

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

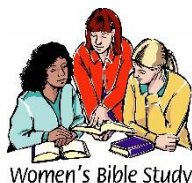
E-mail: admin@rm-umc.org

Website: www.rm-umc.org

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



March 2023



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!



The United Methodist Men will be cooking and serving spaghetti to the church on March 19 after the worship service. Donations will be accepted. The United Methodist Men use these funds to support the Senior Scholarship program and other needs in the church and community. Come out and support the UMM in this worthy cause.



Everyone is invited to join in the community Lenten Services. Each service is listed below and will begin at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served following the service, provided by the host church.

- March 1
Rocky Mount Christian Church
- March 8
Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
- March 15
Redwood United Methodist Church
- March 22
Rocky Mount Baptist Church
- March 29
First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount



Just a reminder to pray daily for your Lenten Friend and extend other acts of kindness such as a personal call, a greeting card or other special treats. This is a time for you and your family to reach out and touch the lives of other members who may need your care and concern.



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,

Black History Month is now over, but that doesn't mean that we can't learn about one of the most important Black Americans and a pillar of the Christian faith, Isabella Baumfree, who later changed her name to Sojourner Truth. Baumfree lived in the late 18th and mid-19th centuries. She was a slave for most of her early years. After several owners in her early life, she escaped and found her way to the home of a Quaker couple in the Hudson Valley of New York. They paid twenty dollars for her freedom, and Isabella Baumfree was a freed person by age 17.

After her conversion to Christianity, she changed her name to Sojourner because she said she was on a journey to share the good news of Christ to those she met. The outflow of this was her mission to abolish slavery in America. She was quick-witted, and indomitable. Early in her years as a freed person, she sued her former owner. She won the case, arguing that her former owner sold her son after New York's emancipation law had taken effect. This was the first time in American history that a black woman had sued a white man and won the case.

Truth fought valiantly for women's rights, as well as emancipation. Her most famous sermon was "Ain't I A Woman?" and in the sermon, she declared "That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages and lifted over ditches and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody helps me any best place. And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm. I have plowed, I have planted, and I have gathered into barns. And no man could head me. And ain't I a woman?" Just because she was a woman did not mean she couldn't work and fight and because of this, she demanded equal rights under the law.

As we head into Lent, often what is only preached and taught is that we must turn inward, to investigate our own individual hearts soberly and somberly. Without a doubt this is Lenten at its core. Yet, as James famously tells us, "faith without works is dead." Look inward, yes, but also look outward at the people who have shown that they will not be overcome by darkness. Examples like Sojourner Truth are good. Truth refused to let literal slavery stop her from her mission, given by God, to see her people emancipated and her gender elevated. We are heartened by these persons because we know that personal piety should not exist in a bubble. "Out of the heart, the mouth speaks," Jesus said. If we are feeding our hearts with the goodness and grace of Christ, the result should be that we live for more than self. We live with a mission and purpose.

Here's a challenge, find a spiritual warrior from history that you can latch onto, whose example you can learn more about. As you do, you may find that as you look upon your heart, you then look upon our world and seek to engage it in new and profound ways as you live out your faith.

May you have a holy Lent,
Will



Orders are now being taken for Easter lilies to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, please complete this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 12. (You may also put this form in the offering plate.) The cost of each plant is \$10.50 and payment should accompany your order. Checks should be made payable to Rocky Mount United Methodist Church.



You also have the option to make a monetary donation of any amount to the Helping Fund in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend in place of ordering lilies. Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 12. (You may also put this form in the offering plate.) Checks should be made payable to Rocky Mount United Methodist Church.

Lily Order \$ _____ **OR** **Helping Fund Donation \$** _____

Given by:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:



The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the youth ministries at Rocky Mount UMC is scheduled for April 8 at 10:00 a.m. This year we plan to feature breakfast catered by Chick-fil-A, facepainting and a bounce house for the kids. Bring your baskets for the hunt in Mary Elizabeth Park (rain location will be inside the church building). There will be fun for the whole family!



Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for March.

