

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
4222 Mt. Clinton Pike
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December 2023
Volume 151

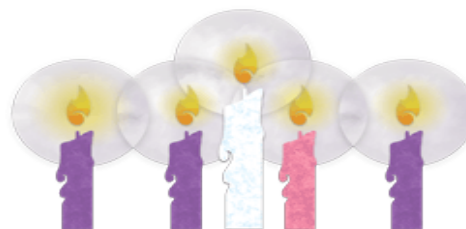


Cooks Creek Courier

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion



Join us on Sunday,
December 24th at 6:30 pm
for a special time of
communion and reflecting
on the reason for this
joyous season.



Upcoming Preachers:

December 3~ Scott Dove

December 10 ~ Ann Held

December 17 ~ Roxanna Atwood

December 24 ~ Larry Hogan

December 31 ~ Jim Dye

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	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery	Pre-school
3	Steve Smith	Kathy Lyons	Paul & Whitney Eberly	Kathy Lyons & Pam Bocock
10	Robin Wallace	Kathy Lyons	Natalie & Brian Bocock	Adonica Miller & Billy
17	Barret Dalrymple	Kathy Lyons	Skip & Robin Wallace	Kathy Lyons & Dianne Reynolds
24	Nancy Myers	Kathy Lyons	Brandon & Jennifer Fadeley	Nancy Miller & Kathy Lyons
31	Tracy Bosserman	Kathy Lyons	Charlie & Shelley Newman	Kathy Lyons

Elders On Call for December: Kate Dudley (540-908-6207) and Gerald Harper (540-434-3327). If you have an urgent need please call the Elder On Call.

ATTENDANCE

November Attendance:

5 SS 23 W 64
 12 SS 27 W 105
 19 SS 29 W 75
 26 SS 23 W 115

We are also thankful for the 30-50 people who faithfully watch online and listen via telephone.



Church Information

Staff

Office Administrator: Sherry Stroop
 Music Director: Megan Zuhowski
 Organist: Teresa Simmers
 Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons

Session

Clerk of Session: Mark Williams

Administration & Property: Brenda Moyers, Brad Miller, Ray Heatwole

Worship & Education: Kate Dudley, Gerald Harper, Don Myers, Skip Wallace

Congregation & Community Care: Fran Smith, Jeff Heatwole, Larry Hogan, Beth Phillips

Church Contacts

Youth Advisor: Becky Pierce
 Cemetery: Brad Miller
 The Sunshine Gang: Craig & Nancy Miller, Bob & Patsy Scott
 Sanctuary Decorations: Jana Miller
 Historian: Nancy Myers



Circleville Assistance:

Based on their Pastor's recommendation, Cooks Creek will be helping one family in Circleville this year that consists of a couple raising 5 of their grandchildren. If you are interested in helping with a monetary donation, please write a check to Cooks Creek and add a note in the memo of "Circleville" by December 10. Viv Burkholder and Jenny Heatwole will do the shopping. Let them know if you have any questions.

Open Doors sign-ups for meals, drivers, and restroom cleaners for our first host week of December 4-11 are on the Connect Table. Set-up/pack-up and supplies/needs sign-up lists are also on the Connect Table. Contact Adonica if you have any questions.

- We will also be hosting February 4-12, 2024.

Ring in the Christmas season at the Shenandoah Heritage Market for the Salvation Army bell ringing! We have the following dates and slots available. Please sign up at the Connect Table.

- December 9 from 10 am—6 pm (Slots are full, Thank you!)
- December 16 from 10 am—6 pm

Dick Miller Fund:

The Dick Miller fund is separate from our operating budget and is used at Cooks Creek to help families who are in a crisis situation. It is funded by your generous donations and provides monetary assistance with the expectation that those requesting funds will be able to pay their bills in the future. It is limited to families living in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Operation Christmas Child Update: Thanks to the generosity of faithful members of CCPC, the youth received enough gift items to fill 36 shoeboxes! Thank you to all who donated!



The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40

Church News

The Youth Christmas Social will be Sunday, December 17 from 11:30-1:30. We will play games and have a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a \$5.00 gift for this event.

Bulletin Handout for 2024: Please consider taking a month in 2024 to hand out bulletins to those entering the sanctuary. The sign-up sheet is on the connect Table. There is no handout needed on the third Sunday since the Youth provide that service. Many thanks!



For the past 8 years, the Secret Appreciation Society of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church has shown its support for church members by providing a monthly Shell gas gift card to express our appreciation for those who have gone beyond the call of duty for CCPC.

Founded in January 2016, the Society has given \$2,400 to individual church members and we are grateful to the 12 award recipients in 2023. These funds do not come from the church budget and are privately provided.

Here are the people in our church who received recognition in 2023:

January—Sue Haley	May—Whitney Eberly	September—David Price
February—Brennan Miller	June—Natasha Blosser	October—Jenny Heatwole
March—Bill Pierce	July—David Weaver	November—Lou Pence
April—Jeff Heatwole	August—Gary Pence	December—Martha Showalter

When you see these recipients, thank them for what they are doing for our church. We appreciate these dozen disciples, who stay on the GO for Cooks Creek! ~Secret Appreciation Society of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church

Prayer Ministry

Please be in prayer for these folks:

- Jimmy Brown ~ treatments for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- Jim Fletcher ~ Leukemia and Hospice Care
- Aaron Evans
- Cindy Suter
- Jillian Shirkey & Family
- Gary Shell & Family ~ He is battling melanoma in the lung
- Jimmy Miller
- Gary Simmers, cancer treatment
- Jeanie Will
- Dylan Heatwole
- Diane & JD's daughter, Brittany, and their grandson, Tucker
- Karen Moats

Prayer Requests?

If anyone in the congregation has any prayer concerns or needs please contact Phyllis Simmons.

pmsimmons4041@comcast.net

540-830-4244 cell

540-867-5238



Love Came

**Love came, held safely within a gentle womb
All the truth, majesty, and creativity of a living God
Poured into a tiny heart
Making a quiet entrance in a dark and uninviting shack
Just one star shone anew as a handful of people were brought
Led by angelic voices, and open hearts
A young mother
A faith-filled father
Men of wisdom who searched for truth
And a group of humble herdsmen
They came to bow before a new life
And acknowledge that the rescuer had arrived
That the Word of God had come alive
And that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth
Had begun**

Julie Palmer, Countryliving.com

A Christmas Prayer for Children

**Dear God,
Thank you for Christmas.
Thank you for all the fun and happiness.
It's good to share food, games and presents.
Thank you for special times with family and friends.
But most of all, we want to
thank you for giving us Jesus.
The greatest present ever.
Your Son, part of you, to be with us.
Thank you for loving us that much.
Help us to remember you this Christmas.
Amen.**

A Christmas prayer www.prayerscapes.com



Food Pantry Report



Beginning Balance October 1 2023	\$37,953.51
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$803.30
Civic Organizations	51.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$899.00
Businesses	\$750.00
Total Deposits	\$2,503.30
DISBURSEMENTS	
Bread	\$159.25
Eggs (Reimbursed by Mt Clinton UMC)	\$253.30
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$3,488.64
Hamburger	\$250.00
Paper Bags	\$159.98
Toilet Tissue	\$622.96
Milk Vouchers (Sharp Shopper—120 gal.)	\$543.12
Produce Vouchers (Bananas \$136.38—Apples \$459.10—Grapes \$209.97)	\$805.45
Total Disbursements	\$6,282.70
Balance as of October 31, 2023	\$34,174.11

The income this month was \$1,575.14 less than last month, but expenses were \$1,476.07 less than last month. The cost of paper bags and hamburger this month were reimbursed by donors, and those contributions are included in the deposits. Milk vouchers were \$84.68 less this month, and produce vouchers were \$168.27 less this month. Last month we served 89 on Thursday night and this month we served 82. Remember that these statistics are based on the number served on Thursday nights, including deliveries, but do not include the emergency bags given during the month. In September we gave 3 families emergency bags, but in October we gave 11 families emergency bags. One who

picks up for another family didn't have transportation on Thursday. One who picks up for two others was in the hospital at UVA Thursday. One who picks up for two others called Thursday night, very sick with a virus diagnosed by the doctor that day. One was new to the pantry but the week before she, with most of the other workers, had been terminated abruptly after working there 24 years and needed a little help until she could get another job. Two families called the week before and said they couldn't come on Thursday, so they came on Saturday morning. These people are very appreciative of getting this food later, and I don't believe they are taking undue advantage of our willingness

Food Pantry Report Continued

to help them. On Thursday night we served 82, but with these emergency bags, we actually served 91 in October.

Approximately 1,734 pounds of food was served in the prepacked bags. In addition to the prepacked bags, each family received 2 pounds of hamburger, 2 dozen eggs, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving two loaves. We thank Mr. Charles Rhodes for about 85 pints of apple butter, a treat for each family.

