

THE TIE THAT BINDS

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



November 2020

rightnow MEDIA

Our church's Bible study library is now digital...

AND GIGANTIC.

Over 20,000 discipleship videos for kids, youth, and adults.

One of our goals at Rocky Mount UMC is to provide our members with discipleship resources, which is why we've given all of you free access to RightNow Media! You can type this link into your URL to create your free account:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/rmumc>

Since we are not meeting at this time as small groups, this would be a great way to stay connected to the Lord, growing your faith while we wait for a time when it is safe to reopen small groups.

Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2021 is here.

Reserve your "special Sunday" now to provide altar



flowers during the worship service. Also, remember that the piano is available for an arrangement should there be two individuals interested in the same date. You will be responsible for ordering the flowers. Call the church office or stop by the chart on the bulletin board that is located at the steps that go down to the preschool to reserve your special date.

Getting Ready for Advent

Many hands are needed as we get ready to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season. Monday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m. we will be decorating the Chrismon tree and sanctuary. Please wear your mask!



Again this year during the season of Advent, you will be given the opportunity to select an Advent Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, November 29, containing the name of a church family member, "an Advent Friend," who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during the Advent season. You will be asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. If you know of someone who would appreciate the special care of this ministry, please notify the church office by Sunday, November 8.

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

—G.K. Chesterton



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

As I walked around the corner, it was browsing among the undergrowth looking for grubs. It had its back to me, its eyes affixed on the ground below. Food was on its mind, not potential predators. It made small snuffs and huffs, sounds almost too imperceptible to be heard. Yet I knew exactly what I was dealing with. A humongous black bear.

My first thought went to my son, Ezekiel, attached to my back in the carrier. He had his eyes keenly on the bear that had begun a slow ascent up the hill. We were hiking in a far-off corner of Patrick County called the Pinnacles of Dan. The area consists of steep terrain with hillsides covered in rhododendron and mountain laurel, diving down from The Pinnacle to the crystal-clear Dan River. As far as beauty goes, this area is nearly unparalleled in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We were there in early June of this year, a time when everything bursts with green unpainted by even the great masters of landscapes. All the thoughts of the aesthetics went out of the proverbial window when we got our first look at the black bear in front of us on the largely overgrown trail. Make the wrong move and we were dead meat.

With the adrenaline pumping through my veins, I began to watch the bear silently as it climbed the hillside, still unaware of our presence below. Methodically moving upward, the bear simply had not smelled Zeke or me. This was remarkable! One is a guy with an inconsistent record of hygiene and the other is a one-year-old. We aren't known for having the finest of scents. No matter. We were unnoticed and made no sound as we watched the bear move up and eventually out-of-sight.

Seeing bears isn't too unusual for me; I've seen plenty over my days. This incident though was unique - it was the first time I had had minutes to watch the species plod slowly over the earth, looking for its next bite to eat. Usually, my interactions with bears were moments. A bear running across Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park or a bear running headlong through the underbrush, only seen out of the corner of my eye as a black blip on my periphery. These few minutes were unlike any other I had had. And I cherish that I got to spend them with Ezekiel at such a young age.

When you read this, the election night may have already happened. With our country at a fever pitch around politics, maybe the discussions online with family members or around the dinner table have become heated. There may be people that you once valued as friends that you've decided are deserving of the "block" button on Facebook.

Here's some pastoral advice, free of charge.

(continued on page 3)

Like the bear, some fights aren't worth having. Maybe it was my bony physique and Ezekiel's unrealized potential that kept the bear away. Maybe it's because, by and large, black bears are more scared of people than people are of them. Whatever it was, the bear chose not to be aggressive and not to bother engaging in warfare. Remember, you don't have to participate in every fight that you're invited to.

Sometimes, eating is more important than bickering. In addition to Election Season, it's Thanksgiving season in America. That means we're about to step into the holiest of holies - the dining room with its cornucopia of collards, chicken pot pies, and cakes. Why sully it with fistacuffs? Sure, maybe one of your relatives has an opinion different than yours. Can we gather around the turkey leg with kindness and not bitterness? After the bear departed, I reached into my pack and gnawed on some trail mix while Ezekiel guzzled down some whole milk. We were all better for it.

