



# The Wellspring

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Online Worship	1
Online Worship, Online Giving	1
Pastor's Corner	2
Graduating Seniors	3-4
Farewell thank-you to Pastor Carole	5
A Note from our Choir Director	5
Prayer Requests	5
Birthday's & Anniversaries	5
Welcome Pastor Harry Layell	5
Food Pantry Update	5

Unfortunately we  
have had to  
suspend our

**ROCK SPRINGS  
FISH FRY**

until  
further notice



**Rock Springs  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

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## News and Encouragement for the RSUMC Family

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

JUNE 2020

## Online Worship

As of this writing, we are still worshipping exclusively online, and plan to do so at least through the end of June. The Bishop will be issuing a statement early June, and we will adjust our plans accordingly. Please stay tuned – we will do our best to get any changes out as soon as we can. Meanwhile, we thank you for finding and joining us online!

### May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

#### **Wear Red!**

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

**Sermon** – How Will They Know?

### June 7 – Trinity Sunday

**Holy Communion** – please have your bread and juice ready!

Matthew 28:16-20

**Sermon** – Jesus Is with Us

### June 14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**(This will be Pastor Carole's last Sunday sermon at Rock Springs UMC)**

Hebrews 11:1-3; 12:1-2

**Sermon** – Following Jesus

### June 21 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Happy Father's Day**

Guest speaker – to be announced

### June 28 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Hymn Sing!**

Please let Martha Hawk at [HAWKMJ@mail.etsu.edu](mailto:HAWKMJ@mail.etsu.edu)  
or Kathi at 349-7531 know your favorite two hymns.

We will include as many as we can!



## ONLINE worship

**On Facebook  
Sunday 9:30 am**

<https://www.facebook.com/rockspringsumckpt>  
at YouTube—search for @rockspringsumckpt to see each week's sermon  
AND [www.rockspringsumc.com](http://www.rockspringsumc.com)

## ONLINE giving

*Fast...Simple...Secure!*

\* We've set up an online giving account on our website:

[www.rockspringsumc.com](http://www.rockspringsumc.com)

\* If you're more comfortable sending a check, our address is  
227 Church View Dr. Kingsport, TN. 37664

We appreciate your generosity during this challenging time, and pray for your good health and safety.

## *Pastor's Corner*

### **Last Things**

I am writing this on Memorial Day. Outside, the sun is shining, the grass is green, and flowers are blooming. Around the world, the coronavirus rages. More than 1,600,000 people in the US alone have been infected, and nearly 100,000 have died. Those numbers are staggering. Their loss is incalculable, and experts say those numbers are likely under-reported and will go higher. How much knowledge, how much wisdom will not be passed on to the next generations, as lives are gone in a trice, without proper ways to say goodbye nor mourn their deaths with familiar rituals and gatherings, leaving broken hearts and broken branches in family trees.



And it's Memorial Day, when we remember loved ones who are no longer with us, and give thanks for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives that we might be free. Two years ago, at the beginning of May, I went to Missouri to visit with my parents. While I was there, we visited the little cemetery where at least five generations of my dad's family lie buried. My dad's uncle, LM was buried there, killed overseas in WWII. Our family history was altered forever, just as it had been when his little sister died of pneumonia.

One of the graves I specifically wanted to visit was that of my great-great grandparents, Robert and Sarah White. Robert was born in Australia, moved to England with his family, and eventually, he and Sarah moved to the United States, just after the Civil War. I knew there was a preacher in the family as I was growing up, but it wasn't until I was in seminary that I researched Robert White's life for a paper. In going through the family archives, I found a letter he had written to his wife, which read, in part:

I rather believe in woman preachers or any whose labors God owns. The clearest credentials that we can have that we are where God would have us be and doing the work appointed us is that souls are being converted to God – I wish someone that I love was a woman preacher that by her heaven may be peopled with precious souls.

This letter was dated 1871. I was stunned when I read it, but grateful to know that the way was being prepared even before I discerned my own call to ministry. I had the privilege to be ordained in 2006, the year we celebrated 50 years of full ordination rights for women in the Methodist Church. I have answered that call to the best of my ability and served faithfully in the places where I have been appointed. Celebration of the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion were always moments of privilege, as was being present as someone was about to depart this life. These were sacred spaces.

Now, more than twenty years after I said 'yes' to follow that call to ministry, it is time to retire, and to wait and see what is next. It has been an unexpected segue to retirement, having spent the last three months of ministry practicing social distancing and leading worship online. It has also been a productive time of writing for me, as I have completed the Doctor of Ministry Degree that I started in 2009.

