



Rectortown Reporter

April 2021

From the Pastor

Are We April Fools



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

April first is April Fools' Day — which is sometimes called All Fools' Day. Mark Twain once wrote that, "this is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other 364." As I sit here at my desk, I cannot help but remember some of the classic pranks I've pulled on family and friends — and, of course, some of the whoppers they've pulled on me! Although April Fools' Day is not an official holiday in any country, it's fairly common in cultures around the world to set aside one day each year for harmless "jokes" and "pranks"; although Will Rogers once warned that, "the problem with practical jokes is that very often they get elected."

Some would say that the first association between April First and foolishness occurred in Chaucer's, *Canterbury Tales*, in 1392. There are other claims as well. On March 7th, 1908 American cartoonist Bertha R. McDonald wrote:

"authorities gravely back with it to the time of Noah and the ark. The London Public Advertiser of March 13, 1769, printed: 'The mistake of Noah sending the dove out of the ark before the water had abated, on the first day of April, and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them upon some sleeveless errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch.'" ("The Oldest Custom in the World," Harper's Weekly, Vol 52, No 2672, p. 26).

I can't help but laugh to think of Noah standing there on the deck of the ark wondering how long it would take the pigeon to figure out he'd been pranked!

So — April Fools' or Easter Celebration? When rumors that Jesus had been resurrected began to spread throughout Judea almost 2,000 years ago, many thought that news was just plain foolishness. But for others, it was gospel! It's still that way in the world today — some believe, others don't. As for me, I think Bill and Gloria Gaither had it right when they wrote, "because he lives, I can face tomorrow... and life is worth the living just because he lives." Because Jesus lives we can live in hope. No matter how foolish the world may think we are, we need not fear because our future — our eternity — is secure!

Grace and peace to each and every one of you!

Pastor Steve

Rectortown United Methodist Church
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Rectortown, VA 20140
www.rectortownumc.org

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JOIN US

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

Scripture of the month

'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.'

(John 1:1-5, CEB)

Message from Worship Committee

Serving God through
Prayer, Action, and
Love through Service

Our next **COMMUNION** is **April 4**. As long as the weather cooperates, communion elements will be available for pickup after the service between **11:00-11:45am** for our congregants who watch the service online. Just knock on the front door. If you plan to participate email **Debbie Hall at debhall@drhengineers.com** or call at **540-229-9969 by March 31** so we can make sure that we have an appropriate supply of consecrated elements for everyone.

EASTER

If you plan to attend the **Easter Service** in person that would be great!
Sunrise Service is at 7:30 am. The area will be marked. No breakfast (Sorry) but will try to have coffee. **Regular service is at 10 am.**



If you're interested in **purchasing Easter lilies** (in honor of or in memory of someone) please let Debbie know.

Welcome Pam Hunter

RUMC Administrative and Communications Specialist



We welcome Pam who will handle the office duties previously managed by Amy Riggio and Vicki Willis (Thanks to both for all their hard work). This includes setting up zoom and in-person meetings, events, gathering the prayer lists and more. She'll be in the office Tuesdays-Fridays from

about 9am-2pm if you'd like to stop by and say hello.

Pam grew up in Vienna, VA, and started a career in real estate. After marrying a Texan, she moved to Dallas and eventually, Cheyenne, WY. She has a grown daughter who lives in Austin, TX. Since returning to Virginia in 2005, Pam has worked in both corporate and educational settings and brings many years of administrative and office management experience to RUMC. Please feel free to reach out to Pam if you are in need of her notary or "Girl Friday" services as she is looking for extra income opportunities with her free time in the afternoons.



Serving God through
Prayer, Action, and
Love through Service

From the Outreach Committee

Thanks for Giving!

Many thanks to everyone who donated food for the Lenten Food Drive.





Rectortown United Methodist Church
3049 Rectortown Road
Rectortown, VA 20140

Serving God with Prayer, Action and Love through Service.



March 19th, 2021

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Rectortown United Methodist Church will celebrate its annual Homecoming Service via both in-person and live-stream events at 11:00 am on Sunday, May 16th. We hope you will join us for this very special annual event! Reverend William Wade, who is a retired member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be our special Homecoming speaker. Pastor Wade served Rectortown United Methodist Church during his many years of ordained ministry. We're very excited he and his wife Laura Ellen will be joining us; and we're very much looking forward to hearing him speak.

