

the Rock

September 2020

A publication of:

Rockawalkin United Methodist Church

6777 Rockawalkin Road
Hebron, Maryland 21830
(410) 742-6975

Email: office@rockawalkin.com

Website: www.rockawalkin.com

FB: Rockawalkin UMC

Rev. Howard F. Travers, Jr., Pastor

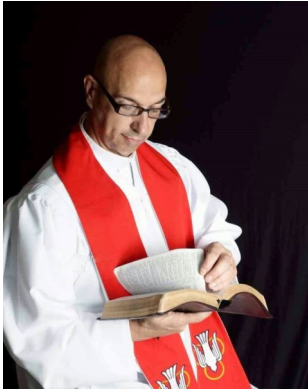
pastorhoward@rockawalkin.com

(Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Sunday Worship Service - 8:30 a.m.

(Sundays @ CrossRoads Community Property - weather permitting)

Sharing Christ's Love Through Word & Action



Rev. Howard F. Travers, MA, MDiv, CT

“Unprecedented”

The word “unprecedented” has been used an unprecedented number of times over the past several months. Frankly, we are running out of adjectives to describe the changes our nation has endured in this COVID-19 crises. This global health emergency along with the evolving economic calamity and growing existential crisis has caused huge shifts in the way we do business, school, life and, of course, church.

The sudden closing of Houses of Worship has prompted many churches to jump onto the digital bandwidth wagon at “unprecedented” speed. And in doing so (as in the post 9-11 period), these churches are reporting more engagement than normal - more than would have normally visited their church in person. In fact, on any given Sunday, there is an average of (276) individuals viewing our Facebook Live broadcast - many more than we could ever possibly accommodate inside our church sanctuary. There is a spiritual openness in these “unprecedented” times that is actually refreshing to those of us who have been on the spiritual front-lines for any significant length of time. This openness gives us great hope.

Many churches around our region have now resumed inside Worship Services. We’re not critical of their decision to do so. In fact, we’re not in competition with any church. While we are all eager to gather inside again for worship, and many have asked when that time will come, our church leadership has decided, for many important reasons, to patiently await better conditions before resuming our inside Worship activities. Especially since under the present COVID-19 Guidelines for Churches, we can only accommodate less than (40) socially-distanced people in our sanctuary, donning masks, and (based on present protocols) prohibited from congregational singing.

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I think you will agree ... that's a terribly depressing atmosphere and environment in which to worship! It would actually stifle the spirit and fellowship that we all crave. In contrast, we're actually better equipped than most churches for weathering these "unprecedented" times. Many churches simply do not have all of the advantages we have: a vast amount of land that offers outside worship opportunities and room for growth ... an open-aired worship platform ... a pavilion (soon to be built) that will accommodate even more ministry and outside activities ... newly installed cameras and equipment that will (in coming weeks) provide improved capabilities of broadcasting our online services ... a thriving vision and mission rooted in reaching souls for Christ ... congregants willing to support the vision and mission with their treasure, time, and talents ... financial strength to continue serving the needs of congregants and the community during these "unprecedented" times ... values and principles that focus not just on what happens on Sunday but during the week also ... and various ministries and outreaches that uniquely put into practice our mission, vision, and values.

*The church leadership has based its motivation for every decision we're making during these "unprecedented" times, on **LOVE** and **FAITH**, not fear. Love for God and for the people He created ... and faith in God's promises. The following Scriptures continue to guide us during this crises:*

***2 Timothy 1:7** - "For God has NOT given us the spirit of fear; but power, and love, and a sound mind." Therefore, we choose to remain calm, confident, and loving in our leadership. We ask, "What is best for the people we love and serve?"*

***1 Corinthians 16:14** - "Do everything out of love!" We trust God's timing is perfect and we patiently wait on Him. **Psalms 31:15** - "You are my God and my times are in your hands!" We continually look for the good purpose that our good God has in everything. **Romans 8:28** - "We know that ALL things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."*

In our 180-year church history, we've navigated many "unprecedented" storms as a Church. In fact, we thrive in storms because our foundation and structure is based not on who we are, but rather on God's Word and His promises to us which are forever true.

