

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"



November 2021

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held Sunday, November 21, immediately following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The Family Ministries Committee will provide dressing, mashed potatoes, rolls and drinks. The United Methodist Men will provide the turkey. The congregation is asked to bring a dish and dessert or two of your choice. This is a wonderful time of fellowship for our church family. We hope to see you there.



Getting Ready for Advent

Many hands are needed as we get ready to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season. Monday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m. we will be decorating the Chrismon tree and sanctuary. Light refreshments will be provided. Please put this date on your calendar!



Again this year during the season of Advent, you will be given the opportunity to select an Advent Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, November 28, containing the name of a church family member, "an Advent Friend," who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during the Advent season. You will be asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. If you know of someone who would appreciate the special care of this ministry, please notify the church office by Sunday, November 14.



The confirmation class dates are set and we need your help! The middle schoolers will be gathering on November 12 and the high schoolers will be gathering on December 10. These will be lock-ins for both with classes taught by church members. We need your help in pledging to pray for these young people who will be facing a decision regarding their faith. While faith is a journey for all, confirmation is the traditional time in the church for people to make decisions for Christ. Will you pledge to pray for these young people?

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven.

—Johannes Gaertner



ROCKY MOUNT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

35 North Main Street

Rocky Mount, VA 24151

admin@rm-umc.org

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

To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

It's funny the things you find in other things. I've heard tell of a Declaration of Independence found inside the backing of painting sold at a yard sale for a couple bucks. The Declaration surely was more valuable than the painting. Sometimes we'll receive a package from online shopping, open it up to retrieve the items within, and hours later, find a black cat named Pasha snoozing inside the confines of the cardboard.

While preparing for this newsletter article that'll come out in November, I picked up my old 1965 *Book of Worship*. The *Book of Worship* is a book...of worship. The aptly named work is a go-to for greetings, benedictions and calls to worship. It used to be a sharp purple color that has mellowed to a light lavender now, decades after its first publishing. Its pages are yellowed and has a bunch of thees and thous that point to its mid-20th century printing. But on this day in late October that caught my eye was what cascaded down from within its pages.

The slip of paper had these words on it: "Response: With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that AimeeDolores Yingling, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." If these words seem familiar, it's because they are almost the exact same words we say when someone is being confirmed in the United Methodist Church in 2021 as they were in 1965 when we were The Methodist Church. I was looking for something else in the *Book of Worship* and found myself thinking about AimeeDolores Yingling.

After some quick internet sleuthing, I found out that Ms. Yingling is now Aimee Cizek living in Columbus, Ohio. According to Facebook, she's got a child, loves sand castles, and serves as an accountant for a mining company. All this is well and good. However, what I continue to wonder about is her faith and the community or communities of faith that have surrounded her since that day she was confirmed. Being part of a church is a blessing from God. These are persons who covenant to strengthen us and stand by us. I pray Aimee has had that since that day this response was shoved into an old *Book of Worship*.

As we gather with our families around tables short and long this month, as we gather together to ask the Lord's blessing, let's pray for Aimee and Aimees like her. They were confirmed in our church and churches like ours worldwide years ago. May they never lose sight of people who pledge to join them through thick and thin. May they also know that the Holy Spirit commits to giving all of us a great cloud of witnesses that will surround them with steadfast love, establish them in the faith, and strengthen them in the way that leads to life eternal. May this not just be a slip of paper lost inside an old book, but a daily heartbeat to live into our vows made then, today.

In Christ,
Will



It is time to order poinsettias to be used in the sanctuary December 5-24. If

you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by **Monday, November 8**. The cost is \$13.00. Checks should be made payable to Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. After December 24, you may take your poinsettia(s) home to enjoy.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Return to church office by Monday, November 8. A payment of \$13.00 for each poinsettia should accompany your order.

Your Name:

Number of poinsettias Ordered:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:



UMW

United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

Next Meeting: Monday, November 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room.

Thank you to everyone who purchased soup to support our fundraiser. A special thank you to Linda Walters for coordinating this effort and to all volunteers.

