

Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
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September 2023
Volume 146



Cooks Creek Courier



The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday. Labor Day is a day to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States.

Upcoming Preachers:

September 3 ~ Gerald Harper
September 10 ~ Rev. Ann Held
September 17 ~ Bill Reinhold
September 24 ~ Jim Dye

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September

	Liturgist	Sunday School Care	Nursery	Pre-school
3	Nancy Myers	Kathy Lyons	Charlie & Shelley Newman	Kathy Lyons
10	Tracy Bosserman	Kathy Lyons	Pam Bocock	Kathy Lyons
17	Skip Wallace	Kathy Lyons	Dianne Reynolds	Kathy Lyons
24	Ken McNulty	Brandon & Jennifer Fadeley	Skip & Robin Wallace	Paul & Whittney Eberly

Elders On Call for September: Gerald Harper (540-434-3327) and Larry Hogan (910-429-5707). If you have an urgent need please call the Elder On Call.

Church Information

ATTENDANCE

August Attendance:

6 SS 20 W 76
13 SS 15 W 56
20 SS 47 W 80
27 SS 30 W 67

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

Staff

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 August ~ Open Doors

As the area's only low-barrier shelter, Open Doors is dedicated to providing an inclusive and safe place for individuals experiencing homelessness to stay. In collaboration with partners, they ensure a warm and nourishing meal for each guest. Utilizing this collaborative approach, they work diligently to provide access to and navigation of the many great community resources that can help their guests achieve success. This includes organizing partners to bring vital services to the shelter. In addition to shelter, they also "hit the streets" to meet individuals where they are with support services.

In mid-2022, the City of Harrisonburg purchased the former Presbytery and announced that the grounds would be home to the City's first permanent low-barrier shelter. Construction will occur in a phased approach, with an estimated operational date of October 2024. Until then, Open Doors continues a rotating model in partnership with the faith community and community at-large through the thermal season, but anticipates operating the permanent low-barrier shelter when the project is completed.

Opportunities for Mission! Mark your calendars!! Cooks Creek will be hosting Open Doors for the upcoming season while they continue to pursue their permanent residence. Our weeks will be:

- December 4th, 2023 (12/3-12/11)
- February 5th, 2024 (2/4-2/12)



First Step Collection

First Step is a local organization providing a response to domestic violence. For over 40 years, First Step has been committed to providing free and confidential services to survivors of intimate partner or relationship violence who have experienced economic, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and/or verbal abuse, including but not limited to controlling behavior, isolation, threats, intimidation, gas-lighting, stalking and dating violence. For more information, please reference their website:

www.firststepva.com.

During the month of September, the C6 team is sponsoring a collection drive for First Step, a mission that Cooks Creek has supported for many years. The items most in need are: laundry pods (regular and sensitive), dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, disinfectant wipes (Clorox, Lysol), full size adult personal supplies (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, and toothpaste), baby/child personal supplies (baby shampoo, lotion, wipes, diaper cream, and toothbrushes), twin size sheet sets, comforters, blankets and quilts (new or gently used).

A collection site will be placed at the church entrance. Thank you for your support!!



Update from the Interim Team

In the several months since Pastor Seth left Cooks Creek, the Session and the Interim Team have had many interesting and some tough discussions. One thing that we have learned is that interim ministers are few and far between. We've also learned that the Presbyterian process involves some red tape that has gotten stickier in the past few months. The Church Leadership Connection – the system that is used to match church profile information with available candidates is being revamped. Just this week our team has been asked to redo some of our information and we look forward to vetting some new candidates!!! We hope to have someone in place early next year.

We've also had many challenging discussions surrounding our budget. For the past several years, we have not received our targeted income. Our team and the entire session have had some tough conversations about what is needed and what we can afford for an interim salary. Because of these discussions, we plan to offer an effective salary (base salary plus housing allowance) of \$48,000 to \$55,000, which would cap the total compensation at approximately \$85,000. Since COVID our congregation is smaller and we have faith that this is a salary that we can support as we look to the future. Now is NOT the time to stop giving financially. It is easy to think that because we aren't paying a pastor we will present our gifts later!! But truthfully we need everyone to recommit to giving now and if possible to give just a little bit more. Cooks Creek always steps up financially when needed. Now is the time to praise God for all that we have and trust that He is in control as we plan for our future.

