

# 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

October 2018



## Second Annual Camp Meeting

We are headed outdoors again for our Second Annual "Camp Meeting" Sunday on October 14 at Franklin

County Parks and Recreation (2150 Sontag Road). The service will include worship at 10:55 a.m. and a picnic following worship. All are asked to bring a dessert/side dish to share to go along with the barbecue the church will be providing. Dress down but have spirits up for worship, music, and fun activities! Seating is available but feel free to bring your own chair.



## United Methodist Women's Soup Sale

The UMW is taking orders now for quarts of homemade potato, with or without meat,

chicken tortilla, and vegetable beef soup. Simply fill out the order form in the Sunday bulletin and hand it to one of the ladies at the sanctuary exit doors. Cost is \$8 a quart. You may pick up your soup on Sunday, October 21 after worship. All funds raised will be used for UMW mission projects.



## Yard Sale

Clean out your clutter! Bake your famous cookies! Be an extra set of hands! Find a treasure! On Saturday, October 13, from 7:00 a.m.-

1:00 p.m., The Branches Class invites you to participate in our Yard Sale to benefit our local schools. Household items can be dropped off at the church starting Sunday, October 1 and during the week when the office is open. No large items please! You can also drop off baked goods to sell on Friday, October 12. We need help Friday afternoon from 3:00-6:00 p.m. to set up, and Saturday morning. We'd love to have you! Call Tammy Burdick at (540) 998-4613 to volunteer or if you have any questions.



## Danville District Charge Conference

Danville District Charge Conference will be held at Danville's Fairview United Methodist Church on October 20 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If you are on Church Council, you're especially encouraged to attend. We will have a caravan leaving Rocky Mount UMC at 8:00 a.m. that morning if you'd like to catch a ride. District Conference will be at the same time and will enable you to get some training on different positions within the church.

"The more we pray, the more we come to the heartbeat of God."  
—Richard J. Foster



# ROCKY MOUNT

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
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*To Know Jesus And To Share His Love*

Dear RMUMC,

During the month of September, in worship, we had a focus on missions. Throughout the month, we engaged the topic of missions because reaching out is the heart of the Gospel. God reached out to you when you had no idea who or what love was. God reached out to you and served you when all you wanted was to be served, not to serve. God reached out to you and attended to your wounds, those society inflicted and those you yourself inflicted.

To wrap up this month, I want to make you aware of an especially helpful website for our community: <https://carilionclinic.org/community-health-assessments>. This article reveals some real needs of our area, including asking tough questions about how readily available mental health and primary care medicine is to Franklin County residents, and it ponders how to meet the needs of reliable transportation for people desperately needing it.

While reading the study, my mind wandered to the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). That story strikes people because it reminds them that people should naturally want to serve the least and the lost. Sadly, we know that that is not always the case. What the story also highlights is that there are some people who are truly disadvantaged versus others. While the Good Samaritan - the one who takes it upon himself to help someone in truly dire straits - should be supported for what he did, the situation does beg the question, why is the man in need in this situation in the first place? Why did this happen to this man?

Building a community of trust, compassion, and support requires all members of the community sharing in the responsibilities of making a place what it should be. Living in Rocky Mount has shown me that we live in a town and a community where people *do* want to see us become what we can be. We ask tough questions and anticipate tough answers. It is true of our walk with Christ that we may be confronted with ugly realities. How can we be a place where people are encouraged to get help and how can we be a place where people *can* get help when they need it most? The church should lead the way in promoting health - spiritual, certainly - yet also all aspects of one's health. May we be willing to be that kind of church that asks tough questions and moves forward into the future God yearns for us to have.

In Christ,  
Pastor Will

## **RMUMW Welcomes Street Ransom Speaker at October 1 Meeting**

Rebekah Broughton, Communications Coordinator for Street Ransom in Roanoke will be the speaker at the October 1 meeting of the Rocky Mount United Methodist Women. The meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Atrium.



