

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"*



February 2021



Ash Wednesday, February 17, begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and

spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This year, due to the pandemic, things will look a little different. Rather than imposing ashes on your forehead as is tradition, we will be handing you a burlap square, will impose the ashes on it, and give you this item. With its rough, coarse texture, the burlap is a perfect addition to this worship service. Plus, now you may remember this night and keep the burlap with the cross always.

Also new this year, the youth will be leading the entire service. They're excited to share their gifts of worship leadership and will be a wonderful addition to the worship team. We are excited to have them serve in this vital and powerful way.

The service will be in-person and live streamed on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.

(Amended from UMC.org)



Again this year during the season of Lent, you are invited to select a Lenten Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, February 21, and will contain the name of a church family member who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during Lent. You are asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. Thank you!



Officers, new and old, we are asking that you be in attendance either in person or online on February 7 at 10:55 a.m. as we pray for you and honor your service and upcoming service to God. Come forward at the designated time in worship to be recognized. If you serve on a committee or as the head of work group at RMUMC, please make plans to be in worship that day.



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,

Do you dream? The type of dreams where you are racing around trying to complete a task before the time runs out? Maybe you're being chased by monsters and you've got nowhere to go? Or perhaps you're falling endlessly?

I dream, a lot. Few nights go by that I am not dreaming of something seemingly impossible. Last night, my dream included going with Emily to Washington and Lee University, where we both graduated, and watching a swim meet (something we never did while in school). At the swim meet's conclusion, we were asked to sing the alma mater and were reminded that the end of every line was "tzatziki" (something we know isn't right). That dream left me shaking my head, wondering what did I eat or why did my brain put all those things together.

In the Bible, people took dreams seriously. Joseph famously was visited by an angel in his dream, informing him that his life was about to change, and he was to marry Mary and the son she was carrying would be named Jesus. The other Joseph in the Bible was famous for his dreams, so much so that he would be called the Dreamer by his surly brothers. Jacob dreamt that he could see a ladder with angels ascending and descending on it.

We are a bit more skeptical of dreams these days. "Surely God isn't calling me to do that." "Surely God wouldn't ask me to do that." "Surely I'm not being called to go there." And when we open our eyes, we shake our heads like a soggy dog shaking off the water. "That was crazy, now let's get back to reality."

Has God placed a dream in your mind that you can't so easily shake off? One that nips at you, leading you deeper to some realer reality? Casting dreams off as the byproducts of sleep decreases the many ways God speaks to people in the Bible and can speak to us. God speaks; but His words aren't always while we are awake. I pray that the Almighty speaks into your life this Lent, and you heed His words, whether you're wide awake or only just getting there.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Hey you online worshippers! We are glad to see you in worship. We would like to honor your continued praise of the Most High God. Send in your Sunday Selfie of you worshipping from home and we can show your picture on Sunday morning during the announcement time. All of us need the reminder that we are in this together. So, grab the smartphone, snap the shot, and send it to us. Please send to will@rm-umc.org.



Prayer Partners is a new endeavor at RMUMC with past roots. When Martha Sue Gibson and Sharon Angle served as the leaders of the youth group, they devised the Prayer Partners program. This program is simple - you choose a youth to adopt as your prayer partner. You pray for them, send them encouragement throughout the year, and they reciprocate by praying for you in kind. Then, a year later, there will be a fancy dinner at the church where you finally get to have your identity revealed and you eat dinner with them and chat about the year and the ways God has grown them.

If you'd like to participate, you have to pledge that you'll pray daily for them, encourage them throughout the year, and be willing to attend the Prayer Partner's Dinner in February 2022. Take a name and a bio at worship on February 14 and get started.



Children's Church is coming soon. The SPR continues to look for the perfect candidate to serve in this ministry. Once they are hired, we will need YOU! Is God calling you to serve once every other month in this vital ministry? Are you willing to color, sing, laugh, and play with our youngest parishioners? If so, send your name into the office at admin@rm-umc.org today so we can have you ready to go once the person is hired.

Flower Chart

There are still many Sundays available in 2021 to reserve your special Sunday 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.

A daily prayer

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.



(Linda Walters, Coordinator)

We know we have some women in our congregation who sew, do needlework, quilt, or paint! The United Methodist Women will be putting together a quilt with squares made by individuals and we are hoping to involve as many people as possible. All designs will be done on 12” white muslin squares. The square can be appliqued, pieced, done in needlework, fabric painted or done with fabric markers. The theme for the quilt is “Knitted Together for God’s Good Work”. We are looking for designs of anything in nature. Your square can be as simple or as complicated as you wish. If you are interested in participating in this project, would like help with it, have questions or would like more information, contact Linda Walters (540-346-2004 (H) or 757-635-0109 © or lindaw@shentel.net). Contact Linda for squares, designs (if you need one), and a short list of directions. We hope to complete this project at our Mission Workday in May. This is an “at home project” you can do while social distancing and quarantining.

