24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026 – 10:55 A.M.

***Please stand as you are able**

Entrance

Meditative Music Jeanne Banks, Pianist
Announcements
Chiming the Hour
Acolyte Ministry
Opening Voluntary *Trumpet Voluntary* - Young Lynn Meeks, Organist

Greeting

***Call to Worship:** Karla Pagans, Liturgist

L: Let us rejoice! The Lord provides for us, restores what has been lost, and pours out the Spirit upon all people.

P: We rejoice in God's abundant grace and give thanks for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who calls and equips us for faithful service.

L: God's Spirit is poured out on sons and daughters, young and old, servants and leaders. All are invited to receive God's gifts and share in God's work.

P: We are many members, yet we are one body in Christ. Each of us is gifted, each of us is needed, and all of us belong to God.

L: If one member suffers, we suffer together. If one member rejoices, we rejoice together. God has joined us together so that we may care for one another.

P: We celebrate the gifts God has given us and commit ourselves to use them for the good of the whole body and the glory of Christ.

***Hymn of Praise** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* No.158
***Affirmation of Faith** A Modern Affirmation No. 885
Invitation to the Children *Where Children Belong* *FWS* No. 2233

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

Children's Time *(Afterwards, children in preschool through 2nd grade may go to Children's Church on the fourth floor)*

Proclamation and Response

Scripture Joel 2:23-32 NT Pg. 799
Scripture I Corinthians 12:12-30 NT Pg. 163

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon The Gift of Community Pastor Keith Vernon

Prayer of Confession: Gracious and loving God, you have created us to be part of something greater than ourselves. You have called us to be the body of Christ, each with different gifts, abilities, and responsibilities, yet united in one Spirit. Forgive us when we forget that we need one another. Forgive us when we allow our differences to divide us rather than strengthen us. Lord, remind us that we are not meant to walk this journey of faith alone. Thank you for the gift of community and for the opportunity to serve alongside one another as the body of Christ. May our words, actions, and relationships reflect your love to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offertory *By Our Love* - Smith

(Please tear off the pew pad attendance sheet and place in the offering plate.)

***The Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Anthem *Bind Us Together* - Gillman Chancel Choir
Call to Prayer *Make Us One* *TFWS* No. 2224

Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know we are one in you.

Prayers of the People

Let us begin with a moment of silence,
Good and gracious God we come in this moment giving you praise and thanksgiving for the gift of your relentless love that never stops chasing us, We are joined in heart and spirit to lift our prayers to you,
Together, let us pray for
The people of this congregation……..Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
Those who suffer and those in trouble… ……..Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
The concerns of this local community……Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
The world, its people, and its leaders…….Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
The church universal-its leaders, its members, and its mission…….. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Sending Forth

***Closing Hymn** *We Are the Body of Christ (repeat as directed)* TFWS No. 2227
***The Acolyte Ministry**
***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *May You Run and Not Be Weary* TFWS No. 2281

May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song, And may the love of God continue to give you hope and keep you strong. And may you run and not be weary. May your life be filled with joy! And may the road you travel always bring you home.

***Postlude** *Hymn Reprise*

CCLI License Number 2745989

Serving This Week:

Liturgist: Karla Pagans
Acolyte: Kemper Hodges
Children's Church: Linda Handy
Greeter: Cindy Tolbert
Usher: Steve Angle
10 AM Nursery: Amanda Zamora
Nursery: Avery Tosh
AV Team: Ben Clements, Mike Meeks, Mitzi Secrest
Counters: Martha Sue Gibson, Becky Newbill

Serving Next Week:

Liturgist: Noah Burdick
Acolyte: Zoe Zamora
Children's Church: Mittie Hambrick
Greeter: Glenda Thompson
Usher: P. D. Hambrick
10 AM Nursery: Terry Moran
Nursery: Jane Roseberry
AV Team: Mike Meeks, Katie Meeks, Mitzi Secrest
Counters: Linda Handy, Charlotte Hill

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Keith Vernon, Pastor
Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries/Diaconal Minister
Jeanne Banks, Pianist
Valerie Latimer, Finance Manager
Pam Thompson, Office Manager
Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant
Rebecca Dillon, Children's Church Coordinator
Matthew & Amanda Cooper, Custodians

