

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"



September 2022



Organ Fund

On Sunday, September 4, we're going to have a special offering collected for the organ fund. As you may know, we've been in the process of a major refurbishment of our organ and we're almost there! Our final push begins now, with \$3,000 needed to finish the work. If you'd like to give, use the communion fund envelopes on September 4 to help us get the organ back to its original state.



HUNGER RELIEF

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 at rm-umc.org/rise-against-hunger/. 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!



Women's Bible Study

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) 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!



Attention! Do you want to know more about why you're here on this planet? Do you feel like you're in the wrong place when serving in ministry? Do you want to find the right place? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you're a perfect candidate to participate in our upcoming spiritual gifts seminar. We're going to be delving into our spiritual gifts on Wednesday, September 14 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. We'll have food and we'll have drinks, and we'll have clarification on how our spiritual gifts are utilized for God's glory. RSVP by September 1 to will@rm-umc.org so that we can get you the supplies.



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,

What's the best you've ever been given? The Best Gift Given question falls into two categories: 1) it's a gift you wanted but didn't think anyone would give you. You wanted the bike, but you didn't think it ever would be yours. You wanted the engagement ring but didn't think he'd get on one knee and offer your left hand the aforementioned ring. You wanted it but did anyone know you wanted it? And then, there it is under some wrapping paper and tape. The other Best Gift Given is 2) a pony. Seriously, if you get a pony, you're squealing. Sure, you're a WCW wrestler who makes your money smashing the faces of other dude's faces in with a folding chair but if you get a pony, it's all over but the shouting. You're running around the room. You're throwing your hands in the air like you just don't care. You're squealing, loudly.

For most of us, the Best Gift Ever will end up being the first one. The gifts given by folks who hear you say, offhandedly, what you like. And in due time, that offhanded comment becomes the Best Gift Ever. Maybe you said that you love Nicholas Sparks books set in the Outer Banks. And before you know it, you're surprised by your friend who whisks you away to a bed-and-breakfast on the Outer Banks and by midnight, you're putting your toes in the sand under a moonlit North Carolina sky. The Best Gift Ever typically leaves you flabbergasted, but supremely pleased.

The Best Gift Ever is the love of God shone into our lives. We don't deserve it. We can't earn it. Yet, we receive it. The means by which that love is given to us is oftentimes through the efforts of God's followers. Ordinary people embraced by the extravagant love of God. They in turn must share that love with the ones that they meet. The Best Gift Ever becomes the Best *Gifts* Ever as the gift multiples over and over again.

You have the opportunity to give the Best Gift Ever. To share this gift, you need not attend seminary. You don't have to get a degree. You don't have to preach with your words. You merely need to allot a little over an hour as we package 10,000 meals as a church family on September 11. The Rise Against Hunger event is at the same time simple and the best. It is simple in that everyone can participate, and it is the best because starving people need nutritious food.

So, this September, don't buy the pony. Instead, give the gift of continued life and volunteer at Rise Against Hunger. It will be the Best Gift Ever.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



United
Women
in Faith

(Debbie Caulder, President)

September 18: Mission Project -
Partner with our Youth to construct blankets
from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We will continue to collect items for
the UMCOR School Kits through
September.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 3
at 11:00 a.m.** in the Assembly Room.
Please join us!

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.

The new website continues to
develop—check it out at: UWFaith.org.

"God is a busy worker,
but he loves help."
— Basque proverb



**United Methodist
Men**

(Mark Newbill,
President)

The United Methodist Men will have their
breakfast meeting on September 25 at 8:45
a.m. We encourage all men in the church to
attend.



As a part of the newly crafted Senior
Adult Ministries, Rocky Mount UMC is
partnering with the Joyful Journey Travel
Club of St. Mark's UMC in Daleville, VA.
The Joyful Journey Travel Club offers trips
throughout the year geared towards Senior
Citizens but anyone is welcome.
Grandparents sometimes bring their
grandchildren. The motorcoach leaves from
St. Mark's UMC, 19 Cedar Ridge Drive,
Daleville, VA, 24083. Vehicles may be left
at the church. Other pick-ups may be
available along I-81. Information, details on
sight-seeing, flyers, and registration forms
may be obtained from the church
website stmarksmethodist.com (scroll across
the top of the page to "more" and then scroll
down to Joyful Journey). You may also call
Julia Greer at 540-330-7933.

We invite you to join us for their two
remaining 2022 trips: The Pioneer Valley of
Western Massachusetts, September 26-
October 1 and the Wohlfhart Haus Dinner
Theater on December 6 for a Christmas
meal and musical, "A Christmas
Spectacular."



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). 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!



On Thursday, September 22 and Tuesday, September 27, 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!



In last month's newsletter we featured an article about Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County. The correct email address is hfhfcva@gmail.com.