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*Rockawalkin U.M.C. is not a perfect church nor am I a perfect Pastor or leader (just ask my wife and those who know me well). But we **ARE** a strong and healthy church. It's why we have been able to weather this storm and even **EXPAND** in this crisis. Despite the many "unprecedented" challenges of these times and our own many imperfections, we are stewarding this opportunity well in helping people come to a clear understanding of the Gospel - many hearing it for the very first time. We have also worked hard and will continue to work hard to lay foundations for a new generation of actively engaged disciples. In fact, in the Fall I will be introducing "Church At Home" - a new initiative based on Acts 2. Participating homes throughout our community will become extensions of our church offering prayer, communion, and study to a small number of willing participants (6 or less) - family, friends, and neighbors. On **Membership Sunday, October 18** we will be receiving (5) of our new disciples into baptism and membership! Membership does have its privileges. Please let us know if God is impressing upon you to become a member of our great family.*

Rockawalkin U.M.C. is not a building. We are a living, breathing Body. Therefore, from the on-set of COVID-19, Rockawalkin U.M.C. has never been "closed." Our Church is a family, not a fortress. We are a people, not a place. We are an army of servants, not an event of attenders. A crowd is not a Church. Rockawalkin U.M.C. is so much more than a weekend Worship Service! Everyday of the week we are "sharing Christ's love through word and action." May we continue to offer compassion and a call to true repentance to everyone. That is our mission and vision.

Have I told you lately that I love you? I do ... and I am praying for you in these "unprecedented" times. Thank you for your continued faithful support in so many ways ... And for allowing me to be called your Pastor.

In His service,

Pastor Howard

Pastor Howard Travers, M.A., MDiv., C.T.

Rockawalkin United Methodist Church



Mrs. Ethel Guy's "Extra Mile for Christ" Campaign

Mrs. Ethel Guy

She began her "Extra-Mile for Christ" Campaign in 1970. Having served several years in many official Church positions, Ethel was keenly aware of the Church's on-going financial needs and of the many Church projects that were floundering simply for lack of funding. Her recognition of this, coupled with inspiration from Christ's "Parable of The Talents," prompted Ethel to approach Church parishioners and the community to make specific requests of them. Ethel asked individuals to set aside a portion of their crops, raise a few more chickens, or reserve a special portion of their income (from their vocation) and give it to the Church as recognition of their dependence upon God and thankfulness for His many blessings in their life.

Ethel's vision quickly took shape. Each spring, participants received \$1 from the Church along with a handwritten note from Ethel Guy requesting that they increase that amount. With God's help, congregants returned the "talent" along with their financial increase to the Church each harvest season near the time of Thanksgiving.

Since 1970, the "Extra-Mile for Christ" Campaign begun by Mrs. Ethel Guy has raised literally thousands of dollars to support the ministry and mission of our Church. From selling baked goods, to crafts, to writing poems, to making pepper relish, to providing services for donations, God has utilized the talents of members and friends over the years to provide a substantial increase to the Church in funding its on-going needs and ministry efforts. We thank God for Mrs. Ethel Guy and her obedience to God in helping provide for the work of Rockawalkin United Methodist Church through the "Extra-Mile for Christ" Campaign. (continued ...)

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This year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, we are physically unable to pass a \$1 bill along to you. However, will you help us? Please consider how God might use you - your talents and abilities to be a financial blessing to Rockawalkin Church in its 2020 "Extra-Mile for Christ" Campaign. Added income from your vocation, hobby, special interest, investments, or tax refund can go a long way toward helping our Church this year.

On behalf of the dearly beloved memory of Mrs. Ethel Guy and this year's "Extra-Mile for Christ" Campaign organizers, thank you in advance for caring and sharing with us in going "the extra-mile" for Christ and His Church!



THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

From the Church Trustees

Continuing Our 20-20 Vision



Building for Rockawalkin U.M.C.'s future ...

In an effort to provide exterior accommodations for current and future church and community purposes, and in an effort to become a more visible church presence in our community, the Rockawalkin U.M.C. Trustees at the July 20, 2020, Administrative Church Council Meeting made a passionate presentation and proposal for the erection of a pavilion structure on our CrossRoads property (corner of Rockawalkin Road and Crooked Oak Lane). In response to the vision and proposal, the Church Council enthusiastically voted unanimously to advance the Trustee's plans.

The scope of this project includes the erection of a 40 x 90 x 11 pavilion on-site to accommodate Worship Services, studies, and approved church, family, and community activities / events. These include but are not limited to, Campmeeting Services, Christian concerts, retreats, festivals, weddings, funerals, baptisms, picnics, family gatherings, community yard sales / flea markets, etc. The opportunities before the Church are endless.

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Based on reputation, quality, and price of the project, Delmarva Buildings of Wyoming, Delaware, has been chosen as the pavilion contractor. The cost to provide initial construction of the pavilion is \$56,000.00 which will be funded through finances presently available to the Church. We are confident in God and you that additional costs related to optional building features, accessories, and site improvements can be successfully funded over-time through project-specific congregational giving. We trust that you will want to be an active participant in future giving towards the accessories and beautification of our Church pavilion and property and will take advantage of opportunities to do so. Presently, site plans, surveys, and permits are being secured. If all goes as planned, it is our goal to have the pavilion erected in time for dedication this Fall. More details to come.

If you have specific questions related to the pavilion, you can reach Tom Miller, Trustee Chair at 410-251-7460 or biddie1515@gmail.com or Tom Field, Administrative Church Council Chair at 410-430-4516 or tfield44@yahoo.com.

We are excited about all the possibilities that having this on-site pavilion will afford to us. Your continued prayers and partnership with us in this effort is critical as we continue advancing the Church's vision throughout the remainder of 2020 and beyond.

On-Line Giving To The Church Is Easy

- Give through Pay Pal
- Give through automatic bill pay
- Visit www.rockawalkin.com for on-line guidance

Need further on-line giving assistance?

Call Iris Shockley @ (443) 880-6419
or bookkeeper@rockawalkin.com

Planned Giving That Grows

PLANNED GIVING to Rockawalkin U.M.C. allows you to share the blessings you have received by investing in the mission of our Church and making a smart and generous financial decision.

Take a look around our Church. At every turn you see the legacies of those here today and of those who came before us. From the steeple atop the Church, to our beautiful stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, to our planned pavilion, these and countless other fixtures, features and programs were funded by members of Rockawalkin U.M.C. past and present – all contributions gladly made to ensure that their Church survived and thrived not just in their time but in future generations.

Planned giving comes in many forms, from cash to securities to other assets, but shares a common attribute: It provides stability and strength to our Church today, tomorrow and for many years to come.

*Whether Rockawalkin U.M.C. benefits from your **planned giving** or not, we strongly encourage you to have a written plan — by will, trust or other mechanism — to pass along the assets that you built over a lifetime. Having such a plan ensures that you — instead of the state and probate attorneys — control how those assets are passed down. We hope that Rockawalkin U.M.C. can be part of your plan and your legacy, because **planned giving** has a tremendous, lasting impact. Your planned gift can build the endowment funds that help ensure unexpected expenditures don't chip away at ministries we value. The endowment funds also allow us the resources to financially sustain new Spirit-led ministries. You can also designate your planned gift to go to something particularly meaningful to you at Rockawalkin U.M.C. The gift can be made while you are alive and/or it can come after your death.*

*You should consult with your legal, tax and/or financial adviser as you begin to finalize your giving plans. A Rockawalkin Endowment Fund Committee is currently being formed to outline protocols and to assist congregants with **planned giving** commitments. We invite you to prayerfully consider how your **planned giving** might be used of God to ensure Rockawalkin U.M.C. continues its ministry for another 180-years or more.*

— Now —
HIRING
COME GROW WITH US!

Executive Secretary Wanted

- Part-Time (16 hours weekly)
- Competitive Salary
- Paid Time Off
- Are you highly competent? ...
- Experienced in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher? ...
- Do you have at least (7) years secretarial experience? ...
- Able to work independently without direct supervision? ...
- Detail-oriented - quality and precision-focused? ...
- People-oriented - supportive and fairness-focused? ...
- Team-oriented - cooperative and collaborative? ...
- Able to manage multiple tasks and projects efficiently?

