church family connected!

NEXT CREST IS FEBRUARY 1

Crest articles are due by Sunday, January 25.

**Send articles to:
office@crestwoodchristian.org**



A WORD FROM KORY



In the passage from John 1 where Jesus calls his disciples, there's an interesting progression. John the Baptist points to Jesus, which leads two disciples to follow Jesus. They ask Jesus a question ("Where are you staying?") and he invites them to "Come and see."

They do, and they are so awestruck by what they see they reach out to their friends. Phillip reaches out to Nathanael, and while he's skeptical ("Can anything good come from Nazareth?") he also "comes and sees" and ends up becoming a disciple of Jesus. We can presume that Nathanael offered the invitation to someone else, who offered it to someone else, until eventually someone offered it to us. Come and see.

How did you find Crestwood? That was the question I posed to our Men's Breakfast group last Saturday. It was a great mix of sixteen guys from all different walks of life and different tenures at Crestwood. As we went around the table, each told a story about how they ended up at Crestwood.

One of them was born into the church, so I guess he really didn't have much choice! But what's interesting about his story is that he came back after college and some time away. Another grew up in the neighborhood, attending Glendover Elementary, and the church was a part of his weekly rhythm. And two of us came to Crestwood because y'all paid us! Bill McDonald and I thank you for that.

Other stories were more unconventional. One man came to Crestwood after leaving his church of several decades over a clash with new leadership and direction. He found Crestwood and invited a friend, and both of them were at the men's breakfast. Another came because he moved to town and a relative already attended. Yet another found us after moving to Lexington from a town out west which also had a Crestwood Christian Church which he attended. Coincidence or divine providence?

And then there were a few who found us through more modern methods. Several of them watched a few worship services online and decided to give us a try. One of them had only first visited the church the Sunday before the breakfast, but wanted to come and meet more people. I sat back and just soaked in all the different ways people made their way to Crestwood.

There was a common thread in all their diverse stories. Each person said that once they stepped inside the doors of the church, they felt welcomed. People made an effort to smile at them, to greet them, to learn their name. They felt like they were seen as people, not potential members or donors. After the breakfast, I saw one of the young adults inviting the new visitor (also a young adult) to our young adult gathering the next Wednesday. Come and see.

How did you get to Crestwood? Maybe you were born into it, maybe you first came with your parents, maybe it was geographically convenient. You might have scoped out the website or watched a few sermons online. You might have a friend who invited you and you accepted the invitation. However it happened, you're here. And I'm really glad you are!

As we start 2026, there are going to be a lot of people who are looking. Looking for meaning. Looking for purpose. Looking for hope. Looking for a church that welcomes them, accepts them, grounds them in God's love, calls them to discover and live out their gifts. They may be disillusioned with their current church or gave up on church a long time ago. And they're waiting for a simple invitation: Come and see.

And some of them will. They'll walk through our doors, look around, and wonder if they belong. And then you'll catch their eye and walk up to them and say, "Welcome. I'm really glad you're here." Or they'll sit next to you in the pew, hesitantly wondering if they're sitting in someone else's seat, and you'll lean over and say, "We've been saving that spot for you! Welcome to Crestwood."

Our church is growing, not just in numbers or dollars, but in significance in people's lives and in our relevance to the community. Each person who comes into our church changes us because they add their gifts to ours, like every drop of water changes how much water there is in a glass. God is going to reach out to them in a variety of ways: through friends and family, through geographic proximity, through a YouTube Channel. And all you have to do is one thing: See them. Acknowledge them. Welcome them. Just like someone did for you when you first came to Crestwood.

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS: Tracy Lovan, Stephanie Moore

FAMILY: Family of Gary Adamson (father of Kyle Adamson), **Larry Blondell** (brother of Rev. David N. Blondell), **Phyllis Burdette** (mother of Kim Powell), **Michele Mitchell** (daughter of Wayne and Eva Dennis), **LeRoy Wease** (nephew of James Pelfrey)

