

# THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church  
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Phone: 540-483-5338 Fax: 540-484-1698

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



Will Waller, Pastor

December 2017/January 2018

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT RMUMC



### **Friday, December 1**

5:30 p.m., Our UM Men will sell their world-famous chili at the annual "Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas" on Franklin Street. Little Lambs Christian Preschool will be selling holiday goodies alongside them.

### **Tuesday, December 5**

6:30 p.m., Little Lambs Christian Preschool will present "Cookin' Up Christmas."

### **Saturday, December 9**

10:30-11:30 a.m., dress rehearsal for children's Christmas play. Note: children will give a "preview" of their play as they sing a selection during morning worship on December 10.

### **Sunday, December 10**

Following worship, our Youth Group will be having a Christmas party for the special-needs adults in our community. Everyone is welcome to come! Please bring two side dishes and/or dessert to share. Drinks and chicken will be provided.

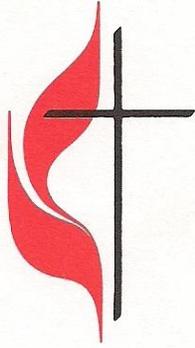
6:30 p.m., The children will present their musical "Cookin' Up Christmas."

### **Sunday, December 17**

10:55 a.m., our Chancel Choir will present their annual cantata. This year, it's entitled, "Night of the Father's Love."

### **Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)**

7:00 p.m., Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - Bring your visiting family and friends with you to church for worship. This is a traditional time for families to be together and share in Holy Communion.



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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

Have y'all heard of Yelp.com? Yelp.com is a website allowing people to make comments about restaurants and stores. From Chuck E. Cheese to the Waffle House, you can gripe, groan, and grouse about your experience. Just down the hill from here, The Hub has this said of it on Yelp: "Another southern favorite." "Definitely a little gem if you're up in the area that you must check out!!!" "The sweet tea was delicious."

As much as I like Yelp.com, I'd much prefer to talk to a local and find out where the tea is sweet and the company is sweeter. What I'm talking about is word of mouth. Word of mouth allows me to talk to a real human to find out where the best events, restaurants and places to go are. There are people in this world that I trust, certainly more than a random person making a complaint or a compliment on the World Wide Web.

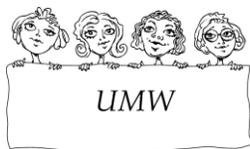
Which gets me to this upcoming season of Advent and Christmas. We are going to be sending out invitations and marketing materials about our Christmas Eve services. We're going to put out notices on our board outside the church. We'll have Facebook posts and things on our website. Despite all these ways of reaching people, the most effective way to get people into worship is word of mouth.

Why is this? One reason is trust. If 9 out of 10 dentists prefer Crest, I'm still going to trust my dentist's advice versus those unnamed, unknown dentists. The second reason is targeting. Many people have a church home here in Franklin County. Many people driving by our sign or reading the newspaper won't be our target audience. They may already have a place on December 24. Yet, you may have a hunting buddy or a bridge partner who you can talk to that doesn't.

Do you have somebody that you have that doesn't have a church home? If you aren't sure, use that mouth that God gave you to give them some words...here are a few that we encourage you to give: "We're having our Christmas Eve services at 10:55 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. I'll sit with you at the church service, if you'll come. Will you join me?"

There...now you don't have to go on Yelp.

In Christ,  
Pastor Will



## **United Methodist Women**

(Linda Walters,  
President)

On November 6, we enjoyed a program given by Linda Verhoeff of Redwood UMC. She spoke about her medical mission trip to Honduras.

The UMW Christmas luncheon is Monday, December 3 in the Atrium at 10:30 a.m. We will be treated to a musical program given by Don Ranson and Alex Young followed by a delicious lunch catered by Center Stage Catering.

In January, we will be treated to an inspirational account of Mission in Haiti by our own Martha Collins. Please join us on January 8 (second Monday) for our regular meeting and this program.