In Our Prayers

Forget-Me-Nots: please remember these individuals in your prayers: Ann Coffey, Jerry Davis, Peggy McAndrew, Phillip Roseberry, Suzanne Ross, Peggy Santrock

Please keep the following individuals, families, and ministries in your prayers: Don Angle, George Board, Susan Cain, Debbie Caulder, Jennifer Cooper, Harriett Copeland, Rodney Cundiff, Willie Denny, Arnold Dillon Sr., Sandra Funk, Tim Funk, Johnny Guilliams, Jean & Bobby Hodges, Lisa Gail Hundley, Linda Hoffman-Keith, Cindy Markey, Ryan and Nikki Mink, Lori McClure, Bettyann Melvin,Tatum Newbill, Pat Owsley, Ezra Smith, Davida Stewart, Steve Tobey

Let us also pray for: Those who do not yet know Christ; Our country and its leaders; Our church and its ministries; Those serving in our armed forces; All who are suffering because of war, violence, and conflict; Those who are grieving, lonely, or in need of God's comfort and peace

May we hold these names and concerns before God with faith, compassion, and hope, trusting in God's unfailing love and care for each person.

Altar Flowers - The flowers on the altar are given by Jack Watts to the Glory of God and are in tribute to the veterans who devoted a part of their lives to honorably serve and protect America through their military service.

Meetings and Announcements:

- Sunday, November 8 — 12 PM Pickup Soup and Purchase Treats
- Sunday, November 8 — 2 PM Cub Scout Meeting
- Sunday, November 8 — 3 - 4:30 PM Charge Conference
- Monday, November 9 — 11 AM UWF Meeting
- Tuesday, November 10 — 6 PM Handbells Rehearsal
- Wednesday, November 11 — 5 PM Wonderful Wednesday's
- Wednesday, November 11 — 7 PM Chancel Choir
- Friday, November 13 — 6:15 PM Girl Scout Meeting

Assistive listening devices are available outside the sanctuary.

Heavenly Manna - This month we are collecting Stuffing Mix, Boxed Potato Mix.

Busy Bags Available - Children may pick up a Busy Bag with quiet activities from the small coat rack in the Narthex and return it after worship.

Soup and Bake Sale - Soup Pickup Day Is Today - The United Women in Faith potato soup fundraiser pickup is today following worship. Delicious baked treats will also be for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds support UWF mission projects. Thank you for your support!

Charge Conference Today - Members of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church will join neighboring United Methodist churches for the annual Charge Conference today from 3:00–4:30 p.m. at Redwood United Methodist Church, 3001 Old Franklin Turnpike, Rocky Mount, VA. Everyone is encouraged to attend this important gathering as we celebrate and support the ministries of our local churches.

Sunday Servants Celebration & Equipping Workshop - Join us on Sunday, November 15, following worship for a special time of fellowship, training, and encouragement! Whether you currently serve or are interested in becoming a Sunday Servant, this workshop is for you. Learn about opportunities to serve, receive a refresher on ministry roles, connect with fellow volunteers, and discover how your gifts can make a difference. A light meal will be provided. Come be inspired, equipped, and celebrated!

Thanksgiving Feast 2026 - Everyone is warmly invited to the 2026 RMUMC Thanksgiving Feast immediately following worship on Sunday, November 22, in the Fellowship Hall! Enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal as we gather together in gratitude and fellowship. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, and rolls will be provided. To make our feast even more special, we invite you to bring a side dish, a dessert, or both to share with our church family. Come celebrate God's blessings, enjoy wonderful food, and spend time with friends old and new. We are looking forward to this special time together and hope you'll invite a guest to join us and share in the joy of our Thanksgiving feast!

Advent Church Decorating - Monday, November 23 at 10:00 AM - The church will gather to decorate the sanctuary and church facilities for the Advent and Christmas season. Volunteers of all ages are invited to help prepare the church for this special time of year. Many hands make light work, and assistance is greatly appreciated as the church is transformed into a warm and welcoming place for worship and celebration.

Homebound Equipping Workshop - Join us for a Ministry of Holy Communion to the Homebound Equipping Workshop on Sunday, November 29, following worship as we explore the meaning and practice of this ministry and learn how we can serve our homebound members with care, reverence, and love. A light meal will be provided.