The UMW District Meeting was held at RMUMC on October 17. Thanks to Phyllis Lavinder, District UMW President, for managing this event and to the volunteers who served and provided food. Linda Walters was installed as District Treasurer.

Looking Ahead: **Christmas Luncheon** at Hotel Roanoke, December 6 at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$24 plus tip. Sign up with Phyllis Lavinder.

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)

The United Methodist Men are excited to welcome Rev. Eric Anspaugh from the Habitat for Humanity Franklin County chapter to their monthly breakfast on November 14 at 8:45 a.m. All are invited to attend, eat breakfast and enjoy an update on where Habitat is on their recent relaunch in the county. No need to RSVP.



On Tuesday, November 23, 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!



Redwood United Methodist Women's Bake Sale: Saturday, November 13, Downtown Farmers' Market, 9-closing. Get there early! They make delicious variety of pies and cakes that can be frozen for your holiday meals!

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.



*Don't forget to "fall back!"
Daylight Saving Time Ends November 7*

Time to double down

After you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the Devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation and good deeds. For if Satan's temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, he'll have an incentive to leave you alone.

—St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This month is a busy time for our musicians as we prepare our holiday music. On November 21, the Jubilant Ringers will play a dynamic piece, *Unending Praise* and the Chancel Choir will sing *Soli Deo* for our 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship Service. During this season, remember all the wonderful gifts God’s has given us. Invite family and friends to join us in praise and worship for Thanksgiving!

Along with Thanksgiving preparations, we are working on our Advent/Christmas music. The children are polishing their Christmas play, “Cake” to be presented December 5 at 6:30 p.m. (We will also sing a “preview” song from the musical at 11 a.m. worship on December 5.)

“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 the date to your calendar! You’ll receive a real Christmas blessing!

The Chancel Choir and instrumentalists will present 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* is woven together with contemporary favorites *Mary, Did You Know?*, *Breath of Heaven*, and more to form

a beautiful tapestry celebrating Christ’s birth.

Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas are very special times for our music ministries. After last year’s “break” from our holiday music traditions, we’re hoping for the most meaningful season ever. Don’t miss any of our wonderful music as well as the inspired messages. You are going to be blessed!!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



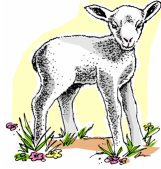
Our calendars do a fine job, but what they can’t predict is memories. You never had “best night of my life” listed that way on the calendar. You never could know when you would have that day that you think about when you’re seventy-five. Joy can’t be scheduled.

Our youth are going to do something really neat on Sunday afternoon, November 7. While we can’t divulge the ins and outs of this night, we are excited to offer something special to folks who might not have as much joy as they would have liked recently. It’s scheduled on the calendar as one thing, but my guess is that when it’s over, it’s going to be listed as “really incredible memory.”

Details will emerge after. Memories will stick with us always.

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

—Maya Angelou



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

Little Lambs had a successful October with many activities. The children raised money for St. Jude and learned about bike safety. We also had a great Harvest party and loved seeing the children dressed up as their favorite characters. The four-year-old class has learned about fall and brought in beautiful signs of the season change.

I would like to take this time to give a huge THANK YOU to the church for all you do for Little Lambs. Your support means the world to us. Thank you again!

We are ready for November and all the blessings going forward. In November, we will be learning about being thankful in both classes and also looking forward to our Thanksgiving Feast. YUMMM!

I hope you all start your holiday season off wonderfully. Little Lambs is thankful for each one of you! Happy November and have a blessed month! Enjoy your turkey and family time.

Blessings,
Kelsey



Vital Congregation Statistics for September

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Prepaid 2021 Contribution	\$ 5,040	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 9/30/21		\$162,828
Actual Offerings Received through 9/30/21	\$196,631	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 9/30/21		\$209,304
Actual Expenses Paid through 9/30/21	<\$185,635>	
Ending Balance, 9/30/21	\$60,565	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 83
 Average Online Viewers = 38
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 21



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; Coronavirus victims and healthcare front-line workers; Dr. Lewis Coffey; 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; Ann Fitzgerald (Terri Naff); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Kelly Falconer (Betty Dillon); Wendy D’lisse (Rebecca Harriett); 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); 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



Thank you so much for all the cards you sent Mom in celebration of her 100th birthday. She was so thankful and surprised that so many people would take time to remember her “special day.” She misses Rocky Mount and all of you. Please continue to think of her.

