



Rectortown Reporter

October 2021

From the Pastor

Laity and Liturgy



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

Laity and liturgy are often used in the contemporary church to mean different things. While “laity” is used to define those in the church who are not licensed, commissioned, or ordained clergy, “liturgy” is most commonly used to define the pattern and words used during our worship services. When defined this way, there doesn’t seem to be a very strong connection between liturgy and laity. But, did you know that both words derive from the same root? Let’s take a quick look.

Liturgy (*the work of the people*) is derived from the compound Greek word *leitourgia* (*leitōs* — public; *ergon* — work). Originally, it described anyone who performed secular or religious public duties. *The Septuagint* (LXX, a Greek translation of the Hebrew texts) used liturgy to translate Hebrew words that meant “cut a covenant” or “cut for sacrifice” and “serve, worship” to more narrowly define liturgy as “the performance of public religious ritual or divine worship” (*NI Dictionary, Vol 3*). As such, liturgy became associated with the ministry of the priests.

During the second and third centuries, liturgy came to mean “the activity of the members of the church when they participated in communal, public worship and practiced certain rituals” including “weekly communal prayer, singing of hymns or psalms, Scripture reading, preaching, and the administration of Sacraments” (*NI Dictionary, Vol 3*), which sounds an awful lot like what we do when we gather as God’s people on Sunday morning!

October is the month in which our Church celebrates on the third Sunday “*the ministry of Christians of all ages in the home, workplace, congregation, community, and world*” (UMBOW 432). *That means that all of us, both clergy and laity together — “the whole people of God — are called to continue the work of Christ for the redemption of the world... the role of the laity is to be the church in the world today”* (www.vaumc.org). It is important to remember that there are many ways to serve our community through serving our church. No one is called to everything, yet everyone is called to something. No part played is less, nor is it more, important than all the other parts. All are needed to complete the fullness of the work God calls us to. A healthy church isn’t necessarily a big church — it’s any church in which everyone is serving in some capacity in the shared missions and ministries of their church.

Grace and peace to each and everyone 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

¹Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! ²Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy! ³Know that the Lord is God — he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name! ⁵Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

Psalm 100, CEB

Laity Sunday October 17, 2021

What is Laity Sunday?

Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all Christians to love God and all people. On Laity Sunday, we lift up the vocation of all (lay and clergy) to follow Jesus Christ and lead others to him. As we welcome and offer the good news of Jesus' love for all, we know that the most engaging opportunities to grow deep and wide in our faith come from relationships with those beyond the comfort and security of our church walls. The stories and situations of those struggling with fear, loss, trauma, and injustice — as well as freedom, joy, and delight — become altar calls for the wholeness and holiness work of justice, mercy, and reconciliation. This is the ministry of the "all called," the laity. This is relational discipleship and participation in the mission of God. Therefore, we will go (with hope) through engagement!



Laity Engaged

Traditionally Rectortown UMC celebrates Laity Sunday by leading the worship service. This includes greeting attendees, lighting the candles, leading prayer, reading scripture, taking up offering, joys and concerns, and other activities. Worship Committee and Pastor Steve have discussed this year's Laity Sunday and agreed that RUMC will again celebrate by having laity lead and participate in

service, in-person and on-line.

The following list for laity participants is divided into available and assigned activities during the Laity Sunday worship service.

Assigned

Music – Karen Chase
Videographer – Tammy Frazier
Media – Carl Carter
Lay Leader – Larry Scheuble
Greeter – Linda Daniels
Offertory Prayer – Linda Rose

Volunteers Needed

(check one or more)

- Opening Prayer
- Prayer for Illumination
- Scripture Readings
- Witness/Affirmation of Faith
- Prayer of the People
- Acolyte

Tell Your Story

During the Winchester-Harrisonburg District Conference Orientation, DS Victor Gomez asked that each church (Lay Leader or designated person) share their answers to 2 questions:

- **What have we learned in the past year about our church?**
- **What is the vision of RUMC as we move forward, post pandemic?**

Worship Committee would like to hear from participants, in lieu of a sermon, what your experiences have been during the past 20 plus months of pandemic. How has the

pandemic, resultant new guidelines and processes, impacted your lifestyle, family, social engagement, emotional and spiritual life activities? Just a few minutes to share with our church family how you have been impacted, good, bad, unknown. For those who will attend online, please feel free to record a video or send your written thoughts and we will find someone to read them.

- I would like to share my pandemic experience in person.
- I will send my written thoughts for someone to read.
- I will record a video to be played during the service.

Sharing a Meal

Join us immediately following worship service for a church picnic! To ensure an accurate headcount for catering, please RSVP using this form, calling the church office at 540-364-1066, or visiting our website at www.RectortownUMC.org. Friends and family are welcome!

- Yes, I plan to attend the church picnic.

___ Number of guests attending.

Name

Phone or Email

Please RSVP by Sunday, October 3.

October Birthdays



Anniversaries

10/10 Larry Scheuble

10/18 Jimmy and Vicki Willis

From the History Committee Help Fill the Time Capsule

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



Everyone's welcome to share... In the RUMC social hall, there's a box to collect community and church documents, memorabilia of the county and church history, past and current photos, artifacts, etc. for the 2022 Homecoming Time Capsule. The capsule will be ceremoniously closed and put away during Homecoming, and not opened again until...

Have you seen photos or news articles of the church before the Social Hall was added or when it was first used? If you've ever come across these, please contact Diane Harrington, History Committee Chair.

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Snapshots From Worship Service



Now that we're back to in-person worship services, it's a great time to catch up with each other. Here, Larry says hello to Roxie, Linda and Shirley.



RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

*October is Pastor Appreciation month—
Thank you Pastor Weedling!*

Thurs	Oct 7	7 pm	Admin Council
Tues	Oct 12	10 am	Worship Committee
Wed	Oct 13	6 pm	Trustees
Sun	Oct 17	10 am	Laity Sunday
Thurs	Oct 21	7 pm	Charge Conference <i>Hosted in-person and via Zoom at RUMC by Pastor Weedling</i>
Thurs	Oct 28	7 pm	SPPRC

Help Needed~

**Rectortown United Methodist Church
is seeking...**

A Videographer for our weekly live-stream service. This is a paid, part-time position for a few hours per week. It takes a person who is willing to learn the ropes of live-stream worship and to be available each Sunday. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary at secretaryRUMC@gmail.com

RUMC/MUMC 2021 Charge Conference

RUMC/MUMC Charge Conference will be held at 7 PM on October 21. Pastor Steve Weedling will be presiding at this year's Conference. All Charge Conferences will be held via ZOOM. RUMC will offer viewing in the Education Building (White House) also. **Charge Conference documents are due to the District office by October 12.**



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 by the 15th.

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