Baggers: Greg and Linda Dunlap

Deliverers:

Week of February 27-March 3:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of March 6-10:

Jack Collins

Week of March 13-17:

P.D. Hambrick

Week of March 20-24:

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill

Week of March 27-31:

Johnny Guilliams

"God doesn't just give us grace;
 he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace."
 —Joni Eareckson Tada



United Women in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

At our March meeting the United Women in Faith will have a speaker from Ferrum College. We donate each year to the Ferrum College Chaplaincy Fund. It will be interesting to hear what the new President is planning for Ferrum. Please plan now to attend this meeting on March 6 at 11:00 a.m. We will serve the Lenten Luncheon on March 8 in the Atrium. We will provide soup, sandwiches, veggie tray, and a dessert. Volunteers are needed to furnish food and to serve, please contact Phyllis or Linda for help with this luncheon. We will plan for 40-50.

We are working towards new drapery toppers for the Nursery, it has been many years since improvements to the drapes in that area have been improved.

We welcome all women to attend our meetings. We are a very active group and have many activities throughout the year like a Reading Program, sharing our faith through support to our shut-ins, inspirational programs, and a fellowship unsurpassed in our everyday world.

Thanks to all who helped, brought a covered dish, danced, and especially, Dan Walters, our DJ for the Share the Love event. It was a festive time, thank you Linda Walters for the decorations! They were very cheerful and helped everyone get in the mood.

Upcoming Events

April 3: Birthday party for the April birthdays at the Hermitage in Roanoke. We will have a simple craft and birthday cake!

May: Workday at the Church

June: Picnic at Linda Walter's home on SML



On Thursday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 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!



Vital Congregation Statistics for January

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2022	\$8,276	
Transferred from Building Fund	\$20,000	
2022 Fourth Quarter Tithe to Ministries	<\$7,207>	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 1/31/23		\$25,708
Actual Offerings Received through 1/31/23	\$20,464	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 1/31/23		\$28,371
Actual Expenses Paid through 1/31/23	<\$21,312>	
Ending Balance, 1/31/23	\$20,221	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 114
Average Online Viewers = 38
Average Small Groups Attendance = 26
-



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

A friend loves at all times.
(Proverbs 17:17)

Little Lambs had a loving February. We learned about loving at all times and also about dental health. For the upcoming month we have a kindness week planned to remind everyone to be kind. Each class will have different themes to dress up to. We look forward to St. Patrick's Day and our annual fun of trying to catch a leprechaun. We wish you all a happy March and a stellar spring.

Blessings!
Kelsey



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

The Jubilant Ringers will play for worship on March 12 and are rehearsing music for Holy Week and Easter. We still have room for one more player. If you are interested, please contact me at music@rm-umc.org. Remember this choir is for middle and high school students as well as adults!

Wonderful Wednesday kids are working on a Palm Sunday (April 2) anthem in combination with the Chancel Choir and on a new musical "Called" by Mark Burrows to be presented on Mother's Day. More details about this next month.

We still have openings for volunteers to help with Wonderful Wednesday. There is a schedule at the bulletin board near the Assembly Room where you can sign up. Thanks for your help!

The Chancel Choir continues to offer beautiful music during our worship services. Aren't they fantastic! The choir is also working on some beautiful pieces for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. If you have wanted to join us, now is a great time. We're got the perfect place for you!

Love and Peace,
Lynn

"To experience genuine human love,
to be part of a community of love
is to experience the presence of God."

—John J. McNeill



The youth this month have many activities that you can be praying for. On March 5 and 12, they'll be having "regular youth nights." These are nights when they eat a meal, play a game, and then have a lesson on faith. This month the two lessons are "Being a Christian in our modern society" and "Misconceptions about being a Christian." On March 5 a dinner will be provided, but we still have a need for someone to bring in food on March 12 to feed these ravenous youths. Any takers? If so, please email will@rm-umc.org to help out.

On March 19, we'll be having a board game night where we play a few tried and true board games, and hopefully one that's new to us all.

March 26 we'll have our second annual "Pop-Up Party Day" where we take cupcakes and balloons to unsuspecting members of the congregation. We bring joy in the form of sugar and helium and teenagers. A perfect combo!

Pray for our youth!



*Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 12, 2023*



On behalf of the Board of Directors, numerous volunteers, and patrons of Stepping Stone Mission, I want to thank you for your support over this past year, whether in the form of financial donations or items for our pantry. Your kindness and generosity has been invaluable as we continue our efforts to feed the hungry of Franklin County. As in years past, God has provided everything needed for the Mission to remain open and operational.

