



Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church COURIER

Vol. 115

4222 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA,
22802

December 2020

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Seth A. Normington

Music Director

Sarah Layman Graf

Organist

Teresa Simmers

Nursery Coordinator

Kathy Lyons

Office Manager

Martha Shank

Custodian

Jean Will

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Connect with Us

540-867-5117

cooks creekpres@gmail.com

cooks creekchurch.org

facebook.com/cooks creekpres

JOIN US FOR

Join us on Christmas Eve for a meaningful candle light service. We will have two services so that we can accommodate as many as would like to come. We are asking that you RSVP as to which service you will attend, and how many will be sitting with you. You can either email cooks creekpres@gmail.com, call 540-867-5117, or go [here](#) to sign up.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



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RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

We are so blessed by our generous and gracious God. In a year that has seen unexpected and tragic loss, we are right to mourn, lament, and even be angry. And yet if we stay at a place of anger and paralysis, we will fail to glorify God and appreciate this moment we have been given.

Cont. on page 4

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



	Acolytes	Hospitality	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery Care	Preschool Care
6			Collin Wallace	Natalie & Brian Boccock	Natalie & Brian Boccock	Robin & Skip Wallace
13			Braeden Wallace	Katherine Lyons & Pam Boccock	Rachel & Matt Switzer	Katherine Lyons & Dianne Brown
20			Karen Moats	Katherine Lyons & Ashley Hughes	Whitney & Paul Eberly	Jennifer Fadeley & Katherine Lyons
27			Collin Wallace	Nancy & Craig Miller	Lee Anne & Donald Biller	Autumn & Hunter Barnett

Dates to Remember:

- 17 - Food Pantry 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- 20 - Christmas Program
- 24 - Drive-thru Communion 4:00 - 4:30 pm
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5:00 and 7:00 pm
- 27 - Braeden Wallace preaching
- 28 - Session at 6:30



Greeter/Elder on Call:

Karen Moats - 540-476-2022
Adonica Miller - 540-820-0820

Bus Driver: Brad Miller

Attendance Last Month

Nov.	SS	Worship
1	18	54
8	41	77
15	44	86
22	22	68
29	—	88

We also have had an average of 100 people watching online each Sunday.

Prayer Corner

Luanne May	Bowman's sister)
Lois Burkholder (Norma Bowman's sister)	Barbara Ritchie (Wanda Ritchie's daughter in law)
Jerry and Charlsie Miller	Jean Ratcliff
Ken McNulty	Sue Haley
Terry and Linda Morris	Annie Lucas
Carolyn Stilwell (Carole's daughter in law)	Carolyn and Eddy Wampler-loss of their
Lois Burkholder (Norma	sister, June Craun

Session

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Dianne Brown	Chad Barnett	Mark Williams
Mary Etta Cornett	Tom Boccock	Terry Morris
Phyllis Simmons	Bob Scott	Jim Suter
Dick Travis	Adonica Miller	Brad Miller
Karen Moats	Don Myers	Becky Pierce

Open Doors

Open Doors started the season housing the homeless on October 5th at Brethren Woods Camp and Retreat. The program moved to the old Red Front Supermarket building on November 5th and will remain there until April 2021.

CCPC will be hosting Open Doors on the following dates at Red Front:

- December 28, 2020 – January 3, 2021
- March 8 – 14, 2021

Please mark these dates on your calendar. We are lining up groups/individuals/families to provide and/or serve evening meals only. All food prep must be completed at our church or in your homes.

Please contact Linda Smith at 540-421-6632 if you would be willing to provide a meal and/or be willing to help serve if others aren't comfortable doing so. Guests go through a screening and are required to wear masks when not eating/drinking or in their assigned beds. All volunteers have their temperature taken and are required to wear masks. Volunteers work behind a plexiglass shield and have no physical contact with the guests. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Adonica at 540-820-0820.

Open Doors also needs shelf-stable, pre-packaged breakfast

foods/beverages. Contact Adonica if you'd like to donate.

Salvation Army Kettle Drive

We are seeking individuals, families, and groups to man the red kettle and ringing the bell at the Shenandoah Heritage Farmer's Market (Carpenter Dr. off Rte. 11 south) on December 12th (only two hourly time slots remain at the time this report was written; December 5th is filled). This location will provide shelter from the rain and still be located in the fresh air of the outdoors. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entrance to the fellowship hall (please include a phone number). Someone will be at a table to sign you up. If not, contact Adonica at 540-820-0820.

