

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
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Our Mission: *"To Know Jesus and Share His Love"*



August 2020

Dear RMUMC,

Backyard picnics, 4th of July Fireworks, FloydFest, Summer Olympics, Salem Fair

Cancellations seem to be the name of the game for this summer. Maybe it was something as small as your summertime soiree with your posse. Maybe it was something as cherished as gathering with friends on the high school football field to celebrate America's Independence with fireworks next to Bald Knob. Maybe it was something international like the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Maybe it was something regional like FloydFest.

Whatever it is, I'd be willing to bet you've experienced a cancellation this summer. They have been more commonplace than events keeping their regular schedule. The question that arises then is "how do Christians respond when life is topsy-turvy or our schedules get wrecked?"

Thankfully, the Bible is clear about this - we persevere.

I'm reminded of Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount - "do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow has enough worries of its own." Much energy can be wasted if we worry about what tomorrow will bring. Instead, we should focus on today.

A pastor friend once gave me this line that if you forgive its cheesiness is a helpful aphorism: "Today is all we have and it's a gift. That's why they call it the present."

Does anyone know what the Fall looks like? No, they don't. You don't. I don't. We don't. We have hypotheses, guesses based upon good evidence. However, to speak with 100% certainty about what will and won't take place is the stuff of God.

What has been especially freeing for me, someone who wants to clutch tightly to my plans for the future, has been to let go. This season has forced surrender for me. It has forced surrender for any of the months ending in y, h, l, e, and r. And that's a good thing. When we cling too tightly to our well-made and well-meaning plans, we can easily become victims to despair. "But I made a plan, God! I had it in the calendar! I made reservations!" Despair sets in and we crumble like a cookie. Being too tied to the future is often a tie to our worth. You're not more worthy because your calendar is jammed with more things. "You are a mist," James tells us, and boasting about your schemes is "evil." Instead, you can practice the ministry of the here and now. The here and now is where that person, that conversation, that kid, or that meeting that you're in or with, they're the ones you need to be concerned about right now. Surrender to it, and you'll be freer. Also, surrender enables us to enjoy these here and now moments, not just the ones that are yet to come. What if today was the day that the Lord has made, not just tomorrow or next week's trip to Cancun (spoiler alert: today *is* the day)? Truly, whenever you're reading this is the only day you have. Make the most of it. Why not? Today isn't cancelled.

Persevere church. Don't give up. This is a marathon not a sprint. If it gets cancelled, maybe that's a hint that you can focus on today even more.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Join Us For The Note Burning!!!

And also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God. - Ecclesiastes 3:13

We have exciting News!!!! RMUMC is debt free ~ we have paid off the loan for the Atrium Addition!! A celebration is being planned for Sunday, September 13, 2020! This great celebration will include a provided lunch, speakers, special guests, and music! More information will be forthcoming on location, time, and precautions needed to make this a truly memorable occasion!! Mark your calendars now to join us for the “Note Burning”!!

Church Pictorial Directory

(Nancy Middaugh, Coordinator)

Taking pictures for the new church directory has been postponed until Spring 2021.

We will let you know the dates as soon as it is scheduled.



Join the Computer Worship Team!

We are still looking for several more people to help with the computer on Sunday mornings. Duties would include operating the computer that projects our worship readings, hymns, and announcements. Interested folks will be trained prior to worship and will be able to team with a “veteran” for several weeks before being on your own. This is a very important ministry, especially during this challenging time when we cannot use bulletins for in-person worship and while many people are worshipping online. If you are willing to try, please contact Lynn or Pastor Will. Thanks so much.



Our Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chairperson is Serena Jamison. Please keep Serena informed of any news concerning our college kids. She can be reached at 420-3719 (or call the church office at 483-5338 or email at admin@rm-umc.org). Please make sure we have your college student’s address at school. Throughout the year, Serena will send your student cards. We also want to be sure to include them on the newsletter mailing list and send them a copy of the Upper Room. Good luck and have a great year!



Remember our eleven undergraduates in your prayers as they return to or begin college life.

Coastal Carolina University—
Jodi Huffman

Emory & Henry College—
Amber Altice

Ferrum College—
Ainsley Kelley

George Mason University—
Annie Graninger

Liberty University—
Taylor Jones

Radford University—
Katie Meeks

Roanoke College—
Abbey Justice

University of Alabama—
Isabelle Davis

Virginia Tech—
Rachel Justice
Evan Stone

Virginia Western Community College—
Sarah Funk



United Methodist Women
(Debbie Caulder,
President)

Some mission projects continue in spite of COVID-19. We are engaged in our annual collection of school kits for UMCOR and invite the congregation to participate. The specific items for each kit are listed below.

