

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
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Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



May 2023



## United Women of Faith Mission Workday 2023

Please join us on Monday, May 1 for a church wide mission workday in the fellowship hall. We will meet from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Come for all or some of the time.

We will be working on

1. santipads for missionaries, Roy and Jackie Hodgson to take to Uganda,
2. filling "exam week" goody baskets for the students at Ferrum
3. packing and checking the UMCOR hygiene and school kits we have collected this past year.

We will find a job for YOU. Lunch will be provided.

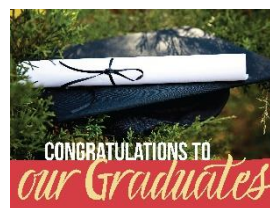
Please bring sharp scissors, white thread, and a sewing machine, if you have any of these items, and bagged or wrapped snacks (energy bars, candy bars, small bags of any kind of chips or pretzels - something the students can pick up from the baskets on their way to or from exams) to add to the goody baskets for Ferrum.

"Happiness is like jam.  
You can't spread even a little without  
getting some on yourself."  
—Unknown



## Mother's Day Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will sponsor their annual Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 14, at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All mothers and their families are invited to this delicious complimentary breakfast prepared by the men in honor of all mothers on their special day!



Our 2023 college graduates include:  
**Amber Altice**, Emory & Henry College  
**Annie Graninger**, George Mason University  
**Taylor Jones**, Liberty University  
**Abbey Justice**, Roanoke College  
**Elisabeth Saldo**, Capella University  
**Evan Stone**, Virginia Tech

Congratulations and best wishes Amber, Annie, Taylor, Abbey, Elisabeth and Evan!

## Graduate Sunday

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be observed on Sunday, May 21. We will be recognizing this year's graduates. Let our graduates know that we are proud of them by your attendance.





# ROCKY MOUNT

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

As of this day, April 20, 2023, India has now surpassed China as the most populous country. The population of India is now 1,408,000,000! Do you know that if you live to be 80 years old, you'll only take 672,768,000 breaths? That means that there are twice as many people in India than there are breaths in your life.

Numbers of people have always fascinated me. I remember poring over the World Book in our elementary school library. This book gave statistics about how many sheep live in New Zealand vs. how many humans do (it's more sheep than humans). It would tell the number of people that live in the smallest country in the World, The Vatican (it's 825 at this time). It would spout statistics like the world's highest mountain, Earth's deepest point, our globe's longest country, and the narrowest gap between two continents. (Everest, Mariana Trench, Russia, Gibraltar between Spain and Morocco). You could travel between all these places with the turn of a page. Of all these facts, what drew me back in was the size of the largest countries, and for the longest time, it has been China.

Now, with India eclipsing China, elementary students will lay atop these oversized books and learn about oversized populations in another land. I can almost hear the World Book editors changing the fact of who is number one right now.

What often gets lost in the dizzying numbers we see are the human lives that these numbers represent. Each life is filled with wonder, fear, boredom, and desire. Each life has people they love, people they despise and people they don't even think about. Each life has a story, and each life matters to the Lord. Each life is a person *given* by the Lord.

Back in 2020, there was a debate that raged in America about who mattered. Some put up Black Lives Matter signs. Others put up Blue Lives Matter signs. Others still put up All Lives Matter signs. Like many of our initially fruitful conversations in America, it descended into name-calling and vitriol. We believe as Americans that "all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We believe as Christians that all people are given the image of God, imprinted on their hearts and soul. And we affirm that there is no one that you'll ever lock eyes with that God doesn't love.

As India becomes the most populated country now, we acknowledge we will never, ever know all 1.408 billion people in that country. We won't know all the people in China, now #2 in the world. We won't know all of America (sitting pretty in the #3 slot), all of Virginia, all of Franklin County, or all of Rocky Mount. But we know this, that God loves each individual so much that He sent Jesus to show God's love to all of them. You matter to God, no matter where you live, or where you are in the World Book.

In Christ,  
Will



United Women in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

The United Women in Faith will meet on May 1 at 10:00 a.m. for a workday. We will work on the kits for conference and will make a couple of treat baskets for Ferrum College students. The meeting will begin with a financial update from the Treasurer and announcements.

On June 5 Dan and Linda Walters will host our annual picnic at their home at 171 Highland Lake Road Union Hall, VA. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Time: 5:00 p.m. Please bring your husband or a friend to this event. Anyone who needs a ride please call Phyllis Lavinder (540-483-4905).

The United Women in Faith is open to all women who attend the Rocky Mount UMC. You don't have to be a member of the Church to attend.



**Sontag Nutrition Program**

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for May.

**Baggers:** Ina Clements and Ruth Cook

**Deliverers:**

**Week of May 1-5:**

Benny and Annette Board

**Week of May 8-12:**

Jack Collins

**Week of May 15-19:**

P.D. Hambrick



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 6:00-8:00 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 Tuesday, May 23 and Thursday, May 25, 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!



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

On Mother's Day, May 14, we will again celebrate Children's Sabbath. The children will lead our worship through prayers, scripture, message, and songs. The day's message will be the musical, *Called*. "What does it mean to be called by God? What does it look like? Sound like? Feel like? Through *Called*, we will discover how God can and will call anyone. God is calling you because you're you! You are a child of God. You are worthy. You...Are...Called!" Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate this Mother's Day in a special way.

