

crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

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March 2025 No. E-25-b



Please join us for our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on **Tuesday, March 4th** at 6:00 PM. No reservations are needed but donations will be accepted.



Crossroads will hold its **Ash Wednesday Observance** on **March 5th**. You can come anytime during the hours of **10 AM-2 PM and 4-6 PM**. At this time there will be the imposition of ashes by Pastor Mike, 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



**Daylight Saving Time
Begins on
Sunday, March 9**

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on **Saturday, March 9** so as to arrive at church at the correct time the next day.

Crossroads' Budget Update

Needed monthly = \$12,000
Offering received for January = \$4312
Rental Income = \$1435
Food Pantry = \$85



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

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



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 has helped by donating coats and other warm clothing. The weather is still cool so anything would still be appreciated.

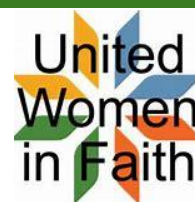
Anything you can do for this program would be a blessing to this ministry and to the people who are served. They could use help filling the bags on Monday mornings. See David Lutz for more information.



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

For current photos and news updates, check us out at

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



The Crossroads **United Women in Faith** will have their first General Meeting of the year on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.

Their first fundraiser will be the dedication of Easter flowers. The information will be available soon.

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

The Manger of Love will be Collecting for Health Kits at this Time

The Manger of Love will be open at this time for the collection of items for the **VA Conference Health Kits**. Items to be collected are:

- **Hand towels** (15" X 25" up to 17" X 27") – not a kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **Wash clothes** – not a kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **Combs** – sturdy 4"-7" – not a pocket comb or a comb with a handle
- **Toenail or fingernail clippers** – no emery boards or metal nail files
- **Bath-size soap** (3 oz. bar or larger) – no Ivory or Jergen's soap – do not remove from packaging
- **Adult toothbrushes** – personal advertising not acceptable – do not remove from packaging
- **Adhesive bandages** (3/4 X 3 inches) – common household bandages acceptable
- **One-gallon size resealable bags**

Other important pieces of information are as follows: All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new. Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

The United Women in Faith will see that these items are appropriately packaged and delivered to the Annual VA Conference in June.

March 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)



Game Night @ Crossroads!

6:30 PM in the Social Hall

Wednesday, February 26
This month we'll play Bingo!

Wednesday, March 26
This month we'll play Pictionary!

Stewardship Corner

-submitted by Georgia Garrison-

10 Tips for a More Meaningful Lent

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy as a sign of contrition for mistakes they have made. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find different ways of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

1. **Apologize to someone.** Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.
2. **Perform random acts of kindness.** Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.
3. **Delve into a book of the Bible.** In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.
4. **Serve people in need.** Volunteer to serve an organization throughout the season of Lent.
5. **Visit the lonely.**
6. **Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount (available online).** Reading these sermons will give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.
7. **Tell others you love them.**
8. **Throw a party for everyone.** Host your own Kingdom party by cooking for the neighborhood or buying lunch for the entire office or your church. Feed everyone you can and give people an opportunity to be together.
9. **Serve in worship.** Our church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as liturgist, assist with our PowerPoint, volunteer for the nursery. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts.
10. **Say "thank you".** Send a note of gratitude each week during lent to one of the people who have shaped you into the person you are. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. You may even consider a small gift.

*There are many ways to be observant during Lent.
Be original. Find yours.*

-adapted from a UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino-

There are 2 Bible Studies Going On

1. 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 Leviticus. They are into the book of Numbers currently. Susan Cohen is the unofficial leader.
2. Thursday nights from 6:00 PM till 7:00 PM 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.



Joys, Thanks, & News

Tommy Livingston has changed his residence. His new address will be: 500 Masonic Lane, Unit #5
Richmond, VA 23223-4959
Correspondence would be appreciated.

If anyone has news to share, let the editor know.

Upcoming Calendar for March:

- **Choir Practice** – Sundays at 10:30 AM and immediately after church
- **We Praise Practice** – Mondays – 7:00 PM
- **Food Pantry** – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM till noon
- **Wednesday Bible Study** – 1st & 3rd 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
- **Coastal District Training Event @ New Creation UMC** – Saturday, March 1 – 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
- **Communion Sunday** – March 2 – 11:00 AM
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** – Tuesday, March 4 – 6:00 PM
- **Ash Wednesday** – March 5 – receive your ashes during the following times: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM & 4:00–6:00 PM
- **Daylight Saving Time Begins** – Sunday, March 9
- **1st Sunday in Lent** – March 9
- **Circle of Grace** – Wednesday, March 12 – 6:00 PM
- **2nd Sunday in Lent** – March 16
- **We Praise Sunday** – March 16 – 11:00 AM
- **Leadership "SAS" meeting** – March 16 – after church
- **3rd Sunday in Lent** – March 23
- **Game Night / Pictionary** – Wednesday, March 26 – 6:30 PM
- **4th Sunday in Lent** – March 30
- **Ballet Performance** – Sunday, March 30 – 11:00 AM
- **Refreshments after church for All** – Sunday, March 30