

THE TIE THAT BINDS

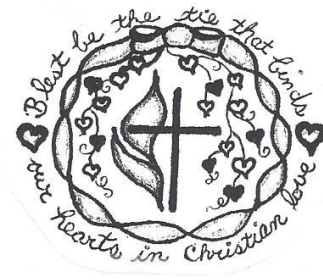
Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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"



November 2022



Historically, the Church has confessed a belief in the "communion of the saints," which includes not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers past, present and future. The author of Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints, a "great cloud of witnesses," surrounds us and cheers us on.

On All Saints Day, we publicly remember and honor those who have passed away. Celebrated on the first Sunday in November, we have in the past lit candles, rang bells of remembrance, and called the names of those lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us.

This year we intend to honor those that have died in the past year, remembering their impact on us.

As in the past, if there are names of persons you want to honor that have died in the past year that were not members of Rocky Mount UMC, please inform Pastor Will at will@rm-umc.org so that we can ensure they're mentioned during the service on November 6.

World War I ended on November 11, 1918, with the signing of the Armistice by the Allies and Germany. In the first Armistice Day proclamation in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson called for the nation to remember those who had died in their country's service and to make the day an opportunity for America to "show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

In 1927 Congress called for the display of the U.S. flag on government buildings, and in 1938 Congress called for the observance of Armistice Day in churches and schools — again dedicating the day to the cause of world peace.

Now, we in the church give thanks for those who have dedicated their efforts towards peace by serving in the Armed Forces. On November 13, we will celebrate our veterans during the worship service. If you are a veteran, please send a picture of yourself when you were in active or reservist duty and a picture of yourself now to Lynn Meeks at music@rm-umc.org. We intend to use these pictures during the service and thank God for your willingness to serve our country.



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Do you ever have trouble sleeping? You lay down, exhausted by the day, yet you just can't get to sleep? You're thinking... "I should be asleep by now...why am I not asleep right now...REM sleep, where are you???" And you toss and turn and you just can't fall asleep.

No, this isn't an article suggesting sleep pills. I'm no doctor. And no this isn't an article saying you should workout more to get even more tired. I'm no physical trainer. Nope, this is your friendly preacher with a method that works for me, and just might work for you.

Try the Random List of Thanks™.

The Random List of Thanks isn't prescribed by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. The Random List of Thanks isn't encouraged by Seely or Serta. But I encourage you to try it tonight!

How does it work? It's simple: lay in your bed and start making a Random List of Thanks (pretty self-explanatory) to the Lord.

Need more help? Here's what I came up with during my most recent bout of not sleeping.

Thank you God for the sound booth people. They stream, they slideshow, they slide sound. They envision improvements and they implement those improvements.

Thank you God for little things. Pastor Bruce gave me a book from 1856(!), Jack Collins gave me an article about deer hunting in the seventies, Peggy Santrock gave me a list of scriptures she has loved over her days. Thank you for the little things like the drawings Suzanne Ross creates during the worship service, little pieces of art Waverly Clements made like crosses and butterflies, for the carved bobble head doll produced by Bob Swain. Thank you for people like Martha Sue Gibson and Linda Handy that care for the flowers, the lilies of the field.

Thank you God for kids racing trucks on the pews. The laughter of kids is pretty high on the list too.

(continued on page 3)

Thank you God for living in a deciduous forest. Evergreens smell great, but they don't become a riot of color in October like oaks, maples, and crape myrtles do.

Thank you God for music. Kids singing in African languages, bells music coming from the heaven's balcony, Jeanne for 21 years tinkling the ivories, Lynn for 33 years for pulling out all the stops, the choir for their total praise of you, soloists offering their best for your glory.

Thank you God for projects completed to give you glory. For deep cleans, for organization, for scaffolding in the sanctuary. Thank you for servants who know how to work with plaster, high above the pews. You are raised up when they're raised up. I still can't get Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" out of my head though. Yet I digress, God.

Thank you God for soup in the fall. Thank you for the hands that shave the skin off of potatoes, thank you God for the noses that go to battle against dozens of cut onions.

Thank you God for bear hugs from children. Thank you God for prayer requests from kids you alone can understand. Thank you God for baptized babies – Sophia! – Thank you God for baptized adults – Lindsay! Thank you God for kids.

Thank you God for Jesus most of all.

Try it. You will be warmed by the fire of giving thanks and in so doing, you might just fall asle...zzzzzz.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



During the worship service on Sunday, November 13 you will be invited to come forward to choose items that fulfill our church's commitment to providing Thanksgiving meals for seven households in the Rocky Mount area. You may choose as few or as many items as you would like from the board at the front of the sanctuary. Please purchase exactly what is on the tag(s) you chose. All items need to be brought back to the church and put in the decorated boxes in the **Atrium by Tuesday, November 22**. Please don't bring items that need refrigeration until after Sunday, November 20 as the Family Ministries Committee will need all the refrigerator and kitchen space for the churchwide Thanksgiving meal on that Sunday. **Please be sure to attach the tags you are taking to the items you purchase.** Any freezer or refrigerated items can be put in one of the refrigerators in the downstairs kitchen after Sunday, November 20. We must have everything back to the church by Tuesday, November 22 so that all items can be delivered in a timely manner. Contact Linda Walters (757-635-0109 or lindaw@shentel.net) with questions or for more information.