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it with another.”
—Thomas Merton



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Next Meeting: Monday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Please join us!

Our first meeting of 2021 was held on January 4. Phyllis Lavinder presented a program on "Knitted Together for God's Good Work." We are excited about a Quilt Project that Linda Walters is coordinating. Please refer to a separate article for more information.

The 2020-21 UMW Reading Program has begun. You may check out any of the books on the shelf labeled UMW Reading Program in the Assembly Room. Simply sign each book out in the red folder and sign it in when you return it. If you take the children’s books, please keep track of the names of the children to whom you read. Children count as readers too!

The UMW will continue to collect soda can tabs and stamps. The box for the collections is in the hall to the left of the Narthex on the windowsill near the mailboxes.

We welcome all women of the church to join us the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for Zoom Meetings. We hope to resume in person meetings as soon as COVID conditions allow. Please contact Debbie Caulder (540-204-2266 or Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com) or any other United Methodist Woman if you are interested or have questions.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

The month of February marks the last Six at Six Concert for this season. Dan and Linda Walters' daughter and grandson along with other musicians from Kernstown UMC will be sharing "Love through music from their church to ours." It will feature children and adult vocal soloists as well as instrumentalists presenting favorite, familiar hymns. Be sure and watch this beautiful concert on February 14 at 6:00 p.m. on our Facebook page.

Handbells will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the music practice room. We could still use one more player. If you are interested, please contact me at music@rm-umc.org.

Wonderful Wednesday continues to be on Zoom each week at 6:00 p.m. We take time to greet each other, read our Bible verses, sing, dance (a little), and do a scripture related craft. If your child would like to join us, please email me for the meeting ID and password. All are welcome! FYI...I am working on a way to present a children's musical this spring!

Chancel Choir members don't give up! We will be singing together as soon as we can. I miss you and love you all.

Love and Peace,
Lynn

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

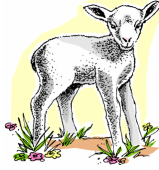
—Corrie ten Boom

The other night at youth group, the students gathered together to talk about some rather heady topics. With Lent starting this month, the youth discussed Ash Wednesday, the application of ash and sackcloth on one's self, and repentance. These topics are not ones adults are always keen on discussing, yet the students dove in with both feet. They asked questions like, "Why does God demand this type of response to sin?" and "Does staying away from chocolate count as fasting?" These questions aren't kiddie pool questions. The youth don't have a kiddie pool faith.

Once I was hosting a small group at a youth conference at Eagle Eyrie outside of Lynchburg. At the small group, there was a gentleman who listened while the youth explained the challenges that they have. This gentleman at one point sat back in his seat and shook his head. Before the small group closed, this man said, "y'all don't even know what problems are. You're too young." I responded to him directly that the problems of youth are problems and asked him not to disparage their experience any further.

This youth group at RMUMC has depth and its members have great maturity. We are blessed to have them and pray each Sunday to grow in maturity. If you'd like to help out in any way, please do. We would love to have folks show up with food - these students love to eat. Or perhaps you're interested in joining in the Prayer Partners action starting February 14. This is where you choose a youth and pray for them daily, send them encouragement, but don't reveal your identity to them for an entire year.

We need your help. The youth need your involvement!



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

WERE BACK! Little Lambs three-year-old and four-year-old classes have been back for a few weeks now. All the children are happy and enjoying each other and their time here. At this time, we have eight students in each class, although the 3-year-olds will go to nine students in February. The three-year-old class is learning about God's love and creation. The four-year-old class is also learning about God's love, creation, and arctic animals. We are so glad to be back open and have the children back in the building. We still have open spots for children for this year and also for next fall. Please help us spread the word to help fill the classes.

Blessings to all!

Kelsey



Vital Congregation Statistics for December

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2019	\$39,580	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 12/31/20		\$266,000
Actual Offerings Received through 12/31/20	\$237,651	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 12/31/20		\$281,175
Actual Expenses Paid through 12/31/20	<\$238,702>	
Ending Balance, 12/31/20	\$38,529	

II. Average Worship Attendance = 55

Average Online Viewers = 74

An interlocking community



Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship.

