

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

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



September 2020



Hear ye! Hear ye!  
The church is mortgage free!

A great celebration Sunday is being planned for Sunday, September 13. We will be celebrating the great generosity of God's people, and the faithfulness of the Lord. You are invited to come to worship to celebrate this significant milestone in the life of our church. Dreamers dreamed this day would come and visionaries envisioned what could be. And now, we will enjoy a loan-free church with the burning of the church note.

We will have a special worship service at 10:55 a.m. with speakers sharing their thoughts about the addition and the impact the added space has made and will make on the ministry of Rocky Mount UMC. We will eat cake outside with social distancing in place. And of course, there will be fire as we burn that note!

To God be the glory! See you on September 13 at 10:55 a.m.



Who is God? What is the character of God? How can I know God? God - outside of love - is the most bandied about word in our dictionary. We say God with the regularity of an old friend. God is good - what is meant by this? God hates (insert whatever you believe God hates). We may even demand that God bless you whenever your friend sneezes nearby.

This series is not to know more about God, but to know God. AW Tozer once said, "To know God is to love God and to know God more is to love God more." To know God is to know your Creator, the one who sent Jesus to redeem you, the one who loves you endlessly.

We hope you'll join us every single Sunday either online or in-person.

## God's surprises

Don't assume that God will always work in your life the way he always has. A sunset is proof that God colors outside the lines. He has no status quo. Even the laws of nature are his to interrupt. As many times as you've prayed before, today may be the day when God sends the answer so swiftly - so divinely - that you're windburned.

-Beth Moore



# ROCKY MOUNT

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

I am a dreamer.

Most nights, the dreams are of the silly variety. Playing “Louie, Louie” on trombone, eating Indian food with Jeff Goldblum, fighting monsters outside the Whole Bean Coffeehouse. I wake up wondering, “What did I eat to cause such a long, strange trip?” I tell Emily of my dreams and she shakes her head. These dreams are not the ones I wish to write about.

Nor do I wish to write about daydreams. Daydreaming is the practice of wiling away the hours with fanciful visions ungrounded in reality. From an early age, we are told not to daydream. Daydreams are the practice of neglecting living for distractions.

Instead, let us direct our attention to the dreams of the heart. These dreams enable us to go to higher heights than we ever imagined we could. They sketch out a future that has yet to be painted in. They keep us going when forces around us demand that we stop. Sometimes the dream appears as a lofty vision that looks nothing like the present. Other times, the dreams of the heart is the needed power to get through the day. These dreams are, as Rev. Howard Thurman once wrote, “the quiet persistence in the heart that enables a person to ride out the storms of their churning experiences.”

We are much to be pitied if we allow the dream to be snuffed out. When a dream is lost, a person loses sight of what could be.

Dreams can die two separate ways: suddenly and slowly. When a dream dies a sudden death, a person is catapulted into a new reality that makes no sense and provides no solace. It is akin to driving 70 miles an hour down the interstate, and suddenly, everything shuts off. You are stranded. You are in trouble. A dream can go away slowly too. If a dream dies slowly, the individual experiences a pain of losing a companion that for some time had been slightly ahead of them, urging them on into the yet unrealized future. Without that dream spurring us on, we walk around in circles until we fall over, listless. Life without a dream causes us to shudder. Life’s stormy seas can swamp the boat without a dream to keep the venture afloat. The darkness of life’s night can frighten a poor soul without the light that shines in the darkness.

Scripture says that God promises to “pour out (His) Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” (Joel 2:28). Yes, this world can beat you down. Yes, the low-level risk assessment we do constantly exhaust us. Yet we hold fast to the promise of being renewed day by day with strength that will have us soar as on wings like an eagle. You have dreams! And these dreams have weight. Dreams are the fuel of the hoping. God has poured out on you the Spirit to power your days. Do you know this? Do you believe this?

(continued on page 3)

Here's your challenge - For 60 seconds, put this newsletter down and close your eyes. What dreams are the dreams you have had? If you've let weeds grow in the rows of these dreams, peel them back and see the dreams hiding underneath. They're there, potentially being choked out by life's endless worries. Examine them and evaluate yourself - have I let the dreams die? Have I let them be shaded in shadow? Let your dreams live, in the heartbeats of your days.

Your life has significance and that significance is tied to your dreams. If you wish to live a significant life, you must follow the dreams implanted on your heart by God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Will



## Vital Congregation Statistics for July

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2019	\$39,580	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 7/31/20		\$155,169
Actual Offerings Received through 7/31/20	\$132,497	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 7/31/20		\$164,017
Actual Expenses Paid through 7/31/20	<\$112,251>	
Ending Balance, 7/31/20	\$59,826	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 33  
Average Online Viewers = 74

## Many parts, one body



Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

—Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens*



## **United Methodist Women**

(Debbie Caulder,  
President)

UMW

### **SCHOOL KITS**

Deadline: **September 6, 2020**

Thanks to all who have donated school kits for UMCOR. There is still time 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 the lower parking lot entrance near the elevator. 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](mailto:Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com)) if you have questions.



## **Join the Worship Computer Team!**

I'm still begging 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](mailto: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!

"Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith."  
—Henry Ward Beecher



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Hello Friends!

