

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
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Volume 145



Cooks Creek Courier



Ramblings from the Reverend

My dear friends,

As we say goodbye on June 11, Gemma and I want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Cooks Creek and all those who have shown us such caring and grace these past years – years that have been filled with unexpected challenges and blessings.

The world and the church looked different in many ways when we arrived in 2019. In 2019, most of us could stand back and see far down the road what we figured life had planned. And then suddenly that easy vision was gone. For so many of us, we are still grieving for what life

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June

	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery	Pre-school
4	Robin Wallace	Katherine Lyons	Charlie & Shelley Newman	Katherine Lyons
11	Don Myers	Katherine Lyons Adonica Miller and Billy Lilly	Pam Bocock and Dianne Reynolds	Katherine Lyons
18	Steve Smith	Katherine Lyons	Skip & Robin Wallace	Katherine Lyons
25	Ken McNulty	Katherine Lyons	Paul & Whitney Eberly	Katherine Lyons

Elders On Call for June: Kate Dudley (540-908-6207) and Gerald Harper (540-434-3327). If you have an urgent need and can not get in touch with Pastor Seth, please call the Elder On Call.

Church Information



April Attendance:

2 SS 26 W 80
 9 SS 30 W 118
 16 SS 30 W 77
 23 SS 25 W 60
 30 SS 23 W 78

May Attendance:

7 SS 15 W 73
 14 SS 18 W 74
 21 SS 6 W 73
 28 SS 21 W 72

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

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Seth Normington 540.236.2900
 Office Administrator: Sherry Stroop
 Music Director: Megan Zuhowski
 Organist: Teresa Simmers
 Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons
 Custodian: Jean Will

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

Mission & Outreach

Budgeted Funds for May

In May, CCPC used budgeted funds to support these local missions:

Humankind (Presbyterian Homes & Family Services)

Humankind began as an orphanage in Lynchburg before shifting to prevention, foster families, adoption and community-based services. It includes a training center in Zuni for adults with intellectual disabilities and its care extends from counseling and education for children to long-term residential care for adults. <https://www.humankind.org/>

A Covenant Church with Massanetta Springs

This donation supports Massanetta Springs with an annual unrestricted gift of at least \$500.00. It promotes Massanetta's programs and ministries such as youth and Bible conferences, music conferences and marriage ministries. You can find out more by going to their website, <http://massanettasprings.org>.

Dick Miller Fund

Thank you to those that give to this fund. We continue to receive requests, investigate each, and decide as a team how to best handle each case.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Join us on Saturday, June 3 (rescheduled date!!) for a day of mission and community!!! We'll be helping at **Camp Still Meadows** to clean up and prep for the season! We'll be there from 10-3 - feel free to come for any part of it. Folks of all ages and abilities are welcome - bring a friend! Also bring a picnic lunch - we'll provide drinks and dessert! If you plan to come, please sign up at the Connect Table or contact Beth Phillips or Larry Hogan. Hope you'll join us!!

There will be a brief congregational meeting on June 4 following worship to formally end Pastor Seth's call at Cooks Creek. If you are a member, please plan on being present in-person or via Zoom.

Sunday, June 4th the Youth are going fishing! Meet 12:00-2:00 pm at the Simmon's home.

We will have an Arrivederci Potluck after worship on June 11 as we say goodbye to Pastor Seth & Gemma. Bring your favorite dish to share!

The Sunshine Gang will meet Wednesday, June 14 at noon for a carry-in lunch. Special guest, retiring county board of supervisors member, Bill Kyger, will discuss the past 30 years in Rockingham County and what he sees for the future. A sign-up sheet will be on the Connect Table and drinks will be provided.

Sunday, June 18th Youth will collect 4 cents a meal offering and hand out bulletins.

Scriptures to Pray Over Your Family

[Numbers 6:24-26](#)- "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Lord, bless my family and children. Give them hearts that follow after you.

[Deuteronomy 31:6](#)- "Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Give my family the strength to not be afraid. Give them courage to stand up to what is right.

[Psalm 51:10](#)- "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Produce within them an attitude of integrity, giving their lives to giving you glory.

[Luke 10:19](#) - "Jesus said: 'Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'"

Let my family walk in your authority. May they understand and live each day, asserting the authority you have given them as your children.

[Philippians 4:6](#)- "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Do not give them a spirit of fear, but one of courage and surrender.

Excerpt from 30 Scripture Blessings to Pray Over Your Family, Michelle S. Lazurek

Crosswalk.com

Financial Snapshot January 1 to April 30, 2023

Income: \$84,952

Expenses: \$100,845

Difference: (\$15,893)

Our expenses are on budget, but unfortunately, our contributions have been lagging so far this year. We appreciate the tithes and offerings of our faithful members and worshipers. To learn how you can financially support the mission and ministries of Cooks Creek, go to cooks creek church.org/give. You can give online, on your mobile device, set up an automatic recurring contribution, by check through the mail, or stop by the office.

and church was like before the pandemic. The merry ways we might now long for were taken suddenly and unexpectedly – whether we believed in the validity and wisdom of events or not. I remember the days in the spring of 2020 when we all hoped that things would go back to the way they were “any day now.” That day never came and, as we look at God’s Word, we are consistently taught that time does not move backwards. The Hebrews wanted to go back to Egypt when the road got difficult. They wanted to turn and run from the Promised Land. Time and time again, the Israelites turned to other gods when the way forward seemed to difficult or not as good as “the way it used to be.” The disciples questioned their whole purpose and all their choices between the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Easter Sunday. They weren’t sure of the way forward until the gifting of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Jesus promises to return in the future. When we look to the past too intently or with too much longing, we miss what God has set before us.

