

# 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"



February 2023



## Come, Share the Love!

February is the month of LOVE! Join RMUMC on Sunday, February 5 after worship in the church fellowship hall to "share the

love" with church members, families, and friends as we eat, dance, fellowship, and just have lots of FUN! There will be decorations, food, games, music, a photo backdrop, and even disco lights! Music will be a variety of dance tunes from the 1950's through today. All you need to do is come, bring all your family and friends and a potluck dish to share. No RSVP is necessary. Contact Linda Walters ([lindaw@shetnel.net](mailto:lindaw@shetnel.net) or 757-635-0109) if you have questions.

## Boy Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday will be February 19. Members of our Scout Troop will help lead our worship service. Come and support our Scouts.



UMM

## United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill,  
President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on February 19 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



This year our youth group will be leading the Ash Wednesday service as they did last year. They'll be serving as ushers, liturgists, greeters, and working with Ms. Jennie in the nursery. We hope you'll support the youth group by attending this worship service on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. It is a powerful reminder that despite our sinfulness, God still is faithful to us. All are invited to this powerful worship event.



Again this year during the season of Lent, you are invited to select a Lenten Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, February 26, and will contain the name of a church family member who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during Lent. You are asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. Thank you!

To love another person is to help them love God."

—Søren Kierkegaard



# 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,

We watch a lot of baseball around our house, specifically the Atlanta Braves. Growing up on the outskirts of Atlanta, I benefited from one of the most spectacular runs of greatness the sports world has ever seen. The Atlanta Braves won fourteen consecutive division titles and one World Series victory. As a family, we were regulars at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and later, Turner Field. While we're further away from Atlanta, we still tune in as often as we can to see the Braves take the field.

After watching all that baseball, you learn a thing or two about the game. It's full of unwritten rules (which ironically are about to be written down in this article). Pitchers relieved mid-inning must stay in the dugout until the end of the inning, don't step on the pitcher's mound, don't talk about a no-hitter in progress. Perhaps the biggest unwritten rule is that you don't gawk at your homeruns. In other words, don't celebrate smacking the tar out of a ball 400 feet. You put your head down, run around the bases and save your celebration for the dugout.

Now, if you do happen to throw your bat in exaltation for knocking it out of the park, you're liable to have the pitcher chuck the ball at you when you're next at bat. I've seen catchers block the plate if the home run hitter had just chucked their bat. Just last month, I saw in a Venezuelan Professional Baseball League game between the Caribes de Anzoátegui and Tiburones de La Guaira (we watch a *lot* of baseball) a player got clotheslined after a first baseman took issue with the batter's second home run of the game. In other words, baseball really doesn't like celebrating your home runs.

Well, this isn't baseball, folks. I'm going to celebrate the home runs of the past year.

I'm going to celebrate the work you did to fill a single mom's apartment with more stuff than we could cram in. We're storing the rest of the given items until we get a chance to give it all away again.

I'm going to celebrate Rev. Bruce and Becca Tuttle for what they did, what they gave, and the lives they live for the Lord.

I'm going to celebrate our staff - Brad, Jeanne, Jennie, Lynn, Rebecca, and Valerie. Name me a more dedicated, loving, talented, and compassionate staff. (Spoiler alert: you can't!)

I'm going to celebrate the year of Epiphany we just experienced. I saw the Lord through you, through your passion for making Him known.

I'm going to celebrate each one of the little ones that make up our congregation. For their responses to questions I ask on Sunday morning during children's time, for their eagerness at VBS, for acolyting with aplomb, for their two musicals, for their vigorous ringing of bells.

Unwritten rules. Leave them for the folks sitting in the dugouts. Here on this playing field, we're gonna celebrate, toss some bats, and holler in exaltation. The Lord is here, the Lord is at work, and we are the willing participants in his glory.

In Christ,  
Will



United  
Women  
in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

**Share the Love Covered Dish:**

Sunday, February 5 after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Churchwide event with music. Join in the fellowship!

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 6 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 UWF 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 Phyllis Lavinder (540-420-8381) or any other member if you are interested or have questions.



On Thursday, February 23 and Tuesday, February 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!



**Sontag Nutrition Program**

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for February.

**Baggers:** Bill Cooper and Don Ranson

**Deliverers:**

**Week of January 30-February 3:**

Benny and Annette Board

**Week of February 6-10:**

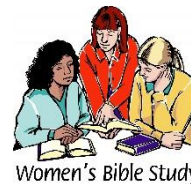
Jack Collins

**Week of February 13-17:**

P.D. Hambrick

**Week of February 20-24:**

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill



All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Bible Study that begins March 7. We will be studying "The Armor 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 \$25 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!

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."  
—Sally Koch



## Vital Congregation Statistics for December

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

|   |             |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| Amount Brought Forward From 2021                        | \$54,974    |           |
| Prepaid 2022 Contribution                               | \$ 5,040    |           |
| Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 12/31/22 |             | \$260,500 |
| Actual Offerings Received through 12/31/22              | \$297,467   |           |
| Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 12/31/22    |             | \$309,974 |
| Actual Expenses Paid through 12/31/22                   | <\$349,205> |           |
| Ending Balance, 12/31/22                                | \$8,276     |           |

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 116  
 Average Online Viewers = 25  
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 24



Thank you to my church family for all the cards, texts and messages during my illness. A special thank you to Will for his visit. You all are the best.

