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" December 2023/January 2024

Save the Dates:

December 1st: Chili Sales benefitting the United Methodist Men at the

Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas, 5:30pm-8pm. Near Franklin Glass.

December 2nd: Dress rehearsal from 10:30-11:30 for the annual Children's Christmas Play "The Christmas Yarn"

December 2nd: United Women in Faith Advent Brunch at Rustburg United Methodist Church at 9 pm

December 3rd: Advent begins with worship at 10:55 am; Children's Play at 6:30 pm

December 10th: Christmas Cantata at 10:55 am

Special Needs Luncheon and Gift Giving in the Atrium after worship

December 17th: Advent Worship Service at 10:55 am

Final day to return gifts for family for Operation Christmas Joy

Youth Christmas Party at 5-8pm in Roanoke

December 20th: Gifting Day for Operation Christmas Joy at 3:15pm, Essig Center

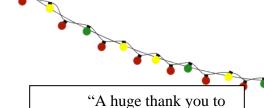
December 24th: Advent Worship Service at 10:55am

Candlelit Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7 pm

January 13th: United Women in Faith movie night- location to be announced

January 21st: RMUMC Talent Show

Bring a friend for Christmas Eve, the most beautiful night of the year!



"A huge thank you to everyone who stayed after church on Sunday to help decorate for Advent. Our church looks beautiful all decked out!"

Dear Rocky Mount UMC,

Recently our family traveled to Big Bend National Park. We spent most of our time in Texas in that astounding park. We gazed at cacti, pondered these significant mountains jutting out from the plains, and enjoyed more Tex-Mex than a physician advises. Even as we were eating chips and salsa and hiking around, the proximity to the border with Mexico was constantly at the front of our mind. When we told people where we were heading, most were surprised.

While in Big Bend National Park, we ventured down to a hot spring that sits on the banks of the Rio Grande. The Rio Grande is the border for the two countries in that part of the world. As we lazed about in the hot spring, soaking up the 105-degree waters, Mexico lay just 20 feet away. Mexico didn't seem to be another world; it was so close a Little Leaguer could toss a rock onto its soil. It was idyllic. It was serene.

It wasn't until we got to El Paso, Texas that the border changed significantly. The border was no longer just a trickling body of water, but rather a 30-foot-tall wall, with a moat and then another barbed wire fence. Imposing, to say the least. We drove for 10 or so miles along the border road into El Paso, with this brown wall glooming over us. Through the slats we could see Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, a bustling city apparently full of folks trying to get into America. This wall was a stark juxtaposition from our previous experience along the Rio Grande where we spent blissful hours relaxing in rejuvenating waters. Still, even the wall did not strike us as much as a sign we saw multiple times along Border Road TX-375.

"Watch out for unexpected pedestrians."

This sign informed motorists that at any time, people could stream over the fence, through the moat, and over another fence to find themselves on a 6-lane highway with 65 mph traffic. Our eyes darted back and forth, wondering if this was the time, if this was the hour that we'd see that unexpected pedestrian. When I could look at the eyes of the other motorists, they did not look as vigilant as we. For them, this was another drive into the biggest city in West Texas. This was just another Tuesday. Sure, there might be unexpected pedestrians, but then again there might not be.

We as a church are about to begin our journey to the manger and head towards that Holy Night, my thoughts remain with those signs Emily, Zeke and I saw in the West Texas desert. Surely, there were signs that Jesus Christ would become an unexpected pedestrian in our world. Isaiah prophesied; Micah



predicted. There were signs, yes. But I wonder if the majority of people didn't think all that much about that night when the census was held, when the inns were full. Bethlehem was filled to the brim with pedestrians, but it seemed unlikely that *that* Unexpected Pedestrian would be there.

But He was.

Christmas fulfills the hope that Christ would not be barred from coming to this place. He left heaven and took on the form of a slave. He crossed over that barrier, and he took his place among the people he came to serve. Expected by some, unexpected to most, Christ came to save us.

This new year, I'm placing a greater emphasis than ever on evangelism for our church. A hurting world needs the hope of Jesus. And I believe that the barriers to evangelism are largely self-erected. We let fear of rejection curb our efforts. I pray that we live boldly and work sacrificially as we reach our neighborhoods in this county. We might be unexpected by those we serve, but the expectation by God is the same. Let his name and renown echo. From El Paso to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to Rocky Mount, to the world.

