

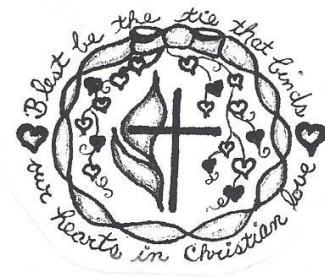
THE TIE THAT BINDS

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"



February 2022



Come and "Share the Love" with Your Church Family

Unless COVID regulations or bad weather prevent it, the United Methodist Women will host a "Share the Love" covered dish event in the fellowship hall on Saturday, February 12 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. There will be feasting, games, and dancing to be enjoyed! Please join us for a fun time of fellowship with your church family. Bring a covered dish to share. Reservations are not required.

Boy Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday will be February 13. Members of our Scout Troop will help lead our worship service. Come and support our Scouts.



This year, our youth group will be leading the Ash Wednesday Service as they did last year. They'll be serving as ushers, liturgists, greeters, and working with Ms. Jennie in the nursery. We hope you'll support the youth group by attending this worship service on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. It is a powerful reminder that despite our sinfulness, God still is faithful to us.



Again this year during the season of Lent, you are invited to select a Lenten Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, March 6, and will contain the name of a church family member who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during Lent. You are asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. Thank you!



Women's Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Bible Study that begins March 1. We will be studying "When Godly People Do UnGodly Things" by Beth Moore. We will meet 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room (Redeemer's SS Classroom). Books will cost \$18 per person. Please notify Linda Walters (757-635-0109; lindaw@shentel.net) or Peggy Hodges (540-263-2470; peggyjhodges@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you plan to participate so we can order books. Invite your friends and family to come too!



ROCKY MOUNT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Growing up, there was a frightening commercial that aired regularly on the Atlanta TV channels. A man dressed in gear more suitable for a space war than conducting pest control would stride through a home shooting cockroaches. The gun he used wasn't standard issue from Remington or Winchester, but rather one well suited for Robocop or The Terminator. Here I was, at a young age, watching an informational program about the African serengeti and suddenly, I was shaking in my light-up shoes because of a pest control commercial. After it was over, I would be afraid the next time we had the pest control guy come by, he'd go to war against Luke Skywalker and the jedi masters.

I miss those commercials, because they're so unlike how pest control really goes. It's usually a man in khakis rather than a robot in duds from the future. Our home is cared for by the good folks at Dugwell. Our guy Dwight comes over, sprays down the crevices, and takes care of the pests. No pests, job done. Even though he's wearing a collared shirt and dress pants, he's persistent and that's key. More important than wearing a spacesuit with a laser, persistence is what makes an effective pest control person. He comes more times than I often think he should. But he's effective, no bugs.

We're a little more like that young kid afraid of the pest control guy than we'd like to admit. We get scared off by discipleship in the Bible. We hear things like "pray without ceasing," "be perfect as my Father in Heaven is perfect," "forgive 70 times 7 times" and think "that's too hard." We're frightened away and believe that following Jesus is too hard. And so, rather than trying to forgive, or live righteously, or pray, we hold off.

In the Bible, there's a story about a judge who didn't care what anybody thought, or wanted, including the Lord. Yet he had a kryptonite, the persistent widow. She got under that guy's skin, going to him again and again saying, "give me justice, give me justice, give me justice." That's how we are to be with the Lord, persistent with our prayer, persistent with righteousness, persistent with forgiveness.

This next season of life in the church is Lent. A season of persistence. Don't be frightened off with the tools God has laid before you to practice your faith. And don't give up. Never give up. Be persistent, be patient with your practice of faith. Trust the process of your faith because the process has been prescribed by Jesus for us. He knows best for you and me. Be engaged this Lent so that you do not lose heart.

Here's a prayer to pray:

Lord, teach me to be persistent. Make me into a 24/7 kind of follower. Turn me away from approaching prayer like I approach dental hygiene, once when waking up and once when going to bed. Fire in me the desire to be persistent with justice, wanting it always, not just sometimes. Turn me away from an on-again, off-again kind of faith and turn me on to an always on kind of faith practice. Lord, teach me to be persistent. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



UMW

United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

Next Meeting: Monday, February 7 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. Phyllis Lavinder will present our program: “Healing and Joy as we Grow.” All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will also discuss upcoming activities and mission projects. Volunteers are needed for several roles.

Upcoming Churchwide Event: Share the Love, Saturday, February 12 from 5:00–8:00 p.m. Thanks to Linda Walters for organizing this event. Please see a separate article in this newsletter for more details. Volunteers are needed!

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.



Spaghetti Dinner

The United Methodist Men will be cooking and serving spaghetti to the church on February 20 after the worship service. They will have to-go plates for those that have to leave right after the final amen. Come to the Fellowship Hall, bring your pasta pals, and enjoy the finest spaghetti this side of Italy. All proceeds benefit the youth of the church through scholarships.



NURSERY *Volunteers*

Attention! Those who have served in the nursery or would like to begin serving: There will be a training event for the nursery on February 13 right after the service in the nursery. Please make plans to attend. It will only be 15 minutes, but we’ll be covering important topics. No need to sign-up, just show-up.



