

# THE TIE THAT BINDS



Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
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Our Mission: *To Know Jesus and Share His Love*"

September 2023



Hello Everyone. My name is Teresa Strobel and I am originally from Vinton, Va. I graduated from William Byrd High School and went to college in Nashville, Tn. where I attended Free Will Baptist Bible College (Now Welch College). I moved back to the area about a year ago after caring for a sister in Raleigh for a little over a year.

Thank you for the warm welcome and kind words. I am looking forward to getting to know you all. Thank you for your patience as I learn the things I need to as we go along. Again, thank you for the warm welcome.



The office will be closed on Monday  
in observance of Labor Day!



On September 3, we'll celebrate outdoor worship in the park. We'll gather at Mary Elizabeth Park for a worship service at 10:55 a.m. with acoustic music, keyboard, and some good ole fashioned Cokesbury hymns. There will be a baptism, there will be preaching and special music. And of course, there will be a potluck with drinks provided. Call your neighbors, bring a lawn chair, and let's have a ball. Outdoor worship at Mary Elizabeth Park on September 3. See you there. Small Groups will meet as scheduled in the church building at 10:00 a.m.



# ROCKY MOUNT

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

In speaking with colleagues of mine who serve churches around the county and state, after the pandemic was over, many of those churches did not see returns to the numbers of people they had prior to 2020. At our most recent Annual Conference in June, there was disappointment at the low number of attendees. At a training at the conference center in Glen Allen, I noticed it resembled a ghost town, one space ominously listed as “youth storage room.” Does the conference staff store youth in there? I dared not look. Doom and gloom echoes in church culture, and nervousness chills previously red-hot churches. Is the nursery rhyme “Here’s the church; here’s the steeple, open the doors and see all the people” no longer relevant? Are the people gone?

In my view, the question is flawed because the nursery rhyme was flawed to begin with. To think that one finds all the people inside the church walls means that’s where they belong. The church thrives when the church lives outside the edifices and buildings. Open all the doors and you should see the church charging up for the work ahead. But staying inside forever has never been the goal.

A concurrent movement might shed some light on this. There has been a movement afoot worldwide for museums to return artifacts to their country of origin. Right now, 90 pieces that were forcibly taken from Nigeria and placed in the British Museum in London have been or are in the process of being returned to Africa. For years, the British Museum claimed if the artifacts were displayed in Britain then millions of people could see them. But the Nigerians disagreed; the Benin Bronzes belong in their real home, in Nigeria, not confined in a museum. They weren’t to be locked up, they were to be free and used in the native religions of that country. In other words, they were to be out and about, not behind glass.

A church is not a museum, it is a hospital. A hospital’s goal is to heal the sick and send them back out to thrive. Numbers such as attendance are far less important a metric to gauging the health of a church than impact on a larger community. If Rocky Mount UMC’s impact for the Kingdom of God were to be measured, first and foremost we should be asking “How many people have trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior because RMUMC served them?” Far more important than clicks on a page, views on a video, or people in pews is the question, “Do people love because the love of God was experienced through us?”

I do not linger long over lower attendance numbers like some of my fellow clergypersons do. It’s an important benchmark but not the primary one. Open all the doors and see all the people? For a little while, but for the other 167 hours in the week, open all the doors and see the people outside loving, caring, praying, and serving.

In Christ, Will



## **United Methodist Men**

(Mark Newbill, President)

*UMM*

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on Sunday September 24 at 8:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This is open to Men and spouses and anyone who wants to find out more of what we do in the community. I look forward to seeing everybody!



*Women's Bible Study*

All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Bible Study that begins September 19. We will be studying "Gideon" 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 (540-483-0771; 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!



**Cub Scouts  
Selling  
Popcorn**

(Trish Rhodes, Cub Scout Pack #456)

It's that time of year again. We are selling popcorn from August 26-October 22 around town and will be set up in front of the church on Sunday, September 10 after the service just for the church. We have a variety of snacks including varieties of popcorn flavors in pre-popped and microwave bags. They brought back their fan favorite, Trail Mix, and added Milk Chocolatey Pretzels this year. Prices start at \$10, and you can also make military donations where the company will send popcorn to certain military groups they have coordinated with. We can take all forms of payment including cash, checks made to Pack 456, credit and debit cards and most payment apps. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing everyone on September 10.



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

### **Issue an invitation!**

When I enter that beautiful city  
And the saints all around me appear,  
I hope that someone will tell me:  
It was you who invited me here.

