



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.
crossnore.wncpresby.org

Announcements and Items of Interest

October 13, 2021

New Member Sunday, October 17. We have four people joining as Active Members! We will probably meet in the sanctuary due to the cold weather predicted for the weekend. If we are inside, we will meet with masks and spread out in the sanctuary.



Our current Mission Project is our annual Thanksgiving Baskets. Last year we provided needy families and individuals in Avery County with a \$100 Ingles grocery card along with other assorted goodies (i.e., lotion, socks, holiday towels, etc.). This year we hope to provide each of 20 recipients with a basket. The recipients are selected from the Director of Volunteer Avery County, Cindy Lindecamp. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Crossnore Presbyterian Church, and designate it for "Thanksgiving Baskets". Thank you for caring and sharing! Our mailing address is P.O. Box 386, Crossnore, NC 28616



The Wednesday Bible Study Group will meet this Wednesday, October 13, 3-4:30 p.m. The group is studying the Trinity and currently, we are learning about the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. This week our study will focus on the meaning of the crucifixion. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend.



The Knitting Group went to the Hospitality House in Boone today, Wednesday, October 13, to deliver the hand-knitted hats and scarves they have been working on this summer. They have over 95 items to donate. These items will be distributed to the residents of the Hospitality House, our only homeless shelter in the area.



Thanks to everyone who brought groceries over the past two Sundays. We have over 100 grocery items to deliver to Volunteer Avery County (VAC). We need a volunteer to take the items to VAC. You can pick them up at church this Sunday if you would like.



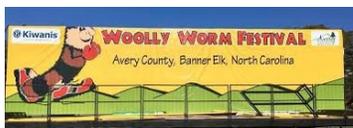
October Birthdays

- * LINDA HUGHES—OCTOBER 10
- * ERIC SOWDER—OCTOBER 1
- * TOMMIE TENNENT—OCTOBER 3
- * ROB MARTIN—OCTOBER 4
- * SUE EHMIG—OCTOBER 6
- * SHARA GRANT—OCTOBER 9
- * LESLIE JORDAN—OCTOBER 17
- * NANCY COLEMAN—OCTOBER 27
- * JOANN HARLLEE—OCTOBER 27
- * CHERYL HIRES—OCTOBER 27
- * TERRY KIDDER—OCTOBER 29

Prayer Requests

- * JIM TAYLOR
- * TRISH WINGER
- * BILL BLAZER
- * EVERETT McBRYDE
- * KAY HODGES
- * BARBARA ROSS
- * ROBERT DUNN
- * FRANCES BROWN
- * SCOTTY SHARRER
- * LINDA SMITHERS
- * AIDAN O'CONNELL
- * JAN AKELEWICZ
- * HANNAH ACTON
- * ERIN LIND
- * JENNIFER WATTS
- * LEIGH RICHARDS
- * WAYNE PINTER
- * FRANK DUNCAN
- * MARILYN GASCHO
- * BONNIE VUOLO
- * JANET WELLS
- * TASHA REID

"Be at peace with one another." — Mark 9:50



The Woolly Worm Festival in Banner Elk is this weekend. They are in significant need of volunteers for either day, particularly taking tickets at the gates and registering worms for the races. You can contact our own Fred France for more information about what each job entails, time slots, etc. Fred's phone number is (828) 387-0073.



Happy Dance! Step 1 of the roof project has begun. The roofers are replacing the badly leaking roof in the music office off the sanctuary this week!

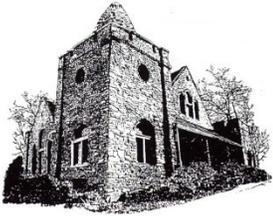


Reaching Avery Ministry needs help with boxing groceries and volunteering in the Thrift Store (828-733-5127). They really need volunteers. If you have a morning or afternoon free during the week, please call or stop by the store (Ram's Rack) next to the Dollar General Store in Newland.

Feeding Avery Families needs help packing and dis-

tributing food boxes. Feeding Avery Families Facebook page will let you know how you can volunteer or call (828-783-8506).

