

crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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Enter his gates with
thanksgiving,
and his courts with
praise!
Give thanks to him,
bless his name!

PSALM 100:4



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September 2022 No. E-22-g



Join Us on Sundays
for In Person Worship!

Join us for **in person worship** each **Sunday at 11:00 AM!**

The services are also being recorded and will be available on our Facebook page. You will find this at:
www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth.

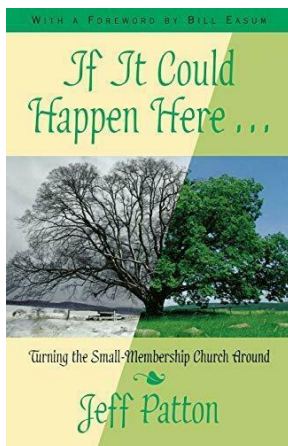


Our next **Crossroads Community Prayer Walk** will take place on Saturday, September 3rd. Meet in front of the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM and wear your church t-shirt or any light blue shirt. This month will be focused on Back to School. The prayers will be focused on Westhaven Elementary, and they will actually ride down Rodman Avenue to pray on campus.



The **weekly small group Bible study** led by Ruth Gilmore will begin viewing and discussing *The Chosen*, season 2, on Thursdays beginning September at 10:00 AM. This will begin on **September 15th** in the church fellowship hall. **All** are welcome to come and participate. You will be blessed.

For current photos and news updates,
check us out at
<http://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth>



Are small membership churches simply places where attendance is dropping, the building is out of date, the programs are boring, and people don't want to change? Jeffrey Patton says, 'absolutely not'. Small churches can become explosive centers of witness and mission. In *If It Could Happen Here . . . Patton describes six levers for transforming a small membership church: prayer, discerning a clear vision, indigenous worship, growth groups, membership recruitment, and lay pastoring.*



It seems as though we have made it through the pandemic. Things are moving again, and things are changing! The Elizabeth River District and the Eastern Shore District have merged, and we are now the **Coastal Virginia District** of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Here at Crossroads, we look forward to the fall. Our monthly **Prayer Walk** resumes on September 3rd, and we are excited to engage in international prayer with our community elementary school, Westhaven Elementary.

Church Council will meet monthly and as a team we will determine if we are living into our mission and vision here at Crossroads and if we aren't how do we change that? Everyone has been invited to read "If it Can Happen Here" by Jeff Patton. The strategy used in this book is similar to the strategy of our new District. The new structure will focus on 3 key areas: strategic planning with a focus on innovation, leadership development with a focus on equipping and administration with a focus on enabling. By simplifying our structure, we can begin to focus on ministry instead of internal bureaucracy which has not proven effective. I ask that you all pray for our church, our community, our new district and thank God for His blessings!

Welcome to the Crossroads of the ministry of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! I'm so glad to be here and I hope you are too!

Blessings, Rev C
Rev Camille Pentsil

Pastor Camille spoke of this book at the summer Church Council meeting. It is hoped that you will obtain a copy, read it, take notes, share it with another member, and be prepared to discuss it at the September Council meeting. You can google the title/author and find it for various prices at various locations. Some are listed below. Scroll your icon above the "address" and press your Ctrl button and then click your 'mouse'. Let me know if you have any trouble using these sites. – Susan Cohen/Communications

- [If It Could Happen Here... : Turning the... book by Jeff Patton \(thriftbooks.com\)](#) – used = \$4.49 , \$5.09
- [If It Could Happen Here: Turning the Small-Membership Church Around, Pre-Owned Paperback 0687030331 9780687030330 Jeff Patton - Walmart.com](#) – preowned = \$5.31
- [If It Could Happen Here : Turning the Small-Membership Church Around 1697 9780687030330 | eBay](#) – like new = \$2.50 – scroll down on this page and you'll see many more used copies for cheap prices
- [Buy If It Could Happen Here Book By: Jeff Patton \(secondsale.com\)](#) – used = \$3.88

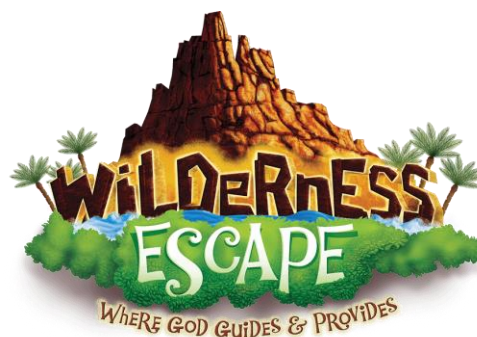


The **Crossroads United Women in Faith** hopes that everyone has had a good summer. It is time to get back to business for the rest of the year. Because of the death of Ruth Baker, the Circle of Ruth has started meeting with the Circle of Grace. That leaves two Circles at the present time. If we have members who would like to join the UWF and would like a daytime Circle they will make that happen. Let Nancy Clark know.

The Circle of Friends meet on the first Tuesday of every other month – September 6th, November 1st, and December 6th at 7:00 pm. The Circle of Grace meets on the second Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall.

They will have the World Thank Dinner and program on September 21st at 6:00 pm. All members of the Church are invited to join us for dinner and program.

They will be selling Plantation Nuts again this fall, so be thinking about what you would like to order. They are good and make great Christmas presents.



Crossroads' **Vacation Bible School** was held during the first week of August. This is the first VBS since before Covid (2019) and it was great to get back to this mission. At Wilderness Escape, kids explored how God guides and provides during these uncertain times. They were led to trust God—not their own strength—in life's challenges. There was an average of 22 children – from our congregation, from our ballet group, and from the neighborhood.

