

Sunday, January 19

Modern-day Proverbs  
sermon series

“Be Nice When You Can...”

Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY SERVICE

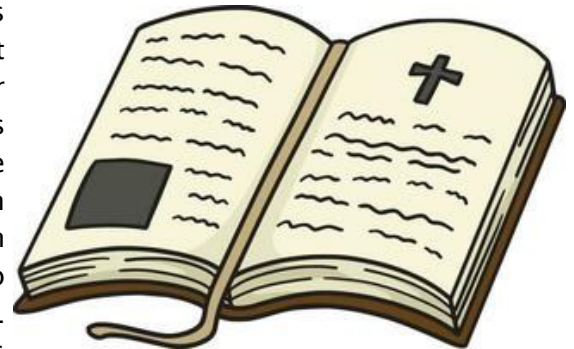
You are invited to join a service to celebrate and remember the important legacy, ministry, and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, alongside other Disciples churches on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will host the 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Worship Service, featuring acclaimed guest preacher, **Rev. Dr. Delesslyn Audra Kennebrew**. A reception will follow the service. This service will also be livestreamed on Central Christian Church’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

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## 2025 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, March 2. 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 27 this year. If your child is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade or above and would like to take the class or if you have additional questions, please let Kory know.



## MODERN-DAY PROVERBS SERMON SERIES

For our first sermon series in 2025, we’re taking a look at some modern-day proverbs, sayings that probably would have made it into the Bible if they were around back then. Where do these words connect with God’s word? And what do they tell us about how to be God’s people in our world today?

January 19 – “Be nice when you can, but always be kind”

January 26 – “When you point the finger at someone else...”

February 2 – “Don’t talk to people from other rooms”

February 9 – “This, too, shall pass”

February 16 – “You can lead a horse to water...”

February 23 – “Don’t judge a book by its cover”

March 2 – “Win some, lose some”

**NEXT CREST**  
**FEBRUARY 1**

Articles are due by Noon  
Monday, January 27

Send articles to:  
office@crestwoodchristian.org

## A WORD FROM KORY



Jimmy Carter was the first president I remember. I turned six just before he took office in January 1977 and have only vague memories of his time in the Oval Office, since I wasn't reading the Wall Street Journal yet or listening to NPR podcasts. In fact, my most vivid memory of Carter's presidency was "Billy Beer," the beverage promoted by the president's brother.

Most historians agree that Carter wasn't very successful as the president. In fact, some call him quite disappointing and say that one of the main causes of his lack of success was his commitment to the American people to always tell the truth. During his four years as president, his approval rating plummeted from 75 percent to 28 percent, yet he was always considered an honest and decent man. His reputation for honesty made it harder for him to get things done in Washington. I'll let you draw your own conclusion about the state of politics today, but it hurts my heart to think the only way you can really be successful is if you jettison any hopes of being honest.

As we all know, Carter's greater success happened after he lost his bid for re-election. When he lost to Ronald Reagan, he was 56 years old, at the time the youngest living ex-president. When he died, he was 100, the oldest living president. In the 44 years in between, Carter set the example for what a servant leader looks like. Many politicians, once they leave office, focus on building their "brand," going on speaking tours, commanding exorbitant fees, maintaining their public status. Carter didn't build a brand; instead, he and his wife, Rosalyn, built houses.

Carter's post-presidential life is an exemplary lesson in how to deal with failure. Can you imagine how it must feel to lose on such a national stage? And Carter didn't just lose. He was trounced, gaining only 49 electoral votes to Reagan's 489. No claims of election fraud in 1980! With a beating like that, it would have made sense for Carter to slink back into private life, not doing anything to draw attention or remind people of his lackluster presidency.

How do you handle failure? I'm not so great with it. I don't like to fail, because it feels like a statement about my worth as a person. If I try something and don't succeed, all the voices come out of the woodwork, telling me I'm not good enough, I should never have tried in the first place. I remember the first few times I tried to ride a bike, not only did I fall off, but one time it was into a giant mud puddle! The last

thing I wanted to do was get back on that bike. But eventually, I did (after a shower!).

What I love about Carter's legacy is that, at 56 years old, instead of wallowing in what could have been, he focused on what could be. He asked himself the question, "What good work can I do with the rest of my life?", and he answered that question each and every day, right up until the end. Jimmy Carter did a lot of good work in his last 44 years.