Rebekah grew up in the outskirts of Roanoke, Virginia, and attended James Madison University where she studied Communication and Humanitarian Affairs. During her time at JMU,

Rebekah discovered a new passion for social justice issues, and her eyes were opened to the prevalence of sex trafficking in our nation here and now. After graduating in May 2016, Rebekah moved back to her hometown and began interning at Street Ransom. Almost a year later, Rebekah took what she learned through her internship and joined the Street Ransom team as the Communications Coordinator. She now educates others in the Roanoke area about the realities of sex trafficking.

Street Ransom was founded as a ministry of Straight Street Roanoke Valley in 2014. Our mission is to empower the lives of those affected by sexual exploitation through awareness and aftercare.

### **Awareness**

We shed light on the pervasive issue of sexual exploitation in our community. Through media campaigns, community events, professional trainings, and prevention education curriculum, we teach the public how to identify sex trafficking and equip individuals to know how to respond.

### **Aftercare**

We partner with local, state, and federal agencies to meet survivors' most critical needs such as food, clothing, transportation, counseling, casework, and legal aid. Our crisis shelter will provide a secure haven and comprehensive trauma-informed care for female juvenile survivors of sex trafficking.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Linda Walters at [lindaw@shentel.net](mailto:lindaw@shentel.net) or call 757-635-0109. A love offering for Street Ransom will be taken.

### **Heavenly Manna Needs Volunteers**

Heavenly Manna, one of our local food banks, recently invited you to serve as a volunteer at their Monday distribution off of South Main Street. In 2017, 5,345 households were served. That's 14,899 individuals in Franklin County that depend upon the food supply of Heavenly Manna to provide them the sustenance they need to survive. To volunteer at this ministry, contact Frances J. Davis, director, at 540-420-1914.



### **Building Security**

The keypad code will be changed as of October 15, 2018. Please see Valerie in the Church Office to sign the statement and receive the code. We do not wish to restrict any member from having access to our church.

“Looking back over a lifetime, you see that love was the answer to everything.”  
—Ray Bradbury



## **United Methodist Women**

(Linda Walters,  
President)

All reports for 2018 have been completed and sent to the district. At our annual business meeting on August 27, we adopted a budget and calendar for 2019.

Officers for 2019 are as follows:

President – Linda Walters  
Vice-President – Judy Anderson  
Secretary – Debbie Caulder  
Treasurer – Charlotte Hill

Our #1 goal for 2019 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 a member, 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.

The 2018-19 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. 2019 titles as well as titles from 2014-2018 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!

Sunday, October 7, is your last opportunity to order quarts of homemade potato, with or without meat, chicken

tortilla, and vegetable beef soup. Cost is \$8 a quart. You may pick up your soup on Sunday, October 14 after worship. All funds raised will be used for UMW mission projects. Look for an order form in your Sunday bulletin on October 7.

The UMW will meet on Monday, October 1. Rebekah Broughton from Street Ransom will give the program. Don't forget to bring paper towels for Henry Fork Service Center to the meeting!

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. We are also collecting crayons and coloring books for the sheriff's office.



UMM

## **United Methodist Men**

(Mark Newbill,  
President)

The United Methodist Men will have their breakfast meeting on October 21 at 8:45 a.m. We encourage all men in the church to attend.



### **SERVING LUNCH AT STEPPING STONE SOUP KITCHEN**

On Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 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!



## Vital Congregation Statistics for August

### I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2017	\$39,986	
Transferred to Building Fund 4/30/18	<\$10,000>	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 8/31/18		\$193,554
Actual Offerings Received through 8/31/18	\$174,079	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 8/31/18		\$193,784
Actual Expenses Paid through 8/31/18	<\$158,407>	
Ending Balance, 8/31/18	\$45,658	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 143  
Average Sunday School Attendance = 35
- 



## October Is Pastor Appreciation Month

God has blessed our congregation with Reverend Will Waller who has begun his third year of ministry with us. October is the designated time of the year for us to show our appreciation to him with cards and other acts of kindness. Sunday, October 14, has been “officially” designated as Clergy Appreciation Day.

