

THE TIE THAT BINDS

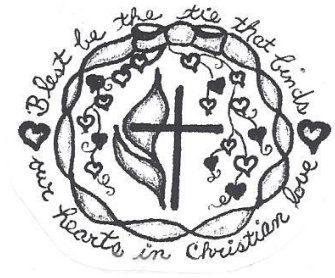
Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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"



April 2023



Maundy Thursday, April 6


Gather for a night of worship, Communion and community. On April 6 at 7:00 p.m., we will be led back to the Upper Room where Jesus shared His last supper with the disciples. We will ponder what it means to be one of the ones that Jesus loves. Join in as we partake in Holy Communion in a manner that Jesus would have shared in. Participate in life-giving community in a service you won't soon forget.

Good Friday, April 7

On Good Friday, April 7, we'll gather as a church alongside many other churches for the annual Cross Walk. The Cross Walk courses through Rocky Mount in a procession of praise and prayer. We stop at various locations and pray for the people that populate those places. We also have an opportunity to carry the cross. Certainly, there are few more powerful experiences throughout the year than publicly carrying the cross. If you can't walk the whole route, come for a partial walk. We step out at noon from the Rocky Mount Church of God and will head down Main Street, turning at the Hub down Pell Avenue, passing by the high school, and eventually making it to Food Lion where a bus will shuttle us back to the Church of God.

Holy Saturday, April 8


Easter Egg Hunt, April 8, at 10:00 a.m.


 750+ Eggs

 Free Church Rooftop Candy Drop

 Free Face Painting

 Free snacks to all

 Free drinks - sweet tea, lemonade, water

 And of course, more candy than you can handle!

You can expect a great time, a marvelous message of hope from Pastor Will, and a warm, friendly environment at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church.

Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunrise Service - Our Easter Sunrise service will be held at 6:45 a.m. at High Street Cemetery. We have a short homily, Holy Communion, and singing. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets or stand for this special time of worship.

Small Groups at 10:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:55 a.m.



ROCKY MOUNT

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Have you seen pictures of all the snow that California has received this winter? They're wild photos. The first floors of hotels are no longer visible. Snowbank mountains mark both sides of the highways. People will be skiing until the World Series. After years of drought, parts of California have received more snow than has ever been recorded.

Trains of systems have attacked the California coast week after week after week. Right on the heels of a previous storm, another one seems to line up, ready to dump more and more snow on an already deep snowpack. These storms are named atmospheric rivers, rivers of moisture targeting the mountains of California. It's been impressive, but also life-threatening.

Each time it snows, and the snow sticks around, the more compact it becomes. All that compacting leads to heavy weight on rooftops. Beams and girders are stressed beyond their breaking point, and roof collapse has been common throughout the Sierra of California. People have had to evacuate because their homes can't stand the pressure of the snow.

Snow is not the only thing that can cause our homes to collapse. For most of us, and especially us in Virginia, we really don't have to worry about our homes falling apart because of some frozen precip. No, more common threats to our home's integrity include job loss, relationships disintegrating, bullying, isolation and loneliness. These are what attack our homes, and our hearts. In this season of spring, while all around us are signs of renewal and rebirth, some feel we are still shoveling out from the winter. We've got the weight of the world upon our homes, and we're not sure when that weight will be removed. But we shovel, and for some, we don't seem to make any headway.

Easter is the celebration of Jesus removing our common weight, sin, from our homes. He has declared once and for all that he is the Victor over all that which so easily entangles and endangers. We would do well to notice the expansive truths of Easter. Surely that the grave has been defeated. Most certainly death has been destroyed. Easter is also a celebration of the weights of this world that have been lifted. They are finished! And they cannot defeat us anymore.

As Jesus stood with Mary that first Easter, with her eyes flooded with tears, she knew that Christ's appearance announced the weight's departure. Like heavy-laden snow atop a home that suddenly sloughs off, so too were the weights that dropped when she saw her, and our, Savior.

Let us celebrate Jesus Christ, the one who saves us, and saves us from that which would destroy us and our homes. This Easter we celebrate the Risen Savior.

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

In Christ,
Will



Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for April.

Baggers: Sharon Angle and Becky Newbill

Deliverers:

Week of April 3-7:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of April 10-14:

Schools Closed – No Delivery

Week of April 17-21:

P.D. Hambrick

Week of April 24-28:

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill



United Women in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

At our March 3 meeting, the United Women in Faith had Dr. Mirta Martin, the President of Ferrum College, present a talk about Ferrum College. She was highly informative and was more than optimistic about her upcoming time at Ferrum. We were encouraged to share the message of Ferrum College with family members, church friends, and locals. We had 13 in attendance for this meeting. After the meeting, we set up the Atrium and fixed Martha Collins’ fantastic potato soup.

On Wednesday, March 8, the United Women in Faith served our annual Lenten Luncheon. Sixty people were in attendance for this uplifting worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The ladies worked so

great together that we were home by 2:30 p.m. Thank you everyone for the support, wonderful food, and great fellowship!