Alzheimer's Annual Yard Sale - What am I going to do with all of these books, clothes, games, toys, old furniture, decorations? You can donate them to the Alzheimer's Yard Sale. It is a win win. You get rid of old things and help out for a great cause. This sale will be held here at the church on Saturday, October 1 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Contact Nancy Middaugh (540-597-7581) for more information. Volunteers are needed.



Calling all veterans! We are looking for your pictures. We want to feature all living veterans in our church with a slideshow on November 13. If you are a veteran, please send two pictures: one of yourself when you were serving and one of you now. Please send those pictures by mail to 35 North Main Street Rocky Mount, VA 24151 or to Lynn Meeks at music@rm-umc.org by October 15. We want to feature you and celebrate your service to our country.

"Prayer is thinking deeply about something in the presence of God."

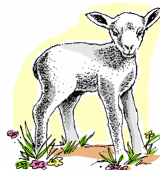
—Wayne Cordeiro



There are many ways to serve our church family and to get to know folks and kids of all ages each Sunday.

1. Greeters – The greeter arrives around 10:30 a.m. to welcome people with a warm smile and friendly welcome as they arrive at church.
2. Head Usher – The head usher arrives around 10:30 a.m. to welcome people with the bulletin for the service. The head usher asks 4 or 6 people to assist with the offering collection and counts the number of people in church.
3. Children’s Church – Children’s Church is a wonderful way to get to know the amazing children in our church. Ms. Rebecca does all the planning, teaching and leading. The helper is there as an extra set of hands for crafts, crowd control or games. Being a friend to the children is the only responsibility.
4. Liturgist – The liturgist is responsible to lead worship with the “Call to Worship” and the scripture reading. The liturgist will receive the information of passages to read prior to Sunday’s service.
5. Acolytes – Acolytes are third grade to adult. Bringing the light into the service to light the candles at the beginning of the service and taking the light out at the end of the service is the job of the acolyte. There is always an adult to help the children. Call Annette Board (540-493-8201) for instructions.

Call Martha Sue or Benny Gibson (540-420-2902) to ask any questions or to volunteer. Each job is meaningful and important to our worship service and to our church family. We appreciate your help!



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

Happy September! Little Lambs will be back in the classroom starting September 12. We are so excited for a new school year! Casey and I have some wonderful things planned. The preschool would love to have special visitors this year for the children even if it's just to read a book or play. If you would like to come by please email Kelsey at littlelambs@rm-umc.org so we can set that up. The first month of preschool the children will learn how preschool works and how to always be a friend. Our Bible verse for the month is, *Do to others as you would have them do to you.* (Luke 6:31) We thank you all for your support for the preschool.

Blessings!
Kelsey

It only takes a spark

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.

—William Arthur Ward



Vital Congregation Statistics for July

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2021	\$54,974	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 7/31/22		\$151,963
Actual Offerings Received through 7/31/22	\$184,258	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 7/31/22		\$180,831
Actual Expenses Paid through 7/31/22	<\$193,864>	
Ending Balance, 7/31/22	\$45,368	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 100
 Average Online Viewers = 32
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 25



Schoooooool's back from summer
 Schoooooool's back forever
 (but probably not)

You're right, Alice Cooper, the Rocky Mount UMC version might not be all that catchy. But the truth is that school is back in session. That means a lot of things. It means acquainting yourself with locker combinations, lunchroom food, and waking up before 11 a.m. It means pushing your way through the hallways in the Law building at FCHS, it means trying out for jazz band and volleyball; it means getting to know the new kid sitting alone. The start of school is like a second New Year's Day on our calendar. Do you feel the possibilities?

In Youth Group, we welcome the new sixth graders joining the midst and bid farewell to the recently graduated. We anticipate annual events like Trunk-or-Treat, the Special Needs Luncheon and Messy Game Night. Participating in these events gives stability to our lives which seem increasingly disjointed and hectic. The Youth Group provided a safe harbor during the especially tense early days of the Covid-19 Pandemic. And the friendships forged at youth group are ones that can last a lifetime.

Will you pray for our youth? If you struggle with what to say, here's a sample prayer to pray any time these youth come to mind:

Dear Lord, because You have a plan and purpose for every young person, I pray you will make known these plans and these purposes to them. Open their eyes so they may see glimpses of truth thou hast for them. Remind each youth in our church that they matter and that their lives are valuable. Strengthen them for the battles they face and encourage them to stand up for what is true. Give hope to the hopeless and reassure the despairing. In the name of our Greatest Friend, Jesus, Amen.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This time of year is so exciting! I have new music for all the choirs and the seasonal music has been chosen and ordered.

