

THE TIE THAT BINDS

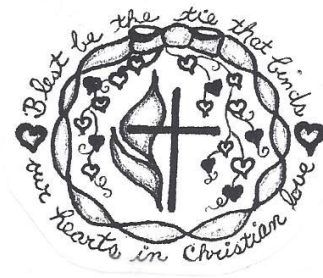
Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

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



November 2023



"The largest dessert table this side of the Pigg River!"

"That succulent turkey...oooo weeee!"

"The fellowship with my church family made Thanksgiving so special!"

These are statements you might hear this November when the church gathers for its annual fellowship event on November 19 after worship. There will be turkey and drinks, but we ask that folks bring either a side or dessert to share. There will be plenty for everyone; invite a friend to join in. And if you do, you just might hear: "Thanks for inviting me; this is the kind of church I want to be a part of!"

To help with dishes and set-up, email or contact Sharon Angle at angle.sharon@gmail.com or (540)-354-4589.



Come and decorate the church for Advent on November 27 at 10:00 a.m. Hang wreaths, string lights, put up greenery, and enjoy the fellowship of the beginning of Advent - the season of awaiting Christ's birth! If it's your first time, no worries! There are people willing to show you what goes where. See you then!



Again this year during the season of Advent, you will be given the opportunity to select an Advent Friend. Envelopes will be available on Sunday, December 3, containing the name of a church family member, "an Advent Friend," who is either shut-in or in need of some special care during the Advent season. You will be asked to pray for this person and extend other kindnesses such as a personal call, a greeting card, or other special treats. If you know of someone who would appreciate the special care of this ministry, please notify the church office by Sunday, November 19.



Don't forget to "fall back!"
Daylight Saving Time Ends November 5



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

In high school, I had a friend that wandered behind me in the halls collecting all the loose things I dropped. Organization isn't my strong suit. Knowing this, he'd make sure I had my forms, keys, books, bag, and head when it fell off having not been screwed on real tight. I was a laughingstock when I wasn't a crying stock.

Things have improved but my desk in the office still resembles a small hamlet after an EF-2 comes through. Papers are hither and papers are yon. I aver that I can find things if you would just give me a minute.

Ironically, the other day I helped a parishioner find their phone. Thinking it was in the building, we called it and wandered around in a manner the Israelites would have been familiar with. Eventually, the phone was found in the last place we looked. There was great rejoicing and exaltation.

"Finding what's lost" sits atop the hill of "greatest feelings you didn't know you wanted to feel but thankfully now do." Below it is "hearing your song on the radio" and "getting a spot near the door at Kroger." When you find what's lost, you can actually appreciate the full expanse of how much frustration you had. I'm so low, so silly, so unable to function in the civilized world if I can't find these keys, you think. And then, miraculously, gloriously, they're there! Huzzah! Hooray! Happy dance time!

Recently in reading Colossians 1, I heard these words: We give "thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:12-13, RSV). You can almost hear the celebration of God that what was dark is now bathed in light, what was lost is now found. You've been liberated, set free by the redemptive love of God and you're now an inheritor of the brilliant goodness of God! I repeat, you are found!

This is the season of thanksgiving. Surely, we can rejoice and give thanks to God for the miraculous saving we've received through Jesus Christ. We can, and should, worship the Lord for his work and salvation. Even better than a friend who collects cast off socks, you've been found by the Lord above and you are in his resplendent light.

In Christ,
Will



United Women in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

You can make a **monetary donation of any amount to the Helping Fund** in memory or in honor of a family member or friend for Christmas. The names will be listed in the bulletin on December 10. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office by **Monday, November 20**. (You may also put this form in the offering plate.) Checks should be made payable to Rocky Mount United Methodist Church.

What an eventful year this has been for our UWF. We just completed our Fall Annual Bake and Soup Sale. Thank you everyone who peeled, chopped, stirred, or baked for this event. It is a large part of our budget and mission giving. Because of the second mile giving we can support local missions. Thank you everyone who made a purchase, we appreciate it more than you will ever know.

November 6 at 11:00 a.m. is our next scheduled meeting. This is our World Thank program where we make second mile giving for the Women's Division supporting women, children, and youth throughout the world. We have two speakers lined up for this meeting: Linda Verhoff and Kim Weinschreider who will speak about their experiences through Medical Mission. This should be a fantastic meeting, plan now to attend. Nancy Middaugh will remember the Forget-me-nots for Thanksgiving and Charlotte Hill will have a devotional.

On December 4 at 11:45 a.m. we will have our Christmas Luncheon at the Hotel Roanoke. We have twenty reservations and only fourteen have made reservations so far. Call Phyllis Lavinder (540-483-4905) to reserve your spot.

