

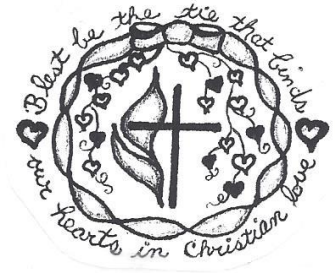
# THE TIE THAT BINDS

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](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org)

Website: [www.rm-umc.org](http://www.rm-umc.org)

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



December 2021/January 2022



Christmas Season  
Schedule

## **Friday, December 3**

5:30 p.m., Our UM Men will sell their world-famous chili at the annual "Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas" on Franklin Street.

## **Saturday, December 4**

10:30-11:30 a.m., dress rehearsal for children's Christmas play. Note: children will give a "preview" of their play as they sing a selection during morning worship on December 5.

## **Sunday, December 5**

6:30 p.m., The children will present their musical "CAKE: Christmas Act of Kindness Experiment."

## **Sunday, December 12**

10:55 a.m., Our Chancel Choir will present their cantata "Emmanuel: God With Us"

## **Wednesday, December 15**

6:00 p.m., Little Lambs Christian Preschool Christmas Program

## **Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**

7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service - Join us for a candlelight communion service in our sanctuary. We hope that you invite a neighbor who may not have a church to celebrate this most blessed of news - God with us!



# ROCKY MOUNT

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

35 North Main Street

Rocky Mount, VA 24151

[admin@rm-umc.org](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org)

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

*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

I remember the first time I learned Australia celebrates Christmas with 100-degree heat. Did you know that? Our friends from Down Under have to wake up on Christmas morning and slip on their matching Christmas tank tops. Rather than sledding, they surf on December 25.

When I first learned this I almost couldn't believe it. Do they walk down the stairs, rather than run, just to avoid working up a sweat? Do they throw mudballs rather than snowballs? Do they fill sandals rather than stockings? It is so counter to what Christmas is all about.

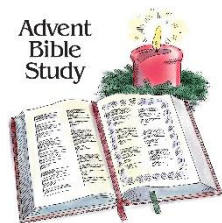
For you see, Christmas is about cold weather. That's its purpose. Big Weather™ (BW for short) churns up its propaganda machine so that we will celebrate all things Cold. They utilize their subsidiary Sweater Weather® to sell cardigans. They work alongside Icicle Inc. to promote frozen water daggers. BW holds one-day sales on snow in parts of the US and in ours, freezing rain. For a very select few, BW will even roll out the rarest of the rare and give them freezing fog. That's right folks, Christmas in America is the sole product of Big Weather™ and we are its captive audience smiling away in our scarfs.

Of course, that's hogwash. Christmas is not a celebration of cold! The real reason for the season is sappy sentimentality. Christmas is about wrapping yourself up in a blanket for some good old-fashioned sentimentality. Chestnuts? We got them roasting. Pies? We got them baking. And fires? You bet we got them blazing. Yep! Christmas is a serenade to sentimentality. And we've got Bing Crosby, Michael Bubl , and Mariah Carey on repeat all season long to serenade our sentimentality.

Friends, you're going to have a lot of people tell you what Christmas is. So, if you don't mind, let me share my two cents. Christmas is God with us. With us? Yes, US! Whether we're having biscuits, turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, or we're having shrimp on the barbie. Christmas is God with us. Whether we're bundled up or basking in the mid-summer sun. Christmas is God with us. Whether we're listening to Bing or the Beach Boys. Christmas is God with us. Whether we're comfy, cozy or sweaty, stinky. Christmas is God with us.

Cold weather or hot. Sentimentality or dispassionate practicality. Christmas? It's this mind-boggling, earth-shaking, Vin Scully's "I Don't Believe What I Just Saw" truth: God with us.

Merry Christmas,  
Will



(Nancy Middaugh, Coordinator)

### FOR ALL ADULT SMALL GROUPS

The Christmas story is the good news of God entering into our darkness. Join John J.D. Greear along with Peggy Hodges in the four-week session series as we take a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father and the great I Am. When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story - the arrival of Jesus changes everything.