All are invited to the annual Thanksgiving Feast after the worship service on Sunday, November 20. The traditional Thanksgiving dinner - turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls as well as drinks will be provided. RMUMC is famous for the heavenly dishes that are shared at this event, and we again ask folks to bring a favorite side or dessert if they are able. Looking forward to our time together and encourage all to come. This would be a great time to bring guests. Any questions or suggestions please contact Sharon Angle (angle.sharon@gmail.com).



Again this year during the season of Advent, you will be given the opportunity to select an Advent Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, November 27, containing the name of a church family member, "an Advent Friend," who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during the Advent season. You will be asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. If you know of someone who would appreciate the special care of this ministry, please notify the church office by Sunday, November 13.



Many hands are needed as we get ready to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season. Monday, November 21 at 10:00 a.m. we will be decorating the Chrismon tree and sanctuary. Light refreshments will be provided. Please put this date on your calendar!

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."
—G.K. Chesterton



Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for November.

Baggers: Benny and Martha Sue Gibson

Deliverers:

Week of October 31-November 4:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of November 7-11:

Jack Collins

Week of November 14-18:

P.D. Hambrick

Week of November 21-22:

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill



United Women in Faith

(Debbie Caulder, President)

Next Meeting: Monday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. Speaker from Ferrum College. Please join us!

Thanks to everyone who supported our Soup Sale Fundraiser. A special thank you to Linda Walters for coordinating.

Christmas Luncheon: Monday, December 5 at the Hotel Roanoke. Please RSVP to Phyllis Lavinder.

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 member if you are interested or have questions.



UMM

United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on November 13 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



On Tuesday, November 22 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!

Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2023 is here.

Reserve your "special Sunday" now to provide altar



flowers during the worship service. Also, remember that the piano is available for an arrangement should there be two individuals interested in the same date. You will be responsible for ordering the flowers. Call the church office or stop by the chart on the bulletin board that is located at the steps that go down to the preschool to reserve your special date.



*Don't forget to "fall back!"
Daylight Saving Time Ends November 6*

"Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow."

—Michael Ramsey



Vital Congregation Statistics for September

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2021	\$54,974	
Prepaid 2022 Contribution	\$ 5,040	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 9/30/22		\$195,381
Actual Offerings Received through 9/30/22	\$225,404	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 9/30/22		\$232,497
Actual Expenses Paid through 9/30/22	<\$253,992>	
Ending Balance, 9/30/22	\$31,426	

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



We need more offering counters. Counters work in teams of two on Monday morning. It usually takes about 90 minutes. We try to have enough teams so that no team has to be on-duty more than once a month. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



Thank you to everyone for all your help with making the Alzheimer's Yard Sale a success. Thank you for all the donations of your treasures, time, food and money. Despite the rainy weather it turned out good. Last count was close to \$1,000.00!!!! All of this will go directly to the Alzheimer's Association. We can hope and pray that one day, they will find a cure for this terrible disease. Thank you again for everyone's help, I greatly appreciate it.

Blessings,
 Nancy and Roger Middaugh

A big thank you to all who helped with cleaning out the boiler room. It looks great! Please try to keep it that way.

Trustees Committee



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This month is a busy time for our musicians as we prepare our holiday music. On November 20, the Jubilant Ringers will play two dynamic pieces, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* and *Thanksgiving Medley* and the Chancel Choir will sing *Bless This House* for our 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving worship service. During this season, remember all the wonderful gifts God has given us. Invite family and friends to join us in praise and worship for Thanksgiving!

Along with Thanksgiving preparations, we are working on our Advent/Christmas music. The children are polishing their Christmas play, "Carol and The Bells" to be presented December 4 at 7:00 p.m. (We will also sing a "preview" song from the musical at 11:00 a.m. worship on December 4.)

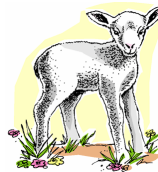
"It's 1954, and at Big Bill's Drive-In restaurant, where the waitstaff sings your order and the Christmas decorations stay up all year long, excitement has never been higher. They've just won the network's Christmas at the Drive-In contest and will host the live telecast of the Rock & Roll Christmas TV Special! While the staff gets the drive-in spruced up for the show, the customers don their best leather jackets and poodle skirts, and the TV audience is adjusting the rabbit ears and popping the Jiffy Pop, everyone is about to get a big surprise. How is it that a simple pageant proclaiming the birth of Jesus the Savior replaces the Rock & Roll Special, and who are the singing waitstaff who steal the show in place of Rock & Roll's biggest stars?" Add the date to your calendar! You'll

receive a real Christmas blessing! (Join the fun and come in your best fifties outfit!)