Thank you Pastor Will for all you have done and continue to do. May God continue to richly bless and guide you.

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Thank you for all of your (and your friends') hard work today. It looks amazing. One of the students said, "They are farming out there :)"

Thanks,  
Gail Brendle  
Sontag Elementary Principal



## **Music Notes**

(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

Believe it or not, we're working on Christmas music!

The **Children's Choirs** have started preparing their play to be presented on Sunday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. You'll hear details in next month's newsletter. The children already love it! We have prepared two songs that we will be singing with the Chancel Choir to celebrate World Communion Sunday, October 7. One is from Kenya. We're singing part of it in Swahili! We've also started practicing bell music. If your child is Wonderful Wednesday age and not already part of this program, come join us! See you next week.

The **Chancel Choir** will begin rehearsal on their Christmas cantata "On This Very Night" on Wednesday, October 3. I'm trying something different this year. We will practice our regular Sunday anthems from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45ish and then work exclusively on the cantata until 8:30 p.m. If you are a youth or adult and like to sing but can't join our Chancel Choir full time, please come sing the Christmas music with us. You should plan to be here by 7:30 p.m. We will present this beautiful cantata on December 16 during worship. I'll also have practice CDs for you to work with at home. I hope you'll consider singing this musical with us. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at church (483-5338) or by e-mail ([music@rm-umc.org](mailto:music@rm-umc.org)).

The **Bells** are ringing on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. We are already preparing a song for October and I have planned some fantastic Thanksgiving and Christmas pieces.

I'd like to "revive" the **Joyful Noise**, our instrumental ensemble. Instrumental accompaniment for the Thanksgiving Sunday worship and during Advent would be fabulous! Rehearsals are called as

needed. Charlotte Hill is our director. We would especially like to "recruit" middle and high school band members! Also, guitarists and violinists would be great. Let Charlotte or Lynn know if you'd like more info.

October 7 marks 29 years of music ministry with you at Rocky Mount UMC. I look back at where we began and praise God for all the gifts of music we have shared. I have seen my first groups of children grow up, finish school, and begin their life journey as adults. I have had the privilege and blessing of knowing many saints who have now begun their eternal journeys. Each year I meet new children in Wonderful Wednesday and through working with the preschool. I feel so privileged to help them grow in faith and Christian service through the music we make together. Each week God blesses me with new opportunities to witness to my faith through working with you in our music ministry. Thank you for being such a wonderful church family and giving me this special avenue to serve. I love you all.

Love and Peace,  
Lynn

## **He's everywhere**

A mother asked her little boy to please get the broom from the back porch. "But it's dark out there!" he protested.

"Don't be scared," Mom said. "Jesus is out there. He'll take care of you." When the child looked skeptical, his mother continued, "Jesus is everywhere. You'll be safe."

After a moment, the boy went to the back door and cracked it open. Peering into the dark, he called, "Jesus, if you're out there, will you please hand me the broom?"





Rocky Mount UMC Youth have had some exciting adventures and conversations throughout the month of

September. We anticipate that Jesus will be seen through what we do and where we go in the month of October. The first Sunday in October will include a trip to Bedford County for gleaning. Gleaning is a practice out of the Bible where the Israelites were instructed to leave crops for the poor. The harvesters would come through and after they were finished, the impoverished were then invited to take what was purposefully left. The youth will get to glean apples at Gross's Orchard in our neighboring county to the north. The following Sunday, we'll return to Bedford County to hike Sharp Top at Peaks of Otter. A trip to Scaremare is often included in October, as is hosting the Trunk-or-Treat Event. If you're still on the fence about joining youth group, hop over that fence, come glean with us! While you're at it, hike with us. And most importantly, ask the question how can Jesus be glorified in my life?

**Little Lambs in the News**

(Jan Mohler, Director)



The halls are alive with the sound of music ... and laughter, giggles and joy. The Lord has blessed us with a filled four-year-old class and a soon to be filled three-year-old class and we are humbled and grateful.

