

# WELCOME TO KINGSWOOD CHURCH

BUFFALO GROVE | DEERFIELD

MARCH 17, 2024



Interested in Children's & Youth Programs?  
Email Jenn Sawyer, our Minister of Children & Families  
at [jsawyer@kingswoodumc.com](mailto:jsawyer@kingswoodumc.com)

Visit [KINGSWOODUMC.COM/PRAYER](https://KINGSWOODUMC.COM/PRAYER) to submit prayer  
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Visit [www.kingswoodumc.com](https://www.kingswoodumc.com) to:

- ◆ Sign up for our E-News
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Welcome to Kingswood Church as we continue our sermon series, **INVITE: Have a Heart for Others** and journey through the 40 days of Lent. We will challenge ourselves to open our hearts wide to others, especially those seeking a place of love, grace, and healing. Today, we hear the story of Jesus healing and caring for others in the Gospel of Matthew. We then see Jesus send out the disciples to do the same: inviting, healing, and connecting. We will learn how Jesus is always sending us out into the world to connect with others and to invite them to the table. Where is God sending you?



The Adult Formation Team is pleased to announce a Women's Retreat, facilitated by Rev. Jenny Weber on "Women of the Bible." The retreat will be held on **Saturday, April 13** from 9 am to 3 pm at the New Morning Retreat Center in Hampshire. Participation is limited to 25 women and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. There is an option for 12 women to stay at the retreat center on Friday night for a cost of \$60. There is no cost for the retreat. Please sign up and indicate/submit payment if you will participate in the overnight option. Please note that the Retreat Center is not handicap accessible. Visit [kingswoodumc.com/events](https://kingswoodumc.com/events) to register by April 1.



During Lent, the Social Justice/Diversity Team invites everyone to use this time to focus on ways we can honor God's creation by being better stewards of the environment. We all use many cleaning products - both for personal and other purposes - multiple times a day. Nearly every single soap and cleaning product that comes in a plastic container can be replaced by an effective, plastic-free, affordable and easily available alternative. Check out the displays and samples! Take home a handy guide to where you can buy products locally.



In April, the Rev. Eric Brown, chaplain at Great Lakes, will teach a class on Christian Bioethics, exploring a Christian approach to medical ethics from our Wesleyan perspective. The intent is that participants will have a better theological and practical grounding in the Christian approach to the many ethical quandaries of our modern era. If you're interested in thinking about our Christian faith and the bioethical and medical issues of our day, this class is for you. We will meet on Tuesdays, **April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30** at 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Buffalo Grove campus. Sign up at [kingswoodumc.com/events](https://kingswoodumc.com/events).



The Mission Team invites all interested adults to travel to Mayfield, KY, June 8-15, to help with the continuing rehabilitation from a massive tornado in 2021. To learn more, we will hold an informational meeting at the **Deerfield campus on April 21 at 11:30 am** and the **Buffalo Grove campus on April 28 at 12 pm**.



You are invited to a workshop, led by Pastors James and Clayton, about how to be people of invitation. Participants will learn about common obstacles that make invitation challenging, ways to overcome those obstacles, and some best practices. We will host a workshop at each campus: **7 pm Tuesday, March 19 in Buffalo Grove** and **7 pm Thursday, April 11 in Deerfield**. Sign up at [www.kingswoodumc.com/events](https://www.kingswoodumc.com/events) so we have materials for all attending.

**GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE**

Welcome and Centering Rev. James Preston

Opening Songs *Here I Am to Worship*  
Tim Hughes

*All Who Are Thirsty*  
Brenton Brown | Glenn Robertson

Words of Gathering Lisa Bischoff

One: Do you have a heart for others?

**All: Create in me a heart that welcomes all!**

One: Does your heart break for those in need?

**All: Create in me a heart that serves all!**

One: Is your heart open to God's amazing people?

**All: Create in me a heart that invites all to the table!**

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O Holy Jesus, You called the apostles by name, and you also call us to go forth and invite. To be your follower is to bring good news, to lift the spirits of those we meet. Help us, Lord, to be a source of blessing, hope, and healing to others. Send us out boldly in your name, Amen.

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

A Reading from the New Testament

*Romans 10: 12-15*

A Reading from the Gospel

*Matthew 9: 35-38; 10: 5-15*

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Song of Preparation *Bind Us Together Lord*  
Black Hymnal #2226

Sermon Rev. James Preston  
*Now It's Time to Go!*

Ministry of Music

*Be Thou My Vision*

Handbell Choir

Eugene Butler

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Intercession Jenn Rataj

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 Jenn Rataj

Announcements Rev. James Preston

\*Closing Song *How Great Is Our God*  
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

\*Benediction Rev. James Preston

*\*Stand as you are able.*

Liturgist: Lisa Bischoff

Scripture Reader: Luke Rataj

Ushers: Mike Schauer, Carl Ellis

Greeters: Carol Ellis, Gary and Mary Ann Genge

**SPONSOR EASTER FLOWERS IN HONOR  
OR MEMORY OF LOVED ONES**

If you would like to sponsor Easter flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the online form at [kingswoodumc.com/Easter-flowers](http://kingswoodumc.com/Easter-flowers). The suggested donation is **\$25**. The deadline for sponsoring flowers is **Monday, March 25**. There are also forms available at each campus.

**Today's Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by  
Greeter & Hospitality Volunteers**

**Your gifts make a difference!** We thank you for your generous financial gifts to the ministry and mission of Kingswood Church.  
You can give in the following ways:

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