United Women in Faith is an active group whose purpose is to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ and develop creative supportive fellowship. Come and check us out!

Helping Fund Donation \$ _____

Given by:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:



United Methodist Men

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on November 12 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



Sontag Nutrition Program

(Kelly Peterson and Terri Naff, Coordinators)

Below is the schedule for baggers and deliverers for November.

Baggers: RMUMC Youth Group

Deliverers:

Week of October 30-November 3:

Benny and Annette Board

Week of November 6-10:

Jack Collins

Week of November 13-17:

P.D. Hambrick

Week of November 20-21:

Linda Handy and Charlotte Hill

Enough for today

Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we got to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it is rained down from heaven, at our very doors.

—Tryon Edwards

Flower Chart

The flower chart for 2024 is here.

Reserve your “special Sunday”

now to provide altar

flowers during the worship service. Also, remember that the piano is available for an arrangement should there be two individuals interested in the same date. You will be responsible for ordering the flowers. Call the church office or stop by the chart on the bulletin board that is located at the steps that go down to the preschool to reserve your special date.



Hermitage Roanoke will be celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2024 for providing excellent care for the senior citizens in our communities. To mark this milestone, the Hermitage Guild is selling bricks in honor or remembrance to be placed in the new Hermitage Roanoke Reflection Garden. In its center will be a 3-tiered fountain and benches nestled under shade trees near the estate entrance. Consider honoring friends and loved ones by purchasing a brick at \$100 each for the Reflection Garden. Forms are available in the church office or from Judy Anderson.

“Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.”
—Native American saying



Vital Congregation Statistics for September

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 9/30/23		\$231,372
Actual Offerings Received through 9/30/23	\$218,124	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 9/30/23		\$255,339
Actual Expenses Paid through 9/30/23	< <u>\$233,436</u> >	
Ending Balance, 9/30/23	\$5,757	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 100
Average Online Viewers = 32
Average Small Groups Attendance = 36

Bounty of Thanks



We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

This month is a busy time for our musicians as we prepare our holiday music. On November 19, the Jubilant Ringers will play a dynamic Thanksgiving piece and the Chancel Choir will sing *Give Thanks and Glorify His Name* for our 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving worship service. During this season, remember all the wonderful gifts God has given us. Invite family and friends to join us in praise and worship for Thanksgiving!

Along with Thanksgiving preparations, we are working on our Advent/Christmas music. The children are polishing their Christmas play, "A Christmas Yarn" to be presented on December 3 at 6:30 p.m. (We will also sing a "preview" song from the musical at 11:00 a.m. worship on December 3.)

"At Unique Gifts from Luxurious Yarns (U.G.L.Y.), ugly is beautiful! At the factory of the world's leading supplier of ugly Christmas sweaters, a huge order must be shipped the day before Christmas. The team of Bob Cratchit (that's pronounced Cro-shay), Tiny Tom and others are busy weaving a plan together, while Sam Ebenezer, company founder, encounters three mysterious visitors who not only help overcome some ugly obstacles but bring the beautiful, good news of Christmas! With apologies to a well-loved Christmas carol, don your ugliest Christmas sweater and have a dickens of a good time with us!" Add the date to your calendar! You'll receive a real Christmas blessing!

The Chancel Choir and instrumentalists will present the musical, *Have You Heard?* during worship on December 10. This cantata calls on Celtic musical traditions and instrumentation to deliver a refreshing sound for Christmas! The orchestration incorporates Irish flute, drum, bells, and piano to paint vivid imagery of a beautifully lush and green Irish countryside. Familiar Christmas carols appear, as do some familiar Christmas texts set to beloved Irish and Welsh folk songs. An ethereal opening sets the stage before breaking into an exuberant rendition of "*I Saw Three Ships.*" The songs "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus;*" "*Away in a Manger;*" "*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child;*" and the beloved "*Angels We Have Heard on High*" all make appearances as the work progresses, culminating with a rhythmic re-imagining of "*O Come, All Ye Faithful*" set to the traditional Scottish melody LOCH LOMOND. One of the highlights of this musical is "*O Holy Night,*" written for soloist and choir and set to the timeless tune, LONDONDERRY AIR. Join us for this very special presentation on December 10!

Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas are very special times for our music ministries. We're hoping for the most meaningful season ever. Don't miss any of our wonderful music as well as the inspired messages. You are going to be blessed!!

Love and Peace,
Lynn

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

—G.K. Chesterton



During a recent youth group meeting, the youth were asked what is the hardest decision that they had to make recently? One youth spoke about whether to ride a roller coaster or not, another spoke about trepidation regarding a trip they were invited to take, and another spoke about concerns for the future in regard to college. Another student spoke rather candidly about their fears of making lonely a person they felt they needed to cut out of their life. This student worried somewhat about the feelings of this other person while acknowledging that addition can come through deletion.

