

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

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Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



October 2021



You are invited to the baptism of Jami Clements on October 10 at Waid Park following the worship service. Light refreshments will follow the baptism.



Parents: Save the Date!
Wednesday, October 20 @ 5:30 p.m.

Parents can feel pressure to do everything "right" and raise "good" children. It's easy to lose sight of the ultimate purpose as parents in the quest for practical tips and guaranteed formulas.

That's why parents will gather together to discuss, "Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family" by Paul David Tripp.

Whether you read the book or just come for the discussion, you'll learn something you can apply and enjoy a time of sharing ideas and supporting one another.



Trunk-or-Treat

Our annual Trunk-or-Treat will be held on October 27 at 6:00 p.m. Bring your car with your trunk decorated for kids to

visit. We usually have a large crowd so plan for a lot of candy to be dispensed. This is a great outreach opportunity for you to talk to parents as they chaperone their kids and invite them to our church. Be there by 5:45 p.m. to get a prime spot!



Something has been missing from our worship service for a long time... our acolytes! The lighting of the altar candles at the beginning of worship is a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. At the end of the service, the light of Jesus is carried out into the world where believers are to serve. Being an acolyte is a meaningful and important way to serve in our church. We are asking for volunteers of any age (2nd grade to adults) willing to serve. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. For more information call Annette C. Board: 540-576-3235 or 540-493-8201.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
(John 8:12 NRSV)



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

"I feel it in the air
Summer's out of reach"
—Don Henley

Don Henley wrote these lyrics back in the '80s and "Boys of Summer" became a mega-hit for the Eagles' drummer. It's since been covered by the Ataris and was released as a cover to huge acclaim in the 2000s. This is one of those songs that is built for Mustangs and long drives across America. It's a great tune.

In the song, Henley talks about something being lost when the summer fades into fall. Maybe he's feeling nostalgic, maybe he's just not looking forward to fall's chill. Whatever it is, summer is fading.

Some despise "Boys of Summer" because they're fall devotees. For many, fall is a favorite. There is an entire subclass of people who travel to the mountains to look at leaves. The leaves in the cities and on the coast are subpar, and thus, travel is necessitated to enjoy oranges and reds emblazoned on the deciduous trees. Fall brings apple picking back into popularity. It is a fine time for hanging by a campfire and enjoying the fellowship of friends and s'mores. Pumpkins are butchered and faces applied on said pumpkins. "Bring on fall; forget summer's heat, humidity and 'skeeters," these fall folks exclaim.

Outside the parsonage window stand stately trees that will soon become a riot of color and very quickly, drop their leaves onto East Church Street. The leaf-laden limbs will become barren and empty. The Don Henleys of the world mourn the loss of the leaves; the fall folks see it as a necessary part of the process to see some yellow leaves.

What we all lose in terms of leaves, we gain in terms of view. The sky is more visible. The clouds can be seen more easily. The birds soaring above can be seen without craning one's neck around a pesky branch. This leads me to wonder: What if what we *do* see overtakes what we *don't*? What if the azure blue skies we gain because the leaves are off are fall's blessing? Yes, the trees seem smaller because their leaves are gone, but the sky in all its cerulean color steps to center stage.

So, it is with the person who gives his or her life over to the Lord. John the Baptist once said, in order for him to increase, "I must decrease." When we are in Christ, we are a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come. This means we who are in Christ talk less about what we ourselves are doing and become smaller and smaller in our esteem. Meanwhile Christ becomes more and more. If you wish to evaluate your growth in Christ, is Christ becoming more and more the centerpiece?

In other words, are the sky, the clouds and the birds getting their chance to shine? Is Jesus more in you than ever before? Might be something to ponder, boy of summer. Might be something to consider, female of fall.

In Christ,
Will



United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Next Meeting: Monday, October 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room and via ZOOM. We will host a speaker at 11:00 a.m. Wendie Dungan from the Southern Virginia Child Advocacy Center will speak on **“Bystanders Protecting Children.”** Our business meeting will follow. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and may leave prior to the business meeting.

District UMW Meeting: We will host the District UMW Meeting at RMUMC on October 17 from 3:00–5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

Soup Sale: We are excited that Linda Walters is again leading our soup sale fundraiser. Preparation and cooking will be October 28-30. Pick-up date is October 31. Refer to a separate newsletter article for more details.

The 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. 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.



United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill, President)

UMM

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on October 17 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



On Tuesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 28, 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!

Grace — what a gift!

Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure have become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: “You are accepted.”

—Paul Tillich



United Methodist Women's Soup Sale

The UMW is taking orders now for quarts of homemade potato, with or without meat, vegetable beef soup, and chicken tortilla soup. Simply fill out the order form and give it to a UMW member or email it to lindaw@shentel.net. You can call Linda Walters at 540-346-2004 or 757-635-0109 (Please leave a message if she doesn't answer.) or text to 757-635-0109 to order. Cost is \$9 a quart. Your soup can be packaged in a sterilized quart jar for an extra \$1 per quart. Otherwise, soup will be packaged in a new plastic quart containers. You may pick up your soup on Sunday, October 31 after worship. Baked goods will be available to purchase as well. You can prepay for your soup with cash or check made out to RMUMW or pay at pickup. All funds raised will be used for UMW mission projects.