Although the **Chancel Choir** is not meeting for regular rehearsals yet, I hope you're still singing God's praises. I will be emailing choir members with some special music ideas. I am also keeping everyone connected through music with our "Six at Six" concert series. In August, Don Ranson sang his favorites in an awesome 25-minute concert. Our next concert will premiere on September 13 at 6:00 p.m. Mariah Banks will WOW us with some outstanding singing. (Go to the church Facebook page to view all the concerts.) Mark your calendars!

**Jubilant Ringers** will begin in-person rehearsals upstairs in the large practice area Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. The tables will be separated, only two people to a table, no book sharing, and each player will have their own packet with gloves and a pencil that they will bring each week. Of course, masks will be required. If you are a current ringer but don't feel you can join us at this time, please contact me. Also, if you are not a current ringer but would like to play with us, let me know this too!

**Wonderful Wednesday** will not be meeting in person at the present time but Wonderful Webday Zoom meetings will begin Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. The format will include a gathering time for the children to greet each other, Bible story (September 9 scripture is Matthew 18:20), discussion time, songs, and occasional crafts. It should last approximately 45 minutes.

Some children have already contacted me of their interest. I'll email the weekly scripture (have your Bible handy for the meeting) and any craft project. **If you would like to join us and haven't contacted me yet, now is the time!**

Everyone will be getting the link to the meeting and something in the "snail" mail soon. As we get into September, I hope we will be able to practice for a Christmas play to be presented in church in December. I'm still deciding how that will work.

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 as all of us do. (If you have a friend or even a middle schooler who would like to participate, that would be great! "All are welcome here!") Remember, please contact me with your child's name, email and text info if you want to join us on September 9!!!

Email ([music@rm-umc.org](mailto:music@rm-umc.org)) or text me (540-588-1814). I'm keeping all of you in my daily prayers. Stay safe.

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



### **Little Lambs in the News**

It comes with a heavy heart that due to the safety of our children, we have decided to delay the opening of our Little Lambs Preschool. We plan to reopen in January. Thank you for your continued support.

Mark your calendar for October 11 as we celebrate Jan Mohler's retirement from Little Lambs after over a decade of service to our preschool.



"I'm diving in, I'm going deep,  
in over my head I want to be  
Caught in the rush, lost in the flow,  
in over my head I want to go  
The river's deep, the river's wide, the river's  
water is alive  
So sink or swim, I'm diving in"

In 1999, Steven Curtis Chapman released a single from his album *Speechless* called "Dive." "Dive" tells of a young person about to take a leap of faith, diving into the deep waters of faith. They're standing on the edge, they're about to jump in. They take a deep breath and throw themselves into the sheltering waters below.

This song could have been written about a recent foray in Craig County.

The youth group went to visit that county on the West Virginia border to dive into the cold waters of Craig Creek. They had a blast exploring the clear waters of that stream, stacking rocks, searching for crawdads, and of course, climbing trees to swing from the rope swing. It was a satisfying and superb summertime soiree.

There is something good about this youth group, and their willingness to experience God's goodness in God's creation. They want to know more of His kindness and His grace. They want to dive in.

If you want to know more about this group of young people, go to YouTube and listen to Dive by Steven Curtis Chapman. Or, like one of your fellow Rocky Mount UMC-ers did, volunteer to serve as a chaperone on a future youth group outing. You'd be glad you did.

**Happy Birthday to:**

September 3 Ashley Johoske  
September 3 Jessica Turner  
September 5 Ceil Bussey  
September 5 Shirley Farmer  
September 7 Amber Altice  
September 7 Deanna Stone  
September 8 Benny Board  
September 8 Jessica Mitchell  
September 9 Hazel Henderson  
September 11 Jane Roseberry  
September 12 Jane Turner  
September 14 P. D. Hambrick  
September 15 Billy McBride  
September 15 Terri Naff  
September 15 Leanne Worley  
September 16 Jennifer Ardis  
September 16 Jonathan Ardis  
September 17 Lew Hege  
September 17 Flo Torrence  
September 17 Doris Young  
September 18 Craig Teeple  
September 20 Chapin Engel  
September 22 Carl Secrest  
September 23 Karla Pagans  
September 23 Cindy Smith  
September 25 Erin Myers  
September 26 Mariah Banks  
September 27 Nickey Bryant  
September 27 Tristen Bryant  
September 28 Isabela Godfrey

**Happy Anniversary to:**

September 5 George & Sylvia Hutcherson  
September 7 Conrad & Phyllis Lavinder  
September 7 Charlie & Marsha Robertson  
September 11 Alex & Anne Lewis Dessart  
September 14 John & Diana Clements  
September 23 Bob and Patsy Swain  
September 24 Bill & Robin Cooper



**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Judy Anderson; 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 (Cindy Smith); 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); 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



**Shirley Vaughn and Family** in the death of her sister, Neva Parker.

**Linda Davis and Family** in the death of her uncle, Stephen Youmans



A big thank you goes out to Ben Clements and Mike Meeks for their work in setting up the new camera-switching device in the balcony. They're going to enable us to have more professional live streams for those that choose to worship at home. Thanks you two! - Will Waller

**When God crosses our paths**

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways – both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

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35 North Main Street  
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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**