

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Phone: 540-483-5338 Fax: 540-484-1698

E-mail: admin@rm-umc.org

Website: www.rm-umc.org

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



May 2020



What Can the Church Do for You?

*I am the church, you are the church,
We are the church together.
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!
The church is not a building;
The church is not a steeple;
The church is not a resting place;
The church is a people.*

My how we have learned that recently! The church is a people. We are not bricks. We are not pieces of lumber framed together. We are a people, bound by shared love of our Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ.

And it is in his name that I ask you: How can we be church to you in these days? What are you missing that the church can provide for you? What needs do you need met that the church - the people - can offer? What do you need?

If you have any need, please let our church know. Please let our people know. We want to help you with your trouble. Please call us - 540-483-5338 - or email will@rm-umc.org.

We are a people. And we want to help people. Let us know what we can do.



ROCKY MOUNT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

admin@rm-umc.org

Telephone No. (540) 483-5338 Fax No. (540) 484-1698

To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

For the March 2020 newsletter, I wrote these words: "We are hope dealers." How little did I know how much we also needed in that same month, April and now into May to be hope receivers.

Inundated with bad news, we easily could have had our hope receptors turned off. We could believe that hope died back 'round about St. Patrick's. That hope took the last train to Clarksville and didn't meet us at the station. That hope was dead.

But it didn't die. It can't die.

Hope has a way of springing up like the perennial your daddy planted back in '63. Each year, it comes back - snow won't kill it. Rain can't stop it. A little hail might bruise it but it returns with the Spring sun. And just like that rosebush that you think has bid your property adieu, it reemerges. Hope is like that. When you think that hope has kicked the bucket, renewal starts again.

Friends, hope ain't dead. We must be attuned to it.

Let me share with you ways in which we continue to receive hope. We read our Scripture and hear the tales of old of hope coming back again and again. Manna - the food in the desert - never ran out. The flour and the oil in the widow's house never ran out. The mercies of God - they're new every morning. Scripture tells the story of hope's renewal again and again.

We saturate our lives in prayer. Conversation with God enables continuation with people. When people annoy you, when challenges assail you, remember to saturate your life in prayer. We can make it through anything if we do it through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Take it all to the Lord in prayer.

And we attend to the means of grace Jesus has taught us. Just like you know to go to a water fountain to get water, or the grocery store to purchase food for the week, so too do you return to the ways in which God has ordained us to experience him. Walk in nature, bask in His goodness. Journal the signs of the Lord you saw today. Eat with glad hearts the daily bread He's offered. Use your gifts for his glory. Fast and pray. Confess and be forgiven. The means of grace are many, so tap into them today.

Hope is not dead. We must remain open to the hope that only the Lord provides.

And know this, one day the coronavirus will be history - the church never will be. Because the gates of hell will never prevail over the church. Don't give up hope - be a hope receiver.

In Christ,
Pastor Will

Potential Impact of the Coronavirus on the Missions of our Church

Dear Rocky Mount UMC,

As you know, COVID 19, the coronavirus, has spread rapidly in communities across the nation. In mid-March, the bishop of the Virginia Conference asked all churches to suspend all worship services and public gatherings.

As you can imagine, this could prove devastating to mission and operation of our church, which relies on the financial support provided by our members and guests. While we are in good relative position as a congregation, your help is critical. In order to keep our church financially strong, we ask each of you to prayerfully consider continuing your support of Rocky Mount UMC.

Here are some means by which you can give financially:

- One way is to go to the giving page on the RMUMC website: www.rm-umc.org Click on “Giving” on the top part of the homepage and then “Click here to give” to set up your automated offering. Should you need assistance, please call Valerie Latimer at 540-483-5338.
- Another method is to utilize your bank’s “Bill Pay” service. You can set up regularly scheduled payments to RMUMC that can be automatically sent to RMUMC.
- For those who may not have access to a computer and the internet, we ask you to mail your contribution to the church. This continues to be the best utilization of your gift as online transactions do take a small portion of your donation.

Please pray about considering one of these options to financially support your church. We are so thankful for your gifts as we seek to “know Jesus and share His love.”

Should you have any questions, please contact me at bcooper@cooperclassics.com.

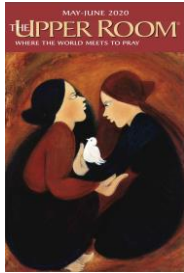
In His Grace,
Bill Cooper
Chairman, Finance Committee



Vital Congregation Statistics for March

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2019	\$39,580	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 3/31/20		\$66,501
Actual Offerings Received through 3/31/20	\$52,588	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 3/31/20		\$70,293
Actual Expenses Paid through 3/31/20	\$61,225	
Ending Balance, 3/31/20	\$30,943	



Upper Room Devotional Book

The May/June edition of the Upper Room is available at the church. Contact the Church Office if you would like one mailed to you. They are also providing the May/June 2020 issue of *The Upper Room* for download on their website (<https://www.upperroom.org>) at no cost.



We have a Small Group Opening in June!

As of May, we no longer have an elementary small group leader (Sunday

School teacher). Please prayerfully consider leading our wonderful group of children with the vitally important stories in the Bible. Stories of Moses, Noah, Jonah, David, Daniel and Jesus are vital in early Christian education. These teach of faith, love, forgiveness and kindness-things that are sadly no longer taught for many years in our public schools. Billy Graham is noted for saying that a child's tender heart for belief in God is most receptive around age 7. Luke 6:38 says, "*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.*" For the continued life of our elementary small group program, please open your heart to OUR children by giving a small portion of your time on Sunday mornings for such a worthy cause! Please contact Jane Roseberry at janeroseberry@jetbroadband.com or call 721-2638.



Listed below are our 2020 high school graduates and their future plans.

- Isabelle Davis** – University of Alabama
- Rachel Justice** – Virginia Tech
- Ainsley Kelley** – Ferrum College

Congratulations and best wishes Isabelle, Rachel and Ainsley!

Our 2020 college graduates include:
Tatum Newbill, Howard University College of Dentistry

Tyler Peterson, Coastal Carolina University

Congratulations and best wishes Tatum and Tyler!



Thank you for all the kindness shown Jim and me during the last few months. We appreciate the food, cards, calls, visits and the men who took turns driving Jim to Roanoke for radiation and light treatments two and three times a week.

We love our church family and we miss you.

Sincerely,
Hazel Henderson

Where flowers bloom, so does hope."
—Lady Bird Johnson



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Serena Jamison; 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; Avery Garrod (Linda Walters); Tricia Custer (Linda S. Handy); Shirley Green (Will Waller); Todd Luckett (Mike Meeks); Alvin Hall (Betty Worley); Melissa Hays-Smith (Marsha Robertson); Mary Kay Smith (Lynn Cooper); Joan Preston (Will Waller); Marion Pritchett (Pam Pritchett); Regina Stanley (Rebecca Dillon); Stephen Youmans (Linda Davis); 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



Amended Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

**PRESORT
STANDARD**
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 13
ROCKY MOUNT,
VA 24151

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)



SUNDAY:
10:55 a.m. Worship

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY:
Noon - Prayer Service