

# 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](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org)

Website: [www.rm-umc.org](http://www.rm-umc.org)

Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



August 2022



Do they baptize babies?  
What's with all the potlucks?  
Where does my money go when I give?  
What in the world is an SPRC, a UMM,  
and UMCOR?

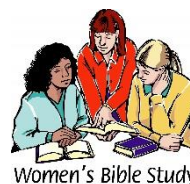
If you've ever had questions about what we are as United Methodists, what we stand for, and how you can stand with us, come out to the membership class on August 14. You need not join the church, only that you're interested in learning more. The event will be from 12:15-2:00 p.m. We'll have food, drinks, and after an informational session about the United Methodist Church and Rocky Mount UMC, Lay Leader Tammy Burdick and Pastor Will will be taking your questions. If you are interested in attending, please email Will Waller at [will@rm-umc.org](mailto:will@rm-umc.org) by August 7.

"To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall."

—Ann Patchett



Imagine. Fifty people saving hundreds of lives. It seems impossible, yet with *Rise Against Hunger*, it's doable! On September 11 after church, we are going to package over 10,000 meals for people in developing countries. Sign up today on our church website, [rm-umc.org](http://rm-umc.org). Can't package, but would like to support the cause? Donate today on the website so that we can pay for hundreds of people to have life-saving food!



All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Bible Study that begins September 13. We will be studying "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer. We will meet 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room (Redeemer's SS Classroom). Books will cost \$20 per person. Please notify Linda Walters (757-635-0109; [lindaw@shentel.net](mailto:lindaw@shentel.net)) or Peggy Hodges (540-263-2470; [peggyjhodges@hotmail.com](mailto: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

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,

Ants are absolutely fascinating creatures. Without any introduction, let me give you some random ant facts, from the strangely entitled website PestWorldForKids.Org:

- An ant can lift twenty times its own body weight. If a second grader were as strong as an ant, she would be able to pick up a car!
- Ants don't have lungs. Oxygen enters through tiny holes all over the body and carbon dioxide leaves through the same holes.
- When foraging, ants leave a pheromone trail so that they know where they've been.
- When ants fight, it is usually to the death!

While Ant on Ant contact does seem like something I might be interested in, my guess is that most of you couldn't care less. The bullet point I wanted to focus on was the first one: they can lift twenty times their own body weight. As a 160-pound human, that means I could lift a giraffe, a bison, or a Corolla. That's wild.

On a recent hike, we stopped to watch two ants hauling part of a leaf up a rock. It was riveting entertainment. (Needless to say, the hike was not). At first the ants worked together. From our lofty stature, you could almost hear them saying: "Heave! Heave! Heave!" One was going backwards and uphill! The other one was (presumably) watching out so that its buddy didn't run its antennae into a door jamb (or something). Their teamwork was a myrmecological miracle. How do these two creatures with brains the size of a pen head manage this work? Simple: they are born to work together. Without working together, this leaf would be an impossible task.

That got me to thinking - what are our leafs that we need to work on together? Is it a thriving senior adult ministry? Is it the proposed work on the Fellowship Hall? Is it a revamped children's ministry? How about single moms and their struggles? With all due respect to the honeypot ant which is able to store food in its belly up to the size of a grape and turtle ants which use their heads as the doors to the ants' home, aren't we greater than the ants? Like the hymn says, His eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me. That's true...yet we know He is more than just a faithful watcher, God dwells within us. God's spirit fills us. God's strength enables us. While we might not be lifting Corollas anytime soon, what ministry could use a lift that you, with God's help, could provide? While our Nominations and Leadership Development Committee do its work these next couple of months, remember this: God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

To God be the glory,  
Pastor Will



United  
Women  
in Faith

(Debbie Caulder, President)

**Next Meeting: Monday, August 29  
at 11:00 a.m.** in the Assembly Room.  
Please join us!

Thank You to everyone for a very successful July churchwide birthday lunch, especially Phyllis Lavinder for coordinating this event and Linda Walters for providing the hats!

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](mailto:Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com)) or any other United Methodist Woman if you are interested or have questions. Check out the new website: [UWFaith.org](http://UWFaith.org).

**Issue an invitation!**

When I enter that beautiful city  
And the saints all around me appear,  
I hope that someone will tell me:  
It was you who invited me here.

—Carrie K. Butcher



United Women in Faith are collecting items for UMCOR School Kits now while they are on sale and widely available. The kits will be delivered to Conference next summer. The specific items for each kit are listed below. Please place these items in a shopping bag and deliver the bags to the marked boxes provided in the Narthex or the lower parking lot entrance near the elevator. Thank you for your help.