Starting November 28 - December 19. NOTE - Even if you may have missed the first session in November, please attend!!

Come join us!!!



Just a reminder to pray daily for your Advent friend and extend other acts of kindness such as personal visits, calls, cards and special food items. This is a time for you and your family to be in mission as you reach out and touch the lives of other members who need your care and concern.

“God goes to those who have time to hear him — and so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.”  
—Max Lucado

The directory information is in the mail. I wanted to get it in the mail last month, but due to unforeseen issues, we just couldn't meet that deadline. We had many bumps in the road, one of them being the District Regional Manager had Covid. He wasn't available for a long time to assist us with getting the directory together. It is now on its journey to the company to get published. After assembly, we will proof it and will then be published. I appreciate everyone's help on this project, it was challenging at times, but we got it finished. I think everyone will be excited with it. Thank you for your help, support and patience on this project.



Hello Prayer Partners! Adult and youth prayer friends remember to pray for each other every day. Reach out to your prayer partner, share your prayers, share your faith, learn about each other, appreciate each other. Nothing we do is more important than our prayers and lifting up our youth. They are amazing! (Be sure to check the boxes for notes.)



**United Methodist Women**

(Debbie Caulder, President)

UMW

Our next meeting, December 6, is a celebration luncheon at the Hotel Roanoke. We will view the decorated trees followed by lunch at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$27 plus tip. Contact Phyllis Lavinder if you have questions or are interested. We will carpool from the church at noon.

Please join us for our January business meeting to be held on Monday, January 3 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room.

The UMW Annual Soup Sale was held Sunday, October 31. We thank all of you who ordered soup from us. Because of your generous support the sale was a great success! Our unit was able to a gift of \$200 to each of the following local ministries:

- Family Resource Center
- Ferrum College, Chaplain’s
- Discretionary Fund
- Franklin County Free Clinic
- Henry Fork Service Center
- Stepping Stone Mission

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 continues 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.



UMM

**United Methodist Men**

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will again be selling their “locally famous” chili for the “Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas” in downtown Rocky Mount on December 3.

The next scheduled breakfast meeting will be on December 12 at 8:45 a.m.

We will have the annual Christmas dinner in January. Watch the bulletin for more details.



In December and January, our church is in charge of serving lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen the following days:

- Thursday, December 23
- Tuesday, December 28
- Tuesday, January 25
- Thursday, January 27

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!

“All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.”  
—David Jeremiah



## Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

The Sontag Food Program is going very well. We are currently serving twenty students.

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for December and January.

### DECEMBER

**Baggers:** Judy Anderson and Mitzi Secrest

**Deliverers:**

**Week of November 29 – December 3:**

Benny and Annette Board

**Week of December 6 – December 10:**

Jack Collins

**Week of December 13 – December 17:**

PD and Mittie Hambrick

### JANUARY

**Baggers:** Johnny and Penny Guilliams

**Deliverers:**

**Week of January 3 – January 7:**

Benny and Annette Board

**Week of January 10 – January 14:**

Jack Collins

**Week of January 17 – January 21:**

PD and Mittie Hambrick

**Week of January 24 – January 28:**

Linda Handy and Charlotte Board

Thanks to all our volunteers! Please let us know if you have any questions.



The Vintage Small Group (Sunday School class) will resume on January 2, 2022!! Bill Collins is the leader and he has ordered the books. The Standard Lesson Commentary NIV is used. Even though the class is called Vintage, it is open to any age adult.

So, if you've been undecided to join our small groups consider the Vintage, Redeemer's or our Branches small groups. Please come and be a part of our great fellowship!! You're always welcome!!

### Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2022 is here.

Reserve your "special Sunday"

now 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.



### Offering Envelopes

We will not be ordering envelopes this year because of expense and many people not using them. We are going to offer blank envelopes if you are still interested in using envelopes. Please call the church office to let Valerie know if you would like them. Thank you!