Lastly, I have met many people terrified of black bears. They are afraid of what they can do. And so they never leave the cozy country cabin. Similarly, we live in a land broken by dissolution and distrust of our neighbor. The political sign that sits in your neighbor's yard very often dictates whether you will speak to that neighbor. Being terrified of your neighbor, or them being terrified of you is a great way to stay alive but it's not a great way to live. If you never step out, you'll never see the diverse beauty of the world God created. I step out to see the black bears, even though I know they have the capacity to hurt me. Don't miss out on the rich tapestry God made because of predilections about your neighbor's political persuasions. You might just receive an insight as you hike over to talk to them - God made them too.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Vital Congregation Statistics for September

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

| | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|
| Amount Brought Forward From 2019 | \$39,580 | |
| Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 9/30/20 | | \$199,503 |
| Actual Offerings Received through 9/30/20 | \$168,957 | |
| Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 9/30/20 | | \$210,879 |
| Actual Expenses Paid through 9/30/20 | <\$165,159> | |
| Ending Balance, 9/30/20 | \$43,378 | |

II. Average Worship Attendance = 52
Average Online Viewers = 66



*Don't forget to "fall back!"
Daylight Saving Time Ends November 1.*



It is time to order poinsettias to be used in the sanctuary December 6-24. If

you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by **Monday, November 9**. The cost is \$13.00. Checks should be made payable to Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. After December 24, you may take your poinsettia(s) home to enjoy.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Return to church office by Monday, November 9 A payment of \$13.00 for each poinsettia should accompany your order.

Your Name:

Number of poinsettias Ordered:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:



UMW

United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

Next Meeting: November 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM. Details will be sent by e-mail. This will be a short meeting to re-connect with our members. All are welcome!

Congratulations: Phyllis Lavinder has been selected as District UMW President. Please join me in praying for her in her new role.

Soup Sale: We hope to have a soup sale this year if approved by the District. Phyllis has enthusiastically agreed to lead this effort.

We welcome all women of the church to join us. Please contact Debbie Caulder by phone or email Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com or any other United Methodist Woman if you are interested or have questions.



FEED THE CHILDREN

Sontag Nutrition Program

(Phyllis Lavinder, Coordinator)

For the month of November, Terri Naff and Kelly Peterson are our buyers and baggers. We continue to deliver eight bags a week to Sontag Elementary School. We would like to thank our delivery teams for all their hard work. First week of the month is Annette and Benny Board, second week Jack Collins, third week Charlotte Hill, fourth week is Linda Handy/Suzanne Kidwell, and the fifth week is Debbie Caulder. Substitute for delivery is Jack Collins. Without these dedicated volunteers, our Nutrition Program would not be such a success.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This month is a busy time for our musicians as we prepare our holiday music. Yes, our Chancel Choir and Jubilant Ringers will be singing and ringing for our Thanksgiving and Advent season! Our singers will be featured on Sunday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. for our virtual third Six at Six concert. We will sing favorite hymns of praise and Thanksgiving. Be sure and lift your voice along with us as you watch!

The Jubilant Ringers are preparing several Advent/Christmas songs and there will be two piano/organ duets to start and end this concert. It will premiere at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 13 for our virtual fourth Six at Six concert. I'll share a reminder for these songs of celebration in our December newsletter. Go to the church Facebook page to view all the concerts. After the premiere date, they will be available to view whenever you want.

I continue to meet the children for Wonderful Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. We are having a great time! If you have a child (grandchild, neighbor, friend) who would enjoy singing, dancing, reading the scripture, and making a quick craft, please join us. Contact me at music@rm-umc.org to get the link. **We will not meet on November 25.**

This challenging time has given all of us the opportunity to praise and worship in a different way. Even though for the present, we are not singing in person each Sunday, I hope my preparations for music during worship help to fill everyone's need

to praise God and I pray it will not be long until we can "come before His presence with singing".