The Woody’s
Bill and Pat
Fred and Carol

Dear Fellow Christians,

Thank all of you for your expressions of love, concern, visits, calls and cards while Jim was ill and at his death. Although deep down we had hope he would get well but usually we knew better. It seems so unreal. He was there for us many years.

In Christian Love,
Hazel Henderson and Family

Thanks to everyone for the prayers, calls, texts, and acts of kindness and support during my recent medical treatments. I am so blessed to have such a kind and caring church family.

Debbie Caulder

A gratitude game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combination.

When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we’re thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!

—Janna Firestone



Happy Birthday to:

November 1 E. B. Easter
November 2 Annette D. Board
November 3 Debbie Rucker
November 4 Laura Hannula
November 7 Logan Engel
November 8 Christina Gibson
November 9 Natalie Cook
November 11 Isaac Godfrey
November 11 Zac Perdue
November 13 Ann Coffey
November 14 Robert Jarrett
November 14 Alice Lively
November 15 Barbara Beck
November 16 Bridgett Damron
November 16 Debra Vaughn
November 17 Emily Prillaman
November 18 Mike Turner
November 19 Mike Jenkins
November 21 Stephanie Cook
November 23 Tammy Burdick
November 23 Mary Hollyday
November 24 Anthony Cundiff
November 24 Nancy Middaugh
November 24 Evan Stone
November 25 Breanna Bowles
November 25 Carol Geisler
November 25 Grove Revercomb
November 27 Bays Gibson
November 27 Delois Leonard
November 27 Liam McBride
November 27 Jason Myers

Happy Anniversary to:

November 1 CO and Erika Brickey
November 18 Mike and Lynn Meeks

A new Thanksgiving tradition

At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren't present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing notes of thanks to people you appreciate.

Follow Paul's model of starting letters with thanksgiving: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:8, NIV). Notice how he thanks his addressees by thanking God for them. Paul is specific too, not writing, "Thanks for everything!"

Expressing genuine thanksgiving to God and another person, you might write something like this:

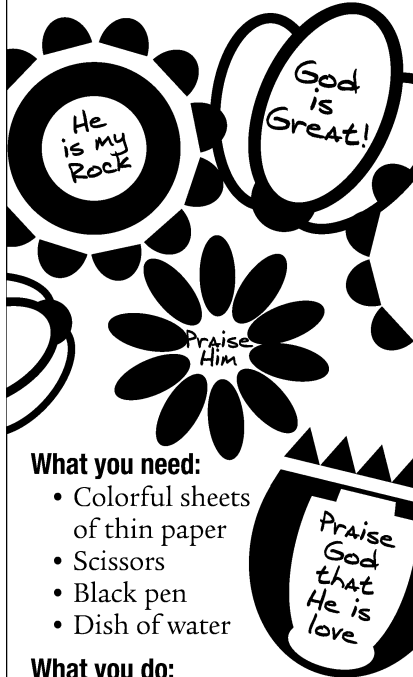
Dear Judy, This Thanksgiving I'm thinking about special people in my life. You are one! I thank God for our friendship, for your strong witness for Jesus and for your willingness to lend a hand as a substitute teacher. (Your chocolate cookies are icing on the cake!) I praise God for you!

Sincerely, Joan



PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display of God's provision for a Thanksgiving centerpiece.



What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

What you do:

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.



GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.

e o r c j
 7 2 4 1 6 3 i
 w y l a s
 3 5 2 4 6 a
 1

 -----,

continually,
 p y r a
 1 4 2 3
 e g v i
 4 1 3 2

 in all circumstances; for this
 is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

h n t a s k
 2 4 1 3 6 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

**PRESORT
STANDARD**
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 13
ROCKY MOUNT,
VA 24151

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**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