The UMW will be collecting purses or bags filled with sample-sized items clients can use when they arrive empty-handed at The Franklin County Family Resource Center. If you have a purse or bag you no longer use, and would like to contribute to this ministry, you can fill and give it to any of the UMW members and we will see that the center receives it.

### **Below is a list of suggested supplies to include:**

- Something inspirational
- Small package of tissues
- Notebook and pen
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste and brush
- Comb/brush
- Lotion
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Disposable razor
- Nail file
- Band Aids (4-6)

For women: Feminine hygiene  
Products (2-4)

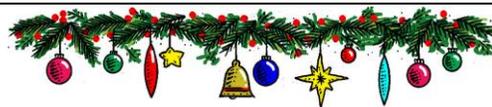
For men: Shaving cream

OPTIONAL: Pocket calendar,  
Crossword puzzle book, Paperback,  
Key ring, Small mirror

The 2017-18 UMW Reading Program has begun. You may check out any of the books on the bottom shelf labeled UMW Reading Program in the Assembly Room. Please take a brochure to keep track of your reading. Simply sign each book out in the yellow folder and sign it in when you return it. Titles from 2013-2018 are eligible. If you take the children's books, please keep track of the names of the children to whom you read. Children count as readers too!

The UMW will continue to collect Labels for Education, soda can tabs and canceled stamps. The boxes for these collections are in the hall to the left of the Narthex on the windowsill near the mailboxes.

Our #1 goal for 2018 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 (maybe while your children are at Wonderful Wednesday?) or Sunday afternoon meeting for those who work during the week as well. Please contact Linda Walters (540-346-2004, [lindaw@shentel.net](mailto:lindaw@shentel.net)) or any other United Methodist woman if you are interested or have questions.



Pastor Will and Emily welcome any and all to the parsonage on December 23 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for Duck in for Dip: A Christmas Dip Spectacular.



UMM

**United Methodist Men**

(Mark Newbill, President)

The United Methodist Men will again be selling their “locally famous” chili along with hot chocolate and coffee for the “Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas” in downtown Rocky Mount on December 1.

The next scheduled breakfast meeting will be on December 17 at 8:45 a.m.

We will have a “Men’s Night Out” on January 20, 2018 at Ippy’s.



**SERVING LUNCH AT STEPPING STONE SOUP KITCHEN**

In December and January, our church is in charge of serving lunch at Stepping Stone Soup Kitchen the following days:

- Tuesday, December 26
- Thursday, December 28
- Tuesday, January 23
- Thursday, January 25

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board located at the steps going down to the preschool. Thanks!

**New Members!**

On November 26, we welcomed Ronnie and Connie Breedlove by transfer of letter from Mount Pleasant UMC in Greensboro, NC.



**Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church’s Position**

On January 6, Bishop Sharma Lewis of the Virginia Annual Conference will be at Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Moneta for a conversation around human sexuality and the United Methodist Church's position. In the United Methodist Church, General Conference is the only body which composes United Methodists from around the globe that makes decisions for the entire church. St. Louis will host the next one in 2019. At this General Conference, a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. On January 6, 2018, Bishop Lewis will conduct a conversation on this issue with Danville, Lynchburg, and Farmville districts participating. It will start at 9:00 a.m. You can sign-up by e-mailing [RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org).

**Special Presentation**

The UMW of Rocky Mount UMC is pleased to invite you to their monthly meeting, Monday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Atrium (third floor). Our speaker will be Rusty MacMullan. Rusty is a volunteer at Lake Christian Ministries in Moneta, VA who directs the New Tomorrows, a mentor/coach program that helps those in poverty secure employment, and Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World programs. The goal of both programs is to help those neighbors in poverty in Franklin and Bedford Counties who want a better understanding of the nature of their own poverty and economic class through rigorous self-assessment to develop a strategic plan for personal and financial self-efficacy.





