



# Rectortown Reporter

March 2023

## From *the Pastor* God Provided a Way

*Suggested Reading: Mark 1:1-15*



*"At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him."*

*—Mark 1:12-13 Common English Bible*

Several years ago, in my early ministry, I struggled because my future was uncertain. It caused me to have a lot of sleepless nights or wake up at 2:00 am when fear and anxiety would grab hold of me, making me wonder what was next for me. I am sure many of you can relate in your lives.

Lent is an invitation to self-reflection as we mirror the challenges that Jesus faced in the wilderness. We come to meet our sins, bad habits, and fears in these forty days. I have recognized when I have fallen short; God has remained faithful in my journey. When uncertainty seemed like too much for me, God was faithful. I believe the Lord has sent me to Middleburg-Rectortown Cooperative Parish for an initial purpose to share God's word and point others to grow as followers of Jesus. In times of uncertainty, it is easy to be fearful. In many seasons, I have needed to lean into the Scriptures and listen to The Holy Spirit. In difficult seasons, where I did not know what to do, God provided a way. I have experienced God's faithfulness and know I can trust Him. I plan on making space for God to speak to me this Lent to help me grow into a person who better reflects the love of Christ.

I hope you will make space this Lent to pray more, read Scripture, journal, and reflect on what God is placing on your heart this Lent. In yet another period of uncertainty in my life, I had a priest share a prayer by the monk Thomas Merton. I invite you to use this prayer [on page 2] throughout your Lenten journey.

*— Pastor Jonathan*



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## JOIN US

**9:50 a.m. Sundays  
for In-person  
or Livestream Worship at  
[www.rectortownumc.org](http://www.rectortownumc.org)**

## Scripture of the month

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

John 1:23 NIV

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

## Thomas Merton's Prayer

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am  
going.  
I do not see the road ahead  
of me.  
I cannot know for certain  
where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think  
I am following your will  
does not mean that I am  
actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire  
to please you does in fact  
please you.  
And I hope I have that  
desire in all that I am  
doing.  
I hope that I will never do  
anything apart from that  
desire.  
And I know that if I do this  
you will lead me by the  
right road, though I may  
know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you  
always though I may  
seem to be lost and in  
the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are  
ever with me,  
and you will never leave me  
to face my perils alone.

## MARCH SCRIPTURE PLAN

Date	Day	Gospel Lesson
Mar. 1	59	Leviticus 27; Numbers 1; Proverbs 18; Luke 15
Mar. 2	60	Numbers 2-3; Proverbs 19; Luke 16
Mar. 3	61	Numbers 4-5; Proverbs 20; Luke 17
Mar. 4	62	Numbers 6-7; Proverbs 21; Luke 18
Mar. 5	63	Numbers 8-9; Proverbs 22; Luke 19
Mar. 6	64	Numbers 10-11; Proverbs 23; Luke 20
Mar. 7	65	Numbers 12-13; Proverbs 24; Luke 21
Mar. 8	66	Numbers 14-15; Proverbs 25; Luke 22
Mar. 9	67	Numbers 16-17; Proverbs 26; Luke 23
Mar. 10	68	Numbers 18-19; Proverbs 27; Luke 24
Mar. 11	69	Numbers 20-21; Proverbs 28; Acts 1
Mar. 12	70	Numbers 22-23; Proverbs 29; Acts 2
Mar. 13	71	Numbers 24-25; Proverbs 30; Acts 3
Mar. 14	72	Numbers 26-27; Proverbs 31; Acts 4
Mar. 15	73	Numbers 28-29; Psalm 42; Acts 5
Mar. 16	74	Numbers 30-31; Psalm 43; Acts 6
Mar. 17	75	Numbers 32-33; Psalm 44; Acts 7
Mar. 18	76	Numbers 34-35; Psalm 45; Acts 8
Mar. 19	77	Numbers 36; Joshua 1; Psalm 46; Acts 9
Mar. 20	78	Joshua 2-3; Psalm 47; Acts 10
Mar. 21	79	Joshua 4-5; Psalm 48; Acts 11
Mar. 22	80	Joshua 6-7; Psalm 49; Acts 12
Mar. 23	81	Joshua 8-9; Psalm 50; Acts 13
Mar. 24	82	Joshua 10-11; Psalm 51; Acts 14
Mar. 24	83	Joshua 12-13; Psalm 52; Acts 15
Mar. 25	84	Joshua 14-15; Psalm 53; Acts 16
Mar. 26	85	Joshua 16-17; Psalm 54; Acts 17
Mar. 27	86	Joshua 18-19; Psalm 55; Acts 18
Mar. 28	87	Joshua 20-21; Psalm 56; Acts 19
Mar. 29	88	Joshua 22-23; Psalm 57; Acts 20
Mar. 30	89	Joshua 24; Judges 1; Psalm 58; Acts 21
Mar. 31	90	Judges 2-3; Psalm 59; Acts 22