If anyone is interested, United Women in Faith have a lot to offer in fellowship and friendship. We meet the first Monday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. One exception is our April 3 meeting, where we will be going to the United Methodist Home, The Hermitage in Roanoke to hostess a birthday party for the residents. The celebration will begin at 2:00 p.m. but we will meet at The Hermitage at 1:00 to have a short meeting. We will be sharing cake, games, and plenty of music. (Peggy Santrock will be donating the cake.) Everyone knows laughter keeps you young, so please, come join us for fun games and great music! Everyone is invited.

We will be leaving around 12:15 pm for our trip to Roanoke. Anyone who is going to The Hermitage, please let me know so we have an accurate head count. If you need a ride, please call before 10:30 am. (540-483-4905)

Blessings all, I appreciate you more than you will ever know.



United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on April 16 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



On Tuesday, April 25 and Thursday, April 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!

Hygiene Kits



On Sunday, April 16 the RMUWF will begin its collection of UMCOR hygiene kits to send to Annual Conference 2023. The ladies at the exit doors will provide each of you with a one-gallon resealable plastic bag and collection list to complete your kit after worship. Please return all kits to the boxes in the narthex and by the elevator by Sunday, April 30 so that the RMUWF women can pack them in boxes on Monday, May 1 at their mission workday. Thank you.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

On Saturday, April 29 the Mountain View District United Women in Faith will hold its Spiritual Life Day Retreat from 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 60 Merriman Way Road in Moneta. Our speaker will be our own Rev. Will Waller. The theme for the day will be Peacemakers and Justice Seekers. After worship and Rev. Waller's inspirational message, we will explore the ways in which we, as Christian women in mission can foster peace and justice in our churches, communities, and in the world. A delicious lunch will be provided by our hosts, Halesford United Women in Faith. We will be collecting cleaning supplies, dish detergent, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, and bathroom cleaner for Miriam's House, a homeless shelter in Lynchburg at this event.

Reservations and a \$5 fee for lunch is required. Please contact Charlotte Hill, Phyllis Lavinder, or Linda Walters by April 7 if you would like to attend. We will be carpooling from the church at 8:30 a.m.

Graduate Sunday-May 21

Attention:

Parents of High School and College Graduates!



If you have an upcoming high school or college graduate, please let the church office know so we may recognize them.

In the May newsletter, we will name our graduates; therefore, please share with us their after-graduation plans—college, work, etc. by April 17.

Please plan to attend the worship service on May 21 as our church celebrates this special time in their life.



To attend one of our senior adult trips, sign up on <http://stmarksmethodist.com/joyful-journey>. We partner with St. Mark's UMC in Daleville for this ministry. They have three trips this year, with a fourth in the works. Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Cape May, NJ's Gaslight and Gingerbread Tour. All of these are overnight trips, and all of them come highly rated.



Kids will learn about following Jesus here, there and everywhere at **Ready, Set, Move** Vacation Bible School this summer. Your children and grandchildren will learn to move forward in their own journey of faith. The last night will be Family Night, with fun activities and food for kids and their grown-ups!

VBS will be held June 26-29, from 6:00-8 p.m. and hosted this year by our friends at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

To register your kids or as a volunteer, you can sign-up online here or contact Tammy Burdick.

Kids Registration



Volunteer Registration



On Sunday, March 19, a letter from Linda Davis was shared thanking the youth group for their work in raking leaves in the back of her home. Her father, who lives with her, had requested that someone come and tackle the leaves that had fallen from the winter. The youth group responded with five youth and two adults and knocked out the leaves in a little over an hour. She expressed her thanks by donating towards the summer mission trip.

This summer, the youth will be going to Mount Olive, North Carolina to glean. Gleaning is an ancient practice from the Bible where farmers leave crops to be “gleaned” after the main harvest has occurred. This enables the poor to eat what remains. The youth will take up that practice from July 9-14 in Central North Carolina by gleaning with Harvest of Hope and the Society of St. Andrew.

In order to pay for this trip, they will have a fundraiser by hiring out their labor to members of the church who need yard work done. On April 16, you can have a youth come to your home to do whatever yard work you deem appropriate for them to do. Raking, mulching, planting, and weeding, all are possibilities for your special youth helper. All that they ask is that you support their attempt to pay their way towards this mission trip. Contact will@rm-umc.org or the church office if you'd like to hire one for your yard.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Christ's journey to the cross is filled with images of His sacrificial love for us; the Palms, the Cup and the Bread, the Nails, the Crown of Thorns, and more. On April 2, we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem beginning with a choral introit by our Chancel Choir and children. All children who would like to participate in the procession should see Ms. Lynn in the narthex around 10:45 a.m. Handbells will ring as we sing our opening hymn "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" and you'll hear the Chancel Choir again later in the service.

This year we will have a Maundy Thursday service, April 6, when we will be reminded of our Savior's love as we partake in Communion in "The Upper Room". The service will begin in the sanctuary and when we take Communion, 12 people at a time will be ushered into the Atruim "Upper Room" to take Communion. Worship will conclude back in the sanctuary.

