COOPERATIVE PARISH NEWSLETTER November 2026

ACROSS the PEWS

1 (703) 967-4361 - Pastor
540-364-1066 - RUMC
540-687-6492 - MUMC

www.rectortownumc.org
www.middleburgvaumc.org

eduardocarrillo@vaumc.org.
secretary@rectortownumc.org
middleburgumc@verizon.net

PO Box 301
3049 Rectortown Rd
Rectortown, VA 20140

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

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight..."

Hebrews 12:1 NRSVUE



ALL SAINTS DAY

- Pastor Eduardo Carillo -

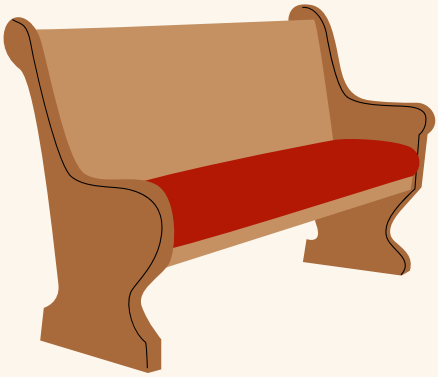
All Saints Day is here, and what a joy it is to worship in a place that so many have considered holy, a place of refuge and a spiritual home. Today we celebrate and honor the saints who have gone before us. As part of the family of faith, we hold this day as especially meaningful because it connects us to a great host of believers who lived their lives trusting in God and working for the kingdom. Their history has become the foundation our church stands on, and it continues to make us a beacon of hope for this community and the surrounding area.

ALL SAINTS DAY CONTINUED

I invite you to consider where you are right now, whether in a chair, on the couch, in the kitchen, or wherever you are reading this. Then think of the people who have walked the halls of our church: their laughter, their tears, and their prayers once echoed aloud within these walls. What about your own church? How many people have worshiped there, sat in the pews, and praised the living God just as you do today?

I believe we are joined with generations past and with future generations who will continue to worship and call this church home. We may be separated by time, but we are united by the same Holy Spirit, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. All of us, across the centuries, bear witness to a God who created us, redeems us, and sustains us, even through our failings and across all time and space.

Let us remember the saints today and always, honoring their efforts and their faithfulness. And when our own day comes, may we be able to say with John Wesley, “The best of all is, God is with us.”



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Remembering the Stories We Carry

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican tradition that honors loved ones who have passed away. Celebrated on November 1 and 2, it is a time for families and communities to remember the people who shaped their lives and to share the stories, laughter, and traditions that keep their memories alive.

A special part of this tradition is the ofrenda, a memorial table decorated with marigold flowers, candles, photographs, favorite foods, and meaningful keepsakes. Each item tells a story, reflecting the personality, relationships, and life of someone remembered. The flowers and candles add beauty and warmth, while photographs and treasured objects help bring memories to the forefront.

At its heart, an ofrenda is a place to pause, remember, and celebrate the lasting impact of those we love. Though traditions differ across cultures and families, the desire to honor those who came before us and to keep their stories alive is something many of us share.







COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



A Little Love from Home: College Care Boxes

College is an exciting season of learning, growing, and new experiences, but it can also be a little challenging to be away from home. Rectortown UMC and Middleburg UMC would love to send our college students a little love and encouragement to remind them that they are part of a church family that cares about them!

If you have a college student in your family, please send their mailing address to **Abbey at RUMC or Julie at MUMC.** Our churches and pastor will use these addresses to prepare and send college care boxes filled with encouragement and a reminder that our students are loved, supported, and held in prayer, wherever their studies may take them.

ALL SAINT DAVID NALLS



David Nalls

Growing up in Rectortown during the mid-1950s and 1960s, there wasn't a whole lot to do, so you learned to make your own fun and find adventure wherever you could.

As a toddler, David spent much of his time with Shirley and Randolph Embrey. Shirley worked at the Farm Center across from the railroad depot, and David was always eager to go see her. He developed a habit of asking to go down to the "Bee-po," and the nickname stuck!

David's favorite pastime was playing cowboy. One Christmas, Santa brought him a cap gun with a holster and a stick horse, making for an exciting Christmas morning as he rode around shooting everyone in sight.By noon, however, the cap gun had been taken away until he could play outside! Even so, David could be found most any day riding that stick horse and living out his cowboy adventures.

As brothers just one year apart, David and Kenny often found themselves getting into trouble together. Kenny remembers one particular adventure when David decided to play fireman and set the hayloft on fire. Unfortunately, they soon discovered there wasn't enough water in the well to put it out! Somehow, the boys managed to get the fire under control. Needless to say, becoming a fireman was not David's calling in life. David and Kenny attended church every Sunday, where Pastor Jim Brumfield often found it necessary to separate the two brothers to keep them from fighting. Even Sunday mornings weren't always free of brotherly mischief! David was also a member of the Rectortown Little League baseball team, where he especially enjoyed playing catcher.