Back-Pack Program Update

Since MVES decided not to participate in the Backpack program, we are again this year allocating these funds to purchase the side dishes and dessert for the Christmas meal that the Turner Ashby High School and Wilber Pence Middle School Backpack programs send home with their food insecure students. A local poultry company furnishes the entrée, and we are providing the rest.

Dick Miller Fund

Requests for assistance are still being screened. Please remember this fund in your giving.

Prayer Ministry

"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

The word Advent in Latin is adventus, meaning "coming." Beginning November 29th, and for the next four Sundays, churches around the world will begin to celebrate Advent by preparing and celebrating the real meaning of Christmas, the coming of Jesus as a baby into this world. As you leave the sanctuary on November 29th, families are welcome to take home an Advent Wreath kit to assemble as a reminder as why we celebrate Advent. Use your Bible to look up the scriptures associated with each candle.

HOPE – prophecy, Isaiah 9:6-7, Romans 5:5

PEACE – inner peace, trusting God's promises, Proverbs 3:5, John 14:27

JOY – shepherds experienced, Psalm 51:12, Luke 2:8-20

LOVE – God and your neighbor, John 3:16, Matthew 22:37, 38

During this Advent season pray for hope, peace, joy, and love because God sent His only begotten son, Jesus, to save the world.

Merry Christmas!

*Blessings,
Becky Pierce
Mary Ruth Circle*



RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

If you find yourself in a place of anger or fear this day, pray along with me that you would be released from that anger and fear, process your emotions, and open your eyes to the glory that the Lord is surrounding us with in this season. God has given us so much and continues to unfold the wonders of this earth and her people before us. Let us be thankful and celebrate the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This month in worship, we will be looking at the biblical and theological foundations of some of classic Advent and Christmas hymns.

December 6

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
John 3:1-21 and 2 Corinthians
5:11-21

December 13

The First Noel
Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:8-21

December 20

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Psalm 136 and Matthew 1:18-23

December 24

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Micah 5:1-6 and 1 Corinthians
1:26-31

We will then be blessed with Braeden Wallace preaching for us on December 27. Plan to join us in-person, online, over the phone, or through the mail as we celebrate Jesus during Advent and Christmas. Contact the office for more information on how to connect with us in worship or go to cooks creekchurch.org.

Blessings,

Seth

Financial Update

Thank you for your continued generosity towards God's work at Cooks Creek!

Our income as of November 25 is \$300,720. This amount includes the \$48,736 given to the Capital Campaign in 2020. Our expenditures in 2020, including capital upgrades, total \$283,482. This leaves us with a 2020 operating surplus of \$17,238. We have raised a total of \$98,747 for the capital campaign and our goal is \$100,000 by the end of the year.

To learn how you can give online, on your mobile device, through the mail, or in-person, please go to cooks creekchurch.org/give or call the office at 540.867.5117.



CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

There will be drive-thru communion available on Christmas Eve from 4:00-4:30 pm for those that are not able to join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Mary Ruth Circle

Due to the continuing increase of Covid-19 and health concerns, the Mary Ruth Circle has decided to wait until September 2021 to continue with our Bible Study. Hope you will join us then!

Stay healthy and happy over the holidays! Wear your mask!

Mary Ruth Circle

Appreciation

The Secret Appreciation Society of Cooks Creek is grateful to the recipients of the monthly awards provided to 12 members of our congregation during 2020. Here are people in our church who go beyond the call of duty. Please give them your thanks!

- January - Sam Ritchie
- February - Gemma Normington
- March - Craig Miller
- April - Kerry Showalter
- May - Patsy Scott
- June - Chad Barnett
- July - Ken McNulty
- August - Tim Higgs
- September - Dianne Brown
- October - Roy Swope
- November - Lee Ann Biller
- December—Terry Morris



Thanks to Our Substitute Lay Preachers

The Worship Team would like to sincerely thank each of our substitute preachers: Dick Travis, Gerald Harper and Brent Showalter for filling in for Pastor Seth during his vacation this past month. Your messages lifted each of us and spoke to our hearts in a unique way. It is encouraging to know that CCPC has such God-inspired talent for ministry. Also, thanks to each of our members who assisted in those services. It is much appreciated.



Our condolences to Jeanie Will in the passing of her sister, Virginia Green, on Saturday, November 21st. Jeanie will be going to Michigan at a later date to gather with family to remember their sister.

Our condolences also to Carolyn Wampler and Eddy Wampler in the passing of their sister, June Craun, on Sunday, November 22nd. No public services are scheduled at this time.





Greetings, my friends, from Haiti, by way of Virginia. I am still here working on behalf of our Haitian partners and enjoying the four seasons. These are hard times across the world, and the U.S. and Haiti are no exceptions. Sadly, violence in Haiti continues: kidnappings, gang warfare and political assassinations occur with startling regularity. We are all relieved when someone who has gone out to visit family, purchase goods in the market or to school returns home safely.

