

# ECHOES

"Woodland Christian Church is an open and affirming, dynamic community of faith. We are inspired by Jesus to practice radical hospitality and unconditional love.

As children of God, we strive to care for the earth as we serve others. We respect each individual's journey as we grow together in faith."



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## A word from Christy Jo



### **Look! I'm doing a new thing;**

A year ago we entered into a partnership with Winterwood Incorporated. And over the past twelve months this partnership has invited us to be open to the Holy Spirit doing a very new thing in our midst! Through answering God's call and invitation to partner with Winterwood we will

be able to renovate and restore our historic building and sanctuary and provide affordable housing for Seniors in our city!

### **...now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?**

Through prayer, church-wide discernment circles, board meetings, elder meetings, city meetings, and more meetings we have now arrived at a significant moment in the history of our church.

### **I'm making a way in the desert,**

After prayerfully (and at times anxiously) awaiting news from Kentucky Housing Corporation that would allow our project to continue full steam ahead, we are ecstatic to share that we received the maximum award for low-income housing tax credits! In other words, we received everything we asked for!

### **...paths in the wilderness.**

This calls for celebration and thanksgiving!!! Very soon you will be hearing from Gary Barksdale who serves as our Board and Property Chair about the number of ways you can help us prepare for this grand adventure! For now, let us rejoice and give thanks for the ways God has illuminated our path with hope, healing, and abundant blessings!

### **-Isaiah 43:19, CEB**

I invite you to be in a spirit of prayer and participation with us as we continue on this wild and holy adventure of being and becoming all that God intends for us.

*Love liberates,  
pastor Christy Jo*

## A word from Chloe



Happy February, Woodland!

Y'all have warmed my heart during these cold months as we have connected deeper at Theology on Tap, in community group, and in worship!

I'm so excited for everything coming up in February! I'm thrilled to say that our youth group will officially re-launch on Sunday, February 12! The youth group will have a pizza party immediately after worship on the 12th to celebrate our re-launch, and the youth group will continue to meet on Sundays after worship every other week. February youth group meeting dates are the 12th and the 26th.

Additionally, I invite everyone to join a documentary screening following worship on Sunday, February 19. We will be watching "Mission: Joy" which is about the energetic interfaith friendship between the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama and their journeys to find joy in the midst of challenge and heartache. We will watch the film in the fellowship hall and have a short discussion about "Mission: Joy" following the documentary. Bring your lunch!

I look forward to all the moments we will spend together this month!

With excitement,

*Chloe*

## Poetry Night



Thursday, March 2 at  
7PM on Zoom

[bit.ly/WCCPoetryNight](https://bit.ly/WCCPoetryNight)

Meeting ID: 863 0471 8027

Dial in: +1-312-626-6799

Join us for a candlelit evening of sharing your favorite poetry from the comfort of your home. We invite you for fellowship and to share an original or a favorite poem or two. When you arrive (log into Zoom), private message Alicia and she will add you to the performers list.

## A word from Brandon



Dear Woodland Friends and Family,

As I write this, I am still relishing in our celebration of Bernice turning 100 years young, and what a celebration it was! Most of you have been fortunate enough to know Bernice much longer than I have, but it doesn't take long to realize how blessed we are to worship with her each

Sunday! Let me tell you that it was an absolute honor to play piano for this service, and to help prepare the choir to sing a couple of Bernice's favorite hymns! The more I think of Bernice, the more I think about one word: Legacy.

Bernice has 100 years of life (and counting!) on which she has built and continues building a legacy. It is clear Bernice's legacy is grounded in unwavering faith, kindness, dedication, and a deep love for others. Do you ever wonder what legacy you are building? As a young adult in the height of my evangelical days, I remember wanting my legacy to be that I "won souls to Christ, no matter the cost." That mindset now makes me cringe, because I've since learned that "no matter the cost" has hurt a lot of people. As a not-as-young adult, I want my legacy to be built on the hope that I treat others with dignity and respect, that those around me always feel seen, heard, and valued, that the music I sing, play, and lead touches the hearts and lives of others, and that my life is a reflection of Christ's expansive, all-inclusive love.

I am grateful to have been part of Bernice's celebration, and to be part of a church that is building a legacy of living love and loving all - a church where everyone's name and story matter. I feel like I've mentioned this several times, but it cannot be stressed enough that Woodland is making a difference in the world. As we move forward together, I look forward to what's to come and am excited to see the music ministry at Woodland continue to grow! As always, you are invited to be part of the choir (rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 9:10 AM), or to share your musical gifts as prelude music or as a special musical number. Thank you for your continued love and support, and for always making Matt and me feel like family!

Peace and blessings,

## Green Chalice

**Live Green Lexington** reports a record 2934 pounds of Christmas lights have been collected! That equals the weight of one hippo!



In **Fayette Alliance** news, Lexington ranks in the top 10 nationally for cities with the most green space. One hundred cities were ranked based on the number of parks, total acreage, and average yard size. Lexington ranked #2 for the highest total green area per capita! McConnell Springs, Raven Run Nature Sanctuary, and Hisle Farm Park (for horseback riding) were highlighted in the survey by the Lawn Love company.



