



Rectortown Reporter

August 2023

From *the Pastor* God is Our Refuge and Strength

Recommended reading: Psalm 46:1-11



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In June, I traveled to see my extended family in Washington State. I had the opportunity to visit the Northern Cascades National Park which included many beautiful vistas — miles of evergreen conifers, mountains that appear chiseled out of sheer rock, and snow-capped mountains. Below is a view known as the Cathedral.

Looking at this scene makes me think of Psalm 46, written by the sons of Korah who helped to lead worship in the Temple. The Psalm begins, "God is our refuge and strength..." Martin Luther used these words as an inspiration for the Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Luther lived in the



uncertain time of the Reformation; he faced charges from church leadership in Rome. So, his king had him kidnapped and took him to the remote castle where he lived for a time. I think he thought of this Psalm as he remembered his experience, which helped him craft the words to this now timeless hymn.

The Psalmist goes on to write the earth gives way, and "the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." He notes the LORD's delight in the city of God, while the kingdoms will fall and the earth melts. In response, we are reminded that "The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

We are reminded that wars cease throughout the earth. The LORD says, "Be still, and know that I am God." I believe we need to take time to listen to God because his Kingdom will endure forever. We remember that "Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

Almighty God, you are our refuge and strength. We thank you for your love and mercy, so we can listen to you. We praise you and your Holy Name, One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Pastor Jonathan

JOIN US

9:50 a.m. Sundays
for In-person
or Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture of the month

"God is our refuge and strength,
An ever-present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1 NIV

RUMC Disaffiliation News

As you are all aware, our church began the process of disaffiliation back at the beginning of 2023 with an initial vote by the Admin Council to explore our options. Time progressed and we followed through the steps set forth by the Virginia United Methodist Church to work towards a final vote on disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church under paragraph 2553. These steps included our joint prayerful discernment time, open meetings and discussions, a straw poll and a great amount of paperwork and other legal work behind the scenes. Throughout this time, the Trustees and the Chair, Carl, have worked tirelessly crossing the "t"s and dotting the "i"s to ensure that our Church had the appropriate framework in place to prepare for the final congregational vote. Please take time to thank them, and Pam, for the all the hard work and time spent preparing documents and working through legal agreements.

On July 24th we held a special Called Church Conference which was set and managed by our District Superintendent, Victor Gomez and assisted by Reverend Chad Hrbek. The purpose of the Called Conference was to have a final vote of professing members on the issue of disaffiliation from the UMC. Only professing members who are currently on the roles were eligible to vote. The issue required a 2/3 majority in order to "pass". The DS provided an open and transparent conference and discussed each step of the vote to ensure everyone understood and was prepared to vote. We had eighteen (18) total members in attendance and the passage required a "YES" vote by 12 of those members in order to pass. Once the votes were counted, it ended in a 9-9 tie; 9 voted YES and 9 voted NO. Because 2/3 majority was needed, the vote did not pass.

As such, Rectortown United Methodist Church will remain as Rectortown United Methodist Church and continue as we always have as a United Methodist Church. At this time, nothing will change for us or Middleburg or Jonathan.

This has been a time of great discernment, of great prayer and of great emotional upheaval for us all. Some will be happy with the results, some will be unhappy with the results, some will return to their Church now, knowing it will remain as it has always been, and some may leave deciding that some of the decisions of the United Methodist Church are decisions with which they cannot abide. No matter what it is always of the utmost importance to remember that we are a family and we support and love each other. We are all children of God and are called to do His work. And we can all agree that no matter whether the result of this vote was Rectortown United Methodist Church or Rectortown Church, we all share a love for this Church, this community and, most importantly of all, with each other. It may take time for you to heal from this process and this vote but the Church will stand as the open, loving symbol it has always been with pews full of open, loving arms for all. The Administrative Council thanks each of you for your patience, prayers and love we as we have worked our way through this process. Now it is time to renew our call and our action and live our mission within this community and this world as God's children.

-Kristen Hylton, SPPRC Chair



August Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 03 David Nalls | 12 Jake Rininger | 26 Lisha Miller |
| 04 Daisy Massaro | 12 Zulla Russell | 27 Muggie Grice |
| 07 Priscilla Krick | 15 Jarod Brundage | 27 Avis Kessler |
| 09 James Massaro | 16 Todd Frazier | 28 Karen Chase |
| 09 Amy Riggio | 17 Dawn Brown | 28 Linda Daniels |
| 09 Jimmy Willis | 19 Kate Ponn | 28 Dave Hall |
| 11 Carl Carter | 22 Elena Cooper | 29 Laura Symanski |
| 11 Courtney Harrington | 23 Dawn Dye | |
| 11 Joan Newsome | 25 Joe Riggio | |

Anniversaries

| |
|-----------------------------|
| 11 Dave & Debbie Hall |
| 16 Richard & Roberta Rector |
| 23 Ben & Tara Wegdam |
| 25 Alan & Susan Barbour |

Summer Snapshots



Celebrating Ecumenical Sunday, May 28, 2023

At the Northern Fauquier Park in Marshall, VA. From left: Rev. John Rowe, Pastor of Marshall United Methodist Church; RUMC Pastor Jonathan Lamb; and Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church (Delaplane)



Celebrating Larry Underwood's 99th Birthday

on June 3rd at the Underwood's home with friends and family from near and far. Seated from left: Larry's brother-in-law, Larry, Larry's nephew. Standing from left: Muggie, Pastor Lamb, Shirley, Roxie. In back: Eileen and Laura



