Rustburg United Methodist Church

IN HIS SERVICE – NOVEMBER 2026





Cheryl and Rick Pillow at Atlantic Beach.









"Finding Beauty in the Everyday," collage by Lisa Bailey. Myrtle Beach & Rustburg.

"This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

- Psalm 118:24





"Fall Colors and Full Moon," by Donna Cameron.

RUSTBURG UMC at CARNEGIE



Our “countdown to Carnegie” has officially begun! We will begin our journey to New York on Friday, November 13. World renowned composer, Joseph Martin, is our director. Under his leadership, our musical residency includes intensive choral rehearsals on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. Monday brings us to our final rehearsal with the orchestra prior to our performance that evening.

We are incredibly excited to embark on this adventure!
Your donations have helped make this unexpected dream a reality.

Special thanks to our business and individual sponsors:

First National Bank
Billy & Marie Arthur
Jimmy & Betty Cyrus
Catherine White
RUMC Men’s Group
Emily Pendleton
The Wigg’s Family
Marvin Tweedy
Scott Wilson Insurance
Linda Merryman
The Nolley Family
Rev. CeCelia Brooks, PhD
Wall Construction
Joseph W. Smith
Linda Goff
New Bethel Church

May 17 and October 25 Concert attendees.

We truly appreciate your generosity and support!



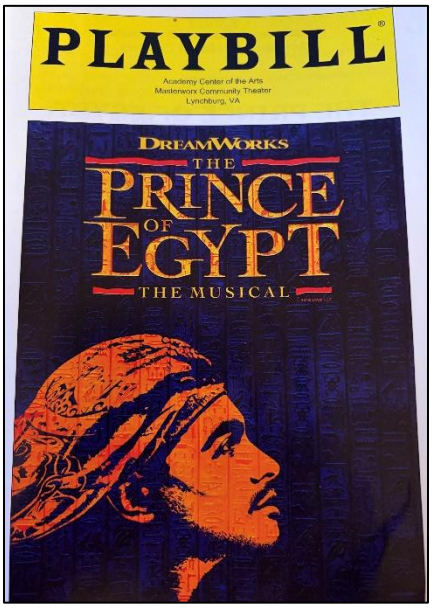
Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 20 as we present “A Song is Born.”

This is a beautiful cantata with a lovely combination of familiar carols and new offerings for Christmas.



Children's Sunday School Fall Activities

On October the 3rd Donna and Sarah took Kaleesi, Presley, and Serenity to see *The Prince of Egypt* Musical at the Academy of Fine Arts. Also joining us to see the play was Jerry Booth, Betty Cyrus, and Michelle Green. KJ didn't want to go because he said musicals, "Were not his thing." The three girls had a lot of fun. The Play and the music were beautiful.



On Oct 4th We had a class taught by Michelle Green on how to make plastic canvas crosses. The class was a lot of fun. We had a lot of laughs and learned something new. We really appreciate Michelle sharing her talents with us.

CarePortal

http://careportal.org/

How does CarePortal work?



A child welfare professional identifies a need of a local child or family.



Caseworkers submit a request into CarePortal's platform, which quickly sends a message to participating churches nearby.



Each church can respond directly back to the case worker when they are able to meet the need, or they can engage other churches and community partners who want to help.



Every request presents the opportunity for churches to make meaningful connections.

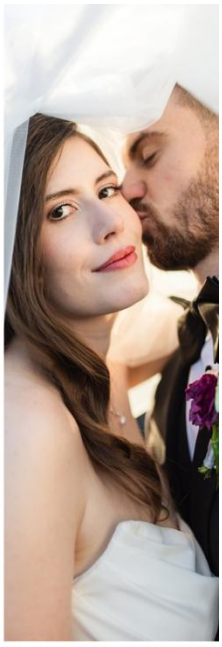
The MISSION COMMITTEE granted its first CARE PORTAL request this previous week with the delivery of a bedroom suit and bedding for use by a local student.

Many thanks to the BRYANT FAMILY for their donations and the HAMLETT & WILEY families for coordinating this gesture of kindness.

Congratulations Aaron & Genevieve Bailey!











