

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
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Website: www.rm-umc.org

Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



March 2020

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES



The Rocky Mount Ecumenical Group will be holding a series of Lenten worship services at noon on Wednesdays throughout town. Held at multiple sites, these events bring together people of the same faith, just different ways of worshipping the same God. If you've often wondered how other churches organize their worship service, this will give you a taste of other congregations throughout our town. Join in!

MARCH 4

Rocky Mount Christian Church
Rev. Will Waller

MARCH 11

Rocky Mount Church of the Brethren
Rev. David Slayton

MARCH 18

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
Rev. Christ Coates

MARCH 25

Rocky Mount Baptist Church
Rev. Ron Coleman

APRIL 1

Henry Fork Church of the Brethren
Rev. Matthew Ricks

APRIL 8

First Baptist Church
Rev. John Collins



Prayer Labyrinth

Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is now open in the Atrium for you to use. Let yourself in the church or stop by during office hours to experience the Labyrinth.

The Labyrinth is an ancient archetype found throughout history in various forms and in many religious traditions and cultures around the world. Walking the Labyrinth recreates and encourages contemplation, reflection and connecting our inner lives with our work in the world. The Labyrinth gives us an opportunity to walk with our prayers and questions, and to trust our inner wisdom to give us vision, insight and inspiration.

The Labyrinth is a sacred place to set aside time for you to reflect, look within, pray, and negotiate new behavior. The Labyrinth has only one path that winds to the center. Unlike a maze, whose purpose is to confuse and trick you, the Labyrinth is designed to take you to the center. The only decision you need to make is to enter the Labyrinth. Once you enter, you simply follow the path before you.

In many ways, the Labyrinth is often seen as a metaphor for life. Our lives twist and turn and there are no dead ends. The Labyrinth is designed to have multiple people walking at the same time. We are going to be near and far from each other. We will be facing different directions and traveling at individual paces. In so doing, we will always be together on the journey of life.



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Most of the time, I write these articles across from Angle Hardware. The vantage point provides good people watching, seeing folks stream in and out with their purchases. This winter alone, I've seen people carry paint, shovels, and even snow sleds (they're watching a different meteorological report than the rest of us).

As I pondered all the purchases that have come in and out of that store over the decades of its existence, I wondered about our own church. There have been innumerable people that have graced our doors. They've experienced ministries galore, thousands of sermons, and countless potlucks. When they made their way out the doors, what did they take with them? What items did they possess when they traveled home? Did they tote disgust over missed opportunities? Did they sling happiness over their shoulder as they walked into the afternoon sun? What about boredom in a bundle under their arm?

Or maybe they carried hope out the door. Why?

Because we are hope dealers.

Paul tells us in Colossians 1: "To them (the Church) God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." God's good gift to people is hope through Christ. When people march out the doors to be about the work that God has given them, they go armed with hope.

Hope enables courage. Hope instills strength. Hope empowers the weak. Hope fuels the driven. Hope lifts up the distraught. Hope sends out the saved.

God gives the hope, and we certify the gift through living hopeful lives. Our fears are disabled and our worries are disenfranchised. Our terror becomes short-lived and our dissatisfaction is relocated. When the world, and specifically Rocky Mount, sees hope filled people leave out of 35 North Main Street, that is a testament to the God we serve and hope in.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Again this year during the season of Lent, you are invited to select a Lenten Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, March 1, and will contain the name of a church family member who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during Lent. You are asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. Thank you!

Books For The Lenten Season

Our Little Library is expanding! More new books have been added to the shelves, and one is just perfect for this Lenten season. *EASTER STORIES*, *Classic Tales for the Holy Season* contains many short stories. In its pages you will recognize authors such as C.S. Lewis, Leo Tolstoy, Oscar Wilde, Anton Chekhov and others. They share great Easter themes of transformation, reconciliation, and the triumph of life over death.



Visit the UMW Reading Program library in the Assembly Room when you attend a small group, meeting or worship. There you will find books of interest to men, women, youth, and children. Select a book, sign it out in the red folder; sign it back in when you return it. We invite you to read and enjoy!

“Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.”
—Anthony J. D’Angelo



Holy Week this year is from April 5-12. It all begins with Palm Sunday, where we celebrate the arrival of Jesus into the Holy City of Jerusalem, with children waving palm branches designating his triumphant entry. The week continues with our Lenten ecumenical worship services at First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount at noon on April 8. The worship returns to Rocky Mount UMC at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday night for a foot washing service and Holy Communion. On Easter Sunday, join the worship service at 6:45 a.m. in the High Street Cemetery. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following. After a riveting time of small groups at 9:45 a.m., our worship culminates with a music-filled celebration of the Risen Christ at 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Note, many confirmands will be joining the church and some may be baptized during the service or the previous day in a river. Look for more details in next month's newsletter.

Church Pictorial Directory

(Nancy Middaugh, Coordinator)



The date for taking pictures for the new church directory will start Thursday April 2-Saturday April 4, from 2:00-9:00 p.m. You can sign-up online (<http://bookknowlifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b6my06h8/>), OR after church.

If anyone has pictures of the past year of church activities, and would like to have them put in the directory, please contact Nancy Middaugh (540-597-7581 or nmiddaugh22@gmail.com).



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

On February 3, Phyllis Lavinder presented a program on the Legacy of UMW followed by a beautiful luncheon in the Atrium where we welcomed many guests. Thanks to Phyllis for planning this event along with the lovely table décor and to Lisa Angle for her special touches. We meet again on March 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room for our annual program on Prayer and Self-Denial.

On Wednesday, March 18, the UMW will be preparing and hosting the Lenten Luncheon after the community Lenten service at RMUMC. The District Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 21 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Fieldale UMC.

We have several exciting opportunities to serve in the next few months. On April 6, we will be having a birthday party for residents at The Hermitage. It's lots of fun! In May, you can join us for a church wide mission workday in the fellowship hall. We will be working on several projects for international mission. More specific information about this opportunity will be available as it approaches.

We welcome all women of the church to join us the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. If you cannot attend daytime meetings, but would like to be a member, we can communicate all meeting and project information to you by email. Please contact Debbie Caulder (540-204-2266, debra.caulder@yahoo.com) or any other United Methodist Woman if you are interested or have questions.



UMM

United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on March 15 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.

Seeing the Saints

Starting this month, we're debuting a new segment in the church newsletter,



"Seeing the Saints." Seeing the Saints is about remembering those who've passed on, and honoring their memory by retelling a story about their lives. The hope is by recounting their work, we can rekindle their memory.

Donna Dillon was a walker. She would walk up and down and all around Rocky Mount. It is told that she would walk up to 10 miles a day. In all sorts of weather, Ms. Dillon could be seen charging up and down our famed hills. Often, she would walk with friends because Ms. Dillon was a social person, always seeking to encourage others. While she cannot be seen walking the sidewalks and sharing in friendly conversation, to this day, you will see dozens of people throughout the day walking along Main and Tanyard, Pell and Orchard, chatting with friends. May we all seek to live healthy lives, physically, socially, and spiritually.

“May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door.”
—Irish blessing



The Chancel Choir and the Jubilant Ringers invite you to
 a drop-in bridal shower honoring Miss Emily Meeks
 Sunday, March 29
 3-5 PM
 In The Atrium

Emily and Michael are registered at
<https://www.amazon.com/wedding/michael-littley-emily-meeks-rocky-mount-may-2020/registry/1GZ1ZX2133N6B>
 Or you may choose to bring a gift card so that they can
 enjoy shopping, dinner out, or a movie

R.S.V.P. to
 Phyllis Lavinder virginiaheartgirl@gmail.com or
 Call or text 540-420-8381
 Linda Walters lindaw@shentel.net or



Vital Congregation Statistics for January

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2019	\$39,580	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 1/31/20		\$22,167
Actual Offerings Received through 1/31/20	\$22,635	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 1/31/20		\$23,431
Actual Expenses Paid through 1/31/20	<\$21,711>	
Ending Balance, 1/31/20	\$40,504	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 139
 Average Online Viewers = 19
 Average Small Groups' Attendance = 26



On Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26, our church is in charge of serving lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen. Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Preparations for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, as well as our Lenten anthems, are the musical focus for March for our Chancel Choir.

The Handbell Choir will be playing for worship on March 1. We are also planning a bell processional on Palm Sunday and will play special music for Easter.

A BIG thank you to the children for the wonderful anthem and the superb bell playing in February. They will sing in March as well as have a special part in our Easter Sunday music. I still have several Wednesdays available for volunteers. If you can help, sign-up on the list near the Assembly Room or let Lynn know. Thanks so much!

