

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
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November 2022
Volume 138



COOKS CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Cooks Creek Courier



Re-Connect Sunday: A Great Day at CCPC!

Ramblings from the Reverend

This is the November newsletter! Hard to believe that the calendar year is coming to a close. November and December are prime months to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you in worship or another Cooks Creek activity. ***The number one way that people are exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and become involved at church is through friends and family!***

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November

	Liturgist	SS Care	Nursery	Pre-school
6	Don Myers	Katherine Lyons	Katherine Lyons	Charlie & Shelley Newman
13	Steve Smith	Katherine Lyons	Pam Bocock	Natalie & Brian Bocock
20	Robin Wallace	Katherine Lyons	Dianne Reynolds	Paul & Whitney Eberly
27	Barret Dalrymple	Katherine Lyons	Nancy Miller	Adonica Miller & Billy

Elders on Call: Jeff Heatwole 540-478-3748 and Becky Pierce 540-421-6068. If you have an urgent need and can not get in touch with Pastor Seth, please call the Elder on call.

October Attendance:

2 - SS 32 W 151
 9 - SS 24 W 64
 16 - SS 28 W 70
 25 - SS 26 W 81

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

Prayer Needs

- * Terry Morris on the death of his wife, Linda
- * Linda Smith, foot surgery
- * Jeanie Will as she continues to recover from her injuries
- * Mary Ann Brown
- * Dylan Heatwole
- * Diane & JD's daughter, Brittany, and their grandson, Tucker.
- * Dennis Early
- * Karen Moats
- * Ronald Miller

From Linda Smith: *Thank you for the prayers, visits, phone calls and beautiful cards during my recent foot surgery.*

Church Information

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Seth Normington 540.236.2900
 Office Administrator: Susan Browning
 Organist: Teresa Simmers
 Nursery Coordinator: Katherine Lyons
 Custodian: Jean Will

Session

Clerk of Session: Mark Williams
 Administration Team: Mark Williams, Brenda Moyers
 Mission Outreach Team: Terry Morris, Jeff Heatwole
 Congregational Care Team: Becky Pierce, Fran Smith
 Christian Education Team: Kate Dudley, Gerald Harper
 Property and Grounds Team: Jim Suter, Brad Miller, Ray Heatwole
 Worship Team: Don Myers, Skip Wallace

Church Committee Leaders

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

Church News

Prayer Ministry

O Lord, with humble hearts we pray
thy blessing this Thanksgiving Day
and ask that at table place,
where grateful folk say words of grace,
that Thou will come to share the yield
thy bounty gave to farm and field.

We pray thy love will bless, O Lord,
each hearth, each home, each festive board;
and that Thy peace will come to stay where
candles glow, Thanksgiving Day.

—Brian F. King

A Thanksgiving Prayer for Children

*Dear God, thank you for the sun and the warmth and life
it gives. Thank you for the creation
and the beauty it brings. Thank you for my family and
friends and the fun and joy they share.
Thank you for the food that gives me strength. But most
of all, thank you for your love and
protection over me. Amen.*
—*ibelieve.com*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love en-
dures forever. Psalm 107:1*



Sunday, November 6

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Craig and Nancy Miller's Farm
5510 Rawley Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

*Peggy Spangler will be 100 years old on November 8. She
has had a long-time relationship with Cooks Creek and is still
interested in our church. If you'd like to send her a card, her
address is:*

*290 Westminster Canterbury Drive
Wappa 290
Winchester, VA 22603*

Congregational Meeting

There will be a **special congregational meeting** on **Sunday, November 13** immediately following worship to elect new elders to serve on Session. This usually takes about five minutes - if you are a member, please plan on staying for this relatively painless but very important meeting.

Dial 1.301.715.8592, meeting ID: 897 6990
1762, Passcode: 711326. Zoom will be audio-
only.

