

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
4222 Mt. Clinton Pike
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
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November 2023
Volume 150



COOKS CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Cooks Creek Courier

Happy Thanksgiving Day!!

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

<http://ourdailyblossom.com>

Upcoming Preachers:

November 5 ~ Jim Dye

November 12 ~ George Evans

November 19 ~ Ann Held

November 26 ~ Brent Showalter

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	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery	Pre-school
5	Tracy Bosserman	Kathy Lyons	Nancy Miller	Kathy Lyons
12	Skip Wallace	Kathy Lyons	Kathy Lyons	Adonica Miller & Billy
19	Nancy Myers	Brandon & Jennifer Fadeley	Kathy Lyons	Charlie & Shelley Newman
26	Don Myers	Kathy Lyons	Kathy Lyons	Paul & Whitney Eberly

Elders On Call for November: Jeff Heatwole (540-478-3748) and Skip Wallace (540-476-2475). If you have an urgent need please call the Elder On Call.

ATTENDANCE

October Attendance:

1	SS	16	W	70
8	SS	21	W	84
15	SS	19	W	95
22	SS	29	W	70
29	SS	17	W	56

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

Mission & Outreach

Interested in mission??

At the beginning of 2023, the Mission team was combined with the Congregational Care team at a session level and is now called C6 - Cooks Creek Church Community & Congregational Care. In 2024, we will have a final reduction of session to 9 members. As such, the members of session will rely more and more on the team member's help and input. If you are interested in participating on the mission team, or leading/facilitating a mission project, please let one of us on the C6 team know. Members of session on the C6 team for 2023 are Jeff Heatwole, Larry Hogan, Fran Smith and Beth Phillips. **We thank you** for your support of our community on behalf of Cooks Creek.



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.

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 forthcoming...keep an eye out. Drivers do NOT need a CDL. Contact Adonica if you have any questions.

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

Upcoming Events and Activities

October — November 12

As one of the Youth's mission projects this year, we will be collecting items to fill 8 – 10 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Church members can bring donated items October through November 12th. Please place donated items on the bench behind the Connect Table.

Donations can be for a boy or girl; ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.

Shoebox gift suggestions are at the Connect Table. On Sunday, November 12th, the youth will stay after worship for lunch and organize shoeboxes.



Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, December 2 at 12 noon, we will have a covered dish Luncheon and Christmas gift exchange in the CCPC Fellowship Hall. Sponsored by the Sunshine Gang. More Details to come!



Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider, whose guidance and care go before us, and whose love is with us forever. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the changes, to remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another. Thanksgiving is a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden in autumn's wake and apples are crisp in the first chill breezes of fall. Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. As we see the beauty of autumn, let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours, let us think of our families and friends, and let us give thanks in our hearts.

Author Unknown, Countryliving.com

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.

Kristi Woods



Please be in prayer for these folks:

- Aaron Evans
- Cindy Suter
- Jillian Shirkey & Family ~ Jillian is 12 years old and has had a relapse in leukemia
- 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

Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance September 1 2023 **\$41,386.43**

DEPOSITS

Individual Contributions	\$860.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$2,465.85
Businesses	\$1,000.00
Total Deposits	\$4,325.85

DISBURSEMENTS

Bread	\$210.00
Eggs (Reimbursed by Briery Branch COB)	\$245.85
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$4,078.44
Hamburger	\$1,000.00
Toilet Tissue	\$622.96
Milk Vouchers (Sharp Shopper—120 gal.)	\$627.80
Produce Vouchers (Bananas \$174.74—Apples \$504.78—Grapes \$294.20)	\$973.72
Total Disbursements	\$7,758.77

Balance as of September 30, 2023 **\$37,953.51**



For the last several months, attention has been directed to the declining balance in the treasury. After the very successful fundraiser in February, the balance was \$59,380.82. That balance also reflected several grants that we received from The Community Foundation after our financial crisis last fall. You can see that in seven months the balance has decreased \$21,427.31. Contributions have remained fairly steady, but with the increasing cost of food for filling the prepacked bags and the increase in the number of families served, it is urgent that the board begin to plan now for ways to curb this decline. The Valentine Extravaganza brought in a lot of money and was fun, but it required a great deal of work and organization by a lot of people and they are not going to do it again this year. Perhaps

a series of fundraisers sponsored by a church or club or by a couple of member churches together in our network could be considered. The Community Foundation will again sponsor The Great Community Give and we hope to participate in that again, but that is in the spring. We can't wait that long to be making plans. Besides, it is not wise to depend on this one event to solve our problem. On Friday, October 20, WRFPP will participate in the Rotary Club's food drive for a number of food pantries, but it is organized very differently this year, and we have no idea how much food we will receive. (Thank you to those who have agreed to help. If you would like to know more details or to volunteer, please contact Karen Shiflet—540-383-34098 shifletkaren@gmail.com.)

