



The Wellspring

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Rock Springs United Methodist Church

Sunday

Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship	11:00 am
Youth	6:30 pm

Tuesday

Bible Study	7:00 pm
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Wednesday

Adult Choir	6:00 pm
Youth	6:30 pm
Children's Choir	7:00 pm
Adult Bible Study	7:00 pm

For an up-to-the-minute calendar
of events go to
www.RockSpringsUMC.com

Rev. Carole Martin
(423) 534.1027
revcmartin23@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Mark Adcox
Music Director: Martha Hawk
Organist: Dr. Sandra Ramsey
Pianist: Ellen Painter
Sound Tech: Kip & Susie Larson

Administrative Assistant

Kathi Kost
Office: (423) 349.7531
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Office Hours:

Tuesday—Friday 9 am—1:00 pm
WWW.RockSpringsUMC.com
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News and Encouragement for the RSUMC Family

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2020

Pastor's Corner

In the Wilderness

Several years ago, Dan and I were on vacation out west. We drove from Kingsport to Albuquerque, New Mexico to visit Dan's brother. Getting there was relatively uncomplicated. We got on Interstate 40 just before Knoxville, and turned off when we got to Albuquerque, two days and 1400 miles later. We decided to take a different way home, one that would take us through Colorado and Kansas, and into Missouri to visit other family members.

We travel together pretty well, for the most part anyway, but we have different ideas on how to do it. I like to explore, getting off the beaten path for a while. Dan follows a map religiously. One afternoon, we were wending our way through Colorado Springs, going along with my whims, and we weren't getting where we wanted to go. So, I threw it over to Dan – and asked for directions, as in, my sense of adventure ran smack into his desire to plan. If I remember right, he said something like, "We can do it your way or my way, but I can't do both." Truth. Now, we were not lost exactly, but we weren't really sure where we were or how to get to where we needed to go. Obviously, we ultimately found our way out of Colorado and home. But for a little while, we were in the wilderness.

Wilderness places show up regularly in our lives, whenever we are in new places or new experiences and don't have a sense of direction or grounding. Going off to college can feel like a wilderness until one begins to navigate the campus and the coursework, learning how to negotiate with roommates and the relative freedom of college life.

Starting a new job is another wilderness – learning how to do the job within the structure of the company, learning where to park, where to sit, and what's expected day to day. Many other life experiences can feel like a wilderness where familiar territory turns suddenly unfamiliar with one of the many bumps along the road.

But it's not all negative. Wilderness comes in the "difficult moments in the day, in challenging aspects of the beautiful blessing of life," says Hannah Garrity. It is by persevering within the trials that life becomes even stronger and more wonderful than previously imaginable. Times in the wilderness can be life-changing, causing us to focus our attention on things that we had previously overlooked, perhaps because we were too busy with other things.

At the end of the month, February 26 is Ash Wednesday. We will have a traditional service that includes marking with ashes, a reminder of our mortality and our need to repent.



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Worship in February 2020

February 2 –

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon – Lessons in Attitude
In this passage from Matthew's gospel, we find the Beatitudes, or Jesus' reality check for his followers. Following Jesus does not mean a path on easy street. Rather, there will be challenges along the way. Come this Sunday as we talk about an attitude and joy that comes from following Jesus that is unlike anything else. We will share in the Lord's Supper.

February 9 –

5th Sunday after Epiphany

New Testament Lesson:

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon – Salty Language
In the passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul describes the mystery of God in the form of Jesus the Christ. We can only understand the depths of God through the Holy Spirit. In the

passage from Matthew, Jesus lays out what life as his follower is to be like – salt and light to the world. Come this Sunday as we explore what it means to be salt and light.

February 16 –

6th Sunday after Epiphany

New Testament Lesson:

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon – Yes or No?

The lesson from Matthew's Gospel continues with Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount. In it, Jesus enhances the kingdom understanding of old sayings – "You have heard it said.... but I say to you..." on things like reconciling with one another and swearing, among other things. In the passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul continues his instructions on working together to build the kingdom.

February 23 –

Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture:

Exodus 24:12-18,
Matthew 17:1-9S

Sermon –

Mountain Top Experience
Transfiguration Sunday marks the last Sunday before the beginning of the season of Lent. Jesus goes to the top of an unnamed, but very high mountain, and is changed before them. They, too, were changed by that experience. Come this Sunday as we talk about changes we go through as we become more and more like Jesus.