On Tuesday, February 22 and Thursday, February 24, 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!



Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for February.

Baggers: Bill Cooper and Don Ranson

Deliverers:

Week of February 1-4:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of February 7-11:

Jack Collins

Week of February 14-18:

PD and Mittie Hambrick

Week of February 21-25:

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill



Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will be July 18 - 21!



We want to send everyone a birthday card on their special day. If you don't receive a card now, please send us your birthday date not the year! You can contact the church office (540-483-5338 or admin@rm-umc.org) or call or text or email Martha Sue Gibson (540-420-2902 or gibson53@gmail.com). Don't be shy... please let us know. Thank you!!



Ushers

So, you want to be an usher?

We have LOTS of opportunities to serve. One of them includes serving as an usher. Traditionally, an usher was one of the primary helpers for finding seats for people. During the height of coronavirus time - although *this* may be the height of coronavirus time - Benny Board and Jim Anderson highlighted the larger effort that was demanded. They held a questionnaire, answered any questions guests may have had, and they checked people in. The entire church benefitted from their service and from their commitment.

Now, many people are serving as ushers. What you may not realize is that as an usher, you have the unique opportunity to practice tearing. No, not crying...but tearing. We have pew pads here at RMUMC and those pew pads must be torn after the service is over so that we can send cookies to guests at the church. To ensure that the guests get their cookies in a timely manner, please, if you serve as an usher, remember to tear the sheets and make sure they're on the church office desk.

You don't want people missing out on cookies, do you?



Did you know that Ms. Rebecca does all the preparation and teaching for Children's Church? She just needs a different assistant each week to care for our little ones. What a wonderful way to get to know our young church family members! To sign-up for a particular Sunday, see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

With the help of our partners at StageSound in Roanoke, we have new Assistive Listening devices! These devices are a significant upgrade to our previous devices and will enable all those with hearing impairments to hear.

How do they work? Simply take one from the charging station outside the sanctuary and turn them on (button on the top of the device). Turn it up or down with the volume controls on the side. Return to the table where it was first found.

We also have one device for those with cochlear implants. These hang over the neck and enable you to listen.

Our church continues to make strides toward becoming fully accessible to all persons, including those with hearing impairments. Thank you Trustees for making this purchase and for enhancing the worship experience.



The charitable bequest is one of the best ways for you to express your specific philanthropic goals. In fact, the bequest is the most frequently utilized method to support charity in America. If you are interested in giving to the church, consider including a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or specific assets to our church. Talk to your financial advisor, accountant or lawyer about how to include Rocky Mount in your legacy giving.

Flower Chart

There are still many Sundays available in 2022 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.



On December 19 and January 9, 11 new members joined the church by profession of faith and were members of the Confirmation Class:

Brandi Altice
Noah Burdick
Will English
Addison Gibson
Ainsley Gibson
Lera Gibson
Caleb Godfrey
Isabella Godfrey
Lindsey Jenkins
Charlie Mitchell
Rachel Worley

"Always be kinder than you feel."
—Unknown



It's just water. But it was really, *really* cold water.

On December 30, the youth celebrated the end of the year by jumping into Smith Mountain Lake off Dan and Linda Walters' dock. The water temperature was in the mid-forties. Upon entering the water, the body's fight or flight response kicked in. The kids had nothing to fight, so flight it had to be. They jumped in and then jumped right back out. You've never seen anyone scramble up a ladder that quick. Some of the kids jumped back in, verifying that indeed, the water was a tad bit chilly.

Why did they do this? What was the point of all this silliness? Surely you know! It was to enjoy fellowship and the joy of being 14 years old. There's a joie de vivre, a joy of life, in these youth. They love doing things that stretch them and move them outside their comfort zone.

Coming up, here are two ways you can help move outside your comfort zone. We're looking for someone to provide dinner and another someone to lead a 30-minute conversation on forgiveness on March 6 at 5:00 p.m. If you can cook or lead a conversation, please email will@rm-umc.org. Step out of your comfort zone that weekend.

We promise you won't have to even *look* at water, especially the cold kind.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

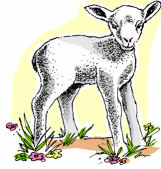
As we begin the month of February, our Wonderful Wednesday Kids are learning to play chimes and will be sharing some beautiful music with you in worship. We are also rehearsing a touching musical called the "The Tale of the Three Trees." It will be the focus of our worship service on Mother's Day. Please note: All adults and children attending Wonderful Wednesday are asked to continue to wear masks at this time.

The Jubilant Ringers Handbell Choir will continue to practice in the sanctuary balcony, where we are able to distance, each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. We could still use one more player. If you are interested, please contact me at music@rm-umc.org.

Chancel Choir members are beginning a Holy Week musical. More details on that next month! Ladies, we need you! If you have been considering singing with our choir, now is a great time! If you are interested and need more info, contact me through my email (music@rm-umc.org) or text (588-1814). Rehearsals are each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the fourth-floor choir practice area.