**School Kit Materials:**

- **One pair blunt scissors**
  - Round tip only
  - No plastic scissors
- **One box of 24 crayons**
  - Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- **Three one-subject notebooks**
  - No marble composition books
  - No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- **One pack of loose-leaf paper**
  - 100-200 page packets are acceptable
  - Wide or college rule accepted
- **One hand-held pencil sharpener**
  - 1-inch or longer
  - Remove from packaging
- **One ruler**
  - 12 inches or 30 centimeters long
  - Sturdy or flexible material accepted
- **Six unsharpened pencils**
- **One eraser**
  - Two inches or larger

Please contact Debbie Caulder (540-204-2266 or email [Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com](mailto:Debra.Caulder@yahoo.com)) if you have questions.



On Tuesday, August 23 and Thursday, August 25, 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!



Our Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chairperson is Serena Jamison. Please keep Serena informed of any news concerning our college kids. She can be reached at 420-3719 (or call the church office at 483-5338 or email at [admin@rm-umc.org](mailto:admin@rm-umc.org)). Please make sure we have your college student's address at school. Throughout the year, Serena will send your student cards. We also want to be sure to include them on the newsletter mailing list and send them a copy of the Upper Room. Good luck and have a great year!

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

—Scott Adams



Remember our fifteen college students in your prayers as they return to or begin college life.

**Coastal Carolina University—**  
Jodi Huffman

**Emory & Henry College—**  
Amber Altice  
Jackson Amos

**Ferrum College—**  
Ainsley Kelley

**George Mason University—**  
Annie Graninger

**Liberty University—**  
Taylor Jones

**Radford University Carilion—**  
Katie Meeks

**Roanoke College—**  
Abbey Justice

**University of Alabama—**  
Isabelle Davis

**University of Tennessee—**  
Lili Call

**Virginia Tech—**  
Rachel Justice  
Evan Stone  
Lauren Stone

**Virginia Western Community College—**  
Will English

**Virginia Western Community College—**  
Tori Huffman



Tithing gets a bad wrap. Talking about tithing gets a badder wrap. It seems to be old school and not in touch with our modern culture. Wasn't that something that they did back when everyone wore ties and dresses to church? We just don't do that anymore. Tithing might also turn people off because some perceive it to be a tool to get people to give more. It can be turned into something coercive. Some may have had pastors that beat their parishioners over the head with it - "All she does is talk about money. I'm never going back."

So with the possibility that I might upset you or seem out of touch, here are my top five reasons why one should tithe, in no particular order:

1. It's an opportunity to talk about money with your family. If your family is like mine, we don't like to talk about money. We'll talk about humidity, hummingbirds, and Hummers more often than we will talk about money. It gets us squeamish for some reason. Maybe that's because our money points to our values. So when you tithe, it forces you to have conversations you might otherwise not have. You might ask the question, "how do I spend the other 90 percent of my money?" And thus, you might break the habit of being mum about the moolah.
2. It's got strong Biblical backing. Rather than being backed by the FDIC, tithing is backed by the LORD. "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil

or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord: it is holy to the Lord" says the book of Leviticus. If it's in the Bible, that's worth investigating in my book.

3. It makes you think about the order of spending. If we tithe first, everything else follows suit. Bills, jeans, belly button rings, Turtle Wax. They all can follow after tithing. Figuring out the order of what we give money to really matters. It reveals our hearts.
4. To tithe may lead into further dependence on God. When I tithe I'm saying, "here I am, I trust you!"
5. Tithing honors God. God receives pleasure when we give to God. This is true in all our relationships, when we give people our best, they are honored. Fathers, mothers, spouses, girlfriends, boyfriends, children, coworkers. When they are the recipients of our time and our gifts, they are blessed. Tithing works the same way with our heavenly Father.

What if in August you tried tithing? Jump in, give it a shot. Our guess is that you'll have many more reasons than just these five if you do.

#### The Water of Life

Christ is like a river that is continually flowing. There are always fresh supplies of water coming from the fountainhead, so that a man may live by it and be supplied with water all his life. So Christ is an ever-flowing fountain; he is continually supplying his people, and the fountain is not spent. They who live upon Christ may have fresh supplies from him for all eternity; they may have an increase of blessedness that is new [and] never will come to an end.

—Jonathan Edwards



More than thirty kids came each night. Thirty young souls danced their hearts out, laughed with friends, got their hands sticky with icing and glue, and learned how fun it is to play games with pool noodles and beach balls.

They learned that God made them with a purpose. That Jesus invites each of us to follow Him. That Jesus is alive and is their lifesaver! And that when they believe in Jesus, that the Holy Spirit is here to help them love one another well.

Rocky Mount UMC, you got to play a role in something amazing that God did in the lives of the children and their families through Vacation Bible School.

Forty youth and adults volunteered throughout the week, giving of their free time rather than staying home, balancing work meetings, groceries, school sports meetings, and more.

So many of you donated items and funding that helped transform our church into a watery wonderland and fed hungry bellies. The children loved how amazing everything looked and helped them be excited about coming each night. And we ended the week with a time of family fellowship and fun with dinner and games.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for creating a ripple effect that will travel for years to come.

Tammy Burdick  
Make Waves VBS Director 2022

## God Among the Rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I'm reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God's hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God's heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with "tax collectors and sinners" and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are his very body and blood.

In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County is excited to kick off our Three-Year Strategic Plan to dramatically increase our services to our neighbors by building more homes and completing more critical home repairs.

We've completed the foundation of a new home and want your help in completing it. Our Habitat ReStore is also growing and you can volunteer to support its operation. These are great opportunities to give back to the community and share the love of Jesus Christ.

- Volunteers are working on the new house Wednesdays and Saturdays that started on Saturday, July 30.
- Volunteers are needed at the ReStore. The Restore is open Wednesday through Saturday.
- Volunteers as individuals or groups are invited to provide meals or snacks to the homebuilding volunteers.
- Volunteers are also welcomed to assist with administrative tasks.

If you have any interest in joining our construction, ReStore or other volunteer opportunities, please send an email to [hello@habitatfcva.com](mailto:hello@habitatfcva.com). This does not commit you to anything. It just gets you into our database so we can communicate what we are doing and when.

We will send out email messages every week describing the construction work to be completed the following week. Skilled workers are always needed but anyone with a desire to work and learn something new are welcome to participate.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to email or call:

Sheila Overstreet  
Executive Director  
[sheila@habitatfcva.org](mailto:sheila@habitatfcva.org)  
540-483-8884

John Wilson  
Board President  
[john@habitatfcva.org](mailto:john@habitatfcva.org)  
571-220-2548

Sincerely,  
Eric C. Anspaugh  
Volunteer Coordinator



### **Little Lambs in the News**

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

Back to school! Can you believe it's already that time of year? Little Lambs is excited to be back in September. The three-year-old class is currently on a wait list. We still have a few spots left for the four-year-old program. Casey and I are ready for another fun year at Little Lambs, with all new things planned. We both hope you have enjoyed your summer.

Blessings!  
Kelsey



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

During the month of August, I'll be making final plans and ordering things for all the choirs. Registration forms for children who will be participating in **Wonderful Wednesday** this year will be available on the table near the Assembly Room. As always, it will be for mature four-year-olds through fifth graders. Like last year, the older group, second through fifth graders will alternate singing and playing chimes during their music time. I would like to have forms filled out for **all children who have attended in the past as well as new children.** This will help me in having enough food and craft projects ready for the first meeting. Registration will continue through Sunday, September 4. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**HELP! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** The continued success of our Wonderful Wednesday program for children depends on volunteers. Two volunteers are needed each week to provide a simple meal for the children and to help with a craft project. I can prepare the craft and teach music, but I can't do everything by myself. Most of the parents take turns volunteering but that still leaves quite a few Wednesday nights open. **We need church members to help too! We need you!** These are precious children. They are part of your church family. As Christians and as members of Christ's holy church, we are called to minister to "the least of these." This is such an easy way to serve God.

Single adults, "empty nesters," and grandparents; (We need you men, too!) please consider signing-up to **volunteer once in the fall and once in the spring.** You will surely receive much more than you will be providing. Get to know the children of our church!! Please sign-up by August 28. Volunteer sign-up forms (blue) are located on the table next to the Assembly Room.

**The Jubilant Ringers** will resume practices on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. I have several brand-new pieces we will be starting on. If you would like to give bells a try, please let me know. There is always room for more!

Do you like to sing? The **Chancel Choir** needs you!!! Weekly rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m. with a Welcome Back/New Members Night. This group is multigenerational; middle school students, high school students, and adults. I hope to see **YOU** on September 8.

I am always available if you have questions or need more information on any of our music ministries. Other worship ministries you may be interested in are the **Drama Team** and **The Moving Word**, our liturgical dance group. These are both multigenerational (Older Children through Senior Adult).

\*\*All meetings will take place on the fourth floor in the music practice area. Parents, just a reminder, I would like all children coming to Wonderful Wednesday to be escorted to the room. We will bring them downstairs at 6:30 p.m.

Feel free to call me at church 483-5338, or email me [music@rm-umc.org](mailto:music@rm-umc.org). I'm happy to talk about how you can use your gift of music and the other arts for God.

Love and Peace,  
Lynn





What's the point of youth group?

Here are some possible answers:

1. To grow in maturity with one's age group as individuals and the group follows Jesus Christ.
2. To experience life-changing mission work so that others see Christ in the group and His love for them.
3. To support one another in the shared spiritual pilgrimage through this life.
4. To provide a place where young people can worship, serve, and grow together in faith toward becoming deeply committed Christians.
5. To have a wonderful time exploring God's creation.

The point of youth group will be different for everyone. Yet, we know this, the youth group provides valuable guidance to young people as they explore their faith. As we embark on another year in ministry together, may youth group be a cherished place of growth for all these young people. May the young people look back on their time in it as welcoming their questions and doubts, while unashamedly presenting the Gospel as good news to all.

If there is a young person that could benefit from the youth group, please contact [will@rm-umc.org](mailto:will@rm-umc.org) or by calling the office. He would personally contact that young person and give an invitation to them. All young people benefit from caring adults that invite them to the life-changing love of God in Christ Jesus. So no matter the reason, let's cover our region with invitations to this life-changing love.



REQUESTS  
— FOR —  
PRAYER

### **Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Hazel Henderson; 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.; Sue Oesterle (Jerry Davis); Dr. James Callis (Mike Meeks); KC Barron (Becky Newbill); Janis Odom (DJ Pritchard); 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



**Diana Clements and Family** in the death of her mother, Ola Overstreet, on May 17

**Ed Peterson and Family** in the death of his mother, Carol Peace, on June 1

**Family of Doris Ferguson (wife of Bill Ferguson, former pastor of RMUMC)** who passed away on June 27

**Family of Jay Dillon** who passed away on June 30



We would like to thank everyone for all your love, support and kind words during our Mom's illness and passing. We would also like to thank the church for the very nice luncheon provided after Mom's service.

The Shirley Vaughn Family

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Correction to the church directory:

Jack and Betty Dillon  
10 Holly Knoll Drive  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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### Vital Congregation Statistics for June

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2021	\$54,974	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 6/30/22		\$130,254
Actual Offerings Received through 6/30/22	\$151,974	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 6/30/22		\$154,998
Actual Expenses Paid through 6/30/22	<del>\$163,258</del>	
Ending Balance, 6/30/22	\$43,690	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 100  
Average Online Viewers = 29  
Average Small Groups Attendance = 25



**Happy Birthday to:**

August 2 Janet Land  
 August 3 Mary Katherine Clements  
 August 3 Linda Dunlap  
 August 7 Emily Waller  
 August 7 Cecil Young  
 August 10 Casey Naff  
 August 11 Lauren Stone  
 August 13 Crosby Eitner  
 August 14 Sharon Angle  
 August 14 Diana Clements  
 August 14 Ina Clements  
 August 14 Jeff Hall  
 August 15 Connie Breedlove  
 August 16 Enna Roseberry  
 August 16 Lindsey Jenkins  
 August 16 Angela Ward Oliveira  
 August 17 Caitlyn Berger  
 August 17 Chloe Berger  
 August 17 Jeff Worley  
 August 18 Melissa Osborne  
 August 19 Callie Angle  
 August 19 Sandra Funk  
 August 19 Aidan Jenkins  
 August 20 Daniel Lorens  
 August 21 Vanessa Carter  
 August 22 Anna Campbell  
 August 22 Steven Eitner  
 August 22 Rebecca Goransson  
 August 23 Faye Prillaman  
 August 24 Ruth Cook  
 August 25 Annie Graninger  
 August 27 Jim Anderson  
 August 27 Audrey Mitchell  
 August 28 Joan Bassett  
 August 28 Pat Robertson  
 August 28 Jack Watts  
 August 29 Abe Naff

August 29 Ronald Prillaman  
 August 30 Judy Anderson  
 August 30 Betty Dillon

**Happy Anniversary to:**

August 2 Benny and Annette Board  
 August 6 Jeff and Leanne Worley  
 August 11 Zac and Jill Perdue  
 August 11 Carl and Mitzi Secrest  
 August 12 Eric and Kathryn Lorens  
 August 12 Mike and Jane Turner  
 August 16 Greg and Linda Dunlap  
 August 17 Russell and Bridgett Damron  
 August 17 Tim and Sandra Funk  
 August 25 Jerry and Linda Davis

**Can't Pray? First rest!**

Weariness can seriously hamper our attempts to pray, says Bonnie Gray, author of *Whispers of Rest*. "We are a generation who doesn't know how to express our souls to God, even though we drive ourselves exhausted, doing for Jesus." The solution, she says, is to stop and rest.

The stressed-out, despairing prophet in 1 Kings 19 is a prime example. "God knew Elijah needed physical rejuvenation first — in order to hear his gentle voice, whispering in a gentle breeze," Gray notes. Guarding against the depletion of spiritual, physical and emotional resources can improve our ability to hear God's voice, too. "When you find it's hard to pray, don't be afraid," says Gray. "You're standing at the very cusp of who God longs to connect with. The real you. Take the time to rest. You're worth it."

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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**

**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**