

THE TIE THAT BINDS

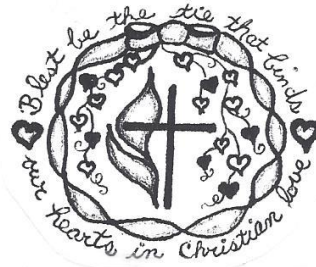
Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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"*



April 2022



Join our congregation for Holy Week activities.

Good Friday, April 15

Cross Walk - Rocky Mount churches gather for the fifth annual Cross Walk at 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Veterans Park. The Cross Walk courses through Rocky Mount in a procession of praise and prayer. We stop at various locations and pray for the people at those locations. We also have an opportunity to carry the cross. Certainly, there are few more powerful experiences throughout the year than publicly carrying the cross. If you can't walk the whole route, come for a partial walk.

Good Friday Service - Our choir presents a night of music and meditation with our Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come and hear again the message of Christ crucified, an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Holy Saturday, April 16

Easter Egg Hunt - Our annual Easter Hunt will be open to children up to the fifth grade from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall and Mary Elizabeth Park. We'll have games, snacks and of course, the Easter Egg hunt in Mary Elizabeth Park (if raining, we'll hold the hunt indoors).

Easter Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunrise Service - Our Easter Sunrise service will be held at 6:45 a.m. on Easter Sunday at High Street Cemetery. We have a short homily, holy communion, and singing. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets or stand for this special time of worship.

Small Groups at 10:00 a.m. - Our Small Groups will be celebrating Christ and his victory this day. Come and find a place - all age Small Groups are offered.

Worship at 10:55 a.m. - Our Sanctuary will be filled to the brim with worshipping people. Come to sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," hear prayers praising the name of the Victorious King, and celebrate Easter with Rocky Mount UMC.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

While shopping last week at Dollar Tree, I got asked what my favorite day of the year is. There's some good ones in the running. Mid-summer firework displays on the Fourth of July hold some of the best memories for me. Growing up, we would watch the fireworks in my small town from the church cemetery. I suppose if the fireworks went askew we'd save the gravediggers from having to move our bodies very far.

I also really enjoy Labor Day. The idea of celebrating the American worker is a noble one, and certainly should be something not just confined to a single day of the year. We should celebrate our staffs if we're an employer or just a fellow employee.

Another day that I enjoy is Ezekiel's birthday. That's a fine one. Do note though: if you're feeding a 1-year-old a birthday cake, don't fix the chocolate coffee cake. And if you do, expect to be up half the night with a child bouncing off the walls.

But the best day is Easter.

It means that there's hope. That there's victory. That there's life after this. Resurrection means that Jesus wasn't a liar. It means that Jesus really is God's Son. It means that we celebrate the victory of the Evil one. It means that we are reconciled to the Father through Jesus the Son.

Easter is the best.

I know that it lacks fireworks. And yes, it lacks coffee chocolate cake (trust me, that's a good thing). But what it does have is joy, it has celebration, it has the overarching victory of the Son of God over death and sin.

Seriously. Easter is the best.

Happy Easter, everybody.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Easter lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17.

The cost for a wrapped lily with a bow is \$12.50. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, April 3.**

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Return to church office by Sunday, April 3 or you may put form in the offering plate. A payment of \$12.50 for each plant should accompany your order.

Your Name:

Number of Lilies Ordered: _____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:



We have one remaining community Lenten Service at First Baptist Church on April 6 at noon. Sing, pray, and fellowship with believers from around Rocky Mount. Stay for a small meal.



UMM

United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on April 24 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



On Tuesday, April 26 and Thursday, April 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!

“Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection.”
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



United
Women
in Faith

(Debbie Caulder, President)

Name Change: United Methodist Women will now be **United Women in Faith**. We will continue our call to action through our faith in God and commitment to women, children, and youth. We expect new programs and updating of established programs. Check out the new website for more information: UWFaith.org.

Next Meeting: Monday, **April 4 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Assembly Room. We will have a speaker from Redwood UMC to discuss the **Warming Shelter**. Please join us!

District Prayer Breakfast – April 2: St. Luke’s UMC, Danville, 10:00 a.m. RSVP to Phyllis Lavinder at virginiaheartgirl@yahoo.com or 540-483-4905).