Our last Wonderful Wednesday for this season will be May 17 with our annual end-of-the-year picnic in Mary Elizabeth Park from 5:30-6:30 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the music bulletin board near the Assembly Room if you can help with food. This will be a chance for the children to play in the park, eat, sing and just enjoy being together. Parents are invited to stay and picnic and help with supervision. We will resume in September!

Jubilant Ringers are preparing *Masterpiece for Handbells* for worship on May 7. This will complete rehearsals for this season. Thanks everyone for all the wonderful music! We will resume rehearsals in September!

Chancel Choir members, Jubilant Ringers, Dea McClure (flute), Emily Meeks Littley (trumpet), and Jeanne Banks, thank you so much for the beautiful Holy Week/Easter music. You worked so hard to make all our worship outstanding!

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



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

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

"Ready, set, graduate!" The Little Lambs are excited for our moving on ceremony. I would like to personally invite you all to our moving on ceremony on May 23 at 6:00 p.m. We have all learned so much.

For the remainder of the school year, we will learn about things that take place in the summer. Each class will also learn Timothy 4:7 as our monthly Bible verse. Lastly, we will be reviewing all the impressive things we have learned this school year.

We want to take this time to thank Aundrea and Casey for all their hard work this year. We are now registering for the fall. If you know someone that has a 3- or 4-year-old please help us spread the word. Thank you all for your continued support!

Blessings!  
Kelsey



Youth group is about to transition into its summer mode which means several M's:

1. Milkshakes. Do you know that youth are made up of 23% Cookout Milkshakes? In summer, youth group activities often revolve around these milkshakes so that number skyrockets to 54%.
2. Mission trip: We're all systems go for the mission trip to Mt. Olive, North Carolina with Harvest of Hope. Harvest of Hope is an offshoot of Society of St. Andrew which focuses on alleviating hunger. To learn more about Society of St. Andrew and Harvest of Hope go to [EndHunger.org](http://EndHunger.org). The youth will be gleaning, where they go through the fields to take what the farmers haven't and this produce in turn goes to the local food banks.
3. Moseying down the river: We'll be going on a couple of water adventures this summer. We've got a kayaking trip planned on the Mighty Blackwater this month. And, we've got youth week which includes enjoying some fun on the water in West Virginia.

Does any of this make you say, "Man! This sounds like me!" Well? What are you waiting for? Help out today. Email [will@rm-umc.org](mailto:will@rm-umc.org) to serve alongside these marvelous movers and shakers.



**Happy Birthday to:**

May 3	Harmon English
May 3	Pete Santrock
May 5	Kemper Hodges
May 6	Nathan Angle
May 6	Katherine Flora
May 6	Conner Quinn
May 7	Melinda Justice
May 9	Abraham Tosh
May 10	Arlo Gibson
May 12	Linda Davis
May 12	Wendy Saunders
May 13	Eric Lorens
May 13	Ezekiel Waller
May 16	Ti Godfrey
May 16	Susan Hatchett
May 16	Wayne Sink
May 16	Bruce Tuttle
May 22	Jeanne Banks
May 23	Rachel Worley
May 28	John Godfrey
May 28	Jennifer Haynes
May 29	Heather Quinn
May 31	Cameron Keys
May 31	Abbie Pinckard

**Happy Anniversary to:**

May 3	Sammy and Cindy St. Clair
May 12	Arnold and Rebecca Dillon
May 14	Cecil and Doris Young
May 22	George and Annette Board
May 22	George and Debra Loya
May 29	Craig and Debbie Teeple



**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Rodney Cundiff; Bob Huffman; Debbie Caulder; Jack Dillon; Jason Lavinder; Hazel Henderson; 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.; Maria Bray (Linda Walters); 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).



**Family of Peggie Foster** who passed away on April 18

**Family of Eleanor Woody** who passed away on April 21

“God has not called you to your life mission in spite of who you are; he has called you precisely because of who you are.”  
—Reggie McNeal, *Practicing Greatness*

# Just for Kids

## Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

*Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.*

1. HEAV [ ] [ ]
2. [ ] ABLE [ ]
3. [ ] AY OF PENTECOS [ ]
4. [ ] ONGUE [ ]
5. [ ] PIRI [ ]

6. [ ] OGETHE [ ]
7. [ ] ES [ ]
8. [ ] ONGUE [ ]
9. [ ] A [ ]
10. [ ] IND [ ]

“When the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> came, they were all \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> came from \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> what seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> of fire that separated and came to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> and began to speak in other \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> as the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> them.”

**ACTS 2:1-4, NIV**

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



## Vital Congregation Statistics for March

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2022	\$8,276	
Transferred from Building Fund	\$20,000	
2022 Fourth Quarter Tithes to Ministries	<u>&lt;\$7,207&gt;</u>	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 3/31/23		\$77,124
Actual Offerings Received through 3/31/23	\$80,835	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 3/31/23		\$85,113
Actual Expenses Paid through 3/31/23	<u>&lt;\$73,579&gt;</u>	
Ending Balance, 3/31/23	\$28,325	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 107  
 Average Online Viewers = 35  
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 33

### The power of (God's) light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “Let us walk in the light of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:5); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

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**ROCKY  
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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, 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

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