Marsha Robertson

Dear RMUMC Members and Friends,

Becca and I will always be honored by your many and diverse ways you loved us during our time we were privileged to be with you. And, thank you, too, for your unselfish acts of kindness and love shown to us on Sunday, January 15. Since then, we've taken time to remember fondly the many ways we were in ministry together. RMUMC will always be known in the community as the church that cares for others and is open to all who seek quality worship. Of course, we can't forget the new addition to the church that so many of you worked so hard to construct and complete. Good memories!

Please know that as Becca and I relocate to Virginia Beach, we will always give thanks to God for the times we were with you. Your history is strong and your future bright. To God be the glory.

We love you.  
 Bruce and Becca Tuttle



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

As we begin the month of February, our Wonderful Wednesday Kids are learning to play chimes and will be sharing some beautiful music with you in worship on February 26. If you have a mature four-year-old through fifth grader there is a place for them on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. If you'd like to bring them, please let me know ahead of time so I can make sure we have enough food and craft projects planned. We can also use more volunteers! Contact Lynn to sign-up! Can't wait to see you at Wonderful Wednesdays!

The Jubilant Ringers Handbell Choir has begun work on their Lenten and Easter music. We could still use one more player. Rehearsals are held in the Bell Room in the music practice area on the fourth floor on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested or have questions, please contact me at [music@rm-umc.org](mailto:music@rm-umc.org).

Chancel Choir members are working on several new pieces. *Dust I Am* is a beautiful song we will sing along with the congregation at our Ash Wednesday service on February 22. Some other special pieces are coming up.

Ladies, we need you! If you have been considering singing with our choir, now is a great time to start! Remember this choir is available to middle and high school youth through senior adults. If you are interested and need more info, contact me through my email or text 588-1814. Come share your gift of music. We'd love to add another "brother or sister" to our choir family. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in fourth floor choir practice area.

Remember if Franklin County Public Schools dismiss early or are closed on a rehearsal day due to the weather, we will not meet.

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



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

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

The Little Lambs have had a wonderful start to the year. We are super excited about our new hire, Aundrea Lineberry. Aundrea will be helping while Casey is out on maternity leave, and also after her return. Both classes this month will learn about loving one another. We have numerous things planned this month such as a Valentine's party, Mom's night, and class picture day. The Valentine's Party is our all-time favorite since we wear our pajamas to school. We encourage all of you to love one another this month and each month forward.

Blessings!  
Kelsey

### Amazing love

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.

—Charles Spurgeon



Hear ye! Hear ye! The calendar for the first eight months of the year for the youth group has been delivered. Some highlights and needs for the new year.

Middle School Ski Day: February 20: \$75 for rentals/tickets or \$60 for just tickets. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. and return by 6:00 p.m. Winterplace Ski Resort. **We are in need of two adults to serve as drivers/chaperones.**

Easter Egg Hunt: April 8, 10-noon. Mark your calendar.

Yard Workday Fundraiser: April 16. Everyone, if you're interested in a youth working on your yard that day, we're raising money for the mission trip.

Youth Week: June 4-7. We're going to go to West Virginia for a week of fun in the water. Rafting, water parks, and creek side camping. \$125 for the week. We'll cap off the week with Youth Sunday, June 11.

Mission trip: July 8-12. We're headed to Mount Olive, NC to work with Harvest of Hope. They're a gleaning organization, picking items that farmers leave from their fields. This week will marry one's faith with one's practice in the world. It'll ask hard questions like why are there still hungry people in the world? What is my place in solving food insecurity? Who are the hungry in our community?

Each month consists of one or two "regular" nights where we teach Gospel lessons, one mission night, and one event where we go off-campus for games or adventures. On those regular nights, we'd love folks that want to provide food (usually for around ten students) to let Pastor Will know ([will@rm-umc.org](mailto:will@rm-umc.org)). Those dates are February 5 and 19, March 5 and 12, April 2 and 23 and May 7.

Thank you for your support.



**Carl Secrest and Family** in the death of his sister, Margie Griffin, on December 16

**Karla Pagans and Family** in the death of her former mother-in-law, Norma Pagans, on December 24



REQUESTS  
FOR  
PRAYER

**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Jack Dillon; Jason Lavinder; Hazel Henderson; Peggie Foster; Kathleen Higgins;

Lillie Hatchett; Jerry Davis; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Anna Campbell; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Dick Shoemaker; Jennifer Cooper; John Cooper; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Paul and Barbara Scaffaci (Nancy Middaugh); Don Angle (Steve Angle); 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

A daily prayer

Since God will be my end  
Let him be my beginning,  
So that I may now fully live  
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.

—Angelus Silesius



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



**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