During high school, David was a member of the Future Farmers of America. For his FFA project, he raised three pigs. What began as a project soon became something more, as the pigs became his pets. David was devastated when the time came for them to be sent to slaughter, a reminder of the soft heart that lay beneath his adventurous spirit. As a teenager, David often found himself in trouble alongside his good buddy, Jimmy Willis. The stories from those days are apparently best left buried—and, as those who knew them might agree, perhaps they should stay that way!

As an adult, David dedicated 50 years of his working life to Vulcan Materials in Gainesville, where he worked as a driller and blaster. Known to his coworkers and friends as "Big Dave," he spent five decades building a life and a career through hard work and dedication. David's commitment to helping others extended beyond his work. For several years, he volunteered with the local ACTS program, collecting donated produce from a local farmers market and delivering it to the ACTS food pantry to help those in need.

Above all, David was a devoted family man and a loyal friend to many. From his childhood adventures in Rectortown to the years he spent working, serving others, and building relationships, David leaves behind a lifetime of memories that reflect his humor, his generous spirit, and the lasting connections he made with those around him.

Memory from Muggie Grice & Family

ALL SAINT JAN COXWELL



Jan Coxwell

Remembering our dear friend and a dedicated member of Middleburg United Methodist Church, Jan Coxwell.

Jan was an integral part of MUMC, after moving to Virginia in 1996 Jan became an active and devoted member of MUMC, serving over many years as church secretary, president of the United Methodist women group for over 25 fruitful year's, and secretary of Administrative Council.

Jan very much enjoyed fellowship after church services on Sunday, and was also an integral part of Thursday's prayer service and fellowship. Many conversations at these fellowships would go on for hours where special bonds of friendship developed. Jan always was dedicated to her church family. Not only was she dedicated to her church family, Jan was even more dedicated to her children and grandchildren. Jan would beam with joy when talking about her family and always would give a devilish smile when volunteering her unexpected family members for church fundraisers. I so fondly remember all the laughter and joyous moments we all had after a successful event. Jan your smile and your dedication was truly a blessing and you are always in our hearts.

Your friendship was a blessing and having these memories will be forever.

Memory from Mike Edwards

ALL SAINT RON MAY



Ron May

Gail's nickname for my husband, Jack, is "Gentleman Jack."

Gail would certainly know a gentleman when she sees one, having spent 65 years married to the consummate gentleman herself.
Ron was not only a gentleman, but also an genuinely nice guy with a wonderfully mischievous sense of humor. Being around him was always a pleasure, and there was often a twinkle in his eye as he used one of his wry comments to defuse a sometimes chaotic situation. He had a gift for making people smile and for bringing a little levity to any occasion.

Ron was one of those fortunate souls who was paid to do what he truly loved. Ron May simply loved to fly. Whether flying helicopters during the Vietnam War, chasing hurricanes, or piloting a large United Airlines passenger jet, he was in his element. Even after retiring from United, he often said that if they had not forced him to retire, he would still be flying. His love for aviation was lifelong, and by all accounts, he was an excellent pilot.

As a skilled pilot, Ron was accustomed to making important decisions. Perhaps the finest decision of his life, however, was marrying Gail Love. For 65 years, she was his loving and supportive partner, standing faithfully by his side and caring for him until the end of his life.

Jack fondly recalls the times he and Ron would get together and compare stories from their service in Vietnam. Ron would inevitably ask Jack why he had chosen to join the Marine Corps. Jack would reply, "I wanted to serve in the finest fighting force that the world has ever known." Ron's response was that, since Jack had not chosen the Air Force, he figured Jack must have settled for second best. It was a classic Ron May exchange—good-natured, witty, and delivered with just the right twinkle in his eye.

Ron May was a veteran who served his country with distinction, a warm and entertaining friend, a loving and devoted husband, and a doting father and grandfather. He will be remembered not only for his service and accomplishments, but also for his humor, his kindness, and the joy he brought to those fortunate enough to know him.

Memory from Leah Ferguson

ALL SAINT MARY JOHNSON



Mary Johnson

I feel incredibly fortunate to have visited Mary Johnson before she passed and to have had the opportunity to play guitar and sing with her on two occasions that week. Sharing music with Mary was always a joy. She responded with such enthusiasm and a smile that could light up a room. She often called herself my "backup singer" and would ask when we were going to "go on the road."

Mary's warmth, positive energy, and unflagging optimism made her the perfect musical partner. Her joy was infectious, and every song we shared was made more special by her presence. I will always treasure those moments of music and fellowship, grateful for the memories we created together.

