

# 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"



June/July 2023



Follow Jesus here, there,  
and EVERYWHERE!

Over four nights, kids will learn about Jesus in an engaging, hands-on Vacation Bible School experience, happening June 26-29 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., and hosted this year by our friends at Rocky Mount Christian Church.

Children through rising fifth graders will enjoy creative crafts, tasty snacks, fun games, and engaging songs and stories - all inviting them to follow Jesus! Thursday night, families will gather for food, music, fun, and prizes!

## Here's what you need to do:

1. Sign up your kids using the QR code below.
2. Invite your neighbors, your grandkids, your nieces and nephews, your friend's kids... You get the picture.
3. Volunteer to serve. Your hands and talents will be needed, especially during the week before and of VBS. To sign-up, use the QR code below or visit the VBS table that will be up on Sundays after worship in June.

4. Pray. Pray for the children, the volunteers, and our community, as we share the gospel with this rising generation of children.

Contact Tammy Burdick or stop by the VBS table if you have any questions.

## Kids Registration



## Volunteer Registration



## It's a miracle!

I believe in miracles. While I believe in the possibility, under God, of any kind of miracle, I am committed especially to the miracle of the changed life. When a human being goes from despair to hope, when a lost soul comes home, or when a mean and destructive person becomes kind and fruitful, the greatest of all miracles has occurred.

—J. Ellsworth Kalas



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## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

I'm unashamed about being a history nerd. Recently, our son Zeke and I went on a grand history tour of battlefields of the American Revolutionary War. South Carolina has plenty of them, and we visited King's Mountain, Cowpens, and Ninety-Six. If you're into history, take a trip to Palmetto State (probably not this time of year - HOT!). Learn about the Lord Cornwallis and Daniel Morgan, read the fiery letters Patrick Ferguson sent to the folks not too far from here and how those letters may have caused the turning point in the Revolutionary War, and gain a deeper sense of why freedom matters to the people of the Appalachians. Examine some of the earliest trench warfare in history, over a hundred years before WWI. (See, now I'm going full-blown history nerd on you).

If you don't want to have to go to South Carolina for history, check out the recently renovated Archives Room in the church. I'm delighted by the work that the Gibsons, Benny and Martha Sue, and Linda Handy have done in restoring that room. It's a treasure! You can read all about folks like Charlotte Seegars and Mary Elizabeth Angle, and you can look at pictures of the former church building that was on Maple Avenue. It's a fabulous space for study and devotional reading. The church is open for prayer at any time. While stopping by to pray, take a walk down memory lane.

The work in the Archives Room along with this recent trip to South Carolina with our son has sparked a renewed interest in some of the saints of the church. As a United Methodist clergyperson, I swore an oath to uphold the *Discipline of the United Methodist Church*. (Consider the *Discipline* the guiding laws for how a UMC is structured.) One of the aspects of that *Discipline* is that clergypersons "ensure faithful transmission of the Christian faith." Surely, one of the ways that I attempt to do that is tell you about people who throughout church history did just that. In other words, one of the ways to know how to do faith now is to see how faith was done in the past.

During the month of July, I will preach five sermons that lift up the lives of five saints from history. I'm naming the sermon series, "Superheroes." These people were given superhuman ability by God, and they became heroes to those they served.

This foray into history shouldn't bore you because you're the beneficiary of their faith. The people are John Wesley, Thérèse of Lisieux, Martin Luther, Thomas Merton, and Jarena Lee. Some of these may be familiar, some may be brand-new to you. I invite you to read up on them now and learn what you can about their fascinating lives of faith. History should enliven our lives and provide examples of how an ordinary person can do extraordinary work for the Lord.

In Christ,  
Will



United Women in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

On June 5, the United Women in Faith will have their Annual Picnic at the home of Linda and Dan Walters at 171 Highland Lake Road on SML at Union Hall. Please come and bring your spouse or friend. The gathering time will be 5:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share. RSVP to lindaw@shentel.net or call 757-635-0109.

Our Birthday Party Covered Dish will be held July 30. Everyone will be asked to sit at the table for their birth month. Each table will have a host and be decorated for the month. We ask that every family bring a covered dish. We will have a sandwich and salad theme for the main dish furnished by the United Women in Faith. The hosts of the tables will furnish desserts.



In June and July, our church is in charge of serving lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen the following days:

- Thursday, June 22
- Tuesday, June 27
- Tuesday, July 25
- Thursday, July 27

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!



### **Part-time Office Manager Position**

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church

announces an opening

for a Part-time Office Manager. The hours for this position will be Monday through Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will begin at the beginning of August. We are looking for a person who has excellent writing skills and can communicate well with the pastor and staff. Some duties would include greet visitors and direct incoming phone calls, type and print the weekly worship bulletins, type, print and mail the monthly newsletters, maintain a calendar of church events and special activities, and maintain the church website and online calendar. We prefer the applicant to be strongly proficient with social media. This person would also need to be versed in the following software:

Microsoft Office Suite and/or Google

WordPress

(preferred for website management)

Please send a resume to Mrs. Kelly Peterson, Staff/Parish Relations Committee Chair, at kbpeterson62@gmail.com.