Remember if Franklin County Public Schools dismiss early or are closed on a rehearsal day due to the weather, we will not meet.

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

Hi friends! I hope you have enjoyed the snowy January we had. Little Lambs is excited for February. The children will learn about how great God's love is, and to also love one another. The children will also be learning about the shape of a heart and all Valentine colors! We are also ready to learn about brushing our teeth. February is Children's Dental Hygiene month. Each child will get the opportunity to win a toothy prize during the month after completing their chart for brushing in the morning and night.

Little Lambs wishes you all a happy Valentine's Day! Each of you are such a blessing!

With great love and appreciation,
Kelsey



Vital Congregation Statistics for December

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2020	\$44,529	
Prepaid 2021 Contribution	\$ 5,040	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 12/31/21		\$217,100
Actual Offerings Received through 12/31/21	\$270,452	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 12/31/21		\$279,015
Actual Expenses Paid through 12/31/21	\$265,047	
Ending Balance, 12/31/21	\$54,974	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 120
 Average Online Viewers = 48
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 19

No regrets!

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!" To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).



Ruth Cook and Family in the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Frances Cook Davis on November 30

The Family of Ronnie Wray who passed away on December 7

The Family of Mark Singleton who passed away on December 9

Elisabeth Saldo and Family in the death of her aunt, Doris Sink, on December 18.

Family of Bonnie Wray who passed away on December 26

Family of Buford Harrison who passed away on January 5

Family of Shirley Louise Coffey Wingfield (spouse of Floyd Wingfield, former pastor of RMUMC) who passed away on January 3

Family of Arlene Brammer who passed away on January 7

Family of Carey Kinney who passed away on January 9

We just recently found out that **Irene Myers (former member)** passed away on December 18, 2020. You can send cards to her daughter, Sharon Martin, 7252 Featherbed Lane, Gloucester VA 23061.



REQUESTS
—FOR—
PRAYER

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.; Everett Cotter (LuAnn Dunbar); Ann Fitzgerald (Terri Naff); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Matt Foutz (Jennifer Altice); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Tracey Willett (Mike Meeks); Melissa Hays Smith (Marsha Robertson); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).
January 7.

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Thank you so much for all you did to comfort my family and me. What a special way of helping those when a loved one passes. The food was just what we needed and the lovely place to gather a blessing as well.

My Dad is sure smiling in heaven knowing of your care. Thanks to you.

Gratefully
Sandra Siak

Hello Rocky Mount UMC,

Hope this email finds you doing very well today. I know I don't possess all the words to let you know how blessed the sheriff's office was to partner with the church during our Operation Christmas Tree 2021.

We were able to fully adopt 37 families this year, which included 121 children. NONE of this would have been possible without you.

Starting Christmas Eve and all through Christmas Day, I was getting phone calls and texts from some very thankful and grateful families. Again, thank you for following your heart and being a part of kindness.

God bless. We were honored to work with you.

H. L. Nolen, Outreach Coordinator

Dear Family of RMUMC,

Your Christian love and care poured out on my family and all who came to remember my dad is so precious to me. Thank you on behalf of the Coffey family. I'm so grateful for the hands of each of you who so generously prepared a beautiful and delicious lunch for us after the service. And you cannot overestimate how much we appreciated being sent home with all the packed-up leftovers for our rather large crowd of family and relatives. Since nearly everyone of us had traveled quite a distance making Ann's kitchen the only one available, having that food later in the day for our evening meal relieved us of the burden of how to feed that crowd of all ages. I don't know what we would have done without it. Everything was swiftly consumed and thoroughly enjoyed. Blessings on all those hands who prepared and served it!

Much love to my childhood church home. You are a treasure to me!

Beth Coffey



Happy Birthday to:

February 2 Cole Holland
February 3 Becky Newbill
February 4 Jack Collins
February 4 Cyn Fisher
February 4 Suzanne Ross
February 5 Avery Ardis Tosh
February 5 Lera Gibson
February 5 Dean Stone
February 6 Dee Shoemaker
February 7 Warren Damron
February 7 James Peters
February 8 Peggy Santrock
February 9 Josh Gibson
February 9 Eva Prillaman
February 10 Darrell Prillaman
February 10 Elisabeth Saldo
February 14 Abigail Bennett
February 14 Brian Hambrick
February 15 Brandi Altice
February 15 Annette C. Board
February 15 Silas Gibson
February 17 Rebecca Dillon
February 17 Jill Perdue
February 18 Bill Beck
February 19 Martha Sue Gibson
February 20 Kaden Hodges
February 21 Adam Cundiff
February 24 David Clements
February 24 Rowan Eitner
February 27 Abe Gibson
February 27 Kathryn Lorens
February 27 Mike Meeks
February 28 Warrior Colaprete
February 29 Lindsay Smawley

Happy Anniversary to:

February 11 Steve Sherman & Melissa Osborne
February 14 Tyler and Ti Godfrey
February 15 Ron and Peggy Hodges

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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
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