

WEST END CIRCUIT RIDER



West End United Methodist Church

Portsmouth, Virginia

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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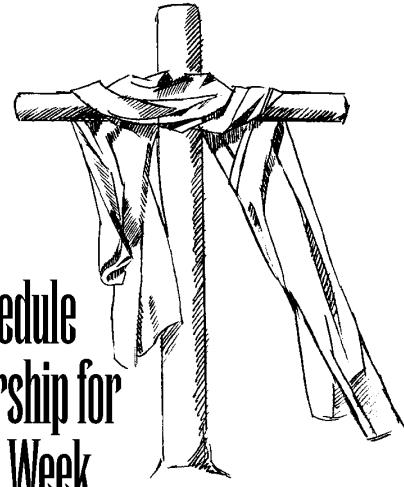
The Church Council of West End United Methodist Church publishes the West End Circuit Rider.

Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"



MATTHEW 6:26, NIV



Schedule of Worship for Holy Week

There are several opportunities during this Lenten season for you to worship at West End.

- The **Lenten Worship Services via our Free Conference Call** will continue on Sunday evenings beginning at 4:00 PM. The dates for these are March 4, 11, & 18. See following article for more information.
- On **Palm Sunday, March 25**, our Chancel Choir will present their **Easter Cantata** at the 11:00 AM worship service.
- On **Maundy Thursday, March 29**, we will have a special **Worship Service** at 7:00 PM.
- On **Easter Sunday, April 1**, there will be two worship services:
 - ~ An **Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM**
 - ~ The **Easter Worship Service at 11:00 AM**

It is hoped you and your family will make plans to attend each of these special observances in the life of our church.

Lenten Worship Services Continue by Telephone

Pastor Lynda is leading **Lenten Worship Services by telephone** this year. The call in series continues to happen on Sundays – March 4, 11, & 18 beginning 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#. 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!



Let's Hunt for Easter Eggs



There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt & Party** for the children on **Saturday, March 31st** starting in the social hall beginning at **10:00 AM**. It will include children from toddler age through 12 years old. There will be crafts, games, egg hunt, and refreshments.

Donations are needed in the way of plastic eggs, wrapped candy, paper products, cupcakes, cookies, juice, volunteers, etc. They may be placed in the collection box in the narthex. Contact Lisa Boettcher/483-4695 for more information.

Be Sure to Sign up for “Living the Lord’s Prayer” Bible Study

The **Women’s Bible Study** is gearing up for its third session beginning Thursday, March 15, 2018 through April 19, 2018. This upcoming study is entitled “*Pray Like This, Living the Lord’s Prayer*” by Steve Gaines. This is a six (6) session study that will instruct and lead each of us to fall more in love with God and grow in our desire to engage in conversation with Him.

Please be sure to sign up by Sunday, March 11th. For more information, contact Ruth Gilmore. It would be such a blessing to have you!



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 **March 18** 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.



Susan Heely and the Chancel Choir are busy preparing music for their Lenten/Easter Season. Their cantata will be presented on Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday.

All are welcome to come join in. New members will receive a robe, 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.



Free Conference Call to Stay in Touch

We have had a few snowy days in January. To stay in touch, one of our church services was held via a Conference Call. There were about 24 people who called in that day. In the future we will make every effort to notify you (by email, facebook, telephone chain) if a Conference Call is going to take place. You can use a cell phone or a land line. To use this service you would call the **FREE Conference Call** number 563-999-1087 and upon request put in the code 312193#. You will then be asked to state your name. Save this information to have on hand when you might need it.

Message From Our Pastor

Welcome to the month of March! Spring is almost here and Easter is on its way! If you’re tired of the cold weather, it’s good to think about warmer times, isn’t it? Of course, everyone is not all that excited about the coming of Spring because, for some of us, it means that allergy season is also almost here. All that sneezing, coughing and runny noses is not high on anyone’s agenda item. But, Spring is coming and there’s nothing we can do about it. We’re still in the season of Lent, however Easter is coming! While we Christians are waiting for the resurrection of Jesus, Lent reminds us that we are not ready to celebrate just yet. This is a time for reflection about who Jesus is and what is our relationship to him, personally and as a church. Lent is a time for re-examination of how we serve God in our daily walk. Lent is a time for us to reassess or re-evaluate how we live out the message we have been given by Jesus Christ. Lent is the journey that we make with Jesus as he makes his way to Calvary.

