

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"*



August 2021

Pictorial Directory

(Nancy Middaugh, Coordinator)



Only one short trip to the church building will assure you and your family that you will be a part of our pictorial directory. The whole process takes 45 minutes to one hour. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait to be sent postage free to your home. Plus, you'll receive a complimentary directory. Dates of photography will be August 5, 6, and 7. You can sign up online (www.ucdir.com), click on the Photograph Appointment Scheduling Login, enter VA122 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field. The website is closed on the weekends starting Friday at midnight through Sunday at midnight. Invite your family and friends to sign-up for pictures too.



On August 8, we will be welcoming Steve Sherman and Melissa Osbourne by transfer of letter from Fairfax United Methodist Church.



On Tuesday, August 24 and Thursday, August 26, our church is in charge of serving lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen. Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!

SUNSHINE



GIRLS

(Judy Anderson, Coordinator)

This is what we have all been waiting for! After taking a long break during the pandemic, the SUNSHINE GIRLS are getting back together for their noontime luncheons at Ippy's Restaurant. Mark your calendars now for September 28 and the fourth Tuesday of every month to join the ladies of Rocky Mount UMC for fun and fellowship. For more information, see Judy Anderson.



ROCKY MOUNT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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Telephone No. (540) 483-5338 Fax No. (540) 484-1698

To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

On our road growing up, there were nine different boys all about the same age. Nine boys all around the same age meant racing each other on our bikes after school. It meant long conversations on the school bus, talking about trucks and 4-wheelin' and 4-wheelers on the back of trucks. It meant searching for crawdads in the creek and shooting fireworks into bags of other fireworks just to see what would happen. But most of all, it meant playing "The Game."

"The Game" never really got a special name, but we knew how to play it. It was a type of baseball but would never be recognized as America's pastime. On a steep hill outside one of our homes, we'd position one pitcher to bounce the tennis ball down the cement and on its second bounce, you had to hit it as hard as you could back up the hill. The boys on the hill would chase it and upon retrieval, they'd try and peg you with it as you galloped around the makeshift bases. If you pegged the hitter with the ball, all well and good, but if you hit them with it in the head, well and better. I suppose many a brain cell was sacrificed by playing that game.

Looking back, I learned a lot playing "The Game" with the neighborhood boys. Sure, I learned how to throw a tennis ball at another human being as hard as I could, but that wasn't the only lesson gained. I learned how to negotiate disagreements, how to be creative when establishing rules, and how to enjoy simplicity. Those days are ones I look back fondly upon. All that being said, there was a darker, more insidious part of playing "The Game." There was the pecking order.

Some of the boys were more athletic than I, faster runners and stronger hitters. I could be clumsy and didn't always hit the ball when it was pitched. This knocked me off the top slot that I yearned to occupy. However, I was certainly more agile and more energetic than another neighbor boy. While not on the top, I made sure of it that I didn't take the bottom slot. We all knew our place. But we all wanted to ascend higher, knocking the ones above down a few pegs.

The games we play might be different as adults, but the ordering of our lives remains a primary activity. We want to know where we stand, and we want to ascend higher than we've gotten to by now. Pecking orders continue long after we've shed the childish peach fuzz or gotten a bachelor's degree. We compare, contrast, and compete. It goes on and on.

Do you wonder what Jesus would say about this? In fact, he says a lot. He halts a brewing controversy among his disciples about who is first among them. He told the people listening that "when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous

(continued on page 3)

(Luke 14:13-14).” At another time, he preaches “Blessed you who are poor for yours is the kingdom of God (Luke 6:20).” Whereas we may recoil from the poverty of those around us Jesus reached out. Later, Paul adds his voice, describing the kingdom of God as one without the pecking order, but one defined by its equality underneath the shadow of the cross. “You’re all one in Christ Jesus,” he wrote (Galatians 3:28).

Recently on a trip to an exotic chicken farm in Snow Creek, I saw the hen that was at the top of the pecking order. She was scratched up from head to toe. The pecking order had not been kind to her. It never is.

