



RECTORTOWN Reporter



540-364-1066
540-742-1535 Pastor Cell



www.rectortownumc.org



jonathanlamb@vaumc.org
secretaryRUMC@gmail.com



PO Box 301
Rectortown, VA 20140
3049 Rectortown Rd
Marshall, VA 20115



ADAPTING TO CHANGE IN OUR LIVES

By Pastor Jonathan Lamb

SUGGESTED READING: ECCLESIASTES 3: 1-8

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

2 Corinthians 4:16



I remember preparing for eighth grades, I was going to be transitioning to High School (Page County was one of the few School Systems in Virginia that didn't have a middle school.). It was an exciting time planning what was next and recognizing that things were going to be different in a new school with new friends, new things to learn, and new sporting opportunities. The Scriptures also note the changes in the season as described in book of Ecclesiastes chapter three.

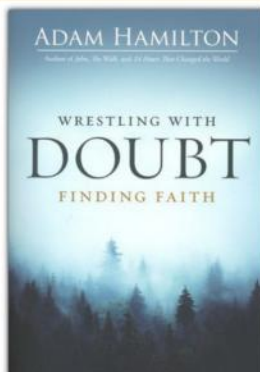
This book of wisdom notes that there is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to plant and a time to uproot. There is a season for everything, it's important for us to make the most of the time we are given today. So let us live in away that we can honor the Lord by loving mercy and walking humbly with our God.

As we begin a new year, 2024, may we each look for ways to discern opportunities on how we can grow in faith, hope, and love. This might involve for you committing to using the Upper Room Devotion and/or you can follow the Gospel of Matthew reading plan over the next three months. You can also catch up on Pastor Jonathan's YouTube Video on the Gospel of Luke. Perhaps, you might be able to help others by serving your neighbors through helping more with the Fig Leaf or Seven Loaves. Perhaps there are other ways you can think about giving and serving in the months ahead.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, help us to make the most of the time that you have given us. Help to grow in your ways of love. We pray this in your Holy Name, One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

NEW SERMON SERIES



“Wrestling With Doubt”

A new sermon series starts this new year, based on Adam Hamilton’s book, *Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Faith*.

Sunday, January 7th

“Is There a God?”

Sunday, January 14th

“Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?” &
“Is Heaven Real?”

Sunday, January 21st

“The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible”

Guest Speaker: Rev. Joshua King, Pastor of Bethany UMC (Purcellville)

Sunday, January 28th

“When Prayers Go Unanswered”

Sunday, February 4th

“Why Do The Innocent Suffer?”

Guest Speaker: Rev. Heather Wray, Associate Pastor at Leesburg UMC

Sunday, February 11th

“Does God Really Love Me?”

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Middleburg-Rectortown Cooperative Parish - Future Ministry Opportunities

Middleburg UMC and Rectortown UMC Administrative Councils met together on Wednesday, November 15th. Leaders from both congregations discussed new ways that we could partner together in ministry for our area. Several ideas were suggested, and a poll of ideas was handed out to the church family on Sunday, December 3rd. This vote helped to narrow our focus, but we wanted to provide opportunities for as many people as possible to provide input in our potential future ministry work as a cooperative parish. Here is a list of some potential ideas for us to focus on in the future below. We will have a follow-up vote for future ministry opportunities on Sunday, January 28th in worship. Here is a list of ministries we can do together, you can vote for as many as you feel led to do so, but please indicate how you can serve: time, money, or gifts.

1. Fig Leaf Expansion

To read more about our homegrown clothes closet check out their article in our Newsletter. They are serving dozens of families!

Check out their website, <https://thefigleaf.org/>

2. Samaritan Pursue Shoe Box Program

Samaritan's Purse International Relief has been hosting Operation Christmas Child since 1993 sending out thousands of Christmas Gifts to children all over the world from the Pacific Islands to Eastern Europe. Along with the gifts the staff presents the Gospel message. Check out their website, <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>.

3. Lasagna Love

A non-profit that spawned during the pandemic that local moms joined together to provide free meals to those in need. They are expanding their work by sharing free meals by delivering them to families in need. Check out their website, <https://lasagnalove.org/>.

4. Senior Learning Sessions

Our congregations can host regular times of instruction on using the Internet and other helpful skills. You can check out this website for additional ideas, <https://thechesapeake.org/blog/lifelong-learning-seniors/>.

5. Free Meal Hosting

Both congregations can host a monthly free meal that can be a simple bag lunch to a sit-down meal in the fellowship hall. An example of this concept is Nicholasville Methodist Church which hosts a free meal weekly, check out their info, <https://www.nmcky.org/manna/>.

6. Your Idea

Please share with us your ideas for future ministry opportunities!

 **ATTENTION! SCAMMERS POSING AS PASTOR JONATHAN** 

This is an email that was sent out to the Middleburg-Rectortown Cooperative Parish Church Family on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Dear Church Family,

I need to bring to your attention; a scammer has been sending out text messages posing as myself "Pastor Jonathan Lamb" asking for gift cards for shut-in church members going through cancer in the Middleburg area.