See you on Sunday!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Here are some riddles for you to figure out:

- 1) What do you call someone who saw an iPhone be stolen?
- 2) What do you call Santa's little helpers?
- 3) What do you call cheese that doesn't belong to you?
- 4) What do you call a bear without any teeth?

- 1) An iWitness
- 2) Subordinate Clauses
- 3) Nacho Cheese
- 4) Gummy bear

And one more for good fun:

Question: What do you call a youth group without you?

Answer: Th

This month, we will be holding a March Madness Style game night on March 1 for our Fellowship night. On March 15, we'll have our mission event where we take a party to our Forget-Me-Nots to celebrate the love God has for us. Keep praying for the youth and better yet, join us!

“You do not need to wallow in guilt.
Wallow in the mercy of God.”
—St. John Vianney



Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

Three months to go and we are planning on packing in lots of fun and learning. In March, we love celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with lots of rhyming. If you would like to come read a Dr. Seuss book with either class, we'd love to have you visit. Just call us at 483-3776 and set up a time.

We spent February talking about love. We'll spend March learning the Easter story. Pastor Will will be sharing the Last Supper story with the four-year-old class.

Ms. Lynn is helping prepare for graduation. Our graduations will be very early in May this year so that Ms. Lynn has the time to spend on her family's exciting happenings. The threes will have their Moving On Ceremony on Monday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. The fours will graduate on Friday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m.

We are still looking for more students to enroll in next year's classes. Please continue to mention us to families you know with young children.

Blessings,
Jan





Prayer Concerns:

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Sonny Vaughn; Jennifer Cooper; Eva Prillaman; Jim Henderson; Johnny Guilliams; Tim & Sandra Funk; John Cooper; Jeanette Singleton; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Mark Singleton; Todd Lockett (Mike Meeks); Alvin Hall (Betty Worley); Melissa Hays-Smith (Marsha Robertson); Mary Kay Smith (Lynn Cooper); Joan Preston (Will Waller); Maria Snyder (Rodney Cundiff); Marion Pritchett (Pam Pritchett); Regina Stanley (Rebecca Dillon); Stephen Youmans (Linda Davis); Brenda Akers (Shirley Vaughn); George Perdue (Jill Perdue); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); DJ Snider (Patsy Swain); Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland); Jennifer Tatum (Tracy Jenkins); and Tiffanee Anderson (Judy Anderson).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Many thanks to you remembering Sonny and me in so many ways: your prayers, visits, cards and food.

Recently food was delivered with no name. I have no way to properly thank you but by this newsletter. Thank you, I enjoyed it.

To the youth group for the delivered valentines, thank you. They were beautiful.

I love my church and church family. Thank you all for your acts of kindness.

God's Blessings,
Shirley Vaughn

Thank you so much for the prayers, visits and cards that were given in memory of my mom. She was a very dear lady and she will be missed by many. Your outpour of support was so appreciated and heart felt. Thanks to Pastor Will whom we called upon to come pray with mom and the family. He came with no hesitation! Thanks Pastor Will! There's nothing like the love and support from your church.

With Sincere Thanks,
The Funk Family

Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.

CODE ▶

season of

are **1**

heard **3**

The

and in

the

Flowers **4**

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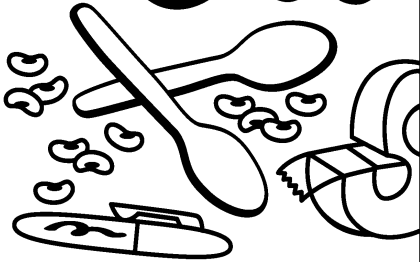
_____ .

1
2
3
4
5

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

Answer: See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooling of doves is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.

Just for Kids



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.

	A type of horn	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>	MURTEP
	Played by King David	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	PRHA
	Plucked to make sound	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	IGSNSTR
	Similar to a tambourine	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	MRBELIT
	A type of harp	_____ <input type="checkbox"/>	ELRY
	Blown through to make sound	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	EPPI
	A percussion instrument	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

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35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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Open Hearts...

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

**ROCKY
MOUNT**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The People of the United Methodist Church

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Will Waller, Pastor
Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries
Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist
Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.)



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. Small Groups
10:55 a.m. Worship