

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"*



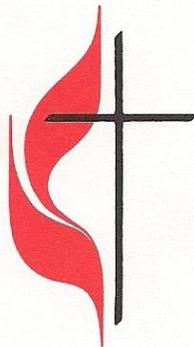
Will Waller, Pastor

April 2017



Organize your calendars to participate fully in all of the special worship services between Palm Sunday and Easter at Rocky Mount UMC!

- Palm Sunday, April 9
Following worship - Join us for a wonderful time of food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate Easter! Bring a covered dish or dessert for our potluck lunch. Chicken, rolls, and drinks will be provided. The children's indoor Easter Egg Hunt will follow.
- Good Friday, April 14.
12:00 Noon - Our church along with several others in the county and in the town will be carrying a cross on Good Friday to remember Christ's walk through Jerusalem on the way to Calvary. The full distance will be six miles beginning at the middle school and coursing its way through town to end up at Wal-Mart. You're welcome to walk part or all the way, taking turns carrying the cross with others who are participating. This will be a prayerful, meditative experience of Christ's final hours. Shuttles from Wal-Mart to the middle school will be provided.
6:30 p.m. - The sanctuary will be open for quiet meditation and prayers.
7:00 p.m. - The Chancel Choir will present the musical, "Come to the Cross and Remember."
- Easter, April 16
Easter Sunrise Service, 6:45 a.m.: You are invited to the sunrise service at the High Street Cemetery on Easter Sunday. Parking is available at El Rio Mexican Restaurant and along High Street. Bring a blanket to lie on the grass or a chair to sit in. Gather for song and scripture, prayer and praise to the Risen King. Following, you're invited to the Fellowship Hall for a potluck breakfast.
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
Worship, 10:55 a.m.



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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Trash strewn about. Cars up on blocks. Shades drawn. Cracked pavement. As I moved along a no-name street in Stanleytown, I was struck by the signs of death all around me. I walked to the end of the cul-de-sac and past the ironic sign that informed me I had reached the “end of state maintenance.” Ahead of me was a weed-choked path leading downhill toward a hulking building which commanded most of the valley. As I coursed down this former commuter route, I stepped over and around shattered glass, empty beer cans, and discarded tires. Eventually, I stopped at the bottom of the hill because I came to a crossroads. I could continue ahead, to route 57 and what appeared to be a corpse of a place or I could take a left back uphill along what appeared to be a brand new sewer system. Looking down, another’s life had been stopped at this very same crossroad. There were bleached bones – deer perhaps - scattered about. Quickly, I turned left and moved up the wide avenue made by this sewer system.

This recent walk in the county to the south of Franklin opened my eyes again to places that the world has pronounced dead and gone. Detroit. New Orleans after Katrina. Indian Reservations. These are just a handful of places that one might think of as lifeless. For some, seeing the parking lots built for hundreds of cars now empty are stark reminders of the economy shattered when the furniture makers pulled out of Henry County. “There just doesn’t seem to be the capacity for hope here anymore,” another pastor offered when I let him know of my walk.

But this walk I took wasn’t a typical hike – it was a prayer walk. It was a set aside time not to look for death, but to look for signs of God. When tragedy strikes, sometimes we can be overwhelmed by the darkness that we don’t immediately see the signs of life. But our God is living, alive, and active. Death isn’t His middle name. On that path, there were dozens of deer tracks coursing through the woods. Birds chirped and flitted about. The brook babbled – doing what brooks are supposed to do. Death was around, yet life was all around too.

In the church, the season of Lent – a time of reflection, seriousness, and introspection – gives way to the darkest day. Jesus’ death is unavoidable, the way for our sin to be atoned for by a just God. And yet, the death of Christ leads to a garden of resplendent joy. Tears of sadness become tears of joy. What begins as disciples huddling up in a room, fearful of their fate, ends with evangelists sharing the good news in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Easter out of Good Friday. That’s the power of God’s unending love to spring love out of the mausoleums of our heart.

So I invite you to ponder, where has God brought life out of death for you?

See you Good Friday and Easter morning.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



Easter lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16.

The cost for a wrapped lily with a

bow is \$16.00. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend, please complete the following form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, April 2.**

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Return to church office by Sunday, April 2, or you may put form in the offering plate. A payment of \$16.00 for each plant should accompany your order.