So, do we throw off any ambition? Do we put it away thinking it too unseemly for a Christian? Ambition that defaces and destroys others, yes. Ambition that seeks to lift up all, no. That is beautiful. It is helpful. Certainly, we can be more gentle with one another, looking to Jesus to see how all people have worth, even the ones society says belong at the back of the line. We may know that the ones struggling at the bottom of life’s barrel are still endlessly and fully loved by Jesus. Maybe the pecking might stop and the picking one another up might begin.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Vital Congregation Statistics for June

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Prepaid 2021 Contribution	\$ 5,040	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 6/30/21		\$108,552
Actual Offerings Received through 6/30/21	\$135,534	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 6/30/21		\$139,536
Actual Expenses Paid through 6/30/21	<\$116,699>	
Ending Balance, 4/30/21	\$68,404	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 94
Average Online Viewers = 25



(Tammy Burdick, Lay Leader)

The children had a wonderful week at Rainforest Explorers Vacation Bible School. For four fun-filled nights, they learned that Jesus Leads the Way! With songs, scripture, stories, games, crafts, and snacks, Rocky Mount Christian Church hosted a great event. Many thanks to Pastor Matt Ricks and VBS Director Renae Lambert for leading the blended team from Rocky Mount Christian Church and Rocky Mount UMC well.

The children aren't the future of Rocky Mount UMC - they are our PRESENT! To be a part of helping encourage, teach, and support children and their families, contact Pastor Will at the church office.



Our Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chairperson is Serena Jamison. Please keep Serena informed of any news concerning our college kids. She can be reached at 420-3719 (or call the church office at 483-5338 or email at admin@rm-umc.org). Please make sure we have your college student's address at school. Throughout the year, Serena will send your student cards. We also want to be sure to include them on the newsletter mailing list and send them a copy of the Upper Room. Good luck and have a great year!

Roanoke College—
Abbey Justice

University of Alabama—
Isabelle Davis

Virginia Tech—
Rachel Justice
Evan Stone
Lauren Stone



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Next Meeting: Monday, August 30 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room and on ZOOM. This will be a Business Meeting. Please join us.

Thanks to all who participated in the June Picnic and especially to Dan and Linda Walters for hosting this fun event!

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. 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.



Remember our eleven college students in your prayers as they return to or begin college life.

Coastal Carolina University—
Jodi Huffman

Emory & Henry College—
Amber Altice

Ferrum College—
Ainsley Kelley

George Mason University—
Annie Graninger

Liberty University—
Taylor Jones

Radford University Carilion—
Katie Meeks



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

WE'RE BACK!!!! I'M SO EXCITED AND I JUST CAN'T HIDE IT... During the month of August, I'll be making final plans and ordering things for all the choirs. Registration forms for children who will be participating in **Wonderful Wednesday** this year will be available on the table near the Assembly Room. As always, it will be for mature four-year-olds through fifth graders. The older group, second through fifth graders, will alternate singing and playing chimes during their music time. I would like to have forms filled out for **all children who have attended in the past as well as new children.** This will help me in having enough food and craft projects ready for the first meeting. Registration will continue through Sunday, August 29. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

HELP! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! The continued success of our Wonderful Wednesday program for children depends on volunteers. Two volunteers are needed each week to provide a simple meal for the children and to help with a craft project. I can prepare the craft and teach music but I can't do everything by myself. Most of the parents take turns volunteering but that still leaves quite a few Wednesday nights open. **We need church members to help too! We need you!** These are precious children. They are part of your church family. As Christians and as members of Christ's holy church, we are called to minister to "the least of these". This is such an easy way to serve God.

Single adults, "empty nesters", and grandparents; (We need you men, too!) please consider signing-up to **volunteer once in the fall and once in the spring.** You will surely receive much more than you will be providing. Get to know the children of our church!! Please sign-up by August 29. Volunteer sign-up forms (blue) are located on the table next to the Assembly Room.

The Jubilant Ringers will resume practices on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. I have several brand new pieces we will be starting on. If you would like to give bells a try, please let me know. There is always room for more!

