

crossroads circuit rider



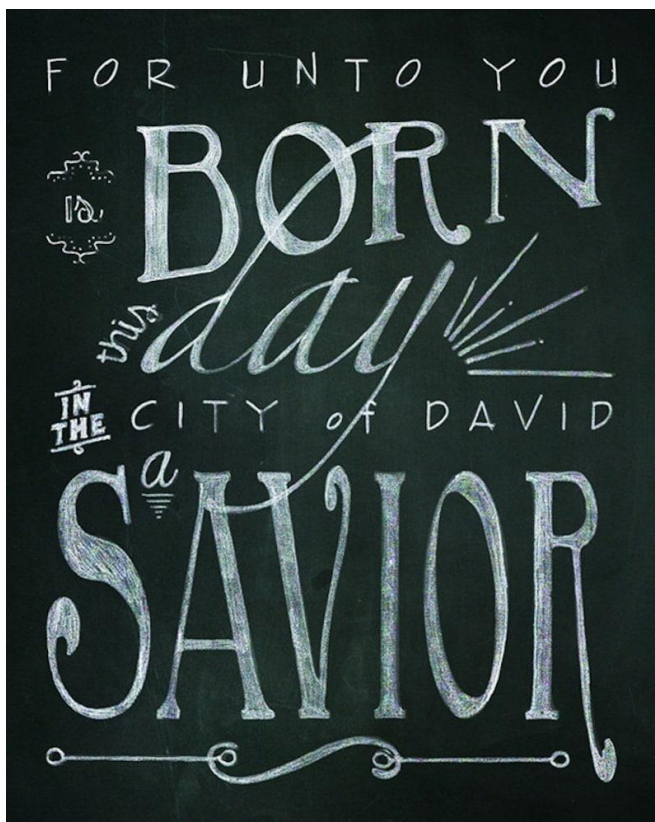
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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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December 2023-January 2024 No. E-23-k



Time to Order Poinsettias

Add to the beauty of our sanctuary at Christmas by purchasing a **poinsettia** in honor and/or in memory of loved ones. Poinsettias may be purchased at a cost of \$13.00 each – checks made out to "Crossroads UMW". The deadline for placing orders is **Sunday, December 3**. Complete this form and place in box in narthex / give to Susan Cohen / send to queenbeez@cox.net.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

By: _____



The above "invite cards" have been handed out to those in attendance. It is hoped you will use them to invite others to your church. This could be your family and friends or those you meet in your daily lives. Let them know this is a good place to be during the Advent season and beyond.



The **sanctuary** looks beautiful. Thank you to everyone who was able to stay after church and "hang the greens". Just wait till the poinsettias arrive!

The **Manger of Love** is on display in the sanctuary. It is being used during the holidays to collect unwrapped toys, books, socks, gloves, puzzles, etc. as well as cash donations for the Wesley Community Center. It will be on display through **December 10th**. See Nancy Clark for more information or to give a monetary donation.

Our **Christmas Worship Music** will be brought to us by our Advent Choir during the 11:00 AM service. Stay tuned to learn more.



Happy Birthday, Jesus!

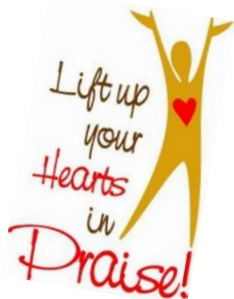
Crossroads will sponsor a **Birthday Party for Jesus** on Sunday, December 19. This will take place in our Social Hall immediately after our worship service. Cake and Ice Cream will be served. The Ballot Troop and our children are invited to attend. See Lisa Boettcher for more information or how you can help.



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.



We Praise Band
will bring songs of
Joy & Praise to the
December 10
Worship Service.

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

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

Discover the Possibilities

The Leadership Circle of Crossroads came back together with Jason Stanley, the Revitalization Coordinator for the Coastal Virginia District, on Tuesday, November 14. Jason gave us an 18-page report on the findings from our October 14 **Discover the Possibilities** session. If anyone wants to see a copy of this, see Susan Cohen.