Send cover letter and resume to:
pastorhoward@rockawalkin.com

(No phone calls, please)



ROCKAWALKIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**6777 Rockawalkin Road
Hebron, Maryland 21830**



The Nurture Committee

by Sister Dana Travers, Nurture Committee Chair

“Understand Before Being Understood”

***“Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.
You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”***

~ Philippians 2:4-5 (NLT)

My counselor husband is quick to advise couples in counseling that when you’re in conflict, the loving and Christ-like way to defuse the tension is to seek to understand before seeking to be understood. Try to figure out what the other person is saying before you start trying to convince them of your side. The Bible states it well in Proverbs 18:13, “A person who answers without listening is foolish and disgraceful” (ICB). That’s why you need to say, “You go first.” And then, after they’ve shared, you say, “Now, let me see if I understand. You’re saying (you repeat to them what you understood they were communicating to you). Did I get it right?” That gives him or her a chance to correct what you heard and not just be understood but also to feel understood. My husband calls it “reflective listening” (he’s so smart) - he added that! Philippians 2:4-5 states, “Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ had” (NLT).

I get it - we’re living in “unprecedented” times - days filled with sometimes very heated discussions about the best way to move forward - even in the church. Everyone has their own opinion, but sometimes few are willing to see other’s perspectives. However, if you’re unwilling to seek to understand other’s views, you also won’t see their hurt ... You won’t see their fear, their pain, or the injustice they’ve faced. That is not the way of Jesus Christ. Jesus was always looking beyond himself to the needs of others. Even on the cross, Jesus was thinking of me and you.

It’s not easy to think of others first. It certainly isn’t natural. We are, by nature, self-centered people. Only Jesus can change our perspective and make us more interested in other’s. When we take on the character of Christ, the desire to understand before being understood becomes more natural. Only then can we work through our differences. May we all strive to understand better.



GREETINGS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

by Iris Shockley, U.M.W. President



United Methodist Women will kick-off the Fall with our first meeting in a long time.

*We will meet in the Rockawalkin Community Hall on **Tuesday, September 8th** at **1:30 p.m.** (please note the change in location). Please wear a mask upon entering and leaving or if you need to get up and walk around. Social distancing will also be observed. We have a lot of business to discuss. Please make every effort to attend. Coffee and tea will be available.*

*The U.M.C. Pen-Del Conference is inviting all women to join us for our **2020 Spiritual Growth Retreat** on **Saturday, September 19** from **9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** The theme - "Managing Emotions in Anxious Times" is certainly relevant to these "unprecedented" times. This promises to be an interactive Retreat with opportunities for learning, healing, fellowship and of course, spiritual growth! You can register for the Retreat by clicking this link:*


<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucuCvqzIqH9RbPyJIYC9dPxvYMPCwJjRD>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not have email or internet capabilities, you can join the conference by telephone. To register, call Faye Wilson at (410) 543-2384. When you call, please provide: name; mailing address; UMW unit and district; and the telephone number you will use to call in. A toll-free number (and access code) will be mailed to you upon registration. We look forward to seeing you!




Virtual
Spiritual Growth
Retreat

Peninsula-Delaware Conference
United Methodist Women
presents



Rev. Denise Haskins
Retreat Leader


Saturday
Sept. 19th, 2020
9:00 am



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Register - <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ztwucvqzlh9RbPyJIYC9dPxvYMPcWJjRD>

Managing Emotions
in
ANXIOUS
Times



Opportunity to support Peninsula-Delaware Conference UMW "Pledge to Mission" during the retreat.

Praise Report??

Prayer Need??

Prayer Concern??

Call / Email:

(410) 742-6975

office@rockawalkin.com



**Pastor is on
Vacation**

Sept. 14-26, 2020



For emergencies or urgencies in
Pastor Howard's absence,
please call:

Delores DeVage, Lay Servant

(443) 735-0915

~ or ~

Robert Lobdell, Lay Servant

(443) 944-6198

CrossRoads Community Connections

CrossRoads Schedule

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. (weather permitting)

Open-Air Service Guidelines

- *Bring your own chair*
- *Ushers will direct you where to sit*
- *Immediate family members (husband, wife, children of the same household) may sit together as a family*
- *Masks are optional*
- *No physical contact*
- *No congregating in groups before / after the service*
- *6-Foot social distancing must be observed at ALL times*
- *No food / drinks will be available (you may bring your own)*

Drive-In Service Guidelines

For those who may feel safer inside your vehicle, drive-in parking is available. However, space is limited.