United Methodist Women's Soup Sale

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Available:	Quantity
Potato Soup (contains ham/bacon) @ \$9/quart	_____ qts.
Potato Soup (no meat) @ \$9/quart	_____ qts.
Vegetable Beef @ \$9/quart	_____ qts.
Chicken Tortilla @ \$9/quart	_____ qts.
Total quarts @\$9	_____ qts.

Option: I would like my soup in sterilized quart jars. _____ jars @ \$1 per jar _____

Total amount due _____

I have attached a check or cash to pay for my soup _____

I will pay for my soup at pick up. _____



Vital Congregation Statistics for August

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Prepaid 2021 Contribution	\$ 5,040	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 8/31/21		\$144,736
Actual Offerings Received through 8/31/21	\$177,430	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 8/31/21		\$186,048
Actual Expenses Paid through 8/31/21	<\$160,465>	
Ending Balance, 8/31/21	\$66,534	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 88
 Average Online Viewers = 44
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 21



October Is Pastor Appreciation Month

God has blessed our congregation with Reverend Will Waller who has begun his sixth year of ministry with us. October is the designated time of the year for us to show our appreciation to him with cards and other acts of kindness. Sunday, October 10, has been “officially” designated as Clergy Appreciation Day.

Thank you Pastor Will for all you have done and continue to do. May God continue to richly bless and guide you.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

Little Lambs has started, we are so excited for all that we have planned for this month and the rest of the year. During the month of October, we will be learning about all things fall. Happy Fall Y’all!! We will focus on the Bible verse “The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8

The Little Lambs is thrilled to be going on their annual Jeter Farm field trip to learn about "farm life" and farm animals. We hope everyone has a Happy Harvest season and enjoys the fall weather.

Blessings,
Kelsey



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Believe it or not, we're working on Christmas music! The **Children's Choirs** have started preparing their play to be presented on Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. You'll hear details in next month's newsletter. The children already love it! We have prepared two songs that we will be singing during worship to celebrate World Communion Sunday, October 3. We're singing part of them in Spanish! We've also started practicing bell music. If your child is Wonderful Wednesday age and not already part of this program, come join us! See you next week.

The **Chancel Choir** has begun rehearsal on their Christmas cantata "Emmanuel, God With Us". We will practice our regular Sunday anthems from 7-7:45 p.m. and then work exclusively on the cantata until 8:30 p.m. If you are a youth or adult and like to sing but can't join our Chancel Choir full time, please come sing the Christmas music with us. You should plan to be here by 7:30 p.m. We will present this beautiful cantata on December 12 during worship. I hope you'll consider singing this musical with us. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at church (483-5338) or by email music@rm-umc.org.

We have a special anniversary in October. Our talented pianist, Jeanne Banks, will be celebrating 20 years of service in music ministry at RMUMC! Thank you so much Jeanne! (My sister from another mother.) We're so blessed to have you!

The **Bells** are ringing on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. We are already preparing a song for October and I have planned some fantastic Thanksgiving and Christmas pieces. For the present, we will be practicing each week in the sanctuary balcony. FYI...Mittie Hambrick and Pat Cundiff were in our first handbells choir and have played bells for 29 years. Be sure to thank them for their faithfulness and service!!!

October 3 marks 32 years of music ministry with you at Rocky Mount UMC. I look back at where we began and praise God for all the gifts of music we have shared. I have seen my first groups of children grow up, finish school, and begin their life journey as adults. I have had the privilege and blessing of knowing many saints who have now begun their eternal journeys. Each year I meet new children in Wonderful Wednesday and through working with the preschool. I feel so privileged to help them grow in faith and Christian service through the music we make together. Each week God blesses me with new opportunities to witness to my faith through working with you in our music ministry. Thank you for being such a wonderful church family and giving me this special avenue to serve. I love you all.

Love and Peace,
Lynn

"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."
—Nelson Mandela



The youth group's upcoming schedule is JAM-PACKED with activities. There are opportunities galore for you to help out, but I want you to be aware of one really important one: Confirmation.

Because of COVID-19, we postponed our confirmation until this year. Now, we have lots of youth who are ready to participate in confirmation. With youth in high school and middle school, we have decided to do two different classes in a unique format: a lock-in confirmation. We'll have one lock-in night with the high schoolers and one lock-in night for the middle schoolers.

Where do you come in? I would like adults to assist in two capacities: one small group to provide breakfast the following morning to the confirmands and another group of three persons to provide lessons on confirmation topics. You would be a teacher for a particular topic. These are the following topics:

- Sin
- Grace
- Why Church?
- Creation
- Prayers
- Jesus as Savior

I'm hoping to do this confirmation in one night for the high schoolers and one night for the middle schoolers. But it can't be done alone! Email will@rm-umc.org if you can offer your support.