### **Samaritan Offering**

The Virginia Annual Conference sets aside the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day for special offerings to be collected for the Samaritan Program. Your Samaritan Offering will provide financial assistance to residents who have outlived their financial resources and can no longer afford the full cost of their care. The average age of recipients is 96 years old. One hundred percent of your offering will go to support these folks. Please make your checks payable to RMUMC and note Hermitage Roanoke Samaritan Program in the memo line.



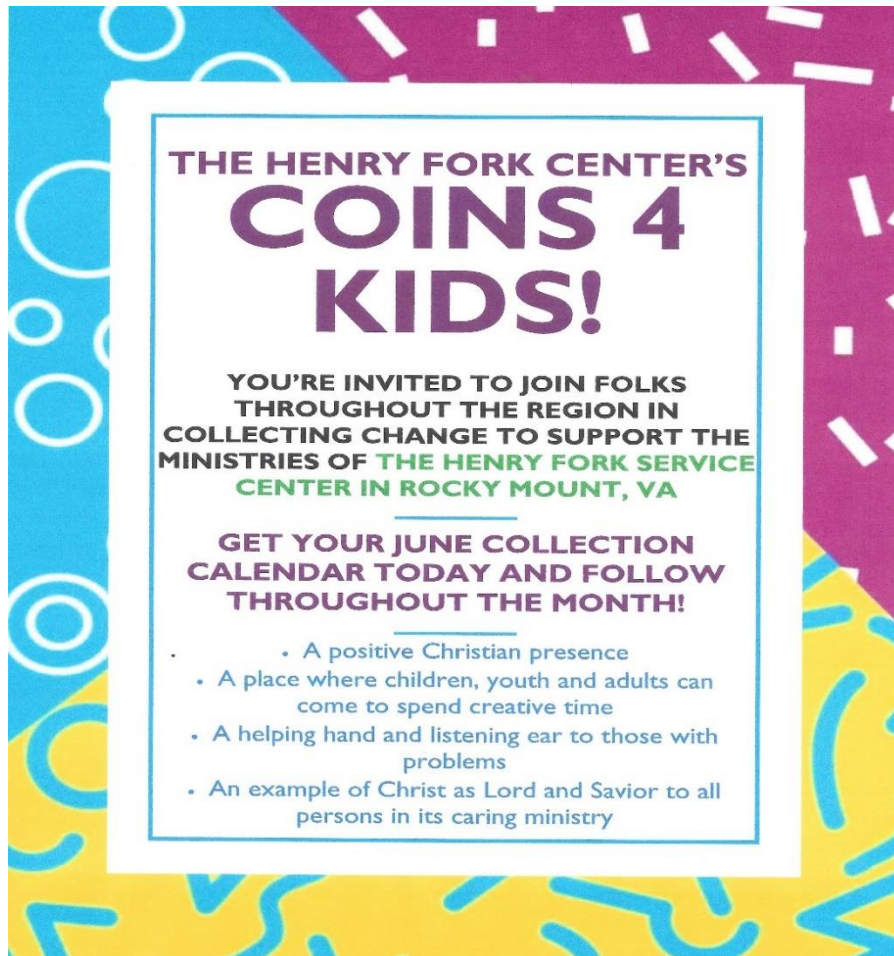


## Vital Congregation Statistics for April

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 4/30/23		\$102,832
Actual Offerings Received through 4/30/23	\$100,906	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 4/30/23		\$113,484
Actual Expenses Paid through 4/30/23	<u>&lt;\$104,226&gt;</u>	
Ending Balance, 4/30/23	\$17,749	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 127  
 Average Online Viewers = 27  
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 41



Check your emails for more details about how to participate in this fund drive.



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

The children and I celebrated another successful Children's Sabbath (the "Called" was awesome!) and the end of this year's Wonderful Wednesday with a great picnic in Mary Elizabeth Park on May 17! I would like to thank all the parents for supporting our music ministry this year. God is Good!!!

The Jubilant Ringers will be taking the summer off and will resume rehearsal in September. They ended their season with the beautiful "Masterpiece for Handbells" on May 7. Thanks for all the hard work!

The Chancel Choir will continue to practice at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays but on a biweekly schedule throughout the summer. Check your calendar! The summer will be an exciting time for me as I plan music for fall and get to attend my music retreat at Lake Junaluska! Hallelujah!

Love and Peace,  
Lynn



Summer is almost upon us, and you know what that means? Summer Youth Week, Youth Sunday, and the Summer Mission Trip. We're looking ahead to all three.

The Summer Youth Week will be held in West Virginia with the theme of water. We'll be camping by a lake, swimming in cold West Virginia swimming holes, going to a natural water park, and

rafting in the New River. Each day should bring new adventures, and new opportunities for fellowship around the campfire.

The week ends with Youth Sunday on June 11. We invite everyone to attend worship that Sunday as the entire service will be presented by the youth.