**Mayor Gorton** said in her State of the City address that the city will continue to **prioritize investment in local parks**. Already, **\$25 million** has been designated for the expansion and improvement of parks in Lexington — like the development of Cardinal Run North and the purchase of property along the Kentucky River. Overall, Louisville ranked #20, Cincinnati, #25. Woodland is blessed with our very own Woodland Park just across the street.

The PLASTIC BAG STORE is a custom-built, traveling public art installation and film experience designed to encourage visitors to think more about the “enduring impact of single-use plastics.” (*Youngstown Vindicator*, 1/18/23) The store is set up like a real grocery store, except all items are made from single-use plastics taken from streets and garbage dumps! Creator and artist, Robin Frohardt is the driving force behind the store which features everything from meat and toiletries, to cakes, eggs and produce. Check it out on YouTube!

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## Congratulations Janice!

Janice James retired from serving the HOPE Center for 22 years on February 1! Janice, thank you for all of the many ways you have touched hearts and changed lives through your service.

We wish you the best on your next chapter and are eager to see the ways you continue changing the world with your light and love!



Brenna, Anna, & Janice James

## The Human Rights Commission

We are thrilled to shared that Mayor Gordon has appointed Gary Barksdale to the Human Rights Commission. The HRC is a neutral fact-finding agency that investigates alleged cases of discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation. It is the purpose of the commission to safeguard all individuals within Lexington-Fayette County from discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, familial status, and sexual orientation/gender identity. Gary sees this appointment as an honor and as a form of outreach which helps further serve the most vulnerable.

Thank you, Gary for all the many ways you serve our church and city!

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## Children's Ministry

A big shout out to all the storytellers who have shared their favorite books and told stories during the Story for All Ages time in worship. Jacqueline Diachun, Pastor Christy Jo, Katharine Funk, Janice James, Donna Redmon, Rachèle Yadon, and Jan Hollis-Cole have each demonstrated unique approaches to the themes of love, sharing, and caring. We are all grateful for and enjoy the light they shine on Sunday mornings.



In Children's Church, we're learning about the seasons of the church starting with Epiphany and the bright light that led the three wise men to baby Jesus. Our 'new' Church Calendar will help them track the Sundays in each season as they move the dial each week. Pastor Chloe will introduce the children to the importance of Communion which is an integral part of the Worship & Wonder program known as 'The Feast.'

Our February theme is "Loving Our Neighbor." Plans include decorating a box for the mini-Food Pantry started by the Hollis-Cole family for their neighborhood. Such a bright, shining act of love and kindness toward those in need. Last, but not least, on the 26th, the children will help make sandwiches for the Hope Mobile.

Peace and Love  
Miss June



## Quest with Lee Ball

On Sunday, January 29, four of us gathered to chat about how Happiness, Joy and Contentment are different.

Happiness:

- is based on external factors
- is usually attached to an idea, a destination, or an experience
- can be very intense but doesn't last
- happens **to** us

Joy:

- is an attitude
- is a light-hearted spark that transcends through your body and leaves feel good vibrations
- carries no burden or expectation
- is an inner feeling that comes **from** us

Contentment:

- is being at peace with your past and present situation and being optimistic about your future
- doesn't depend on anything external because it is a state of being
- is a long lasting attitude surrounded by gratitude, peacefulness, and a deep sense of satisfaction
- is **a way of life**

We talked about where we feel these different feelings in our body and shared about our happy places. Here is a question to ponder: how does your happy space improve your inner space?

This month on February 26, following worship in the community room, we will explore grief that is not associated with the death of a person or pet. Grief can be sneaky, and being aware of this can keep us from being surprised in an unpleasant way.



## Dear Woodland



Thank you for making the holidays more special!  
A huge thank you for the bonus and an even  
bigger thank you for being such an amazing  
family! I love you all a ton!

Love always,  
Ciara Siesel

### Thank you from Bernice Coleman:

Many thanks for the many ways you celebrated my 100th birthday last week. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude. I was surprised and had a wonderful time! I am very grateful to Woodland for all the ways you celebrated!



Pastor Christy Jo, Bernice,  
and Trippy



January 29 we wore UK blue to celebrate Bernice's birthday!

## Sunday Mornings

Join us in person or virtually for worship!

**Fellowship at 9:30AM**

**Worship at 10:00AM**

[bit.ly/WoodlandZoomWorship](https://bit.ly/WoodlandZoomWorship)

Meeting ID: 817 9112 1920

Dial in: +1-312-626-6799





# February Birthdays

Elizabeth Rountree 1st  
Laca Woodson 7th  
Lauren Biggs 10th  
Cynthia Bohn 11th

Beth Parrent 17th  
Rachèle Yadon 19th  
Cheryl Wyatt 21st  
Conley Salyer 22nd



**We express sympathy to Nancy McKenney at the death of her cousin, Jessie Catherine Armstrong.**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS OF WCC**

Anna Goodrum, Alicia Bloyd, Dorothy Drury, Richard Day, Jacqueline Diachun, and Angela Biggs

## **PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS OF WCC**

Kay and Walter Klassen, Judy DeLuca, John Stroup, Donna Slone, Shane Ellison, Susan Dearing, Cindy Franks, Skylar and Wyatt, Pete Lykins, Sondra, Virgil Gill, Gary & Carol Hicks

## **REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:**

Anna Lee Hopkins, Stacey Kaufmann, Evelyn Ladd, and Hattie Reeves