



# ACROSS *the* PEWS



1 (703) 967-4361 - Pastor

540-364-1066 - RUMC

540-687-6492 - MUMC



[www.rectortownumc.org](http://www.rectortownumc.org)  
[www.middleburgvaumc.org](http://www.middleburgvaumc.org)



[eduardocarrillo@vaumc.org](mailto:eduardocarrillo@vaumc.org)  
[secretary@rectortownumc.org](mailto:secretary@rectortownumc.org)  
[middleburgumc@verizon.net](mailto:middleburgumc@verizon.net)



PO Box 301  
3049 Rectortown Rd  
Rectortown, VA 20140

PO Box 284  
15 W. Washington Street  
Middleburg, VA 20117



*"Behold, I am  
making all things  
new."*

*Revelation 21: 5  
NRSVUE*



SPRING IS CALLING—SO IS GOD

*- Pastor Eduardo Carillo -*

Can I be honest? I am not a morning person. Never have been. I have tried but it just doesn't work out for me or anybody else. Every January I convince myself that THIS is the year I become one of those people who wakes up at 5am, makes coffee, and quietly watches the sunrise. By January 3rd, my alarm and I have reached a stalemate, it rings and I ignore it.

## SPRING IS CALLING—SO IS GOD

But something about spring changes that. There's something about the days getting longer, the air getting warmer, that makes you want to get up, like creation itself is nudging you and saying, "Hey, something good is happening. Don't sleep through it." Have you slept through something important? I don't mean last Sunday's sermon.

That's exactly what God says to us in Galatians 6:9 — "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Don't sleep through it. Don't quit right before the breakthrough. Because when we keep at it, we are not building up resilience but we are also building up obedience and discipleship. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us why, because in Christ, we are NEW. The old patterns, the old exhaustion, the old "I'll try again next year" should be gone. This season carries a fresh invitation to step into something new.

Keep going, church. Your harvest is closer than you think. What patterns, or disciplines, need to be retaken? So that we can be reshaped and bring forth new life, just like spring?

---

## RUMC BREAKFAST



On February 15th, we gathered as a congregation for a pancake breakfast to celebrate and spend time together ahead of Ash Wednesday. The morning was filled with laughter, fellowship, and plenty of delicious food, thanks to our wonderful chefs who made it all possible. We are so thankful for the great turnout and the spirit of community that was shared by all who attended. It was a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for the Lenten season.

---

# RUMC HOMECOMING



RUMC

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE  
FOR OUR

245<sup>th</sup>

HOMECOMING

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> | AT 10 AM

3049 RECTORTOWN ROAD  
RECTORTOWN, VA 20115

*Doors open at 10am*

*Service at 11 am with lunch to follow*

*RSVP Here:*



## MISSION REPORT - MUMC

We recently completed our Unity Web Statistical Report and wanted to share a brief look at how your support is making a difference.

Our three primary outreach programs—Backpack Buddies, Local Mission, and Angel Tree—continue to serve our community in meaningful ways.

Backpack Buddies provides 34 weekly lunch bags to local elementary students, supported by two dedicated volunteers.

Our Local Mission fund assists individuals facing short-term hardships by helping cover essential expenses like medical bills, rent, utilities, and fuel. In 2025, we supported 16 individuals, many dealing with job loss, illness, or reduced work hours.

During the Christmas season, our Angel Tree program served 20 families, providing clothing, shoes, and gift cards for both parents and teens.

This past year, we contributed:

- \$1,374 to Angel Tree
- \$15,312 to Backpack Buddies, 7 Loaves, and Local Mission
- \$1,010 to UMCOR for California wildfire relief

We currently have about seven active volunteers supporting these ministries, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who gives their time, resources, and prayers. In addition, our card ministries continue to share God's love in simple but powerful ways. Monthly birthday and anniversary cards, along with prayer cards sent to those on our prayer list, are deeply appreciated by recipients—reminding them they are remembered and cared for.

