



# Crossnore Presbyterian Church

## "Growing Deeper in Faith, Reaching Out in Love"

P. O. Box 386/200 Chapel Dr., Crossnore, NC 28616  
828-733-1939/cpcpcusa@gmail.com.  
www.crossnorepresbyterianchurch.org

### Announcements and Items of Interest

February 24, 2021

**Sunday, February 28, 2021—Sunday Worship on Zoom** delivered to your email by 11 a.m. on Sunday morning or mailed to you. You are invited to share in worship with our church family. You can receive an email that includes links to the zoom recordings of the worship service and sermon, as well as attached PDFs of the worship bulletin, sermon, announcements and prayer requests. If you would like to receive this weekly email, please contact the church office: cpcpcusa@gmail.com. You can also have a hard copy of the service, sermon, announcements and prayer requests sent through the mail—just call the church office (828-733-1939) and give Ashlyn your current mailing address.

**Our General Fund is in need of support.** We've gotten a little behind in the past two months.

**Six Week Lenten Bible Study on Zoom begins on today, Wednesday, February 24, at 3 p.m. We will be reading the book, Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple, by Adam Hamilton.** You can still sign up. An ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way

to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. The books have been ordered and can be mailed to your home. Cost-\$10. If you would like to participate just email Pastor Kathy: rev.kathy.campbell@gmail.com

**CPC prayer time via Zoom.** We meet each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for approximately 30 minutes. We pray for those on our church prayer list, for our family and friends, those who are ill, leaders at all levels, and those from whom we have received prayer requests. Please consider joining the small group that has been meeting for about a year now. It is a very special time. Just send me an email note asking to be put on the list and we will send you an email with the zoom link (it is sent out each week, usually by end of day on Wednesday). Hope to hear



from you. Blessings, Barbara Ross, \_rossbw335@gmail.com



**2021 Lenten Global Mission Offering:** For over 70 years, *One Great Hour of Sharing* has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are the *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*, and the *Self-Development of People* program. Each works in a different way to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. This is an opportunity for us to spread Christ's love around the globe and be a part of the universal Body of Christ. If you would like to participate, make your check out to Crossnore Presbyterian Church, designate it for One Great Hour of Sharing, and mail it to: Crossnore Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 386, Crossnore, NC 28616.

*Above all, maintain constant love for one another.....1 Peter 4:8*

**2021 Lenten Local Mission Offering:** We are still dispersing funds to our partner local non-profits. We have partnered with over 15 local non-profits since March 2020. If you would like to make a donation to be used for those in need in Avery County, make your check out to Crossnore Presbyterian Church, designate it for local mission, and mail it to: Crossnore Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 386, Crossnore, NC 28616.

**Feeding Avery Families—News:** Please spread the word! FAF needs more space due to their rapid expansion to feed the hungry in Avery County. They are looking for 3-5 acres in the

Newland area to build a 12,000 sq ft building. If you know of anyone to sell or donate land, please contact Dick or Jo-Ann (828-733-5127). Find out why with this overview of growth & need in 2020:

<https://feedingaveryfamilies.org/2020top20/>



**Service Opportunities in Avery County include:** Reaching Avery Ministry (helping to pack food boxes)- 828-733-

5127; Feeding Avery Families (unloading food supplies, packing boxes, and distributing boxes), sign up to volunteer on the Feeding Avery Families Facebook page. Volunteers are needed!!

If you would like to dive a little deeper into why we support One Great Hour, the next page shares just one of the many, many stories demonstrating how the monies are used and the impact they have.

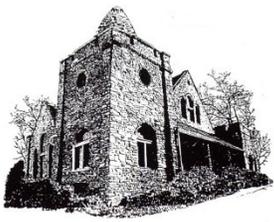
### March Birthdays

- \* SUSAN HARTLEY—MARCH 1
- \* MICHELE LEE—MARCH 1
- \* LOU MARTIN—MARCH 2
- \* DAWN BATES—MARCH 3
- \* JONATHAN KIDDER— MARCH 4
- \* SHERRI MCKINNEY—MARCH 5
- \* LINDA DRIVAS—MARCH 8
- \* DAVID EHMIG—MARCH 10
- \* JIM HARLLEE—MARCH 14
- \* BOB HARDEE—MARCH 16
- \* HEATHER JORDAN—MARCH 16
- \* BETTY REDMON FRANCE—MARCH 18
- \* LINDA BERKLEY—MARCH 21
- \* MARY NOBLE—MARCH 28
- \* FRANK MARTIN—MARCH 29
- \* LESLIE RICHARDSON—MARCH 29
- \* BOBBY TAYLOR—MARCH 29



### Prayer Requests

- \* DR. STEVEN MOWERY
- \* BAGBY FAMILY
- \* NANCY COLEMAN
- \* DAWN BATES
- \* BILL AND BOBBIRAE HASSETT
- \* CHERYL KENYON
- \* JOE JORDAN
- \* CONNIE VUOLO, GABE VUOLO'S MOTHER
- \* MARTHA LIND, ERIN LIND
- \* CONNIE & RB DANNER
- \* FRANK DUNCAN
- \* JESSE & BARBARA DOWNING
- \* MARILYN GASCHO
- \* BONNIE VUOLO
- \* JANET WELLS
- \* TASHA REID
- \* MAGGIE LAUTERER
- \* MIKE KILGORE
- \* FRANK DUNCAN
- \* DAVID FRANCE
- \* FRANCES & LARRY BROWN



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### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING—Where learning to save proves lifesaving**

February 16, 2021 by Emily Enders Odom—

When Manuel Nazario casts his net into the water these days, his catch is far less plentiful. In the remote area of Bolivia near the Paraguayan-Argentina border, where Nazario and the members of his community mostly fish for a living, their traditional livelihood is now in severe jeopardy.

Home to an indigenous people known in Bolivia as the Weenhayek, also called the Wichí in Argentina, the Capirendita community is currently grappling with the devastating impact of climate change, irregular rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, disease and mining pollution that creeps in from the Andean zone. As a result, Nazario and the families of Capirendita are finding their age-old ways of life and their means of economic support increasingly threatened, even as the people strive to maintain both their native language of Weenhayek and Spanish as a second language.

Although subsisting for centuries as fishers and gatherers along the banks of the Pilcomayo River in a subtropical region called the Gran Chaco, where temperatures in summer can soar to above 110 degrees Fahrenheit, the degradation of the environment and the mounting lack of access to water threatens the people's very survival.

Because it is his calling, Nazario — at the young age of 34 — has already emerged as one of the strong leaders in his fishing community, setting himself apart from previous Indigenous leaders. A born innovator and community organizer, Nazario is now leading the seven families in Capirendita toward the promise of a better way, in partnership with a local organization called CERDET, Centro de Estudios Regionales para el Desarrollo de Tarija or the Center for Regional Studies in Tarija.

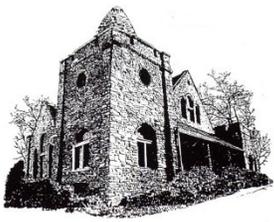
Founded 31 years ago in the Tarija region of Bolivia, CERDET works in support of Indigenous communities that have been marginalized not only by other peoples in Bolivia but also by the government. Under the leadership of Guido Cortez — a social worker in the region for five years before becoming CERDET's executive director in 2005 — CERDET has been accompanying and teaching the Weenhayek people since 2012 to grow vegetables and fruits organically, to develop irrigation systems, and to collect and store rainwater for safe drinking.

Today, because of a generous grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Nazario, his family and the 27 residents of Capirendita face a more hopeful and fruitful future. “Because the people of Capirendita are so proud of their culture as gatherers, they have not learned to hunt or to produce or cultivate anything because they are accustomed to collecting whatever they find,” said Cortez. “The work of our organization is focused on providing them not only with seeds and equipment, but also with the accompanying education so that we're teaching them to provide for themselves rather than just giving them funds.”