- *Parking attendants will direct you to the drive-in area*
- *Car engines MUST be turned off*



Missions-Minded

by Debbie Hughes, Missions Director



Back to School 2020-2021

Q: Are school supply lists available for Wicomico students?

A: There are no back-to-school supply lists for the 2020-2021 school year. With students engaged in virtual learning, the focus will be on ensuring that they have access to a computer and the internet, with a pen or pencil and paper handy. Schools will prepare some supplies to distribute to students along with laptops. (Note: High school students will hear from their teachers once classes begin about any needed supplies, just as in other years.)

DONATIONS: Many generous organizations, businesses and individuals in our community have asked if they can support students by donating school supplies for use during virtual learning, small group instruction in schools, and the eventual return of all students to school buildings. Please contact the Division of Student & Family Services at sfs@wcboe.org or 410-677-4487 to make arrangements.

Missions-Minded

by Sue Lobdell, Operation Christmas Child Coordinator



Samaritan's Purse collects Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes filled with toys and other fun items and delivers them to children in need around the world in partnership with local churches. Each box, prayerfully and uniquely packed by churches or groups like ours, is an opportunity for the Gospel to transform the life of a child, a family, and a community. Many boys and girls also participate in "The Greatest Journey," a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship course, where they learn to follow Christ and share Him with others. We at Rockawalkin U.M.C. will again be participating in this program. As in the past, the collection and dedication of the boxes won't be until November giving us plenty of time to consider what to include in our boxes. When I get the boxes and literature for this year, I will let everyone know through emails and here in our Newsletter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me or the Church Office.

P.S.: School Supplies are on sale now-items to be considered for the older children's boxes!

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



YOU MAY QUALIFY IF:

- You are in danger of losing your rental housing because of a reduction in employment hours, or job loss directly related to COVID-19
- If your household income is at or below 80% of the area median income
- You live in Wicomico County

YOU WILL NOT QUALIFY IF:

- You reside within the Salisbury City Limits
- You reside in public housing, Low Income Housing, Tax Credit funded housing, or other state financially assisted housing or have already received rental assistance from another source
- If you were behind in your rent prior to March 16, 2020
- If your household received an eviction notice prior to March 16, 2020

Learn more and apply online:
www.wicomicohabitat.org/get-housing-help

908 W. Isabella Street Salisbury, MD 21801 ● 410-546-1551

Thought for the Month



by Chuck Hughes

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

- Charles Dickens

Research proves that one of the greatest human needs is that of physical touch. A direct relationship has been found between touch and mental well-being. We have all benefited from a hug, physical pat on the back, or just a touch on the arm and we can recall the warm feeling that it evoked. But what do we do in these days of physical distancing? At a time when we need psychological and emotional support, we have lost one of our greatest tools. Yet, there are still ways that we can touch each other, support each other, and give gentle reminders that we care and are there for each other. A telephone call, a card, or even a socially distanced visit can all make a great difference in making someone else's day. This best represents the teaching of Christ.

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2 (NIV)*

Worship Service Readers

Sunday, September 6 - David Young

Sunday, September 13 - Helen Chamblin

Sunday, September 20 - Walette Webster

Sunday, September 27 - June Dysart

Is God calling you to serve as a Worship Service Reader?

Contact Joanne Kramer, Church Secretary

Celebrating Birth!

September 01 - *Thomas Field*
September 01 - *Pattie Townsend*
September 07 - *Dale Wheatley*
September 14 - *Shannon Young*
September 15 - *P.J. Tingle*
September 18 - *Travis Miller*
September 19 - *Allen Boecker*
September 19 - *Walette Webster*
September 20 - *Linda Tingle*
September 20 - *Pastor Howard*
September 25 - *Bill Guy*
September 26 - *Michael Arendall*



Why not brighten someone's day? Send them a birthday card and wish them well. What a wonderful ministry of caring ... even while remaining socially-distanced!

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY



Sunday, Oct. 18 at 10:00 a.m.
Interested in Church membership?
Call the Church Office for details



Articles for the October Newsletter are due no later than ***Sunday, September 20!*** Thank you for your help in assisting us in meeting our publication deadlines!