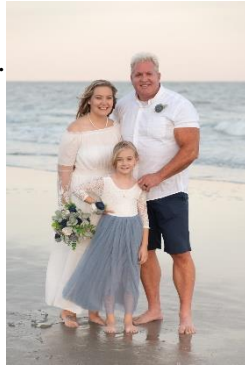




Our newest staff member is Mr. Craig Jamison. Craig became our custodian at the start of November.

To introduce Craig, here's a little about him:

Craig is the son of a service member who took his family all over in his first couple of years. He lived in South Carolina, Florida, and Connecticut before he was even 10 years old. During his formative years, he lived in Henry, Virginia. He has a couple of nicknames, but his most common is CJ. He says the thought of working a full day to provide for his family drives him. He enjoys watching *Yellowstone* and *Blacklist* on the TV. His dream day though wouldn't be in front of the television, but being with his wife Kelsey (our director/lead teacher at Little Lambs) and his daughter Callie. If you want to get on his good side, serve him a filet mignon.



Welcome Craig to the staff at RMUMC. We're excited to have you!



Something new this way comes!  
And something old comes with it!

On December 19, 2021, we will have many youth join the church by profession of faith. Because of Coronavirus - a phrase I'm sure we are eager to retire - we were

delayed as a church in confirming the many students wishing to join the church because classes were canceled. We had to go digital with worship and that curtailed having Confirmation. Because of two overnight lock-in style confirmation events, we will have many students coming forward to profess their faith before the congregation. On behalf of these students, thank you for praying for them as they make this pledge of faith. It makes a lot of sense to have this event be on the final Sunday of Advent. Advent is the season of waiting. They have been waiting for this for quite some time. It will all culminate during this service.

We also will temper that newness with some old favorites. In December, we will have our annual Special Needs luncheon and gifting. We will have our annual Christmas party and polar bear swim. And in January, we will continue meeting weekly for mission projects and normal youth nights (which are anything but!).

Finally, remember to pray for the youth, especially if you are a prayer partner of them. They need your support as the weight on this generation is especially heavy. You help them by dedicating time during your day for intercessory prayer. Thank you in advance!

### Christian symbol



**EVERGREEN**—These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

December is full of music! The children will have a dress rehearsal for the Christmas play on Saturday, December 4 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet upstairs and rehearse in the Wonderful Wednesday area. The children should be finished by 11:30 a.m. They will give us a “preview” of their play as they sing a selection during morning worship on December 5. (Parents, we will meet upstairs at 10:45 a.m.) At 6:30 p.m. that evening, the children’s choirs will present their musical “CAKE: Christmas Act of Kindness Experiment” (All children should be dressed and in the church parlor by 6:00 p.m.) Here is an excerpt from the play ... *“It’s finally Christmas break and the kids are out of school! Now the real fun begins ...except the teacher gave homework! But along the way, a group project becomes much more to a group of kids than they could have ever imagined. Join along as they embark on an exciting experiment that will change the way they experience Christmas forever. God’s kindness proves God’s love for us and is at the root of every detail of the Christmas story!”* Add this date to your calendar! You’ll receive a real Christmas blessing!

The Jubilant Ringers will play a beautiful medley of familiar Christmas Carols during worship on December 19 and don’t miss the Chancel Choir presentation of the musical, **“Emmanuel: God With Us” during worship on December 12.** In a Lessons and Carols format, traditional carols including *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* are woven together with contemporary favorites *Mary, Did You Know?, Breath of Heaven*, and more to form a beautiful tapestry celebrating Christ’s birth. Join us for this very special musical presentation on December 12!

And finally, join us on December 24 at 7:00 p.m., for our annual Christmas Eve Service. Special music will greet you as you arrive, we’ll have soloists and instrumentalists, and of course “Silent Night”.

Mike, the girls, and I thank you for another wonderful year together. Each one of you means so much to us. We wish you a joyous holiday season and many, many blessings in the new year!

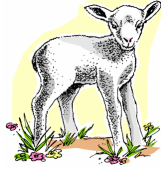
January Music Notes...

Wonderful Wednesday will take a break and resume on January 12. I will be making up the full volunteer schedule for the rest of the school year to be circulated by the end of December. If you are a volunteer and don’t receive a list, please check the bulletin board next to the Assembly Room (on third floor) for extra copies. If you would like to be a new volunteer, please let me know. We can always use more help!

