

# crossroads circuit rider



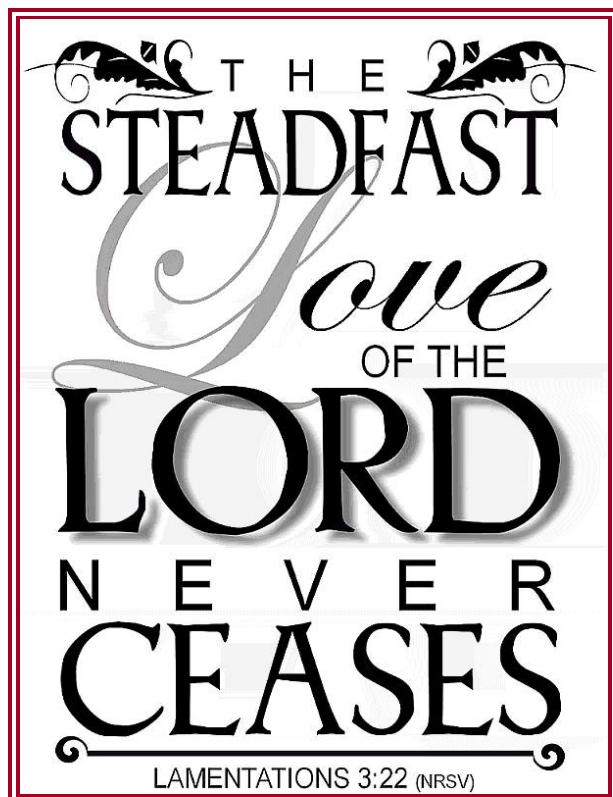
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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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February 2025 No. E-25-a



You will see a few **new items** on our calendar **for the year 2025**. They include more socialization amid our congregation, and it is hoped that you will take part in them.

**Holy Grounds Café** – Each Sunday morning, beginning at 10:00 AM there will be time to make yourself a cup of coffee, cocoa, or tea and socialize before worship begins. Everything is set up in the narthex for your convenience. Each second Sunday of the month Pastor Mike will be there so you can have “Coffee with Cuffee”.

**Game Night** – On the fourth Wednesday of each month the Social Hall will be set up for us to gather and play games together. This will begin at 6:30 PM and end no longer than 8:00 PM. Games mentioned were Bunco, Pictionary, Dominoes. If you have a game that you think we would enjoy, let Susan Cohen know about it.

**Birthday Luncheon** – Once a quarter we will have a covered dish lunch after church to celebrate your birthday. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. If you have a birthday during the first quarter of the year / January, February, March / then you will be celebrated on February 2. If you have a birthday during the second quarter / April, May, June / then you will be celebrated on May 4. If you have a birthday during the third quarter / July, August, September / then you will be celebrated on August 3. If you have a birthday during the fourth quarter / October, November, December / then you will be celebrated on November 2.

Doesn't that sound fun!?! Put them on your calendar now so you won't miss out.

## Our Breakthrough Prayer

*Please pray this 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/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurch)  
Portsmouth.



*We Praise Band*  
will bring songs of  
Joy & Praise to the  
February 16  
Worship Service.



The Crossroads **United Women in Faith** had an Executive Board meeting on the last Sunday of January. They discussed plans for the new year and will be sharing them in the near future.

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!

## February Prayer List

-continue to keep these members in your prayers-

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

*If you know of a church member that would appreciate our prayers, send your request to [queenbeez@cox.net](mailto:queenbeez@cox.net).*

## Crossroads has two **Bible Studies** going on currently. Alleluia!!

1. 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Leviticus. They will be getting into Numbers next. Susan Cohen is the unofficial leader.
2. Thursday nights has **Mentoring Men in Discipleship**. They will be supporting each other with a yearlong Bible Study from Max Lucado – “Experiencing the Heart of Jesus”. This will be led by Steve Rapp.

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



## 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 by donating coats and other warm clothing. They were much appreciated.

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 February:

- **Choir Practice** – Sundays after church
- **We Praise Practice** – Mondays – 7:00 PM
- **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- **Wednesday Bible Study** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – 7:00 PM
- **Mentoring Men in Discipleship Bible Study** – Thursdays – 6:00 PM
- **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
- **Holy Grounds Café** – Sundays – 10:00 AM
- **Communion Sunday** – February 2 – 11:00 AM
- **Birthday Luncheon** – February 2 – after church
- **Circle of Friends** – Tuesday, February 4 – 7:00 PM
- **Cleanup the Church** – Saturday, February 8 – 10:00 AM
- **Circle of Grace** – Wednesday, February 12 – 6:00 PM
- **We Praise Sunday** – February 16 – 11:00 AM
- **Leadership “SAS” meeting** – February 16 – after church
- **Game Night** – Wednesday, February 26 – 6:30 PM

## Crossroads' Budget Update - ???

Needed weekly = \$3,000  
Offering received for December = \$7492  
Rental Income = \$350  
Books for Mentoring Bible Study = \$300

## The SAS Leadership Team was Appointed for 2025

The Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) was introduced to the congregation on Sunday, December 22. They will comprise Crossroads' Leadership Team. They are:

Pastor Michael Cuffee  
Georgia Freeman  
Susan Cohen  
Rev. Roderick Clayton  
Georgia Garrison  
Joyce Dignard  
Steve Rapp  
Jay Wright  
Elaine Brinkley  
Andy Brockinton

-with Tom Boettcher & Lynn Stitt as alternates

They will meet on the third Sundays in the Social Hall immediately after worship ends.

To explain it further: Simplified Accountable Structure is a **nine-member Leadership Board that combines the Finance Committee, Trustees, Staff-Parish Committee, and Administrative Council into one leadership group**. This structure moves churches from four administrative committees to one Leadership Board, which covers all the administrative functions in the church and provides an alignment of authority, accountability, and responsibility in accordance with the Book of Discipline for the UMC.



## District Training was Postponed Due to the First Area Snow

The Coastal Virginia District Ministry Team is happy to once again offer in-person **2025 District Training Weekend**. The weekend will be split into two locations with exciting workshops for each location. Our guest speaker is Dr. Ashley Boggan D., General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History.

The location nearest to us will be at New Creation UMC in Chesapeake meeting on March 1, 2025. The second location will be Grace UMC in Parksley on March 2, 2025. We have several people registered to attend.

## Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

Someone asked Daniel Webster, "What is the greatest thing that has ever come to your mind?" He pondered a bit and replied in a simple and brief comment. "A sense of my responsibility to God."

Webster had served in Congress, as a Senator and U.S. Secretary of State and the greatest thought he had ever had was his responsibility to God.

This gives me direction for my life and I hope it will for you too! My responsibility to God for my talents; my responsibility to God for influencing the lives around me; my responsibility to God for my possessions; my responsibility to God for the inner nature of my life! All these and more!

What do you think about? Are you using your God-given talents for the purpose God gave them to you for? Are you influencing the lives around you to live a more Christ-centered life? Are you using your possessions to help others?

Our world would be changed significantly if we would have a "sense of responsibility to God".

***Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.  
(Romans 14:12)***

Grace and peace to you,  
The Foundation Team



VIRGINIA  
UNITED METHODIST  
FOUNDATION

## Thank You for Your Donations that You Placed in the Manger of Love During Advent

The Manger of Love was overflowing with donations for the children of Portsmouth. They were originally designated to go to the Wesley Community Center but with it having to close during that time a decision was made to give them to the Up Center. They were greatly appreciated, and we wanted to let you know the outcome of this tradition at Crossroads.

For current photos and news updates,  
check us out at

<http://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth>