

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"



June/July 2022



On June 1, Pastor Will Waller and Lay Leader Tammy Burdick will host a town hall style event discussing where the United Methodist Church currently stands on LGBTQ inclusion, the proposed changes on inclusion within the United Methodist Church, and the formation of the Global Methodist Church. There may be questions about what happens if a church chooses to disaffiliate (leave the UMC) and the pastor does not wish to disaffiliate. There may be questions about the cost of this action of disaffiliation. What are the next steps for the entirety of Methodism now that a new denomination has been formed? Each question will be answered to the best of Lay Leader Burdick and Pastor Waller's ability and those that they do not know the answer to, will be researched and answered in a timely fashion.

We believe that informed people are less likely to be anxious people. The event will be held in the Atrium of the church, starting at 7:00 p.m. Nursery and childcare of young children will be available.

"What sunshine is to flowers,
smiles are to humanity."

—Joseph Addison



July 18-21

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Kids are a part of the church TODAY. Here are THREE ways you can help them make an impact!

1. Sign-up. Volunteers AND kids make VBS possible! You can do that at rm-umc.org/vbs.
2. Donate. Have a kayak or pool float you can spare? This year's event is all about water activities. The more cool water, pool, and patio items you let us borrow, the COOLER the experience is for the kids. Drop those off in the Fellowship Hall
Offerings also help supply crafts, snacks, and more. Simply note "VBS" as you offer your monetary gift.
3. Pray. Pray that the kids learn about Jesus and grow in faith. Pray that their families are positively impacted. Pray for the volunteers giving of their time and talents.
Your prayers cause ripple effects that

For more information, contact Tammy Burdick at (540) 998-4613.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Recently, Emily, Ezekiel and I went across the bridge into Bedford County to see one of our youth play soccer against Staunton River High School. The game was tight and our Eagles battled all the way to the end. While our 2-year-old usually enjoys a night out under the stars, the highlight of this evening, I predicted, would be a hot dog consumed mid-game. So, Zeke and I moseyed on over to the concession stand to get our hot dog fix.

Before we could get our hot dog, Emily reminded me that Zeke may need to use the restroom. Being not from Bedford County or familiar with Staunton River, we didn't know where bathroom facilities were. So before acquiring our delicious hot dogs, we asked the people in the concession stand. Before they could answer, a girl around the age of 5 or 6 came right up to us and said, "it's around the corner in the field house. You'll look for two doors, and the one on the left is the men's room." I thanked her and the people in the concession stand said, "now that's how you give directions!" We did our business, and we then got the much-needed mid-game hot dogs.

How well do we give directions? No, I'm not talking about driving directions, but directions for our faith. How do we describe to other people our beliefs? Does this kind of talk make you squirm? Are we prepared to give an account of what we believe? What struck me about this girl's directions was not only how understandable they were but how ready she was to give them. Thinking back, this impressed me most. It was on the tip of her tongue, ready to go.

As we spend time, many of us, traveling throughout the country and perhaps the world this summer, we may have to ask directions. We may have to go up to locals and say, "Now where can I find the best hamburger? Where should I go for some U-Pick strawberries? If you were me, where would you park if you wanted to get to the beach quickest?" If they're well-versed in that town or area, they'll have an answer right quick.

May we be the type of people of faith that we can answer right quick where our hope is found. May we be the type of people who can say where relief will be located. May we be the type of people that aren't afraid to step in and say, "Jesus...He's that way!"

In Christ,
Pastor Will



United
Women
in Faith

(Debbie Caulder, President)



Annual Picnic: June 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at the home of Dan and Linda Walters (171 Highland Lake Rd., Union Hall). A sign-up sheet will be sent via email, or you may call Linda and let her know what you would like to bring. This is always an enjoyable event! Please join us!

Mission Workday Update: We have 57 school kits and 23 hygiene kits ready for Conference. In addition, blankets were cut and prepared for the Youth project in September. Thanks to Linda Walters for coordinating this mission day!

Thanks to all who helped with the May 15 Yard Cleanup Day with the Youth! We enjoyed a nice visit with Ann Coffey.

The 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 UWF 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. Check out the new website: UWFaith.org.

This year, Rocky Mount United Methodist Church hosts Vacation Bible School. Every year, our church works together with Rocky Mount Christian Church on VBS, presenting four days of Spirit-filled Bible messages for the children of the community and two churches. In order to fund VBS, we do depend on the monies allocated in the church's budget. However, we realize that those funds are not sufficient to account for the sizeable increase in the costs of the supplies in 2022. We are asking for donors who are willing to support this ministry to give in a special offering on July 10. We will have a love offering for Vacation Bible School that day. Consider giving toward this important ministry. In so doing, you'll be paying for vital supplies that enable Vacation Bible School to be successful in leading people to the enduring love of Christ.

Samaritan Offering

The Samaritan offering for Virginia United Methodist Homes will be received through Father's Day, June 19. Your gift supports residents who have been blessed by longevity but have outlived their financial resources. Samaritan gifts are not used for operational, capital, or administrative cost but are instead made available only for benevolent care. Make your checks payable to RMUMC and designate "Samaritan Offering" on the memo line. Thank you!





The Epiphany Project is a 2022-year long project to lift up the ways in which God appears to us. After two years of quarantines and social isolation, after two years of war, disease, and destruction throughout our globe, all of us have experienced loss and grief. Our church's leadership has discerned that epiphany, how God appears to us in life-altering ways, is the word of the year, and stories of His appearing are needed to be heard by all.

If you'd like to share your story, send a request to will@rm-umc.org to schedule a time for a filming. We want to show these stories during worship services throughout the year.



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

Thursday, June 23
Tuesday, June 28
Tuesday, July 26
Thursday, July 28

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



HUNGER RELIEF

Hunger doesn't have to exist - let's end it, together. Mark your calendars for September 11 after the worship service. At least 10,000 meals will be packaged in this mega-missions event. More details to come.



Celebration of Lives Fred and Cecile Bussey

Lives so beautifully lived deserve to be beautifully remembered. Please join us as we celebrate the lives of Fred and Cecile Bussey at a graveside service to be held on Thursday morning, June 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Pigg River Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Swenfield Road, Callaway, VA 24067. The Rev. Bruce D. Tuttle, officiating.

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises."

—Leo Buscaglia



Another year has come and gone. We've decorated the windows on Graduation Sunday and put the decorations away. We've waved goodbye to our seniors and anxiously await our rising sixth graders. So like any good program, let's talk about the highlights from the past year.

Graduation Sunday - these five graduates, four from high school and one from grad school, all possess different God given talents. While Daniel, our graduate school grad, has been a part of Rocky Mount UMC for decades, the other four are relative newcomers to our church. Yet over time, we've come to love them through serving as their prayer partners and supporting them as they've participated in our youth group activities. All five are off to college or are continuing to work, sharing their gifts with others. Let the prayer that we prayed on Graduation Sunday continue to be the case - "Gracious God, we pray that You would give these, your children, hearts and minds in tune with Your will." If they remain in tune with the will of God, they'll be right where they need to be.

Speaking of special Sundays, December 19 was a special day for our church as we confirmed the following students: Brandi Altice, Lera Gibson, Noah Burdick, Caleb Godfrey, Will English, Isabella Godfrey, Addison Gibson, Lindsey Jenkins, Ainsley Gibson and Rachel Worley. A few weeks later, we confirmed Charlie Mitchell. As their loved ones gathered around them at the kneeling rail, tears of joy were in the eyes of their parents. They understood the gravity of that moment. Their child who, they had held in their arms as a newborn, now was saying, "I'm ready

to put my trust in God." What a momentous event, the most important event!

Finally, a highlight was the prayer partner night. Held in the midst of the coldest days of winter, it was a warm spot for all who participated. After a year of keeping the identities of the adult prayer partners a secret, the prayer partners were revealed to the youth at a 5-star dinner held in the Atrium. The food was good, but the company was better. Thank you to all the prayer partners, those who helped prep the room - Phyllis Lavinder and Lisa Angle, especially - and to the youth for communicating with their prayer partner throughout the year. It was an incredible night and an incredible experience. The relationships continue as some prayer partners are still meeting their youth and encouraging them despite the program ending in February. Martha Sue Gibson deserves accolades for sharing this project with the youth leadership team for if it weren't for her idea, it never would have happened.

2021-2022 has been a year of highlights for our youth group. We are confident that 2022-2023 will continue to provide Christ-centered activities for our youth and we expect that we'll continue to grow numerically and in Christian maturity in this new year.

The power of kindness

No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

—Amelia Earhart



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

The children and I celebrated another successful Children’s Sabbath (the “Three Trees” was awesome!) and the end of this year’s Wonderful Wednesday with a great picnic in Mary Elizabeth Park on May 8! I would like to thank all the parents for supporting our music ministry this year. What a difference a year makes going from zoom meetings only all of last year to sixteen children each week in person! God is Good!!!

The Jubilant Ringers will be taking the summer off and will resume rehearsal in September. They ended their season with two beautiful pieces May 15. Thanks for all the hard work!

The Chancel Choir will continue to practice at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays but on a biweekly schedule throughout the summer. Check your calendar

The summer will be an exciting time for me as I plan music for fall and finally get to attend (after two long years) my music retreat at Lake Junaluska! Hallelujah!