Our first handbell rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. We will begin with a piece to present in worship in October as well as starting some great Thanksgiving and Christmas music. I'm looking for one or two more players. If you would like to play bells this year, please let me know. **Remember, this choir is for adults, middle school, and high school students.**

Calling mature 4-year-olds through fifth graders! Join us for Wonderful Wednesday! Come enjoy some fun songs, good food, Bible stories, and a craft. I hope to see our returning friends as well as lots of new faces. See you on **September 14 at 5:00 p.m.** It is very important to have an accurate head count for our first meeting since we need to plan how much food and how many craft projects to prepare. **If you haven't registered your child yet, don't worry, just let me know as soon as possible that they are coming.** You may register online by September 4 on our home page rm-umc.org, call the church office 483-5338 or email me at music@rm-umc.org anytime. We're going to have a great year!

HELP! VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL 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. 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!! Sign-up by September 4. Volunteer sign-up forms (blue) are located on the table next to the Assembly Room or register on our website homepage rm-umc.org.

New Member/Welcome Back Chancel Choir night is September 7 at 7:00 p.m. This group is multigenerational; middle school students, high school students, and adults. I hope to see **YOU** on September 7. We'll have **CAKE!**

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 by an adult. We will bring them downstairs at 6:30 p.m.

I hope everyone has had a restful summer. I can't wait to see you in choir!!

Love and Peace,
Lynn

A primer on love

Is life not full of opportunities for learning love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is how better we can love.

—Henry Drummond



Jerry and I and Clarence would like to thank everyone who were so very kind helping with food, phone calls, cards and cutting our grass. We thank you for praying when Jerry's brain injury started in March. This has been a very slow uphill battle for us and by far the hardest thing we've had to deal with in our 49 years of marriage and we've been through a lot. I know this is really late coming and I'm sorry for that, but everyone has been so great helping me get through this even though we're not through it yet. We know we have an extended church family that loves us. I never thought I'd be teaching Jerry everything and taking care of my 94-year-old dad together. Please keep praying I keep the strength up to get through the terrible days. Thank you all for caring so much. **GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.**

Love you all,
Jerry and Linda Davis and
Clarence Youmans

Dear Bereavement Committee,
Thank you so much for the amazing and delicious buffet. I am sure everyone enjoyed it. So many choices, so delicious. Thank you again for all your work.

Don and Sarah Angle
Steve and Lisa Angle

Dear Friends,
Thank you, fellow Christians, for all you do for me, the calls, visits, and prayers, especially the prayers. It has been a difficult several years. Jim's illness and now mine. God has been with us all the way. I pray I will soon be back with you.

With love, Hazel Henderson



**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.; Evelyn Hutcherson (Mike Turner); KC Barron (Becky Newbill); Janis Odom (DJ Pritchard); Everett Cotter (LuAnn Dunbar); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Melissa Hays-Smith (Marsha Robertson); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody

Keeping the Sabbath

Oh, what a blessing is Sunday, interposed between the waves of worldly business like the divine path of the Israelites through Jordan! There is nothing in which I would advise you to be more strictly conscientious than in keeping the Sabbath day holy. I can truly declare that to me the Sabbath has been invaluable.

—William Wilberforce

SEPTEMBER



Happy Birthday to:

September 3 Ashley Johoske
September 3 Jessica Turner
September 5 Shirley Farmer
September 7 Amber Altice
September 7 Deanna Stone
September 8 Benny Board
September 8 Jessica Mitchell
September 9 Hazel Henderson
September 11 Jane Roseberry
September 12 Jane Turner
September 14 P. D. Hambrick
September 15 Billy McBride
September 15 Terri Naff
September 15 Leanne Worley
September 16 Jennifer Ardis
September 16 Jonathan Ardis
September 17 Lew Hege
September 17 Flo Torrence
September 17 Doris Young
September 18 Craig Teeple
September 20 Logan Byrd
September 20 Chapin Engel
September 22 Carl Secrest
September 23 Karla Pagans
September 23 Cindy Smith
September 24 Maren Byrd
September 25 Erin Myers
September 26 Mariah Banks Shealor
September 27 Nickey Bryant
September 27 Tristen Bryant
September 28 Isabela Godfrey

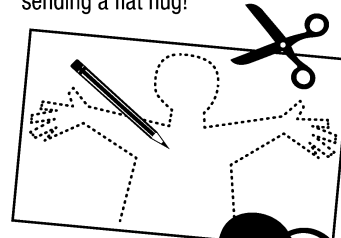
Happy Anniversary to:

September 5 George & Sylvia Hutcherson
September 7 Conrad & Phyllis Lavinder
September 7 Charlie & Marsha Robertson
September 11 Alex & Anne Lewis Dessart
September 14 John & Diana Clements
September 23 Bob and Patsy Swain
September 24 Bill & Robin Cooper



Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



What you do:

1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
35 North Main Street
Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

**PRESORT
STANDARD**
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 13
ROCKY MOUNT,
VA 24151

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

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