Middle school night: November 12-13
High school night: December 10-11



**REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER**

Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Lynn Cooper; Debbie Caulder; Anna Campbell; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; Eva Prillaman; John Cooper; Jeanette Singleton; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Mark Singleton; Becky Bennett; Kelly Faulconer (Betty Dillon); 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); Shirley Green (Will Waller); Melissa Hays-Smith (Marsha Robertson); Marion Pritchett (Pam Pritchett); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Family of Sid Mason who passed away on August 19

Family of Judy Parcell who passed away on August 30

Family of Jennifer Tatum who passed away on September 4.

Family of Jim Henderson who passed away on September 26.



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your donation to Hermitage Roanoke Samaritan Fund. Your gift is greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors of Pinnacle Living, as well as the residents who will benefit from your generosity.

Your gift makes it possible for Hermitage Roanoke and Pinnacle Living to continue our mission of Enriching Life's Journey.

James Stovall
Executive Director

Sontag would like to thank you for your donations of school supplies. We really appreciate it.

Love,
Sontag Elementary School



Happy Birthday to:

October 1 Peggy McAndrew
October 1 Don Ranson
October 2 Sylvia Cundiff
October 2 Barbara Huffman
October 3 Jake James
October 3 Benjamin Turner
October 4 Teal Colaprete
October 4 Blair Graninger
October 4 Sharon Jones

October 5 Dick Higgins
October 5 Willie Denny
October 5 Charles Prillaman
October 5 Phillip Roseberry
October 6 Bill Engel
October 8 Kathleen Higgins
October 8 Vicky James
October 9 Natalie Lorens
October 11 Andrew Lorens
October 11 Brandy Thompson
October 12 Janet Osborne
October 13 Christopher Land
October 14 Martha Anderson
October 15 Pat Cundiff
October 15 Tammy Engel
October 15 John Plummer
October 17 Nat Hodges
October 17 Christine Land
October 18 Noah Burdick
October 18 Ronald Wray
October 21 Christy Angle
October 22 Tabitha Eitner
October 23 Cameron Haynes
October 23 Riley Hodges
October 24 Joshua Banks
October 25 Priscilla Kent
October 26 Stephanie Teeple
October 28 Ainsley Revercomb
October 31 Katie Meeks

Happy Anniversary to:

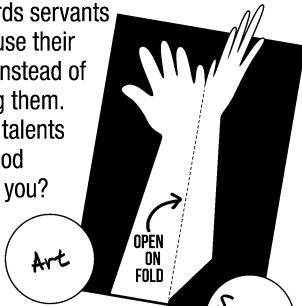
October 1 Logan & Haley Byrd
October 1 Anthony & Elisabeth Saldo
October 2 Steven & Tabitha Eitner
October 5 James & Ainsley Revercomb
October 6 Lew & Paula Hege
October 6 Chaz & Jessica Mitchell
October 8 Will & Emily Waller
October 23 Bays & Ranessa Gibson
October 23 Phillip & Enna Roseberry

"I have so much to do that I shall spend
the first three hours in prayer."
—Martin Luther



FULL OF TALENT

In Matthew 25:14-30, the master rewards servants who use their gifts instead of hiding them. What talents has God given you?



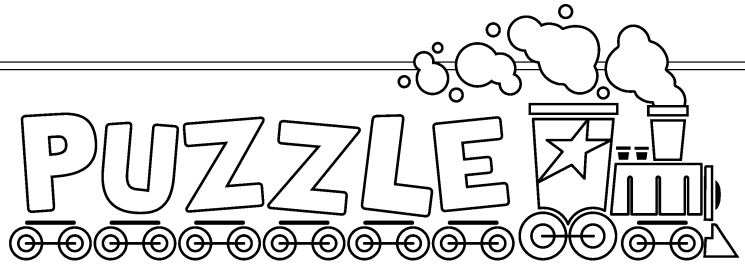
What you need:

- Construction paper (2 sheets)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Gold crayon or pen
- Black pen



What you do:

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Trace your hand and lower arm so your arm touches the folded edge. Cut out the arm and hand, keeping the folded edge uncut.
2. Glue the folded hand to the other sheet of paper.
3. In gold, draw five coins in the hand. In black, write the skills and gifts God has given you.
4. Open the fold and draw 10 gold coins in the two open hands. In black, write how you can use your skills and gifts to help others and honor God.



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

1. 5 x 3 =	6. 6 x 6 =
2. 7 x 4 =	7. 9 x 3 =
3. 4 x 6 =	8. 3 x 8 =
4. 2 x 10 =	9. 10 x 4 =
5. 9 x 5 =	10. 11 x 8 =

KEY		
A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!”

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things

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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
Rebecca Dillon, Children's Church Coordinator

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. Small Groups

10:55 a.m. Worship