

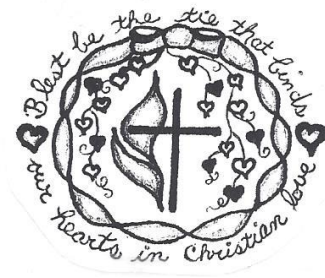
THE TIE THAT BINDS

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"*



March 2021



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR LENT

One of the best ways to feed your soul during Lent is through daily Bible reading. Our daily Bible readings are in the form of a bookmark that you can take. They're available in the Narthex. They are also listed on the church website (rm-umc.org). Click the Lent 2021 button on the front page to get the daily readings. It's never too late to start reading your Bible during the season of Lent.



Just a reminder to pray daily for your Lenten Friend and extend other acts of kindness such as a personal call, a greeting card or other special treats. This is a time for you and your family to reach out and touch the lives of other members who may need your care and concern.



(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.



ROCKY MOUNT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

35 North Main Street
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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Being a parent is a joy and Emily and I are having so much fun. We have discovered multitudes of everyday graces. Here are some of them.

1. Ezekiel blows bubbles in the bathtub. It's been forever since I've blown bubbles in a bathtub. I'm blowing bubbles in the bathtub regularly now.
2. He fixes his eyes on whatever he wants from *our* plates even if he's got the same exact thing on *his* plate.
3. Whenever he wants some more of something, he says "more" like he's trying out for the part of The Count from Sesame Street. "Mooooorrrrr," he says. We keep believing he'll say "ha-ha, 2 ha-ha, 3 ha-ha" after this.
4. As I lift him into the car seat, I typically count 1, 2, 3, and then say go. Now, after the count, he says go loud enough to wake neighbors.
5. Trucks are pronounced "ducks," cats are pronounced "meows," and sloth, his favorite stuffed animal, is pronounced "hoth."

All of these have been surprises yet wonderful developments in our life. We didn't deserve him, yet God gave him anyway.

We're reveling in the reality of the grace of God given in the life of Ezekiel James Waller. We are the proud parents of a blue-eyed (we're both brown-eyed folks) boy with blondish hair (Emily has brown hair and, well, I *had* dark hair). Emily and I before hadn't noticed the rain, the wind, or the moon for years. Now, a storm can't come up without a little arm sticking out to touch its drops. Now, a gust can't fly by without the littlest Waller looking around to see where it originated from. Now, Earth's satellite can't appear in the night sky without two blue eyes searching the black heavens to see the white beacon. These are all everyday graces.

Everyday grace. The kind of grace that we get yet sometimes miss. It's so common it's uncommon to notice it.

The season of Lent reminds me to slow down and smell the grace roses. That the walk of Lent is long, difficult, and trying, I cannot deny. However, there are grace roses all around. The quiet stillness of reading Scripture before your household has awakened. The reminder that while we fast, we are being prepared by God with steadfastness. The roughness of the burlap squares from the Ash Wednesday service calls us back to our need for grace.

My prayer is you will have plenty of everyday grace episodes throughout Lent.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



**United Methodist
Women**
(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Next Meeting: Monday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. We will have a short business meeting and a program on “Call to Prayer and Self-Denial”. Please join us! Meeting invitations will be sent by email to everyone on our list. If you don’t receive an invitation or are unsure of how to connect, please contact Debbie Caulder, at 540-204-2266. Simply click on the ZOOM link in your email or dial in via the number provided in the email invitation. Land lines work fine!

Quilt Project: Squares are due April 30. We hope everyone will participate. 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)

Thanks to all the folks who helped make the Six at Six Concerts such a success. If you haven’t watched last month’s “Love from Kernstown UMC”, it, along with all our concerts, is still available to view. You can watch by tuning in to our Facebook page or go to our website and follow the link. They have been a true blessing when we have been unable to have in-person singing in the sanctuary during worship.

Handbells are rehearsing music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 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. (If an earlier time would be more convenient, please let me know.) 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!

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

“No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne;
no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.”
—William Penn



On February 28, 2021, Christina Gibson will present a lesson on suicide prevention. It's a lesson that I wished we didn't have to teach but need to teach anyway. After two of the youth mentioned during prayer request time that some peers had committed suicide - they're in middle school - we knew it was time to talk about this topic.

Weighty subjects are important at any age. Whether you're 13 or 43, you can struggle with depression that can lead into thoughts of suicide. We never want someone to think that their life doesn't matter. We want all people to know that they matter to us and they matter to God. While this is going to press before Christina's talk, I know that the youth group will benefit from her wisdom gained from working at the high school.

If you have areas of expertise and would want to share them, the youth group is a great place to volunteer your time. Maybe you know how to swing a hammer and can show a youth how to swing said hammer. Maybe you can cook a mean casserole and would like to share said cheesy concoction with ravenous teenagers. Maybe you know a lot about substance abuse prevention and want to offer your experience as a model. You are the best judge of the gifts that you've got.

The youth group can be the beneficiaries of your wisdom. Serve today! Email will@rm-umc.org if you wish to help.