We would like to thank the Cooks Creek congregation for their patience. We ask that you embrace this time between ministers to enjoy and thank the talented folks in our midst. Many have stepped up to offer a Sunday message, coordinate the Sunday service, contact a homebound member, coordinate an event, or take care of our facility (including baiting and emptying the mouse traps!!) As mentioned in Roxanna Atwood's message on August 13, in this time of adversity, this is the time for everyone to take up an oar!! We are grateful to Sherry in the church office for doing an awesome job keeping us functional during our time of transition. A special thanks to Don Myers and his team for lining up worship leaders through the end of this year. And always a big thanks to Mark Williams for being the go-to man when there are questions about finances or procedures!!

Dick Miller Fund Update



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 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.

We are looking for folks who would be willing to administer and/or review requests for this fund. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Heatwole at 540-478-3748.

We would like to thank Bea Morris for her many years of administering the Dick Miller fund. Bea has spent countless hours speaking with local families and community businesses and agencies, reviewing requests, and showing love and compassion to these individuals.



Hebrews 6:10: *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*



For Favor and Blessing Over the School Year

Dear God, we pray for your blessing and favor today over our teachers, our kids, and our schools. Please allow your face to shine on them today, be gracious to them Lord. Fill them with your Spirit and light; and give them peace in every circumstance. We know that every gift and blessing come straight from your hand. We will not take it for granted. Remind us today of your great love and care over all those we love. We thank you Lord that you work powerfully on our behalf, and we commit our ways to you. May each purpose and plan you have for our teachers, succeed, flourish, and prosper in every way. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Written by Debbie McDaniel, Crosswalk.com
(Crosswalk.com)

PRAYER list...

Please be in prayer for these folks:

- Jordan Bridges
- 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

If anyone in the congregation has any prayer concerns or needs please contact Phyllis Simmons. She has agreed to head up a group of folks willing to stay in contact with our shut ins and anyone in need of some extra prayers or out-reach during this time we are without a pastor. Also, if you are willing to help serve on this team please let Phyllis know.

pmsimmons4041@comcast.net

540-830-4244 cell

540-867-5238

~ C6 (Cooks Creek Church Congregational and Community Care)

Food Pantry Report

Beginning Balance July 1 2023	\$48,693.54
DEPOSITS	
Individual Contributions	\$900.00
Church & Religious Organizations	\$401.00
Businesses	\$1,670.00
Total Deposits	\$2,971.00
DISBURSEMENTS	
Bread	\$148.75
Eggs (Reimbursed by Mt. Clinton Mennonite)	\$200.16
Food Purchases to Fill Bags	\$4,284.48
Hamburger	\$620.00
Milk Vouchers	\$440.92
Toilet Tissue	\$479.20
Produce Vouchers	\$706.04
Total Disbursements	\$6,879.55
Balance as of July 31, 2023	\$44,784.99

Notice that the balance continues to decrease, but this month the decrease was about \$3,900; whereas, last month the decrease was about \$5,000. We need to remind folks of the growing numbers we are serving. On Thursday night we served 86, and there were 4 emergency bags - 1 of those the week before the distribution and 3 the week after - making a total of 90 families served in July. Because of the increased numbers, more must be bought next month. We are grateful for the generous donor who continues to pay for the hamburger each month. Those who come are very appreciative, especially for the vouchers and toilet tissue. Eight of the 86 were new. We continue to thank those who deliver to 7 of these families each month.