Thanks to Our Guest Speakers

On June 25, 2023, Marty Barley was our speaker and Cathy Barley delivered the Children's Message.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

August

Thurs, August 3 at 7 pm—Admin Council Meeting

Aug 4–7—Pastor Jonathan Vacation

Aug 7–11—Administrative Assistant Out for Move,
Aug 14—Begins working remotely

Tues, Aug 8 10 am—Worship Committee Meeting

Wed, Aug 9 at 6 pm—Trustees Meeting

Tues, Aug 15 at 11 am—Fig Leaf Meeting



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

Donations Needed

Word is getting out about the Fig Leaf! To help, please drop off gently worn clothing for men, women and children, anytime at the storage building in the church parking lot.



Our Mission Statement

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

Bits and Pieces Shared by Our Members

Grandma's Apron

A little history about grandma and her apron

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears.

From the chicken-coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids; and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

Remember This!! Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

Old Folks Are Worth A Fortune:

With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed—with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do—all the time.

No matter where I am—in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement— I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

AUGUST SCRIPTURE PLAN

| Day | Date | Gospel Lesson |
|-----|----------------|--|
| 213 | Tues. Aug. 1 | Isaiah 23-24; Psalm 106; Acts 28 |
| 214 | Wed. Aug. 2 | Isaiah 25-26; Ecclesiastes 1; John 1 |
| 215 | Thurs. Aug. 3 | Isaiah 27-28; Ecclesiastes 2; John 2 |
| 216 | Fri. Aug. 4 | Isaiah 29-30; Ecclesiastes 3; John 3 |
| 217 | Sat. Aug. 5 | Isaiah 31-32; Ecclesiastes 4; John 4 |
| 218 | Sun. Aug. 6 | Isaiah 33-34; Ecclesiastes 5; John 5 |
| 219 | Mon. Aug. 7 | Isaiah 35-36; Ecclesiastes 6; John 6 |
| 220 | Tues. Aug. 8 | Isaiah 37-38; Ecclesiastes 7; John 7 |
| 221 | Wed. Aug. 9 | Isaiah 39-40; Ecclesiastes 8; John 8 |
| 222 | Thurs. Aug. 10 | Isaiah 41-42; Ecclesiastes 9; John 9 |
| 223 | Fri. Aug. 11 | Isaiah 43-44; Ecclesiastes 10; John 10 |
| 224 | Sat. Aug. 12 | Isaiah 45-46; Ecclesiastes 11; John 11 |
| 225 | Sun. Aug. 13 | Isaiah 47-48; Ecclesiastes 12; John 12 |
| 226 | Mon. Aug. 14 | Isaiah 49-50; The Song of Solomon 1; John 13 |
| 227 | Tues. Aug. 15 | Isaiah 51-52; The Song of Solomon 2; John 14 |
| 228 | Wed. Aug. 16 | Isaiah 53-54; The Song of Solomon 3; John 15 |
| 229 | Thurs. Aug. 17 | Isaiah 55-56; The Song of Solomon 4; John 16 |
| 230 | Fri. Aug. 18 | Isaiah 57-58; The Song of Solomon 5; John 17 |
| 231 | Sat. Aug. 19 | Isaiah 59-60; The Song of Solomon 6; John 18 |
| 232 | Sun. Aug. 20 | Isaiah 61-62; The Song of Solomon 7; John 19 |
| 233 | Mon. Aug. 21 | Isaiah 63-64; The Song of Solomon 8; John 20 |
| 234 | Tues. Aug. 22 | Isaiah 65-66; Lamentations 1; John 21 |
| 235 | Wed. Aug. 23 | Jeremiah 1-2; Lamentation 2; Mark 1 |
| 236 | Thurs. Aug. 24 | Jeremiah 3-4; Lamentation 3; Mark 2 |
| 237 | Fri. Aug. 25 | Jeremiah 5-6; Lamentation 4; Mark 3 |
| 238 | Sat. Aug. 26 | Jeremiah 7-8; Lamentation 5; Mark 4 |
| 239 | Sun. Aug. 27 | Jeremiah 9-10; Jonah 1; Mark 5 |
| 240 | Mon. Aug. 28 | Jeremiah 11-12; Jonah 2; Mark 6 |
| 241 | Tues. Aug. 29 | Jeremiah 13-14; Jonah 3; Mark 7 |
| 242 | Wed. Aug. 30 | Jeremiah 15-16; Jonah 4; Mark 8 |
| 243 | Thurs. Aug. 31 | Jeremiah 17-18; Philemon 1; Mark 9 |



Suggested School Supplies

Please have your donated school supplies to the church
by **August 6, 2023**

- **Marble Composition Books**
 - **Zipper Pencil Pouch**
 - **Construction Paper**
 - **9x12 or larger Tag Board**
 - **Glue Sticks**
 - **Black Expo Markers**
 - **Tissues**
 - **Gal. & Qt. Ziploc Bags**
 - **Disinfectant Wipes**
- They do NOT need:**
- **Pencils**
 - **Pink Erasers**
 - **Wide Rule Paper**
 - **Pencil Boxes**
 - **Scissors**

This is just a suggested list of school supplies that would help out for all grades at the school. Any supplies or monetary donations that you can give will help teachers and students.