Your Name:

Number of Lilies Ordered: _____

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:



We have one remaining community Lenten Service on April 5 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. It will begin

at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served following the service. Also, a love offering will be taken at the service.

The UMW Needs You!

The United Methodist Women is enlisting your support in completing



UMCOR school and health kits during the month of April. These kits will go to Annual Conference in June. Please get a kit from one of the ladies standing at the exit door of the sanctuary beginning April 2.

Some of the kits already have a few items in them. **DO NOT** remove these items. Add only the items listed on the supply sheet inside the bag, nothing more, nothing less. UMCOR is very adamant that all kits be uniform. They **DO NOT** accept kits with unrequested or extra items in them. After you have completed your kit, please return it to the boxes by the elevator or the one in the Narthex.

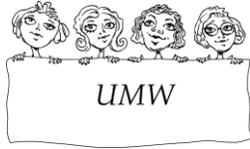
ACOLYTES



Be a light!

Acolyte Training and Refresher: Rising Third Graders and Up

Parents, serving as an acolyte is one of the first visible ways our children serve during worship. Bringing the light into the sanctuary and lighting the candles represent the Holy Spirit being with us! During the Sunday School hour on April 30, Tammy Burdick will have training for any older children and youth new to the church. Current acolytes are encouraged to attend as well. Please contact Tammy at 540-998-4613 if you have any questions.



United Methodist Women

(Linda Walters,
President)

Three members attended the Danville District Prayer Breakfast at Oakland UMC in Blairs, VA.

Kelly Walters Henshaw presented a musical testimony and Judy Anderson offered the annual program on Prayer and Self-Denial at the March 6 UMW meeting.

The UMW is asking the congregation to complete school and health kits to be sent to Annual Conference in June during the month of April. Please get a kit (or two) from one of the ladies standing at the exit doors of the sanctuary beginning April 2.

Please note the change in time for our April 3 meeting. We will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. to carpool to The Hermitage to host the April birthday party for residents at 2:00 p.m.

Family Ministries and the United Methodist Women are planning an after-worship fellowship potluck luncheon on Sunday, May 7. After lunch and fellowship, Mr. Taiki Sawabe from Ferrum College will present an interactive program on Japanese culture.

On Monday, May 1, the UMW is inviting all women of the church to join them in the fellowship hall for a "Sew-in" from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We will be sewing pillowcase dresses for Haiti and "sanipanties" for women in third world countries. The UMW welcomes your participation in this activity. You will also have the opportunity to meet Danville District President, Sherri Krauss. Lunch will be provided.

The UMW continues to collect Labels for Education, soda can tabs, and stamps. The boxes for these collections are in the hall to the left of the narthex on the windowsill near the mailboxes. We can still

accept Campbell's labels as long as they have the small collection sticker on the bottom.

Our #1 goal for 2017 is to continue increasing membership. We welcome all women of the church to join us the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. If you cannot attend daytime meetings, but would like to be involved, Linda will be happy to communicate all meeting and project information to you by e-mail. We are willing to explore the possibility of an evening or Sunday afternoon meeting for those who work during the week as well. Please contact Linda Walters (540-346-2004, lindaw@shentel.net) or any other United Methodist woman if you are interested or have questions.



United Methodist Men

UMM

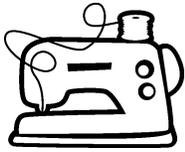
The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on April 9 at 9:00 a.m., in the Assembly Room. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



SERVING LUNCH AT STEPPING STONE SOUP KITCHEN

On Tuesday, April 25 and Thursday, April 27, our church is in charge of serving lunch at **Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen**. Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!

"We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen."
—Richard John Neuhaus



An Opportunity to Serve

On **Monday, May 1**, the UMW is inviting all women of the church to join them in the fellowship hall for a “Sew-In” from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We will be cutting out and sewing pillowcase dresses for Haiti and “sani-panties” for women in third world countries. The UMW welcomes your participation in this mission opportunity. If you have any of the following please bring them, a sewing machine, pins, scissors, or a measuring tape. You can join them for any or all of the time scheduled and you **do not** need to be a seamstress to attend. Lunch will be provided by the United Methodist Women.

Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies. He then worked for Panasonic Corporation in Osaka, Japan for three years, taking charge of international marketing of digital cameras. In 2012, he reunited with his middle school friend, **Mizuho**, and two got married in 2015. Taiki, not being able to give up his childhood dream job to become an elementary school teacher, decided to participate in the Japan Outreach Initiative in 2015.

The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI), designed by The Japan Foundation and The Laurasian Institution, offers a grassroots opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Japan and its culture, by sending Japanese individuals to the U.S. as volunteer coordinators of community outreach.



After-Worship Potluck Fellowship Luncheon and Cultural Program

Family Ministries and the United Methodist Women are planning an after-worship fellowship potluck luncheon on Sunday, May 7 in the fellowship hall. After lunch and fellowship, Mr. Taiki Sawabe from Ferrum College will present an interactive program for all ages on Japanese culture. So that we have an approximate number of attendees, we ask that you sign up with your last name and number in your family attending on the sheet passed during worship on April 23 and 30 or on the bulletin board near the flower chart. Each family is asked to bring a dish and/or a dessert to share.

Taiki Sawabe was born in Nagoya, Japan. After finishing high school, he moved to the United States in order to pursue his interest in ethnology. Taiki graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut with B.A. in Anthropology and

Graduate Sunday-June 4

Attention:
Parents of High School and
College Graduates!



If you have an upcoming high school or college graduate, please let the church office know so we may recognize them. In the May newsletter, we will name our graduates; therefore, please share with us their after-graduation plans—college, work, etc. by April 18.

Please plan to attend the worship service on June 4 as our church celebrates with you this special time in your life.

New Members!

On March 12, we welcomed Carl and Mitzi Secret by transfer of letter from St. James United Methodist Church.





Vital Congregation Statistics for February

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| Amount Brought Forward From 2016 | \$15,190 | |
| Budgeted Offerings <u>Expected</u> to Receive through 2/28/17 | | \$43,608 |
| <u>Actual</u> Offerings Received through 2/28/17 | \$48,311 | |
| Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 2/28/17 | | \$45,356 |
| Actual Expenses Paid through 2/28/17 | < \$40,621 > | |
| Ending Balance, 2/28/17 | \$22,880 | |

II. Average Worship Attendance = 176

Average Sunday School Attendance = 52



Faith Network

Do you want to do something about poverty in Franklin County but haven't found your niche? Does childhood hunger bother you and you'd like to make a positive difference? Do you enjoy long-term relationships with families that are struggling? Faith Network is a collaboration of local churches and non-profits that seeks to make a connected approach to these issues by maintaining long-term connections with families in poverty. They'll be hosting a training session for anyone who can commit to being a mentor in April. To be made aware of upcoming training, go to this website: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBp-C6k58CkJ6hXQJtvmxfMdqxPrPYrJ4n31vU7sNqxoqanw/viewform>.



Heavenly Manna

Congratulations! We collected 30.3 pounds of canned food in March for Heavenly Manna. In April, we will be collecting beef stew.

Expanding our view of service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other “least of these” members of society – serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, “For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it” – or “My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it.” Then the King will say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... *whatever* you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).



Youth News

(Lindsey Lumley,
Coordinator of
Youth and Children's
Ministries and Joshua
Banks, Asst. Coordinator)

Hi friends,

It is officially "Spring" now, and the youth and children have been having a great time with our weekly programming! We have been studying Lent in Children's Church and Youth Group, and have grown and learned a lot in our studies over the past month! We are looking forward to finishing up our studies in the next few weeks and celebrating Easter!

Speaking of Easter, we will be having an Easter "Eggstravaganza" on April 9! We could not be more excited!! The congregation is invited to bring a covered dish to share and to join us for lunch after church. The youth will provide chicken, rolls, and drinks. An Easter Egg Hunt for the children will follow shortly after.

Another exciting thing we are looking forward to is our "Hundred Happy Days" fundraiser for the youth! We will be setting up a display with 100 different envelopes, and then everyone is invited to choose an envelope and donate the amount on it to go towards our Mission Trip and our summer activities. At the end of the fundraising campaign, we will host a reception after church with refreshments to show our appreciation for the generosity of the congregation. There will also be surprises in some of the envelopes that we expect you will greatly enjoy!

