

crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]



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 \$17.00 each – checks made out to “Crossroads UWF”. The deadline for placing orders is **Sunday, December 1**. 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 **sanctuary** looks beautiful. Thank you to everyone who helped “**hang the greens**” on November 23. 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 8th**. 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 8**. 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.



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Our Breakthrough Prayer

Please remember to pray our Breakthrough Prayer daily.

Dear God,
you have put us at these crossroads for a purpose.
Help us to keep our lights shining
amid the challenges we face
so that we may help others find their way. Amen



Join Us 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.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your commitment to Crossroads United Methodist Church's *Live a God-Pleasing Life!* stewardship program!

Our Christian mission is lived through each of us. Our ministries happen because people give of themselves – through being part of a ministry or committee, working with our outreach programs, working with our children, organizing events, or praying for the needs of fellow members and for Crossroads. By giving of your time and talents to your church, you are being a disciple and following in Jesus' footsteps.

For those who made a financial commitment, your generosity will support our ministries, our liturgical celebrations, our staff and maintenance needs and much more. We will strive to keep you and the entire congregation informed of the work of our ministries throughout the year, so you can see your contributions in action.

Thank you for sharing your blessings and being a partner in this journey of faith. Thank you again for all you do for our church!

In Christ,
Pastor Michael Cuffee

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

Thank You for your Commitment, Involvement, and Generosity

Although our culture makes every attempt to conform us to its worldly ways, as Christians we persevere and cling to our faith, for the one who is in us is greater than all the forces of evil in the world (1 John 4:4). We live in this world, but we are not of this world (John 17:14). By God's grace, he makes our ways become his ways. By his grace, he gives us power to acknowledge him as Creator and Provider of all things. By his grace, he empowers us to fulfill his purpose for our lives. By his grace, he forgives us when we lose our way and restores us again to himself.

It is only because of your commitment, involvement, and generosity to our church that we are able to share the Gospel with both the church and the unchurched. Thank you for the generous giving of your time, talents, and treasures to God through our church. Through your giving, the Gospel is preached, our ministry goes forward, we are blessed, and God is glorified.

God calls and equips us to be generous people. Through his Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit transforms us into people who "Live a God-pleasing Life."

May God bless you as you faithfully manage all the blessings he has entrusted to your care.

In God's love,
Georgia Garrison, Stewardship Chair

Do You Have or Do You Need 2025 Calendars?

If anyone has received **promotional calendars** that they will not be using in **2025**, please place them in the narthex on the right-hand side for others who might need them.



We Praise Band
will bring songs of Joy & Praise to the December 15 Worship Service.



All Saints Day was observed on Sunday, November 3 during our 11:00 AM worship service. This is a day we honored those who have hallowed this earth by their prayers and by the way they walked in the light of God. Let us continue to remember:

*Donald Anderson
Judy Harrell
Virginia Hier
Viola Higgins
Charles Kelly
Vance McEachern
Charles Morton
Ronnie Perkins
John Redd*



The Crossroads **United Women in Faith** would like to thank everyone who supported their projects for the end of the year. The poinsettias go a long way to bring joy to our sanctuary. And 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 – Portsmouth Unit your UWF have partnered with Portsmouth Social Services' **Operation Santa** to help bring joy to the 42 children in Foster Care. They have received the children's wish lists and will make their presentation of gifts to PSS on Friday, December 6th @ 10:00 AM. 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** in the first part of the year to make plans for 2025. 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!

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

The Mood of Christmas

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.



Crossroads' Dance Team has weekly practice every Saturday of the month, but not on December 14, 21 and 28. Their performance for **December will be on the 8th**.

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**. Thank you to everyone who helped them purchase turkeys for their Thanksgiving bags. As the printing of this newsletter, they were able to obtain 40 turkeys!!

They continue to ask for gently used cold weather items such as sweatshirts, jackets, and coats to prepare for wintertime. No other clothes are needed currently.

