

# crossroads circuit rider



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Love one  
another  
like I have  
loved you.

JOHN 13:34



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Crossroads will hold its **Ash Wednesday Service** on **February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. At this time there will be the imposition of ashes by Pastor Camille, and this will usher in the season of Lent – the preparation of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

## A Stewardship Prayer for Lent

*God of Mercy,  
You have given us this special time to reflect on our lives,  
embrace the Good News and draw closer to You. During this  
season of Lent help us to use this time to fast and pray, be more  
generous and show others how to live in Christ. Let us see each  
day of this season as a new opportunity to renew our lives and  
gain a deeper appreciation of Your active presence in our hearts  
and our community of faith. Give us the grace to see Your face  
in others, and especially the poor and those who suffer. And  
through your Spirit, rekindle in us the fire of Your love so that  
we may be better stewards of Your redeeming work throughout  
the world. We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever.*

AMEN

## Be A Part of Our Leadership Circle - We Saved a Seat for You -

Who: **Everyone!**

When: **Third Tuesday of the month → February 20**

Time: **7:00 PM**

What: **We are entering into a time of discernment as a  
faith community.**

Crossroads is delving into our Discover the Possibilities time in our ministry. After our get together with Jason Stanley we have been given recommendations that will help us discern the next steps to live into God's will for the Church. This will require a tremendous amount of faith and commitment on the part of the congregation to do the work needed to bear fruit. Plan to come and be a part of this endeavor.



## Join Us 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](https://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth).



## Many Thanks for All That Made Christmas Special at Crossroads

Thank you to everyone who **decorated the sanctuary** and ordered the poinsettias that adorned the altar for the Advent/Christmas season. This went a long way to bringing the spirit into the sanctuary.

The members of the Wesley Class thank you for all the wonderful toys and games you donated for the **Wesley Community Service Center** again this year. This has been a special mission project that they have sponsored for many years. One of their deceased members, Lee Lewis, made the manger and they look forward to filling it with love gifts throughout the year and again next Christmas.

**The Advent Choir** did a beautiful job presenting their special Christmas Worship Music each Sunday during the 11:00 AM services, and the **We Praise Band** also brought beautiful music during the second Sunday worship service, and The Ballet Troop did a fantastic job during the third Sunday service. Many thanks to Joyce, Shaun, Mark, and Ellen.



United  
Women  
in Faith

The Crossroads **United Women in Faith** had an Executive meeting on Sunday Jan 28<sup>th</sup> after church in the Social Hall. They discussed plans for the new year, and they will be shared in the near future.

Remember, both of our Circles would be happy to have new members. Think about it!



**Crossroads' Dance Team** has weekly practice on every Saturday of the month. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



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



## What Is Lent and Why Does It Last Forty Days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan, and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*



## Crossroads' Food Pantry is a Blessing to the Community

**Crossroads' Food Pantry** is open on **Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. Monetary donations would be helpful to be able to buy foods from other sources.

If you would like to help in the Food Pantry on Tuesdays, contact David Lutz and he can tell you when you would be needed.



## February Prayer List

-keep these members in your prayers-

Connie Holland  
Iris Jennings  
Vance McEachern, Jr.  
Kathy McLaughlin  
Debbie Wright

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

## Time to Order Easter Flowers



Information and deadline for ordering **Easter flowers** will be in the bulletin in just a few weeks. But it is not too early to start thinking about your dedications. We would like the Easter altar to look as beautiful as our Christmas altar.

## Upcoming Events:

- **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
- **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- **Communion Sunday** – February 4 – 11:00 AM
- **Circle of Friends** – Tuesday, February 6 – 7:00 PM
- **Pastor's Bible Study** – Wednesday, February 7, 21, 28 – 7:00 PM
- **Circle of Grace** – Wednesday, February 14 – 6:00 PM
- **Ash Wednesday** – February 14
- **First Sunday of Lent** – Sunday, February 18
- **We Praise Sunday** – February 18 – 11:00 AM
- **Girl Scout Cookie Orders Due** – Sunday, February 18
- **Leadership Circle** – February 20 – 7:00 PM

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



## Girl Scouts are Taking Orders for their Yummy Cookies

**Girl Scout Troop 644** meets at Crossroads UMC. Their leader is Nicole Leonard. They are ramping up for Cookie Season! Below you will find the different varieties of cookies they will be selling along with the price.

**Joyce Dignard** has volunteered to be the liaison to the troop for this endeavor. If you would like to order cookies, see Joyce. The deadline to order is February 18. Payment is due when you order. The cookies will be available in the early part of March.

<b>Adventurefuls®</b> \$5.00 Indulgent brownie-inspired cookies with caramel flavored crème and a hint of sea salt Approximately 15 cookies per 6.3 oz. pkg. 	<b>Tagalongs®</b> \$5.00 Crispy cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating Approximately 15 cookies per 6.5 oz. pkg. 
<b>Lemon-Ups®</b> \$5.00 NATURALLY FLAVORED WITH OTHER NATURAL FLAVORS Crispy lemon cookies baked with inspiring messages to lift your spirits Approximately 12 cookies per 6.2 oz. pkg. 	<b>Thin Mints®</b> \$5.00 Crisp, chocolaty cookies made with natural oil of peppermint Approximately 30 cookies per 1/2 oz. pkg. made with vegan ingredients 
<b>Trefoils®</b> \$5.00 Iconic shortbread cookies inspired by the original Girl Scout recipe Approximately 38 cookies per 9 oz. pkg. 	<b>Girl Scout S'mores®</b> \$6.00 Graham sandwich cookies with chocolaty and marshmallowy flavored filling Approximately 16 cookies per 8.5 oz. pkg. made with natural flavors 
<b>Do-ci-dos®</b> \$5.00 Oatmeal sandwich cookies with peanut butter filling Approximately 20 cookies per 8 oz. pkg. made with natural flavors 	<b>Toffee-tastic®</b> \$6.00 GLUTEN-FREE Rich, buttery cookies with sweet, crunchy toffee bits Approximately 14 cookies per 6.7 oz. pkg. no artificial flavors 
<b>Samoas®</b> \$5.00 Crisp cookies with caramel, coconut, and dark chocolaty stripes Approximately 15 cookies per 7.5 oz. pkg. 	<b>All of our cookies have:</b> • NO High-Fructose Corn Syrup • NO Partially Hydrogenated Oils (PHOs) • Zero Grams Trans Fat per Serving • RSPO Certified (Mass Balance) Palm Oil • Halal Certification <b>Little Brownie BAKERS.</b> tear along the dotted line 