Happily, the COVID-19 pandemic seems under control. While it is impossible to know how many people have perished from the virus, Haiti seems to have weathered the pandemic better than most countries. The government fully and quickly sealed its borders, ports, and airports on March 19, 2020 when the first infection was reported. The border to the Dominican Republic is officially closed except for goods and official business. The airports are open, and passengers must pass a negative virus infection test when they enter the airport.

So, where does this leave the average Haitian?

Families struggle more than ever to put food on the table. Parents skip meals so children can eat. In some places, many people don't eat every day. The World Food Program warns of a coming famine if the security, political, and violent storms continue.

But even in the midst of dire poverty, violence, and a thick air of uncertainty, we, Christians, know that there is good news. God is with us at all times, and when I am facing difficult times, I do my best to remember to recognize God's grace. During these recent crises, like I so often do, I resorted to a real fear that families in some of our hardest hit regions would not survive without an answer to this hunger.

Here is the story of how one answer came through the power of God and in the form of hearts who love Haiti. Where and how is God's grace showing up?

Men and women are working even harder to find funds or raise food. Fondasyon Men-lan-men Ayiti/ Hand in Hand Haiti Foundation (FONDAMA), our partner in Haiti, is initiating a project to help families build and nurture gardens at their home. It is an ambitious project. Fabienne Jean, our coordinator, has applied for a large grant, but it will be months before we hear anything. I shared this great need a few months ago, and you responded, donating almost \$1,000 to FONDAMA through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Thank you! Sadly, the need will continue to grow, especially with the Haitian economy in an uproar, so please continue to give if and when you can.

When they heard about the dire need to feed people in Haiti, members of the Presbyterian Women of The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, VA, who have a community partnership with the community of Gros Morne near Leogane, asked if they could help. They responded to the need by sending several thousand dollars to FONDAMA. The small fund was growing.

Then, in September, I had a conversation with Mary Jane Winter of the Presbytery of the James' Haiti Ministry. The Presbytery of the James has been a faithful partner to FONDAMA and me for years, sending teams to Haiti every year as well as supporting FONDAMA financially. Mary Jane Winter told me there was a possibility that the Presbytery would agree to redirect the funds set aside for travel to Haiti to FONDAMA. The amount available was \$10,000. I called Fabienne. "How much would we need to get the garden project started?" I asked. She hemmed and hawed before she gave me the impossible amount.

We would need at least \$10,000, she sighed. When I shared that the POJ was coming through with just that amount, Fabienne had only one word, "Wow!"

Thanks to the love, support, and creativity of the Presbytery of the James, Fabienne, and members of FONDAMA are developing a budget and an action plan. We have chosen a coordinator, Herve Delisma, who assisted in a similar program after the earthquake of 2010. He will teach families in the hardest-hit areas to reuse old tires, learn how to make compost-rich soil, plant seeds, nurture produce to harvest, and save those seeds for another season.

There is hope in Haiti. It lies in the people who live there who love their neighbors. Hope lies in you, Presbyterians, who respond to the call for help – in large and surprising ways. I rarely have to deliver such a dire report of current events in Haiti. It is even rarer that I can give you the good news – wrapped up in bows of deep gratitude – that we have a plan that will bring God's love directly to our friends in Haiti.

With gratitude,

Cindy



COOKS CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OUTREACH MINISTRY

Keeping in Touch with Members and Friends

One of our most important ministries is to love and care for one another. All of us can participate in this by reaching out with phone calls, cards, visits and prayer. We want to remember the words of our Lord:

"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34



Dennis Early 2/2	Bellaire at Stone Port 1684 Port Hills Dr. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-810-3168	Lois Frye 10/25	White Birch Communities 847 Oakwood Dr. Rockingham, VA 22801 540-236-5918
Tom and Luanne May T 4/11 L 4/29	1235 Quince Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-476-3205	Pam Sonner 3/20	229 Emerson Lane Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-217-0805
Jerry & Charlsie Miller J 7/30 C 3/5	4463 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-908-8316 millerhomestead@comcast.net	Terry & Linda Morris T 4/9 L 3/1	4248 Grattan Price Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-568-8448
Nelson Miller 12/25	Bridgewater Retirement Community Unity House 302 N 2nd St. Bridgewater, VA 22812	Curtis Long 11/23	6868 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-867-5127
Pete & Ann Rhodes P 6/1	624 Erickson Ave. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-9473	CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC	
Wanda Ritchie 1/19	68 Cooks Creek Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-434-1944		
Mary Ann Brown 6/1	Bridgewater Retirement Community Assisted Living Room #336 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812 540-564-0640		
Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23	335 Westview Street Dayton, VA 22821 540-879-2257 Eddy – 540-383-5653	Lois Alexander 4/1	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 540-564-3574
Mary Ann Morriss 11/11	Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157	Nelson Alexander 11/24	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Walnut Room 330 540-564-5611
Raymond & Jean Ratcliff R 8/5 J 5/23	5366 Snapps Creek Rd. Singers Glen, VA 22850 540-833-6604	Millie Harman- DeVall 4/15	1285 Shank Drive Apt 323 Harrisonburg, VA 22802
		Jimmy & Evelyn Miller J 5/31 E 4/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303 540-564-6527



