

WEST END CIRCUIT RIDER



West End United Methodist Church

Portsmouth, Virginia

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Church Council of West End United
Methodist Church publishes the
West End Circuit Rider.

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Choir Notes

Thank you to **Susan Heely and the Chancel Choir** for their presentation of "In His Sanctuary" during the Palm Sunday Worship Service. It was lovely and inspiring.

All are welcome to come join in. New members will receive a robe (that has just been professionally cleaned), a new music folder, and, of course, music. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 PM. For more information: Contact Susan Heely at susanheely@gmail.com or 757-650-3052.



Sunday Evening Worship Services Continue by Telephone

Pastor Lynda is leading **Sunday Evening Worship Services by telephone**. The call in series begins at 4:00 PM. To be a part of this series, call the FREE Conference Call number 563-999-1087 and upon request put in the code 312193#. (Except Easter evening) You will then be asked to state your name. Call in before 4:00 so you'll be in place when the study begins. This can be on a land line or a cell phone, it doesn't matter. You can have friends and neighbors join us also. Such a new and exciting method to worship together!



Food Pantry is Greatly Used

West End's Food Pantry is open on Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Thank You to all who continue to donate items for our "**Food Pantry Sunday**", the third Sunday of every month. The item being asked for on **April 15** is canned meats.

We are asking each person who reads this to bring an item and place it in the altar basket or put a donation in the plate on the rail that day.

Your donations are a blessing. You don't have to wait until Food Pantry Sunday to bring donations to church. When you go food shopping for yourself, throw a few extra things in your cart and bring them to church on any Sunday. Cash donations are also accepted to purchase additional items as well.

Liturgists Needed for Sunday Morning Worship Services

Each Sunday there is a need for a **Liturgist** to help in the worship service. The 1st Sunday (Communion Sunday) is usually covered so we are just looking for volunteers for the remaining Sundays of each month. There is a calendar in the narthex for you to sign up on any particular Sunday. If you have email then the bulletin is sent to your computer by Thursday of each week so you could become familiar with the liturgy you would be reading. If you do not have email, then you can come to the office on Thursday to pick one up. Everything is laid out for you in this format. Please think about volunteering for this opportunity. If you have any questions, direct them to William Collins.



QuoteSigma.com



"Christ has died, Christ is risen...."

Easter Sunday has come and gone for 2018. There are no more Easter lilies on the altar; the Easter Egg hunt is just a memory for the children in the neighborhood and choirs are not singing an Easter Cantata. Despite the fact that the "holiday" is over for this year, **Easter is not over**. Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ – what does this mean to you? Jesus was crucified on the cross at Calvary as an atonement for your sins and mine. He died on the cross so that we, who believe on him, might live. Death, as many hymns declare, couldn't keep Jesus in the ground. The gospel message is that Christ died, but rose again on the third day. His resurrection confirms and affirms that God, through Jesus, is forever active in our lives and that he has given us new hope, new joy, new peace, new life. Christ is alive! He has defeated death and has guaranteed eternal life for those who believe on him. Easter gives us a chance to start life over again.

"Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him..." Luke 24:31a

Some of you have heard me say this before: **we are Easter people**. We are blessed to be people who are the recipients of God's love for us, in Christ Jesus. Because we are loved by Christ, Easter people have the capacity to love others. Easter people are forgiven people – we believe that Jesus gave his life to save us from our sins. Because Christ has forgiven us, we are able to forgive others **and** to forgive ourselves. Christ's resurrection empowers us to be all that we can be in Christ Jesus. Easter people are enlightened people – we are able to look at life and living from a different perspective than others. I recently had cataract surgery on one eye and will have surgery on the other eye soon. I have seen a big difference in my ability to see with my new lens. Things are clearer, colors are brighter and I can see distances now. This may be a leap here, but the Easter event for me is akin to me having spiritual cataract surgery. Because Christ lives in me, I am able to see life differently. Things that seemed dull are now bright because of the light coming from Jesus Christ. The risen Christ has, in effect, removed the cataracts from our spiritual eyes so that we can look at life through the eyes of faith. As Easter people, life is much more vibrant – no matter what situations we may encounter, the resurrected Christ allows us to see the positive sides in our situation. We are able to be more focused when we see life through the spiritual lens of the resurrected Christ. When we see others through the lens of Easter, all the "isms" of the world (racism, sexism, and other forms of social injustice) are diminished and lose their perceived power.