Merry Christmas, and have a blessed New Year, Will



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; All suffering under the ravages of war; Martha Anderson; 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; Jane Inman (Linda Walters); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); Don Angle (Steve Angle); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland); Carol Vaughn (Lisa Angle); Linda Wimmer (Crystal Minnix); Hannah Bittner (Cassandra Bittner); Jerry Ridgeway (Allyson Lynch).

Forget-Me-Nots:

Kathleen Higgins, Peggy Santrock, Peggy McAndrew

Jennie Ardis and Family in the death of her brother, Richard Shoemaker II, on October 27.

You're invited to participate in a Lay Servant Academy offering here at our church. Lay Servant Academy is a yearly event in the Virginia Annual Conference for those who show an interest in serving the Mountain View districts as a laity. Previous lay servants have preached for pastors that are away on vacation, others have taken on a role with the district on boards and agencies. Offerings have been slim for lay servants locally for several years, but with some fresh excitement on the district level, we're proud to provide an opportunity right here at Rocky Mount UMC.

Lay Servants are one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

The United Methodist Church shares the following about the need for lay servants. "Lay Servant Ministries can be a significant component of any intentional discipleship system, particularly systems based on the core process or cycle of discipleship described in ¶122 of The Book of Discipline. Laity are the primary agents of holy love incarnate in the world: "The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission" (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶127, "The Ministry of the Laity," p. 97).

If you are feeling a call toward deeper ministry as a lay person, here's a great opportunity for you. Starting January 3rd and running through the end of January, there will be a course taught by Pastor Will Waller on United Methodist Heritage. This is one of the courses that you must complete if you are planning to continue towards a certification as a lay servant. Note, you do not need to complete the training to participate in this course.

To participate in this, you must buy Living Our United Methodist Heritage by George Donigian and Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way by Bishop Kenneth Carder as well as attend the classes. There is a reflection paper due in the middle of the month.

I'd invite all who sense God's nudging them into deeper ministry to participate. If there are those who wonder, "Why am I a United Methodist?" you should participate. If you'd like to brush up on your UMC history, you should participate.

Contact Pastor Will at will@rm-umc.org for more information

By Baptism:

Ariel Rose Marie Minnix
Nakoma Little Wolf Minnix
Gabriel Joseph Matthew Minnix
Toby Allen Edward Minnix
Chance Roy Travis Minnix
Cody Taylor Minnix
Nickolas "Nick" James Minnix

Transfer of membership from Mays Memorial UMC:

Carlton "CJ" Roy Minnix, Jr. Crystal Dawn Muse-Minnix Zachary "Zach" Tyler Muse

Crystal Minnix has graciously offered her Phone number for contact and connection (540)266-2744





Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighly God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, MIV

What a blessing this church has been! I wanted to thank you all for being such beacons of light as you've welcomed me onto the RMUMC Office Staff! This job is the perfect opportunity for me to not only use, but further develop my communication and design skills. I had prayed long and hard to find a job exactly like this, and I am so incredibly blessed that this prayer was answered. A little bit about me is that I am a junior at Liberty University, where I am pursuing an online degree in Strategic Communications. I am an avid lover of all things nature, especially out

Sontag Nutrition Program

Baggers for December:

Judy Anderson and Mitzi Secrest

Deliverers for December:

Week of November 27 - December 1: Benny and

Annette Board

Week of December 4 - December 8: Jack Collins Week of December 11 -

December 15: PD

Hambrick

Week of December 18 - December 19: Charlotte Hill and Linda Handy

Baggers for January:

Johnny and Penny Guilliams

Deliverers for January:

Week of January 1 -

January 5: Benny and

Annette Board

Week of January 8 -

January 12: Jack Collins

Week of January 15 -

January 19: PD Hambrick

Week of January 22

January 26: Charlotte Hill

and Linda Handy



in the woods hiking, which is where I find tremendous peace. I am also an avid fan of 60's and 70's classic rock, I don't know a bigger Creedence Clearwater Rival fan! I also love all animals and furry companions, yes, even the scaly and slithery companions! I would love to exchange pet photos anytime. Never hesitate to reach out, even if it's just to check-in.

In Christ's Love, Emma Pasley RMUMC Office N

RMUMC Office Manager Email admin@rm-umc.org

If you're a parent, you know one thing—your kids are always changing. From newborn to twelfth grade, there is always something new in their development, or some new challenge they are facing, or some new obstacle they are overcoming.

