

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

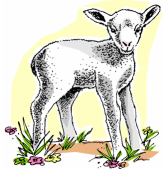
E-mail: admin@rm-umc.org

Website: www.rm-umc.org

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



October 2020



Little Lambs in the News

Little Lambs Christian Preschool at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church is

seeking employment for two positions: Little Lambs Director and Little Lambs 3-year-old teacher. Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, fun, and developmentally age appropriate Christian environment in which students can learn and grow.

Applicants may submit a resume by October 10, 2020 to the following address:

RMUMC

Little Lambs Christian Preschool
35 N Main Street

Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Please call 540-483-5338 with any questions.



All Saints' Day

In November, we celebrate All-Saints Day on the first Sunday of the month. This year, we will celebrate your loved ones on November 1.

In order to honor all those that have passed on to eternal glory in the past year, please send in the names of any who were not members of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church that you would like to remember. Those who were members of RMUMC will be included in the remembrance ceremony. Any others that you would like to name can be included, but you must email (admin@rm-umc.org) their name into Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant, by October 28.



FEED THE CHILDREN

Sontag Nutrition Program

(Phyllis Lavinder, Coordinator)

As the fall season with children going

back to school begins; Sontag Elementary School has contacted our church for meal bags for eight students. The food we give is top quality, nutritious food with snacks. It cost around \$5.00 per bag.

Thank you to all who volunteered for the school year 2020-2021, it would not be a success without your help. The first delivery was on September 25 by Linda Handy. We included a note to the student telling about RMUMC and our active youth ministry with an invitation to attend our church anytime.

Special thanks to Linda Walters and her sister, Nancy, who helped on bagging day in September. When a lot pitch in to help, it makes the job go quickly!



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



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Growing up, there was an advertisement for Tootsie Roll Pops. The idea was simple: “how many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop?” The kid wants to know, so he goes to the animal kingdom to find out. That animals have easy access to Tootsie Roll Pops is questionable indeed - are there lackadaisical candy shop owners, a black market for Tootsie Roll Pops? Either way, he ventures out to visit the Cow, Fox, and Turtle. He wants to know, so he asks them. All three animals declare that they don’t know how many licks it takes because after a couple licks, they bite the whole thing off. Our main character finally ends up at the Owl, notoriously the wisest animal of all. Coming up to the tree, he awakens the Owl, and asks his now commonplace question: “How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop?” The Owl takes the tootsie roll, and after exuding tremendous patience with three valiant licks, he snaps the thing off.

The kid is disgusted. Again!?!

The commercial reminds me that patience runs out for us all sometimes. We don’t need examples from someone else because we all know what it is like to snap like a strained cord. We’re pulled, and pulled, and pulled and then SNAP! Down we go, into an abyss of bitterness, backbiting, and bruising. It isn’t pretty. Our relationships suffer, our heart suffers, our closeness to God suffers. For a while there, we were doing fine licking, but then, we’re the ones that are licked.

What is there to do? We must wait upon the Lord at all times. “Those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength,” Isaiah tells us. “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him” the Psalmist implores us. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer,” Paul encourages us. “But Isaiah,” we reply, “you don’t know my boss!” “Hey Psalmist,” we respond, “come on over to my house and tell me how well you are able to be still.” “Paul,” we counter, “really? Really, Paul?” We are impatient with those who tell us to be patient.

I would offer that if we’re struggling with staying patient, especially in 2020, we may need to ask where our patience is generated from. Is it generated from an ardent spirit? From a pull yourself up by your own bootstraps mentality? If it comes from that place, it will fail. We will fail.

Patience isn’t generated by scrunching up our face and getting it created on our own; it’s a heavenly gift, offered to us by our good God. God knows that in this life we’ll be buffeted on all sides by the winds of change and the storms of suffering. We’ll have those days when we just can’t. We’ll have those nights that test our every ounce of sanity. We’ll have those seasons that we are blown about by difficulties we never imagined would pop up. If we try to make patience on our own, it will be like trying to make sourdough bread without a starter - we’ll fall flat.