FRIENDS: **Don Belles** (of Michelle DeLacey), **Roy and Lena Campbell** (of Saralyn Kingsolver), **family of Philip Dare** (of Crestwood), **family of Tricia Dean** (of Brenda Crank), **Chesley Dunn** (of Rick and Jeanne Jouett), **David Flynn** (of Jill and Rick Sawyer), **Matthew Johnson** (of James Pelfrey), **Amy Morris** (of Jill and Rick Sawyer), **family of Betty Morrison** (of Crestwood), **Greg Prewitt** (of Jim & Libby Sharpe), **family of John Price** (of Matt and Megan Bacon), **family of Patty Rai Smith** (of Crestwood), **David Staten** (of Crestwood), **Shannon Willow** (of James Pelfrey), **Daniel and Kimberly Witt** (of Jennifer Bryant), **Mary Zarba** (of Libby Wachtel)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: the **Cristi family** (of Crestwood), **Tybi Finnegan** (of Steph Wallace), **Jo Fulkerson**, **Laurie Hart** (granddaughter of Susan & Kendall Hart), **Jordan & Ginny Sue Hemphill** (brother & sister-in-law of Monte LaFrana), **Ariel Main** (friend of Libby Wachtel), **Denise Murray, Sally** (of Ann Kingsolver), **Tony Shartle**, **Henrietta Shores** (granddaughter of Mary Beth Shores), **Nathaniel Sligh** (nephew of Kimberly Sparks), **Carter Yates** (nephew of Stephanie & Josh Moore)

ARMED FORCES: **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, 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 and oppression 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.

ACCOUNTING CHANGE

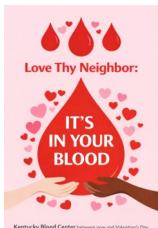
Kristi Kohm, our accountant, is leaving us in January. We are very sorry to see her go, she has been outstanding for the six years she's been with us and will be missed. At her suggestion, we are transitioning to an outsourcing arrangement with Peer House CPA & Consulting Service and will have two accountants supporting Crestwood. Peer House is headed by Ozlem Eva Davis and we will be working with Michelle Burke and Elizabeth Carson. The interface with "our accountant" will not change, they will be available via the same email address, bookkeeper@crestwoodchristian.org. And, as today, any paper documents that need to be given to them can be placed in the Accountant mail box in the church office. We look forward to a long and successful relationship with Peer House.

2025 ANNUAL RECORD OF CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENTS

Annual giving statements for contributions, donations, and payments received in 2025 were sent out on Monday, Jan. 12. If you are receiving it by email, it should already be in the Inbox of the email address you have on file. If you can't locate it, please also check your SPAM folder. If you receive it via USPS, please allow 3-4 days for delivery. For questions, concerns, or further assistance, please email Financial Secretary Doug Hutcherson at financialsecretary@crestwoodchristian.org or call him at 859-797-1606.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR: IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD

Share some love by helping to meet the constant demand for donated blood. Between now and Valentine's Day, please consider giving blood at your local Kentucky Blood Center location. Handouts with more information are available in the narthex.



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, Jan. 23 at 11:30 AM in Chalice Hall for our next FUNCH gathering! ALL ARE WELCOME!



FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

You are welcome to join us for First Sunday Fellowship on Sunday, Feb. 1. Lemonade and cookies will be served in the narthex following each service. Please join us for this special time together!



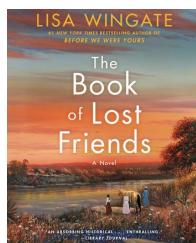
LET'S MAKE A SOUPER DIFFERENCE

Whether you're rooting for a team or the commercials, we can all be winners as we serve the least of these in the community. Join us on Sunday, Feb. 8, as we collect food for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring. This year the food collected will go to Crestwood's Blessing Box. Along with soup, we are always in need of canned fruits and vegetables, canned tuna, and Chef Boyardee pasta. Donations can be brought to the narthex on Sunday morning or throughout the week. Thanks for your support as we cheer on our community!



CRESTWOOD BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting is Monday, Feb. 23 in MC 8 to discuss "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate. For more information, contact Beth Cooper or the church office.



JOIN US FOR THE WALK FOR WARMTH

The Shalom Social Justice Team invites you to join them as they participate in the Lexington Rescue Mission's Walk for Warmth fundraiser. The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 10:00 AM at Calvary Baptist Church. The cost of registration is \$30. To register, [click here](#). We hope you'll join us as we walk to end homelessness!



THANK YOU FROM THE SHANKLIN FAMILY

My family and I would like to thank Kelly and Stephanie for their visits and compassion during my mom, Betty Shanklin's, hospitalization. Missy for providing pray bears and books to help her great grandchildren during a most difficult time. And certainly Kory for his comforting hospital visits, prayers and traveling to Hopkinsville to do my mom's service. I would also like to thank our Crestwood family for the many cards, words of support, and prayers during this journey.