Please place these items in a shopping bag, tie the bag, and deliver the bags to the marked boxes provided in the Narthex or in the parking lot entrance near the elevator. Deadline: September 6, 2020. Thank you for your help.



- **One pair blunt scissors**
 - Round tip only
 - No plastic scissors
- **One box of 24 crayons**
 - Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- **Three one-subject notebooks**
 - No marble composition books
 - No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- **One pack of loose-leaf paper**
 - 100-200 page packets are acceptable
 - Wide or college rule accepted
- **One hand-held pencil sharpener**
 - 1-inch or longer
 - Remove from packaging
- **One ruler**
 - 12 inches or 30 centimeters long
 - Sturdy or flexible material accepted
- **Six unsharpened pencils**
- **One eraser**
 - Two inches or larger

Please contact Debbie Caulder (540-204-2266 or email Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com) if you have questions.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This music ministries article is like the old joke... "I've got good news and bad news." **Chancel Choir**, bad news first. At the present time there is no singing permitted under our conference Covid-19 directive so our Chancel Choir will not begin a regular practice schedule in September as in the past. Now the Good News. We can gather in small groups and record anthems, solos, duets, etc. to present on our projection during worship. I'll let you know or you can contact me if you're willing to help with that.

Jubilant Ringers, just good news!! We will begin in-person rehearsals upstairs in the large practice area (which will allow for social distancing) Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. We may need an additional person to play with us. If you're interested, please let me know.

Wonderful Wednesday, bad news first. We will not be meeting in person at the present time. Now the good news! I would like to try Zoom meetings beginning September 9. The format would be gathering time for the children to greet each other. Then we would have our Bible story, (which I will email to you ahead of time) discussion time, songs, and occasional crafts (I'll email that too). As we get into September, my plan is to practice for a Christmas play to be presented in church in December. I'm still deciding how that will work. More information in next month's newsletter.

I know with all the online school we may be facing, you may not wish to participate remotely in Wonderful Wednesday. I hope you will. I know the children need church just as all of us do. (If you have a friend or even a middle schooler who would like to participate, that would be great!)

If you are willing to give this a try, please email me your child's name, email and text info, and what time you think would be best to begin each week. I'm thinking 6:00 p.m. and lasting 30 to 45 minutes. I'll update you as soon as I get this information. Thank you for your help in this. Email (music@rm-umc.org) or text me (540-588-1814) with your Wonderful Wednesday info or for any questions or concerns you have.

I'm keeping all of you in my daily prayers. Stay safe.

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

Little Lambs is planning on opening for its twentieth year after Labor Day. Both classes are full according to the class size and social distancing guidelines established by the governor and the Department of Social Services, which provides the license for Little Lambs. There is much work being done to make preschool as safe as possible for the children, families and teachers. Please keep Little Lambs in your prayers as we prepare to offer this ministry in unprecedented times.

Blessings,
Jan



Like everything else, the youth group experienced cancellations during the summer. Most notably, the youth group did not attend their summer mission trip with the Jeremiah Project. Rather than focus on what didn't take place, the youth group has time to rally and reconvene.

Upcoming events include a gardening project for a shut-in and a project for a new mom. We intend to go to a secret waterfall in Craig County. And we have a river day on the Smith River near Martinsville planned for late August. It's all going to be a lot of fun and great for building unity within the group.

If you have a 6th grader to a 12th grader that would like to participate, we hope they will see this as a formal invitation. Or if they need something a little more gaudy and flashy, how about this:



So there. Don't say you weren't invited.



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; Mike Floryshak (Linda Walters); Theresa Maguire (Linda Walters); Chad Jeffries (CindySmith); Tricia Custer (Linda S. Handy); Shirley Green (Will Waller); Todd Luckett (Mike Meeks); Melissa Hays Smith (Marsha Robertson); Mary Kay Smith (Lynn Cooper); Marion Pritchett (Pam Pritchett); Regina Stanley (Rebecca Dillon); Stephen Youmans (Linda Davis); 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



Family of Al Myers who passed away May 16.

Zac Perdue and Family in the death of his father, George Perdue, on June 8.

Brian Henshaw and Family (Dan and Linda Walters' son-in law) in the death of his mother, Jean Henshaw.

