

# WELCOME TO KINGSWOOD CHURCH

## BUFFALO GROVE | DEERFIELD

JANUARY 11, 2026



Interested in Children's & Youth Programs?

Email Jenn Sawyer, Director of Children, Families, and Welcoming at [jsawyer@kingswoodumc.com](mailto:jsawyer@kingswoodumc.com)

Visit [KINGSWOODUMC.COM/PRAYER](http://KINGSWOODUMC.COM/PRAYER) to submit prayer requests and view this week's prayers and concerns.

Visit [www.kingswoodumc.com](http://www.kingswoodumc.com) to:

- ◆ Sign up for our E-News
- ◆ View upcoming events & serving opportunities
- ◆ Sponsor altar flowers
- ◆ Connect with us if you are a first-time guest



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Welcome to Kingswood on this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, a celebration the baptism of Jesus, and a sacred time of remembering our own baptism and calling as followers of Jesus. Today, we are challenged to walk in the light and embrace new beginnings as we remember our baptism with gratitude and conviction. As the new year begins, we open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the call to share justice, peace, and love with all. Welcome to Kingswood!



We look forward to our upcoming sermon series beginning on **Sunday, January 18, Re-Shaped: What We Are Made For**. This sermon series will hopefully get everyone nostalgic for those days of playing with Play-Doh or any kind of molding clay that changes shape. But children will no doubt be enthralled with the idea of having Play-Doh in the sanctuary and as part of the worship experience!

Kingswood Children & Youth Ministries and Gratitude Generation Present:  
**Make Leaders of Kids Day**  
Monday, January 19 | Deerfield campus  
Service and learning opportunities for children and youth on Martin Luther King Jr. holiday!  
[www.kingswoodumc.com/events](http://www.kingswoodumc.com/events)

Join us for the Gratitude Generation Day of Service on MLK Day, **Monday, January 19**, featuring meaningful service projects and age-appropriate learning stations to honor Dr. King's legacy. Families, sign up your kids (K-2nd graders must attend with a parent; 3rd-8th graders can be dropped off) for this special event! Please register at [www.kingswoodumc.com/events](http://www.kingswoodumc.com/events) by **Monday, January 12** to volunteer.

**CHILI COOK-OFF**  
**JANUARY 25, 2026**  
**5:00 PM**  
**BUFFALO GROVE CAMPUS**  
SIGN UP TO COOK AT  
[WWW.KINGSWOODUMC.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.KINGSWOODUMC.COM/EVENTS)

**Art, Christianity, and Italy**  
With Rev. Daniel Cochran  
Thursday, January 29  
12 pm - 2 pm  
Buffalo Grove Campus Room 114

Join us for an afternoon of lunch and learning as 60's Plus welcomes Pastor Daniel Cochran on **Thursday, January 29**. An art historian and professor, as well as Associate Pastor at Gary Church in Wheaton, Pastor Daniel regularly leads trips to Italy. He will share anecdotes about his trips, insight into early Christian art, and guide us in discovering ways we might encounter God today. A light lunch will be served at noon with the presentation at 1 pm. Sign up at [www.kingswoodumc.com/events](http://www.kingswoodumc.com/events).

**TEAMeffort**  
**JULY 12-18, 2026**  
Altoona, Pennsylvania  
**Kingswood Youth Mission Trip**  
Sign up deadline is January 25, 2026!  
<https://www.kingswoodumc.com/youth#MissionTrip>

All youth, from incoming 6th graders to recently graduated 12th graders and their friends, are invited to join us for an unforgettable week of service from **July 12-18, 2026** in Altoona, PA with TEAMeffort! We'll be staying in Penn State campus housing and partner with established local ministries on meaningful construction projects. Registration deadline is **January 25, 2026**, sign up at [www.kingswoodumc.com/youth](http://www.kingswoodumc.com/youth) today.

**PARENTS**  
Night Out  
Friday, February 6, 2026  
5:00-9:00pm  
[www.kingswoodumc.com/children](http://www.kingswoodumc.com/children)

Children are invited to join us for an exciting Parents' Night Out on **Friday, February 6** from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm for an evening packed with fun, games, crafts, and dinner for potty-trained preschoolers through 5th graders, all supervised by our Safe Sanctuaries-approved team. Youth, we need your help to run stations and care for the kids. Parents, please sign up by February 1 to reserve your spot; youth, no registration is required.

## GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

**Welcome and Centering** Rev. James Preston

**\*Opening Song** *Light of the World*  
by Ed Cash, Scott Cash, Franni Cash,  
Martin Cash, Andrew Bergthold, and Dan Galbraith

**\*Words of Gathering** Lani Vabulas  
One: Come to Jordan River, where Jesus steps into the water and God rejoices!  
All: **We gather at the river of grace, ready to be claimed, eager to be transformed!**  
One: Look for the dove, listen for God's voice, feel the Spirit's power!  
All: **We belong to God! We are claimed, loved, and sent forth in Christ's name!**

## Opening Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, we gather to worship the One you have called and anointed with your Spirit. At the waters of baptism, you revealed Jesus as your beloved Son, bringing justice, healing, and light to all nations. Pour out your Spirit upon us now, that we may listen for your voice, follow your way, and live as servants of your reconciling love. Amen.

**Children's Sermon and Remembering Our Baptism**  
Rev. James Preston

*(Children are invited to follow their teachers to Sunday School at this time.)*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

**Song of Praise** *Bless God*  
by Brandon Lake, Cody Carnes, and Brooke Ligertwood

**A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures** *Isaiah 42: 1-9*

**A Reading from the Gospel** *Matthew 3: 13-17*

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Song of Preparation** *He Came Down*  
Black Hymnal #2085

## Sermon

Rev. James Preston  
*Claimed in Our Baptism!*

## Prayer of Intercession

Elaine Ahrens

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**  
**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## Offering

Elaine Ahrens

## Special Music

Allelus, acc. Michael Fritsch  
*Were You There on Christmas Night?*  
by Natalie Sleeth

## Announcements

Rev. James Preston

## \*Closing Song

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*  
by Henry Thomas Smart, Paul Baloche,  
Brenton Brown, and Michael Rossback

## \*Benediction

Rev. James Preston

\*Stand as you are able.

Liturgist: Lani Vabulas  
Scripture Reader: Jim Miller  
Ushers: Ric and Donna Sisi  
Greeters: Lally Family and Sue Kluge  
Musicians: Adult Praise Band

Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by  
the Welcoming and Connecting Team.

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