—Carrie K. Butcher

October 1, 2023, from 2:30-5:00. We will be the hosts at the Mountain View District Annual Meeting that will be held at the Kaleidoscope. Our United Women in Faith are always seeking new members, visit anytime.



Our Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chairperson is Serena Jamison. Please keep Serena informed of any news concerning our college kids. She can be reached at 420-3719 (or call the church office at 483-5338 or email at admin@rm-umc.org). Please make sure we have your college student's address at school. Throughout the year, Serena will send your student cards. We want to be sure to include them in all correspondence.



## Art Show

The Bald Knob Art show will be displaying their art in the church fellowship hall Thursday September 14 through Sunday, September 17, 2023. Make sure to drop in and see if you can pick up a unique gift or two! Thank you for your support.

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover the names of some Old Testament prophets. Then unscramble the circled letters to describe what prophets are.

I was called to preach to the people of Nineveh but ran from God instead. (My book is #32 in the Bible.)

--- (O) ---

I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. (My book is #37.)

--- (O) ---

Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. (My book is #28.)

--- (O) ---

My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. (It is #23.)

--- (O) ---

I had dreams and visions. (My book is #27.)

--- (O) ---

Because of my predictions, I was often in danger and angered officials. (My book is #24.)

--- (O) (O) ---

I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. (My book is #30.)

--- (O) ---

My book contains descriptions of strange visions. (It is #26.)

(O) --- (O) ---

PROPHETS ARE \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: Jonah, Haggai, Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Messengers



Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This time of year is so exciting! I have new music for all the choirs and the seasonal music has been chosen and ordered.

**Our first handbell rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00pm.** At our first rehearsal, we'll begin with a piece to present in worship in October as well as starting some great Thanksgiving and Christmas music. If you've considered playing handbells with us, this is a great time to start. **Remember, this choir is for adults, middle school, and high school students.**

**Calling mature 4 -year- olds through fifth graders! Join us for a Wonderful Wednesday!** Enjoy some fun songs and games as well as our Bible story and craft. I hope to see our returning friends as well as lots of new faces. See you on **September 13th at 5:00pm!!**

It is very important to have an accurate head count for our first meeting since we need to plan how much food and how many craft projects to prepare. **If you haven't registered your child yet, don't worry, just let me know as soon as possible that they are coming and if you are available to volunteer. We really need more helpers!!** You may call the church office 483-5338 or email me at [music@rm-umc.org](mailto:music@rm-umc.org) anytime. We're going to have a great year!

**New Members/Welcome Back Members Chancel Choir night is September 6 at 7:00pm.** We will begin some new pieces, start to look at our thanksgiving music and Christmas cantata and have time for refreshments and fellowship. **If you enjoy singing, whether you have been in a choir before or not, I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us on September 6th.** We can use more singers on all voice parts! (This choir is

open to middle and high school students, as well as adults.) See you then!

All choirs meet upstairs in the Music Room beside the children's Sunday school area. Adults, if you shy away from stairs, take the elevator to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor! Wonderful Wednesday parents, I would like for an adult to come with your child upstairs at 5pm and one of our volunteers will escort them downstairs to the parking lot level at 6:30pm.

I hope everyone has had a restful summer. I can't wait to see you in the choir!

Love and Peace,  
Lynn

Lift up a song  
to him who rides  
upon the  
clouds—



his  
name  
is the  
**LORD.**

Psalm 68:4





Do you enjoy genealogies? Do you enjoy learning about what your great-great grandparents were up to? Have you found some unsavory characters in your family line and wondered how in the world you're related to them? I'd imagine if you've spent any time poring over the sepia-colored pictures of your family albums that you're into history. Genealogies are a delightful foray into the past, discovering all the intricacies of the past.

What then is the opposite of genealogies? What is the study of the current family of God? Is there such a thing?

We are here to help you in your opposite of genealogy work!

These are the following dates when the youth group needs assistance. You can help them in this work.

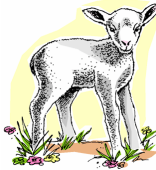
September 30 - Gleaning in Bedford County. We'll be gleaning apples in Bedford County, and we need drivers and gleaners. All the apples we glean will be going to hungry in our area. Missed chaperoning the youth trip North Carolina over the summer? Join in with this trip! Plan on it being a morning trip with lunch on the way home. All ages welcome!

October 11 - Golf Night. This year, we're pairing the passions of the youth with devotionals. For "Golf Night," we'll be sharing in the passion of Harmon English. We're looking for golfers especially who can join us for this night. 5-6:30.