"...and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians..." Acts 11:25c

On another subject - this month the congregations of Broad Street UMC and West End UMC will be voting on whether or not to merge. If the vote is to merge the two churches, the two will become one – a brand new church, with a brand-new identity; with a brand-new name and with a brand-new mission. Join me in praying for both congregations, that the Lord's perfect will is done.

Christ has risen! Christ will come again! In the meantime, let us strive to live our lives as Easter People, living the life that God wants for us.

God bless you. - Pastor Lynda

Stewardship Corner *-submitted by Georgia Garrison-*

"Joy in Giving"

Fundraising is big business. Generally, people hate to ask for money and people hate to be asked. When we answer a telemarketer's phone call, or open a piece of direct mail, we rarely do so with a sense of joy. And yet **joy** is the dominant theme associated with giving in the Bible.

What did it cost to raise the money for the first temple in Jerusalem? King David asked once---and the leaders of Israel gave hundreds of tons of precious metals and jewels (1 Chronicles 29:6-9). Afterwards, "The people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly...and King David also rejoiced greatly." Those people obviously had a lot to give. But what happens when poor people are asked to give? The same thing: **joy**. When the apostle Paul asked poverty-stricken Christians in Macedonia to give to the church in Jerusalem, they gave with an "abundance of their joy" that resulted in "riches of their liberality" (2 Corinthians 8:2).

When we give joyfully to the work of the Lord, we discover for ourselves what Jesus meant when He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Who wouldn't want to be blessed by God? Christian giving is not a matter of finance, it is a matter of faith.

John Blanchard, Turning Point Magazine and Devotional



Join the Communication Chain



Our **Communication Chain** is a wonderful way for us to keep our members updated on important happenings in our Church. One of the most used reasons for the chain is the notification of the death of one of our members. But it is also used to remind our folks of special activities in the Church and other items that need to be spread quickly. If you are not getting calls currently then you are probably not on the Chain. If you want to be included please call the Church Office or e-mail Nancy Clark, gran12@cox.net to add your name. If you would rather receive notification via e-mail let Nancy know.



Daily Devotions

The March/April issue of **The Upper Room** daily devotional booklet is located in our narthex. Don't forget to get your copy! If you have not been using *The Upper Room*, why not try reading the wonderful devotions this spring. Many will truly touch your heart in special ways. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.

****The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, April 15. At this time all news for May will be due.**

You can e-mail your articles to queenbeez@cox.net, give them to Susan Cohen (editor), or put them in the Communication mailbox in the Dill Chapel hallway.



The Wesley Class

The **Wesley Class** will have their next class meeting and dinner on Wednesday, April 4 at 6:30 PM.

Coming up on April 29, the class will sponsor a Barbecue Luncheon directly following the Sunday service. More info to come.

The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class** would like to thank everyone who helped with Operation Cookie this year. Our number of recipients is growing smaller but we filled six boxes of goodies to send to our college students and troops.

The class sponsored the **Easter Lilies** again this year. We were blessed to have 32 lilies grace our altar. Thank you to all who helped with this.

The class continues their Max Lucado study entitled "In the Grip of Grace". All are welcome to join in this discussion class. Their class is located through the double doors in the front of the Chapel building. They begin at 10:00 AM. The lessons and thought provoking questions are sent out as an email attachment each week. Contact Sidney Goldblatt if you would like to be put on the list to receive this. You don't have to be a member to attend this stimulating series. We've always got a seat on the couch for you.

Women's Thursday Bible Study

The **Women's Bible Study Group** continues to meet on Thursdays through April 19th. This new study, entitled "Pray Like This: Living the Lord's Prayer" by Steve Gaines, is delving into how each person can grow in their desire to engage in conversation with Him. The meeting time is 10:00 AM each week. For more info contact Ruth Gilmore.