We thank the Rotary Club for organizing the Great Day of Sharing Food Drive October 20 for a number of food pantries. I believe we received more food this year than we did in other years because of the way it was organized. Karen Shiflet, Sharon Smith, Nancy Miller, and Ken and Lynn McNulty worked the food drive at the Dayton Walmart store that afternoon. Phyllis and Fred Simmons shelved the food with the help of Nancy, Ken, and Lynn when they delivered the food to the pantry. Since it was too late to use the food this month, it will be helpful in November.

We thank the Mt. Clinton UMC for hosting the pantry this month. On November 16, Cooks Creek will host the pantry. They will provide the eggs and an inspirational insert for each family.

Although we don't live in the most fast-paced area of the country, we are coming into two months of the most hustle and bustle in the year. As we look forward to celebrating or just being with family and friends and especially enjoying sumptuous meals filled with our favorite foods, the contrast between our anticipation of the happiness to come is in sharp contrast to the deprivation and hardships so many around the world, and even right here in our community, are experiencing. Out of their compassion for those who are shown on the news every day clinging to life, people who are so fortunate give to organizations trying to keep them alive. They rarely see the direct results of their generosity and concern for oth-

ers. In Mark 12:41-44, to his disciples, Jesus commends the widow who gave her two mites to the poor because she gave all she had out of her poverty while others gave out of their abundance. It's not likely that she would ever see the ones who would benefit from her meager but loving gift. Those who worked the food drive tell of someone who reminded them of this story. A man who appeared to have very little came out of the store with one small bag of only a few items. He walked by their collection cart of food, turned and came back. He took all the items but one out of his bag and put it in the cart. When one of the volunteers thanked him and told him about our pantry, he said he was homeless and had been living in his car but he wanted to help someone who needed food. This man will undoubtedly be blessed not just for his concern for others, but for his action to make a difference in the life of someone he will never know. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus said "...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, My brethren, you did it to Me."

As we revel in the joy of preparing for the holidays, may we not forget to express our thanks to God, our creator and giver of all good things, for our many blessings of daily necessities, friends and family, good health or the means to come by it, and the multitude of other gifts we take for granted. And may we experience the joy of giving and showing Christ's love not just in this season, but throughout the year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

~ Bea





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.

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

Lois Alexander

1401 Virginia Avenue
Crestwood, Cedar Room 101
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-564-3574
Birthday: April 1

Mary Ann Brown

Bridgewater Retirement Community
Unity Household Room 360
302 N. 2nd Street
Bridgewater, VA 22812
Birthday: June 1

Dennis Early

Bridgewater Retirement Community
302 N. 2nd Street
Bridgewater, VA 22812
Birthday: February 2

Lois Frye

White Birch Communities
847 Oakwood Drive
Rockingham, VA 22801
Birthday: October 26

Curtis Long

6868 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-867-5127
Birthday: November 23

Evelyn & Jimmy Miller

1401 Virginia Avenue
Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-564-6527
Birthdays:
Jimmy—May 31
Evelyn—April 24

Jerry Miller

4463 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-908-8316
Email: millerhomestead@comcast.net
Birthday: July 30

Carolyn Pence

c/o Ann Carol Pence
2633 Partridge Trail
Duluth, GA 30097
Birthday: December 23

Wanda Ritchie

68 Cooks Creek Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone 540-434-1944
Birthday: January 19

Ann Rhodes

624 Erickson Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: 540-434-9473

Pam Sonner

229 Emerson Lane
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-217-0805
Birthday: March 20

Eddy Wampler

Bridgewater Retirement Community
302 N. 2nd Street - Room 237
Bridgewater, VA 22812
Phone: 540-383-5653
Birthday: September 15

Helen Suter

The Phoenix of Harrisonburg
3607 Stone Spring Road
Rockingham, VA 22801
Phone: 540-214-6175
Birthday: August 25

**Did You Know This?**

Submitted by Ken McNulty, Author Unknown

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for Faith, Hope and Love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law...the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

