

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"



May 2021



Colton Stephenson, grandson of Evelynne Rash, is graduating from Gretna High School.

Lauren Stone is graduating from Franklin County High School.

Katie Meeks is graduating from Radford University.

Congratulations and best wishes Colton, Lauren and Katie!

Graduate Sunday

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be observed on Sunday, June 6. We will be recognizing this year's high school and college graduates. Let our graduates know that we are proud of them by your attendance.



"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

—Maya Angelou

Samaritan Offering

The Samaritan offering for Virginia United Methodist Homes will be received from Mother's Day, May 9, through Father's Day, June 20. Your gift supports residents who have been blessed by longevity but have outlived their financial resources. Samaritan gifts are not used for operational, capital, or administrative cost but are instead made available only for benevolent care. Make your checks payable to RMUMC and designate "Samaritan Offering" on the memo line. Thank you!



The pandemic has affected the operations of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR. UMCOR hasn't been able to process new kits or to ship their existing kits overseas as usual. **UMCOR is asking that conferences NOT make kits this year.**

So, the Annual Conference kits are going to be staying local this year rather than turning them into UMCOR. Among the community organizations in the Danville District that will receive these items will be: God's Storehouse, House of Hope, The Henry Fork Center, God's Pit Crew, Elementary Schools in Danville and Franklin County, Rainbow House Shelter (Martinsville) and Patrick County Community Food Bank.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

I grew up next to a small lake. There was a dock off that lake, filled with the kind of boards that grow up just longing to be splinters. That didn't bother me or the other boys who lived down the road who'd come over to jump off that dock. We'd make leaps that if Cirque du Soleil scouts had seen us, we'd have joined the circus in no time.

Eventually, we'd get bored with flipping and diving. We needed some competition. Impromptu contests would be declared, rules would be decided on, and feats of human strength would commence. One of our favorite ones was stealing the tennis ball from the mouth of Duke, our golden retriever, finding an old stick, and hitting the tar out of that ball. We'd mash that ball across the lake, thinking ourselves little Hammerin' Hank Aarons. The outfielders would have to swim for the ball, and the dog would watch contentedly from foul territory.

When that got old, we'd come up with another contest, swimming to the bottom of the lake. We'd psyche ourselves up for it, talking smack, and tightening the drawstring on our swimming trunks. Right before we tested the limits of our lungs, we'd make dramatic heaves of our chest as we took in oxygen. Then, like the swimmers down at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, we'd dive into that mountain lake and beat our legs as we journeyed to the murky depths. Once, we found an old lawn chair that had been thrown in the lake after a particularly fiery boy fight. Another time, a neighbor kid said he got bit by a snapping turtle. Most times though, we'd declare that we had touched the bottom after racing upwards and breathing in that life-giving O₂.

Whenever I'd breach the air layer, I'd gulp air like it was going out style. No matter how big a swallow of air I took before I dove, at some point at the bottom, I'd think, "this is it. I'm not going to make it up in time." Of course, I'd never tell the other boys that. I stuck my chest out proudly and exclaimed that the snapping turtle is lucky to swim away after the underwater whooping I put on it. Quietly though, I'd throw back huge breaths, happy to be on this side of the water.

That's how it is with God sometimes too. Trust can be elusive. Anxiety shows up at a moment's notice. When we get down, really down, we can think that God won't raise us up out of the water. Peter said, "Lord save me," once he saw that he couldn't save himself. He gulped air too, thinking it was in short supply. Maybe we beat our chest, tell the other kids we weren't scared. But we were.

Our family intends to spend a lot of time this summer in the water. One day, I pray, I'll swim to the bottom and know, really know, that God is with me even in the depths. Sure, I'll still take big swallows of air before I dive, but maybe this is the summer, I can smile when I touch the bottom, knowing that I'll make it back up. Maybe this year is the one where I can declare with the psalmist in 139, "even in the depths you, God, are there." Maybe, this is the summer.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Next Meeting: Monday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Mission Workday in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Linda Walters for coordinating this project. We will be working on sewing rice and bean bags, finishing quilt squares, and packing hygiene kits. Linda will have a job for everyone! Bring sewing machines, scissors, and simple sewing supplies if you have them. All are welcome. This is always a fun day!

Thanks to all who participated in the lunch outing to Roanoke on April 12 and to Phyllis Lavinder for coordinating this fellowship event.

Spiritual Life Retreat: May 15, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. via Zoom. This event is sponsored by the Virginia Conference UMW. Register by May 3. Contact Debbie Caulder or Phyllis Lavinder for more information.

The 2020-21 UMW Reading Program continues. 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. 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.

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.

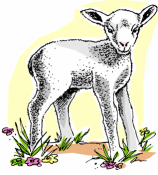


In April, we welcomed the following new members:

Nancy Middaugh transferred from Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Vinton.

Jon, Anne, Emily and Maggie Crutchfield transferred from Redwood United Methodist Church.

Logan, Haley and Maren Byrd - Logan transferred from Holston View United Methodist Church in Weber City, Virginia and Haley transferred from Redwood United Methodist Church.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

April showers bring May flowers!! The Little Lambs have had a fabulous month. We have learned about how Jesus has risen, Jesus caring for even the smallest things, and all things spring. The Little Lambs have planted and watched their own flowers grow. We are all so excited for the end of the month with moving on ceremonies, with the theme "Oh the places you will go". Little Lambs is filling up fast for the fall. There are still a few spots open for both classes, please help us spread the word and fill our classes.