He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*



Happy Birthday to:

- February 2 Cole Holland
- February 3 Becky Newbill
- February 4 Jack Collins
- February 4 Cyn Fisher
- February 4 Suzanne Ross
- February 5 Avery Ardis Tosh
- February 5 Lera Gibson
- February 5 Dean Stone
- February 6 Dee Shoemaker
- February 7 Warren Damron
- February 7 James Peters
- February 8 Peggy Santrock
- February 9 Josh Gibson
- February 9 Eva Prillaman
- February 10 Darrell Prillaman
- February 10 Elisabeth Saldo
- February 14 Abigail Bennett
- February 14 Brian Hambrick
- February 15 Brandi Altice
- February 15 Annette C. Board
- February 15 Kelly Geisler
- February 15 Silas Gibson
- February 17 Rebecca Dillon
- February 17 Jill Perdue
- February 18 Bill Beck
- February 19 Martha Sue Gibson
- February 20 Kaden Hodges
- February 21 Adam Cundiff
- February 24 David Clements
- February 24 Rowan Eitner
- February 27 Abe Gibson
- February 27 Kathryn Lorens
- February 27 Mike Meeks
- February 28 Warrior Colaprete
- February 29 Lindsay Smawley

Happy Anniversary to:

- February 14 Tyler and Ti Godfrey
- February 15 Ron and Peggy Hodges



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Bill Cooper; Martha Collins; Al Collins; 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 Shea (Enna Roseberry); Ralph Ranson (Don Ranson); Deborah Hensel (Linda Dunlap); Carey Kinney (Linda Dunlap); Tracey Willett (Mike Meeks); Melissa Houseman (Terri Naff); William Worley (Brenda Wright); Mary Maxey (Don Ranson); Tricia Custer (Linda S. Handy); Shirley Green (Will Waller); 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

The soul of Christianity

A Christ-centered life does not mean a life in which one sings hymns, reads Scripture and edifies his neighbors by hanging texts on the walls. One does not become a Christian by doing a good deed a day, nor by go-getting for religion, nor by engaging in economic and political reform movements, even though these things are done from the noblest of human motives. A Christian is one who, believing that Christ is the Son of God, has that Christ-life in his soul.

—Fulton Sheen



Family of Buddy Worley who passed away
December 3

Elisabeth Saldo and Family in the death of
her aunt, Tammy Miller

Jerry Davis and Family in the death of his
sister-in-law, Diane Davis

P. D. Hambrick and Family in the death of
his sister, Mary Young

Kevin Tosh and Family in the death of his
mother, Linda Tosh

Cody Blankenship and Family (P. D. and
Mittie Hambrick's son-in law) in the death
of his grandfather, Gene Blankenship

Ronnie Breedlove and Family in the death
of his brother, Brian Breedlove



Thank you for the outreach and sympathy
including cards and prayers following the
passing of my brother.

Jack Watts

Thank you for your donation of \$683.00.
We greatly appreciate it.

Angie Phillips
Family Resource Center

A big thank you to my Church Family for
delivering food to me for days while my
broken right arm was healing. Thank you!
Thank you!

Peggy Santrock

From the folks at the Herrick House, the
special needs adult group home:

Merry Christmas to all the wonderful people
at RMUMC! Thank you for all you do for
our guys.

Tammy McGeorge

Merry Christmas! Thank you for everything
you do for these guys!

Cheryl Myers

Celebrating love

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an
exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar
Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovio
Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7,
1941. Until Julio's death last October, they were
reportedly the world's oldest married couple.

Their large family includes nine great-great-
grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: "Julio Cesar fell in
love with Waldramina's beauty, her conversation,
and her big heart." Meanwhile, she found in him
"a poet with a young spirit." The couple says the
formula for a lasting marriage is "love + maturity
+ mutual respect," as well as patience,
compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul's words, often read at
weddings: "Love is patient and kind; love does
not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable
or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing,
but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6,
ESV).

Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

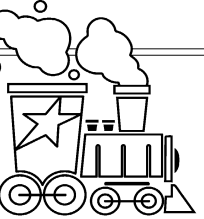
- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

Just for Kids

PUZZLE



A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O W B C O E E E
 J E A A E E ' U N O J Q U O W
 B C O N L U A E J E A A
 N L U A B C O A N U E N O W
 J E A A E U F A
 N U E N O W U N O
 B C O A E E O
 F A E E O
 ”

RUTH 1:16, NIV

W	A	E	T
B	U	H	O
G	R	L	I
N	S	P	M



Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**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