Our Triune God promises us a bright future throughout scripture and this promise is captured well in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Going into the future as the church does not require our accurate predictions or trying to recreate what was wonderful in the past through the lens of our nostalgia. Rather, going forward to who Christ is calling us to be requires a faith that the future is full of God’s goodness.

The challenge before us as the Church Universal and here at Cooks Creek is whether we will walk with faith into the future and allow Christ to be the person that binds us together. The past few years have seen people leave churches and this church because of decisions or attitudes concerning the pandemic, events in the larger denomination, partisan politics, and other things, I’m sure. And yet God’s future is not about meeting our personal preferences for everything regarding matters of faith and church, but rather faithfulness to the One who loves us so much that he was glad to die for us that we would be united in faith under God’s banner.

What tomorrow brings is hard to say. What God offers us when we live in faith is assured. I urge you to not fail to meet until something new and enticing lures you to be the church, but to commit in faith to God’s work in this place even when we can’t see (because we never really could) what tomorrow will bring.

I could not have told you a year ago that we’d be moving to Italy and that I’d be taking a job that would allow me to work from two continents and yet, in faith, we go to see the horizons of God’s unfolding plan. My prayer is that we’d be living into God’s providence and I pray the same for you and this church having faith in taking the next step into God’s future.

Blessings,

Seth



Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance April 1 2023	\$56,541.12
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$3,485.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$2,243.40
Civic Organizations—including Online Donations from Great Community Give	\$824.20
Businesses	\$1,770.00
Total Deposits	\$8,322.60
DISBURSEMENTS	
Bread	\$175.00
Eggs	\$412.20
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$4,394.18
Ham	\$1,662.51
Milk Vouchers	\$312.14
Toilet Tissue	\$575.04
Produce Vouchers	\$405.77
Annual Registration	\$101.98
Liability Insurance	\$958.00
Total Disbursements	\$8,996.82
Balance as of April 30, 2023	\$55,866.90

The balance this month is only \$674.22 less than last month's and we had some greater than usual expenses. We are grateful for the Great Community Give contributions. One large donation was sent directly to the pantry, so it is included under individual contributions. We received good exposure to the community through this event, and if we do it again next year, we will be familiar with the procedures and may be able to bring in more money. This year, we were hesitant to ask for more support from our neighbors just two months after our very successful fundraiser in February from which we made over \$22,000. The hams were a greater than usual expense. Next month we will give hamburger, and although it is not included in this treasurer's report, our generous doner has already paid for it. The registration fee with the state and the liability insurance won't have to be paid again until next year. The insurance premium increased \$27 over last year, and our deductible has been increased from \$500 to \$1,000. The milk and produce vouchers are less than usual this month, perhaps because of my error in printing the vouchers. I inadvertently typed the next distribution date instead of the last day of the month as the ex-

piration date, so they expired a week earlier than they should have. Had I realized this, I would have called the stores and asked them to extend that date to the end of the month.

We are continuing to see an increase in those coming for food. On our distribution evening, we served 87 families, including the 7 deliveries that are made each month. In addition there were 3 emergency deliveries, 2 emergency bags given at the pantry during the month, and one who usually comes but didn't Thursday evening came later and picked up for 2 others, so the pantry actually served 95 families in April. Seven of those who came Thursday were new. Fortunately, we had enough to give folks. Approximately 2,418 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags. In addition, each family received a ham, except for a couple who preferred to have hamburger, 2 pounds of deer meat for those who wanted it, a loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves, and a 12-roll package of toilet paper. Each family was offered 2 dozen eggs; 13 said they only wanted 1 dozen, and 2 said they didn't want any eggs. The variety table, from which they could choose one

item, included canned sweet potatoes and other canned items not usually included in the prepacked bags, several bags of Mr. J's bagels with 4 in a bag, toiletries, dishwashing and laundry products, several rolls of paper towels, and 2 laundry baskets. All of these non-food items seem much in demand. A couple months ago, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and combs were available and seemed to be desired items. The variety table is in the fellowship hall where they register, so it's easy for them to pick up items. It would be nice for a group in the churches/clubs to have a drive for these kinds of items occasionally.

