



CROWN HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

September 2026

Be Looking For.....

**Your Stewardship Team letter
should be arriving in your mailbox very soon!!**

Aaron's Alley

Have you ever been striving for something that seemed unattainable, and the journey just felt so difficult that you weren't able to see the progress as it came?

If you've ever set big, huge goals for yourself, your family, your company, your staff, you have probably felt something like what I wrote above. You had a big project where things needed to line up, or multiple smaller goals needed to be met in order to meet the deadline. You had a career goal that you really wanted, and it took years of work to get where you felt accomplished. You had numbers you needed to meet, and the work was non-stop for a period of time in order to attain the goal set for you. You had a personal health target for yourself. As we can all attest, meeting our health goals, progress can come very slowly, over long periods of effort and determination.

Or, you really wanted to "make the grade" and a particular semester turned into one of the more difficult semesters.

Whatever it was for you, difficult objectives can take time, effort, energy to achieve. Also, it can be difficult to track where you are on the journey towards success.

Here's where I am going with this:

When we set goals for ourselves, when we have ultimate objectives we want to achieve, the slog through the process can take a lot out of us. Some journeys can take a really long time and change us throughout the process. And the grind can sometimes feel somewhat endless, as well.

I know for me when I have often set big goals for myself and have taken on large projects I often fail to enjoy the process. My struggle is often with recognizing the small wins that have helped me, or my family, or team, get to the finish line. For example, last Sunday, I looked up and saw a Sanctuary that was nearly full. I saw more than a dozen kids come forward for our Children's Moment. I heard stories of a nursery that was full of energetic children. I heard music from talented singers. I saw a room of people excited to worship together. I was able to enjoy the journey on Sunday.

I know worship attendance is not a good gauge of church success. The journey of church is about growing deeper in our faith, getting to know one another better. Trusting each other with our lives as a community, and working to become more committed to our faith in Christ every day. Crown Heights Christian Church's success hinges on our ability "to share, connect, and serve to show God's love for one another." I know that.

But, on a Sunday in the middle of an August heatwave, seeing a Sanctuary full of people ready to worship God together, seeing the bright smiles of kids, hearing people sing out praise music...that brought joy to this preacher and reminded me to stop, smell the roses, and enjoy this big, beautiful journey of faith that we get to share with one another.

Psalms 118:24 says, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Philippians 4:4 reads, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

Psalms 100:1-2 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing."

If you're looking for a little musical inspiration for your day, here is a song we have sung together in worship to brighten your day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fqW5a6pHuk>

Blessings,
Pastor Aaron

We're Getting the Band Back Together

The choir is always looking for more voices, and this is a good time to join. Rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 2nd and our first Sunday back is September 13th. We sing throughout the church year and are doing some amazing anthems this season. If you can't commit to the whole year, consider joining for the Christmas or Easter season with no long term commitment. Our Christmas cantata this year is the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah, and we want a large choir to perform with.

Rehearsal tracks and recordings are provided for nearly every piece to help with learning. The ability to read music is not required - we'll teach you everything you need to know! If you've thought about joining, sang before and stopped, or have never tried it, now's the time.

Rehearsal schedule:

Sundays at 9:00am: This is our dress rehearsal. It ends before Sunday School so that you can still attend.

Wednesdays at 7:30pm: This is our weekly rehearsal. If a weeknight drive doesn't work for you or you cannot commit to Wednesday evenings, you can still attend on Sunday.

Come join us. Show up to a rehearsal, or reach out with questions.

Best,

Kaleb Benda
Music Director || Crown Heights Christian Church

Have a safe Labor Day Weekend

Church office will be closed

September 7, 2026

Sign up for October 2026

Aaron will be on sabbatical in October and we want the office to run efficiently and safely. If you desire to fill one of the open dates, please

sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ABA82AA64-65213083-october>

Calendar of Events

<https://crownheights.church/connect/calendar-of-events>

Donut Sign Up

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA8A929A1FFC25-46892160-2024#/#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA8A929A1FFC25-46892160-2024#/)

Volunteers Needed

Sunday School and Youth Ministry

Christian Education

Hi everyone!

In an effort to help Aaron while he acts as our Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and Christian Education Director, I have volunteered to coordinate the Sunday School Class lessons and teachers.

We are still looking for volunteers to teach the Youth age class for some Sundays in September and going forward. I am asking that you please consider helping by signing up to teach a Sunday (or two)!

Thank you!

Lynde Nash

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A9AF2AA2F85-64739058-youth/200283473#/#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A9AF2AA2F85-64739058-youth/200283473#/)

Volunteering During Church Hours

Sunday School for Youth

Time Commitment: 1-1 1/4 hours

Volunteers Needed: 2 per week

When: 9:30AM - 10:30 AM - Sundays

Who: Middle School & High School

Teach a lesson and engage with the youth in meaningful conversation. The lesson plan is given to you ahead of time and you may want to take 15-30 minutes to read the lesson plan and familiarize yourself with the highlighted Bible verse.

Volunteering Outside of Church Hours

Youth Group Wednesday

Time Commitment: 2 hours

Volunteers Needed: 2 + Youth Director per week

When: 6:15 - 8:15 PM every Wednesday during school year - no Youth group during Summer Break

Who: Middle School & High School

First 30 minutes organized activity / play time (example - dodge ball in the activity gym). The last 1.5 hours is focused on a lesson that engages with the youth. Typically include reading the Bible verse(s) together as a group, reviewing the lesson objective and a hands-on activity (various options as directed by the lesson such as individual drawing, group activity) all focused on the learning objective of the lesson.

Have you ever wanted to be a Shuttle Driver??

September 26, 2026 from 10am - 2pm Western Avenue will be hosting a **Route 66 Celebration**.

CHCC parking lot will be used for overflow parking and we will use the van to shuttle people down to the car show and kids zone. If you would like to volunteer for a 10-12 shift or 12-2 shift to drive the van or be the extra person on the van, **please let the church office know**.

We'd prefer to have 2 CHCC members in the van during driving time.