(continued on page 3)

Can I offer a suggestion, one learned in life and one verified by scripture? “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” Yes, the kids are screaming. Yes, the online teaching isn’t ideal. Yes, you didn’t take the annual trip to the beach. Yes, you are frazzled. And yet, you’re not forgotten. You’re not forsaken. There’s a God who watches over you with compassion and care, who walks alongside you each day of your life - even the hard days. And one of the gifts that he gently offers to you as you walk is patience. In another part of the Scripture, we’re invited to take on patience. “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Put on patience when you’re putting on your work clothes in the morning. As silly as it sounds, imagine yourself applying patience at the same time you’re applying your makeup.

And when you feel like you’ve been bitten by impatience, and you’re biting others in a way that’s out of character with the patient person you’d like to be, pray this prayer with me:

“Dear God, thank you for my life. For the ups and yes, the downs. In this moment, I am waiting upon you, asking for your patience as I navigate this challenge. Teach me to be still and to trust you. In Jesus’s beautiful name, I pray. Amen.”

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Vital Congregation Statistics for August

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2019	\$39,580	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 8/31/20		\$177,336
Actual Offerings Received through 8/31/20	\$152,684	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 8/31/20		\$187,448
Actual Expenses Paid through 8/31/20	<\$138,131>	
Ending Balance, 8/31/20	\$54,133	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 46
Average Online Viewers = 58



October Is Pastor Appreciation Month

God has blessed our congregation with Reverend Will Waller who has begun his fifth year of ministry with us. October is the designated time of the year for us to show our appreciation to him with cards and other acts of kindness. Sunday, October 11, has been “officially” designated as Clergy Appreciation Day.

Thank you Pastor Will for all you have done and continue to do. May God continue to richly bless and guide you.



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the school kits for UMCOR! We will deliver 86 kits this year.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

We have been “zooming” Wonderful Wednesday for about a month. The format is a shortened version of what we do in person with a Bible lesson, songs, prayers, and an occasional craft. Our memory verse has been Joshua 1:9 “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” In this time of uncertainty, we all need reminding of how much God loves us and takes care of us. Although we have averaged only four children each week, we have been having a good time. Please feel free to help your child join us whenever you can. Contact me at music@rm-umc.org for log on information.

Don’t give up **Chancel Choir**! Even though we are not singing in the church building yet, I am thinking of gathering outside the church to record some old favorite hymns. (Maybe before or after worship on a Sunday.) If you are a choir member and interested, let me know. I’ll be reaching out soon with details.

I hope you have enjoyed our fantastic August and September “Six at Six” concerts featuring Don Ranson and Mariah Banks. (Go to the church Facebook page to

view all the concerts.) We will not have one in October but there will be something special planned for November. Don’t miss it!!!

We have a special anniversary in October. Our talented pianist, Jeanne Banks, will be celebrating 19 years of service in music ministry at RMUMC! Thank you so much Jeanne! We’re so blessed to have you!

The **Bells** are ringing on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. We are already preparing songs for October, November and maybe two in December. I have planned some fantastic Thanksgiving and Christmas pieces!

FYI...Mittie Hambrick and Pat Cundiff were in our first handbell choir and have played bells for 28 years. Be sure to thank them for their faithfulness and service!!!

October 4 marks 31 years of music ministry with you at Rocky Mount UMC. I look back at where we began and praise God for all the gifts of music we have shared. I have seen my first groups of children grow up, finish school, and begin their life journey as adults. I have had the privilege and blessing of knowing many saints who have now begun their eternal journeys. Each year I meet new children in Wonderful Wednesday and through working with the preschool. (Even though this year looks a little different.) I feel so privileged to help them grow in faith and Christian service through the music we make together. In this challenging new time, God continues to bless me with new opportunities to witness to my faith through working with you in our music ministry. Thank you for being such a wonderful church family and giving me this special avenue to serve. I love you all.

Love and Peace,
Lynn



When you look back on your time as a teenager, what do you remember? What memories first come floating by? What causes you to smile?

Being a teenager is a lot. There are a lot of emotions. There is a lot of work. There is a lot of pain. There are a lot of feelings all at once. It's a lot.

Not to dismiss the troubles of other age groups, but our teenagers are dealing with challenges that haven't been felt before. They're isolated from their friends causing loneliness to be rampant. They're learning online which carries distractions aplenty. They're missing out on the rhythms that have accompanied American life for decades with sports schedules disrupted and groups not meeting.