And the Youth Mission Trip will be in Mt. Olive, North Carolina as we glean with Harvest of Hope. We have seven people going, two adults and five high schoolers. We'll be working in the fields so pray for cloudy weather! At press time, we've almost reached our goal of paying for the entire trip through your donations and your hiring of the kids to do yard work. Thank you!

It's shaping up to be a phenomenal summer. The youth group covets your prayers, always.



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

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

Come one, come all, to the greatest preschool on earth! The Little Lambs had a wonderful circus themed graduation. Each of us teachers were so blessed to work with all the children this year. We each look forward to coming back in the fall for another fun year.

With that being said we are now enrolling for the fall. The 3-year-old class has lots of open spots so please spread the word. The 4-year-old class is currently on a waiting list. If you or someone else would like to enroll your child please email [littlelambs@rm-umc.org](mailto:littlelambs@rm-umc.org). Enrollment is now online and very simple to complete!

We hope you all have a safe, happy, and healthy summer break!

Blessings!  
Kelsey

**JUNE**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Happy Birthday to:**

June 3 Kim Goransson  
 June 8 Will Cooper  
 June 10 Bill Collins  
 June 10 Mark Jones  
 June 11 Suzanne Levesque  
 June 11 Baylor Perdue  
 June 12 Muriel Kittinger  
 June 14 Caleb Godfrey  
 June 15 Tyler Godfrey  
 June 16 Brent Robertson  
 June 17 Barbara Peters  
 June 18 Jacques Delport  
 June 18 Phyllis Lavinder  
 June 18 Sammy St. Clair  
 June 18 Jane Waller  
 June 19 Cyndee Holland  
 June 20 Caroline Kelley  
 June 20 Lauren Kelley  
 June 21 Debbie Teeple  
 June 22 Jean Hodges  
 June 22 Ron Hodges  
 June 22 Ainsley Kelley  
 June 23 Benjamin Board  
 June 23 Lynn Meeks  
 June 23 Robert Mills  
 June 26 Mackenzie Hall  
 June 29 Mattox Angle  
 June 29 Erika Brickey  
 June 29 Charlotte Hill  
 June 29 Sandra Hodges  
 June 30 Cindy St. Clair

**Happy Anniversary to:**

June 3 Bill and Barbara Beck  
 June 4 Kevin and Avery Tosh  
 June 8 Bobby and Jean Hodges  
 June 15 Abe and Terri Naff  
 June 17 P.D. and Mittie Hambrick  
 June 20 John and Lynn Cooper  
 June 21 Jim and Martha Anderson  
 June 21 Rodney and Pat Cundiff  
 June 21 Daren and Jennifer Haynes  
 June 22 Jonathan and Jennifer Ardis  
 June 22 Sam and Jane Roseberry  
 June 23 Nathan and Callie Angle  
 June 24 Marshall and Jeanne Banks  
 June 26 Billy and Tara McBride  
 June 27 Ronnie and Connie Breedlove  
 June 27 Ben and Susan Whitesell  
 June 28 Bill and Elaine Dawson

**JULY**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Happy Birthday to:**

July 1 Louise Moore  
 July 2 Quinn Goransson  
 July 2 Will Waller  
 July 5 CO Brickey  
 July 8 Arnold Dillon  
 July 8 Samantha Robertson Smith  
 July 9 Leighton Naff  
 July 9 Carter Watts  
 July 10 Berklie Perdue  
 July 12 George Loya  
 July 13 Haley Byrd  
 July 13 Luke Damron  
 July 13 Sarah Funk  
 July 13 Jerry Leonard  
 July 15 Steve Lewis  
 July 17 Byron Yost  
 July 21 Perry Hambrick  
 July 22 Katelyn Lorens  
 July 23 Jennifer Call  
 July 23 Alexis Dillon  
 July 23 Edward Peterson  
 July 26 Jody Kelley  
 July 27 George Board  
 July 27 Charne' Delport  
 July 28 Anna Cooper  
 July 28 Janice Thurman

**Happy Anniversary to:**

July 23 Josh and Christina Gibson  
 July 24 Ed and Kelly Peterson  
 July 28 Abe and Cindy Gibson





**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Rodney Cundiff; Bob Huffman; Debbie Caulder; Jack Dillon;

Jason Lavinder; Hazel Henderson; Lillie Hatchett; Jerry Davis; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Jennifer Cooper; John Cooper; Maria Bray (Linda Walters); Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); Don Angle (Steve Angle); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland).

**Forget-Me-Nots:**

Kathleen Higgins



**Sarah Capps and Family** in the death of her brother, Rob King, on April 28

**Family of Dick Shoemaker** who passed away on May 5

**Family of Anna Campbell** who passed away on May 16



Cards, thoughts and prayers from the Methodist Church Family will always be remembered and have made this difficult time more enduring for our entire family. Thanks to all of you for all your love and support.

Bill, Pat and The Woody Family

Prayer brings heaven to earth



When you received Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes — earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God.

You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the biggest one. It is God’s home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.

But we don’t need to wait until we die to visit heaven. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven’s streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord.

—Ben Jennings

“Rest is not idle, is not wasteful. Sometimes rest is the most productive thing you can do for body and soul.”

—Erica Layne

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



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

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