More events are to come for your assistance. Getting tired of the genealogies and want to get with Gen Z? Here's your chance. Contact Pastor Will for more [will@rm-umc.org](mailto:will@rm-umc.org).

### Reminder for Youth

- September 3 Leading games with the children at worship in the park.
- September 9-10 Float on the James River
- September 17 Lake Day
- September 24 Animal Day at Planned Pethood
- September 30 Church Apple Gleaning in Bedford County



### Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

Back to school! The Little Lambs will be returning September 11th. We all are so excited for a brand- new school year. We look forward to the returning students and meeting the new students. The preschool is happy to welcome back Mrs. Casey and Miss. Aundrea this year. We each have lots of fun things planned for each class. The teachers, children, and classroom have all been prayed over for a happy, fun, and safe year! Thank you to the entire church family.

Blessings, Mrs. Kelsey

Let the little children come to me ... it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14, NRSV





## Vital Congregation Statistics for July

### 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 7/31/23		\$179,956
Actual Offerings Received through 7/31/23	\$179,281	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 7/31/23		\$198,597
Actual Expenses Paid through 7/31/23	<\$174,357>	
Ending Balance, 7/31/23	\$25,93	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 101  
 Average Online Viewers = 29  
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 38

### Serving (September 3)

Greeters: Tim and Sandra Funk

Usher: Benny Gibson

### Serving (September 10)

Children's Church:

Liturgist: Steve Angle

Greeters: Glenda Thompson

Usher: Bobby Thompson

### Serving (September 17)

Children's Church: Heather Quinn

Liturgist: Miles Gibson

Greeter: Annette Board

Usher: Benny Board

### Serving (September 24)

Liturgist: Mark Newbill

Usher: Mike Turner

Greeter: Jane Turner

### September Counters

9/5 Martha Sue Gibson  
Becky Newbill

9/11 Jack Watts  
Bobby Thompson

9/18 Ben Whitesell  
Ina Clements

9/25 Linda Handy  
Charlotte Hill



September 23 Bob and Patsy Swain  
September 24 Bill & Robin Cooper



**Happy Birthday to:**

September 3 Ashley Johoske  
September 3 Jessica Turner  
September 5 Shirley Farmer  
September 7 Amber Altice  
September 7 Deanna Stone  
September 8 Benny Board  
September 8 Jessica Mitchell  
September 9 Hazel Henderson  
September 11 Jane Roseberry  
September 12 Jane Turner  
September 14 P. D. Hambrick  
September 15 Billy McBride  
September 15 Terri Naff  
September 15 Leanne Worley  
September 16 Jennifer Ardis  
September 16 Jonathan Ardis  
September 17 Lew Hege  
September 17 Flo Torrence  
September 17 Doris Young  
September 18 Craig Teeple  
September 20 Logan Byrd  
September 20 Chapin Engel  
September 22 Carl Secrest  
September 23 Karla Pagans  
September 23 Cindy Smith  
September 24 Maren Byrd  
September 25 Erin Myers  
September 26 Mariah Banks Shealor  
September 27 Nickey Bryant  
September 27 Tristen Bryant  
September 28 Isabela Godfrey

**Happy Anniversary to:**

September 5 George & Sylvia Hutcherson  
September 7 Conrad & Phyllis Lavinder  
September 7 Charlie & Marsha Robertson  
September 11 Alex & Anne Lewis Dessart  
September 14 John & Diana Clements

To my church family,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to each of you for your support during my illness. Your prayers, cards, food, and gifts have truly been a blessing to me. Please continue your prayers as I continue this journey.

In Christian love, Debbie Caulder

Dear RMUMC,

I want to thank you all for your prayers, love and support for me and my family during my health concerns. God is good and I am on the mend. I could not have gotten through this time without your support. Thank you, my dear church family.  
Willie Denny

**Prayer Concerns:**

September 28 Isabela Godfrey, Kelly Peterson; Willie Denny; 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; Karen Hobgood (Tammy Burdick); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); Don Angle (Steve Angle ); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); Linda Wimmer (Crystal Minnix)

**Forget-Me-Nots:** Kathleen Higgins, Peggy Santrock, Peggy McAndrew



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Open Hearts...

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

**ROCKY  
MOUNT**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The People of the United Methodist Church*

**CHURCH STAFF**

Reverend Will Waller, Pastor  
Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries  
Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist  
Teresa Strobel, Office Manager  
Valerie Latimer, Finance Manager  
Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant  
Rebecca Dillon, Children's Church Coordinator  
Brad Hodges, Custodian

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

10:00 a.m. Small Groups

10:55 a.m. Worship