Serving God through  
Prayer, Action, and  
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## “Soup-er” Sunday at Rectortown UMC



On January 29, 2023, Middleburg UMC members joined us for our 5th Sunday Worship service. (This has been a tradition for years between our two churches which share our pastor.) The Kingdom Kids from MUMC sang songs accompanied by Hunt Lyman on guitar, then helped Pastor Jonathan with the children’s message. After worship we had soup brought in by members of both churches as well as tons of desserts. We also took in donations for both churches discretionary funds. Thanks to everyone for a great day of fellowship!







## March Birthdays

Jessica Lowry..... 03	Gavin Cooper ..... 21
Yvie Frazier ..... 04	Madeline Thompson ..... 21
Laura Thompson..... 04	Skylar Riggio ..... 24
Eleanor Dove ..... 05	Tom McLaughlin ..... 26
Jarod Hall..... 07	Joice Fredenburgh ..... 29
Sara Hall..... 12	Rick Hylton ..... 30
Charles Roberson ..... 14	Ward Ponn ..... 31

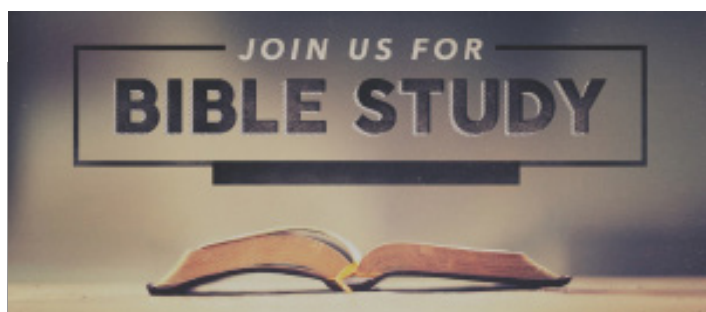
## Anniversaries

Nelson & Jody Warfield .....13

See our Lenten  
Schedule on  
page 5

## RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thu, March 2	7 pm	Admin Council Meeting
<b>March 6 &amp; 13</b>	<b>5:30 &amp; 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Discernment Prayer Time &amp; Service</b>
Tuesdays, March 7,14,21&28	6:30 pm	Pastor's Bible Study (Social Hall & Zoom)
Wed, March 8	6:30 pm	Trustees Meeting
Tue, March 14	10 am	Worship Committee
Thu, March 16	Pastor Vacation	
March 19	6:30 pm	Reading the Bible in a Year Journey (Zoom)
Tue, March 21	11 am	Fig Leaf Meeting



**Pastor's Bible Study:  
The Gospel of John**  
**Tuesdays 6:30–7:30 pm**  
*at Rectortown UMC's Social Hall*

### Celebrate with Easter Lilies

\$12 each. Envelopes available in the narthex or call the church office.  
Mail to: RUMC, PO Box 130, Rectortown Rd, Rectortown, VA 20140; or put your check in the donation plate; or donate online. *Please note who they are in memory or in honor of.*  
Requests due by Sunday, April 2.



**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.



**Middleburg-Rectortown**  
**Cooperative Parish**  
**Special Lenten & Easter Services**

**Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Join us in celebrating Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

**10:00 am** Rectortown UMC Worship

**11:30 am** Middleburg UMC Worship

**Holy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Remembering Jesus' Last Supper with Holy Communion.

**6:30 pm** Worship @ Middleburg UMC

**Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Remembering Jesus' death upon the cross.

**6:30 pm** Worship @ Rectortown UMC

**Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

**6:30 am** Sunrise (Son-Rise) Service @ Rectortown UMC

**10:00 am** Rectortown UMC Worship

**11:30 am** Middleburg UMC Worship