As I write this, I think about the latest school shooting in Florida. Seventeen innocent lives were taken and for what? Lent reminds us that there will be difficult times in our lives and that we will experience things that make us sad, angry, frustrated, discouraged, scared and a lot of other emotions I haven’t named. The wonder of this season, however, is that in all of our experiences, God is still in control. Remember that in this season, we are walking with Jesus, which means that no matter what happens He is with us to guide us, encourage us, comfort us – his grace will sustain us no matter what. Lent is also a call to “stand on the promises of God”. The aftermath of that shooting gives a reason for hope. I am so proud of those teenagers who survived the shooting. They are speaking up and speaking out, reminding us what is wrong but also being examples for what is right. I have no clue of any of their religious backgrounds and yet I know that God is in their midst and that a change is coming, not just for them and their environment, but for whole lot of people. You see, Lent also is a season of hope, we are hopeful for Easter and the new life that Easter brings. We have hope because, as our lectionary scriptures tell us, God is in control and we just have to put our faith, hope and trust in God, through Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, in the Lenten season, Christians “give up” something. Confession time here: some of us give up bad habits, certain foods, etc. “for Lent”, but then resume whatever it is on Easter Sunday. Here’s a thought – when we reflect on our relationship with Jesus in this season, let’s **give to** and not give up. Give to Jesus your time; give to him your resources; give to him your determination and will to do what is pleasing to him; give to Jesus **all of you** and don’t take it back. People who know me, know that I am a “clutterer”, clutter around me seems to be a part of me. I have started the tedious process of “decluttering” both the house and the office. Doing so, will not only make those places look better, but it will make me feel better. Getting rid of the clutter is not easy and it takes time. My “give to” this Lenten season is bringing order into my environment because I’ve been told that God is not a God of confusion and that everything about God is in decency and in order. This Lenten season has given me pause to reflect on how **spiritual** clutter is not representative of the kind of relationship that I want with the Lord. My desire is to get rid of anything and everything that is getting in the way of me serving the Lord - mind, body and soul.

Another rhetorical question for you: Instead of giving **up** something for Lent, what will you be giving **to**? Think about it!

God bless you. - Pastor Lynda



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.

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

"My" is a possessive pronoun, a word we use when we want to express ownership ("that's mine") or status ("it's my turn"). It's not a bad word, but the frequency of its use suggests we use it carelessly.

The truth is, nothing is "mine." Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it" (Deuteronomy 10:14). Everything we have has come from God, given to us to use for Him. We are stewards of His creation. And one thing is required of stewards: faithfulness. What does that mean? It means that, as stewards of God, we receive from Him different degrees of provision at different times. If we receive less, it is not because God is running short of funds. It is because His plans and purposes for our work for Him have changed. In times of plenty or times of want, faithfulness is our calling (Philippians 4:10-13).

Are you content today as God's steward—content with what He has entrusted to you? He owns everything and has all you will ever need.

"There is no better antidote against coveting that which is another's than being content with that which is our own".

-Thomas Watson, Turning Points Magazine and Devotional



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, March 18. At this time all news for **April** 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** met on Wednesday February 7, 2018 and Nancy Clark and Nancy Wynne were our hosts. Nancy Clark prepared a delicious meat loaf and everyone provided wonderful side-dishes. Beverly Collins gave the program entitled, "Ash Wednesday". There were 14 members in attendance. We were saddened to learn that one of beloved church members, Joe Williams, had passed away.

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 will be sponsoring the **Easter Lilies** again this year. See the following article for more info.

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.