These decisions were momentous. The decisions brought their faith to bear into their relationships. "Is it God's will that I can remove someone from friendship or is forgiveness and acceptance of their bad behavior the best course of action?" "Does God have a will for me for college?" "Can I find some clarity about a trip I've been invited upon?" These aren't just questions for this time of one's life; they're questions that we ponder as adults.

Through prayerful request, God gives wisdom. Furthermore, wisdom accumulates throughout the years through trial and error, through success and failure. It would help the youth clarify decisions like this for more adults to be involved in their life. Consider pouring into the minds and souls of these young people your motherlode of wisdom.

Furthermore, mentorship is invaluable. It's biblical - see Paul and Timothy. It's reasonable - see groups like Big Brother/Big Sister. It's fun - you might

be the one to ride the roller coaster with these youth. It's rejuvenating - maybe your children have flown the coop and they don't call nearly enough. Participation in the lives of the youth here at RMUMC might alleviate the hole in your heart because they don't dial your digits quite nearly enough.

Pray on it. Can you help with these decisions? To participate, volunteer with Pastor Will today.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

"In everything give thanks"
1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Little Lambs are very excited for our feast coming up. We look forward to yummy food and shared time with family and friends. We are collecting canned food for a local food bank this month, to help the children learn about being thankful and giving. We are so thankful here at Little Lambs for our preschool and church family. We want to wish you all a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!

Blessings!
Kelsey



On October 8, we welcomed Linda Rae Hoffman-Keith by transfer of letter from Memorial United Methodist Church in Connecticut.



Happy Birthday to:

- November 1 E. B. Easter
- November 2 Annette D. Board
- November 3 Debbie Rucker
- November 4 Laura Hannula
- November 7 Logan Engel
- November 8 Christina Gibson
- November 9 Natalie Cook
- November 11 Rhonda Chapman
- November 11 Isaac Godfrey
- November 11 Zac Perdue
- November 13 Ann Coffey
- November 14 Robert Jarrett
- November 14 Alice Lively
- November 15 Barbara Beck
- November 16 Bridgett Damron
- November 16 Debra Vaughn
- November 17 Emily Prillaman
- November 18 Mike Turner
- November 19 Mike Jenkins
- November 21 Stephanie Cook
- November 23 Tammy Burdick
- November 23 Mary Hollyday
- November 24 Anthony Cundiff
- November 24 Nancy Middaugh
- November 24 Evan Stone
- November 25 Breanna Bowles
- November 25 Grove Revercomb
- November 26 Josh Quinn
- November 27 Bays Gibson
- November 27 Delois Leonard
- November 27 Liam McBride
- November 27 Jason Myers

Happy Anniversary to:

- November 1 CO and Erika Brickey
- November 8 Bob and Rhonda Chapman
- November 18 Mike and Lynn Meeks

Dear RMUMC family,

I would like to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during the time of my injury. Thankfully, I am currently feeling much better and almost back to 100%. I am so grateful for the cards, emails, text messages, phone calls and food that you sent to me during this challenging time. Your support means so much. I am truly blessed to be a member of such a loving church family.

Sincerely,
Kelly Peterson

Pastor Will and my RMUMC Family:

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support during the sickness and loss of my Jack. Your cards, visits, food, calls, service, and reception were a true blessing.

I ask for your continuing prayers as I adjust to a different life without Jack and continue my challenges with cancer. You are the best! Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With love and blessings,
Betty

"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water: It will make ripples throughout the entire pond."

—Jessy and Bryan Matteo



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Israel; People of Ukraine; Ronnie Breedlove; Abraham Tosh; Willie Denny; Arnold Dillon, Sr.; Rodney Cundiff; Bob Huffman; Debbie Caulder; Jason Lavinder; Hazel Henderson; Jerry Davis; Barbara Huffman; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Jennifer Cooper; Richard Shoemaker (Jennie Ardis); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); Don Angle (Steve Angle); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland); Tina Funk (Lindsey McDaniel); Carol Vaughn (Lisa Angle); Linda Wimmer (Crystal Minnix); and Hannah Bittner (Cassandra Bittner).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Kathleen Higgins, Peggy Santrock, Peggy McAndrew



Tim Funk and Family in the death of his nephew, Matthew Sink, on October 9

Tyler Godfrey and Family in the death of his nephew, AJ Evatt, on October 9

Family of Jack Dillon who passed away on October 10

Ann Coffey and Family in the death of her brother-in-law, UK Custred, on October 15

Bob Chapman and Family in the death of his stepmother, Ann Chapman, on October 19

Just for Kids

THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant _____

Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____

The act of gratitude _____

Food made from wheat _____

Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be _____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thankful, giving

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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, 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