

crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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LENTEN STUDY GROUP



There will be two more nights to join in for a **Lenten Bible Study** during the season. They are:

Tuesday, April 2nd – 7:00 PM

Tuesday, April 16th – 7:00 PM

Meet in the Social Hall and bring your bible. These will be led by Pastor Lynda.



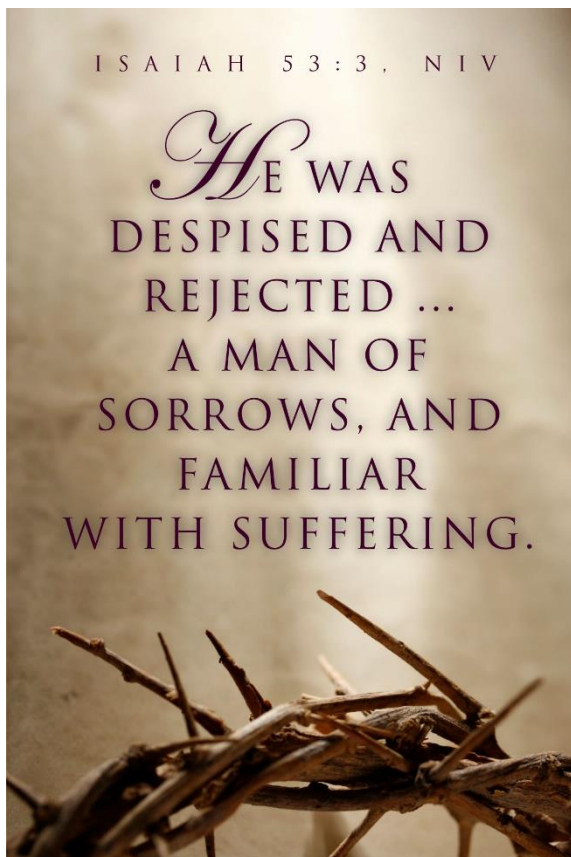
Purchase Your Easter Lily for the Altar

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 "**Francis Asbury Class**". The deadline for placing orders is **Sunday, April 7**. Complete this form and give to any Asbury Class member, drop it in box in narthex, email the required info to Susan Cohen at queenbeez@cox.net, or mail it to church office [1800 Rodman Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23707].

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

By: _____



Come Join in the Ladies' Bible Study

Crossroads **Ladies' Bible Study Group** wraps up its study on the Epistles of Paul on April 4th @ 11:00 AM. They will turn to their Spring Study on Thursday, April 11th and this will run every Thursday through May 23rd. This will be a study on Biblical Hospitality using the book Just Open the Door by Jen Schmidt. Hospitality is one of the best ways to live out the two greatest commandments: loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself. Study books are \$5. See Ruth Gilmore for more info. (ruthiegilmore@hotmail.com / 757-635-9203)

Let's Hunt Easter Eggs

There will be a **Community Easter Egg Hunt & Party** for the children on **Saturday, April 20th** starting in the social hall at 10:00 AM. Children from toddler age through 12 years are invited. There will be crafts, games, egg hunt, and refreshments.

Donations are needed in the way of wrapped candy, paper products, cupcakes, cookies, juice, volunteers, etc. There will be a collection basket in the narthex. Contact Lisa Garrison / 483-4695 for more info or to help out in any way.



Spring is here! There's something about this time of the year that is refreshing. For Christians, this time of the year is more than just "refreshing", it is a time of rejuvenation, revitalization and rejoicing. We will start the month of April in a reflective mode as we close out the season of Lent. In those first few weeks we will walk the walk that Jesus walked as He makes His way to Calvary. We sing our hosannas on Palm Sunday, all the while knowing that the Friday we call "good" is just around the corner. The good news for us Christians though is that after Good Friday comes Easter. What a day of rejoicing it will be as we celebrate the risen Lord. In April we become Easter people. Easter people recognize that Jesus is Lord. Those of us who are Easter people remember what Jesus Christ has done for us. Easter people are able to live their lives as forgiven people. Easter people know that they are not alone, no matter the situation or circumstance, because Jesus is with them. Easter people know that the Church exists only because Christ the Lord has risen!