RUSTBURG UMC 2027 GREETERS

We are in need of greeters and I am working on the list for the 2027 year. If you would like to add your name to the list to greet (twice a year) please let me know, or if you are currently a greeter and do not wish to remain on the list please let me know that as well.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and be a welcoming face to visitors and our church family!

Betty Cyrus
T: 434-610-8246
E: bcyrus1947@gmail.com

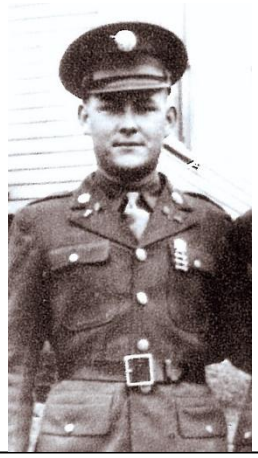
Celebrating Veterans Day | November 11



Bruce Cameron



Earnest Hamlett



Edward Cyrus



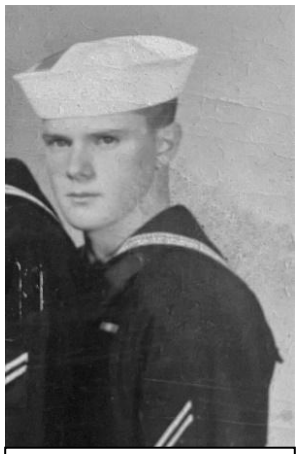
Dennis Cowart



Don Austin



Edward Frazier



Donnie Hamlett



Richard Carroll



Mae and Marvin Drinkard



Henry Jones



"One Nation, Under God," by Lisa Bailey

Save the Date

friends giving 2026



Date: Friday November 20th

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Small Fellowship Hall RUMC

We will have dinner and do a fun Christmas Craft.

Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday November 15th

Kelly Gladden 434-258-6409



United Women in Faith

Please come and join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Small Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM. We typically have a meeting, a brief program led by one of the members, and light refreshments afterwards.

Next Date: November 11, 2026

Love in Christ;
Donna Cameron | President of UWF



UWF Reading Program

Our little library is in the Youth/Young Adults Sunday School Classroom! Books can be checked out via the sign-out sheet on the clipboard.



The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. There's something for everyone—the Reading Program is:

- Available for adults, youth, and children
- Divided into enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including: EDUCATION FOR MISSION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY, SOCIAL ACTION, & SPIRITUAL GROWTH.
- Response Magazine and the Faith Talks podcasts are also part of the Reading Program.

Downloadable copies of the **Rustburg UWF Reading List: 2021-2027** are available from RUMC's UWF web page. They include books in RUMC's Library and books available in the Campbell County Public Library System's catalog: over 100 in total. Not all books are available at the Rustburg branch, so I'd advise visiting the CCPL website or phone app and checking out books from there. CCPL will let you know when the book is ready for pick-up. Very neat! Reading one book from each category and turning in a reading report by September 1st will get you a neat certificate from the UWF and help our UWF group.

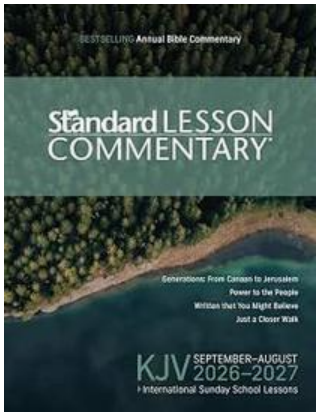
Happy Reading,
Lisa Cameron, UWF Reading Coordinator

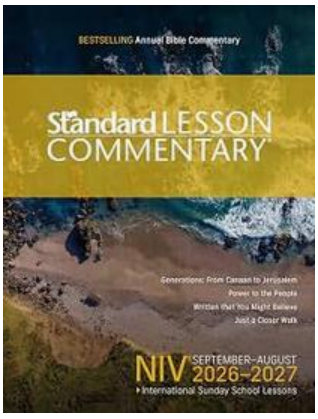
Helpful Links:

- Rustburg UMC United Women in Faith: https://rustburgumc.org/united-women-in-faith
  - Includes a link to an Excel Master List of all 2021-2027 books.
- Campbell County Public Libraries: https://campbellcountylibraries.org/
- UWF Reading Program: https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/
  - You can suggest future books and download a reporting form at UWF Reading Program page.