Blessings,
Kelsey



Do you remember what your graduation speaker from High School said? Unless you graduated from high school a year or so ago, or your high school graduation featured someone famous, it's doubtful that you do. Don't beat yourself up about it. Your memories of your first car you bought, that time you went to the beach and got stung by a jellyfish or when you ate 20 wings in under 10 minutes likely pushed the speaker's words out of your brain. It's natural. It happens.

There's a famous quote that says, "People will forget what you said but they don't forget how you made them feel." People remember when you make them angry, happy, and surprised by how you say what you say, rather than what you say.

This should provide all of us with some grace for ourselves in terms of serving

with the youth group. We all have something to offer even if our fingers can't find Philemon right away in our Bibles. We all have something to give even if we don't like praying in public. We all can serve in a special way.

Here are some ways you can serve in the youth group:

- We would like someone to let us use their truck to throw garbage bags after we do a trash clean-up on May 12.
- We would like someone to share their testimony of how you were forgiven or forgave someone hard to forgive on June 13.
- We would like someone to cook dinner for the group on June 6.
- We would like someone to drive and attend the water park on July 13.

They might not remember what you said - sorry graduation speakers of old! - but they'll remember how you made them feel.

Contact will@rm-umc.org to support the group.



If you are a prayer partner for one of our youth, we thank you for your continued support of our students. Your prayers make a difference in their lives. You model Christian discipleship. You show them that faith matters. Thank you!

Remember, you can always drop off notes for your youth in the box in the Acolyte Room just off the sanctuary. You can also mail them notes directly.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Our **last Wonderful Wednesday** for this season will be May 5. I plan to have an end-of-the-year picnic in Mary Elizabeth Park from 5:30-6:30 p.m. I will provide pizza, cupcakes and bottled water. This will be a chance for the children to play in the park, play games, sing and just enjoy being together. **All children from 4-year-olds through 5th graders (even the 6th graders who didn't get to finish last year) are invited whether they participated with us on zoom or not.** Parents are also invited to stay and picnic and help provide "crowd control." If you plan to bring your child, all I ask is that you let me know you are coming so I can plan the food (text 540-588-1814 or email music@rm-umc.org). I've really missed all of you! It will really lift my spirits to gather with you on May 5!

Jubilant Ringers have completed rehearsals for this season. They will play "Pachelbel's Canon" for Mother's Day worship. We will resume rehearsals in September!

Throughout the summer I plan to use special music during worship. If you would like to help by singing a solo or playing an instrument, please let me know. As we continue to ease covid restrictions, let's make our worship a time to truly celebrate our blessings!! I look forward to hearing from you. Please use my contacts listed above.

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



To Our Church Family,

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your cards, calls, prayers, etc. extended to us during our recent hospitalizations and surgeries. We feel so blessed to have our Rocky Mount United Methodist Church Family!

Betty and Jack Dillon

Dear Pastor Will and Rocky Mount UMC,

Our hearts were so full by attending your church service and the way that you made the service revolve around children. Thank you for allowing us to share CASA and Child Abuse Prevention info with your congregation. May God bless you immensely!

Kelli Diaz

Look Ahead

"The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today," says Priscilla Shirer. "Like the Israelites, it means you are spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future, all the while missing what God is doing right now."



Happy Birthday to:

May 3	Pete Santrock
May 5	Kemper Hodges
May 6	Nathan Angle
May 6	Katherine Flora
May 7	Melinda Justice
May 9	Abraham Tosh
May 10	Arlo Gibson
May 11	Buford Harrison
May 12	Linda Davis
May 12	Wendy Saunders
May 13	Eric Lorens
May 13	Ezekiel Waller
May 16	Ti Godfrey
May 16	Jim Henderson
May 16	Wayne Sink
May 16	Bruce Tuttle
May 18	Lewis Coffey
May 22	Jeanne Banks
May 23	Rachel Worley
May 25	Nick Pendleton
May 28	John Godfrey
May 28	Jennifer Haynes
May 31	Cameron Keys
May 31	Abbie Pinckard

Happy Anniversary to:

May 12	Arnold and Rebecca Dillon
May 14	Cecil and Doris Young
May 22	Geroge and Annette Board
May 22	George and Debra Loya
May 29	Craig and Debbie Teeple



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; Eva

Prillaman; Jim Henderson; John Cooper; Jeanette Singleton; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Mark Singleton; Matt Foutz (Jennifer Altice); Ross Zobloski (Holly Zobloski); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Ellen Shively (Judy Anderson); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); 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 Sonny Vaughn who passed away on April 24

Dick Higgins and Family in the death of his grandson, Patrick Higgins, on April 25



Vital Congregation Statistics for March

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget			
Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529		
Prepaid 2021 Contribution	\$ 5,040		
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 3/31/21			\$54,276
Actual Offerings Received through 3/31/21	\$64,742		
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 3/31/21			\$69,768
Actual Expenses Paid through 3/31/21	<u><\$54,926></u>		
Ending Balance, 3/31/21	\$59,385		
 II. Average Worship Attendance = 84			
Average Online Viewers = 43			

A Week of Tributes to Mom

To celebrate the special woman in your life, use a quote a day the week before Mother’s Day, or honor her with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative! Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate her love and show her yours.

“There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one.”
—Jill Churchill

“The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.” —Elaine Heffner

“An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest.” —Spanish proverb

“When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it’s a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway.” —Erma Bombeck

“The mother’s heart is the child’s schoolroom.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.”
—Marion C. Garretty

“Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn’t know you had.” —Linda Wooten

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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