An added joy coming this month is having our annual Easter Egg Hunt. It warms this pastor's heart to see the children enjoying themselves as they hunt for Easter eggs. I am encouraged by the members of the church who work so hard to make sure that each child has had a good time. This will be the first year that we celebrate the holiday season as a church family called Crossroads. May our time together be a blessing to all who celebrate all of the activities of this Easter season.

I celebrate this Spring because the season is full of possibilities. Although this will be my last April with you as the pastor of Crossroads, you are and will always be in my heart and a part of me. You have made this season so special to and for me in the years we've been together, first as the West End UMC family and now as the Crossroads UMC family. As Easter people, join me in celebrating Christ by serving others.

God bless you. Pastor Lynda



Lift up
your
Hearts
in
Praise!

The We Praise Band
will bring songs of
Joy & Praise to the
April 21st Easter
Worship Service
as we celebrate the
Resurrection of our Lord.



Food Pantry is Greatly Utilized

Crossroads' Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays only 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The 3rd Sunday – **April 21st** – is designated Food Pantry Sunday. You can bring suggested foods (listed below**) or even better, a monetary donation to help us buy food from the area Food Bank. You don't have to wait until the 3rd Sunday to bring your donation to church. You can place it in the offering plate on any Sunday, earmarked "food pantry".

Your egg cartons are not needed at this time. Thanks for saving them in the past. If this changes, the word will be put out. Please see Pat Mullins or David Lutz for more information.

Suggested Items**: breakfast cereals - hot/cold; powdered milk; canned vegetables; canned or dry beans; instant potatoes; canned meats; spaghetti; spaghetti sauce; peanut butter; crackers; diapers - child/adult.

Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, April 24. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursdays, April 25. If you would could help with this, please see Iverson Garrison.

Other Opportunities:

- There is a great need for weekly liturgists. The **2019 Liturgist calendar** is in the narthex for anyone who could help with the liturgy during a particular worship service during the year. If you have questions, please see Willie Collins, our Liturgist Coordinator.
- The **2019 Altar Flower calendar** is in the narthex for anyone who would like to honor or memorialize someone with flowers on a particular Sunday morning during the year. If you have questions, please call the church office for assistance.



Crossroads United Methodist Women had their general meeting on Saturday, February 23rd. Thank you for the great Call to Prayer and Self Denial program. It was a very wet day outside but the fellowship inside was wonderful.

The group is very involved in outside activities. They had seven ladies attend Church Women United on March 1st and two took part in the program about the women of Slovenia. They had seven women attend the Mini-Mission Encounter in Courtland on March 23rd.

They welcome Kathy McLaughlin to the Circle of Friends and Carol Vico to the Circle of Grace. Anyone interested in joining a Circle are welcome.

April will be a busy month as the General meeting will be on April 17th, and on Sunday April 28th they will celebrate the 150th Birthday of the United Methodist Women with UMW Day at church. Darlene Amon will be the guest speaker and our ladies will be taking care of the service with some special additions. Also after the service there will be a Birthday Celebration in the Social Hall with cake and punch. Hope to see you all.

The deadline for the Mother's Day bulletin is May 5th. There will be slips in the Narthex for use. Also all circle members will have slips.

On Saturday May 18th there will be a Yard Sale, sponsored by the UMW. So bring your items and help make it a great day. Hot Dogs and the fixings will be available.

The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class** is taking orders for Easter lilies to grace the church altar for Easter. The deadline is fast approaching – Sunday, April 7th. There is an order form with info on the first page, and it will be found in your Sunday bulletins and will also be sent out by email. Last year we had 32 lilies but it is hoped that with the merger of our two churches we will have much more.

The class continues their study, "Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet", and welcome all to join in this discussion class. They are located through the double doors in the front of the Chapel building. They begin at 10:00 AM. You don't have to be a member to attend this stimulating series. They've always got a seat on the couch for you.

The next **newsletter deadline is **Sunday, April 21st**. At this time all news for **May** will be due. You can e-mail your articles to queenbeez@cox.net or give them to Susan Cohen.

The Wesley Class

The **Wesley Class** led the first joint 5th Sunday School session on March 31st. Thank you to all involved in this new endeavor.

Their next covered dish supper followed by a short meeting will be Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Ruth Gilmore and Janice Melton will be the hostesses, so please come and have a wonderful evening.

