

Nathan Espindula | For The Messenger

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First Christian Church dedicates new building after tornado destruction

BY NATHAN ESPINDULA, TYLER SCHMIDT
FOR THE MESSENGER

Nearly five years after losing its historic building in the December 2021 tornado, and after spending several Sundays in the new building, First Christian Church of Mayfield dedicated its new 18,000-square-foot church on Sunday.

The new building stands on the same property where the original church stood before the tornado. The new building cost roughly $12 million, and its rebuilding phase was launched in June 2024, according to prior reporting.

Pastor Micah Spicer said the dedication was an opportunity to recognize everyone who helped the congregation rebuild.

"We're dedicating this space to God, and recognizing the hard work of so many people and the prayers and the commitment of so many to make this day possible," Spicer said.

He said the new building also represents progress for downtown Mayfield, which was heavily damaged by the tornado.

"When people drive through this area instead of seeing the vacant lots or the devastation that they've seen for so many years they can see that downtown Mayfield is being rebuilt," Spicer said.

Jim Heath, co-chair of the church's board, has attended First Christian Church for more than 20 years.

He said the wait for the new building wasn't always easy.

"I had my fingers crossed. I knew it would happen," Heath said. "The velocity of it was not as quick, you know impatience took over a couple times but we made it, and you know, only with the grace of God."

For Spicer, the dedication was also a chance to reflect on what the congregation has been through since the tornado.

"Today is really not about us, but it's about the faithfulness of God who's seen us through the devastation until where we are today," he said.

The December 2021 tornado killed 24 people in Graves County. According to the City of Mayfield, the storm destroyed more than 400 structures and damaged another 1,100.

Knights of Columbus donates $1,000 to Lighthouse shelter



Contributed

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Monsignor Albert Thompson Assembly 1594 in Fancy Farm donated $1,000 to the Lighthouse Shelter in Mayfield. Pictured from the left is Sir Knight and Assembly Trustee John Carrico presenting a check to Lighthouse Shelter Director Danelle Slack and Lighthouse Shelter Board Chairman Al Chandler.

County residents encouraged to take statewide safety survey

BY MESSENGER STAFF



County residents — along with all Kentucky inhabitants — can weigh in on the commonwealth's road safety and help shape the statewide Speed Management Action Plan, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Last week the cabinet invited people to share their "experiences and perspectives on speeding and roadway safety" by taking its short, anonymous survey.

The survey asks participants about speeding on different roadway types, factors that contribute to speeding, strategies that may be effective in encouraging safer driving behaviors and locations where speed reduction efforts should be prioritized, according to a cabinet Nov. 18 press release.

"Reducing serious and fatal crashes starts with understanding both the data and the experiences of the people who use Kentucky's roads every day," said Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman. "This survey gives Kentuckians an opportunity to help guide potential countermeasures to reduce speeding and improve safety for everyone who travels on our roads."

"Your feedback helps transportation officials develop strategies and identify highway enhancements to improve safety and reduce serious and fatal crashes across the commonwealth," the cabinet stated on social media.

The survey will remain open until Dec. 19, the cabinet stated. It takes three to five minutes to complete.

Mayfield Christmas tree 'a symbol of resiliency and strength'



City of Mayfield

The Christmas tree has gone up in Mayfield on city hall property. While it is a typical staple of the season, this tree "has become a symbol of resiliency and strength" for the city, which has — and is — recuperating from the 2021 tornado. "Many thanks to the men of our Public Works Department who made this happen," the city stated.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE
GRAVES COUNTY FISCAL COURT

The Graves County Fiscal Court held the first reading of the proposed amendment to the Graves County Road Speed Limit Ordinance at its November 23, 2026, meeting.

The proposed amendment would add Spalding Road, Prairie Street, Baltimore Church Road, Baltic Loop, Franklin Street, Dooms Chapel, Davie, and Central to Schedule A and establish a maximum speed limit of thirty-five (35) miles per hour on the entire portion of each listed road that is under the jurisdiction and control of Graves County.

The proposed amendment has not yet been adopted by the Graves County Fiscal Court.

The full text of the proposed amendment is available for public inspection at the office of the Graves County Judge/Executive at 1102 Paris Road, Suite 2, Mayfield, KY 42066, during regular business hours.

GRAVES COUNTY FISCAL COURT

Jesse Perry
Graves County Judge/Executive