

crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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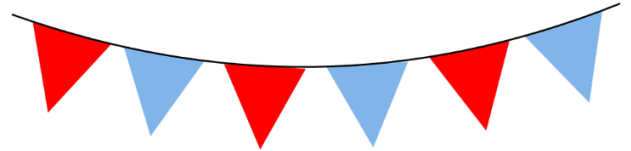
“As long as the earth
endures, seedtime and
harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease.”



Genesis 8:22

Crossroads All Church Meeting – Tuesday, September 10 – 7:00 PM –

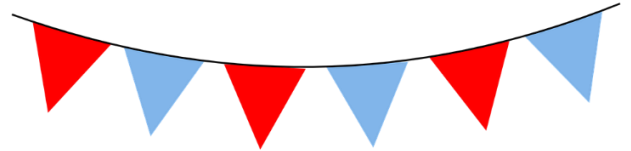
Every member of Crossroads is asked to attend. This will be a time to organize our congregation under the leadership of Pastor Camille. Put this on your calendar and make plans to attend. This will be held in our social hall.



Back to Church Sunday – Sunday, September 15th – 10:30 AM –

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” – Romans 15:7

Join the Back to Church Sunday Movement and Encourage People to Come “Together”! Reach out to your friends, neighbors, and others in your community for Christ. Join us this day in front of our Sanctuary for Coffee, OJ, & a Danish get-together.



Community Connection Sunday – Sunday, September 29 – – immediately after church –

This will be a time to reach out and get to know our neighbors. Everyone is asked to come to church that day and stay for the fun. We will not park on the grass or street on Greenway Court this day. You are asked to park in the lot across the street or on Winchester Avenue.

There will be music, food, games, and just plain FUN!
To be held outside in the style of a Block Party.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

The **Chancel Choir** has ended their summer hiatus and is now back in the loft bringing music to the 11:00 AM Sunday worship service. It was a blessing to have the various specials during July and August. Crossroads is blessed to have such talent.

The choir is now under the new leadership of Harlan Zackery, Jr. and is quite excited. This is a great time to sit in on a choir practice and see what you think. They are held Thursday evenings beginning at 7:00 PM.



Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that we are here serving among you all. I don't take the task of ministry lightly, God has called us to this place and time. Portsmouth, Virginia is a wonderful place to live. The city is growing, transforming and in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to share that gospel. Before we begin this journey, we have work to do together.

We have an **All Church meeting** scheduled for **Tuesday September 10th at 7:00-8:30 PM** in the fellowship hall. We will begin on time and end on time. What's on the agenda? Getting to know someone new. Begin collaboration on our Core Values as a church. Determine a vision statement and determine the mission work that is needed here in community around Crossroads.

The evangelism team is busy planning a **"community connection Sunday"** on **September 29th**, at noon. The day will begin with worship at 11:00 AM. Everyone is invited. There will be cards available for you to use as an invite first Sunday of September. Wear your favorite sports attire and be ready for some fun. At noon, the fun begins. Local community leaders have been invited. We will have food, games, music, a jump house, school supplies, local fire department, giveaways and more.

I am in prayer for us all to hear God's call to transform our community and the world with His love. I believe that when God calls us, He also equips us.

What do you believe?



Greetings from Your New Choir Director

Hello! I am **Harlan Zackery, Jr.**, the new choir director at Crossroads United Methodist Church. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve at Crossroads since August 1. The warmth, hospitality and sweet spirit of the congregation has made me feel welcome in this new position. A little about me... I was born and raised in Henderson, NC. After graduating high school, I began studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Upon graduating, I spent several years teaching band and chorus in the schools of Greensboro and Winston-Salem. After returning to UNCG to earn my master's degree, I moved to Mississippi and taught piano, orchestra and chorus at Jackson State University. After completing my doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi, I decided to return closer to home and have been the Director of Choral Activities at Norfolk State University since fall of 2017.