**The Sunshine Gang is Sponsoring a Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 12 noon at CCPC!
With Special Music by Hats N The Creek**

Please plan to bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share. We will enjoy a White Elephant Gift Exchange—bring a \$5-\$10 gift that's designed to be funny (not taken seriously), heartwarming or practical. *RSVP by 11/27/2022 Church Office 540-867-5117 or Nancy Miller 540-810-0144*

Coming in 2023...

Valentine's Day Celebration—Tuesday, February 14. Look for more details in future issues of the Courier!



Open Doors:

In mid-November, we will be seeking volunteers for meals, manpower, and supplies for our first week of hosting the homeless guests of Open Doors at Cooks Creek from December 26 – January 2. We need volunteers to provide and/or serve meals (in particular breakfasts), un-load/load the Open Doors truck on both Mondays, clean bathrooms daily, purchase supplies, etc. If you choose to financially help us purchase our needs, please make a check out to the church with "Open Doors SUPPLIES" in the memo line. Please look for the sign-up sheets on the Connect Table soon.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing:

In mid-November, we will be seeking volunteers to ring the Salvation Army bell during their holiday Kettle Drive. We have one 1-hour time slot to fill on December 10th and six 1-hour time slots to fill on December 17th at the Shenandoah Heritage Market on Rte. 11 south in Harrisonburg. Sign-ups will be on the Connect Table soon.

Christmas with Massanetta

Christmas is just two months away, which means Christmas with Massanetta is getting close! Christmas with Massanetta Springs will be Saturday, December 3rd. Registration is now open. The concert will be performed by local JMU group, ReScored. The deadline to register is November 18th. For more information, go to: <https://massanettasprings.org/>

Ramblings from the Reverend, continued from page 1

You can invite folks to Sunday School at 9:30 (we have classes for all ages!), worship at 10:30, lunchtime prayers on Tuesdays from 12:00-12:30, and bible discussion on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. We will honor our saints who have passed on in the last year during our All Saints' worship celebration on November 6. Christ the King Sunday is November 20 and will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper. Advent begins on November 27 and our theme this year is *The Wonder of Christmas* and will include videos, dramatic performances, and sermons on the theme of the wonder of Christmas.

Here are some thoughts for inviting someone to church with you:

1. Identify who you could invite – the answer is not “no one!”
2. Pray for those people and the

Spirit's guidance for you.

3. Invite them to join you in worship, not just to stop by sometime. Make a plan to attend together whether in-person or online. Then perhaps go to lunch afterwards and discuss what happened.
4. Accept their answer and keep praying whether they agree to come with you or not. They might be moved by the Spirit later!
5. If you are on social media, make sure to post things about going to church and what it means to you—you never know who will be influenced by your posts!

You are the hands and feet of Jesus and you have been given a life and gifts to invite people to get to know Jesus – you don't have to save them, Jesus does that, yet we are blessed to

be a blessing to invite people to Jesus and to Cooks Creek!

Blessings,



Invite friends, neighbors and family to:

Sunday School—Every Sunday at 9:30

Worship—Every Sunday at 10:30

All Saints' Worship Celebration—November 6

Christ the King Sunday—November 20 (Celebrate the Lord's Supper)

Advent Begins—November 27

Financial Update

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

Our income through September is \$221,018. Our operating expenditures for the year so far are \$224,260. This leaves us with a current operating deficit of \$3,242. Staff and Session have worked hard to keep expenses way under budget, but we are not close to where we need to be with our income to make robust plans for ministry for future years.

Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance September 1, 2022

\$14,228.02

DEPOSITS

Individual Contributions	\$550.00
Church & Religious Organizations & Businesses	\$1,605.92
Total Deposits	\$2,155.92

DISBURSEMENTS

Bread	\$262.50
Hot dogs & Hamburger	\$894.35
Food Purchases to fill Bags	\$3,384.46
Milk Vouchers	\$459.76
Toilet Tissue	\$431.28
Produce Vouchers	\$634.94
Total Disbursements	\$6067.29