Love and Peace,
Lynn

Super human
Real strength is neither male nor female but is, quite simply, one of the finest characteristics that any human being can possess.
—Fred Rogers



REQUESTS
—FOR—
PRAYER

Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Peggie Foster; Kathleen Higgins; Lillie Hatchett; Jerry Davis; Tim Funk; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Anna Campbell; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; John Cooper; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Janis Odom (DJ Pritchard); Richard McDaniel (Lindsay McDaniel); Doris Ferguson (wife of Bill Ferguson, former pastor of RMUMC); Everett Cotter (LuAnn Dunbar); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); 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



Family of Matt Foutz who passed away

Family of Eva Prillaman who passed away on May 6

“A life without love is like a year without summer.”
—Swedish proverb



Vital Congregation Statistics for April

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2021	\$54,974	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 4/30/22		\$86,836
Actual Offerings Received through 4/30/22	\$107,451	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 4/30/22		\$103,332
Actual Expenses Paid through 4/30/22	<\$98,242>	
Ending Balance, 4/30/22	\$64,183	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 134
 Average Online Viewers = 29
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 26



Thank you so much to the Youth Group and United Women in Faith for coming out and helping with my yard work. I have such a wonderful and loving church family.

With love and appreciation,
 Ann Coffey

Thank you so much for the thoughtful gifts for National Telecommunicators Week!
 Everything will definitely be put to good use and put a smile on my face. God Bless each of you!

Jenny Creighton

That's Father!

Now I think of all achievements 'tis the least
 To perpetuate the species; it is done
 By the insect and the serpent, and the beast.
 But the man who keeps his body, and his thought,
 Worth bestowing on an offspring love-begot,
 Then the highest earthly glory he has won,
 When in pride a grown-up daughter or a son
 Says "That's Father."

—from "Father," by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

JUNE
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

June 3 Kim Goransson
 June 8 Will Cooper
 June 10 Bill Collins
 June 10 Mark Jones
 June 11 Suzanne Levesque
 June 11 Baylor Perdue
 June 12 Muriel Kittinger
 June 14 Caleb Godfrey
 June 15 Tyler Godfrey
 June 16 Brent Robertson
 June 17 Barbara Peters
 June 18 Jacques Delport
 June 18 Phyllis Lavinder
 June 18 Sammy St. Clair
 June 18 Jane Waller
 June 19 Cyndee Holland
 June 20 Caroline Kelley
 June 20 Lauren Kelley
 June 21 Debbie Teeple
 June 22 Jean Hodges
 June 22 Ron Hodges
 June 22 Ainsley Kelley
 June 23 Benjamin Board
 June 23 Lynn Meeks
 June 23 Robert Mills
 June 26 Mackenzie Hall
 June 29 Mattox Angle
 June 29 Erika Brickey
 June 29 Charlotte Hill
 June 29 Sandra Hodges
 June 30 Cindy St. Clair

Happy Anniversary to:

June 3 Bill and Barbara Beck
 June 4 Kevin and Avery Tosh
 June 8 Bobby and Jean Hodges
 June 15 Abe and Terri Naff
 June 17 P.D. and Mittie Hambrick
 June 20 John and Lynn Cooper
 June 21 Jim and Martha Anderson
 June 21 Rodney and Pat Cundiff
 June 21 Daren and Jennifer Haynes
 June 22 Jonathan and Jennifer Ardis
 June 22 Sam and Jane Roseberry
 June 23 Nathan and Callie Angle
 June 24 Marshall and Jeanne Banks
 June 26 Billy and Tara McBride
 June 27 Ronnie and Connie Breedlove
 June 27 Ben and Susan Whitesell
 June 28 Bill and Elaine Dawson

JULY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

July 1 Louise Moore
 July 2 Quinn Goransson
 July 2 Will Waller
 July 5 CO Brickey
 July 8 Arnold Dillon
 July 8 Samantha Robertson Smith
 July 9 Leighton Naff
 July 9 Carter Watts
 July 10 Berklie Perdue
 July 12 George Loya
 July 13 Haley Byrd
 July 13 Luke Damron
 July 13 Sarah Funk
 July 13 Jerry Leonard
 July 15 Steve Lewis
 July 21 Perry Hambrick
 July 22 Katelyn Lorens
 July 23 Jennifer Call
 July 23 Alexis Dillon
 July 23 Edward Peterson
 July 26 Jody Kelley
 July 27 George Board
 July 27 Charne' Delport
 July 28 Anna Cooper
 July 28 Janice Thurman

Happy Anniversary to:

July 23 Josh and Christina Gibson
 July 24 Ed and Kelly Peterson
 July 28 Abe and Cindy Gibson



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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, 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
10:00 a.m. Small Groups
10:55 a.m. Worship