Joys, Thanks, & News

The **family of George R. Harris** would like to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts, and prayers during his recent passing. Your support and kindness has meant more than you know during this very difficult time.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

The **United Methodist Women** are busy in preparation for UMW Sunday which will take place on April 15th at the 11:00 AM service. Members of the UMW will preside over the worship service and Ruth Gilmore will present the message. During the service the Special Mission Recognition Pin will be presented to a deserving member.

Just around the corner they will assemble the School Kits for Conference on Thursday, April 5th at 1:00 PM. If you are available, please come out and help.

The next UMW General Meeting will be on April 18th at 7:00 PM in the social hall. The program, presented by Joyce Dignard, will be "Call to Prayer and Self Denial".

Also get your orders in for Auto Bell Car Wash gift cards.

They will be \$20.00 each and you can use them any way you want, either the \$5.00 drive thru or for the whole inside, outside and maybe your tip. The cards do not expire and we will make a very good profit. Please see any member of the UWM to order yours. The deadline for ordering and paying for your cards is May 9th. They have to be paid for when they are picked up. They should be back to you no later than the 1st of June. They make great Father's Day gifts, or Graduation gifts or just a thank you for a special friend.

The Circle of Grace will be sponsoring the Mother's Day bulletin in May and the Circle of Friends will be sponsoring the Father's Day bulletin in June. Also, if you need Rada Cutlery or other Rada items, see any member of the Circle of Ruth.

If you are not a member of the **UWM we welcome you to join us**. The Circle of Friends meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in Social Hall; they are meeting every other month and their next meeting will be on March 6th. The Circle of Ruth meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 1:30 PM and the Circle of Grace meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 PM; both of these meetings are in the Social Hall. We would love to have you join us.

Upcoming Events:

April 15th-----UMW Day at West End

April 18th -----General Meeting of UMW – 7:00 PM – "Call to Prayer & Self Denial"

April 20-22-----Spiritual Life Retreat at Eagle Eyrie



West End's Community Garden Ready to Till

If you are interested in being a part of West End's **Community Garden** this spring please let Iverson Garrison or Nancy Clark know so plans can be made. You will be responsible for planting, weeding, watering and of course harvesting your bounty.



Opportunities:

- 1 Sun. **Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service – 6:30 AM
-followed by breakfast courtesy of Men's Fellowship
Sunday School - Adults* – 9:45 AM
Sunday School - Children* – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM
[*=every Sunday]
Conference Call Worship** – 4:00 PM
[**=every Sunday]
- 2 Mon. WE Praise practice* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Monday]
- 4 Wed. Wesley Class Dinner/Meeting – 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Wednesday]
- 5 Thurs. Women's Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Assemble School Kits - 1:00 PM
Choir Practice* – 7:30 PM
[*=every Thursday]
- 7 Sat. Children's Community Choir* – 2:00 PM
[*=every Saturday]
- 8 Sun. **World Hunger Offering Received**
- 11 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30 PM
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
- 14 Sat. Ballet Dance practice* – 1:00 PM
[*=every Saturday]
- 15 Sun. "WE Praise" @ worship
Food Pantry Sunday
Newsletter Deadline for May
- 18 Wed. UMW General Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 22 Sun. Men's Fellowship breakfast – 8:00 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received
- 25 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 26 Thurs. Serve breakfast at Oasis – 6:00 AM
- 29 Sun. Ballet & Children's Choir @ Worship – 11 AM



Church Women United of Portsmouth

The **Church Women United** of Portsmouth will be their **CWU Forum: Thursday, April 12, 2018** at 10:30 AM at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. The Mission Project: Mother's Day Cards, GNJ&P Ministry

Save These Dates: Details to Follow

- May Friendship Day – Friday evening, May 4 – 6 PM
- a catered dinner by Zion Baptist Church -
- Human Rights Day – Friday, September 7
- World Community Day – Friday, November 2
- Operation Santa Claus – Friday, December 7



Life Celebrations

Birthdays for March:

- 2 – Carol Lewis
- 7 – Susan Heely
- 13 – Nancy Clark
- 25 – Tiana Barnett
- 30 – John Redd

Anniversaries for March:

- 9 – Joe & Susan Cohen – 1983
- 20 – Deena & Bryan Collins
- 22 – Nancy & Kim Clark – 1983



For current photos & news updates check us at
<https://www.facebook.com/WestEndUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth>