

crossroads circuit rider



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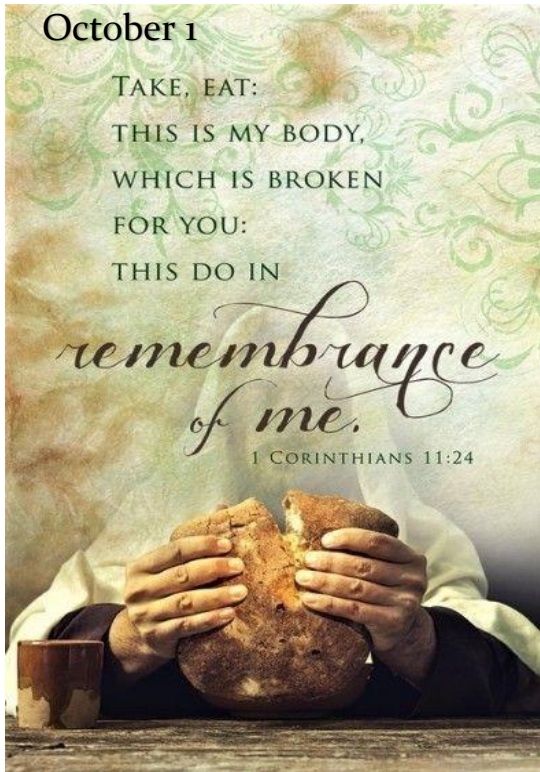
Rev. Camille Pentsil/Pastor

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- www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth
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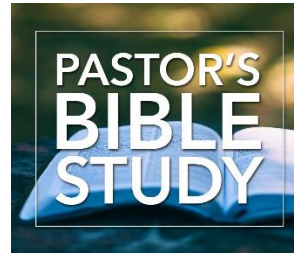
The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]

World Communion Sunday October 1



October 2023 No. E-23-h



Weekly Bible Study to Begin in October

Please join us for "The Bible Study" beginning **Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 7:00 PM**. It will be in person at Crossroads and on Zoom. (Zoom info will come out by email.) We will begin at Genesis 1:1 with an in-depth study of the Pentateuch - the first 5 books of the Bible. This will be a self-paced, interactive, and reflective immersion into scripture.

Materials will be provided; please bring your favorite Bible, an open mind and prepare to be transformed!

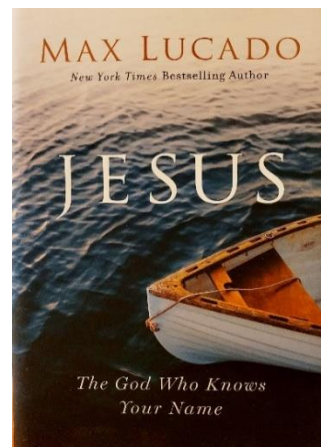
Rev Camille Pentsil

"Discover the Possibilities"

Crossroads' "Discover the Possibilities" is being held on **Saturday, October 14th**. On that day Rev. Jason Stanley, the Revitalization Coordinator for the Coastal Virginia District, will meet with us from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This will be a time to dream, to work together, to discern where we want our church to go in this world. I saw a quote that read "*The world in front of us is not like the world behind us. We must explore new ways to reach it.*" Please be in prayer about this and plan to attend on this day. It's open to everyone. Lunch will be provided.

Update on Nursery and Children's Sunday School

Currently Crossroads is only providing Sunday School for those 3 years and up. There will be no nursery provided during the Worship hour. If someone comes with a child under the age of three, they will have to sit with their caregiver.



Ladies Bible Study Is Starting Back Up

The Ladies Bible Study Group will be starting a new six-week study from Max Lucado, "Jesús, The God Who Knows Your Name". Please come and join this group on Thursday, October 5 at 10:00 AM. Contact Ruth Gilmore for more info – ruthiegilmore@hotmail.com / 757-635-9203.



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.



World Communion Sunday

Every year on the first Sunday in October, October 1st 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.

Excel in the Grace of Giving!

On Sundays October 8, October 15, and October 22, our worship theme will be "Excel in the Grace of Giving." I hope you will make every effort to be present on all three Sundays.

As your pastor, I hope and pray that the messages offered will help us in our journeys as faithful and generous stewards. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who follow God's ways and become more Christ-like in our giving. As Christians, we are motivated to give by the gift of God's grace through his son. With hearts filled with God's love and grace, we can give faithfully.

Giving is our faith response to God's gifts. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. We also give out of obedience because God's Word directs us to give. The Apostle Paul said, *"But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving"* (2 Corinthians 8:7). Just as Paul urged the people in Corinth to give, we are urged to *"excel in this grace of giving."*

The themes of the Sunday morning sermons during these three weeks will be:

"Overcoming Greed"
"More Blessed to Give"
"Receiving through Giving"

We will dedicate our commitment forms on Commitment Sunday, October 22, or they can be returned to the church office at your convenience.

May God bless and keep us in His peace and joy as we give to him!

Rev. Camille Pentsil, Pastor

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-



Soon, we begin our stewardship program titled:
"Excel in the Grace of Giving."

Giving Generously

Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). Jesus wanted us to know that the act of giving returns more to us than what we give. We reap what we sow (2 Corinthians 9:6). If we sow generously, we will reap much. God uses our generosity to build his kingdom and to strengthen and bless us as givers. Giving is a privilege and a joy that can change our lives. When we practice firstfruits giving and give generously, we **excel in the grace of giving**.

What we do with God's money demonstrates our spiritual maturity. Some of us share sacrificially with God and others, others give proportionately from our incomes, and still others hoard what we receive. God wants us to be channels of his blessings, and he enriches us so we can be blessings to others. *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

If we do not share, we become terminals who hoard, rather than channels who share God's gifts. We get no satisfaction except for fleeting happiness in possessing the things of this world. By refusing to share, we deprive ourselves of the joy of giving.

Prayer: Lord, Your Word tells me that I reap what I sow. Grant me faith so I will continually honor you with my thoughts, words, and actions. Help me to do your will by being obedient to your Word. Help others see you through me. In Christ's name I pray.
Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship journey!



The **We Praise Band** will bring songs of Joy & Praise at the October 15 Worship Services.

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

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

Volunteers Continually Needed!

Crossroads is at a turning point and to help us grow forward we need some more people to step up to the plate, so to speak. Sounds simple but **we need the following:**

- Volunteers to click the Power Point during the Sunday worship service
- People who would help with Children's Sunday School

If you would like more information about these areas, see Lisa Boettcher.



Crossroads United Methodist Men will meet in the Social Hall every other month on the last Sunday at 8:00 AM. They will meet next on October 29. You are encouraged to attend. – *Gerald Pentsil*



Crossroads' Food Pantry is a Blessing to the Community

Crossroads' Food Pantry is now USDA Certified. This will mean that our pantry can qualify for more food to distribute to our community. It also will mean more paperwork.

It is open on **Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. Anything you can do for this program would be a blessing to this ministry and to the people who are served. See David Lutz for more information.

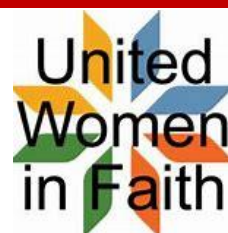
If you would like to help in the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, contact the above folk and they can tell you when you would be needed.



Crossroads' Ballet Troupe has weekly practice on every Saturday of the month. 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.

Their next performance is Sunday, October 29 during Worship.

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.



The **Crossroads United Women in Faith** held their World Thank dinner on September 20, 2023. The speaker, Mrs. Banks from the Wesley Community Center, was very informative and personable, and the food was wonderful. Thank you to all who attended. The Nominations Committee presented their slate of officers for the new year, so they will be ready to start off 2024.

Their treasury is in need of funds. They have three projects that they are ending the year with. First – selling Planation Nuts. They make wonderful Christmas presents and they are yummy (who doesn't like fresh nuts!) See any Circle member to put in your order.

Second – They are sponsoring the Friendship and Remembrance bulletin again this year. You can honor and remember your friends, family, or anyone you wish. Donations are accepted and appreciated in whatever amount you care to give. The bulletin will be ready on November 19, 2023. There will be slips in the narthex for this bulletin.

Third – purchasing Poinsettias to be placed on the altar before Christmas. This is always a great way to honor or memorialize someone dear to you, and to beautify the church and your home afterwards.

As always remember you are invited to join either of the Circle meetings.



Crossroads will not sponsor a Trunk or Treat activity this year. Instead, there will be a **Fall Festival** after church on **Sunday, October 29**. The Ballet Troupe and our children are invited to come that day and stay afterwards. See Lisa Boettcher for more info and how you can help.

Help Keep Crossroads Secure

Please help us keep the church buildings secure by "arming" the system before you leave. If you are the **last person/or group** to leave the church buildings (social hall or sanctuary), make sure you **"arm the alarm"** before exiting the building. Please just touch the keypad alarm system screen and touch the "ready to arm". You will have 60 seconds to exit the building. Make sure that you also **lock the outside door keypad** as well. Thank you for your help in this matter.



The month of October is designated as
Pastor Appreciation Month.

This is a time for our congregation
to give thanks to God for our pastor.
It is also a time to demonstrate to our pastor
genuine appreciation for her service.



Crossroads' Prayer List

-continue to keep these members in your prayers-

Nancy Clark
Ruth Gilmore
Vance McEachern, Jr.
Kathy McLauchlin
Charlie Morton
Ronnie Perkins
Debbie Wright
Robert Wright (deployed to Iraq)

*If you know of a church member
that would appreciate our prayers,
send your request to
queenbeez@cox.net. These will
rotate off the list each month unless
notified otherwise.*



Weekly/Monthly Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Food Pantry** will be filling and handing out bags of food on Tuesdays between 10:00 AM and noon. To volunteer, contact David Lutz.
- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on 4th Wednesday, October 25. To volunteer, contact Ginny & Willie Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on 4th Thursday, October 26. To volunteer, contact Iverson Garrison.

Please consider this.



- **World Communion @ Sunday Worship** – Sunday, October 1 – 11:00 AM
- **We Praise practice** – October 2 – 7:00 PM
- **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- **Pastor's Bible Study** – Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00 PM
- **Ladies Bible Study** – Thursdays – 10:00 AM
- **"Discover the Possibilities"** – Saturday, October 14 – 9:00 AM ~ 3:00 PM
- **Ballet Practice** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
- **We Praise Sunday** – October 15 – 11:00 AM
- **Leadership Circle** – Tuesday, October 17 – 7:00 PM
- **Circle of Grace** – October 18 – 6:00 PM
- **Leadership Circle** – Tuesday, September 19 – 7:00 PM
- **Meals on Wheels** – Wednesday, October 25 – 11:00 AM
- **Oasis Breakfast** – Thursday, October 26 – 6:00 AM
- **United Methodist Men** – Sunday, October 29 – 8:00 AM
- **Worship with Ballet Performance** – Sunday, October 29 – 11:00 AM
- **Fall Festival** – Sunday, October 29 – after church in social hall



October Birthdays:

3 – Joe Cohen
12 – Peggie Gower
21 – Donald Anderson
23 – Donna Goldman
25 – Sidney Goldblatt
30 – Aaron Cohen
31 – Iverson Garrison

October Anniversaries:

18 – Tom & Lisa Boettcher
20 – Sidney & Adam Goldblatt