Our visitor greeting cards also help us extend a warm welcome, often leaving a lasting impression that brings people back.

We invite you to be part of these ministries through your time, talents, and generosity. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

---

## MIDDLEBURG METHODIST MAINSTAYS



### ***Karen Chase***

The Church owes a huge thank you to Karen Chase for an incredible 25 years as our Minister of Music. Almost every Sunday during this quarter-century, Karen has faithfully participated in our services and has added so much with her selection and direction of beautiful anthems and her vibrant renditions of favorite Methodist hymns. She has also directed the adult choir and contributed to the children's pageants, and has participated in Vacation Bible School, the Middleburg Concert Series, and Music in the Garden. She has done all this while working the other six days of the week as well, on Saturdays teaching private lessons and during weekdays at Hill School.

Karen received her degree as a church music major at Westminster Choir College, which involved training in voice, piano and organ. Karen and her husband Steve, moved from their home at the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, CT to the Middleburg area in 1990. Initially, Karen was employed as music director and house mother at Foxcroft School, and later served as Dean of Students while living on the school campus. In 1990, Karen added part-time employment at the Hill School in addition to her work at Foxcroft. Their daughter, Aimee was born in 1992 and they decided to buy a house in Lovettsville instead of living on the Foxcroft campus. Starting in 1993, while continuing to teach lessons privately, she became the assistant teacher in third grade at Hill and ended her time at Foxcroft. Over the next few years, she gradually became the sole music teacher at Hill, teaching all the grades, JK-8 and has remained in that role until the present day. Her husband Steve commuted into DC for several years, where he worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. He designed and developed a training campus in Shepherdstown, WVA called the National Conservation Training Center. The capstone of his career was when he became the Director of this facility in 2018.

Very sadly for us, Karen is about to make another transition—this time she is planning full retirement at the school year's end in June, and a move to be near family in New Hampshire. Her daughter Aimee, who still considers MUMC as her home church, lives in California and is about to be married. It is unthinkable that we will no longer be seeing Karen on Sundays after June, and impossible to find words to tell her what she has meant to the Church. She has provided not only beautiful music but also a continuity in our services over many years. Congratulations on a well deserved retirement and please come back to visit!

---

## MUMC - ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you know any of the following people and have their mailing address, please contact the church office to provide it. We are preparing to mail some documents to them. Thank you for your help!

1. Gail Bonnewitz
2. Wallace Bonnewitz
3. Jerry A. & Joyce H. Bowie
4. Sharon Robertson Burns
5. James Cornwell
6. James G. Downs
7. Brett Joseph Ford
8. Timothy Gordon
9. Shawn Grogan
10. Brian & Klarissa Jacobson
11. Barbara A. Kemp
12. Jacqueline M. Kemp
13. Betty Lambuth
14. Jennifer Combs Lane
15. Matthew Lowe
16. Douglas McMillin
17. Karen Hayes McWilliams
18. Paula Thompson Scott
19. Brad Stevenson
20. Pamela Ann Davis Stevenson
21. Clark G. & Norma Thomas
22. Julie VonSuskil
23. Kelley Marie Green Winq
24. Kate Zilke
25. Susan Zilke
26. Timothy Zilke



These names were published in our October 2025 newsletter. This is the effort to determine addresses or phone numbers of members that have moved or no longer attending church.

---

## MUMC FINANCIAL REPORT

We have moved to pay all bills we received in January through February and thus far in March. We had to close one of our reserve accounts in order to meet payroll obligations for April – June. We mailed out a letter to each of you regarding our financials toward end of last year. One of the points were if you miss a Sunday, when you come the next Sunday, make up the missed offering. Our bills continue even when we are not in church any given Sunday.

We are working on fundraising projects and trust that you will support these efforts. We

have a rather large budget and the only way to make it is to stand together and work through to accomplish our goal. One of our goals is to grow our attendance and membership – so don't forget those famous three words – invite – invite – invite – friends and family and co-workers to the church. They need God and His son in their lives as much as we do. We have a welcoming church, a friendly fellowshiping church. It takes many invitations to get some folks to make that first step. When they show up in our pews, make yourself known to them if they are sitting near you. Remember they are strangers only one time.