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Beginning Balance October 1, 2020

\$14,039.51

DEPOSITS

Individual Contributions	\$205.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$2691.00
Businesses	\$500.00
Total Deposits	\$3,396.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Hamburger	\$358.80
Food Purchases to fill Bags	\$2,248.90
Milk Vouchers (Finder's Keepers 56 gal. - \$198.44 Sharp Shopper 52 gal - \$209.93)	\$408.37
Total Disbursements	\$3,016.07

Balance as of October 31, 2020

\$14,419.44

There's a good balance this month with \$379,93 more than the beginning balance, mainly due to one church's generous contribution, and spending \$1,176.43 less for purchases to fill the bags. We served 52 families approximately 2,205 pounds of food in the pre-packed bags. Each family also received two pounds of hamburger, a package of chicken breasts or legs, an 18-count carton of eggs, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving two loaves. Sadly, this month two people who usually come passed away. We are still doing well with having more monetary contributions than donated food items.

The crew that works in the basement and loaded the food in the cars during the eight months we had drive-thru distribution deserve a special and hearty thanks. The weather was sometimes a problem and they had to shift plans, but they were always prepared and had a smile for everyone. We are prepared to resume registering inside in November. The safety procedures the board approved

two months ago are in place, so both our clients and volunteers should be safe and have confidence that we have done as much as we could to make them feel safe. I have not heard from anyone about whether you have gotten wipes and hand sanitizer to have on hand. Please let me know if you have gotten any of these supplies we will need for at least several months.

We thank the Mt. Clinton UMC for hosting the pantry in October. In November the pantry will be the host and each church will send one person to help with bagging on and distribution.

We thank the Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative for giving us turkey breasts and Charlie Martin for giving us over 200 pounds of deer meat in 2-pound packages to give out In November.

It's so easy to dwell on the difficulties in life, especially when we have been dealing with the coronavirus for months, but like every year at this time, we pause to do a check of our lives and find that blessings abound. Most of the

time these blessings are obvious ones. Several Sundays ago, Pastor Normington at Cooks Creek based his sermon on something that I look at as a blessing. He reminded us of the importance of trust in building community and how important it is for us to be together, to have a presence and show up consistently, whether we think we are personally going to benefit from being there or not.

There is power in being together in community, and we build trust and show love when we choose to be present consistently, choose to love with selfless, sacrificial, unconditional agape love, and choose to use our gifts for our group, our community. Pastor Normington also said that we must be creative in how we are together. He, no doubt, had in mind how we come together and encourage each other in church, especially when not everyone physically comes to church now, but I can't help thinking of this food pantry as community and what a blessing it is to all of us.

Continued on page 7

FOOD PANTRY REPORT, CONT.

We are community and we all are counted on in different, creative ways. Even those who contribute in what seems like isolation are trusted contributors to this small community as well as to the larger community and show up to do their jobs when almost no one knows. It's often dangerous to use names of people because some may be inadvertently left out. However, I'm going to name a few. I know that Judy Hartman is going to clean the pantry every month, and I know that the first of the month, I'm going to get an email with the treasurer's report from Mark Williams, no matter how busy he is. Every month Brenda Moyers is quietly going to send thank-you acknowledgements to all who have made monetary contributions. Dawn and Chad Barnett are going to order the food for the prepacked bags each month and then pick it

up and bring it to the pantry. Phyllis Simmons, Karen and Rodney Shifflett, Anne Heatwole, and Sharon Showalter will be at the pantry to take in food from the churches and to count items for packing. Craig Miller is going to be there on distribution day delivering the bread and meat, and Martha Showalter will be there to receive these items and to oversee the distribution. Diane McCurdy will be there to organize the bagging on Tuesday nights. When COVID became a problem, Rachael Switzer washed the returned bags several weeks, and now Viv Burkholder does this. Linda Smith, Teresa Simmers, Carole Stillwell, Shirley Newman, Sharon Showalter, and Elaine McDorman are counted on to make registration run smoothly and to make those who come to us in need feel a part of the WRF community and that they matter