So how do we make the most of each developmental phase in a kid's life? How do we parent in a way that helps our kids feel known and supported? How can we anticipate some of the challenges they will face?

On Sunday morning, January 7, we are launching Parenting Through the Phases, a 6-week study led by Tammy Burdick and John Hatchett. This inspiring, guilt-free parenting small group will help you make the most of the developmental phase your child or teen is in right now. It's never too late, even if you're parenting a twelfth grader! Mark your calendars, and we'll see you there!

There will be a box near the elevator in the church for the collection of coats, boats and winter wear. These articles will be taken to the Essig Center, they will be distributed to where they will be needed. There is a need for this, many children and adults don't have warm outer wear. We have heard we might be in for a cold snowy winter.

Thank you for your help on gathering and donating for this cause.

Vital Congregation Statistics for October

Finances—Church Operating Budget

DRIVE

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 10/31/23

\$257,080

Actual Offerings Received through 10/31/23 Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 10/31/23 Actual Expenses Paid through 10/31/23 Ending Balance, 10/31/23

\$283,790

<<u>\$256,796></u> \$11,521

\$247.248

On Saturday, December 2 at 9 AM the Mountain View District United Women in Faith will hold an Advent Brunch at Rustburg United Methodist Church, 664 Village Highway in Rustburg. The hosting unit will be Rustburg UWF. A delicious breakfast will be served. Worship, including a holiday musical program, will follow.

Reservations are required. Cost is \$5/ person. Make a reservation with Linda Walters at lindaw@shentel.net or text or call 757-635-0109.

The Rocky Mount United Women in Faith will meet in the church parking lot at 11 AM (no later) to travel to the Hotel Roanoke for its Annual December Luncheon on Monday, December 4. For those going to the Hotel Roanoke on their own, lunch is scheduled for



11:45 AM. This is a popular RMUWF event. After

a delicious buffet luncheon, we will travel through the hotel to view the decorated trees. There are still a few spots available. Contact Phyllis Lavinder at virginiaheartgirl@yahoo.com or by texting or calling 540-420-8381 if you are interested in attending.

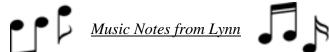
As a reminder, our January meeting will be held in the Assembly Room at 11 AM on Monday, January 8. We will have a business meeting and pledge program at this time.

Rocky Mount United Women in Faith is open to any woman in the church. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 11 AM in the Assembly Room. Our mission is to support women, youth, and children in our community, nationally, and internationally. See any UWF member for more information.

On Saturday, January 13 the district will hold a movie event complete with popcorn from 10 AM until 3 PM, location to be announced. Two movies, based on books from the 2024 reading list, will be shown. Feature One, Hidden Figures, will be shown from 10-12. We will break for a soup luncheon served by the District Team at noon and show Feature Two, The Hate You Give, from 1-3. You can join us for one or both movies. There is no cost for this event and reservations are not necessary. Please come, enjoy fun, fellowship, and food with your fellow district UWF members and get reading credit in the process!

Dum spiro, spero

While I breathe, I hope





December is full of music! The children will have a dress rehearsal for the Christmas play on Saturday, December 2nd at 10:30am. The children should be finished by 11:30am. They will give us a "preview" of their play as they sing a selection during morning worship on December 3rd (Parents, we will meet upstairs at 10:45am) At 6:30pm that evening, the children's choirs will present their musical "A Christmas Yarn". (All children should be dressed and in the church parlor by 6pm.) Add this date to your calendar and don't forget to wear your most spectacular ugly Christmas sweater. You'll receive a real Christmas blessing!

Jubilant Ringers will play a beautiful arrangement of "Away in a Manger" during worship on December 17th as we continue to remember a faithful Handbell Choir member, Vanessa Carter. And don't miss the Chancel Choir presentation of the musical "Have You Heard?" during worship on December 10th. This cantata calls on Celtic musical traditions and instrumentation to deliver a refreshing sound for Christmas! 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 the carol "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

"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!

And finally, worship with us on December 24th at 7pm, for our annual Christmas Eve Service. Special music will greet you as you arrive, we'll have soloists and instrumentalists, and of course "Silent Night".

January Music Notes...

Wonderful Wednesday will take a break and resume on January 10th. I will be making up the full volunteer schedule for the rest of the school year to be circulated by the end of December. If you are a volunteer and don't receive a list, please check the bulletin board next to the Assembly Room (on the 3rd floor) for extra copies. If you would like to be a new volunteer, please let me know. We can always use more help!

Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on January 3rd and handbells will begin the New Year with practice on January 9. If you are thinking about joining any of our choirs, January is a great time to start. We can always use more singers and ringers!

Remember if Franklin County Public Schools are closed (for in person learning) or dismissed early on a choir practice day due to bad weather, we will not meet. If in doubt, call me (483-9799).

Mike, the girls, and I thank you for another wonderful year together. Each one of you means so much to us. We wish you a joyous holiday season and many, many blessings in the new year! Love and Peace,

Lynn



Advent Reflections- Daily Devotional Plan

The Christmas season is busy with a lot of fun! If you also want to take time to reflect on what it meant for the Son of God to be born in Bethlehem, this is for you.

Starting Sunday, December 1, you can join in with others in Advent Reflections, a daily devotional plan found in the YouVersion Bible App. Whether you're up early packing lunches, up late folding

laundry, or sitting and waiting for pretty much anything, you can also take a few minutes to dwell in the meaning of the greatest gift of Christmas.

Here's how to join in:

Download the app (scan the QR code or search for the YouVersion Bible app in the App Store or Google Play).

Tap on Discover, then Churches. Rocky Mount United Methodist Churches should appear under Churches Near me.

Set Rocky Mount UMC as your church to see Advent Reflections as the featured plan. Plus, encouragement to keep you going!

See you there!

Abide- 365 Days in the Word

Spending time reading scripture is a great way to grow closer to God. Reading the whole Bible? That's something many talk about, but few accomplish.

In 2024, Rocky Mount United Methodist is up for that challenge! Together, we'll set aside time to read scripture and follow a "read the Bible in a year" plan offered by The Bridge Church in Tennessee and the YouVersion Bible app called, "Abide | 365 Days In The Word." Each day will feature passages from the Old and New Testament. Plus with everything in chronological order, you can get a clear picture of the whole story, starting at the beginning of Creation and Matthew's accounting of Jesus' genealogy.

Two ways you can read along:

- 1. Save the monthly reading plan shared in each month's newsletter. You can find the January plan included here.
- 2. Follow the plan as featured in the YouVersion Bible app. We'll also share this as the church's featured plan in the app in late December.

The goal? For you to read the Bible from cover to cover. Whether you complete the reading in December, or even January or February, we'll celebrate and give God glory for the gift of His

Word etched on our hearts. We can't wait to hear how this spiritual discipline makes a difference in your life and faith!

Everyone at the preschool hopes you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! The Little Lambs had a wonderful November. We are thankful for everyone who was able to attend the Thanksgiving feast. The feast was full of yummy food and great fellowship. We are also very proud of the canned food drive we had in November. The preschool as a whole collected over 100 cans with the children's and parents' help!



The preschool is excited for our upcoming Christmas program and the New Year. The children will learn the

true meaning of Christmas this December at preschool. JESUS! Our bible verse we will learn for the month of December is "For unto us a child is born. To us a son is given."
-Isaiah 9:6

The preschool wishes you all a very Merry and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings Mrs. Kelsey



This December and January is a busy time for the youth group. We prepare for the Special Needs Luncheon to be held after worship on December 10th. We have our annual Christmas party on December 17. We've got our calendar planning ahead for the new year. It's a busy time! We continue on with Passion Nights where night is youth-led as we delve into their personal passions and see how those passions intertwine with their faith.

But it's not too busy to give a shout-out to our youth representative on the Church Council. The youth rep is Lindsey Jenkins. Lindsey is a senior at FCHS this year and has been the youth rep for a year and a half. She's whip smart with a crack sense of humor. You can often find her leading the charge when we have discussions in youth group. She meets with the pastor each semester to plan out the time for the youth. You can count on Lindsey for any and all parts of the worship service. In her spare time, she is an integral part of Franklin County Youth Life. She's active with the drama department at the high school. And she's an avid reader!

During this busy time of the year, the youth group wouldn't be what it is today with Lindsey Jenkins. Thank you Lindsey for devoting so much of your time to youth group, in response to devoting your heart to the Lord!