Memory from Hunt Lyman

ALL SAINT JOHNNY GREENWAY



Johnny Greenway

It was probably one of the first Sundays after I arrived at Middleburg when Johnny motioned for me to sit with him following the service. He was very talkative and genuinely interested in getting to know who I was. Then, all of a sudden, I noticed children coming up to him, saying, “Thanks for the nuggets!” Each time, Johnny responded with a big smile and a humble, “Oh, it’s nothing.”

I later learned that he had started bringing chicken nuggets to church every Sunday for the children. And that is what I remember most about Johnny: that genuine, big smile, and a person who saw a need and quietly found a way to meet it, offering what he could without expecting anything in return.

Sometimes, it was as simple as a smile and a few chicken nuggets. But that was Johnny.

Memory from Eduardo Carrillo

MIDDLEBURG MAINSTAYS



Sarah Johnson Brissing

Middleburg United Methodist Church should be proud to claim Sarah Brissing as not only one of its congregants, but also as proof that the Church has been successful in helping raise Christians dedicated to helping others. Sarah was raised from birth in our church, with her parents, Mark and Mary Johnson, having been very active church members. She has continued this legacy by being one of the most visible persons in the congregation, always with a warm smile and a helping hand, and has encouraged her three daughters to be active participants at the church as well. Her husband Larry has also been a valued supporter.

Sarah began singing in our choir at age 14, taking advantage of her beautiful voice and vocal training that began at age 12 and continued through college. She sings in the Sunday service every week; organizes the children's Christmas pageant; designs and manages the weeklong vacation Bible school which attracts children from all over the community; teaches Sunday school every week; heads up the church's Christmas caroling in Middleburg; and organizes and produces important fundraising efforts for the Sunday school and the Church, such as the Holy Hot Dog sale during Christmas in Middleburg. It would be difficult to imagine our church without Sarah and our youth program is tops thanks to her. We owe Sarah a huge thanks for all she does.

Sarah's church activities are just one of the ways she gives of herself to others. During the week, she is a reading specialist at Banneker Elementary School where she has worked with Debbie Edwards, and has also taught both kindergarten and fifth grade there.During the covid pandemic, she used her teaching skills to home-school her own children. She serves on the board of the Middleburg Community Center and is co-president of the Middleburg Library board, engaging in fundraising, programming and connecting these organizations to the schools. She has used her connections to the community's youth to interest them in our vacation Bible school and other activities, and has encouraged new members into the church this way.

PARKING UPDATES



The parking lot at the Middleburg United Methodist Church is moving to a paid lot for both hourly parkers, in addition to the current use by monthly parkers. HonkMobile will be the digital app provider, and their signs will direct the hourly parkers to their website with a QR Code, a website URL, or their app. The parker will enter their license plate number and a credit card, plus the number of hours they expect to occupy the parking spot. The app will email them at the end time to see if they would like to extend. The tow company can access the app to identify cars that have or have not paid, using the license plate numbers, but will honor permit hangtags on the monthly parkers' cars and church members. No towing will be done during church hours, Seven Loaves' distribution times, and other church events, and we will limit the availability of hourly parking spaces during those times. We expect most of the hourly parking will occur on weekend afternoons.

Please be sure to display your hangtag if you park in the lot.



BACKPACK BUDDIES

Middleburg United Methodist Church
Backpack Buddies Program

In 2012, Middleburg United Methodist Church began a food-assistance program for underprivileged school-age children in Loudoun County who face food insecurity. This important mission was borne out of an idea of one of our members, who recognized the need for children to have supplemental meals, in addition to what they receive through County-sponsored foodservice programs. We serve Aldie and Banneker Elementary schools.

We operate this program with funds pledged from church members and friends, as well as through grant monies we receive from local foundations. Between 2016 and today, we have assisted between 20-40 students. Today we are packing for 31 students.

All students who participate are approved by the school parent liaison that works with low-income families in various ways throughout the school year. In 2021, we began preparing and providing items to students from each school at Christmas-time. Again, the schools provide the participants. We try to provide coats, jackets, socks, shoes, hats, gloves, pants, shirts and underwear and possibly a toy as well. We also provide the head of household with a $25 gift certificate.

In addition, we provide gift cards to those over 12 years of age – one from McDonald's and one from Walmart. We are hopeful that we will provide this again in 2026. Our United Methodist Women's group, now called Partners in Missions (PIM) also participates in providing funds for this program.

The Angel Tree program cost is between $1,500 to $2,000 annually. With monies received from our generous donors, MUMC has been able to expand our program over the years. In addition to regular meal items, the schools we serve asked us to provide snacks each week for the kindergarten class in the late 2025 school year (20 snacks per day each week). That amounted to 100 snacks per week as the school year wound down. This year, we were requested to provide iPad earbuds for their computers and we purchased 15 of them.

