



Rectortown Reporter

December 2020

From the Pastor

Moments of Great Joy



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

When I was going through the change from child to adolescent, I was—like a lot of others at that time in their life—moody and pre-occupied with what I thought I wanted. I can remember lots of times my parents would say it was time to get ready to go to some event or another, and I really didn't want to go. It didn't matter what the event was or who was involved, I simply didn't want to go anywhere I felt like I was being made to go against my wishes. I would argue and whine; and I'd put on a really awful pouty face; and I'd do my best to get my parents to understand just how much I really didn't want to go wherever it was we were going. It never helped, I always ended up having to go anyway. So, I would give them the silent treatment all the way there. But, no matter how much I didn't want to go where we went, I always ended up having a great time once we were there! My parents had been offering an opportunity for joy; and I had been stubbornly resisting it. Turns out it wasn't them who stood in the way of my joy—it was me.

Scripture reveals that God is also continually inviting us to moments of great joy. Unlike my parents, God does not force us to walk with him—we are free to choose other paths. Lamentations 5 verse 15 reveals that when we do that, our **“joy [will leave] our heart; our dancing [will change] into lamentation.”** That's not what God intends or wants for us. God wants us to choose to walk humbly with God; to love as God loves; and to participate in the holy work God calls us to. Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23a say that **“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”**

Advent will soon begin. We will celebrate the birth of the Christ child so long ago in Bethlehem even as we look forward with hope and expectation to the time when Christ will come again. Let us endeavor each and every day to look for all the many ways God is inviting us into moments of great joy here and now!

Grace and peace to each and every one of you!

Pastor Steve

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JOIN US

10 a.m. Sundays for In-person
or Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture of the month

Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy! Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

(Psalm 100:1-2, 5, CEB)

RUMC Prepares for In-Person Worship Beginning December 6

Two Saturday mornings in November (11/7 and 11/14), the Nominations and Lay Leadership Development Committee held training sessions for RUMC members who volunteered to help make in-person worship a reality. Starting Dec 6, those wishing to attend will park in spaces marked with a "P". A parking attendant will help guide cars to those spaces. The main front entryway will now be the exit (except for those in wheelchairs or other special circumstances). Instead, people will enter through the social hall door. Everyone who enters is required to answer a short list of COVID questions verifying that they are virus-free. The questionnaire is posted on the RUMC website or will be asked by the greeter inside. Once inside, an usher will seat individuals at specified 6-foot distances apart or families together. The worship will also be live-streamed.

Since both Pastor Steve and Organist, Karen Chase, need to head for Middleburg UMC's services, they will leave immediately after worship, followed by everyone else as directed by the usher. Individual communion packets will be available for each worshiper (and also family members who may not have attended) along with the donation plate on the table near the exit door.

We are so excited to see many of our friends again and ask for patience as we learn the ropes. Someday, hopefully soon, at one of our famous potluck lunches, we'll sit around saying, "Remember back in 2020... wearing those masks, being 6 feet apart and not singing in church?"

-Laura Symanski

COVID question list



Muggie practices—All visitors will have their temperatures taken upon entering through the social hall doors.



Muggie demonstrates how visitors will sign-in for contact tracing.



Muggie holds up the list while Pastor Steve answers her questions.



Blue tape marks 6feet distance

Eileen and Linda check out spacing.

Update from the SPPRC

Dear Winchester District Laity,

As many of you are probably already aware, Bishop Lewis appointed our DS to be the Director of Connectional Ministries effective Nov 16, 2020. You can view the VA Annual Conference announcement on the VAUMC home page. Winchester District will be divided into three regions and supported by three VA Conference District Superintendents.

The four District Superintendents hosted a Zoom meeting Thursday, Nov 12 at 7 pm to explain more about this model of leadership. The Rev. Sarah Calvert (Arlington DS), The Rev. Dr. Victor Gomez (Harrisonburg DS), and The Rev. Charles Ledlum-Bates (Rappahannock River DS) will assume the Superintendency responsibilities for all churches, Laity, and clergypersons on what are called "Regions A, B, and C" of the Winchester District until the 2021 Virginia Annual Conference. **Rectortown and Middleburg will be in Region C led by Rev Charles Ledlum-Bates.** And, the majority of District activities and actions will be handled by the Rev Dr. Victor Gomez.

Larry Scheuble

Message from the Outreach Committee

This year, the deadline for **Angel Tree gifts** was moved up to **Dec 6**. Since this was a recent development, we aren't setting up the Angel Tree but are still accepting gifts for one family at Claude Thompson Elementary. If you'd like to participate, please call Linda Daniels at 364-3776.

Our Greatest Wealth

We are born with two eyes in front because we must not always look behind, but see what lies ahead beyond ourselves.

We are born to have two ears—one left, one right so we can hear both sides, collect both the compliments and criticisms, to see which are right.

We are born with a brain concealed in a skull then no matter how poor we are, we are still rich, for no one can steal what our brain contains, packing in more jewels and rings than you can think.

We are born with two eyes, two ears, but one mouth for the mouth is a sharp weapon, it can hurt, flirt, and kill.

Remember our motto: talk less, listen and see more.

We are born with only one heart, deep in our ribs it reminds us to appreciate and give love from deep within.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep. Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, "Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?"

The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."

"What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Timewise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

"What's it tell you, Tonto?"

"You dumber than buffalo Kemo Sabe, it means someone stole the tent!"

Thank you to Shirley and Muggie for sharing these.

Help Needed! Now Hiring!

Rectortown United Methodist Church is seeking...

An Administrative and Communications Specialist.

This is a paid, part-time position for 16 - 20 hours per week. Interviews will be conducted based on resume evaluation. Salary commensurate with experience.

If interested, please send cover letter and resume to: secretaryRUMC@gmail.com



December Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Brady
- 12 Ben "Buddy" Wegdam
- 12..... David Weedling
- 18..... Dennis Ponn
- 25..... Tommy Ann Kirkpatrick
- 31..... Patt Weedling

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thur - Dec 3 7pm Admin Council
- Tues - Dec 8 10am Worship Committee
7pm HCT
- Sun - Dec 6 10am First In-person Worship**
- Wed - Dec 9 6pm Trustees
- Thur - Dec 17 7pm S/PPRC
- Tues - Dec 22 7pm HCT
- Thur - Dec 24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service**



Our Mission Statement

Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.

RUMC wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, please e-mail Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com.