

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151
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Our Mission: *"To Know Jesus and Share His Love"*



April 2021



The Cross Walk is coming up on April 2 starting at 11:00 a.m. Many of you have participated in the past. Once again, we're partnering with Rocky Mount Christian Church and Rocky Mount Church of God to walk a 4-mile loop throughout town, taking turns carrying a cross. If you'd like to join for all of the trip, join us starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Park next to the Pigg River. Or you may join for part of the walk and prayer stations. The route follows Orchard Avenue uphill to Court Street, heading to the right to Lee M. Waid Elementary. Then the group will return down the hill to Donald Avenue, taking a right and crossing Tanyard Avenue and following all the way to Pell Avenue. At Pell, the group will go towards downtown, passing by the Hub and leading through downtown all the way to the hospital and Main Street. Then the group will go downhill to the Veterans Park, making about a 4-mile walk through town with the cross.

"The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies."

—Kate McGahan



The youth are planning on hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. We'll have prizes and games, and of course, the Easter Egg Hunt at Mary Elizabeth Park. Remember to wear your mask, and please bring your own baskets. Everyone is invited and there's no need to pre-register, just show up. There will be many egg-citing things to do. It should be egg-cellent.



Easter Services on April 4 will include both the traditional 10:55 a.m. service and the Sunrise Service at High Street Cemetery at 6:45 a.m. Both will include Communion and will involve singing! At the traditional service, we will process out of the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service to sing.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

After Ezekiel takes a bath and has his PJ's put on but before he is read to, we have "Wiggles." Wiggles is a time when we put on a song - some recent choices have been "Yakety Yak" and "Great Balls of Fire" - and then we dance. All three of us, Emily, Ezekiel, and I, dance around with the energy of a puppy that just drank a liter of Mountain Dew. Arms are akimbo, legs are flailing, and bodies are moving feverishly. It's a wild 3 minutes of gyrations. You may ask, "So you think you can dance?" No, no we do not.

Still, it's one of my favorite times of the day. It's freeing to know that for a few short minutes, all the rules about being a serious man, about being a serious *adult*, are thrown out the proverbial window. We boogie down to The Coasters or Jerry Lee Lewis with the passion of a 1950s sock hop attendee. And you know what church, it's fun.

Easter is coming up the first weekend in April. And you know what, it's fun too. Fun, you say? It's a serious day. Sure, we can go down the theological rabbit hole of atonement theology, Christus Victor, and a whole host of other weighty meanings behind Easter. All those disguise the fact that Easter is a fun day. Easter is fun because it means that Christ is who he said he was. The son of God really did come to take away the sins of the world. And that means we can have fun.

And also, it means that after the fun, we can rest. Just like after Wiggles, Ezekiel typically lays his head down knowing that his parents are watching over him and rests, we too can know that we can rest. Because of Easter, those who are in Christ have eternal life. We can rest from our labors when the day of our death comes. We can rest from wiggling, and sleep, assured of the eternal life we have in Christ.

So come April 4, I invite you to wiggle away. Because goodness gracious, great balls of fire, He is risen...He is risen indeed.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



On April 11, after worship, in the church parking lot, we'll have Pizza with the Pastor. This event features the Lay Leader, Tammy Burdick, and Pastor Will. For all those that have been attending in the past few months for the first time, we invite you to free pizza and refreshments right after the service. This event is free and open. We'll answer questions you may have about the life of the church.



2021 Graduates

Attention:
Parents of High School
and
College Graduates!

If you have an upcoming high school or college graduate, please let the church office know so we may recognize them. We will have Graduate Sunday in May. Watch the bulletins and the May newsletter for more details.

In the May newsletter, we will name our graduates; therefore, please share with us their after-graduation plans—college, work, etc. by April 19.

Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life."
—Craig D. Lounsbrough



(Linda Walters, Coordinator)

There is still time to participate – squares are due April 30. We know we have some folks 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 (C) 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.



We have positions that are available on Sundays. We can always use more persons willing to be ushers, greeters, and willing to lock up after the worship service. If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Will.

Health Kits

United Methodist Women are collecting health kits for UMCOR. If you would like to participate in this mission, please purchase the following items and place them in the collection boxes in the Narthex or near the elevator on the ground level as you enter through the back parking lot. Thank you! Deadline: Sunday, May 2.

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper
 - No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush
 - Do not remove from packaging
 - Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)
 - Common household bandages acceptable

- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag (optional-UMW will provide bags- just place your items in a shopping bag and tie)

Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Lay Servant Academy

A Lay Servant Academy is coming in May and is available to you. Lay Servant Training is a leadership development program for our laity in the UMC. It can help anyone who is interested in learning more in their pursuit of being a better leader and servant for Christ's church. These classes can be used as tools in discerning God's call for your personal walk and ministry. For more details, see the flyer outside the sanctuary.



"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

I take, O cross,
thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

—Elizabeth C. Clephane



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Next Meeting: Monday, April 12 – Lunch in Roanoke - meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. Please join us for lunch and shopping!