Youth group has always been a grounding weekly event for our church, and it continues to be, yet on a deeper level than ever before. These students need each other. They need to interact. They need to be together and hear just how it is really going with their peers. They need that centering that comes when you meet together once a week.

And they need you. They need the ballast that adult servants can provide. And maybe you need them too. You need their life, their humor, their wisdom.

What's in the offing? What's in the offing are the memories that they'll look back on with fondness when they're your age. These are memories we want them to have. And you can ensure that these are the ones they recall.

So, here's a list of the next activities for the next two months. Any of these days that speak to you as a place you can serve? Contact Pastor Will to help if you can.

October 4 – 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Hash House Harrier Race & Chasing after Jesus Night.

Drivers are needed

October 11
Greenway bike trip and ice cream extravaganza.

Bike transport needed

October 18 – 4:00-6:30 p.m.
Fast Food Delivery

Drivers needed

October 30-31 – 5:00 p.m.-9:00 a.m.
Bonfire and campout at Gibson's Farm
Storyteller and chaperones needed

November 8 – 6:00-7:30 p.m.
The Gospel According to Marvel Comics
Adult volunteer needed

November 11 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
College Care Package Assembly Night
Candy packer needed

November 29 – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Nativity Night
Adult volunteer needed to retell birth story of Jesus

Unimaginable impact

You don't know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

—John Ortberg,
The Life You've Always Wanted



Happy Birthday to:

- October 1 Linda Lox
- October 1 Peggy McAndrew
- October 1 Don Ranson
- October 2 Sylvia Cundiff
- October 2 Barbara Huffman
- October 3 Jake James
- October 3 Benjamin Turner
- October 4 Teal Colaprete
- October 4 Blair Graninger
- October 4 Sharon Jones
- October 5 Dick Higgins
- October 5 Willie Denny
- October 5 Charles Prillaman
- October 5 Phillip Roseberry
- October 6 Bill Engel
- October 8 Kathleen Higgins
- October 8 Vicky James
- October 9 Natalie Lorens
- October 11 Andrew Lorens
- October 11 Brandy Thompson
- October 12 Janet Osborne
- October 13 Christopher Land
- October 14 Martha Anderson
- October 15 Pat Cundiff
- October 15 Tammy Engel
- October 15 John Plummer
- October 17 Nat Hodges
- October 17 Christine Land
- October 18 Noah Burdick
- October 18 Ronald Wray
- October 21 Christy Angle
- October 22 Tabitha Eitner
- October 23 Cameron Haynes
- October 23 Riley Hodges
- October 24 Joshua Banks
- October 25 Priscilla Kent
- October 26 Stephanie Teeple
- October 28 Ainsley Revercomb
- October 31 Katie Meeks

Happy Anniversary to:

- October 1 Anthony & Elisabeth Saldo
- October 2 Steven & Tabitha Eitner
- October 5 James & Ainsley Revercomb
- October 6 Lew & Paula Hege
- October 6 Chaz & Jessica Mitchell
- October 8 Will & Emily Waller
- October 23 Bays & Ranessa Gibson

Prayer Concerns:



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Lindsay McDaniel; 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; Mary Maxey (Don Ranson); Campbell Debord (Mike Meeks); 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

“Start by doing what’s necessary;
then do what’s possible;
and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”
—Unknown



Family of Ceil Bussey who passed away
September 4

Jan Mohler and Family in the death of her
father-in-law, Jim R. Mohler



Thank you for your caring by sending cards on the passing of my sister, Neva, calls for just checking on me and Sonny, bringing food, visiting at a distance, a favor of taking pictures of important events to be used in the history of our church and driving me to doctor appointments. Thanks to Will, staff and those behind the scenes giving us the opportunity for Sunday worship service in our homes.

God's love to you all,
Shirley Vaughn

Holy mysteries

Dwell in the wonder of these two gifts of God: that God made us in his very image (Genesis 1:26), and then – “much more”! – that Christ came to earth as a human being (Philippians 2:7).

Ponder and savor how poet John Donne (1572-1631) describes these mysteries:

“’Twas much, that man was made like God
before,
But, that God should be made like man,
much more.”



SEED *impressions*

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.



What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.

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35 North Main Street
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