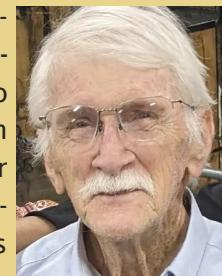
~ Bob and Sice Shanklin

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Patti Rai Smith, a former member of Crestwood, passed away in January. Patti Rai and her husband, Gordon Butterfield, were members until Gordon's death in 2015. Patti Rai was living in Louisiana when she passed.



We have learned of the passing of former Crestwood member **Rev. Dr. Philip N. Dare**. Rev. Dr. Dare was also the Dean and Librarian for Lexington Theological Seminary. We offer our deepest sympathies to his wife, Nancy, and their family as they grieve his loss.



CHILDREN'S BOOK DONATIONS

Do you have any out-grown children's books that you would donate to our Blessing Book Box? When parents pick up food from the Blessing Food Box, they are able to take a book for their child. We know that it is important for children to have their own books at home, but books are not in the budget for families struggling to make ends meet. There is a marked container for donations on the Giving Lane, with a box underneath. We are looking for books for pre-school through early elementary ages. "Quality" books (Seuss, etc.) are especially needed, but they also like activity books and crayons from Dollar Tree. This is an activity of the Bradford-Seekers Sunday School class who have already emptied the shelves of their children and grandchildren! Thank you.



JANUARY 15-31 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

Thursday, January 15

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

Sunday, January 18

- 12:00 PM - Elders Lunch
- 2:00 PM - Combined Youth Group - MLK Youth Rally & Service

Monday, January 19

**The church office will be closed Monday, Jan. 19 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

- 11:45 AM - DWM Julia Circle - Bradford Room

Tuesday, January 20

- 6:15 PM - DWM Deborah Circle - Bradford Room

Wednesday, January 21

- 10:00 AM - DWM Dorcas Circle - Bradford Room
- 1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library
- 6:00 PM - Ministry Council - Bradford Room
- 7:00 PM - Administrative Board - Bradford Room

Thursday, January 22

- 11:00 AM - Bible Study - Bradford Room
- 6:00 PM - Personnel Committee - Bradford Room
- 7:00 PM - Choir Practice

Friday, January 23

- 11:30 AM - FUNCH - Chalice Hall

Sunday, January 25

- 9:40 AM - Wake Up With Wallace - Panera Bread
- 4:00 PM - Chi Rho Youth Group
- 5:00 PM - CYF Youth Group

Wednesday, January 28

- 1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library

Thursday, January 29

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

WELCOME, ISAAC!

In the 1990s, Crestwood helped resettle the Aliyev family, who were refugees from the Armenian region of Europe. One of the children Anar, has stayed connected to Crestwood, and always visits us each year while on leave from the Navy. This year, he not only brought his wife, Amanda, but their son, Isaac, to the 8:30 AM service on Jan. 11. At the end of the service, Anar and his family came forward because, in his words, he wanted Isaac to have Crestwood as his church home. Kory said a blessing over Isaac and celebrated the ongoing relationship Crestwood has with Anar and his family. Please continue to keep all of them in your prayers!



OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE

Part of Crestwood's Faithful Plan is to explore the possibility of Crestwood becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. While Crestwood already strives to be welcoming to all, this designation would send a message to members of the LGBT+ community and their allies that they are safe, affirmed, and welcomed into the full life of Crestwood. Churches seeking this designation go through a congregation-wide process, and Crestwood is putting together a task force to explore that process. If you would like more information or are interested in serving on that task force, please let Kory know.





Children's Ministry

Pastor Missy Wallace

Greetings Crestwood Families,

Welcome to 2026! January is one of my favorite seasons of ministry. We are decompressed after busy December schedules and have time to breathe deeply. There's space to step back and dream big as we make plans and set goals. In children's ministry, it means time to prepare for our program year, including Vacation Bible School.

VBS planning in the middle of winter? You bet! It starts with a foundation of prayer and creative energy. It takes an army of leadership with all kinds of strengths to give our kids their best week of summer. As you map out New Year's resolutions and pencil in your calendar, consider what surprises God might have in store for you through the gift of servant leadership.

Bring on the confetti, friends, because this year is going to be worthy of God's glory and celebration!

Cheers,
Pastor Missy

SAVE THE DATES

Feb. 1 – First Sunday Fellowship

Feb. 8 – Souper Bowl of Caring
(bring donations of canned soup
to worship)

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 22 – Pastors Class for 5th
graders begins

Mar. 29 – Palm Sunday procession

Apr. 5 – Easter Services & Flowering
of the Cross

Apr. 19 – Baptism Sunday & All
Church Breakfast

July 20-23 - 2026 Vacation Bible
School

Stay Tuned: Family Lenten Workshop

YOUTH CORNER

By Rev. Steph Wallace

Happy New Year! I pray that you and yours have experienced a blessing-filled and joyous holiday season, and that you are looking forward to 2026 as much as I am!