How about us? I have no idea how much time I have left - I hope it's a LOT! - but I want to use it to serve God to the fullest of my abilities. I want to do good work for the sake of God's kin-dom, helping others know they are loved and treasured by God, so much so that God would give us Jesus, God's love made flesh. So many people talk about that, but it's folks like Jimmy Carter who show it.

What will your legacy be? What will people remember? For Jimmy Carter, his legacy could have been his presidency. He could have let those four years define him for the rest of his life. We run the same risk, letting a failure or a disappointment define us. But God has so many plans for the rest of our lives! My prayer is that we look forward with our eyes open to how God will use us to swing a hammer, write a card, or pour a cup of coffee in God's name. God's not done with you yet. What good work can you do with the rest of your life?

### RESPONDING TO CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

How can we, as faithful disciples, help in horrific situations like the wildfires raging through southern California? STAY...PRAY...GIVE. Stay out of the affected area unless you are part of a specific disaster relief effort; pray for all those affected and for the folks working hard to fight the fires; give to Week of Compassion to help fund relief efforts. Go to [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org) and help make a difference!

### FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



Please join us for First Sunday Fellowship on Sunday, February 2. Cookies and milk will be served in the narthex following each service.

## Joys and Concerns

**MEMBERS:** Brenda Crank

**FAMILY:** Lisa Jern (cousin of Libby Wachtel), David Schermerhorn (brother-in-law of David Miller), Carter Yates (nephew of Stephanie Moore)

**FRIENDS:** the Cristi family (of Crestwood), Denise McGaughey (of Kay Thomas), Mary Jane Moseley (of Libby Wachtel)

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Tyler Coultas (son of Karen Coultas), 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), Henrietta Shores (granddaughter of Mary Beth Shores), Nathaniel Sligh (nephew of Kimberly Sparks), Donnie Wakefield, Jim Wallace (father of Scott Wallace)

**ARMED FORCES:** Alex Back (son of Andrea Back), Anar Aliyev (of Crestwood), Karlis Bowman (nephew of Debbie Gardner), Tristan Bowman (nephew of Debbie Gardner), Daniel Day (grandson of John & Carol Royse & son of Tracy Day), Bud DeLacey (nephew of Matt & Michelle DeLacey), 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, 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.

## **SRO CHANGES!**

"Seniors, Retirees, and Others" is making a change! After discussion it was decided to offer these trips 3-4 times a year, primarily in the good-weather months of March through October. We will plan for shorter trips and shorter days to nearby destinations, which will always include lunch. We always research the availability of entry and elevator accessibility, bus parking, amount of walking required, and costs. Suggestions of possible places to visit are the the Artisan Craft Center outside Berea and Berea's Boone Tavern for lunch and the historic towns of Bardstown and Frankfort, where there are several interesting things to see. Look for news of our first trip in 2025 in the February 'Crest' and 'Weekly'! Meet you at the bus!

## **OUR BLESSING BOX NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!**

Crestwood has its own food pantry - the Blessing Box! We keep this cabinet (located outside the children's wing doors) stocked daily with nonperishable food items. Every day hungry folks come and are able to take the food they need to feed themselves and their families. We are so blessed to be able to offer this gift of love and care to our community!

How can you help? Next time you go shopping, consider picking up a few extra items to donate to our Blessing Box pantry! Items should be left outside Steph Wallace's office door in the admin wing. Here are the items we need most:

- Canned tuna
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned beans (refried beans and baked beans)
- Canned soups

Thank you for helping keep our Blessing Box filled for those who need it most. You are truly helping share the love of Christ in a very meaningful and tangible way!

# JANUARY 15-31 CALENDAR

## Wednesday, January 15

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

## Wednesday, January 22

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library

## Thursday, January 23

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

## Thursday, January 16

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

## Friday, January 24

11:30 AM - FUNCH - Chalice Hall

## Sunday, January 19

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 - Chalice Hall  
2:30 PM - Youth meet at church for MLK Youth Rally  
6:00 PM - Martin Luther King, Jr. Service -  
Central Christian Church

## Sunday, January 26

8:30 AM - Worship Service  
9:30 AM - Sunday School  
9:40 AM - Wake Up with Wallace - Panera  
10:00 AM - Choir Practice  
10:45 AM - Worship Service  
3:30 PM - Combined Youth Group Field Trip - Activate!  
4:00 PM - Crestwood Crash Course - Bradford Room

## Monday, January 20 - OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 PM - DWM Julia Circle - Bradford Room

## Wednesday, January 29

1:00 PM - Bible Study - Library

## Tuesday, January 21

9:45 AM - DWM Naomi Circle - Bradford Room

## Thursday, January 30

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

## THANK YOU, CRESTWOOD!

I want to express our heartfelt gratitude from Liberty Elementary for your generous support in providing gifts for our students this holiday season. Your kindness and compassion make such a meaningful difference for families in need this time of year. We wish you and your congregation a blessed holiday season!

