



ACROSS *the* PEWS



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SUMMER WISHES

- Pastor Eduardo Carillo -

*"You have fixed all
the bounds of the
earth; you made
summer and
winter."*

Psalm 74: 17
NRSVUE



Dear friends in faith,

As we move into the warmth of June, our hearts turn with anticipation toward the 244th session of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This year's gathering, will be held June 17–20 in Harrisonburg, Virginia, at the Atlantic Union Bank Center at James Madison University. It brings together over 2,000 clergy and laity from across the Commonwealth in a spirit of prayer, discernment, and renewal.

SUMMER WISHES

The theme that Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has set before us "A Conference in Three Movements" speaks beautifully to where we are as a church. This June we gather around the second movement: the historical movement of Methodism, captured in our past, lived in our present, and pointed toward our future. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church. What a gift to carry this vision with us as a parish.

I am grateful for each of you who holds this congregation in prayer, in service, and in love. May this summer season be one of growth and wonder for our whole community. If you cannot pray, let me know how we can pray for you, I'd love to lift and hold you in prayer.

May the Spirit continue to move in expected and unexpected ways, so that others feel the nudge to grow closer with God and each other. You might be the only gospel some will receive.

RUMC HOMECOMING



Rectortown United Methodist Church's Homecoming celebration on May 17 was a wonderful day of fellowship, memories, and community spirit. Nearly 60 people gathered to celebrate the rich history and faithful ministry of RUMC, reconnecting with friends and welcoming familiar faces back home.

Following worship and a delicious lunch shared together, guests enjoyed live music and fellowship that carried throughout the afternoon. The joyful atmosphere reflected the heart of Homecoming — celebrating where we have been, giving thanks for where God has brought us, and looking ahead with hope for the future.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, provided food, and helped make the day such a meaningful and memorable celebration for our church family and community.

RUMC NEW WORSHIP SERVICE LOCATION



Beginning in July, Rectortown United Methodist Church will begin a new and exciting chapter in worship as we move our Sunday services from the main chapel into the Fellowship Hall. This change is designed to create a more relaxed, welcoming, and connected worship experience for everyone.

Our hope is that worship will feel a little more like gathering together at home or sitting together on a front porch — sharing coffee, pastries, conversation, faith, and fellowship in a warm and comfortable setting. With the Pastor closer to the congregation, the service will encourage a more personal and engaging connection as we worship, learn, and grow together.

While the setting may look different, the heart of worship remains the same. Rooted in the simple, meaningful traditions of community and faith, we look forward to creating a space where everyone feels welcome, known, and at ease. We invite you to join us each Sunday as we embrace this new style of worship together.



MIDDLEBURG METHODIST MAINSTAYS



Debbie Edwards

This month we honor Debbie Edwards, a long standing and inspirational worker who has ably spearheaded the Church's charitable outreach effort for many years. Debbie's brother, Reggie Dawson, and her husband, Mike Edwards, are also mainstays of the Church. We are deeply grateful to that family's devotion to Middleburg United Methodist Church .

Debbie has served in many roles at the Church. She has attended since age four and joined as a member at 13, so she has known many pastors and members over the years. She was a Sunday school teacher since age 16 until a few years ago, and has headed all kinds of activities for the youth and the rest of the congregation such as Halloween parties and Dinner in the Garden. She has been the Church secretary and custodian at times, and has participated with or headed the United Methodist Women's group (now Partners in Mission) since age 10.

The Church has always been a key presence in Debbie's life: she was married at the church with 250 people in attendance and is the mother of Matthew and Alyssa, both of whose baby showers were held in the Church fellowship hall. She operated a preschool for several years in the Church building, and then at the Middleburg Community Center. Subsequently she worked as a kindergarten assistant at Banneker Elementary School and retired recently after 20 years there. Her retirement was during Covid, so instead of a party, the school showed its gratitude by holding a farewell parade where 100 people drove by thanking her for her service.