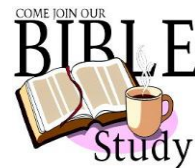
Please be patient with me as I attempt to remember all of your names and faces. I promise, I'll learn them soon! In the meantime, I am looking forward to the return of the choir and choir rehearsals. Anyone willing to make a joyful noise and worship in song is invited. We will begin rehearsals on Thursday, August 29 at 7 PM in the Crossroads UMC Choir Room. I hope to see you there!



Vacation Bible School Had Us Roaring, "God is Good"

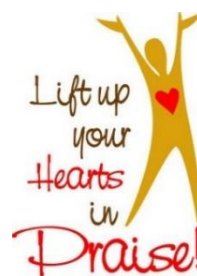
At **Crossroad's Vacation Bible School** the numbers may have been small but the spirit was huge. The Roar Kids learned each evening that Life can be Wild, but God is Good! We averaged about 16 children and 28 adult helpers.

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers – the kitchen crew (who provided such yummy meals and dessert each night), the music team (who had everyone dancing), the craft team (such fun and meaningful crafts, as usual), the Bible story team (who recreated the exodus from Egypt and Pharaoh), the science crew (who brought such interesting experiments), the mission spot (who helped the kids make 48 Manna Bags for Oasis), the registration crew, and of course the leader of the group – Lisa Boettcher. Everyone was exhausted but felt good about the week together. Until next summer...



Ladies Bible Study Continues

The **Ladies Bible Study Group** has taken a few weeks off but will begin again in September. Please contact Ruth Gilmore at ruthiegilmore@hotmail.com or call 757-635-9203, if you are interested in joining. She needs an estimate of who wants to participate so she can arrange for enough materials for the Study chosen. They meet on Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM until Noon. Date to begin will be announced in bulletin.



The We Praise Band will bring songs of Joy & Praise to the September 15th Worship Service.

The We Praise Band consists of Mark Goldman – leader & guitar, Donna Goldman – vocalist, Tricia Bright – keyboard, Susan Cohen – vocalist & tambourine, Connie Lane – vocalist, Elaine Brinkley – bass guitar & vocalist, and Ed Cassidy – drum.



Food Pantry is Greatly Utilized

Crossroads' Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. They are specifically requesting Eggs and a variety of Spices. Also, if your garden is still producing bring some of you overflow to share at the pantry. This would be a blessing to this ministry and to the people who are served.

The 3rd Sunday – **September 15** – is designated Food Pantry Sunday. You can bring suggested items (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".

If you would like to help out in the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, come around 9:30 and someone will train you in what needs to be done. Some days it's super busy and some days it's slower but they always appreciate the extra hands.

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.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Crossroads United Methodist Women enjoyed their break for the summer and are ready to jump back into action for the fall.

We are happy to have Ruth Gilmore, our Vice President, to take over the responsibilities as President for the remainder of the year. We wish Leigh Anne well and thank her for her services as our President since the beginning of the year.

We will be hosting the District on September 14th for their Annual Meeting. We will be serving lunch. More about this to come.

Again, this year we will sell Plantation nuts for our Fall fundraiser. Orders will be due in October and you can see any member of the unit to order yours. These nuts are very good and there is a large selection of items to choose from.

Since it is the fall and Circles are just getting back into meeting, we invite any member of the church who would like to join us to do so. We have three Circles – The Circle of Friends, meets on the first Tuesday every other month, with their next meeting TBA in September @ 7:00 PM. The Circle of Ruth meets on the second Wednesday at 1:30 PM in the Social Hall and the Circle of Grace meets on the second Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. You are invited to join any of the Circles, we have a good time.

Our General meeting for September will be on September 25th at 7:00 PM and the Circle of Friends will have the program and refreshments; come join us!

Sunday School Updates:

Crossroads will host a 5th Sunday **Joint Sunday School Class** on Sunday, September 29th beginning at 9:45 AM. This will be the third such session. The Wesley Class and the Ed Garriss Class have already hosted one each. Now the Asbury Class will be in charge. With the Community Connection Sunday that day it has not been decided if it SS will be held in the Social Hall or the Dill Chapel, but it will be announced as the date gets closer. This is designed to be a time to get to know each other over a Bible lesson, coffee and sweets. Even if you are not formally in a Sunday School class, we invite all to join in.