Laura Livesay, Family Resource Center, Liberty Elementary School

Thank you so much for your generosity towards our school staff this Christmas season (and throughout the school). Your kindness is so nice, and I know it is appreciated by everyone.

Amber G., Glendover Elementary School

I just wanted to send my thanks to Crestwood Church for your Angel Tree program. I was able to impact many families and students. The church made this so easy and quick. I am delighted that this church provided this much support for my students here at Russell Cave.

Kendra Reyes, Family Resource Center, Russell Cave Elementary School

The Lexington Seminary 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 can't 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, thanks for your partnership and gift of \$553.20.

Mark V. Blankenship, Vice-President for Advancement

Thank you so much for your thoughtful Christmas surprise of coffee, donuts, and goody bag. We've enjoyed the winter care items, including Chapstick. Thank you for your continued prayers! We appreciate them!

Karen Botts, Glendover Elementary School

# DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

## JANUARY SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE:

### STEP BY STEP

Step By Step is an agency in Lexington that was created to empower and embolden young, single mothers to improve their lives, their families and their communities through healing, encouragement, faith and education. The agency was founded in 1995 with a focus on young mothers ages 12-24. Step by Step offers support, mentoring, goal setting, and crisis intervention, as they walk alongside these young mothers and their children.

The agency is requesting **gasoline gift cards in the amount of \$25** (from local businesses with SEVERAL locations around town, such as Kroger, Walmart, Speedway, Shell). These cards will be used for the young mothers to transport children to doctor appointments. The gift cards should be placed in an envelope marked Step by Step and placed in the DWM mail box located in the church office. (Do NOT leave in the giving lane).

For those who wish to make a monetary contribution, you may write a check made payable to Crestwood Christian DWM with the letters SBS in the memo line. Please mail your check to DWM treasurer Gayle Hutcherson, 1005 Firethorn Pl, Lexington, KY 40515.

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)

Link to Step by Step website: [www.sbslex.org](http://www.sbslex.org)

### CONGRATULATIONS, MAUREEN!

Maureen Howell, our former 8:30 AM accompanist and church administrator, has won an award from the American Guild of Organists' Task Force for Gender Equity for her composition, "Reflection on Kingsfold." The award celebrates women composers and composers who identify as women or non-binary. Maureen and her husband Warren now live in Raleigh, North Carolina. Congratulations, Maureen!



## CIRCLE MEETINGS

### January Bible Study:

Authentically Me: Owning Our Narratives (*Genesis 2:7*)

### Dorcas Circle

**Wednesday, January 15, 10:00 AM, in Chalice Hall**

Andy Bales will present our Bible study program.

### Julia Circle

**Monday, January 20, 6:45 PM, in the Bradford Room**

Melinda Thompson will lead the Bible Study, and Sara Gretz will be our hostess.

### Naomi Circle

**Tuesday, January 21, 9:45 AM, in the Bradford Room**

Patsy Anderson will lead the Bible study, and Jane Maskalick will be our hostess.

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

## FUN + LUNCH = FUNCH!

Even Santa could not resist joining us in December!

FUN + LUNCH is our monthly potluck where we share good food and great conversation and have lots of fun playing BINGO for prizes! Please plan to join us on Friday, January 24, at 11:30 AM in Chalice Hall for our first FUNCH of 2025. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy this special time of fellowship. No RSVP is needed.





# Children's Ministry

Missy Wallace



Greetings, Crestwood Families,

I hope that everyone is welcoming the new year with God's joy and enthusiasm! Last week I was blessed to spend time with fellow children's ministry leaders at a Children's Pastor's conference. When I got off the plane, I was in shock to see all the snow and ice. We've gone from the constant motion of December to the stationary pulse of January. I love how we can feel God's presence in all seasons and yet see the nature of God through the lenses of different circumstances.

Our children's ministry leadership is already looking ahead to our program year, planning opportunities to connect with God and each other. Lent will be here before we know it, and it's hard to believe VBS planning is in full swing. We are thrilled to announce that this year's Vacation Bible School will take place Monday, June 23 - Thursday, June 26. If you've never been to a VBS at Crestwood, get ready for an extraordinary experience of confetti culture with faith and fun! For our returning friends, pencil in the date and pray with us as we prepare to welcome 100+ kids through our church doors.