Debbie continues to devote herself to activities at the Church. She sets up Communion every month, has taken over the end-of-month birthday celebrations for members, and spearheads Backpack Buddies, Angel Tree, and the Church's donations to the Methodist Conference health kits drive, not to mention a host of fundraising activities such as Christmas in Middleburg. Until recently she was also producing this newsletter.

The Church deeply appreciates the example Debbie has set for the rest of the congregation in doing God's work in the community and in raising the funds to do so. She is an inspiration to all and deserves our heartfelt thanks for all she does for the Church.

IN MEMORIAM



Mary Elaine Johnson
May 3, 1943 – May 17, 2026

Mary joined Middleburg United Methodist Church in 1980 and was an outstanding and talented member of our church. She served on the P.P.R. Committee, the church choir, Administrative Council and many other committees. She was a mover and shaker – always with a smile! We are saddened at her loss but have many fond memories of her to relive and look back on. She was a wonderful example of a member who gave her prayers, gifts, talents and time to advance God's kingdom in and through our church.

James Gordon Downs
December 11, 1952 - May 25, 2026

He grew up in Middleburg and became a nurse at Loudoun Memorial Hospital.

MUMC PARKING LOT

The Town of Middleburg has leased our parking lot for many years as a municipal lot. Over the past five years, the public use of the lot has increased to capacity at many times, and the Town's complete control of the lot on days such as Art in the Burg has not allowed for our own use of a few parking spots. The Church has been at the Town's mercy to give us enough spaces for weddings and other events. After lengthy negotiations, we did not reach an agreement on how to better accommodate our needs, so the lease will expire the end of June and we will manage the lot ourselves. In order to make up the lost revenue, we will be leasing out some spaces on a monthly basis, largely during the weekdays. We are hoping also to get a small change in the zoning that would allow short term public parking using a mobile app such as Park Mobile or Honk Mobile. Use of the lot by the public can be controlled so that spaces can be reserved for weddings and other events, and for our volunteer workers at days such as Christmas in Middleburg. We will also strive to control public parking so that during distribution hours, Seven Loaves patrons and volunteers have adequate parking. Church members can park for free at any time there are empty spaces, using a permit card that the Church will provide. We are expecting to leave a few spaces free for this use. Attendees at Church services will not have to pay parking fees. Please visit or call the Church office to obtain your permit, which will be a card similar to a Handicap card, that will hang on your rearview mirror. There may be a few Saturdays such as Christmas in Middleburg, when most of the parking lot will be leased by the Town. There will be signs posted that unauthorized parkers will be towed. We expect that it will be necessary at times to put out cones and erect barriers and perhaps to call an impound tow truck. Please be patient as we make this transition. The public is so used to parking in our very convenient lot that the new situation may cause confusion and consternation. If you have questions, please contact Linda Taylor, Reggie Dawson, or the Church office, and don't forget to get your permit.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, MEETINGS

MUMC BIRTHDAYS

Cavan Fulkerson - 1st
Gracie Basinger - 2nd
Larry Brissing - 5th
Nancy Dunlap - 14th
Leah Ferguson - 20th

MUMC ANNIVERSARIES

Julie & Terry Antler - 3rd
Larry & Dianna Gregg - 16th
Nancy & Bill Dunlap - 18th
Kimberly & Richard Wilde - 22nd

MUMC MEETINGS

Admin Council
June 18th at 10:30am

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

RUMC BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Frazier - 8th
Erika Harrington - 8th
Linda Neish - 16th
Joann Garrett - 17th
Abbey Klooster - 18th
Tony Willis - 19th
Susan Haley - 20th
Debbie Hall - 21st
Ethan Brown - 25th

RUMC ANNIVERSARIES

Diane & Jim Harrington - 3rd
Tammy & Todd Frazier - 12th
Laura & Jeff Symanski - 17th

RUMC MEETINGS

Admin Council
June 4th at 7pm.

Trustees
June 9th at 6pm.

Worship
June 29th at 10am.

*Please attend if possible, will be
 setting up our new service space
 (fellowship hall)*

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: _____