Mark your Calendar: May 2, Missions Workday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 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.



Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for April.

Baggers: Forrest and LuAnn Dunbar

Deliverers:

Week of March 28-April 1:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of April 4-8:

Jack Collins

Week of April 11-15:

P.D. and Mittie Hambrick

Week of April 18-22:

No Delivery (Spring Break)

Week of April 25-29:

Johnny Guilliams

Graduate Sunday-May 15

Attention:

Parents of High School and College Graduates!



If you have an upcoming high school or college graduate, please let the church office know so we may recognize them.

In the May newsletter, we will name our graduates; therefore, please share with us their after-graduation plans—college, work, etc. by April 19.

Please plan to attend the worship service on May 15 as our church celebrates this special time in their life.

“Lent is spring training.
Easter is opening day!”
—seen on a church sign

Health Kits

United Women of Faith are collecting health kits for UMCOR. If you would like to participate in this mission, please purchase the following items and place them in the collection boxes in the Narthex or near the elevator on the ground level as you enter through the back parking lot. Thank you!
Deadline: Sunday, May 1.

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper
 - No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush
 - Do not remove from packaging
 - Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)
 - Common household bandages acceptable

- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag (optional-UWF will provide bags- just place your items in a shopping bag and tie)

Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.



**United Women
of Faith**

Mission Workday 2022

Please join us on **Monday, May 2** for a church wide mission workday in the fellowship hall. We will meet at **10:00 a.m.** until about **2:00 p.m.** Come for all or some of the time. We will be working on a special project we will be doing with the youth in September and packing and checking the UMCOR hygiene and school kits we have collected this past year. These kits will go to Annual Conference in June. We will find a job for YOU. Please bring sharp scissors, pins, and measuring tapes if you have these items. A salad and baked potato bar lunch will be provided.

"An effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves."
—Lydia M. Child



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!



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Our Holy Week observance begins on Palm Sunday, April 10. Along with beautiful music by the Chancel Choir, we will start our worship service with a children's procession waving palms and singing, "Hosanna, He comes in the Name of the Lord!" At 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 15, our Chancel Choir along with Jeanne Banks (piano) and Dea McClure (flute) will present the musical, "Come to the Cross and Remember." Christ's journey to the cross is filled with images of His sacrificial love for us. Watch as the Palms,

the Cup and the Bread, the pieces of silver, the Crown of Thorns, and more are placed at the cross. Then on Sunday, April 17, we celebrate the Empty Tomb as a reminder of the magnitude of God's love; a love so great that it continues through all time and eternity. In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, it stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. Our sanctuary will be filled with victorious music by the **Chancel Choir** and great Easter hymns accompanied by piano, organ, bells, and trumpet. Invite friends and family to join us as we celebrate the Risen Lord!

The **Jubilant Ringers Handbell Choir** will be playing a piece, "Joyfully Rejoice," to begin our worship on Easter Sunday. Hear three favorite hymns of joy woven within this beautiful song.

I plan for the **children's choirs** to participate in the opening procession on Palm Sunday. Also look for more details on our upcoming Children's Sabbath planned for Mother's Day.

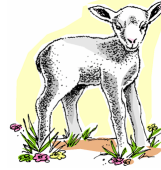
Spring is a time of renewal and celebrating new life in Christ! Make worship each week your way of thanking God for all your many blessings. See you in church!

Love and Peace,
Lynn

A fitting tribute

When Christ entered into Jerusalem, the people spread garments in the way. When he enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ's feet but even trample upon it ourselves.

—Augustus Toplady (1740–1778)



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

“I really like this.” That’s what Lera Gibson said when we were delivering care baskets to a few of our older members this past weekend. We put together Easter baskets, filled with candy and gave them a dozen cupcakes. Accompanying the chocolate and sugar were balloons and flowers, along with a card expressing our sentiments. All in all, it was a great time driving through town to bring joy.