Here are some things to note.

1. I will never text or email you to ask you to pick up a gift card for me of any kind.
2. Please note who is sending you the number and address of the information, my email is jonathanlamb@vaumc.org and my cell phone is 540-742-1535. If you are receiving information from another email address or phone number please disregard the message, and you can let me and the Church Office know about the situation.
3. I (Rev. Jonathan Lamb), will never personally email or text you one-on-one to ask for help with the discretionary fund of the churches. If you feel led to give to your church's discretionary fund, you can write a check noting "discretionary fund" and place it in the offering plate. Any request to assist with "discretionary funds" will be made from the pulpit and/or newsletter.

I appreciate you all.

Sincerely,
Pastor Jonathan J. Lamb

NEW YEAR! NEW BOARD!

Rectortown UMC's Board (Administrative Council)

Paula "Muggie" Grice, Church Attendance Secretary
 Diane Harrington, Leadership Development Representative
 Ben Wegdam, Fig Leaf Representative
 Larry Scheuble, Lay Leader
 Abbey Klooster (Staff), Membership Secretary
 Pastor Jonathan Lamb

Committee on Staff-Parish Relations (Autonomous of the Board)

Jim Harrington, Class of 2024
 Tara Wegdam, Class of 2025
 Larry Scheuble, Church Lay Leader

Trustees (Autonomous of the Board)

Jim Harrington, Class of 2024
 Russ Muter, Class of 2026
 Larry Scheuble, Class of 2026

Fig Leaf Clothes Closet (Autonomous of the Board)

Tara & Ben Wegdam, Co-Chairs of Fig Leaf Attendance at Meetings Compose Committee.

Ex-officio Leaders (Who Report to the Board)

Paula "Muggie" Grice, Church Attendance Secretary
 Diane Harrington, Leadership Development Representative
 Ben Wegdam, Fig Leaf Representative
 Larry Scheuble, Lay Leader
 Abbey Klooster (Staff), Membership Secretary & Financial Secretary
 TBD, Church Treasurer
 Larry Scheuble, Jim Harrington, & Russ Muter, Trustees
 Linda Rose, Muggie Grice, & Eileen Miller, Fellowship Team
 Tara Wegdam, Meal Coordinator
 Shirley Embrey & Roxie Willis, Visitation Team
 Diane Harrington, Claude Thompson Elementary Liaison
 Larry Scheuble, Sunday School Adult Class Leader
 Tara Wegdam, Sunday School Children Class Leader
 Mike Edward (Middleburg UMC), Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
 Laura Symanski, Prayer Coordinator
 Diane Harrington, Church Historian
 Pastor Jonathan, Discretionary Fund Administrator
 Pastor Jonathan, Mission Coordinator
 Abbey Klooster, Social Media Coordinator: Website and Facebook, Newsletter
 Muggie Grice, Communion Coordinator
 TBD, Acolyte & Candle Coordinator
 TBD, Administrative Council Chair
 TBD, President of United Methodist Men
 TBD, President of United Methodist Women
 TBD, Young Adult Representative
 TBD, United Methodist Youth Representative
 TBD, District Steward
 TBD, Alternative District Steward
 TBD, Camp Overlook Representative
 TBD, Small Group Ministries Coordinator
 TBD, Visitor-New Member Coordinator
 TBD, Choir Director
 TBD, Live Streaming Videographer
 TBD, In-person Audio Visual Operator

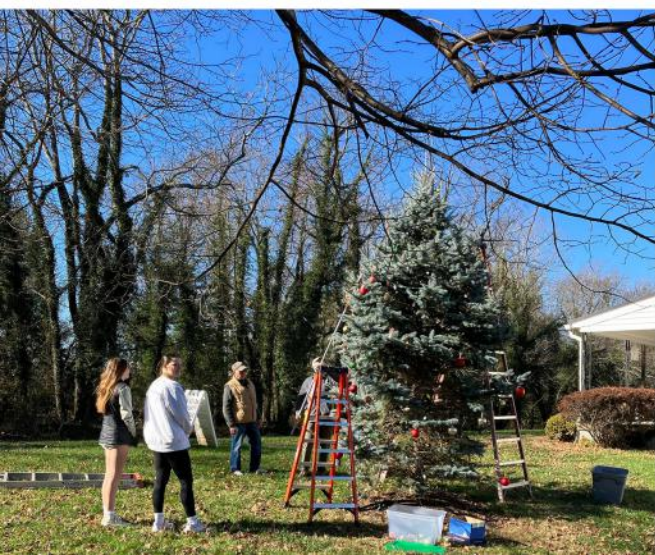
RECTORTOWN COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING

On Sunday, November 26, 2023, Rectortown United Methodist Church hosted an evening of fellowship followed by prayer services and a lighting of the community tree outside in front of our church. Guest speakers were Pastor John Rowe from Marshall United Methodist, Rev. Jonathan Ostman from St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Marshall, Rev. Reginald Bryant from Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and Rev. Richard Bensinger from Cool Springs United Methodist Church. Members of their congregations joined us in worship and singing holiday hymns.