We use a lot of the 99-cent red target cloth bags, and I buy them by the box, 24 in a box, when they're available. Target doesn't know when they will get them, and they won't sell more than six at a time from the rack to a customer. I've had no success trying to order them online. If any of you shop at Target and would pick up a couple of these bags from time to time, it would be helpful. Also, cloth bags of any color, design, logo, or lettering, except red or blue, are used for the extra bag for large families and would be helpful. All the bags must be flat on the bottom with no bottom seam. The families return the bags the next month and they are washed and used again. However, some people don't come back the next month, some forget to return them, and some bags wear out and have to be replaced.

We thank Clover Hill UMC for hosting the pantry in April. Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church will host on May 25. They will provide an inspirational insert and eggs for each family. We will plan to serve 100. Several months ago, a devotional from Our Daily Bread reminded readers that "God knew that communities

would start to unravel if people didn't look out for others, valuing their lives as much as they did their own." So He told us how to treat our neighbors and gave us some do's and don'ts and wise guidance throughout the scriptures about living together. Events emphasized on news broadcasts every evening indicate that we haven't been following the Creator's teachings very well, but there are examples all around us of people showing love for their neighbors. Can you believe that recently over \$2 million was given through the Great Community Give to provide all kinds of help to those in need? Our pantry benefited from this generosity, too, and some came from strangers to our pantry. Every month we marvel at the giving of time and money by people who care about others, not just as a one-and-done gift but a consistent support of needs. Most of the time those hosting the pantry know few if any of the people we serve. The kindness and respect which is shown to our neighbors each month may be as necessary to them as the food we give. We seldom know what hurts and anxieties these folks are coping with, but we trust that they will also find joy in passing on care and concern they find here to someone else. One lady stopped on her way out not long ago and expressed sympathy to me because she said she saw in the paper that we had had a death in our congregation. This was a small act, but it was an unexpected kindness. What we give to others truly makes a stronger community for all of us.



Bea



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.

"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

Nelson Alexander

1401 Virginia Avenue
Walnut 330
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: 540-564-6511
Birthday: November 24

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 25

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

Terry Morris

3935 Sunnyside Drive
Suite B
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: 540-568-8448
Birthday: April 9

Carolyn Pence

c/o Ann Carol Pence
2633 Partridge Trail
Duluth, GA 30097

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

Richard Swope

White Birch Communities
847 Oakwood Drive
Rockingham, VA 22801
Birthday: August 27

Eddy and Mary Ellen Wampler

Bridgewater Retirement Community
302 N. 2nd Street
Eddy: Room 237
Mary Ellen: Room 155
Bridgewater, VA 22812
Phone: 540-879-2257
Eddy: 540-383-5653
Mary Ellen's Birthday: March 23
Eddy's Birthday: September 15





HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear | 9. ___ monkey | A. fry | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog | 10. ___ platypus | B. fawn | K. foal |
| 3. ___ owl | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet |
| 4. ___ horse | 12. ___ giraffe | D. cub | M. puggle |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose | E. kid | N. joey |
| 6. ___ deer | 14. ___ swan | F. cygnet | O. polliwog |
| 7. ___ goat | 15. ___ dog | G. infant | P. puppy |
| 8. ___ fish | | H. calf | |

"_on't let any_ne _oo_ down o_ you _ecaus_
 you _re youn_, but set an exa_ple for the bel_evers
 in spec_, in _onduct, in love, in _aith and in _urity."

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D,O,L,K,N,B,E,A,G,M,I,H,C,F,P



June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 12-2 pm Youth Fishing	5	6 Luncheon Prayer 12—12:30 PM	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Potluck Meal	12	13 Luncheon Prayer 12—12:30 PM	14 12 noon Sunshine Gang Luncheon	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 4 Cents A Meal Offering Happy Father's Day!	19 Courier Deadline	20 Luncheon Prayer 12—12:30 PM	21 First Day of Summer	22 Food Pantry 4-6 PM	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	26 Session Meeting 6:30 PM	27 Luncheon Prayer 12—12:30 PM	28	29	30	

Birthdays

- 1 Mary Ann Brown
- 2 Cameron Bocock
Braeden Wallace
- 3 Chad Barnett
- 9 Brandon Fadeley
- 10 Natalie Bocock
David Weaver
- 11 Carole Weaver
- 16 Nancy Myers
Sam Ritchie
- 17 Finley Bocock
- 18 Beau Switzer
- 20 Grant Blosser
Blake Lyons
- 23 Norman Smith
- 24 Alexis Fadeley

- 25 Adam Higgs
Larry Reynolds
Frances Bailey
- 27 Autumn Barnett

Anniversaries

- 5 Bob & Patsy Scott
David & Carole Weaver
- 6 David & Susan Price
- 7 Dick & Evelyn Travis
- 14 Gerald & Laura Harper
- 15 Sam & Martha Spicher
- 18 Nelson & Lois Alexander
- 19 Randy & Brenda Moyers
- 26 Chad & Dawn Barnett
- 27 Don & Nancy Myers



Please be in prayer for these folks:

- Jimmy Brown, Becky Pierce's brother, treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Jimmy Miller
- Gary Simmers, cancer treatment
- Jeanie Will
- Dylan Heatwole
- Diane & JD's daughter, Brittany, and their grandson, Tucker
- Karen Moats