Chancel Choir will also resume rehearsals on January 5 and handbells will begin the New Year with practice on January 11. If you are thinking about joining any of our choirs, January is a great time to start. We can always use more singers and ringers!

Remember if Franklin County Public Schools are closed (for in person learning) or dismiss early on a choir practice day due to bad weather, we will not meet. When in doubt, call me (483-9799).

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



## **Little Lambs in the News**

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

Little Lambs is going to have a busy holiday season. We will have a blast decorating cookies, singing at our program, and celebrating baby Jesus.

We look forward to the new year and what blessings it will bring. For January, Little Lambs will be focusing on arctic animals, snowflakes, and how God created each of us differently. We pray you all have a blessed new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kelsey



## **Vital Congregation Statistics for October**

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Prepaid 2021 Contribution	\$ 5,040	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 10/31/21		\$180,920
Actual Offerings Received through 10/31/21	\$220,078	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 10/31/21		\$232,560
Actual Expenses Paid through 10/31/21	<\$209,821>	
Ending Balance, 10/31/21	\$59,826	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 97  
 Average Online Viewers = 34  
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 16

### The greatest gift-giver

When we give each other Christmas presents in [God's] name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans — and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, he came down to earth and gave us himself.

—Sigrid Und





**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Anna Campbell; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; Eva Prillaman; John Cooper; Jeanette Singleton; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Mark Singleton; Chase O'Brien; Ann Fitzgerald (Terri Naff); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Kelly Falconer (Betty Dillon); Matt Foutz (Jennifer Altice); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Deborah Hensel (Linda Dunlap); Carey Kinney (Linda Dunlap); Tracey Willett (Mike Meeks); 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 Dr. Lewis Coffey** who passed away on November 4



Thank you so much for the generous and lovely 100<sup>th</sup> birthday cards. It was a joy to hear from so many dear friends. I miss all of you very much.

Fondly,  
Eleanor Woody

I would like to thank everyone for their help with the Alzheimer's Yard Sale. It was last minute getting it together, but it turned out well. With donations and sales, we made right over \$600.00. We all know that Alzheimer's is a terrible disease. Every dollar helps to fund research to end this disease. Roger's Mom had it for about five years. It was very sad to see her decline and not recognize family members. It is very hard on the caregivers. Again, I thank everyone for their help and donations of money and items. This is a passion of mine and I appreciate everyone's help.

Nancy Middaugh

**Remember to reach out**

For many people, the holidays bring sorrow, grief and stress. If you're hurting, turn to Jesus and his power. Learn from the woman who, desperate to be healed, reached out to touch the edge of Jesus' robe and was immediately cured.

Sometimes we think our healing process will be so exhaustive that we hesitate to take the first step. Or we doubt that Jesus still performs miracles. Amid your pain, have you reached out? Have you dared to touch Jesus' robe? He is there, waiting to say: "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (Mark 5:34, NIV).

—Julie Le

## DECEMBER



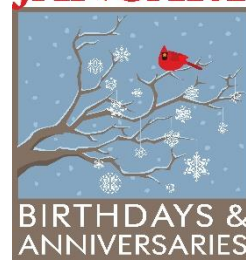
### Happy Birthday to:

December 2 Robin Cooper  
December 3 Henry Hambrick  
December 3 Mitzi Secrest  
December 3 Ethan Smawley  
December 4 Lili Call  
December 5 Russell Gordon  
December 6 Martha Collins  
December 6 Abbey Justice  
December 7 Terry Moran  
December 7 Kelly Peterson  
December 7 Bob Swain  
December 7 Ryan Weaver  
December 9 Ricky Matthews  
December 11 Daniel Cundiff  
December 12 Asher Bryant  
December 15 Ben Whitesell  
December 20 Evan Hatchett  
December 20 Dick Shoemaker  
December 21 Sam Roseberry  
December 22 Arlene Brammer  
December 25 Daniel Bowles  
December 26 Taylor Jones  
December 26 Kathy Palmieri  
December 27 John Clements  
December 30 Roger Middaugh  
December 30 Donald Riddle, Jr.  
December 31 Will Ardis  
December 31 Tim Funk  
December 31 Keri Jackson