and are not just people who need food. I hope they feel part of community, too. Jerry Bentz, Ray Heatwole, and Sam Ritchie can be counted on to show up to do whatever is needed such as make special deliveries for us or help with parking lot traffic. Although they need to show up just once a year, volunteers from the churches and Ruritan Clubs are part of community because they show up faithfully when it's their turn to host the pantry. Through the presence and these contributions to the group, acquaintances and friendships have formed. These people get together once a year at the January board meeting but some rarely see the others; yet they all are trusted to do their jobs and that makes them all part of community. What blessings to be grateful for this Thanksgiving!

Bea

A Sacred Summary

The simple shepherds
heard the voice of an angel
and found their Lamb;
the wise men saw the light of a
star and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen



LET IT SNOW!

Create a winter wonderland with this fun craft.



What you need:

- Glass jar with lid but no label
- Laminated photo (that will fit in the jar)
- Small plastic Christmas trinkets
- Hot or waterproof glue
- Container with spout
- 1 cup distilled water
- 3 tsp. glycerin
- Glitter

What you do:

1. Unscrew lid and flip jar upside down. Glue the photo and trinkets to the inside of the lid, standing upright.
2. In a container, mix water and glycerin. Pour the mixture into the jar, leaving space at the top.
3. Spoon in some glitter.
4. When glue is dry, attach the decorated lid tightly. Shake the jar to see "snow" swirl and settle.

Kid's Korner:



Bible Quiz

Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

A. Ethiopia
B. Syria
C. Rome
D. Egypt

Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13)

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13 17 14 6 18 21 21

11 14 12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8 16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1 25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15 25 14 10 12 14

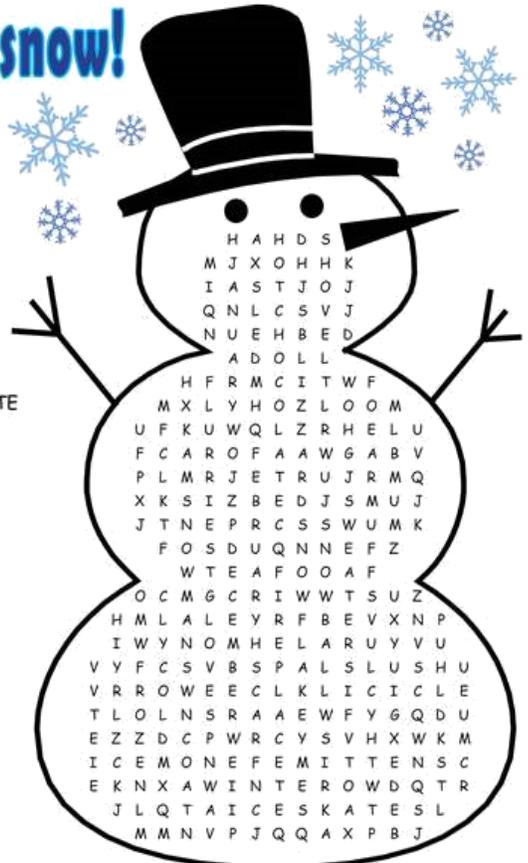
ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV



Let it snow!

- BLIZZARD
- COAT
- COLD
- DECEMBER
- EARMUFFS
- FEBRUARY
- FIREPLACE
- FLURRIES
- FROZEN
- GLOVES
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- ICE
- ICE SKATES
- ICICLE
- JANUARY
- MITTENS
- SCARF
- SHOVEL
- SLED
- SLUSH
- SNOWBALL
- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- SWEATER
- WINTER



Name: _____

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December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Food Pantry 4-6	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser- vice 5 & 7 pm	25 	26
27	28 Courier Deadline OFFICE CLOSED Session @ 6:30 pm	29	30	31		

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Tucker Pence | 23 - Carolyn Pence |
| 3 - Fred Simmons | Eric Browning |
| 5 - Susan Price | 25 - Nelson Miller |
| 9 - Ericka Browning | 27 - Lou Pence |
| 17 - Brent Showalter | 29 - Sue Haley |
| 20 - Donald Custer | 30 - Bret Phillips |
| Seth Normington | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21 - Nancy Norman | 19 - George & Barbara Evans |
| Gary Pency | Craig & Nancy Miller |
| Tyler Showalter | 20 - Andy & Catherine Carrier |
| | 30 - Seth & Gemma Normington |