The Wesley Class

The Wesley Class is wrapping up their Summer Study, "Covenant in God" and on September 1, 2019 will begin a Fall Study entitled, "Faithful During Distress". Anyone not in a Sunday morning class is invited to join in. It is held in the Dill Chapel from 9:45 – 10:40 AM.

Their next meeting and cover dish dinner will be Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Beverly Collins will be the hostess; Donald Garrison will have the Devotions, so please come and join us. We look forward to seeing you.

The Asbury Class

The Asbury Class is completing their study of "Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet". This is a casual, sit on the sofa, discussion class. If you would like to join in, they are located in the classroom next to the Food Pantry. Enter through the front door with the ramp. Times are 10:00 – 10:45 AM.

The Ed Garriss Class

The Ed Garriss Class had been collecting funds to host a "Rise Against Hunger Event". This wonderful event occurred on Saturday, July 20th with 55 volunteers. During just a few hours of bagging and weighing ingredients, they were able to make 13,582 bags. Each bag feeds 6. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with this event.



Dear Crossroads,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the destination of the Rise Against Hunger meals you helped package on 7/20/2019. A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Nicaragua for our partner ORPHANetwork.

ORPHANetwork is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Nicaragua. To learn more, please visit our partner/country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/world-aid/>.

Ending hunger is only possible if we continue to grow the movement. We encourage you to share the news about this shipment. Since 2005, volunteers like you have helped us distribute over 455 million meals worldwide. **We can end hunger by 2030**, but we can't do it without you.

Please visit our website www.riseagainsthunger.org and continue your involvement. Consider making a donation, planning another meal packaging event (at your place of worship, school, company, civic club, etc.), joining our advocacy efforts, or even inviting us to speak to a group.



Daily Devotion Publication Available in Narthex

The September/October 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 fall. Many will truly touch your heart in special ways. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.

Do You Pay Your Bills Online? If So, You Might Be Interested in This!

If you are **interested in giving online** and not having to remember to write that check each week or missing a Sunday when you are out of town or not feeling well, online giving is the way to go. If you go to the Church web page there is a place to sign up. It is very easy to do and, remember, your donations to the Church is what God calls us to do. Think about it!

Church Picnic was Tons of Fun

Hope everyone enjoyed the **Church Picnic** on August 24th. The weather didn't hamper the fun. Thank you for supporting the day. If you have any idea of something you would like for the whole church to do please let Nancy Clark know.



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. If you have items to sell as crafts or for White Elephant Sale, let Leigh Anne or Bear know. 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

****The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, September 15th.** At this time all news for **October** will be due. You can e-mail your articles to queenbeez@cox.net or give them to Susan Cohen.



OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1 Sun. Sunday School - Adults* – 9:45 AM
Sunday School - Children* – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM
[*=every Sunday]
- 2 Mon. Labor Day – office closed
- 3 Tues. Food Pantry Open* – 10:00 AM – noon
Circle of Friends – 7:00 PM
[*=every Tuesday]
- 4 Wed. Wesley Class Dinner/Meeting – 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Wednesday]
- 5 Thurs. Choir Practice – 7:00 PM
- 7 Sat. Ballet Dance practice* – 1:00 PM
[*=every Saturday]
- 8 Sun. **World Hunger Offering Received**
- 9 Mon. Trustees – 7:00 PM
We Praise Practice – 7:00 PM
[*=every Monday except 16th]
- 10 Tues. **All Church Meeting – 7:00 PM**
- 11 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30 PM
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
- 15 Sun Back to Church Sunday – coffee time – 10:30 AM
Food Pantry Sunday – Offering Received
We Praise @ Worship – 11:00 AM
Newsletter Deadline for October!!
- 17 Tues. Church Council Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 22 Sun. UMM Breakfast Meeting – 8:00 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received
- 25 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
UMW General Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 26 Thurs. Oasis Breakfast – 6:00 AM
- 29 Sun. Joint Sunday School Class – 9:45 AM
Ballet @ Worship – 11:00 AM
Community Connection Sunday - noon

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

<http://www.crossroadsmethodist.org>
Check out our new website. Any suggestions let us know.