The classes are settling in nicely. Both classes were excited to meet Ms. Dorothy. The fours had a wonderful day to walk to the library. The classes also enjoyed meeting Pastor Will.

Our first events together were the trike-a-thons for St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital. The children and families very generously gave their time, talents and riding skills to help raise money for the families.

On October 17, we will take a joint field trip to Jeter Farm. We are praying for nice weather and safe travels as we look forward to this time of fellowship.

Blessings,  
Jan

**Stick with it!**



“If I’ve learned anything about friendship, it’s to hang in, stay connected,” says journalist Jon Katz. “Don’t walk away, don’t be distracted, don’t be too busy or tired, don’t take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together.”

This applies to church life too. When we’re annoyed by some aspect of congregational life or caught in conflict with other members, it’s tempting to drift away to another church – or no church. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are “part of the glue that holds life and faith together.” For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we “hang in [and] stay connected” with our church family. May we not “walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired.” May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this “glue” – even when things get a bit sticky!



## **Prayer Requests**

### **Prayer Concerns:**

Our country, those serving in our armed forces, and our church; Jean Hodges; Sam Cook; CO Brickey; Tim Funk; Ben & Chris Angle;

Kim Easter; John Cooper; Jeanette Singleton; Madison Little; Greg Dillon; Florence Miller; Heather Mackenzie; Donna Dillon; Hannah Bain; Debbie Ford; David Ferguson; Shelley Bird; Essie Wilson; DJ Snider; Ann Davis; Sharon Young; Joanne Patterson; Shirley Funk; Dennis Holland; Jennifer Tatum; Tiffanee Anderson; Martha Williams; Lorrie Williams; Mark Singleton; Jennifer Cooper; Kathy Cunningham; Don Applegarth; and Patricia Perdue.

### **Forget-Me-Nots:**

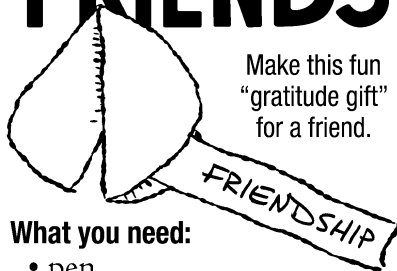
Mildred Dillon; Marion Higgins; Margaret Linkous; and Ann Robinson.



**Family of Harold Kefauver** who died on September 19



# Fortunate FRIENDS



Make this fun "gratitude gift" for a friend.

## What you need:

- pen
- round object to trace (about 4 inches across)
- lightweight colored paper
- scissors
- ruled notebook paper
- Chinese food takeout box (or small paper gift bag)
- hot glue gun

## What you do:

1. Trace circles onto the colored paper and cut them out.
2. Cut strips of notebook paper and write messages to a friend (or Bible verses about friendship).
3. Fold each circle in half without making a crease. Secure the top center edge with glue.
4. Pull the outside edges together by creating a bend in the center of the paper. Undo the bend and insert the fortune.
5. Re-bend the "cookie" into shape and add glue inside to hold it in place.
6. Put all the "cookies" in a takeout box and give to your friend.

# Just for Kids



## From the heart

We all need people who share godly wisdom with us.

*Directions: First, unscramble the bold letters to spell another word for "pal." Write that word in the first empty row. Then move the words under each bold letter to that letter's new column. The result will be Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

D	E	F	I	R	N
<b>F</b>					
to	bring	Perfume	incense	and	joy
<b>Perfume</b>					
of	the	the	and	heart,	pleasantness
<b>the</b>					
advice.	their	a friend	from	springs	heartfelt
<b>A friend</b>					

Answer: FRIEND; Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9, NIV

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35 North Main Street  
Rocky Mount, Virginia 24151

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**ROCKY  
MOUNT**  
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**  
**Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist**  
**Valerie Latimer, Administrative Assistant**  
**Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant**

**(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**