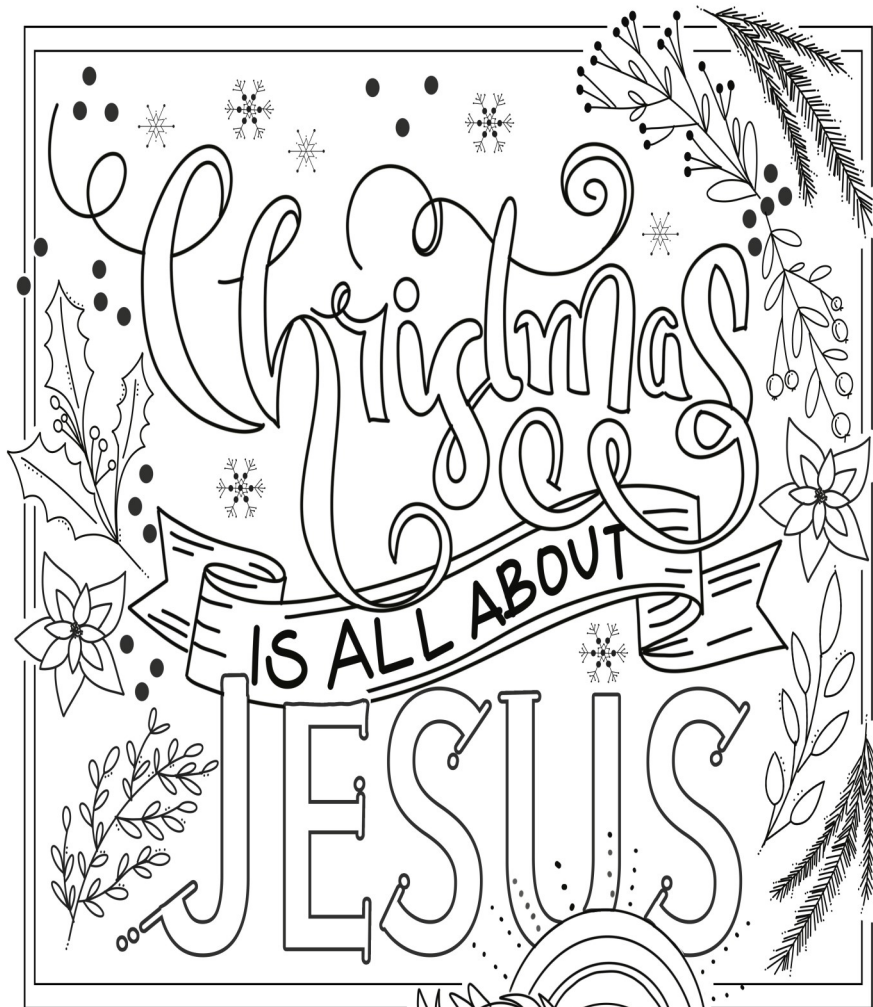
The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven Faithful Disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolizes the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.



"She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him
the name Jesus, because
he will save his people
from their sins."


Matthew 1:21, NIV

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Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



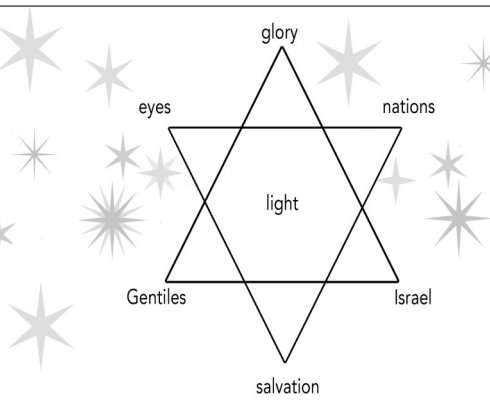
Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

PUZZLE

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared
in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the
_____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, glory, Israel, Gentiles, light

Calendar and Celebrations

						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 12 noon Christmas Luncheon & Gift Exchange Church Fellowship Hall
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Shen. Valley Heritage Farmers Market
HOSTING OPEN DOORS DECEMBER 4-11						
10	11	12	13 Courier Deadline	14	15	16 Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Shen. Valley Heritage Farmers Market
17 4 Cents A Meal Offering 11:30-1:30 Youth Christmas Social	18 December 24 and 31 Bulletin Information Deadline	19	20	21 Food Pantry 4-6 PM	22	23
24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31	<i>Church Office Closed December 22 through January 1</i>					



1 - Tucker Pence
 3 - Fred Simmons
 5 - Susan Price
 9 - Erica Browning
 17 - Brent Showalter
 19 - Nathan Frye
 20 - Donald Custer
 21 - Nancy Norman
 Gary Pence
 Tyler Showalter
 Eric Browning

23 - Carolyn Pence
 26 - Kendall Knicely
 27 - Lou Pence
 29 - Sue Haley
 30 - Bret Phillips



13 - Larry & Alexis Hogan
 19 - Craig & Nancy Miller



*The Church Office will be closed
 Friday, December 22nd through
 Monday, January 1st.
 Please have bulletin
 information for the 24th & 31st
 to the office by
 Monday, December 18th.
 Thank you!*