You are also welcome to come to their Sunday School class on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 AM. Their class is located in the Dill Chapel – ask anyone you see, they will point you in the right direction.

APRIL OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1 Mon. We Praise Practice* - 7:00 PM
[*=every Monday except 22nd]
- 2 Tues. Food Pantry Open* – 10:00 AM – noon
[*=every Tuesday]
Lenten Study – 7:00 PM
- 3 Wed. Wesley Class dinner/mtg – 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study – 7:00 PM
- 4 Thurs. Chancel Choir Practice* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Thursday]
- 5 Fri. UMW – Assemble UMCOR kits – 1:00 PM
- 6 Sat. Ballet Dance practice* – 1:00 PM
Children's Community Choir* – 2:00 PM
[*=every Saturday]
- 7 Sun. **5th Sunday in Lent**
Sunday School - Adults* – 9:45 AM
Sunday School - Children* – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM
Deadline for Easter Lily Order!!
Conference Call Worship* – 4:00 PM
[*=every Sunday]
- 9 Tues. Ministry Team Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 10 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30 PM
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
- 14 Sun. **Palm Sunday**
World Hunger Offering Received
Church-wide Luncheon – noon
- 16 Tues. Lenten Study – 7:00 PM
- 17 Wed. UMW General Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 18 Thurs. **Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 PM**
- 19 Fri. **Good Friday**
- 20 Sat. **Community Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00 AM**
- 21 Sun. **Easter Sunday**
Morning Glory Sunrise Service – 6:30 AM
"We Praise" @ worship – 11:00 AM
Food Pantry Sunday – Offering Received
Newsletter Deadline for May
- 24 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 25 Thurs. Oasis Breakfast – 6:00 AM
- 28 Sun. Men's Fellowship breakfast meeting – 8:00 AM
United Methodist Women Sunday – 11 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received

<http://www.crossroadsmethodist.org>

Check out our new website. It is still a work in progress.

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

Generosity is a matter of action, intentions, and heart. One way to describe it is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of our love for God. Outpouring is a terrific description since the priceless gift of the gospel comes from God and is meant to be poured out, through our living, upon others. Paul states in II Corinthians 4:5-7, "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

Generous living is not just about money, or even just about giving. It has to do with the whole of who we are and how we care about our neighbors. (Mark 12: 28-31) The Old Testament word for "heart" is literally the leaning or thrust of our lives. It's what we think about all day long. It's how we feel towards others and especially how we react when we know of a need. Giving is something we do to meet the budget. Now the budget has all kinds of "missional" items but giving is also what we do after we give to the offering. When people are good at "generous living," the budget will always be satisfied and the needs around us will also be taken care of.

A little girl was having dinner with her family one night and the father had the blessing. He went through the normal ritual but at the end he said, "And please help our neighbor who lives alone and has a screen door that has fallen off, a gutter that is clogged and a mailbox that got hit by a car." Then he ended with an Amen. His little girl then looked up at her father and said, "Can I have your wallet?" The father responded - "why would you want my wallet?" The answer was simple - "To help our neighbor!"

It's all about generous living! We don't always need money to help someone. We sometimes need to take our hammer and saw and give our neighbor a hand. Sometimes "generous living" is about giving money and sometimes it's a way of life that helps those we know about.

Generous Living is about every aspect of our life together before God. Won't you be a "good steward" today?

II Corinthians 4:5-7: For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Grace and peace to you,
The Foundation Team



For current photos & news updates check us out at
[https://www.facebook.com/
CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth](https://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth)

New Sign has been Installed

Crossroads United Methodist Church has finally gotten their **new sign** updated thanks to the Trustees. They do so much for us and we want them to know how much they are appreciated.



Crossroads Fall Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Crossroads will hold its first (hopefully annual) **Fall Craft Fair and Bake Sale** on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The church has formed a crafters guild who has been working on several craft projects, one being the Angel Hymnals.

Featured that day will be Crafts, Vendors, White Elephant Sale, Jewelry, Candles, Art, Refreshments, and much more. This will be just in time to shop for Christmas.

Also, there will be spaces rented out for Vendors at a cost of \$15 for just a space or \$25 if they need electricity. See Bear Bell for more information.