Anything you can do for this program would be a blessing to this ministry and to the people who are served. They could use help filling the bags on Monday mornings. See David Lutz for more information.



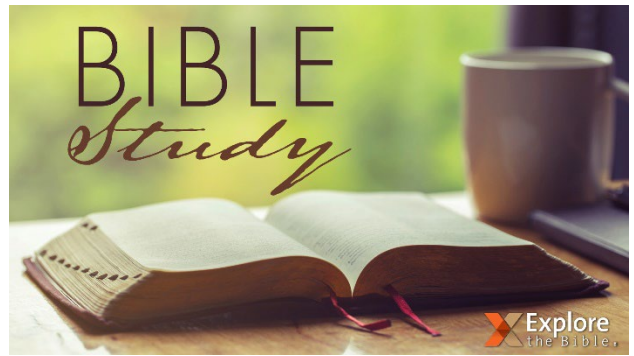
Upcoming Events for December:

- ❑ **Choir Practice** – Sundays after church
- ❑ **We Praise Practice** – Mondays – 7:00 PM
- ❑ **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- ❑ **Pastor Bible Study** – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – 7:00 PM
- ❑ **Ladies Bible Study** – Thursdays – 10:30 AM
- ❑ **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM [no ballet on December 14, 21 or 28; They will resume on January 4]
- ❑ **First Sunday of Advent** – December 1
- ❑ **Communion Sunday** – December 1 – 11:00 AM
- ❑ **Deadline for Poinsettia orders** – Sunday, December 1
- ❑ **Church Women United** – Operation Santa – Friday, December 6
- ❑ **Circle of Friends Christmas Social** – Tuesday, December 3 – 6:00 PM
- ❑ **Second Sunday of Advent** – December 8
- ❑ **Deadline for Manger of Love donations** – Sunday, December 8
- ❑ **Ballet Performance** – Sunday, December 8 – 11:00 AM
- ❑ **Birthday Party for Jesus** – December 8
- ❑ **We Praise Sunday** – December 15 – 11:00 AM
- ❑ **Third Sunday of Advent** – December 15
- ❑ **Church Council meeting** – December 17 – 7:00 PM
- ❑ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** – December 22
- ❑ **Christmas Day** – December 25



Upcoming Events for January:

- ❑ **Choir Practice** – Sundays after church
- ❑ **We Praise Practice** – Mondays – 7:00 PM
- ❑ **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- ❑ **Pastor Bible Study** – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – 7:00 PM
- ❑ **Ladies Bible Study** – Thursdays – 10:30 AM
- ❑ **Disciples of Men Impovered Bible Study** – Thursdays beginning January 2
- ❑ **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
- ❑ **Communion Sunday** – January 5 – 11:00 AM
- ❑ **We Praise Sunday** – January 19 – 11:00 AM
- ❑ **The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday observance** – January 20 – office closed
- ❑ **Church Council meeting** – January 21 – 7:00 PM



Our Weeks are Filling with Bible Studies!

Crossroads has three Bible Studies going on currently. Alleluia!!

1. Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM – the Ladies Bible Study is led by Ruth Gilmore. They are working their way through the book The Coming Age: 31 Ways to be Kingdom Ready by David Jeremiah.
2. 1st & 3rd Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM – the Wednesday Night Bible Study is working their way through the Bible. They started with Genesis and have completed up to Leviticus. They will be getting into Number next. Susan Cohen is the unofficial leader.
3. Thursday nights – the Men's Bible Study – begins January 2nd. They will be supporting each other through Disciples of Men Impovered. This will be led by Steve Rapp.

If any of these interest you and you want to know more, contact their leaders.

December/January Prayer List

-continue to keep these members in your prayers-

Lila Cox
Pastor Michael Cuffee
Donald Garrison
Joyce Geluz
Iris Jennings
Kathy McLaughlin
Kay Perkins
Debbie Wright
Robert Wright (deployed)

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.



Crossroads' Budget Update - ???

Needed weekly = \$3,000
 Offering received during the 4 weeks in October = \$6793