It couldn't have been possible without our volunteers – the kitchen crew (who provided yummy snacks each night), the music team, led by Harlan (who had everyone moving), the craft team (who had the children making such meaningful crafts), the Bible story team (who helped the group learn about Moses and his miracles), the recreation team (who had the kids organized inside with great games), the registration crew, and of course the leader of the group – Lisa Boettcher. Until next year....

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

"Bearing Fruit for Jesus"

It is exciting to inform you that our stewardship theme for this year is **Bearing Fruit for Jesus! His Grace and Power at Work within You.** This will start on October 9, 2022. The following is an introduction to what God's Word says about bearing fruit:

Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5). Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. It is interesting to note that, in this passage above, Jesus did not say, "You should bear fruit." He stated that when we abide in him, it follows naturally that we will bear fruit.

Paul explained to the Galatians what that fruit is: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control." "Since we live by the Spirit," Paul exhorted, "let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other" (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because his Spirit lives in us. We do not bear fruit as a result of our own efforts, but we do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, "conceited, provoking and envying each other."

Just as fruit needs light for its growth and maturation, so do Christians need to have their lives illumined by Christ. They then are able to produce spiritual fruit and shed that light on the world around them. Ephesians 5:11 cautions us to, "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness" but to "Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8-9).

We discover God's will through his word and through prayer. As Paul prayed for the Colossians, we, too, can ask God "to fill us with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding . . . in order that we may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work . . ." (Colossians 1:9-10).

God has plans and uses for our lives. When we abide in Christ, we will be fruitful. We will discover and follow his plan, and we will use the gifts he has given us in ministry to the people of the world.

Wesley Class Update

The **Wesley Class** has been meeting for weekly Sunday School in the Dill Chapel during the summer months. It is hoped that you will consider participating in this class come September. The Fall lessons will center around "God's Exceptional Choice: God Calls Abraham's Family".

Their teachers are: Jay Wright – 1st Sundays, Susan Cohen – 2nd Sundays, Iverson Garrison – 3rd Sundays, Ruth Gilmore – 4th Sundays, Georgia Garrison – 5th Sundays.

They will have their **class meeting** on Wednesday, September 7 beginning with a covered dish dinner at 6:00 PM.



The We Praise Band will bring songs of Joy & Praise at the September 18 Worship Service.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

Crossroads Choir has ended their summer hiatus and is now coming back to 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.

Now is a great time to join in on a choir practice to see what you think. They are held Thursday nights at 7:00 PM. See Harlan Zackery if you have any questions.



Crossroads' Dance Team has weekly practice on Saturdays. They meet on the 2nd floor of the Education wing at 1:00 PM. The class is open to boys and girls between the ages of 3 years old and up. Mrs. Ellen Clayton is the instructor. Anyone who would like more information or would like to register their child can contact the church office at 397-7815 and give their child's name, age, and phone number.

They plan to perform on the 5th Sundays during the year. The next performance will be October 30. This is such an inspiring ministry at Crossroads.



Daily Devotion Publication Available in Narthex

The Upper Room daily devotional booklet is available in our narthex. If you are not coming to worship, you can come up to the office on Tuesdays during office/food pantry hours and someone will help with getting one. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.



Crossroads' Food Pantry is a Blessing to the Community

Crossroads' Food Pantry is open on **Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. There is a shortage in food available from the Food Bank currently. Anything you can do for this program would be a blessing to this ministry and to the people who are served. Monetary donations would be helpful to be able to buy foods from other sources. See Ronnie Perkins, David Lutz, or Pat Mullins for more information.

If you would like to help in the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, contact the above folk and they can tell you when you would be needed.

Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on 4th Wednesday, September 28. To volunteer, contact Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on 4th Thursday, September 22. If you would help with this, contact Iverson Garrison.

Please consider this.



World Communion Sunday

Every year on the first Sunday in October, on October 2nd this year, Christians around the globe celebrate **World Communion Sunday**. It is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that every Christian Church and any denomination that promotes Christian unity are one. There are cards in your pew explaining more.

Upcoming Events:

- **Community Prayer Walk** – Sat, Sept. 3 – 10:00 AM
- **Communion Sunday** – September 4 – 11:00 AM
- **Choir Practice** – Thursdays – 7:00 PM
- **Bible Study** with Ruth Gilmore – Fellowship Hall – Thursdays beginning September 15 – 10:00 AM
- **Ballet** – each Saturday @ 1:00 PM
- **Food Pantry** – each Tuesday – 10:00 AM till noon
- **Church Council Meeting** – September 20 – 7:00 PM
- **Oasis Breakfast** – Thursday, September 22
- **Meals on Wheels** – Wednesday, September 28



Joys, Thanks, & News

Iris L. Q. Jennings has a new home address: 1191 Rustic Willow Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22911
Cell phone – 757-214-5693

Even though she has moved away, she wanted her friends to know where she was living. She would love to hear from you.



—happy fall—

We are Now the Coastal Virginia District UMC!

Just a reminder that clergy and lay members approved the District Initiative to create eight new districts from the current 16-district structure. The new structure began on July 1, 2022. **Eastern Shore and Elizabeth River districts have become the Coastal Virginia District.** The new districts and their superintendents are as follows:

- Northern Virginia District – The Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert
- Three Notch'd District – The Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee
- Mountain View District – The Rev. Denise Bates
- **Coastal Virginia District – The Rev. Cecelia Brooks**
- Living Waters District – The Rev. Jay Carey
- Shenandoah River District – The Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez
- Mission Rivers District – The Rev. Dr. Charles Bates
- Valley Ridge District – The Rev. Doug Forrester

Weekly News of the Coastal Virginia District of The United Methodist Church, View this email in your browser. (<https://mailchi.mp/vaumc/coastal-va-district-umc-news-dont-stop-here-read-about-all-the-upcoming-training-events-and-more?e=ebf0bc0848>)