Love and Peace,
Lynn



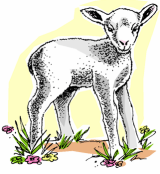
Are you familiar with the Butterfly Effect? The Butterfly Effect is the idea that if a butterfly flaps its wings in Tokyo there will be a breeze in New York. While the accuracy of this theory is suspect, the underlying idea is true - what we do has an effect on the world around us. Whether it be an unintended look that causes another person to wonder if we are angry at them or a smile that we give to the cashier that brightens her day and causes her to smile at her kids when she gets home, the butterfly effect says that what we do matters.

Since writing the October youth article two of you have said you would like to volunteer with the youth group. This will have an effect on the lives of these young people. We tend to think that unless we speak before the congregation, sing a solo, or give a large monetary donation, that our effect will be minor.

Remember the story Jesus told of the woman who gave a small donation? She was the one lauded for her gift, not the donors of huge gifts. Remember the woman who gave of her tiny amount of oil and flour? She was the one who saved the prophet from death. Remember how God took soil and created people? He is the one worth giving glory to.

The size of the gift is judged not by the quantity given but by the heart that gives it. Thank you to all who can give in to the youth group. This enables them to come to know our loving Savior Jesus Christ, the most important gift anyone can ever give.

To volunteer, please email Pastor Will at will@rm-umc.org.



Little Lambs in the News

The Little Lambs Advisory Committee is interviewing candidates currently in preparation for reopening the preschool in early January. More details will be available about how to support the preschool in 2021. As of now, please pray for these candidates and for the Advisory Committee as they complete their work and for the training that will commence once employment begins. Thank you Rocky Mount UMC for your continued support of the preschool.



REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Judy Anderson; 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; George Watts (Jack Watts); Mary Maxey (Don Ranson); Campbell Debord (Mike Meeks); Theresa Maguire (Linda Walters); 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); JenniferTatum (Tracy Jenkins); and Tiffanee Anderson (Judy Anderson).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Family of John Hatcher Ferguson, Jr. who passed away October 5.

Julie English and Family in the death of her brother-in-law, Rodney Woodall



Dear Rocky Mount UMC,

Thank you so very much for the gift that you gave to Emily, Ezekiel, and I this past month. We are thankful for you all and for your gifts that continue to astound. The capacity of this church to continue worshipping, continue serving, and continue thriving in the midst of the pandemic has been only by God's grace. Furthermore, our staff has never skipped a beat, remaining flexible and remaining nimble as they serve God and serve the people. Thanks for the thanks!

Will, Emily, and Ezekiel

“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”
—St. Therese of Lisieux



Happy Birthday to:

- November 1 E. B. Easter
- November 2 Annette D. Board
- November 3 Debbie Rucker
- November 4 Laura Hannula
- November 7 Logan Engel
- November 8 Christina Gibson
- November 9 Natalie Cook
- November 11 Isaac Godfrey
- November 11 Zac Perdue
- November 13 Ann Coffey
- November 14 Robert Jarrett
- November 14 Alice Lively
- November 15 Barbara Beck
- November 16 Bridgett Damron
- November 16 Debra Vaughn
- November 17 Emily Prillaman
- November 18 Mike Turner
- November 19 Mike Jenkins
- November 20 Fred Bussey
- November 21 Stephanie Cook
- November 23 Tammy Burdick
- November 23 Mary Hollyday
- November 24 Anthony Cundiff
- November 24 Nancy Middaugh
- November 24 Evan Stone
- November 25 Breanna Bowles
- November 25 Carol Geisler
- November 25 Grove Revercomb
- November 27 Bays Gibson
- November 27 Delois Leonard
- November 27 Liam McBride
- November 27 Jason Myers

Happy Anniversary to:

- November 18 Mike and Lynn Meeks




Birthdays

We hope to send everyone a birthday card during the year, but we are missing some. Please send me your birthday and the birthdays of your family so everyone can be celebrated. Thank you!

Martha Sue Gibson
gibson53@gmail.com
 540-420-2902





Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|---|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | They | found | broke | homes | break | acts in |
| 2 | houses | their | world | beginning | together | follow |
| 3 | ate | with | members | glad | happiness | hearts and |
| 4 | with | thanks | sincere | disciples | praising | Christian |
| 5 | celebrate | good | | | | God |
| 6 | | | | | | river |

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
 Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
 Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
 Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
 Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
 Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
 Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

. ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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**ROCKY
MOUNT**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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