### Happy Anniversary to:

December 3 Johnny and Penny Guilliams  
December 10 David and Susan Clements  
December 27 Bruce and Rebecca Tuttle  
December 28 Adam and Abigail Bennett  
December 31 Steve and Lisa Angle

## JANUARY



### Happy Birthday to:

January 1 Joshua Bowles  
January 1 Bob Huffman  
January 3 Ashley Dillon  
January 4 Rodney Cundiff  
January 4 Jason Lavinder  
January 6 Arnold Dillon, Jr.  
January 8 Chris Teeple  
January 8 Melissa Teeple  
January 10 Rachel Hall  
January 12 Brenda Wright  
January 13 Tracy Jenkins  
January 14 Dana Kelley  
January 14 Kyle Lewis  
January 15 Dot Harper  
January 15 Bobby Hodges  
January 15 Katie Hutcherson  
January 16 Russell Damron  
January 16 Mauri Sink  
January 18 Whitney Angle Colaprete  
January 19 Susan Whitesell  
January 20 McKenzie Prillaman  
January 21 Addison Gibson  
January 21 Ainsley Gibson  
January 21 Conrad Lavinder  
January 21 Sara Weterrings  
January 23 Tara McBride  
January 24 Lillie Hatchett  
January 26 Benny Gibson  
January 27 Kevin Clements  
January 29 Patsy Swain  
January 30 Sarah Bowles

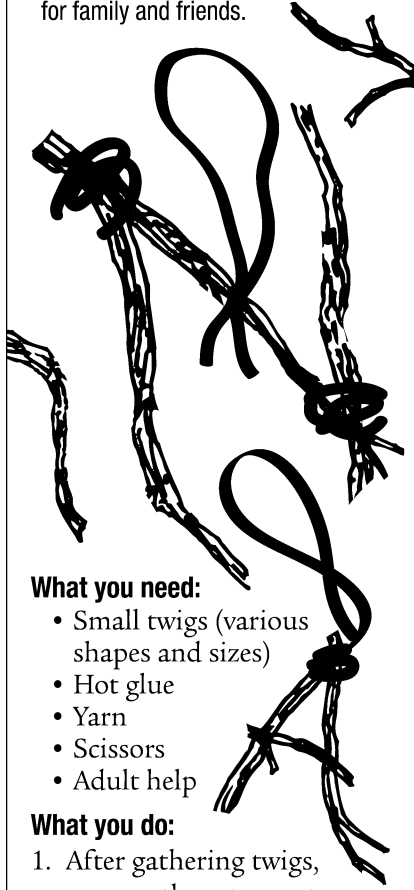
### Happy Anniversary to:

January 1 Jack and Martha Collins  
January 11 Dan and Linda Walters  
January 14 Bob and Barbara Huffman



# SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



### What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S  
 H → → → U  
 M ↑ **What's in a name?** ↓  
 V ↓  
 S ↓  
 R ↓  
 B ↓  
 O ↓  
 L ↓  
 Y ↑  
 Q ↓  
 O ↓  
 X ↑  
 A ↓  
 V ↓  
 H ↓  
 R ↑  
 T ↓  
 A ↓  
 I ↓  
 N ↓  
 G ↓  
 F ↓  
 I ↓  
 P ↓  
 H ↓  
 S ↓  
 C ↓  
 I ↓  
 B ↓  
 E ↓  
 J ↓  
 H ↓  
 A ↓

## What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

*Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.*

"S\_e w\_ll \_\_ve b ir\_\_  
 to \_ s\_n, and \_\_u a\_e to  
 gi\_e \_i\_ the \_\_me J\_\_us,  
 b\_c\_u\_\_ he \_ill s\_\_e his  
 \_\_ op\_e f\_o\_ t\_\_ir s\_n\_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

← ← ← START HERE ←  
 A I N G F I P (H) S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV

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**ROCKY  
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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**  
**Craig Jamison, Custodian**

**(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**