Just a reminder to pray daily for your Advent friend and extend other acts of kindness such as personal visits, calls, cards and special food items. This is a time for you and your family to be in mission as you reach out and touch the lives of other members who need your care and concern.

**Flower Chart**

The flower chart for 2018 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.



**2018 Offering Envelopes**

The 2018 offering envelopes will be available December 17 for pickup on a table in the Atrium. If you are interested in using envelopes and do not have one assigned, please call the church office. Likewise, notify the office if you were assigned envelopes and will not be using them. Thank you.

**Offering Envelopes**



**The United Methodist Credit Union (TUMCU) Wants to Donate to Our Church**



That’s right! TUMCU’s vehicle loan program, Strive To Drive For \$25, is benefiting Conference churches and our church can benefit too. Each time a member of our church finances their next vehicle purchase with TUMCU or refinances a vehicle loan that they currently have with another lender, TUMCU will donate \$25 to our church. Visit [www.tumcu.org](http://www.tumcu.org) or call 1-866-657-0004 for details.

**Snow Closing Schedule**

It's getting close to "that" time of year when winter-



weather may have an impact on the church being open. For weekday church ministries, we will copy the school-closing schedule for Franklin County Public Schools (i.e., if the schools are closed, all daytime/nighttime ministries and programs at the church will be cancelled). As far as Sunday worship when there is inclement weather, please call the church (an announcement will be posted on the church's answering machine by 9:00 a.m. concerning Sunday school and worship). In all cases, please let safety and safe-driving guide your individual decisions about traveling to the church.

“Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven.”  
—Greg Laurie

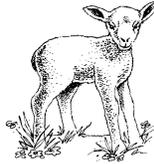


## Vital Congregation Statistics for October

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2016	\$15,190	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 10/31/17		\$218,040
Actual Offerings Received through 10/31/17	\$226,527	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 10/31/17		\$226,780
Actual Expenses Paid through 10/31/17	<\$222,343>	
Ending Balance, 10/31/17	\$19,374	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 149  
Average Sunday School Attendance = 42



### Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

There were many blessings to count and many thanks to God for them while we sat together as Little Lambs class families. As a ministry of this church, we are so thankful for our church family that supports us with their time, talents, funds and prayers. We could not exist without your love and attention. We are also grateful for our Little Lambs families. It is a joy to teach your children. We praise God for the loving families that share their beautiful children with us and support our efforts to teach and nurture our students in a safe, positive Christian environment.

Fa la la laaa! What fun we have had cooking up Christmas y'all! We are so thankful to Ms. Lynn for sharing her musical talents with us. Our program on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. is sure to set the mood for a joyous Christmas season.

Our last day of school before Christmas is December 22. We will return Thursday, January 4.

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year,  
Jan

## Christmas wonder

I want to see into the heart of a thing ... I want the God-given way of seeing life, not to possess and to control, but to stand back in wonder and gratitude.

—Esther de Waal



## Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

December is full of music!  
The children will have a

dress rehearsal for the Christmas play on Saturday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet upstairs and rehearse in the Wonderful Wednesday area. The children should be finished by 11:30 a.m. They will give us a “preview” of their play as they sing a selection during morning worship on December 10. (Parents, we will meet upstairs at 10:45 a.m.) At 6:30 p.m. that evening, the children’s choirs will present their musical “Cookin’ Up Christmas!” (All children should be dressed and in the church parlor by 6:00 p.m.) Join a host of “almost” famous chefs: Paula Green, Rachel Day, Betty Rucker, Bobby Grey, and others, as they help with the annual choir Christmas party. Find out what the “main ingredient” of Christmas really is and even meet Uncle Earl Humdinger and his Absolutely Awesome Possum Pie! Come join the excitement and experience the power of what it means to revel in God’s love, grow in our faith, and share His everlasting truth with others at 6:30 p.m. on December 10. You will surely be blessed.