RECTORTOWN COMMUNITY ORNAMENT MAKING & DECORATING

On the festive Saturday of November 25th, 2023, Rectortown United Methodist Church hosted a joy-filled ornament-making and tree-decorating event that drew attendees from both the Fig Leaf and a family who traveled from the Remington area! Larry's grandchildren made special guest appearances, adding an extra layer of delight to the occasion. The community spirit was palpable as participants came together to create beautiful ornaments and adorn the Christmas tree. Rectortown United Methodist Church extends heartfelt thanks to all who contributed, and the memories created during this event are sure to resonate throughout the festive season.



SPREADING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Dennis and Anita Irvin are a remarkable couple dedicated to bringing joy during the holiday season. As Santa and Mrs. Claus, they've made it their mission to spread smiles and brighten the lives of children and senior citizens in our community. Anita Irvin is the daughter of Johnny and Joan Newsome.



EXCITING NEWS FROM FIG LEAF: TRANSITIONING TO A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION!



We're thrilled to share some exciting developments from Fig Leaf! As we embark on a new chapter, Fig Leaf is in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization, reflecting our commitment to serving the community and expanding our impact. This transition allows us to further pursue our mission and enhance the support we provide.

Additionally, as we look forward to the New Year, we're excited to introduce our new volunteer sign-up page and website! If you're passionate about making a difference in our community, we invite you to join us in various initiatives and events. Signing up is quick and easy—simply visit

(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA8AB2AA1FEC70-46452910-figleaf#/>) , keep an eye on your email, or scan the QR Code to explore volunteer opportunities and be part of Fig Leaf's positive impact in the upcoming year. Please check out and share our website at thefigleaf.org !

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on these exciting endeavors!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nash Kridler - Jan 8

Kristen Hylton - Jan 9

Sarah Ponn - Jan 9

Morgan Hall - Jan 10

Tracey Grogg - Jan 12

Caleb Wilson - Jan 14

Jill Wilson - Jan 24

ANNIVERSARIES

Carl Carter & Ann Royster-Woltz

Jan 10

JANUARY MEETINGS

Jan 4, 7pm

- Admin Council Meeting*

**Note: All RUMC committees except Trustees and SPPRC will now meet during Admin Council*

Jan 10, 6pm

- Trustees Meeting

Jan 16, 10am

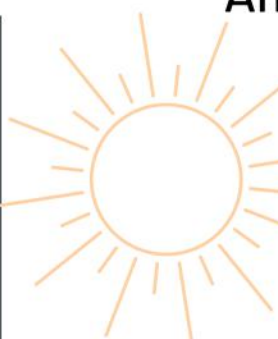
- Fig Leaf Meeting

EVENTS


Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- January 15 - Offices Closed

Another Year Is Dawning



Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.



--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

**IT'S TIME
PRAY**

**NOON TIME
PRAYER**

Please Join Us
Thursdays at Noon at
Middleburg UMC's Sanctuary



RECTORTOWN UMC MISSION STATEMENT
SERVING GOD THROUGH **PRAYER, ACTION,**
AND **LOVE** THROUGH **SERVICE.**

2023 SNAPSHOTS



SCRIPTURE READING JANUARY 2023

Scripture Plan for Gospel of Matthew	
Mon. Jan. 1	1:1-9
Tues. Jan. 2	1:11-17
Wed. Jan. 3	1:18-25
Thurs. Jan. 4	2:1-12
Fri. Jan. 5	2:13-23
Sat. Jan. 6	3:1-12
Sun. Jan. 7	3:13-4:10
Mon. Jan. 8	3:12-17
Tues. Jan. 9	4:18-22
Wed. Jan. 10	4:23-5:2
Thurs. Jan. 11	5:3-12
Fri. Jan. 12	5:13-20
Sat. Jan. 13	5:21-30
Sun. Jan. 14	5:31-42
Mon. Jan. 15	5:43-6:4
Tues. Jan. 16	6:5-15
Wed. Jan. 17	6:16-24
Thurs. Jan. 18	6:25-6:33
Fri. Jan. 19	7:1-12
Sat. Jan. 20	7:13-23
Sun. Jan. 21	7:24-8:4
Mon. Jan. 22	8:5-8:13
Tues. Jan. 23	8:14-22
Wed. Jan. 24	8:23-34
Thurs. Jan. 25	9:1-8
Fri. Jan. 26	9:9-17
Sat. Jan. 27	9:18-26
Sun. Jan. 28	9:27-38
Mon. Jan. 29	10:1-15
Tues. Jan. 30	10:16-25
Wed. Jan. 31	10:26-39