When the Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, PDA's associate for Disaster Response and Refugee Ministry—Latin America and Caribbean, first learned through CERDET's existing partnership with the Presbyterian Hunger Program of the organization's emphasis on helping communities to become self-sufficient, he immediately knew he wanted to work with them. “Through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, we were able to reach out to this organization, which allowed them to come to us with their needs,” said González-Castillo, who had already been looking to expand and increase PDA's relationships in Latin America, particularly in Bolivia, where PDA previously had no partners. Once PDA had identified available funds to work with communities impacted by COVID-19, González-Castillo encouraged CERDET to apply for a PDA grant. “One of the things that attracted me most about this organization is the type of work that it does,” he said. “Their desire is not just to provide things, but to develop communities, and to help those communities create capacity so that they can learn to sustain themselves. When they told us about the kind of projects they were hoping to develop in these Indigenous communities, we realized that they would be helping not only the people who are affected right now, but also the future generations in that community so that it can continue to grow and develop.”

CERDET is using its PDA grant through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to address the communities' critical water shortage by building infrastructure. “Although there are a few government wells in the communities, the water from some wells is salty,” González-Castillo explained. “A lot of people are used to drinking it, but it's not beneficial for them in the long run and it's not good for other things. They use it mostly for washing clothes and dishes, but it's not healthy for drinking. They also don't use filtering systems because they're too expensive.” With OGHS funds and with the help of two other organizations, CERDET will work with the community to create 500 meters of pipes to transport safe well water to some 10 families.

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Nazario has been charged with directing and carrying out the excavation work on the underground piping system. Because this type of work requires heavy physical labor, the women of the community — including Nazario’s wife, Reyna Cortez, a teacher and artisan — will not participate in the excavation project. While continuing to work on the traditional handcrafts that they bring to market, the community’s women will support the piping project by encouraging and supporting the workers.

The grant will also allow around 40 families to receive plastic containers to collect and save rainwater for family consumption, and 50 other families will receive vegetable seeds and tools to produce food for the duration of the quarantine period that began in March 2020. “Trying to teach the community to save anything is a process,” observed González-Castillo. “Because they are organized communally, everything has to be shared. While that is a wonderful quality, it is also a difficulty right now. People who put anything away for tomorrow are viewed as selfish and greedy.”

CERDET is also working to address other critical challenges in the Weenhayek communities, where women are among the most vulnerable, particularly teenage girls, who often give birth at the age of 13 or 14. “It’s a problem,” Cortez said, “because they marry and have children so young.” Violence against women and children is also a critical concern on which CERDET is working.

The organization is also helping two health-care centers in the communities provide the people with some basic medicines and education about COVID-19. “There is a lot of fear,” said Cortez. “The disease is difficult for the families to understand.” Even though there are no Presbyterians living in Cortez’s immediate area — which is mainly composed of Roman Catholics and Pentecostals — Cortez knows what Presbyterians believe and represent. “Back in April, when things started to get so much worse, and the number of COVID cases was on the rise, we were fortunate to receive Presbyterian assistance,” said Cortez, who was himself exposed to COVID-19 but later tested negative. “It was important, well received and welcome help at a much-needed moment. We are grateful for the PC (USA).”

Elsewhere in the world, gifts from the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering through the Presbyterian Hunger Program are also addressing critical water needs through its two partners in South Sudan, the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA) and Hope Restoration South Sudan. In 2017, the United Nations declared famine in four countries, including South Sudan, where hunger has deepened for decades. Drought was one of the primary reasons.

“In 2020, we supported PRDA for their work, which has focused on training local technicians in Pochalla to dig water wells so that they can return to their communities and not only dig wells for those communities, but also help with maintenance, hygiene and sanitation,” explained Valéry Nodem, associate for International Hunger Concerns and coordinator of the Joining Hands Initiative for the PHP. “Regarding our support of PRDA, although they started their training early in 2020, because of COVID-19 things have unfortunately slowed down a lot. We look forward to their achieving critical work in the future.”

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/story/where-learning-save-proves-lifesaving/>