And on April 9, the Empty Tomb as a reminder of the magnitude of God's love; a love so great that it continues through all time and eternity. In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, it stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. Our sanctuary will be filled with victorious music by the Chancel Choir and great Easter hymns accompanied by piano, organ, and bells. Invite friends and family to join us for all these special worship services as we celebrate the Risen Lord!

Spring is a time of renewal and celebrating new life in Christ! Make worship each week your way of thanking God for all your many blessings. See you in church!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



We still need volunteers to help with Wonderful Wednesday April 19, 26 and May 3. There is a sign-up sheet posted near the Assembly Room. Thank you so much!



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

The Little Lambs would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter. We enjoyed learning the Easter story and of course our Easter Egg Hunt! Each of us here at Little Lambs would like to congratulate the 3-year-old lead teacher Casey on her baby boy Orion. We look forward to her return in May. We are all so thrilled for spring and the warmer weather. The children will be talking about all things spring this month. The 4-year-old class is looking forward to learning about plants and watching the ones we plant grow! Each class is also practicing for graduation. The Little Lambs hope you all have a blessed spring.

Blessings!
Kelsey



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

April 1 Penny Guilliams
 April 1 Tori Huffman
 April 3 Ben Clements
 April 3 Lindsay McDaniel
 April 4 Mark Newbill
 April 4 Dan Walters
 April 5 Ranessa Gibson
 April 6 Bryan Lewis
 April 6 Blake Myers
 April 7 Miles Gibson
 April 7 Jodi Huffman
 April 11 J.R. Levesque
 April 11 Debra Loya
 April 12 Susan Clements
 April 14 Anthony Saldo
 April 15 Ronnie Breedlove
 April 15 Carrie Holland
 April 16 Jennifer Cooper
 April 16 Johanna Cooper
 April 20 Jacob Waller
 April 22 Jennifer Lewis Felts
 April 22 Daren Haynes
 April 22 Tyler Peterson
 April 23 Fisher Gibson
 April 24 Marshall Banks
 April 24 Bill Cooper
 April 24 John Cooper
 April 24 Jerry Davis
 April 24 Marsha Robertson
 April 25 Molly Bennett
 April 25 Peyton Smawley
 April 26 Alayna King
 April 27 Jack Dillon
 April 28 Steve Angle
 April 30 Gary English
 April 30 Deborah Pritchard
 April 30 Ashley Turner
 April 30 Rebecca Tuttle

Happy Anniversary to:

April 2 Mike and Tracy Jenkins
 April 6 Richard and Stephanie Cook
 April 7 Dick & Kathleen Higgins
 April 21 Eddie and Cyn Fisher
 April 22 Joe and Dana Kelley
 April 25 Mark and Becky Newbill



REQUESTS
 —FOR—
 PRAYER

Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Eleanor Woody; 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.; April Wyatt Scott; Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); Don Angle (Steve Angle); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).



Wendy Saunders and Angela Oliveira and Families in the death of their mother and grandmother respectively

Ranessa Gibson and Family in the death of her mother

Johnny Guilliams and Family in the death of his brother-in-law, Glenn Cannaday, who passed away on February 28



Vital Congregation Statistics for February

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2022	\$8,276	
Transferred from Building Fund	\$20,000	
2022 Fourth Quarter Tithe to Ministries	< <u>\$7,207</u> >	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 2/28/23		\$51,416
Actual Offerings Received through 2/28/23	\$59,505	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 2/28/23		\$56,742
Actual Expenses Paid through 2/28/23	< <u>\$48,495</u> >	
Ending Balance, 2/28/23	\$32,079	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 116
 Average Online Viewers = 27
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 27



Thank you for your donation to our Soup for Seniors program. Due to your donation we were able to distribute 245 reusable cloth bags filled with soup, peanut butter and crackers to local senior citizens. Thank you for your generosity!

Franklin County Office of Aging

Jesus Answers Our Uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



What you need:

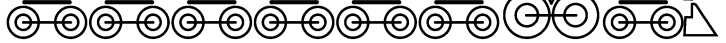
- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!

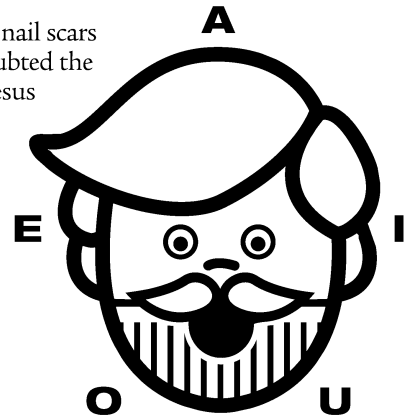
Just for Kids

PUZZLE



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?



Directions:

Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.

"B_c_s_y_h_v_s_n m_,
 y_h_v_b_l_v_d;
 bl_ss_d_r_th_s_wh_h_v_n_t
 s_n_nd_y_t_h_v_b_l_v_d."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

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35 North Main Street
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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