Our church will now begin the work and we will need you to help with this. The question we will need to explore is "What is the Holy Spirit urging us to do?"

The following recommendations are intended to help Crossroads discern the next steps to live into God's will for the church.

- 1) Develop a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative – We will be asking God for guidance for the next steps.
- 2) Develop an Intentional Financial Strategy – We must address the spending/giving gap.
- 3) Develop an Intentional Shift in Focus, Systems and Strategies – We will reimagine how we will partner with God to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

One can see, this will not be an easy task. We will need the congregation to buy into this plan. We will explore this mission in the coming months and will be letting you know what is happening. Please pray for Crossroads at this time.



All Saints Day is a day we honor those who have hallowed this earth by their prayers and by the way they walked in the light of God. Let us remember:

John Shelby, Jr - Feb 18, 2023
Betty Ozmon - Feb 21, 2023
Will Wilkerson - May 7, 2023
Joyce Newton - June 5, 2023
Shirley Beacham -
Vernon Harris - July 3, 2023
Connie Jones-
Clinton Lamar Stancil, Sr. -



Crossroads' **Charge Conference** was held on **Saturday, November 18th**. This was an in-person meeting with other Coastal Virginia District churches and took place at **Oak Grove UMC**. It included worship and training workshops. Crossroads had 4 that attended.



United
Women
in Faith

The Crossroads **United Women in Faith** would like to thank everyone who supported their projects for the end of the year. It is hoped everyone enjoyed the "Thankful and Remembrance" bulletin; and a nice profit was made for this. The Plantation Nut sale will make another good profit when it's all said and done. With these two projects they will meet their budget for the year. Our church family is the best!

In conjunction with Church Women United, your UWF have partnered with Portsmouth Social Services' Operation Santa to help bring joy to the 31 children in Foster Care. They have received the children's wish lists and will make their presentation of gifts to PSS on Friday, December 1st. At this time, everyone will meet at Park View Christian Church on Western Branch Blvd to present their gifts to PSS. Join in for this meaningful service.

Your UWF will have an executive meeting the first part of the year to make plans. Please remember that all the ladies of the Church are invited to join the United Women in Faith; they would love to have you. The Circle of Friends meets on the first Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 PM beginning in February and the Circle of Grace meets the second Wednesday monthly in the Social Hall at 6:00 pm. Come join in!



Crossroads' Dance Team has weekly practice on every Saturday of the month, but no practice on December 23 and 30. 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.



Crossroads' Food Pantry is a Blessing to the Community

Crossroads' Food Pantry is open on **Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. If you would like to help in the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, contact David Lutz and he can tell you when and how you would be needed.



Upcoming Events:

- **Church Women United** – Operation Santa – Friday, December 1
- **First Sunday of Advent** – December 3
- **Communion Sunday** – December 3 – 11:00 AM
- **Deadline for Poinsettia orders** – Sunday, December 3
- **Choir Practice** – Sundays after church
- **We Praise Practice** – Mondays – 7:00 PM
- **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- **Pastor Bible Study** – Wednesdays – 7:00 PM
- **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM [no ballet on December 23 or 30; They will resume on January 6]
- **Circle of Friends Christmas Social** – Wednesday, December 6 – 6:00 PM
- **Second Sunday of Advent** – December 10
- **Deadline for Manger of Love donations** – Sunday, December 10
- **We Praise Sunday** – December 10 – 11:00 AM
- **Third Sunday of Advent** – December 17
- **Ballet Performs** – December 17
- **Birthday Party for Jesus** – December 17
- **Leadership Circle** – December 19 – 7:00 PM
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent** – December 24
- **UMM Breakfast** – December 24 – 8:00 AM
- **Christmas Day** – December 25
- **Oasis Breakfast** – Thursday, December 28

Do You Have or Do You Need 2024 Calendars?

If anyone has received promotional **calendars** that they will not be using in **2024**, please place them in the narthex on the right-hand side for others who might need them.

Ongoing 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.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on the 4th Thursday, December 28. If you would help with this, contact Iverson Garrison. This will be the last opportunity as they are searching for new leadership.

Please consider this.