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

Father Abraham

Each Sunday we receive our morning offering to further God's Kingdom through Crossroads United Methodist Church. It is a time in our service when people from all walks of life can financially support the mission of the church.

We read in Genesis 12 about a man named Abraham. Father Abraham had many sons. And many sons had Father Abraham. Do you remember that song? Abraham at this time is 75 years old and has lived in a particular town all his life. He's got a nice life, nice family and he knows everyone in town. He's comfortable.

So, God comes to him and says, "Abraham, I want you to leave your hometown, and I want you to travel to this land that I'm going to show you." God didn't even reveal the end ---He just told Abraham to get moving. The Bible says that **THE NEXT DAY**, Abraham loaded up and moved. There is a principle in this story that we see all throughout the Bible.

The blessings of God always follow obedience. One more time.....the blessings of God always follow obedience. In other words, we obey first, then we are blessed.

I know you're thinking..." If God would give me a raise, then I would be generous." But it doesn't work that way. I know you're probably thinking, "If God would give me some financial blessings, then I would obey the Bible." That's not how it happens.

We obey God even when it's tough, even when it's hard, even when it makes us uncomfortable. That's how Christianity and faith work.

Abraham went on to become the father of a great nation—the Jewish people. He was famous, blessed and important. God blessed him with a family. In fact, the Bible says that all the people on earth would be blessed through Abraham.

But none of that happened until after Abraham obeyed.

One of the big reasons we give is to obey God. We give generously because that's what the Bible teaches. Even if it makes us uncomfortable, we want to be obedient to God. The blessings of God will follow our obedience to God.

So, let's ask God to bless our offering each week and bless everyone who is obedient to His purposes.



Church Women United Human Rights Celebration

Friday, September 6, 2019

Fellowship 10:30 AM, Celebration 11:00 AM
Zion Baptist Church, 225 Hatton Street, Portsmouth

**H.E.R. Shelter Program and
Human Rights Award Presentation**

Mission Project: Shower for the Shelter

Items needed: Towels, Sheets (Preferably Twin but all can be used), New Clothing, Gently Used Household Items, Hygiene Supplies (Deodorant, Razors, Dental and Hair Care Products, Feminine Pads), Toiletries

CWU Forum: Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 10:30 AM
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church



Pancake Breakfast

At Captain D's

3313 Western Branch Blvd
Chesapeake, VA 23321

Benefit for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Saturday, September 28th, 2019

from 7:30 am - 9:30 am

\$5.00 in advance

For ticket information, contact
SusansHeroes@gmail.com



susan's heroes

September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month and in recognition I am hosting a pancake breakfast at Capt. D's on Western Branch Blvd, Saturday, Sept 28th from 7:30 - 9:30 AM with all ticket sales going directly to the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**. Only \$5.00 a ticket!

As many of you know, I am a Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma survivor and am celebrating 13 plus-a-touch year in remission. Volunteering and fundraising are my ways of paying it forward. Someone raised money and someone donated money in the past that funded treatments so I that I am here today.

Please see me for tickets or e-mail me to reserve your spot! Thanks, Susan Reid (*I sit by Joyce Dignard in church*)



Bishop Lewis' Episcopal Return Is Planned for September

After a six-month medical leave, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis' return to the Virginia Conference is planned for September 2019.

Lewis started her medical leave at the beginning of March as she underwent several hip surgeries. In her absence, Bishop Peter D. Weaver, retired bishop, was named the interim episcopal leader.

Lewis said she is appreciative of all the prayers and gestures of care and concern she received from around the conference and United Methodist connection. She has steadily improved in her recovery and the time frame of her return is contingent on her continued healing and by advisement of her medical team.

Lewis also wanted to share her appreciation to Bishop Weaver for his calm and steady leadership in this interim period. She asks that the conference be in prayer and give thanks for the ways that Bishop Weaver has led and served this conference.



Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, **September 25**. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursdays, **September 26**. 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.
- If you would like to honor or memorialize someone with **altar flowers** on a particular Sunday morning during the year, call the church office for assistance – 397-7815.