During the 2023-2024 school year, we spent $10,291.55 for BackPack Buddies. In 2024-2025, we spent $9,012.10. At this time, our shelves are full and we have been packing lunches since September. To date, we have spent $3,352 to fully stock our shelves with product. We anticipate potential cost increases this year, as food prices continue to increase, so a budget estimate is for a $9,000-$11,000 range for the 2026-2027 school year. Our shopping is at Walmart, Target and COSTCO, and on occasion, Amazon.

Throughout the year, we receive some monies from individuals as well as donations of some food items and do some other fundraising events as well. Thus far, we have packed for seven weeks and made purchases to replenish products. Again, many thanks for your past support and for your consideration for the 2026-2027 school year.

We remain grateful to everyone who pledges both their time, money and talent to support this mission-critical work. The results of the program are plenty, and we are delighted to be such an important part of the students' lives whom we touch. Thank you for your continued support. Please reach out to the church office if you would like to volunteer! Happy Holidays!



UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday Service

RUMC & MUMC

Honoring our Veterans
Please bring an image from your service and dress in your military branch (tshirt or uniform). We will provide cookies for our Veterans!



Sunday Service

RUMC & MUMC

Laity Sunday
Service led and presented by members of our congregation! This is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts, faith, and leadership of the laity as they share in leading worship, offering prayers, reading Scripture, and proclaiming God's Word.



SIPs

RUMC

Pancakes & Egg Breakfast
Breakfast at RUMC during our fellowship hour before Sunday Service



After Service

RUMC

Tree Trimming
Join us after Sunday Service for decorating RUMC's christmas tree

MUMC TBD



Ater Service

MUMC

Christmas Pageant & Caroling
The annual children's pageant and caroling! This is an invite to RUMC to join in the caroling as well!



After Service

RUMC & MUMC

Cookie Swap
Please bring at least a dozen (for RUMC) or 2 dozen (for MUMC) to exchange after service. We will provide goodie bags for the swap! If you would like to share your recipe, please send to the secretary to print out copies.



RUMC & MUMC

TBD

Christmas Eve Service
We cannot wait to celebrate Christmas Eve with everyone. The Times will be determined soon!

MICRO-BIBLE STUDY

A pastor's thoughts:

You probably have heard "surrounded by witness, a multitude no one can count" and the well known "one body one Spirit" Most likely it is hard to imagine what it really means to say these things as we remember our loved ones. But let me submit to you a few movements to help us get a better grasp of this reality in our faith walk.

Movement 1: Surrounded by Witnesses

Read Hebrews 11:1-2, 39-40 and Hebrews 12:1-2

Hebrews 11 is often called the "hall of faith." It names ordinary and imperfect people who trusted God without seeing the full promise fulfilled. Then chapter 12 turns to the reader: because of them, run your own race.

Questions for you:

1. The writer describes the saints as a "great cloud of witnesses." What do you think it means to be surrounded by them? Are they watching us, or are they testifying to us through their lives?
2. Verse 2 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Why is that the key to running well, even with so many examples around us?

Movement 2: A Multitude No One Can Count

Read Revelation 7:9-17

John sees saints from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne, worshiping together. The "saints" here are not a small group of spiritual heroes. They are all who belong to God through the Lamb.

Questions for you:

1. Who is included in this vision? What does it say about who counts as a saint?
2. Our worship on Sunday is a small preview of this gathering. How might that change the way you see our own sanctuary?

Movement 3: One Body, One Spirit

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and Ephesians 4:4-6

Paul insists that the church is one body, joined by one Spirit, one Lord, and one faith. That unity is not limited to those in the room, or even to those alive today.

Questions for you:

1. Think about your own church building. Whose prayers and laughter and tears have filled those halls? What did their faithfulness make possible for us?
2. What are we building or practicing now that future generations will inherit?

May our walk continue the work that so many have labored for, prayed for, and been guided by through the Holy Spirit—the same Spirit we feel moving in our church.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, MEETINGS

MUMC BIRTHDAYS

Luna Carrillo - 2nd
Richard Wilde - 2nd
Harry Bigley - 5th
Jane Hannah - 5th
Florence Eppard - 9th
Edith Brissing - 10th
Kate Maher - 10th
Kayleigh Ferrante - 11th
Gina Craun - 19th
Debbie Edwards - 22nd

MUMC ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Linda Tolley - 27th

MUMC MEETINGS

Admin Council
November 19th at 10:30am

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

RUMC BIRTHDAYS

Luna Carrillo - 2nd
Tyler Willis - 6th
Diane Harrington - 13th
Tara Wegdam - 14th

RUMC ANNIVERSARIES

None

RUMC MEETINGS

Admin Council
November 5th at 7pm

Worship
November 23rd at 10am

Trustees
November 10th at 6pm