

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
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Our Mission: "To Know Jesus and Share His Love"



Will Waller, Pastor

May 2017



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 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 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.



Mother's Day

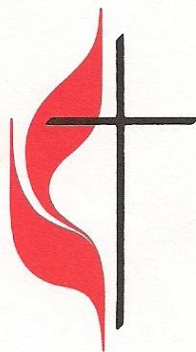
Mother's Day Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will sponsor their annual Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 14, at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All mothers and their families are invited to this delicious complimentary breakfast prepared by the men in honor of all mothers on their special day!

Samaritan Offering

Our 2017 Samaritan offering for Virginia United Methodist Homes will be received from Mother's Day, May 14, through Father's Day, June 18. Your gift supports residents who have been blessed by longevity but have outlived their financial resources. Samaritan gifts are not used for operational, capital, or administrative cost but are instead made available only for benevolent care. Make your checks payable to RMUMC and designate "Hermitage in Roanoke" on the memo line. Thank you!





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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

Rocky Mount is a walking town. When Emily and I arrived last July, we were struck by the number of walkers, runners, strollers, sashayers (is that a word?), and movers through town. We keep spandex in business around these parts. It seems like any time of day, from before dawn to after dusk, you'll see people out and about. Here's an incomplete list of the folks I've seen recently: a gentleman running up Tanyard Road in a button down; a gaggle of moms gabbing and pushing babies and toddlers in fancy strollers around the Farmer's Market; a group of high school runners huffing and puffing as they trained for track; evening walkers of a certain age reminiscing; Rocky Mount United Methodists on Wednesday nights at 5 prepping for the Chug for the Jug. All these folks moving and grooving through our fair town at any hour of day.

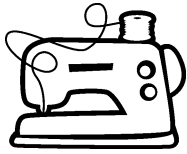
What this reveals is Rocky Mount is a safe town and neighborly. I feel comfortable running the streets here because it's safe and I know people are watching out for me. You'll also get stopped for some talks by your neighbors here. Coming from Richmond, where a "howdy" and quick chitchat on the street would get a scowl and a hustling away, this has been a great change of pace for us. It's a sign of collective concern for each other. I cherish the waves while driving, the "how are you doings" at Kroger, and the hellos from strangers on morning walks. I'm thankful that we live in a town that values neighborliness.

Which brings me to my topic: do we know our neighbors? Do we know the folks all around us? Of the people in the four nearest houses or apartments to yours, could you name their kids? Do you know where they worship? Can you name some of the concerns of their hearts? There are folks in this church who make a habit of stopping in to say hello to their neighbors and because of these greetings, love is shed abroad throughout our community. Saying hello acknowledges the other person, thereby reminding them they're visible and cared for. Doing so, shows love.

It's a simple thing but consider your neighbor and stopping by to say hello. Not to intrude and not to spread gossip or to gather it, but to check in and offer encouragement. It doesn't take long, but it goes for a long way in the lives of our neighbors.

Sharing love with your neighbor is demanded of us by Jesus Christ. "Love your neighbor as yourself," he taught (Mark 12:31). So get out to say hello to your neighbor. Get out on that sidewalk, the ATV trail between houses or journey up their driveway and say hello. It might be the easiest thing you do all day, and at the same time, the most meaningful.

In Christ,
Pastor Will



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.



United Methodist Women

(Linda Walters, President)

What fun we had hosting the April birthday party at The Hermitage in Roanoke on April 3! The staff there is so cordial and the residents are very personable and enjoy the party so much. What a blessing they are to us!

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 “sani-panties” 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.

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. Please sign up your family on the sheet passed during worship or on the bulletin board in the hallway near the flower chart.

Don’t forget the UMW annual picnic at the home of Dan and Linda Walters on Monday, June 5 at 5:00 p.m. What a wonderful time for fellowship as we break for the summer months. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages, pork barbecue and hamburgers will be provided. RSVP to Linda Walters at lindaw@shentel.net or call 540-346-2004.

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.