Do you like to sing? The **Chancel Choir** needs you!!! Weekly rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. with a Welcome Back/New Members Night. This group is multigenerational; middle school students, high school students, and adults. I hope to see **YOU** on September 8.

I am always available if you have questions or need more information on any of our music ministries. Other worship ministries you may be interested in are the **Drama Team** and **The Moving Word**, our liturgical dance group. These are both multigenerational (older children through senior adult).

**All meetings will take place on the fourth floor in the music practice area. Parents, just a reminder, I would like all children coming to Wonderful Wednesday to be escorted to the room. We will bring them downstairs at 6:30 p.m.

Feel free to call me at church 483-5338 or email me music@rm-umc.org. I'm happy to talk about how you can use your gift of music and the other arts for God.

Love and Peace,
Lynn



The Youth Group just completed an entire week of fun activities around Virginia and even into North Carolina. That comes on the heels of a missions week here in the county. They're almost going back to school soon, but that doesn't mean that the joy of summertime is coming to a close anytime soon.

Continue to hold the youth group in your prayers. They're praying as always to grow in maturity and in numbers.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

BACK TO SCHOOL! Little Lambs is thrilled to be starting back in September. Ms. Casey and I are so excited to have the children back in the building. With that being said, both classes are still not full. Help us by spreading the word to friends and family.

Blessings,
Kelsey



In mid-June, we received a call from Frances McPherson, a resident at Hermitage Roanoke. She expressed her appreciation for our commitment to the people who live there, the staff, and the facility. She knows people who are the beneficiaries of the kindness of our church and she was thanking us on their behalf.

Dear Church Family,

Bob and I would like to thank everyone for their continual prayers for DJ and his family. DJ was diagnosed with CIDP (Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy) back in July 2017. It is a neurological disorder characterized by progressive weakness and impaired sensory function in the legs and arms. DJ was just nine. He had to have two infusions every eight weeks of IVIG until February 2021 he only has to have one infusion every eight weeks which is wonderful. DJ's legs and arms are getting stronger as he gets older. He rides his bike, plays soccer and hikes for miles with his Scout Troop. This is a living sign that prayer works. Bob and I and Betsy and David (DJ's parents) would just like to thank you again.

God Bless,
Bob and Patsy Swain

I would like to thank our wonderful congregation for the prayers, calls, cards, and food during my surgery and recovery. I have never been associated with a more loving and caring group of people. I feel blessed and honored to be part of it. We are a family and that becomes so evident when one of us is in need. God bless each and every one of you and bless our church.

Love to all,
Bill Collins

On behalf of the entire congregation, Nancy Middaugh deserves a special thank you for spearheading the directory photos. She's been integral in scheduling them, meeting with the representatives from the photography company, and getting volunteers to help out. Thank you Nancy for this important work you've given the church!

Sincerely,
Rocky Mount UMC



Sharon Stanley and Family in the death of her mother, Juanita Stanley, on June 1.

Peggy Hodges and Family in the death of her aunt, Delia Land.

Dennis Holland and Family in the death of his brother, Harold Holland, on June 20.



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Debbie Caulder; Anna Campbell; Betty

Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; Eva Prillaman; Jim Henderson; John Cooper; Jeanette Singleton; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Mark Singleton; Wendy D’lisse (Rebecca Harriett); Robert Praemassing (Erika Brickey); Matt Foutz (Jennifer Altice); Ross Zobloski (Holly Zobloski); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); 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); Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland); and Jennifer Tatum (Tracy Jenkins).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody

Sunday best

Throughout the pandemic, 82-year-old La Verne Ford Wimberly of Tulsa, Oklahoma, donned her Sunday best — emphasis on *best* — to worship online from home every week. The retired educator, who coordinates her colorful outfits and hats (she owns at least 50!), didn’t want to “get in the habit of just slouching around” during lockdown.

To uplift fellow church members, Wimberly posted weekly selfies and encouraging words. The goal, she says, was to let people know “that if we continue to believe in ourselves, network together, trust in God, keep the faith, then we will be okay.”

