



RECTORTOWN Reporter



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www.rectortownumc.org

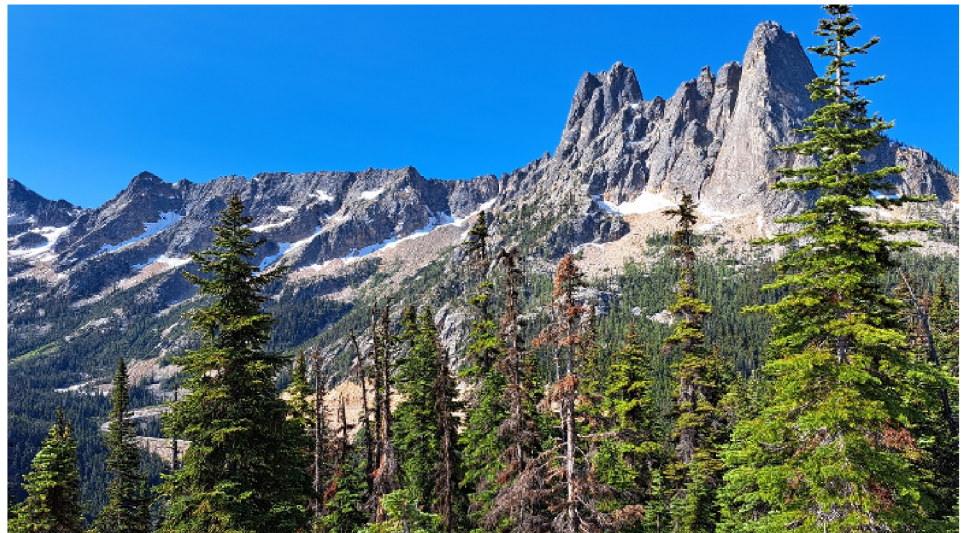


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GOD IN THE SILENCE

By Pastor Jonathan Lamb

Suggested Reading :1 Kings 19:9-14

I enjoy spending time in the woods. It is a place for me to connect with the Lord. I'm looking forward to camping this spring, so I can take time to plan my sermons for the last half of the year as I prepare to preach weekly at my new appointment.

I believe we all have places where we feel closer to the Lord. It might be the seat where you do your devotions or another space where you have time to focus on spending time with God.

Elijah also went searching for a safe place. Even after a fruitful ministry, the Queen of Israel had given orders for him to be killed. So, Elijah fled far away. He left the country and traveled to the wilderness. To Mount Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai, where Moses had received the Ten Commandments many years before.

Continued on p. 2

GOD IN THE SILENCE

There Elijah was tired and frustrated with his ministry, despite everything he did it seemed like his situation had changed from before. Israel leaders had killed the prophets and the people were being compelled to worship a false god. Elijah was convinced he was the only faithful person left; he was ready to be done. God told him that His presence passed before Elijah.

Then, a great windstorm arose that tore into the mountain, but God wasn't in the wind. An earthquake came and shook that very place, but God wasn't in the earthquake. A fire swept across the mountain, but God wasn't in the blaze. Then, came a gentle whisper. That's when Elijah recognized God was present. I believe a lot of times; God speaks in quiet places. I believe we need to be thoughtful in making time to set aside time to spend with the Lord. In these moments God can speak to us and encourage us as he gave Elijah. I hope you can take some time to spend in quiet prayer and reading the scriptures to focus on how God can help you to grow.

I would like to share with you a prayer of self-dedication from the Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(Prayer from Our Common Prayer, by Winfield Bevins)



GOOD HUMOR/ BRIGHT SUNDAY



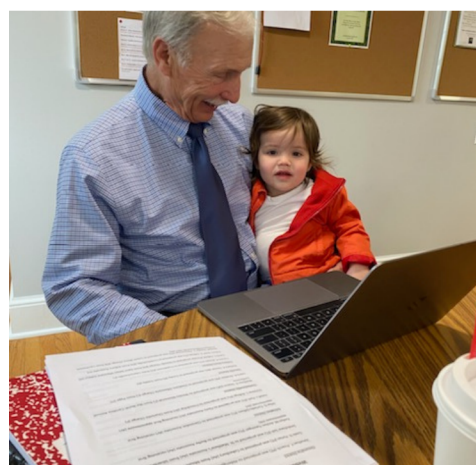
We want to extend a big thank you to Larry and everyone who lent a helping hand during our recent service on April 7th. Despite the pastor being under the weather, the spirit of community shone brightly as we came together for Good Humor Sunday. Your support and dedication ensured that the service ran smoothly and uplifted spirits all around. Let's continue to spread kindness and support within our congregation!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of our congregation who joined us for the pivotal April 21st meeting. Your presence and active participation were invaluable as we engaged in crucial discussions and made important decisions shaping the future of our church. Special thanks to those who generously provided and prepared food, nourishing both body and spirit during our time together. Your dedication to our community is truly appreciated as we continue to navigate and evolve together.

JOY IN TROUBLED TIMES



Amidst the weight of our recent discussions on the state of the church, we found a glimmer of hope and joy in the presence of young Celeste. Her innocence and boundless energy served as a reminder of the resilience and promise within our community. We're grateful for her presence, which brought a comforting energy to our conversations.

HOMECOMING 2024



Mark your calendars, because our annual Homecoming celebration is just around the corner on May 19th! It's a time to come together as a community, reconnect with old friends, and celebrate our shared journey. To ensure we can prepare adequately for this special event, please remember to RSVP by May 13th. Your timely response will help us plan for a memorable day for everyone.

As we look forward to Homecoming, let's also remember that the longevity and vibrancy of our community depend on the generosity of each member. Please submit your responses to either **secretaryumc@gmail.com**, on our website at **Rectortownumc.org** (under online giving), or mail them to

PO Box 301
Rectortown VA 20115

Your donations and pledges are crucial in sustaining our mission and serving our congregation effectively. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of everyone here. Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Scott Pauley - May 1st
 Gilliam Pearson - May 6th
 Danielle Martin - May 7th
 Olivia Walker - May 7th
 Ren Walker - May 11th
 Richard Rector - May 11th
 Jess Lowry - May 12
 John Stolte - May 12th
 Ben Wegdam - May 13th
 Vicki Willis - May 16th
 Brandon Linton - May 17th
 Susan Barbour - May 18th
 Gary Garrett - May 19th
 Rebecca Pearson -- May 19th
 Kenneth Nalls - May 21st
 Jody Warfield - May 22nd
 Kayla Ryder - May 24th
 Lori Ponn - May 27th
 Sheila Kridler - May 31st

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Roger Daniels - May 1st
 Linda & Rudy Neish - May 13th
 Amy & Joe Riggio - May 19th
 Russ & Ethel Muter - May 25th

MAY MEETINGS

Admin Council

May 2nd at 7pm

Trustees

May 8th at 6pm

Fig Leaf Meeting

May 21st at 10am



NOON TIME PRAYER

Please Join Us
 Thursdays at Noon at
 Middleburg UMC's Sanctuary



RECTORTOWN UMC MISSION STATEMENT
 SERVING GOD THROUGH **P**RAYER, **A**CTION,
 AND **L**OVE THROUGH **S**ERVICE.