Here is the Youth Events Calendar for the remainder of this first month of the year:

Sunday, January 18: Youth Rally at Transylvania University, 3:00-5:00 PM
Followed by MLK service at Central Christian Church,
6:00-8:00 PM
***YOUTH MEET AT CRESTWOOD AT 2:30 PM PLEASE!**

Sunday, January 25: Wake up With Wallace!
9:30 AM - Panera Bread (2300 Nicholasville Rd).
Regular Youth Groups - Devotional/Discussion
Chi Rho meets 4:00-5:00 PM in Youth Meeting Room
CYF meets 5:00-6:00 PM in Youth Meeting Room



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!



Our youth groups got together on Dec. 21 for yummy treats and lots of laughs during our annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange!



DWM

DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

CIRCLE MEETINGS

2025-26 Just Women Bible Study:

Come, Holy Spirit, Come

Please join us!

JULIA CIRCLE

Monday, Jan. 19, 11:45 AM in the Bradford Room

Bring your sack lunch and drink and join in the fun. Cyn-di Wiseman will lead the lesson "El Espiritu Santo and the Hispanic Church."

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6:15 PM in the Bradford Room

Erin Bookman will lead the lesson "As the Holy Spirit Will." *If you need childcare, please contact Laura Prather at lauraprather@gmail.com.*

DORCAS CIRCLE

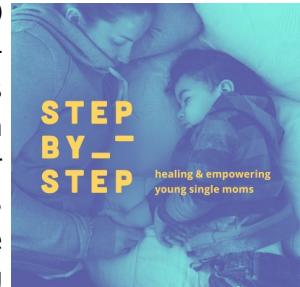
Wednesday Jan. 21, 10:00 in the Bradford Room

Andy Bales will lead the lesson, "He Is."

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

JANUARY SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: STEP BY STEP

Step By Step is celebrating 30 years of walking alongside thousands of young single mothers ages 12 to 24 and their children throughout our community. Over the decades, Step By Step has evolved from offering child abuse prevention education to providing a holistic, trauma-informed approach that includes healing-centered programming, resource advocacy, and youth-centered leadership development. The mission of Step By Step is to empower and embolden young single mothers to improve their lives, their families, and their communities through healing, encouragement, faith and education.



The agency has requested monetary contributions that will be used to support on-going programs.

For those who wish to make a contribution, you may write a check made payable to Crestwood Christian DWM with letters SBS in the memo line. Please mail your donation to DWM treasurer Donna Thor at 3405 Brandon Drive, Lexington KY 40502.

For more information, you may contact DWM service coordinator Loraye Jones at 859-940-1567 (call or text) or email at loraye.r.jones@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support.

REGISTRATION is NOW OPEN

Sing into Spring!

2026 Kentucky Disciples
Women's Choral Retreat

Friday, February 27 ~ Sunday, March 1, 2026

Jeffersontown Christian Church
10631 Taylorsville Road Louisville, KY 40299

Registration fee is \$65. To register online go to <https://www.ccinky.net/>

For more information contact Shari Caldarelli:
email shari.caldarelli@gmail.com call/text 859-322-5653

You can also contact Gayle Hutcherson for more information or to register.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORNAMENTS!

If you brought in an ornament to decorate our family Christmas tree in the narthex, you may pick it up outside the church office. We loved having so many people participate and hope to make this an annual tradition!



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

THE CREST

Crestwood Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Return Service Requested

ADD YOUR GIFTS TO SUNDAY MORNING

Each Sunday, there are two ways you can participate in helping making our worship experience meaningful to all those who join us. First, our **Greeters** provide a friendly face and warm welcome to all who worship with us. Click this [link](#) to learn more about what's involved and how to sign up. Second, our **Liturgists** lead the congregation in the Call to Worship and read the first scripture (both of which are provided during the week before). To learn more and sign up, click this [link](#). Thanks for being a part of our team that helps make worship happen each Sunday!

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 YouTube.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kory Wilcoxson, Senior Minister
Rev. Steph Wallace, Interim Associate Minister
Pastor Missy Wallace, Children's Minister
Rev. Kelly Hale, Pastoral Care Minister
Jennifer Heersche, Office Administrator
Jim Cristi, Facilities Manager
Frank Spragens, Music Director
Jane Johnson, Organist
Cindy Abernathy, Pianist

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