“Faith is like wi-fi: It’s invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.”
—Unknown

Health  Kits



Thank You Rocky Mount UMC

The UMW thanks you for your support in completing UMCOR school and health kits during the month of April. These 108 kits will go to Annual Conference in June. Please return your completed kits to one of the boxes by the elevator or the box in the Narthex by April 30 so that we can check and pack them.



SERVING LUNCH AT STEPPING STONE SOUP KITCHEN

On Tuesday, May 23 and Thursday, May 25, 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!

New Members!

On April 16, we welcomed Jodi Huffman and Tori Huffman by profession of faith.

They were baptized in the Blackwater River on April 15.



Happy Birthday!



The children and grandchildren of Lewis Coffey would like to invite folks to join them in the Atrium on Sunday, May 21 following the worship service to celebrate Lewis's 90th birthday. Please come by for a slice of cake and wish him well!



Listed below are our 2017 home school graduates.

Will Ardis
Alexis Dillon

Congratulations and best wishes Will and Alexis!

Our 2017 college graduates include:

Rachel Hall, Virginia Western Community College

Carrie Holland, James Madison University

Emily Meeks, Virginia Tech

McKenzie Prillaman, University of Virginia

Congratulations and best wishes Rachel, Carrie, Emily and McKenzie!

A note to our new and current college students & parents: Betty Dillon is the chairperson of our church's Higher Education/ Campus Ministry Committee. Please call her (483-5573) or the church office to let us know your address this fall at college so she/we can keep in touch and keep you on our newsletter mailing list. Thanks!

Graduate Sunday

Graduate Recognition

Sunday will be observed on

Sunday, June 4. We will

be recognizing this year's high

school and college graduates. Make plans

also to stay after worship for a potluck lunch

to honor our graduates. Let our graduates

know that we are proud of them by your

attendance.



"Your children will become what you are, so be what you want them to be."

—David Bly



Vital Congregation Statistics for March

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2016	\$15,190	
Budgeted Offerings <u>Expected</u> to Receive through 3/31/17		\$65,412
<u>Actual</u> Offerings Received through 3/31/17	\$71,610	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 3/31/17		\$68,034
Actual Expenses Paid through 3/31/17	< <u>\$63,679</u> >	
Ending Balance, 3/31/17	\$23,121	

II. Average Worship Attendance = 166

Average Sunday School Attendance = 46



Spring Charge Conference

We will have a spring Charge Conference at the Henry Fork Service Center on June 4 at 3:00 p.m. All members of the Church Council should attend. This is not a business meeting! We will spend our time investigating best practices in ministry.



Vacation Bible School June 27-30

Be sure it's on your calendar! VBS will be at our church on Tuesday-Friday, June 27-30. Please let Lindsey Lumley know if you are able to help. More about VBS in our June/July newsletter!

Beginning ... and beginning again

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello — and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

“God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements,” writes Bernie Siegel. “Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease.”

Of course, we can “create a perfect world” only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginnings of your life!



Youth News

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

Hi friends,

Well, spring is in full session, the weather could not be better, and, excitement is in the air as we look back on all of the fun we have had over the last month, and look forward to what all is to come.

April was a fantastic month for the youth and children here. We got to watch two of our youth, Jodi and Tori Huffman, be baptized in the river. It was beautiful, and we could not be prouder of them taking such an important step in their lives as followers of Jesus. Way to go girls! We also had our annual Easter potluck lunch and egg hunt. I just want to extend a huge "Thank you" to the parents and youth who stuffed and hid Easter Eggs, helped prepare the Fellowship Hall, and helped keep things running smoothly during the event! I am so, so grateful for you all!

In May, we will look forward to beginning some new curriculum in youth group and Sunday School. We also are looking forward to celebrating the end of the school year. As we enter into summer and the school year ends, we will transition into our summer schedule. Really looking forward to this! We will be doing so many fun things this summer with our weekly "Fun days." If you want to get involved with these, please let me or Josh know. We would love to have you join in on the fun!

We also officially announced our VBS theme this month. "Maker Fun Factory" will be AWESOME! Please plan on bringing your children! And volunteering! June 27- 30!