The Jubilant Ringers will also play a beautiful arrangement of “As Lately They Watched” during worship on December 10.

Don’t miss the Chancel Choir along with handbells, narration and beautiful piano accompaniment, as we present the musical **“Night of the Father’s Love” during worship on December 17.** All of the mystery, the awe, and the palpable excitement of that night are imaginatively captured in a Christmas mosaic that combines fragments of familiar carols with original music. “The night of the Father’s love...the night the ancient prophecies were fulfilled; the night of the angelic

announcement of the birth as the star shone brightly above, leading others to witness this incredible gift of love for God in human form-Jesus, the babe.”

And finally, join us on December 24 at 7:00 p.m., for our annual Christmas Eve Service. Trumpet music will greet you as you arrive, we’ll have special solos and instrumentalists, and of course “Silent Night.”

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!

January Music Notes...

Wonderful Wednesday will take a break and resume on January 10. I will be making up the volunteer schedule for the rest of the year to be circulated by the first of January. If you need a new list and don’t get one, please check in the Wonderful Wednesday area on the fourth floor. If you would like to be a new volunteer, please let me know. We can always use more help!

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 or dismiss early on a choir practice day due to bad weather, we will not meet. When in doubt, call me. (483-9799)

Love and Peace,  
Lynn

“The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart.”  
—Helen Keller



**Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Kim Easter; Jim Henderson; Jennifer Altice; John Cooper; Johnny

Guilliams; Marion Higgins; Jeanette Boles; Ruth Handy Tapscott; Ashley Hodges; Joanne Patterson; Shirley Funk; Bev Thornton; Jacqueline Rudd; Dennis Holland; Jennifer Tatum; Tiffanee Anderson; Martha Williams; Lorrie Williams; Mark Singleton; Jennifer Cooper; Kathy Cunningham; Don Applegarth; Johnny and Patsy Smith; Patricia Perdue; and Jesse Roach.

**Forget-Me-Nots:**

Mildred Dillon; Margaret Linkous; Ann Robinson; and Dot Wimmer.



On January 9, 2018, Miranda Banks will begin teaching a brand new class called "The Kingdom Creators, A Bible Study Making Art." This class will be held at Rocky

Mount United Methodist Church every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Each Tuesday has two time slots available for you to choose from, one being from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and the other being from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

In this class, there will be a traditional Bible study breaking down each part of the scripture to understand its historical significance, context and meaning of God's word to enrich our lives. Then she will teach you how to take artistic notes within the study to help you in the next section of the class where the art making begins. Students will be making mixed media artwork inspired by what they read and learn within the Bible study. The artwork will have an emphasis on mixed media (paint, paper, pen and ink). She will guide you through each step of the art

making process, very similar to a traditional paint night class. This class is most importantly an art class, making mixed media pages in a journal with the foundation of God's mighty word!

For more information and how to sign up, please visit "The Kingdom Creators, A Bible Study Making Art" Facebook page by simply searching @kingdomcreators.

The class cost is \$35.00 for students 15 years and older. Everyone is invited to attend this class no matter what church you attend or if you don't attend a church, everyone is invited.



I wanted to take a moment to send a special note of thanks to you for the wonderful and moving message you shared at the Memorial Service on Sunday. Many shared with me how much your words meant to them and how you encouraged them to continue to live life and to serve.

Also, a special thanks to your congregation for their generosity and hospitality. Allowing us to use your beautiful church for our service was a blessing to the staff and our families that were able to attend this years' service.

As we enter in to a time that many reflect on blessings in life and all they are thankful for. Thank you for giving of your time, and sharing words of hope to those who are hurting and struggling to find the thankful heart they once had. May they find it again because of you and others just like you who show Christ's love not only in word but also in deed.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Sydenstricker  
Bereavement Care Specialist/  
Carilion Clinic Hospice



ROCKY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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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**

**Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant**

**Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant**

**Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist**

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

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.)**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday School**

**10:55 a.m. Worship**