If you plan to attend our Homecoming service in-person this year, we ask that you reserve the needed space by sending in the enclosed RSVP to let us know who and how many will be attending. This is necessary since we are currently limited to a maximum capacity of 78 because of the mandated restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please send your RSVP as soon as you are able because once we reach maximum attendance we will not be able to accept any further reservations. Additionally, there are a few requirements that must be met to attend in person, which are: a two layer mask that completely covers the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when on church property; 6 foot social distancing between individuals must be maintained at all times (family members living in the same home may be closer together); temperature must be verified to be less than 100.4 degrees before leaving home; no hugging or hand shaking can be allowed on church property; no singing is allowed during any in-door worship attendance. Of course, things could change between now and Homecoming. If they do, rest assured that we will do our best to keep you up to date on current requirements. Please check our website often for up to date requirements. We must ask that you adhere to these requirements throughout your time with us. Our goal is not to restrict rights or make things difficult. Our goal is to ensure that even the most vulnerable among us can feel safe during their time with us.

If you feel unsafe traveling or attending in-person worship because of the ongoing pandemic, we hope you will join us via live-streaming, which can be found at www.rectortownumc.org. We ask that you please fill in the online attendance form so we will know which of our friends were "home" to worship with us. Once you've done that, you can find the service itself by clicking on the "*click here for Sunday service*" button in the middle of the screen. Rectortown UMC has been live-streaming our worship services since mid-March of 2020; and we will continue to do so at our normally scheduled time of 10:00 am every Sunday morning. We hope you will join us often!

Our Church Historian, Diane Harrington, is planning for a Time Capsule to honor our church's heritage that we will bury during our Homecoming Celebration on May 15th, 2022. We plan to open it again at our Homecoming Celebration in May of 2047! We are asking everyone to be a part of this celebration by sharing a piece of the church's history that you might have tucked away in a shoe box in the attic, basement or could even be hidden in a family Bible. It could be a family photograph of a church event, vacation bible school, a wedding or a baptism. Please check our church's monthly newsletter online for more details found in the March 2020 and March 2021 edition. If you find a unique item or two, please bring it to the church and contribute to the time capsule this year. There will be a designated box available to collect these *treasures* during our May 16, 2021 Homecoming worship. If you have other ideas for what we might include, let us know! If you have memorabilia that you would like to include in the Time Capsule but cannot attend on May 16th, you can send it to PO Box 301, Rectortown, VA 20140.

Established in 1781, Rectortown United Methodist Church has been blessed to faithfully serve the Rectortown community for 240 years; and we're proud this year to celebrate 126 years in our current church building! We gratefully continue to build on a long and rich heritage as we strive to provide a safe and comfortable space where all may come and be welcome to worship, learn, fellowship, and grow in faith through an ongoing variety of church and community events. If you would like to offer support to our ongoing ministries and missions, please send it to the PO Box address above. We would certainly welcome your gifts. Any gift given will help ensure Rectortown UMC continues to be an important part of the Rectortown community for many years to come. If you have any questions for us, please feel free to contact our Church Office by phone at 540-364-1066, or by email at secretaryumc@gmail.com.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Steve Weedling
Rectortown United Methodist Church

Church Information:

Office Phone: (540) 364-1066
Office email: secretaryumc@gmail.com
Church website: www.rectortownumc.org

Rectortown United Methodist Church serving God with Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.

Homecoming Service IN PERSON RSVP

Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:00 am

Please answer the following COVID-19 questions for each person attending in person and mail to:
 Rectortown United Methodist Church, PO Box 301, Rectortown, VA 20140
 or email: secretaryRUMC@gmail.com.

Name:	Email:	Phone:	
1. Have you had 2 or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? *Fever *Chills *Fatigue *Persistent Cough *Flu-like symptoms *Sore Throat *Headache *Muscle Pain *Diarrhea or intestinal upset *Recent loss of taste *Shortness of breath or smell or difficulty breathing		YES	NO
2. Have you been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (identified in #1) in the past 14 days?		YES	NO
3. Have you tested positive for COVID-19, are awaiting test results, tested positive, or subsequently completed resolution of COVID-19 symptoms?		YES	NO
4. Will you immediately notify the Pastor if, after attending this event, you develop 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, avoid contact with others, and seek medical attention?		YES	NO

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If you have more than 2 in your group, please make a copy of this page so that each person who plans to attend in person is registered.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

April 1		Maunday Thursday
April 2	6:30pm	Good Friday
April 4	7:30am	Easter Sunrise Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
	10:00am	Easter Morning Service
April 6	7:00pm	HCT
April 8	7:00pm	Administrative Council
April 13	10:00am	Worship Committee
April 14	6:00pm	Trustees
April 15	7:00pm	SPPRC



April Birthdays

Ben Pisarcik4/12
Henry Symanski.4/17
Eileen Miller4/18
Linda Rose4/20

Anniversary

Gary & Joann Garrett . .4/10

Save the Date!

RUMC Homecoming

11am • May 16, 2021

(In-person and Live-stream)

Guest Speaker:

Reverend William Wade (retired)

See details in the letter and RSVP form.



Our Mission Statement

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

Keep an eye out – you'll see banners like this showing what part of our mission an article highlights.



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