Though Wimberly’s style is impeccable, friends say she’s even more beautiful on the inside. Her fashion sense “is merely an outer expression of her inner wisdom, wit and grace,” says her pastor, Ray Owens. Church staffer Robin Watkins concurs, saying Wimberly’s “heart is as beautiful as each outfit she has shared with us.”

“A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be.”
—Douglas Pagels



Happy Birthday to:

August 2 Janet Land
 August 3 Mary Katherine Clements
 August 3 Linda Dunlap
 August 7 Emily Waller
 August 7 Cecil Young
 August 10 Casey Naff
 August 11 Lauren Stone
 August 13 Crosby Eitner
 August 14 Sharon Angle
 August 14 Diana Clements
 August 14 Ina Clements
 August 14 Jeff Hall
 August 15 Connie Breedlove
 August 16 Enna Roseberry
 August 16 Lindsey Jenkins
 August 16 Angela Ward Oliveira
 August 17 Caitlyn Berger
 August 17 Chloe Berger
 August 17 Jeff Worley
 August 19 Callie Angle
 August 19 Sandra Funk
 August 19 Aidan Jenkins
 August 20 Daniel Lorens
 August 21 Vanessa Carter
 August 22 Anna Campbell
 August 22 Steven Eitner
 August 22 Rebecca Goransson
 August 23 Faye Prillaman
 August 24 Ruth Cook
 August 25 Annie Graninger
 August 27 Jim Anderson
 August 27 Audrey Mitchell
 August 28 Joan Bassett
 August 28 Pat Robertson
 August 28 Jack Watts
 August 29 Abe Naff
 August 29 Ronald Prillaman
 August 30 Judy Anderson
 August 30 Betty Dillon

Happy Anniversary to:

August 2 Benny and Annette Board
 August 6 Jeff and Leanne Worley
 August 11 Zac and Jill Perdue
 August 11 Carl and Mitzi Secrest
 August 12 Eric and Kathryn Lorens
 August 12 Mike and Jane Turner
 August 16 Greg and Linda Dunlap
 August 17 Russell and Bridgett Damron
 August 17 Tim and Sandra Funk
 August 25 Jerry and Linda Davis
 August 28 Jim and Hazel Henderson

One and only

God declines to sit atop an organizational flowchart. He is the organization. He is not interested in being president of the board. He is the board. And life doesn't work until everyone else sitting around the table in the boardroom of your heart is fired. He is God, and there are no other applicants for that position.

There are no partial gods, no honorary gods, no interim gods, no assistants to the regional gods. God is saying this not because he is insecure but because it's the way of truth in this universe, which is his creation. Only one God owns and operates it. Only one God designed it, and only one God knows how it works.

He is the only God who can help us, direct us, satisfy us, save us.

—Kyle Idleman, *Gods at War*



FAITHFUL followers

Play these fun variations on Follow the Leader — and remember to follow Jesus wherever you go!

What you need:

- Bean bags
- Tables, chairs, pillows
- Painter's tape

What you do:

Players line up behind the Leader, who moves around in various ways. Followers must copy the Leader's movements faithfully. Try these variations:

1. Players must balance a bean bag on their head as they follow the Leader.
2. Set up an obstacle course, and follow the Leader by crawling under tables and chairs, hopping over pillows and so on.
3. With tape, make zigzags and curves on the floor. Then follow the Leader as if walking on a tightrope.
4. The Leader designates types of terrain to imagine, such as mud, snow, ice and a mountain.
5. Also try animal movements, mirrored movements and dancing movements.



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear | 9. ___ monkey | A. fry | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog | 10. ___ platypus | B. fawn | K. foal |
| 3. ___ owl | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet |
| 4. ___ horse | 12. ___ giraffe | D. cub | M. puggle |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose | E. kid | N. joey |
| 6. ___ deer | 14. ___ swan | F. cygnet | O. polliwog |
| 7. ___ goat | 15. ___ dog | G. infant | P. puppy |
| 8. ___ fish | | H. calf | |

“1on’t let any2ne 3oo4 down o5 you 6ecaus7
you 8re youn9, but set an exa10ple for the bel11evers
in spec12, in 13onduct, in love, in 14aith and in 15urity.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D, O, L, K, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P

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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