A Devotional from Jim Taylor, a member of our church and a commissioned pastor at two of our local Presbyterian churches can be found on the next page!



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A Swing Set Devotional by Jim Taylor

October 13, 2021

Based on Joshua 24: 15-18

Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt like the whole world was working against you? And you thought to yourself, I can't possibly do that task or that job. I don't have the courage or the skills or the drive. I don't know what I was thinking saying, "Yes, to that project or that person. I'm scared and unsure of myself, and I'm sure I've made a huge mistake trusting God on this one."

Some days when I'm feeling particularly low about myself and what I have accomplished in life, I pull out the scrapbook we made when my wife Anna and I were building our house. I know that sounds silly and maybe it is. But it helps me remember that we accomplished something really significant for our lives, and while it was really hard work, we did some amazing things. There were moments when I didn't know exactly what I was doing. And there were times when I cried and thought I would never be able to finish. And there were times when I felt the presence of God so keenly that I knew the dream that had been given would come to fruition if I just remained faithful and showed up to work every day.

When I look over those pictures and all the stages of the project, it makes me feel a little better about going forward, trusting God to help me accomplish other big tasks that are before me. Maybe you feel the same way sometimes. Maybe that's why we hang on to our high school yearbooks? Holding on to memories and dreams of what was or could be.

A few Sundays ago, we heard from the book of Joshua where he called all the people together to not only remember God's faithfulness to them but to challenge them to choose who they will serve and follow. He reminded the people of their own stories. A story that takes them back to a time when the world was against them, and they were on the run. A time when food and water were in short supply and enemies were breathing down their necks. But also, a time when God, who is ever faithful, guided and provided for them as they wandered through the wilderness. A time when God moved ahead of them and prepared the way even when they were unaware of it.

It's a story that we hear over and over again in the biblical narrative. It is the story of the people and the nation of Israel, and it binds them together and is passed down from generation to generation. It is their story, and I think, it is also our story. And I wonder if your stories, like mine, remind you that God has been with you? Has God brought you out of any particular wildernesses in your life or is God still leading you through it? Or maybe both?

And sometimes, just like those wandering Hebrews, we have to stop and remember that God has been with us; not only with us, but for us, that God feeds us and protects, both spiritually and physically, and leads us in the many wildernesses of our lives. And I think that often, it is only in looking backward, that we remember who we are and who we belong to. And when we are so busy in the world and so distraught over the fear of the future and the present, we forget that God has been present in our lives all along.

A few weeks ago, I was at our town park just enjoying one of our beautiful days here in our little mountain town. I was sitting along the stream that runs through the park enjoying the sound of that running water over the rocks when I noticed on the other side of the stream, where much of the play equipment is, a mother pushing her child on the swing set.

Now, that is not in any way out of the ordinary. Certainly, something you expect to see at a playground. I remember doing that many times with my own children. They would always say, "higher daddy, higher." Back and forth they would go until dad got tired of pushing.

But what caught my attention on this particular day was that as her child arrived at that arc of the swing where she came back to her mother to receive another push, they would each lean their heads towards each other and with a laugh, cry out, "I love you!" and then kiss each other just before the child began another arc away from her. This went on for some time, much to my delight.

It really spoke to my heart, and it reminded me that this is what God does for us as well if we are aware. God gives us a push on the swing set of life, pushing us out into the world on a swing that at times may seem risky and even frightening if we travel too fast or too high. Sometimes we get going with so much energy the poles of the swing set start coming out of the ground, and you contemplate jumping out of the swing altogether. And we get frightened and weary and even doubtful.

But as we journey backward, swinging back to God on that return arc, if we take time to remember that God is back there behind us, we arrive only to be told once again, "I love you!" Receiving a metaphorical kiss of life and assurance, as we lean into God and say, "I love you too!"

I guess it all depends on whether you take time to remember who is not only behind you, but before you as well, remembering your story and the story of God always and ever with you regardless of the challenges of life. And that, quite honestly is the One whom I will strive to follow and serve all my life. How about you?