

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"*



March 2022



Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." These are the words that you will hear if you attend our Ash Wednesday service on March 2 at 7:00 p.m. You'll hear other words too. "Welcome to Rocky Mount UMC." "Our Father..." and "May the words of my mouth..." Countless other words will be heard, yet in the stillness after the ashes are placed on your forehead or hand, there will be a silence as the realization comes upon your soul: We are temporary on this planet. We are shadows flitting across the stage. We are grass, quickly grown and quickly blown aside.

The words that you will hear about dust could bring fear, trepidation, and anxiety. No. They are to bring the understanding, an epiphany, that you are to lean on the everlasting arms. You are to rest your weary soul in God. You are to believe in the Gospel, the good news to the failing, to the dust people. Trust in God.

Come if you can on March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

"Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible."

—Mary McLeod Bethune



Hebrews 10:25 - "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." The writer of Hebrews encourages us with this word and reminds us that we must meet together. Because of how good it is to gather together, we will do so with other believers this Lent for a return of the Lenten Lunch Series. Worship services will be at noon. Sing, pray, and fellowship with believers from around Rocky Mount. Stay for a small meal of soup and sandwiches.

To assist with our Wednesday, please contact United Methodist Women president Debbie Caulder, 540-204-2266.

March 9
Redwood United Methodist Church

March 16
Rocky Mount Christian Church

March 23
Rocky Mount Baptist Church

March 30
Rocky Mount United Methodist Church

April 6
First Baptist Church



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

While on the high school ski trip to Canaan Valley, WV a month ago, I learned how to give a better no. The other two chaperones on the trip, Ashley and Jimmy Amos, brought their two high school aged boys along, Jackson and Lucas. These boys are good boys. Christians. Scouts. The kind of boys moms and dads of little girls want their daughters to go to prom with. Yet, they're still human, prone to mistakes.

At some point, one of the boys was dragging his feet, and we were waiting on them. This didn't sit well with Ashley and Jimmy, and they started fussing at their boys. Not yelling & screaming fussing, but some good old-fashioned, run-of-the-mill fussing. "Come on now, we can't wait all day." "You weren't raised in a barn; come on!" "Get to moving...Chop! Chop!"

I watched in awe as their folksy, yet effective, fussing got their boys to get in gear. Right quick, the boys did get a move on, and we were able to do whatever it was we were waiting to do. I asked Jimmy and Ashley to show me, a new dad, how to say no. They gave me a Masterclass on how to say no, to "encourage," and to get your progeny to get a move on. "Do this," "Scowl like this," and "Straighten your back in this manner." I took notes.

These parents are great parents. They're involved without being helicopter parents. They're sweet and tough. They're loving, always. And it was clear to their boys that their fussing wasn't without merit, and their fussing wasn't without love.

Which gets me to our God and the season of Lent.

Lent can get off the rails, awfully quickly. Lent can become a festival of self-loathing. Ash Wednesday hits and we want to turn on the "Oh woe is me." While this style of self-flagellation might work in recognizing one's sinfulness, it skews one's understanding of the Lord. It makes the Lord out to be a slave-driving taskmaster whose sole joy in life is to crush us underfoot. A certain way of "celebrating" Lent sucks every ounce of celebration out of this season before Easter. Mean God and a depressing Lent.

In the Gospels, there is a story of Jesus going into the Wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. He's tempted with hunger, power, and deliverance from his troubles. Rather than turning from the temptation, he turns to Scripture to remind him of the God he serves. An observation of Lent that makes God into a sadist isn't Biblical. God desires that all sinners be saved. The Lord is compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. A no from God does not make God a monster; it reminds us that He is a parent.

May you have a holy Lent, knowing the no helps draw you closer to the greater yes coming on Easter.

In Christ,
Pastor Will

Lenten Friends

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!



UMW

United Methodist Women

(Debbie Caulder, President)

Next Meeting: Monday, **March 7 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Assembly Room. We will have a business meeting followed by our program: **“Call to Prayer and Self Denial.”** Please join us!

Lenten Luncheon - March 30: UMW will serve lunch following the noon service. Volunteers are needed. Contact Debbie Caulder (Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com or 540.204.2266) if you would like to help.

District Prayer Breakfast – April 2: St. Luke’s UMC, Danville, 10:00 a.m. RSVP to Phyllis Lavinder by March 22 (virginiaheartgirl@yahoo.com or 540.483.4905).

Our February churchwide event, **Share the Love**, was great fellowship. Thanks to Dan and Linda Walters, Phyllis Lavinder, and everyone who helped!

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 have their breakfast meeting on March 20 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



On Tuesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 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 March.

Baggers: Greg and Linda Dunlap

Deliverers:

Week of March 1-4:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of March 7-11:

Jack Collins

Week of March 14-18:

P.D. and Mittie Hambrick

Week of March 21-25:

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill



Make Waves at Vacation Bible School!
Coming July 18 - 21

Did you know God can help you change the world around you? This summer, we'll have a blast sharing this message and the gospel with your kids, grand kids, friends, and neighbors. Sign-up at rm-umc.org/vbs or by scanning the code below. See you there!