So, we are in a time of transition. I pray that you will welcome Rev. Harry Layell and his wife to Rock Springs UMC. My fervent hope is that you will be able to look past personal preferences and the way things have always been done to embrace the future God has for you. We cannot reach for what is next if we cling to what is past. We remember those who came before us, and honor their memory. Yet we look forward to new missions and ministries that will open up and where God is already at work.

In this, my last Pastor's Corner for Rock Springs, I appreciate the ways you have supported me and my family. Over the years I've been in ministry, I've served seven different congregations, and I remain grateful for the constant support of my husband, Dan, and my children and grandchildren. As for what my future holds, God knows. I am confident that the way is already being prepared, and when it is time for me to know, all will be revealed.

May we be the church wherever we find ourselves, offering God's love, mercy, and grace to all we meet.  
Grace and peace,

*Pastor Carole*

### To Pastor Carole...

You have served the Lord with gladness... tirelessly, faithfully and with great compassion for His flock.

*Thank-you* for the seeds you plant and the disciples you nurture.

*Thank-you* for the sermons you preach and the prayers you lift up.

*Thank-you* for the wise counsel and words of encouragement.

*Thank-you* for the sacrifice and the service.

Now as the day dawns on the next chapter in your life, may God continue to richly bless you, and watch over you, may He grant you peace...now and always.

### A Note from our Choir Director

As we take steps to worship together much remains to be determined! Please watch for updates as we all work out how best to include music and song in renewed worship as a community.

### Musicology Note:

As we move closer to community worship a couple of hymn titles really stood out to me and I determined to find their history. Maybe you already knew, but I was incredibly surprised to learn that "We Gather Together" is **NOT** really a hymn written for the American Thanksgiving holiday. Perhaps I would have realized this by taking the time to read the notes in the hymnal instead of just accepting the music in the context of my childhood experiences! This hymn, written in 1597, commemorates and celebrates Holland's freedom from Spain and a new freedom to worship as they chose. This freedom followed a horrific and bloody war rooted in Calvinistic Reformation changes in the Netherlands in 1555. In 1557, King Philip send the Duke of Alba (Fernando Alvarez de Toledo) to bring the region back to the strict authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Alvarez established a reign of terror where he formed a ruling council history remembers as the "Blood Council;" this began a time where ten thousand people were executed and another forty thousand exiled. Bodies of thousands were hung in the streets and on doorposts of homes. Whole cities were massacred. The attack on one city only stopped by cutting the dikes and flooding the surrounding countryside. Under the leadership of William of Orange, Holland declared independence from Spain in 1581. Though William was assassinated, the people persevered and won the hard fought for freedoms from Spanish rule.

(Source: *Then Sings My Soul*; Book 2, by Robert J. Morgan, 2004. Pages 8-9,

The SPR Committee would like to welcome Pastor Harry Layell and his wife Sharon to Rock Springs UMC.

Pastor Layell will be serving Rock Spring beginning in mid-July. He is a retired elder, and is excited about being the Pastor at our church.

He is currently serving Legion Memorial UMC in Big Stone Gap, VA.



### June Birthdays

6/1	Seth Brooks
6/1	Jason Light
6/9	Debbie Wilson
6/10	Carole Carroll
6/11	Steve Galloway
6/11	Shelby Marlow
6/11	Sharon Cameron
6/13	Makkenzie Compton
6/14	Kathi Kost
6/15	Carol Gentry
6/15	Larry Ward
6/16	Johnny Grills
6/20	Bo Compton
6/23	Brody Goodman
6/26	Benita Rutherford
6/30	Austin Compton

### June Anniversaries

6/7	Matt & Crystal Doty
6/11	Kip & Susie Larson
6/17	Philip & Tracy Dishner
6/23	Daniel & Kim Scalf
6/30	Clayton & Marilyn Hall

### Prayer Requests

Jon Light  
Charlie Fischer  
Judy Bradley  
Bo Compton  
Lotus Jean Compton  
Carl Painter  
Bert Carter  
Bob & Nell Reidmeyer  
C.M. Jinkerson  
Forbes family  
Creech Family  
Sonny Forbes Family  
Peggy Hughes  
Joe Pat Selby

A big shout out to the team of volunteers who made our May Drive-thru Food Pantry distribution a Great Success !

*Thank You!*

Last month we were privileged to serve 80 needy families God is Good...

**FOOD**  
pantry

Shopping  
Friday 6/19  
1:00pm  
Food Pantry  
OPEN  
6/23  
from 5-7 pm



**Rock Springs  
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KINGSPORT, TN  
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Unfortunately, due to the  
Corona Virus we have  
had to suspend our

**ROCK SPRINGS  
FISH FRY**

**Until further notice**

**June 2020**