Prayer Partners

Thank you to all of you who picked up a youth for the prayer partners program, a yearlong praying event. You're going to be praying for these youth every single day, encouraging them with cards and texts, and in February 2022, revealing your identity to them in an incredible dinner. Thank you for being the Pauls to the Timothies of the church.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

February has gone by like a charm. All of the Little Lambs are progressing well. In February, we learned about God's love and loving one another. Our Bible verse for the month was "A Friend Loves at All Times" Proverbs 17:17. Each class had a fantastic Valentine's Day/Pajama Day Party with lots of valentines and sweet treats. March will be a month filled with wearing green and learning about God's creations. Each class still has open spots for the Fall. Please help us spread the word and fill these classes.

Blessings,
Kelsey



Vital Congregation Statistics for January

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 1/31/21		\$18,092
Actual Offerings Received through 1/31/21	\$21,509	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 1/31/21		\$23,256
Actual Expenses Paid through 1/31/21	<u>\$14,280</u>	
Ending Balance, 1/31/21	\$51,758	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 57
Average Online Viewers = 72



*Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 14, 2021*

Feline-informed faith

I am the epitome of a “cat lady”: Each of my five felines has taught me a bit about faith. As I settle into bed, Piccolo presses his body tightly against mine. As I type, Tina sits on my lap, often reaching to rest a paw on my hand (the one on the mouse, of course!). Pumpkin cries persistently, even raising his front legs like toddler arms when he wants to be picked up. Yet, as any cat lover knows, these animals can be stubbornly aloof — at least until mealtime.

My cats’ actions make me think about how intentional daily Bible reading is like pressing myself against God. When I see God’s presence in nature or someone’s kindness, pausing to give thanks is like reaching out to touch God’s hand. When I feel needy, I can stretch my spirit toward God’s embrace with an honest prayer. And when I make myself aloof — as, alas, I sometimes do — I can rejoice that God’s love always calls me back, to nourish me again.

—Heidi Mann



Happy Birthday to:

- March 3 Linda Wahlberg
- March 4 Debra Caulder
- March 5 Mark Clements
- March 5 Peggy Hodges
- March 5 Pam Pritchett
- March 5 Linda Walters
- March 6 Carrie Haynes
- March 7 Gray Hodges
- March 7 Sylvia Hutcherson
- March 8 Jovie Angle
- March 10 Barry Altice
- March 10 Angelina Dillon
- March 11 Molly Hutcherson
- March 11 Rachel Justice
- March 11 Jessica Naff
- March 16 Tatum Newbill
- March 17 Amy Pendleton
- March 18 Emily Meeks
- March 19 Johnny Guilliams
- March 20 Mittie Hambrick
- March 21 Kathy Matthews
- March 21 Addison Myers
- March 22 Lynn Cooper
- March 22 Georgia Angle
- March 22 Charlie Mitchell
- March 24 Meredith Flora
- March 26 Elaine Dawson
- March 26 Charles Pendleton
- March 28 Donna Flora
- March 28 Julie McCutchen
- March 28 Evelynne Rash
- March 29 Casey Hodges
- March 30 Desmond Cundiff
- March 30 Holden Cundiff



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Betty Dillon; Bill Cooper; 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; Michael Ranson (Don Ranson); Ross Zobloski (Holly Zobloski); James Wright (Don Ranson); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Ellen Shively (Judy Anderson); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Ralph Ranson (Don Ranson); Deborah Hensel (Linda Dunlap); Carey Kinney (Linda Dunlap); Tracey Willett (Mike Meeks); Melissa Houseman (Terri Naff); Mary Maxey (Don Ranson); Shirley Green (Will Waller); Melissa Hays Smith (Marsha Robertson); Marion Pritchett (Pam Pritchett); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); DJ Snider (Patsy Swain); Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland); Jennifer Tatum (Tracy Jenkins); and Tiffanee Anderson (Judy Anderson). Janet Blankenship And Family in the death of her father, Andy Walker.

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody

"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart."

—Mandy Hale



Kelsey Long and Family in the death of her grandfather, William “Billy” Long, on February 7

Jody Kelley and Family in the death of his father, Ronnie Ray Kelley, on February 9

Janet Blankenship and Family in the death of her father, Andy Walker.



Thank all of you for your many cards, calls and food. They certainly were a blessing as we went through a very difficult time. Most of all we appreciate your prayers for Martha during her recent illness. We truly believe they are the reason for her rapid recovery: God is greater than any virus!

Jack Collins

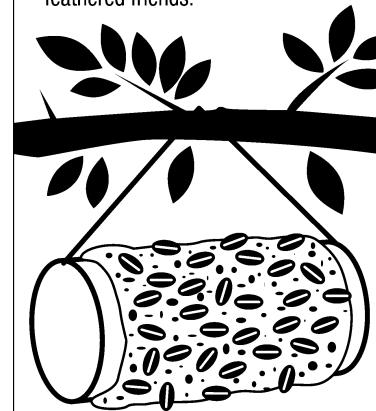
To the Church Women and the Church,
It was a great surprise to have Lisa stop by to bring us a Valentine bag of goodies.
Thanks so much for thinking of us.

Love,
Erika and Clarence Brickey



FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

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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