Balance as of September 30, 2022

\$10,316.65

If you follow the decline in our balance over the last six months, you will see that in about three months, we will be in financial difficulties, not really because of a decline in contributions but because of the increase in the cost of food. For example, in May the price of bread was \$1.50 a loaf, but now it's \$1.75. Hot dogs were \$3.29, but now they're \$3.97. Milk is now almost \$5.00 a gallon. However, the main increase is in the cost of items to fill the bags, but I do believe we are better off operating on monetary contributions rather than on donated items. These items would be more expensive for individuals purchasing them from the store, and we would still have to buy enough for the needed amount each month. The good thing is that near the end of the year contributions do tend to increase. We are now seeing an increase in the number of families we

serve. This month, we served 65 households on Thursday evening, which included four new ones, two deliveries on Thursday evening, and three deliveries on Saturday. During the month we served emergency bags to six families, and three of these were large families. So, the total households served in September was 71. Although the cost of gas seems to be coming down, we are not seeing a decrease in the cost of items in the grocery stores. As individuals, we can shop around to find a better deal, use a coupon, or stock up when items we use are on sale. On a large scale, we can't do that. We are so thankful for a discount on the hamburger from Rawley Pike Meats and for our generous donor who for months has reimbursed us for the cost of this meat.

This month approximately 1,390 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags. In addition,

each family received 2 pounds of hamburger, two dozen eggs, a package of hot dogs, a package of hot dog buns, a 12-roll package of toilet tissue, and households of 1-2 received one loaf of bread, households of 3-4 received two loaves, and households of 5+ received three loaves. We thank Mt. Clinton UMC for a 5-pound bag of potatoes for each family. They planted a potato patch for us and enjoyed working it together this summer to provide this nutritious vegetable for those who come to us for food.

At the end of September, the Woodmen of the World gave us \$400 worth of food to use next month. We thank Jack and Becky Martin for selecting spaghetti sauce, green beans, corn, canned fruit, mac & cheese, and chicken gravy. (Thanksgiving will be coming soon.)

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We also thank the Mary Ruth Circle of Cooks Creek for a donation in memory of Bernie Custer, a circle member who passed away in August. Mrs. Custer was a very caring member who always had a concern for the less fortunate.

We thank Fairview COB for hosting the pantry this month. Mt. Clinton UMC will host the pantry on Thursday, October 27. They will provide eggs and an inspirational insert for each family. We will plan to serve 85.

"God is our refuge and strength, a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear." (Psalm 46:1-3) You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm" (Isaiah 25:4)

Our hearts have gone out over the last several days to the people in Florida who were in the path of Hurricane Ian. Many have lost homes and all their material possessions, and a lot have lost loved ones. From the Old Testament until today, we have seen over and over that God is the ultimate refuge. Through their tears, many have expressed thankfulness that their lives and the lives of their families have been

spared. They know that God is their refuge and that He supports them and helps them recover through the kindness and love of strangers. This is what keeps them from giving up.

When there are natural disasters the magnitude of a hurricane or an earthquake, the grace of God pours out to help, especially with their immediate needs. Money is contributed to large scale relief efforts. Organized boots-on-the-ground efforts from churches, power companies, humanitarian organizations, even the federal and state governments in the form of FEMA, the Coast Guard, and National Guard that provide necessities for those suffering from sudden disasters.

But if we knew about them, we might be surprised at the number of personal disasters that don't receive publicity. People's lives are shaken every day as they deal with crushing hardships that most of us cannot even imagine. God is their refuge too.

Every day God uses doctors and nurses to heal and guide people back to health. Teachers prepare students for a life in the future and encourage them in ways no one else can as they help them through some unimaginable

situations. Law enforcement in its many forms attempts to curb the devil as he roams the earth wreaking havoc in sundry ways.

Don't you think God is using the work of all of those who contribute time, talent, and resources each month at our food pantry as a way of providing refuge for people who are burdened more and more in this economy trying to feed their families?

Thank you, God, for always being our refuge. We will not fear!