Pray for our church, our minister and our efforts to grow our church and get other to join in our activities. Each of us has a part to play. Each of us must do our part. Jesus last covenant was to go into the world preaching teaching and baptizing and to make disciples wherever we go.

So let's get going!  
Reggie

---

## MUMC UPCOMING EVENT



Middleburg UMC is pleased to host a special luncheon on **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** for the residents of Levis Hill House, a senior residence supported by the Windy Hill Foundation. This rent-assisted community serves local seniors, and we are grateful for the opportunity to offer fellowship, hospitality, and a warm meal. We look forward to spending meaningful time together and strengthening our connection with our neighbors in Middleburg.



We are also excited to offer **Chair Yoga on April 9 at 11:00 AM**. This gentle, accessible class is designed for all ability levels and will become a regular offering.

We invite you to come, stretch, and enjoy a time of movement and relaxation together.

---

## UPCOMING DISTRICT DEADLINES



As we approach several important district deadlines, please take note of the following:

- Annual Clergy Evaluations are due by **June 1**
- Annual Audits are due by **July 1**
- Parsonage Reviews are due by **July 1**

**Please note that there is a new process this year for Clergy Evaluations:**

The evaluation forms are now located in Unity. To complete the process:

- **SPPRC Chairs** have the ability to enter and edit Clergy Evaluations in Unity.
- You must have a Unity account to access and submit the form. If you do not have an account, assistance is available.
- Clergy will not be able to add or edit evaluations, but pastors will be able to view the completed evaluation once it has been submitted by the SPPRC Chair.

Staying on top of these deadlines helps ensure our church remains in good standing and supports the continued strength of our shared ministry. Thank you for your attention to these important responsibilities.

---

# BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, MEETINGS

## ***MUMC BIRTHDAYS***

**Kim Basinger - 1st**  
**James Antler - 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ann Bland - 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Riley Ferrante - 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Bryan Fulkerson - 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sue Lyman - 28<sup>th</sup>**

## ***MUMC ANNIVERSARIES***

**Gary & Annie Nickelson - 9th**  
**John & Sally Tener - 17<sup>th</sup>**

## ***MUMC MEETINGS***

**Admin Council**  
**April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

**Partners in Mission**  
**Every 2nd Thursday at 2pm**  
*Previously United Methodist Women*

## ***RUMC BIRTHDAYS***

**Henry Symanski - 17th**  
**Eileen Miller - 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Linda Rose - 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Brandon Haley - 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Dylan Hall - 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Larry Brown - 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Peyton Hall - 30<sup>th</sup>**

## ***RUMC ANNIVERSARIES***

**Gary & Joann Garret - 10<sup>th</sup>**

## ***RUMC MEETINGS***

**Admin Council**  
**April 9th at 7pm.**

**Worship**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am.**

**Trustees**  
**April 14th at 6pm.**

**Fig Leaf**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am.**

## ASK THE PASTOR



# Ask The Pastor



Do you ever find yourself wondering, “*What does the Bible say about this?*” or “*How should we think about that as people of faith?*”

Each month, Pastor Eduardo will respond to questions from our church family and community—big or small—offering answers that are biblically grounded, pastorally inspired, and theologically sound. It’s a way for us to grow in faith together, ask the things that are on our hearts, and engage in open conversation.

Have a question you’d like to see answered? Drop it in the question box at church, email it to the office, or hand it directly to Pastor Eduardo. No question is too simple, and chances are, if you’ve been wondering about something, others have too! See the answer to your questions in the next newsletter!

---

## Have a Question for Pastor Eduardo?

We’d love to hear from you! Use this space to write your question. Drop it in the basket at church, hand it to Pastor, or return it to the office.

My Question: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_