

# WELCOME TO KINGSWOOD CHURCH

BUFFALO GROVE | DEERFIELD

JULY 20, 2025



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

- ♦ Sign up for our E-News
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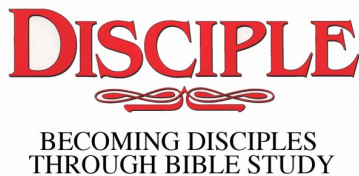
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Welcome to Kingswood as we continue our sermon series, ***SHE BELIEVED: Bold Stories of Women in the Bible***. Too often the church will focus on the same biblical passages and stories over and over, frequently missing powerful stories that are difficult and challenging. Often, those stories are about women of faith who boldly live their trust in God in amazing ways. We will explore some very challenging stories that call us to confront injustice, stand with the marginalized, embrace courage, and share radical hope. You will meet Tamar, Deborah, Esther, Joanna, and Mary Magdalene. Get ready to be amazed as we meet Esther! Welcome to Kingswood!



In response to last week's natural disaster in Texas, the Kingswood Mission Team is asking for the members of our congregation to please consider a special UMCOR offering over the next two weeks, to help the Guadalupe Flood relief. Your generosity will support immediate needs in the affected areas. Please consider giving through [kingswoodumc.com/give](http://kingswoodumc.com/give) where you can find the option for UMCOR Disaster Relief, the envelopes provided in the church pew or by mailing in your donation. Please note your gifts with "Guadalupe River Flood". Thank you for your generosity.



*Disciple I - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. Over the course of 34 weeks, the study covers the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) following the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem. There will be an informational meeting in August, and the study will start in late August or early September. Contact Pastor James for more info.



Join us at on **Monday, July 21** at 7:00 pm The Sewing Space to learn how to make a port pillow which will be donated to Lemons of Love in Mt. Prospect. It is a small square pillow that attaches to a seat belt to protect cancer patient's ports while riding in the car, and Lemons of Love gives away hundreds of them. We will have people available to help you if you are not familiar with the use of a sewing machine. It is easy to do and it's a great project to try if you are interested in learning to sew. All materials will be provided and finished product will be donated. To sign up and learn more, please visit [www.kingswoodumc.com/events](http://www.kingswoodumc.com/events).



Kingswood Church is invited to our second annual Summer Ice Cream Tour. Bring the whole family! Bring a friend! Bring your neighbor! Ice cream is on you, but the fellowship is on us! We will meet at 7:00 pm on select Tuesdays during the summer at various ice cream shops around the Buffalo Grove and Deerfield areas. Our final stop will be at Graeter's in Northbrook on **Tuesday, July 29**.



Join us for one worship service at 10:00 am on **Sunday, August 31**, as we worship as one church together. We will gather at the Schlimmer Bandshell/Pavilion at Willow Stream Park in Buffalo Grove. The facility has a picnic shelter, kitchen, and bathrooms. We will have a special band to lead our worship. Invite a friend and bring your own chair. Watch for more information soon.



Kingswood is asking for your help to support our many services to the community through our Annual Auction. Your donation would help Kingswood fund programs that benefit the wider community. Kingswood's online auction runs from **November 3-8**. Items highlight businesses, restaurants, and activities in the North & Northwest suburbs. Last year over 170 items were auctioned to raise more than \$50,000 in bids and donations.

## GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Centering Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath

\*Opening Song *You Are Good*  
Green Hymnal #3014

\*Words of Gathering Elaine Ahrens  
One: God who calls us to courage and boldness!  
**All: Esther, who risked all to save her people!**  
One: Deborah, who judged with wisdom and strength!  
**All: Tamar, who claimed justice when it was denied!**  
One: Mary Magdalene and Joanna, first to proclaim the risen Christ!  
**All: Let us rise with them in hope, and holy boldness.**

Opening Prayer (Unison)  
Lord, give us courage like Esther to stand boldly in the face of fear. Help us to trust your purpose, even when the cost is too much. Teach us to seek your will through prayer and fasting. For such a time as this, may we walk in faith, courage, and obedience. Amen.

(Children are invited to follow their teachers to Sunday School.)

A Witness from Esther Kim Petersen

Song of Praise *You Are My All in All*  
Green Hymnal #3040

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures *Esther 4: 1-17*

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

Song of Preparation *Woman in the Night*  
Blue Hymnal #274 vvs. 5 & 6

Sermon Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath  
*THE Right Approach*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Intercession Donna Gavin

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 Donna Gavin

Special Music Tim McGlynn and Michael Fritsch  
*A Simple Song*  
by Leonard Bernstein

Announcements Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath

\*Closing Song *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*  
Green Hymnal #3104

\*Benediction Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath

\*Stand as you are able.

Liturgist: Elaine Ahrens  
Scripture Reader: Mark Rhode  
Ushers: Carl Ellis and Mike Schauer  
Greeters: Carol Ellis, Jan Healy, and Susan Gordon

Coffee Fellowship is sponsored by  
the Couples Life Group.

**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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[www.Kingswoodumc.com/give](http://www.Kingswoodumc.com/give)



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