Purchase Your Easter Lily for the Altar

Add to the beauty of our sanctuary at Easter by purchasing an **Easter lily** in honor and/or in memory of loved ones. Lilies may be purchased at a cost of **\$13.00 each** – checks made out to **"Asbury Class"**. The deadline for placing orders is **Sunday, March 18**. Complete this form and give to any Asbury Class member or mail it to church office [1800 Rodman Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23707]

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

By: _____



Church Women United

The **Church Women United** of Portsmouth will be holding their World Day of Prayer on **Friday, March 2** at Noble Street Baptist Church (corner of Noble Street and Portsmouth Blvd.) with refreshments and fellowship at 10:30 AM followed by the World Day of Prayer service at 11:00 AM. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. All are invited.



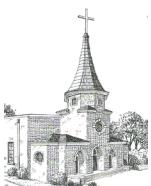
The **United Methodist Women** had their General Meeting on February 21st. The program for the evening featured our chosen Social Action Priority for the year Maternal and Child Health. The program was about "Days for Girls of Lebanon", something that you will be hearing more about this year.

The School Kits for Conference will be assembled April 5th at 1:30 PM. If you are available, please come out and help. **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.

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:

- March 17th-----Prayer Breakfast (location to be announced)
- 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



Joys, Thanks, & News

I would like to thank my church family for their visits to the hospital, phone calls, cards and your presence at the visitation and service for Bob. It was greatly appreciated.

The American flag on Bob's casket had "special meaning". Beverly Collins offered the flag used on her husband Lewis "Bud" Collins' casket and, since they were such good friends, we felt Bob and Bud would be very pleased to have the honor of sharing the same flag.

Thank everyone for your kindness, your prayers and expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. Each person has their own memory of Bob and I heard many stories at the visitation. The reception went very well and we thank all who helped in any way.

In Christian Love,
Viola and Steve Higgins

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.

Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday

What a way to start the **Lenten Season!** A big THANK YOU to the Men's Fellowship for preparing and serving pancakes and sausage links for Shrove Tuesday. The pancakes were so fluffy and yummy, and the sausages gave it the perfect balance of sweet and savory.

The Valentine Covered-Dish Dinner was also yummy. What better way to spend the evening than making only one dish and then sharing in a multitude of deliciousness. Who doesn't love a covered-dish meal!



Then ending the evening with the disposition of ashes in the Fellowship Hall was great! This was a wonderful service led by Pastor Lynda and very meaningful for all.





Opportunities:

- 1 Thurs. Choir Practice* – 7:30 PM
[*=every Thursday]
- 2 Fri. Church Women United – Noble Baptist – 10:30 AM
- 3 Sat. Liturgical Dance practice* – 1:00 PM
Children's Community Choir* – 2:00 PM
[*=every Saturday]
- 4 Sun. **3rd Sunday in Lent**
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 except 25th]
- 5 Mon. Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM
WE Praise practice* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Monday]
- 6 Tues. Circle of Friends Meet – 6:30 PM
- 7 Wed. Men's Bible Study* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Wednesday]
- 11 Sun. **4th Sunday in Lent**
Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
World Hunger Offering Received
- 13 Tues. Ministry Team Meets – 7:00 PM
- 14 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30 PM
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
- 18 Sun. **5th Sunday in Lent**
"WE Praise" @ worship
Food Pantry Sunday
Newsletter Deadline for April
- 20 Tues. Church Council Meets – 7:00 PM
- 22 Thurs. Serve breakfast at Oasis – 6:00 AM
- 25 Sun. **Palm Sunday**
Men's Fellowship breakfast – 8:00 AM
Choir's Cantata presentation – 11:00 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received
- 28 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 29 Thurs. **Maundy Thursday**
Worship Service – 7:00 PM
- 30 Fri. **Good Friday**
- 31 Sat. Community Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00 AM
- April 1, Sun. **Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service – 6:30 AM
Easter Worship Service – 11:00 AM



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



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.



Life Celebrations

Birthdays for March:

- 3 – Joyce Geluz
- 3 – Janice Melton
- 12 – John Spence
- 17 – Jerry Freeman
- 19 – Stella Johnson
- 21 – Alfred Burton
- 22 – Heather Deal Anderson
- 23 – Michelle Bright Becerra
- 25 – Kim Landen
- 29 – Stephen Geluz

Anniversary for March:

- 3 – Iverson & Georgia Garrison



Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday, March 11.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you got to bed on Saturday, March 10 so as to get to church at the correct time on Sunday!