Also, a reminder of our two big trips this summer! We will be going on a mission trip to Copperhill, Tennessee as well as to

KingsFest in Richmond. So excited for these trips! I also want to thank everyone who has supported us going on these trips by donating to our "100 Happy Days" fundraiser. Y'all have been so generous and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you!

Please continue to be in prayer for all of the things we have coming up, and let me or Josh know if you are interested in getting involved with the fun. We would love to have you!

Blessings,
Lindsey and Josh

Music Notes

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music
Ministries)



The school year has certainly flown by! I am already planning for the End-of-the-Year picnic in Mary Elizabeth Park on May 10 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. There will be fun music, games, and lots of food. For anyone who would like to help with food, a sign-up sheet is posted on the music display beside the Assembly Room. Children and parents, thank you for another great year!

On May 14, the children will be in charge of the entire worship service. Our Children's Sabbath theme will be "We are Family." Along with leading responsive readings, prayers, and scriptures, the children will be interpreting the Word through special skits. I even have a surprise guest for the "Celebrate with the Children!" Don't miss this special service. You'll be truly blessed!

Just a reminder... The Jubilant Ringers will play for worship May 21. You'll hear "table taps", mallets, and tempo changes. This will be the last time the bells will play until fall.

(continued on page 7)

Although the Jubilant Ringers and Children's Choirs will be finished for the season and will resume in September, the Chancel Choir will continue to bring beautiful music to our worship services each week. We will continue our regular practice schedule throughout May and begin our bi-monthly rehearsals in June.

Finally, let me thank all the folks who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter music so special. You were AWESOME!

Love and Peace,
Lynn



Why do we have instrumental music before and during worship?

Every offering whether it's a hymn, prayer, responsive and scripture reading, or anthem is part of our worship and is a gift given to God. The piano and organ music played as part of worship is the musician's gift and should be honored by those in the sanctuary. It should be a time to reflect and prepare for the working of the Holy Spirit. *Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!* (Psalm 150:1-2)



Little Lambs in the News

(Jan Mohler, Director)

Thank you to everyone who helped with the yard sale. We had many customers and they donated generously for the treasures they found. At the end of the day, the preschool raised \$1,100.00. We are

so blessed to have such supportive parents and a supportive church family.

Calling all three-year-olds! We have plenty of room in the three-year-old class so please pass the word! We also have several spots left for the fours.

Our year comes to an end this month. It's hard to believe. The children have worked so hard and have made so much progress. Both classes have enjoyed learning about Jesus from their teachers, Ms. Lynn and Pastor Will. More important than colors and letters the children have learned that they are loved by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and that they are special to Him.

Blessings,
Jan



Thank you for all the well wishes and caring thoughts through the visits and food following the loss of my Mom and then the recovery from the car accident.

Cyn Fisher

Dear RMUMC Family,

It is such a blessing to be a part of a loving and supportive church! My sincere thanks for the calls, cards, visits, food, and prayers following by surgery. Your many kindnesses are greatly appreciated and will always be remembered. God is good...so many blessings.

Annette C. Board

"Do not be afraid of tomorrow,
for God is already there."
—Unknown



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Cyn Fisher; Jim Henderson; Charlie & Eleanor Easter; Gary and Betty Hatfield; Martha Ann Naff; Iris Read; 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.



Noah Burdick and Family in the death of his father, Aaron Burdick, on April 12.

Family of Willie Scott, Linda S. Handy's mother and Christina Gibson's grandmother, who died on April 22.

The prayer of "Wow"
When we are stunned to the place beyond words, when an aspect of life takes us away from being able to chip away at something until it's down to a manageable size and then to file it nicely away, when all we can say in response is "Wow," that's a prayer.
—Anne Lamott, *Help, Thanks, Wow*



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother’s Day gift.

Just for Kids

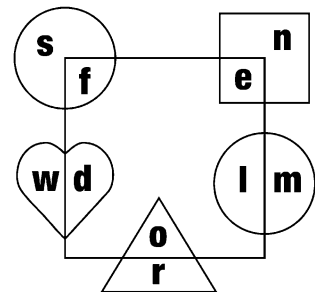


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God’s care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild _____
grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even _____
in all his splendor was _____
like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

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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