We realize that your family is feeling the strain of the increased costs of groceries, gas, and utilities. The Mission is experiencing it as well. That makes your gifts all the more special and critical to us. We are thankful that you have allowed God to use your resources to provide meals for the people of our community. We pray that the coming year will be full of blessings for you and your family, and we ask that you prayerfully consider continuing your support of the mission in whatever way you are able. Again, please accept our deepest gratitude for all you have given.

God Bless You!
Rodney Blake, President

I would like to thank you for your faithfulness in honoring your connectional commitment to the ministries of the United Methodist Church by offering 100% of your Virginia Conference and Mountain View District apportionments in 2022. We are all blessed by being in connection through the United Methodist Church, knowing that we share in God's Kingdom work being accomplished not only in our own local community but in ministry throughout the world.

Your generous stewardship has provided for mission and ministry grants, resource support, continuing education, and education assistance, among many other ways that your apportionment giving works to make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world. Because of your faithfulness, the Mountain View District has achieved 85.7% of our share of Conference Apportionments and 88.4% of our Mountain View District Apportionments. Together we give thanks to God for providing and share thanksgiving for the generous stewardship of our church families who make this possible through their giving.

A great many of our church families have paid 100% of their apportionments, and I congratulate and appreciate you. Although we continue to be in the midst of a challenging time and your church family has remained faithful in their giving and in their living of the message of Jesus Christ. I know that God honors our faithful efforts and that it takes all of us working together to accomplish the ministries that God lays before us. Your gifts do make a difference, and I appreciate your faithfulness and generosity.

Serving Christ Together with You,
Rev. Denise P. Bates
Mountain View District Superintendent



Family of Jerry Reynolds who passed away on February 2



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Debbie Caulder; 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.; Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); 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



Happy Birthday to:

- March 4 Debra Caulder
- March 5 Peggy Hodges
- March 5 Pam Pritchett
- March 5 Linda Walters
- March 6 Carrie Haynes
- March 7 Gray Hodges
- March 8 Jovie Angle
- March 9 Holt Smith
- March 10 Barry Altice
- March 10 Angelina Dillon
- March 11 Rachel Justice
- March 11 Jessica Naff
- March 15 Greg Dunlap
- March 16 Tatum Newbill
- March 18 Emily Meeks Littley
- March 19 Johnny Guilliams
- March 20 River Board
- March 20 Mittie Hambrick
- March 21 Kathy Matthews
- March 21 Addison Myers
- March 22 Lynn Cooper
- March 22 Georgia Angle
- March 22 Charlie Mitchell
- March 24 Meredith Flora
- March 26 Elaine Dawson
- March 28 Donna Flora
- March 28 Julie McCutchen
- March 28 Evelynne Rash
- March 29 Casey Hodges
- March 29 Steve Sherman
- March 30 Desmond Cundiff
- March 30 Holden Cundiff

Our stain remover

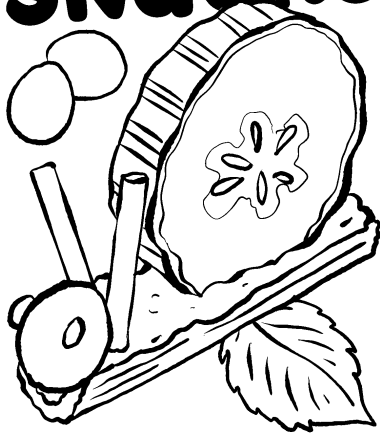
From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime.

Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering?

The good news is that with one "application" (the cross), Jesus makes us "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

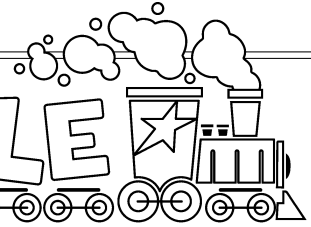
- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

Just for Kids

PUZZLE



A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| plants grow here | seeds are planted in this |
| to coil and jump
<i>(also a season of the year)</i> | when watered, these make plants |
| to expand and get bigger | another word for seedling |

For as the _____ makes the _____
 come up and a _____ causes
 _____ to _____, so the
 Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
 and praise _____ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

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