Lewis and Ann Coffey and Family in the death of their niece, Barbara Coffey.

Karla Pagans and Family in the death of her father



Happy Birthday to:

August 2 Janet Land
 August 3 Mary Katherine Clements
 August 7 Emily Waller
 August 7 Cecil Young
 August 10 Casey Naff
 August 11 Lauren Stone
 August 13 Crosby Eitner
 August 14 Sharon Angle
 August 14 Diana Clements
 August 14 Ina Clements
 August 14 Jeff Hall
 August 15 Connie Breedlove
 August 16 Enna Fowler
 August 16 Lindsey Jenkins
 August 16 Angela Ward Oliveira
 August 17 Caitlyn Berger
 August 17 Chloe Berger
 August 17 Jeff Worley
 August 19 Callie Angle
 August 19 Sandra Funk
 August 19 Aidan Jenkins
 August 20 Daniel Lorens

August 21 Vanessa Carter
 August 22 Anna Campbell
 August 22 Steven Eitner
 August 22 Rebecca Goransson
 August 23 Faye Prillaman
 August 24 Ruth Cook
 August 25 Annie Graninger
 August 27 Jim Anderson
 August 27 Audrey Mitchell
 August 28 Joan Bassett
 August 28 Pat Robertson
 August 28 Jack Watts
 August 29 Abe Naff
 August 29 Ronald Prillaman
 August 30 Judy Anderson
 August 30 Betty Dillon

Happy Anniversary to:

August 2 Benny and Annette Board
 August 6 Jeff and Leanne Worley
 August 11 Zac and Jill Perdue
 August 11 Carl and Mitzi Secrest
 August 12 Eric and Kathryn Lorens
 August 12 Mike and Jane Turner
 August 17 Russell and Bridgett Damron
 August 17 Tim and Sandra Funk
 August 25 Jerry and Linda Davis
 August 28 Jim and Hazel Henderson



Vital Congregation Statistics for June

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2019	\$39,580	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 6/30/20		\$133,002
Actual Offerings Received through 6/30/20	\$111,049	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 6/30/20		\$140,586
Actual Expenses Paid through 6/30/20	<\$91,525>	
Ending Balance, 6/30/20	\$59,104	

II. Average Worship Attendance = 23
 Average Online Viewers = 95



Thank you for your sympathy at the time of my sister's passing in May. The flowers you sent to the house are lovely and the card was thoughtful. Most of all, I cherished your prayers as they saw me through a tough time.

Thank you,
Will Waller

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, support and love that I received during the period of my accident, and now during my recovery. So many people called, sent cards and food. I have been very blessed with attending such a wonderful loving church family.

I still have a way to go but much closer to getting back to before the accident in January. I am taking PT with my wonderful therapist, Heather. She has been terrific in my progress. Preacher Will, has also been great with visiting me and checking on me. I never had a preacher do as much as he has for me. I have gained a lot of movement in my knee, which has allowed me to start using a walker. Right now, I am using it mostly at the house. I will venture out with it soon. I have come a long way and it has been a long hard journey. I know things happen for a reason. I think mine was to appreciate everything and not to take anything for granted.

One last thing I would like to mention. I know the love of friends, family has gotten me through all of this, and of course, God has made my path to recovery

and faith to get there. It wasn't easy. The one person I know I couldn't have gotten through all of this is my wonderful husband, Roger. He has supported me and did whatever it took that he had to do. He never fussed, complained or anything and it has been hard on him also. I know that he is my earthly rock. As one person put it, my Nurse Extraordinaire!!!

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart to everyone. Hope to see you soon.

Love and Blessings,
Nancy Middaugh

Friends of Rocky Mount UMC,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your faithful generosity in completing 50% of your District apportionments as of June 30, 2020. We are all blessed by being in connection through the United Methodist Church, knowing that we share in God's Kingdom work being accomplished not only in our own local community, but in ministry throughout the world. Your continuing faithfulness as we move through the second half of the year is much appreciated.

Although we are in the midst of a challenging time unlike any we have ever experienced, your church family as remained faithful in their giving and in their living of the message of Jesus Christ. The Rocky Mount church family has set a priority on ministry to God's people, and have blessed many through this commitment.

Thank you again for your faithfulness, and bless you as you continue to be the blessing you are.

Serving Together in Christ,
Rev. Denise P. Bates
District Superintendent

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Open Hearts...

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
10:55 a.m. Worship