Bea



Cooks Creek Church Outreach Ministry

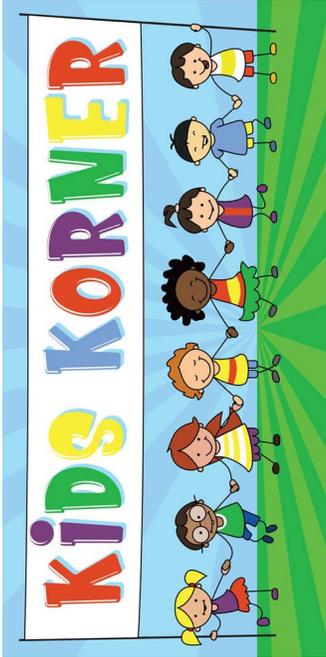
Keeping in Touch with Members and Friends

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	Bridgewater Retirement Community 302 N. 2nd St. Room 353 Bridgewater, VA 22812	Lois Frye 10/25	White Birch Communities 847 Oakwood Dr. Rockingham, VA 22801 540-236-5918
Tom & Luanne May T 4/11	1235 Quince Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-476-3205	Pam Sonner 3/20	229 Emerson Lane Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-217-0805
Jerry Miller 7/30	4463 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-908-8316 millerhomestead@comcast.net	Terry Morris T 4/9	3935 Sunnyside Dr. Suite B Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-568-8448
Ann Rhodes	624 Erickson Ave. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-434-9473	Curtis Long 11/23	6868 Mt. Clinton Pike Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-867-5127
Wanda Ritchie 1/19	68 Cooks Creek Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-434-1944	CCPC MEMBERS AT VMRC	
Mary Ann Brown 6/1	Bridgewater Retirement Community Unity Household Room 360 302 N. 2nd Street Bridgewater, VA 22812	Lois Alexander 4/1	1401 Virginia Ave Crestwood, Cedar Room 101 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-3574
Eddy & Mary Ellen Wampler E 9/15 M 3/23	335 Westview Street Dayton, VA 22821 540-879-2257 Eddy – 540-383-5653	Nelson Alexander 11/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Walnut 330 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-6511
Mary Ann Morris 11/11	Summit Square Retirement Community 501 Oak Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980 540-941-3157	Jimmy & Evelyn Miller J 5/31 E 4/24	1401 Virginia Ave. Crestwood, Hickory Apt. 303 540-564-6527
Jean Ratcliff 5/23	5366 Snapps Creek Rd. Singers Glen, VA 22850 540-833-6604	Mabel Branner 4/3	1401 Virginia Ave. Redbud 224 Harrisonburg, VA 22802 540-564-3352



Bible Quiz

Which of the following is not called a “fruit of the Spirit” — but probably could be?

- A. love
- B. faithfulness
- C. self-control
- D. gratitude
- E. gentleness



Answer: D (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

November 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Lunchtime Prayers	2 Bible Discussion Group	3	4	5
6 All Saints' Worship Celebration	7	8 Lunchtime Prayers Church Office Closed	9 Bible Discussion Group	10	11	12
13 Congregational Meeting	14	15 Lunchtime Prayers	16 Bible Discussion Group	17 Food Pantry 4-6 PM	18	19
20 Christ the King Sunday	21 Courier Deadline	22 Lunchtime Prayers	23 Church Office Closed	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28 Session Meeting	29	30			

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/26 Lois Frye
- 1 Chase Lyons
- 2 Paul Leftwich
- 4 Susan Browning
- 5 Dylan Heatwole
- 5 Laura Ann Leftwich
- 5 Lynn McNulty
- 8 Teagan Bocock
- 8 John Canter
- 8 Peggy Spangler
- 9 Layton Scott

- 12 Ken McNulty
- 14 Diane McCurdy
- 16 Lanna Higgs
- 19 Wayne Bailey
- 20 Lydia Eberly
- 20 Adley Kline
- 22 Christian Frye
- 23 Ray Heatwole
- 23 Curtis Long
- 24 Nelson Alexander
- 27 Sam Spicher

ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 John & Nancy Canter
- 17 Sam and Donna Kay Ritchie

