

# crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]



December 2025-January 2026 No. E-25-j



## 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 7**. Complete this form and place in box in narthex / give to Susan Cohen / send to [queenbeez@cox.net](mailto: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 22. 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 canned foods, fruit cups, spaghetti sauce, rice, pasta, instant potatoes, mac & cheese, ramen noodles, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, potato chips, cookies, cakes, oil, gravy, diapers [size 3,4,5,6 only], pullups [size 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T only] as well as cash donations for the Shining Light Homes Ministry. It will be on display through **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## 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...  
But We Need Your Help!**

**Crossroad's Food Pantry** is open on **Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. Thank You to all who continue to donate items for our "Food Pantry Sunday" or help in any way. The third Sunday of each month has been designated as a day to help our food pantry. The item being asked for on...

**December 21 is Peanut Butter & Jelly  
January 18 is Canned Meats**

We are asking each person who reads this to bring an item and place it on the communion rail or put a donation in the plate or in the glass bottle.

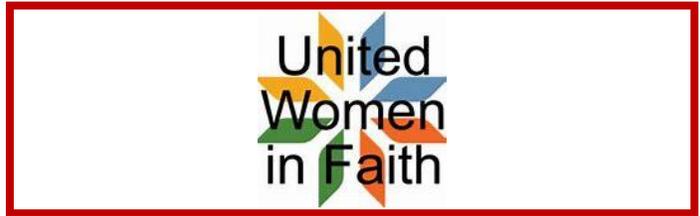
Your donations are a blessing. You don't have to wait until Food Pantry Sunday to bring donations to church. When you go food shopping for yourself, throw a few extra things in your cart and bring them to church on any Sunday. Cash donations are also accepted to purchase additional items as well.

Not only is the food portion greatly utilized, but we have now formed a tremendous **Clothes Closet**. Your help is truly needed in bringing in clothes that you no longer need – useable, of course.

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



The **We Praise** Band will bring songs of Joy & Praise to the December 21 & January 18 Worship Services.



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!

Their new officers for 2026 are:

- President - Nancy Clark
- Vice President - Connie Lane
- Secretary - Elaine Brinkley
- Treasurer - Georgia Garrison

Mission Coordinators:

- Spiritual Growth - Joyce Dignard
- Education & Interpretation - Janet Day
- Social Action - Susan Cohen
- Membership, Nurture, Outreach - Carol Vico

In conjunction with Church Women United – Portsmouth Unit your UWF have partnered with Portsmouth Social Services' **Operation Santa** to help bring joy to the 55 children in Foster Care. They have received the children's wish lists and will make their presentation of gifts to PSS on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 AM. At this time, everyone will meet at Third Baptist Church, 461 Godwin Street, Portsmouth to present their gifts to PSS. Join in for this meaningful service.

The **District Advent Celebration** will be held at the Wesley Community Center on Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 AM. They are asking for donations of coats at this time.

Your UWF will have an **executive meeting** in the first part of the year to make plans for 2026. 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!



**Ballet Troupe**

**Crossroads' Ballet Troupe** has weekly practice 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. Their next performance is set for December 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be **refreshments in the Social Hall after church and the congregation is asked to attend.**

Anyone who would like more information or would like to register their child can contact the church office at 757-397-7815 and give their child's name, age, and phone number.

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



### Upcoming Events for December:

- **Choir Practice** – Sundays at 10:30 AM and after church
- **Wesley SS Class** – Sundays – 9:45 AM
- **Holy Grounds Café** – Sundays – 10:00 AM
- **We Praise Practice** – Thursdays – 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
- **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
- **First Sunday of Advent** – November 30
- **Circle of Friends Christmas Social** – Tuesday, December 2 – 6:00 PM
- **Church Women United** – Operation Santa – Friday, December 5
- **Communion Sunday** – December 7 – 11:00 AM
- **Deadline for Poinsettia orders** – Sunday, December 7
- **SAS Leadership meeting** – December 7 – after church
- **Second Sunday of Advent** – December 7
- **Deadline for Manger of Love donations** – Sunday, December 7
- **Ballet Performance/Refreshments afterwards** – Sunday, December 14 – 11:00 AM
- **We Praise Sunday** – December 21 – 11:00 AM
- **Third Sunday of Advent** – December 14
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent** – December 21
- **Christmas Day** – December 25



### Upcoming Events for January:

- **Choir Practice** – Sundays at 10:30 AM and after church
- **We Praise Practice** – Thursdays – 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
- **Ballet** – Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
- **Communion Sunday** – January 4 – 11:00 AM
- **We Praise Sunday** – January 18 – 11:00 AM
- **The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday observance** – January 19 – office closed
- **SAS Leadership meeting** – January 18 – after church

## Crossroads' Prayer List

-continue to keep these friends in your prayers-

Terry Byrd  
 Lila Cox  
 Pastor Michael Cuffee  
 Donald Garrison  
 Georgia Garrison  
 Iverson Garrison  
 Iris Jennings  
 Kathy McLaughlin  
 Debbie Wright



### 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 excel in the grace of giving.

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

## Crossroads' Budget Update

Needed monthly = \$12,000  
 Offering received as of November 9 = \$8,342.34  
 Food Pantry = \$365  
 Rental Income = \$1350



## Joys, Thanks, and News

Iverson and Georgia Garrison have moved as of November 8 and have a new mailing address. It is as follows:

Iverson & Georgia Garrison  
Harmony at Harbour View  
5871 Harbour View Blvd, A220  
Suffolk, VA 23435



## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Crossroads is in the planning phase to open an After School Program to service the students from Westhaven Elementary School. It will be open from around 4:30 till 7:00 PM. If you would like to volunteer on certain afternoons, see Pastor Mike.

**Christmas Wordsearch #1**  
All words run horizontally or vertically.

A	S	N	O	W	M	A	N
C	B	N	C	U	O	L	R
C	N	O	A	T	N	A	S
H	N	B	R	M	Y	D	T
U	O	B	D	K	L	V	A
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R
C	L	R	E	L	F	N	A
H	A	F	S	B	E	T	E

reindeer	advent
Santa	Noel
star	ribbon
card	elf
church	snowman

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**All Saints Day** was observed on Sunday, November 2 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:

*Annette Green  
Doris Lewis  
Janice Melton  
Petey Peters  
Madileane Williams*