There is still time to participate in the Quilt Project that Linda Walters is coordinating. Please refer to a separate article for more information.

Mark your calendars: May 3, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Mission Workday in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

“I feel as if God had, by giving the Sabbath, given 52 springs in each year.”
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

“Hosanna!” Palm Sunday worship will begin with a procession from the front lawn. And YOU get to sing. While we’re outside we can lift our voices in singing “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!” Following the procession inside, we will praise Jesus with handbells and organ/piano music. There will also be a glorious recorded choir anthem!

For Easter worship, we will enjoy bells, trumpet, and organ/piano duets. We will be blessed with two special guests to sing an Easter anthem, “O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing,” and a short drama of the three women visiting the empty tomb on Easter morning. There will be a recorded choir anthem, “Worthy is the Lamb,” and our worship will conclude with “He Lives!” which YOU will sing as we exit the sanctuary.

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! A reminder...there will be no Wonderful Wednesday Zoom on April 7.

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



The youth group received the news from the conference that they do not allow churches to go on overnight mission trips this summer. The youth group pivoted to creating a mission trip at home. We're in conversation with several agencies around Rocky Mount and Franklin County to have a mission week, June 20-26 where the youth will participate in various ministries around the area.

We're looking for persons willing to provide meals and chaperoning during this time. Because this is during the work week, many of our parents are not available to assist in these ways. Chaperoning would involve being with the youth as projects are completed and shuttling them to the work sites. If you've got availability that week, we'd welcome the help.

Our events continue without skipping a beat. In April, we'll be heading to North Carolina for high ropes course, as well as supervising the Easter Egg Hunt and bicycling on the Greenway. We're also working with Sharon Angle in learning Pickle Ball. We also will be studying the story of the man lowered to Jesus' feet as an example of the way we evangelize.

We are thankful to Linda Walters for leading us in the quilting project. This was a great opportunity to add our craftsmanship to this churchwide project. Thank you Linda for leading us in a way we haven't in quite some time. Also, thank you to Debbie Caulder for the delicious meal you prepared for us that day.

Keep praying for this group as we grow in maturity and number.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

We're marching into April like happy Little Lambs. The three- and four-year-old class will be learning about Easter in the month of April. Both classes have been challenged to memorize a Bible verse every month. This month's verse is "He is not here. He is risen!"-Luke 24:6. Both classes are excited for their Easter parties and egg hunts. Looking forward to Fall, Little Lambs still has spots available for three- and four-year-olds. Please help us spread the word and fill our classes.

Spring Blessings,
Kelsey

Cultivating kindness



Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.

Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.



Vital Congregation Statistics for February

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 2/28/21		\$36,184
Actual Offerings Received through 2/28/21	\$39,450	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 2/28/21		\$46,512
Actual Expenses Paid through 2/28/21	<\$37,465>	
Ending Balance, 2/28/21	\$46,514	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 60
Average Online Viewers = 56
-



On March 28, we welcomed Terry Moran and Cindy Smith by transfer of letter from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Culpeper, Virginia.

An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.



Happy Birthday to:

April 1 Penny Guilliams
 April 1 Tori Huffman
 April 3 Ben Clements
 April 3 Lindsay McDaniel
 April 4 Mark Newbill
 April 4 Dan Walters
 April 5 Ranessa Gibson
 April 6 Bryan Lewis
 April 6 Blake Myers
 April 7 Miles Gibson
 April 7 Jodi Huffman
 April 11 Vicki Bennett
 April 11 J.R. Levesque
 April 11 Debra Loya
 April 12 Susan Clements
 April 14 Anthony Saldo
 April 15 Ronnie Breedlove
 April 15 Carrie Holland
 April 16 Jennifer Cooper
 April 16 Johanna Cooper
 April 22 Jennifer Lewis Felts
 April 22 Daren Haynes
 April 22 Tyler Peterson
 April 23 Fisher Gibson
 April 24 Marshall Banks
 April 24 Bill Cooper
 April 24 John Cooper
 April 24 Jerry Davis
 April 24 Marsha Robertson
 April 25 Molly Bennett
 April 25 Peyton Smawley
 April 27 Jack Dillon
 April 27 Shirley Vaughn
 April 28 Steve Angle
 April 30 Deborah Pritchard
 April 30 Ashley Turner
 April 30 Rebecca Tuttle

Happy Anniversary to:

April 2 Mike and Tracy Jenkins
 April 6 Richard and Stephanie Cook
 April 7 Dick & Kathleen Higgins
 April 21 Eddie and Cyn Fisher
 April 22 Joe and Dana Kelley
 April 25 Mark and Becky Newbill



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Betty Dillon; Bill Cooper; 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).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Family of Fred Bussey who passed away on February 21

Family of Al Collins who passed away on February 24



Thank you all who were able to participate in the church cleanup day. We were able to spruce up the outside of the church and clean different rooms throughout the building. All of this is in preparation for Easter and beyond. Thank you to the team leads of Martha Sue Gibson and Linda Handy for their work inside and outside.

Will Waller

+Christian Symbol+



Nails

Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

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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