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church



Showcasing all the talent of our congregation to raise funds for the Henry Fork Service Center

The showcase is right after our worship service

Sign up to showcase your talent via the provided QR Code

21 January 2024

35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151



Happy Birthday to:

Happy Birtha	<u>ay to:</u>
December 2	Robin Cooper
December 3	Henry Hambrick
December 3	Mitzi Secrest
December 3	Ethan Smawley
December 4	Lili Call
December 5	Russell Gordon
December 6	Martha Collins
December 6	Abbey Justice
December 7	Terry Moran
December 7	Kelly Peterson
December 7	Bob Swain
December 7	Ryan Weaver
December 9	Ricky Matthews
December 11	Daniel Cundiff
December 12	Asher Bryant
December 13	Glenda Thompson
December 15	Ben Whitesell
December 16	Sue Jones
December 20	Evan Hatchett
December 20	Dick Shoemaker
December 21	Sam Roseberry
December 25	Daniel Bowles
December 26	Taylor Jones
December 26	Kathy Palmieri
December 27	John Clements
December 30	Roger Middaugh
December 30	Donald Riddle, Jr.
December 31	Will Ardis
December 31	Tim Funk
December 31	Keri Jackson

Happy Anniversary to:

December 3	Johnny and Penny Guilliams
December 10	David and Susan Clements
December 27	Bruce and Rebecca Tuttle
December 28	Adam and Abigail Bennett
December 31	Steve and Lisa Angle

Happy Birthday to:

zzapp, zeronoa	
January 1	Joshua Bowles
January 1	Bob Huffman
January 3	Ashley Dillon
January 4	Rodney Cundiff
January 4	Jason Lavinder
January 6	Arnold Dillon, Jr.
January 8	Chris Teeple
January 8	Melissa Teeple
January 10	Rachel Hall
January 11	Steve English
January 12	Julie English
January 12	Brenda Wright
January 13	Tracy Jenkins
January 13	William Revercomb
January 14	Dana Kelley
January 14	Kyle Lewis
January 15	Bobby Hodges
January 16	Russell Damron
January 16	Mauri Sink
January 18	Whitney Angle Colaprete
January 19	Susan Whitesell
January 20	McKenzie Prillaman
January 21	Addison Gibson

January 21 Ainsley Gibson January 21 Conrad Lavinder

January 23 Tara McBride
January 24 Lillie Hatchett
January 26 Benny Gibson
January 27 Kevin Clements

January 29 Patsy Swain January 30 Sarah Bowles

Happy Anniversary to:

January 1	Jack and Martha Collins
January 11	Dan and Linda Walters
January 14	Bob and Barbara Huffman





	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23 1:	2/24/23	12/31/23
Liturgist	Becky Newbill	Steve Angle	Greg Dunlap	Linda Dunlap	
Greeters	Cindy Smith, Terry Moran	Pat Cundiff	Annette Board		
Acolytes	Landry Foutz, Levi Call	Lillie Hatchet, John Godfrey	Lucas Call	Miles Gibson	Silas Gibson
Ushers	Benny Gibson	Mike Turner, Jane Turner	Benny Board		
Children's Church	Cindy St Clair	Linda Handy	Betty Worley	Nancy Middaugh	Serena Jamison
Nursery	Jessica Call	Mittie Hambrick	Emily Waller	Martha Sue Gibson	Ina Clements
Altar Flowers	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	

	1/7/24	1/14/24	1/21/24	1/28/24
Liturgist				
Greeters	Cindy Smith, Terry Moran	Tim Funk, Sandra Funk	Glenda Thompson	Jane Roseberry
Acolytes				
Ushers			Bobby Thompson	Sam Roseberry, Phillip Roseberry
Children's Church	Christina Gibson	Jessica Call	Jessica Mitchell	Heather Quinn
Nursery	Avery Tosh	Jane Roseberry	Jessica Call	Peggy Hodges
Altar Flowers				

December Counters:
4th: Cindy Smith, Glenda Thompson
11th: Linda Handy, Charlotte Hill 18th: Martha Sue Gibson, Becky Newbill 27th: Ina Clements, Ben Whitesell

January Counters:
2nd: Ina Clements, Ben Whitesell
8th: Cindy Smith, Glenda Thompson
11th: Bobby Thompson, Jack Watts
22nd: Linda Handy, Charlotte Hill
29th: Martha Sue Gibson, Becky Newbill

ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 35 North Main Street Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 13
ROCKY MOUNT,
VA 24151

PRESORT

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Reverend Will Waller, Pastor
Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries
Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist
Emma Pasley, 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