Whether this new year has you on the go or enjoying time at home with family, I encourage you to be on the lookout for new adventures. May this season be one of continued growth as we wait and watch to see the surprises God has in store for us!

Cheers,  
Missy

**VBS SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**Monday, June 23 - Thursday, June 26**



**Bonnie Huddleston**



**The Sims Family**  
**Tyler, Lillian,**  
**Valerie & Langdon**



**The Webb Family**  
**Andrew, Kara, Scott & Griffin**



**The Johnson Family**  
**Claire, Elliot, & Clay**

**WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBERS!**



**Karen R. Coultas**

## Youth Corner By Steph Wallace



Happy 2025! There is something so promising in the start of a new year, isn't there? I hope you are looking forward to all the wonderful opportunities we will have in 2025 for fellowship and serving together, as well as new chances to explore and grow in our faith together!

There are 3 special events for youth this month, and our first event will take place on Sunday, January 19. There will be a Youth Rally at Transylvania University from 3:00-5:00 PM for all 6th - 12th graders. Jeremy Gillett will be the guest speaker. There will also be games and activities, followed by pizza for everyone! Immediately following the rally, we will head to Central Christian Church for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service at 6:00PM. Please meet at Crestwood at 2:30 PM and we will return by approximately 8:00 PM. It will be a very special afternoon, and we hope you can join us.

Winter Jam is the next special event! This amazing concert and worship experience will be held at Rupp Arena on Friday, January 24! Our early entry tickets get us in the doors at 5:00 PM. If you are interested in coming to this awesome night of music and worship, please let me know as soon as possible via email ([steph@crestwoodchristian.org](mailto:steph@crestwoodchristian.org)). Tickets are only \$15 per person, and you can pay anytime, as I have already purchased tickets in advance. Youth are welcome to bring their families, or they can come alone, but they must be dropped off and picked up from Rupp Arena that evening. (The show ends around 10:30pm). If you want to read more about the amazing lineup of performers for the show this year, go to [jamtour.com](http://jamtour.com).

Our third and final special event this month is a field trip to Activate Games on Sunday, January 26! We will meet at Crestwood at 3:30 PM and drive in the church vans over to Activate to have some serious FUN! We will be back at church by 6:00 PM. Bring \$20 cash with you and wear comfortable shoes! Hope all youth can join us!

### *Calendar of events for January, 2025:*

#### **Sunday, January 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Rally and Service

- Meet at Crestwood at 2:30 PM - drive in van to Transy for the Youth Rally, then head to Central Christian for the 6:00 PM Church Service (return to church around 8:00 PM)

#### **Friday, January 24: WINTER JAM!**

- Meet at Rupp Arena (in the lower lobby) at 5:00PM. Pick up time will be around 10:30PM. (NOTE: Rupp Arena does not accept cash. Youth will need to bring a card or electronic form of payment to purchase food/drinks).

#### **Sunday, January 26:** Wake up with Wallace & Activate Games Field Trip!

- 9:40 AM - Wake Up with Wallace at Panera Bread (2300 Nicholasville Rd.)
- 3:30 PM - Meet at church for Activate Field Trip! Will return by 6:00PM. Please bring \$20 cash with you!

Please never hesitate to reach out to me if I can do anything for you or yours. 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!

Yours in Christ,

Steph Wallace

## STAR WORDS FOR 2025!

If you were not able to join us in person on December 29, don't worry - star words will still be available for you for the next few Sundays. There will be a basket of star words in the Narthex, so feel free to take one.

We all know how hard it can be to make time and space in our busy daily lives to connect with God, so I hope and pray that these star words will help you by serving as a tangible reminder to talk to God, listen to God, and simply connect with God in those spare moments throughout each day. The same way you would make time to text or call a loved one periodically throughout the day in order to feel connected, you can "check in" with God throughout your day and strengthen that relationship with the One who loves you more than you could even begin to fathom!

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

# THE CREST

Crestwood Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

*Return Service Requested*

## CRESTWOOD CARES

In December our **Local Outreach** gave \$1500 to Greenhouse 17. Additionally, the Bridge Fund was able to assist three different families in need by making the following payments:

Rental Assistance - \$250, \$300, and \$200

Our **World Outreach** committee gave \$480 to KY Refugee Ministries and \$187 to Mission Behind Bars & Beyond.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are thankful to all of you for your generosity and commitment to sharing Christ's love with others... You are truly making a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the community and in the world!

## 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

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

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### WEBSITE

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