We are also really looking forward to joining Rocky Mount Christian Church for a "Spring Fling" at 1:00 p.m. on May 21. Rocky Mount Christian Church will be hosting the event and have graciously invited us to join them in all the fun! Looking forward to fellowshiping with them and celebrating spring!

Plans are also being made for VBS this summer! We will be announcing the theme very soon and recruiting volunteers. Please prayerfully begin considering if you would like to be a part of this. We would love to have you join us!

Please keep us in your prayers, and if you wish to be a part of everything we are doing, please don't hesitate to contact me. We would love to have you join in on the fun!

Blessings,
Lindsey and Josh

Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music
Ministries)



Christ's journey to the cross is filled with images of His sacrificial love for us; the Palms, the Cup and the Bread, the Nails, the Crown of Thorns, and more. These images form the centerpiece of the Good Friday musical *Come to the Cross and Remember* presented by our **Chancel Choir** on April 14 at 7:00 p.m. The music focuses on the final hours of Jesus' life and crucifixion. It is a reminder of the magnitude of God's love; a love so great that it continues through all time and eternity. In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, the cross stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. As we come to the cross, we find comfort and courage in knowing that we can live in a future that is ultimately of God's making!

Along with the choir, Jane Roseberry has organized the drama aspect of the evening as symbols of God's love are brought to the cross by participants from the congregation. Join us for this powerful Holy

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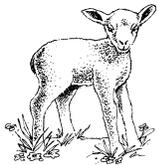
Week worship experience. The sanctuary will open at 6:30 p.m. for a time of meditation and prayer. You are invited to quietly walk around the sanctuary and follow Jesus' footsteps depicted in each window.

The **Jubilant Ringers Handbell Choir** will be playing along with the magnificent hymns for worship on Easter Sunday. We are also planning a handbell surprise for worship on Sunday in May!

The **children** will be singing with the Chancel Choir for one of the Palm Sunday anthems as they process down the aisles waving palm branches! Also look for more details on our upcoming Children's Sabbath planned for Mother's Day. We will celebrate being part of God's Family.

Spring is a time of renewal and celebrating new life in Christ! Make worship each week your way of thanking God for all your many blessings. See you in church!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Little Lambs in the News
(Jan Mohler, Director)

What a wonderful month we had here at Little Lambs. We spent two nights celebrating our daddies. They were all great sports gluing leprechauns and dancing the night away.

The four-year-olds are almost done with the letters of the alphabet. The Cat in the Hat showed up one day to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Rhyming all month has really given the students a big step towards reading.

Kindergarten registration is April 20. Please keep our students and families in your prayers. It's always an emotional time.

As I write this, we are busy getting ready for our spring fundraiser. On April 1, we are having a yard sale. The sale is from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. so tell all your friends to come out and shop! Thanks to all of you who contributed items to our yard sale.

In class, we are preparing our hearts as we learn about the story of Easter.

Enrollment is in full swing. Please tell all the families you know with three and four-year-olds about our Little Lambs ministry.

Blessings,
Jan

Just for Kids

PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

In his he has
 us new into a
 through the

 from the .

1 PETER 1:3, NIV

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Annette C. Board; Johnny Guilliams; Charlie & Eleanor Easter; Gary and Betty Hatfield; Martha Ann Naff; Lorrie Williams; Mark Singleton; Martie Byrum; Jennifer Cooper; Kathy Cunningham; Don Applegarth; Johnny and Patsy Smith; Gabe Valentine; Patricia Perdue; Jennifer Braxton; Ethel Dent; and Jesse Roach.

Forget-Me-Nots:

Mildred Dillon; Marion Higgins; Margaret Linkous; Eva Prillaman; Ann Robinson; and Dot Wimmer.



Jim Henderson and Family in the death of his sister-in-law, Velma Henderson.

Sam Rucker and Family in the death of his brother, James Rucker, Jr., on March 15.

Kevin Clements and Family in the death of his mother-in-law, Frances Broce, on March 21.

Evangelism tip

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.

—Madeleine L’Engle

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Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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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

Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant

Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist

Lindsey Lumley, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministries

Joshua Banks, Assistant Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministries

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:55 a.m. Worship