On March 2, the Youth Group will be leading in the Ash Wednesday service. They'll serve as liturgists, ushers, greeters, and pray-ers. Ash Wednesday service benefits from their leadership, just as the church as a whole benefits from their leadership.

Speaking of leadership, we all are congratulating one of our own for becoming an Eagle Scout. Will English reached Scouting's uppermost echelon on February 13. Congratulations Will!

In the month of March, the youth will have their very first pop-up party. A pop-up party will be where they bring cupcakes, noisemakers, and balloons to different people who might not be getting out all that often and bring cheer directly to their homes. We're thrilled to take the youth on the road to bring joy.

Speaking of on the road, we'll be on the ice at Lancerlot. After a successful Winter Olympics night at the church, turning the building into a winter wonderland, now we're ready to take our youth group to the real ice. After the the youth created figure skating routines on Winter Olympics night, no doubt these youth are ready for the big time.

Also in March, we'll be going to Christina and Josh Gibson's house for a night of singing songs, roasting marshmallows, and playing together. We can't wait for some kumbaya and s'mores.

Our Youth Group keeps on rolling, giving God praise and sharing in memories made.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Handbells are rehearsing music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary balcony. We could still use one more player. If you are interested, please contact me at music@rm-umc.org.

Wonderful Wednesday kids are working on special music for the Lenten season and on a touching musical, "The Tale of the Three Trees," to be presented on Mother's Day. The Celebration Ringers will be playing chimes during worship in March. We still have openings for volunteers to help with Wonderful Wednesday. There is a schedule on the bulletin board near the Assembly Room where you can sign up. Thanks for your help!

The Chancel Choir continues to offer beautiful music during our worship services. They will present the Good Friday musical, "Come to the Cross and Remember," on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. We will follow the events of holy week through visuals and song. If you would like to help by bringing in one of the visuals as the musical progresses, please let me know. There's nothing to memorize so I hope you will consider being a part of this service.

Love and Peace,
Lynn

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

—Mother Teresa



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich...
Proverbs 10:22

Happy March!! Little Lambs Preschool is so lucky and blessed. We are so excited for a new month. In March we will be learning about spring and insects. We will be having spirit week in March to celebrate reading across America. Each class will come to school dressed up. Little Lambs wants to wish everyone a very happy spring, we are looking forward to warmer weather. You all are such a blessing to Little Lambs.

With great love and appreciation,
Kelsey



*Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 13, 2022*

Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg,
The Life You've Always Wanted



Vital Congregation Statistics for January

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2021	\$54,974	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 1/31/22		\$21,709
Actual Offerings Received through 1/31/22	\$31,549	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 1/31/22		\$25,833
Actual Expenses Paid through 1/31/22	<\$16,603>	
Ending Balance, 1/31/22	\$69,920	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 93
 Average Online Viewers = 56
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 22
-



Thank you so very much for all the nice ways you have honored me since I have been unable to attend the services. I am very grateful for the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, gifts and delicious food!

I truly miss being with you in church and I will keep you in my prayers.

With Love,
 Anna Campbell

I would like to thank you for your faithfulness in honoring your connectional commitment to the ministries of the United Methodist Church by offering 100% of your Danville District Apportionments and 100% of your Virginia Conference Apportionments in 2021. We are all so blessed by being in connection through the United Methodist Church, knowing that we share in God's Kingdom work being accomplished not only in our own local community, but in ministry throughout the world.

Serving Christ Together with You,
 Rev. Denise P. Bates
 Danville District Superintendent



Family of Mable Knotts (wife of Albert Knotts, Jr., former pastor of RMUMC) who passed away on January 18

Bob Huffman and Family in the death of his mother, Cordelia Lee Compton Huffman, on January 30

Kevin Tosh and Family in the death of his grandfather, Billy Clifford Tosh, on February 9

Kelsey Dillon (Little Lambs Director) and Family in the death of her grandfather, David Huffman, on February 9

Friends of Linda Wahlberg who passed away on February 18



**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.; Richard McDaniel (Lindsay McDaniel); Doris Ferguson (wife of Bill Ferguson, former pastor of RMUMC); 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).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Happy Birthday to:

- March 4 Debra Caulder
- March 5 Peggy Hodges
- March 5 Pam Pritchett
- March 5 Linda Walters
- March 6 Carrie Haynes
- March 7 Gray Hodges
- March 8 Jovie Angle
- March 9 Holt Smith
- March 10 Barry Altice
- March 10 Angelina Dillon
- March 11 Rachel Justice
- March 11 Jessica Naff
- March 15 Greg Dunlap
- March 16 Tatum Newbill
- March 18 Emily Meeks Littley
- March 19 Johnny Guilliams
- March 20 Mittie Hambrick
- March 21 Kathy Matthews
- March 21 Addison Myers
- March 22 Lynn Cooper
- March 22 Georgia Angle
- March 22 Charlie Mitchell
- March 24 Meredith Flora
- March 26 Elaine Dawson
- March 28 Donna Flora
- March 28 Julie McCutchen
- March 28 Evelynne Rash
- March 29 Casey Hodges
- March 29 Steve Sherman
- March 30 Desmond Cundiff
- March 30 Holden Cundiff

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Open Hearts...

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

**ROCKY
MOUNT**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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