Approximately 4,018 pounds of food was given in the prepacked bags. In addition, each family re-

ceived 2 pounds of hamburger, 2 dozen eggs, a pound of margarine, 1 loaf of bread with large families receiving 2 loaves, and a 12-roll package of toilet tissue. However, we didn't have enough toilet paper for the last 5 on Thursday and 3 who came for emergency bags later. There was no variety table this month, but we plan to have it in August. **If you have items to contribute to the variety table, bring them to Cooks Creek upstairs before distribution week on Mondays 9-12 a.m. or Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1-4 p.m.** Sometimes people ask how much food we give each month. Remind them that the poundage given is only that in the prepacked bags and does not include the hamburger, eggs, bread, and anything else that is perishable and not packed on Tuesday night and the milk and produce they get with the vouchers. If all of this is considered, WRFP gives quite a lot of food each month.

Food Pantry Report Continued

We thank the Mt. Olive volunteers and others who worked in the extreme heat Thursday. Briery Branch COB will host the pantry on August 25. They will provide a prayer insert for each family. We plan to serve 95.

A recent devotional in "Our Daily Bread" was a reflection on Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:12-17. He said, "...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Clothes are an outer layer that people see, and just like this obvious apparel, people see in our actions (and hear in our speech) these qualities just mentioned. I believe the folks who come to the pantry each month hunger to see these qualities. The world in general, and especially the

world some of them experience every day, is often harsh and unkind, impatient and incivil, vulgar and violent. By their reactions to us, I am confident that they do see Jesus in the those who meet them in prayer at the beginning of the evening, talk with them when they register, and have a short conversation as they receive their groceries. Sometimes they indicate they recognize the work required behind the scenes to provide them with food each month. The many who contribute their time to the pantry performing tasks many are unaware of also exhibit these characteristics and give encouragement to other workers. Indeed, Jesus is honored whenever we treat others with love.

~ Bea



~ **September 17** Youth will be collecting 4 Cents a Meal offering and handing out bulletins.

~ **September 17** Youth meet at Valley Jump Park from 5:00 - 6:00
and ice cream treat from 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

Parents must submit a waiver online, wear special jump socks, and complete CCPC Church Release Form. CCPC Forms are located on the Connect Table.

~ **October 22** Youth outing at Craig and Nancy Miller's farm, 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

~ **October - November** Youth will collect items to fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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

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

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 Wampler

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



???

Bible Quiz

???

In Matthew's genealogy, which woman is *not* mentioned as Jesus' ancestor?

- A. Tamar
- B. Rahab
- C. Mary
- D. Ruth
- E. Sarah
- F. Bathsheba

Answer: E (See Matthew 1:1-17.)



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Grateful for Grandparents

Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.

ACROSS

2. David's grandfather
 5. Jacob's grandfather
 6. Esau's grandmother



DOWN

1. Judah's grandmother
 3. Joseph's grandfather
 4. Solomon's grandfather
 7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah, DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth, Generation

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	4  Office Closed	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Communion <i>Grandparents Day</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 4 Cents A Meal Offering 5-6:30 pm Youth Jump Park & Ice Cream	18 Courier Deadline	19	20	21	22	23 
24 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	25 Session Meeting 6:30 PM	26	27	28 Food Pantry 4-6 PM	29	30



Birthdays

- 1 - Beth Phillips
- 2 - Jennifer Heatwole
- 3 - Earnest Cornett
- 4 - Isla Eberly
- 9 - Donna Kay Ritchie

- 11 - Rick Moats
- 15 - Eddy Wampler
- 19 - Jacob Scott
Lucy Seymour
Carol Stilwell
- 20 - Timothy Early
- 21 - Hunter Lily
- 23 - Chase Heatwole
- 24 - Gabriel Shifflett
- 27 - Addison Bridges
- 30 - Carolyn Wampler

Anniversaries

- 2 - Terry & Natasha Pence
- 10 - Tom & Pam Bocock
- 15 - Steve & Fran Smith
- 16 - JD & Diane McCurdy
- 20 - Brandon & Jennifer Fadeley
- 22 - Tom & Gail Frye
Larry & Diane Reybolds
- 24 - Brad & Jana Miller