Happenings at Annual Conference this Summer

The theme for the 2019 Virginia Annual Conference, held June 20-22, 2019 at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Va., was "Moving Forward in God's Mission." The conference theme was based on Matthew 28: 18-20.

Voting for the 2020 General Conference delegation (11 clergy and 11 laity), Jurisdictional Conference (11 clergy and 11 laity) and alternates (10 clergy and 10 laity), started the Thursday, June 20 and concluded that night. Clergy and laity were split to conduct the voting.

Even though Bishop Sharma D. Lewis is currently on a six-month medical leave, Bishop Pete Weaver, interim bishop, kept Lewis' vision at the forefront of the conference. A clip of Lewis introducing her vision from 2017 was played during the opening session on Thursday. That vision is "Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve." All Virginia United Methodist churches will have a process of intentionally-forming disciples by 2020.

On Friday morning, six churches were discontinued in five districts. Two new faith communities and their pastors were introduced.

On Friday and Saturday, of nine submitted motions, six were discussed. Motions can be found at: www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/AC2019/AgendaMotions.pdf. Martha Stokes, 2019 General Conference delegation head, and the Rev. Tom Berlin, delegation clergy head, provided an overview of General Conference 2019 as well as the April 2019 Judicial Council decision on the afternoon of Friday, June 21. They also shared the items that will be before the 2020 delegation.

The "Glory Sightings" video series, which started in 2017, continued this year. These videos were shown throughout conference to highlight mission and ministry throughout the Virginia Conference. These videos can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/virginiaumc>.

A time of worship began on Friday at 11 a.m. with guest preacher Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the Ohio East Area. She based her message on Matthew 28, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... and I will be with you to the ends of the age."

At the Friday afternoon retirement service, 60 pastors retired, with a combined total of 1,288.75 years of service. Our very own, Pastor Lynda Moore was acknowledged at the ceremony. The retirees were allowed one guest to sit on stage and walk with them during their ceremony and retirement dinner. Weeks prior to Annual Conference, my mother and I were very honored when Pastor Lynda asked us to be her guests, by my walking with her and my mother being her dinner guest.

The Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, pastor of Raleigh Court UMC, Roanoke District, preached for the Service of Remembrance in which 63 conference clergy and laity who died since the last Annual Conference were remembered.

A Service for the Ordering of Ministry Sixteen people were ordained elders, three were ordained deacons, 13 were commissioned as provisional members, one was recognized for orders, one associate member was recognized and 24 were licensed as local pastors in the Friday evening Ordering of Ministry service. Bishop Tracy S. Malone delivered the sermon preached on the topic of "From Start to Finish" based on Hebrews 11:29-12:3. Jesus finished the race set before him and now he is at the place of honor next to God.

To live out the vision of Bishop Sharma D. Lewis and support the Annual Conference theme, Moving Forward in God's Mission, clergy and laity participated in the 2019 Annual Conference 5K Walk, Run, Bike, and Yoga event on Saturday, June 22 at 6:15 a.m. Over 300 people registered for the event.

On Saturday morning, Mary Jane Rawley, Conference President of the United Methodist Women gave a brief presentation on the history of the organization in honor of their 150th birthday celebration on March 23rd. She asked for all UMW members to stand and be recognized.

Bishop Weaver based his sermon on Matthew 28 with a sermon titled "Go, Glow, Grow." We begin to glow "when we are willing to go and God is with us," he said. "So, fear not. Go with God. Christ will be with you."

This year's kit collection required the addition of a third tractor trailer due to the influx of kits. These kits will be distributed by United Methodist Committee on Relief. Annual Conference members brought 51,202 disaster relief kits to Annual Conference. Kits included: 36,296 Hygiene kits; 14,243 School kits and 663 Flood buckets.

Attendees of conference contributed almost 10,000 pounds of canned goods and boxed dry foods as part of the "4 Cans 4 Conference" drive.

Three new district superintendents were introduced at Annual Conference and the appointments for the 16 districts were approved.

It was my pleasure to represent Crossroads UMC by serving as your church delegate to the Virginia Annual Conference.

Janet L. Day