The Chancel Choir and instrumentalists will present the musical, "Peace" during worship on December 11. This gospel-flavored musical reflects on the promise of peace delivered by the angels on the night of Jesus' birth. The iconic ballad *Let There Be Peace on Earth* is used as musical bookends: its theme is briefly stated in the second movement and then returns in full-blown gospel style at the end to provide an emotion-filled climax. In between, the Christmas story is told through scriptural narration and six beloved carols set in a variety of styles ranging from jazz to calypso.

Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas are very special times for our music ministries. We're hoping for the most meaningful season ever. Don't miss any of our wonderful music as well as the inspired messages. You are going to be blessed!!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Dillon, Director)

In everything give thanks! (Thessalonians 5:18) The preschool is starting to ramp up for our busy holiday season. We are looking forward to our Thanksgiving feast this month with all our friends and family. The children will be learning about being thankful all month long. Little Lambs will also continue to learn about signs of fall and start practicing for our annual Christmas program. The preschool wishes you all a very blessed Thanksgiving, enjoy your turkey and pumpkin pie!

Blessings!
Kelsey



A man drove up to a creek with the intent of driving his truck through it to the other side. This was a new creek to him and he didn't know how deep it was.

Thankfully, there was a gentleman sitting next to the stream. The driver asked the man sitting there, "how deep is the stream?"

The man thought for a moment and said, "I've seen ducks cross it."

That was enough for the driver as he put the truck in drive and drove it down into the creek. Down, down, down the vehicle went until it was completely submerged and the man popped out of the cab of the truck and swam to the shore. He was hopping mad.

"You told me it wasn't that deep! You said you've seen ducks cross this creek," the driver said.

The man sitting by the shore said, "I *have* seen ducks cross it. But they weren't walking across it."

We know depth by going headfirst in. Working with youth, you will gain a sense of how deep these young people are. The other day while in a discussion about fear, one of the youth went deep. Mariana Trench deep. And we dove headlong into a discussion about why we should not fear death because we have a God that promises to be with us, even in death. I thought about Romans 8 which says that even death itself cannot separate us from the love of God.

Be proud of your youth in this church. They are willing to go into those places that we may fear to tread. They go down deep!

Pray for them and pray for those who lead in our youth group.



On August 21, we welcomed Susan Hatchett by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church in Martinsville.

On August 28, we welcomed Jake and Jane Waller by transfer of letter from Jasper United Methodist Church in Jasper, Georgia.

On September 28, we welcomed Bob and Rhonda Chapman by transfer of letter from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Newport News and Emmaus Baptist Church in Poquoson, respectively.

On September 25, we welcomed Bobby and Glenda Thompson by transfer of letter from Maple Grove United Methodist Church.



We celebrate the baptisms of Lillie Hatchett on August 21 and Sophia Godfrey on October 9.

Enough for today

Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we got to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it is rained down from heaven, at our very doors.

—Tryon Edwards



Emily Waller and Family in the death of her grandfather, Dr. Fred Soisson, on September 23

Family of Vanessa Carter who passed away on October 23



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Don Angle; Jack Dillon; Robin Cooper; Jason Lavinder; 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.; Cheryl Peck (Sandra Funk); Janis Odom (DJ Pritchard); Becky Bennett (Jennie Ardis); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Eleanor Woody

“The more you recognize and express gratitude for the things you have, the more things you will have to express gratitude for.”
—Zig Ziglar



Happy Birthday to:

- November 1 E. B. Easter
- November 2 Annette D. Board
- November 3 Debbie Rucker
- November 4 Laura Hannula
- November 7 Logan Engel
- November 8 Christina Gibson
- November 9 Natalie Cook
- November 11 Isaac Godfrey
- November 11 Zac Perdue
- November 13 Ann Coffey
- November 14 Robert Jarrett
- November 14 Alice Lively
- November 15 Barbara Beck
- November 16 Bridgett Damron
- November 16 Debra Vaughn
- November 17 Emily Prillaman
- November 18 Mike Turner
- November 19 Mike Jenkins
- November 21 Stephanie Cook
- November 23 Tammy Burdick
- November 23 Mary Hollyday
- November 24 Anthony Cundiff
- November 24 Nancy Middaugh
- November 24 Evan Stone
- November 25 Breanna Bowles
- November 25 Grove Revercomb
- November 26 Josh Quinn
- November 27 Bays Gibson
- November 27 Delois Leonard
- November 27 Liam McBride
- November 27 Jason Myers

Happy Anniversary to:

- November 1 CO and Erika Brickey
- November 18 Mike and Lynn Meeks

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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
Brad Hodges, Custodian

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. Small Groups
10:55 a.m. Worship