Food Pantry Report Continued

We must remember that the pantry is reimbursed by the host church each month for the cost of eggs, and a generous donor has reimbursed us for the hamburger each month this year. These payments are included in the deposits in the treasurer's report. In November the Virginia Poultry Growers gives us turkey breasts for Thanksgiving, so there is no cost to the pantry for meat. However, it is our custom to give hams at Christmas. They had to be pre-ordered in July and we won't know the total cost until December. Last year the hams cost \$1,950.12.

This month the pantry served 89 families including the 8 deliveries on Thursday evening. Five of these were new to the pantry. In addition, 3 families received emergency bags, so we actually served 92 this month.

We were fortunate to receive 100 pounds of sausage from Pork for the Pantry--a program of the Farm Ministry--supported by both Rockingham County 4-H and FFA youth livestock programs. Families were given a pound of sausage and a pound of hamburger. And again, we thank our generous donor who continues to reimburse the pantry for the cost of the hamburger and Gary Simmons of Rawley Pike Meats who gives us a special price on this excellent quality hamburger. We thank the Mt. Clinton UMC for potatoes. For several years, they have planted a special patch of potatoes that they give to the pantry in the fall. So, each family received a five-pound bag of new potatoes. Approximately 2,416 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags. Also, each family received the usual 12-count package of toilet paper, 2 dozen eggs, and a loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves. And we thank Mt. Olive for 50+ boxes of cereal they collected in a special drive. That is

especially helpful since cereal is not only a good breakfast item but also can be a nutritious snack, and cereal is included in all the prepacked bags each month.

We thank Fairview COB for hosting the pantry this month. On Thursday, October 26, the Mt. Clinton UMC will host the pantry. They will provide 2-dozen eggs and an inspiration sheet for each family. Again, we will plan to serve 100.

A recent devotional in Our Daily Bread reminded readers that when there are problems, "When our minds are fixed on God, we can trust Him even in foggy and confusing times. We might not see it now, but if we trust God, we can be assured that His help is on the way." In the midst of our concern about funding the pantry, we must remember that this is God's pantry. He has guided us and has seen that we had what we needed from the time He planted the seed for it in Charlsie Miller's mind a little over 13 years ago. He is sending us more families who need our help, and He's not going to let us or these families down now. He knows how important this pantry is to people in our community. Thursday evening two ladies did not have transportation to the pantry, so they walked from Singers Glen to Cooks Creek! They trusted that their needs would be met. Sharon Showalter took them home, with their four bags of groceries and 5-pound bag of potatoes. We must put our faith to work as well as our minds and our efforts. We must remember the old saying, "Pray like everything depends on God and work like it depends on you."

~ 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

New Address & Phone Number:*Helen Suter**

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



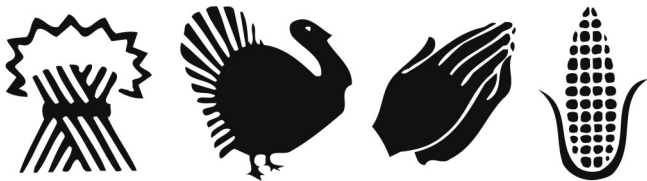
The Richard Swope Family would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the phone calls, visits, cards and prayers for Richard in the past several months. They meant a lot to him and to the family.



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



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

" _____ will _____
_____ , _____ name in _____
and _____ with _____
_____."

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV

Puzzle!

Use the food key to complete Acts 14:17, NIV.

KEY

THANK YOU, LORD






"_ e _ _ s s _ _ w _ _ i _ _ _ ess b _
givi_g _ _ _ _ _ i _ _ f _ _ m _ e ve _
_ _ _ c _ _ ps i _ _ _ ei _ se _ s _ s;
_ e p _ _ vi _ es _ _ _ wi _ _ ple _ _ _
_ f f _ _ d _ _ _ fi _ _ s _ _ _ _
_ e _ _ _ s wi _ _ j _ _ ."

ACTS 14:17, NIV

Answer: "He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17, NIV



Calendar and Celebrations

N-O-V-E-M-B-E-R						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 SHOEBOX DONATIONS NEEDED			1	2	3	 REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!
5 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth lunch/assembling OCC Shoeboxes after Worship Service	13	14	15	16 Food Pantry 4-6 PM	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 4 Cents A Meal Offering	20 Courier Deadline	21	22	23 	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Communion	27 Session Meeting 6:30 PM	28	29	30		



1 - Chase Lyons
 2 - Paul Leftwich
 4 - Susan Browning
 5 - Dylan Heatwole
 Laura Ann Leftwich
 Lynn McNulty
 8 - Teagan Bocock
 John Canter
 Peggy Spangler

9 - Layton Scott
 12 - Ken McNulty
 14 - Diane McCurdy
 16 - Lanna Higgs
 19 - Wayne Bailey
 20 - Lydia Eberly
 Adley Kline
 22 - Christian Frye
 23 - Ray Heatwole
 Curtis Long
 27 - Sam Spicher
 30 - Kynlee Simmons



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