February 26 –

Ash Wednesday

Service at 5:30

Scripture:

Psalm 51:1-17,
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season set aside from early days to be a time for prayer and penitence, seeking new understanding of what it means to follow Christ, being transformed by his will for our lives. The service will include a time for being marked by ashes as a reminder of our mortality and need to repent.

Pastor's Corner...continued from page 1

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, and our theme for this year is Wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with testing and struggle. Yet it is a critical time in shaping and forming him for ministry. Without praying and fasting, struggling yet overcoming, wandering and wondering, he wouldn't have been as prepared for what was ahead. Similarly, it goes for us. As we go through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Holy Spirit. And there is no place, no wilderness where we are beyond the reach of God's love.

Remember, not all who wander are lost, and not all who know where they are going are on the right path. I invite you to prepare your hearts and minds to experience the journey through the wilderness together. May we experience the richness that it will bring.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Carole

Calendar

Prayer Requests

Jon Light	Mykah Harris	C.M. Jinkerson
Charlie Fischer	Eric Harris	Forbes family
Judy Bradley	Bert Carter	Creech Family
Richard Smith	Charlene Osborne	Dean & Donna Woodruff
Bo Compton	Pat Lyons	Sonny Forbes Family
Lotus Jean Compton	Bob & Nell Reidmeyer	Peggy Hughes
Patti Jones	Virginia Berry	Mary Emma
Carl Painter	Trinity Watlington	Paul Rutledge

A Note from our Choir Director

We are not planning a music only program for this spring but we are preparing beautiful music in praise and worship of the Lord.

All are welcome to join us to "Lift every voice and sing..."!

A Musicology Note

An accomplished musician and blind from early childhood, Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) wrote the lyrics to more than eight thousand hymns in her lifetime. She did not set any of her poems to her own compositions but was asked to write lyrics for numerous composers. One of her much beloved and often sung hymns is "Blessed Assurance." This hymn, written in 1873, was the result of a casual visit with friend and composer Phoebe Knapp (1839-1908). When Crosby entered her friend's home, Knapp was playing a beautiful melody on the organ. Knapp asked Crosby "What does that melody say to you, Fanny?" and after a brief moment of thought the words to the first verse of "Blessed Assurance" came pouring from her heart.

(Source: Lucy Neeley Adams, *52 Hymn Story Devotions*, 2000)

Martha

Save the Date !

Spread the NEWS...

Thanks to some truly dedicated and awesome individuals... Our new nursery will soon be available in the lower level of the church, just below the sanctuary. We plan to dedicate it Sunday, Feb. 9 immediately following worship. We will be reaching out to those who've been "safe sanctuary" trained to schedule staffing it.



February Birthdays

2/1	Jerry Higgins
2/3	Abigail Higgins
2/8	Christine Carroll
2/10	Kaydee Morelock
2/11	Jonathan Light
2/13	Brenda Hogan
2/18	Robert Copple
2/19	Martha Ward
2/21	Linda Carter
2/21	Sue Davis
2/22	Debbie Chapman
2/23	Carole Martin
2/24	Carl Painter

Serving this Month

Acolytes	Date
Nash Dishner & Cruz Weber	2/2
Archer & Jakkcee Compton	2/9
Scarlett & Victor Hite	2/16
Lily Carroll	2/23
Children's Chat	Date
Chuck Helvey	2/2
Debbie Wilson	2/9
LaDonna Compton	2/16
Pastor Carole	2/23

Welcome...

Visitors and Guests !

If you're reading our newsletter for the first time...and you don't have a church home, we invite you to make Rock Springs UMC your home.

For more information, visit our website, Facebook page... or simply ask the person seated next to you for assistance.

Pastor Carole

Join the Choir...

It's cheaper than therapy... and a LOT more fun !

Last month we were privileged to serve 92 needy families God is Good...

FOOD
pantry

Shopping
Friday 2/21at
1:00pm

Food Pantry
OPEN
2/25

from 5-7 pm



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United
Methodist
Church**

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February 2020

The season of Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday February 26th
and ends on April, 11th

**Ash Wednesday
Worship Service
5:30 pm**