We’re on this planet so briefly. We have an opportunity to be agents of love, sharing what goodness and grace has been bestowed upon us. These youth events where we offer love are the best ones. The ice skating was fun, as was the night we played Winter Olympic style sports in the Fellowship Hall. Yet, standing above all the rest are the times when we are in mission to people. We went to their homes, we petted their cats, we heard stories of what life was like in Rocky Mount in the 1950s (no computers??? Gasp!). This is ministry, and this is the good stuff.

Join us.

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

—Elizabeth C. Clephane

Happy Spring!! Spring has sprung in Little Lambs. We had a fabulous March, which included a very green St. Patrick’s Day snack. Little Lambs also celebrated Read Across America week and Dr. Seuss’s birthday. WOW what a month. Time is flying by, and we have only seven more weeks of school.

For the month of April, we will talk about all things spring including the weather and baby animals. Little Lambs is looking forward to our Easter Egg Hunt and learning the Easter story. Our Bible verse for this month is, *He is not here; he has risen, just as he said* - Matthew 28:6. We hope each and every one of you have a wonderful spring.

Blessings!

Kelsey



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!
4-Year-Old Class



Vital Congregation Statistics for February

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2021	\$54,974	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 2/28/22		\$43,418
Actual Offerings Received through 2/28/22	\$57,988	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 2/28/22		\$51,666
Actual Expenses Paid through 2/28/22	<\$43,287>	
Ending Balance, 2/28/22	\$69,675	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 104
 Average Online Viewers = 45
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 23



We've all experienced the challenges of rising food costs. From bread to butter, milk to Moose Tracks ice cream, grocery shopping is more expensive than it's ever been. Families aren't just struggling to make ends meet, they're struggling to purchase meat. This inflation comes on the heels of the past two years of shuttered stores and stay-at-home orders. Thankfully, you didn't stop. You didn't quit! One of the brightest lights in the midst of the pandemic has been your continued commitment to feed children at Sontag Elementary, Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen, and Heavenly Manna. Each month, these places receive donations of food and funds which provide for them the resources they need to keep people alive. I'm proud of the work of our church to never waver throughout those lean days but stepped up to the plate to ensure no child goes hungry on our watch. When you give to the church, you're powering ministries that have tangible impacts on the lives of people here in the community. Thank you!



Benny Gibson and Family in the death of his uncle, Jim Hill, Sr., on March 14

Family of Jeanette Singleton who passed away on March 23



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Shirley Vaughn; Bobby Hodges; Jerry Davis; Tim Funk; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Anna Campbell; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; Eva Prillaman; John Cooper; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Richard McDaniel (Lindsay McDaniel); Doris Ferguson (wife of Bill Ferguson, former pastor of RMUMC); Everett Cotter (LuAnn Dunbar); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Matt Foutz (Jennifer Altice); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Melissa Hays Smith (Marsha Robertson); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody



Happy Birthday to:

April 1 Penny Guilliams
 April 1 Tori Huffman
 April 3 Ben Clements
 April 3 Lindsay McDaniel
 April 4 Mark Newbill
 April 4 Dan Walters
 April 5 Ranessa Gibson

April 6	Bryan Lewis
April 6	Blake Myers
April 7	Miles Gibson
April 7	Jodi Huffman
April 11	Vicki Bennett
April 11	J.R. Levesque
April 11	Debra Loya
April 12	Susan Clements
April 14	Anthony Saldo
April 15	Ronnie Breedlove
April 15	Carrie Holland
April 16	Jennifer Cooper
April 16	Johanna Cooper
April 22	Jennifer Lewis Felts
April 22	Daren Haynes
April 22	Tyler Peterson
April 23	Fisher Gibson
April 24	Marshall Banks
April 24	Bill Cooper
April 24	John Cooper
April 24	Jerry Davis
April 24	Marsha Robertson
April 25	Molly Bennett
April 25	Peyton Smawley
April 27	Jack Dillon
April 27	Shirley Vaughn
April 28	Steve Angle
April 30	Deborah Pritchard
April 30	Ashley Turner
April 30	Rebecca Tuttle

Happy Anniversary to:

April 2 Mike and Tracy Jenkins
 April 6 Richard and Stephanie Cook
 April 7 Dick & Kathleen Higgins
 April 21 Eddie and Cyn Fisher
 April 22 Joe and Dana Kelley
 April 25 Mark and Becky Newbill

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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