Bible Study





Led By: Dr. C.R. Brooks
12 Noon and 6 PM
Wednesdays: November 4,11,18,25
We are using the *Revised Standard Bible*, the *2026-2027 Standard Lesson Commentary* and *The Holy Spirit* by Jasper A. Huffman for 2026 Wednesday Bible Study.

You can find the 2026-2027 Commentary – NIV and King James translation – at Mardel's, Amazon, etc. Prices currently range from $16-$22 on the different versions, which include LP (large print) and Deluxe/LP. Huffman's *The Holy Spirit* can be borrowed or purchased at Bible Study when available.





Congratulations to new parents
Lee & Justine Merryman on the birth of
Michael Francis Merryman!

October 18, 2026

November 2026



Sun. 11/01	**All Saints' Sunday**
	Charge Conference @ Heritage UMC, 3-4:30 PM
Tues. 11/03	**Missions Committee**, 6 PM
	Worship Committee, 6:30 PM
Wed. 11/04	**Bible Study**, 12 PM
Thurs. 11/05	**Handbells**, 6 PM | **Choir**, 7 PM
Sun. 11/08	**Communion | Veterans Sunday**
	Men's Group Meeting, 8:30 AM
	Administrative Board, following Worship
Wed. 11/11	**United Women in Faith**, 10 AM
	Bible Study w/ Rev. Brooks, 12 PM
	Bible Study w/ Rev. Brooks, 6 PM
[Nov. 13-17:	**RUMC Choir Members at Carnegie**]
Sat. 11/14	**Food Pantry**, 9:30-11 AM
	Mountain View District Conference, 10 AM-12 PM via Zoom
Fri. 11/20	**Magnolia Ladies Friendsgiving**, 6 PM
Sun. 11/22	**Thanksgiving Sunday**
	Noisy Offering/Missions Moment: Angel Tree
Mon. 11/23	**Deadline for December Newsletter**
Thurs. 11/26	**Thanksgiving Day**
Sun. 11/29	**1st Sunday of Advent**

Wed. November 4,11,18,25: **Bible Study w/ Rev. Brooks**, 12 PM & 6 PM
Thurs. November 5,12,19: **Handbell Rehearsals**, 6 PM
Choir Rehearsals, 7 PM



October RUMC Offerings

Total General Offering: October 2026

General	$10,388.00	$118,838.50
Other	0.00	39,554.95
Budget	16,958.83	169,558.30
Shortfall	6,570.83	11,194.85

Thank you to all of our volunteers who worked tirelessly on the **Fall Festival**. From putting up posters, sending out reminders, calling for volunteers, helping to set up and cleanup, obtaining donations, making baskets: to all the thousands of small ways you helped, we are very grateful. The festival means a lot to many outside of our church who come each year—not to mention those impacted by the money we raise. God's presence was surely felt by many that day, 10-17-26. *Thank You!*

November Stewardship & Volunteers

Greeters

1	Barbara & Don Austin
8	Sarah Hamlett
15	Linda & Jimmy Jewell
22	Michelle Green & Serenity Rankin
29	Marvin Tweedy

Ushers: Robert Bailey and Jimmy Jewell
Church Closers: Pam and Jerry Booth

November Acolytes

1, 15, 29	Presley Wiley and KJ Bishoff
8, 22	Teddy and Jennivieve MacMillan

David (Mac) MacMillan
Teddy MacMillan
Serenity Rankin

RUMC Contact Information:

Acolytes: Cheryl Martin
Care & Share: Shirley Phillips
Children's Church: Shannon Hall
Greeters: Betty Cyrus
Nursery: Mary Bailey
Ushers: Jerry Booth

November Sunday School:

Donna & Sarah Hamlett
Alice Watson
David Hawkins
Pam Booth

Prayer Requests:

Family and Friends of Bruce A. Rountrey (18), Family of Betty McClung, Family of George Vassar, Barbara Wiles, Family of Teresa Wandell, Family of Donald Younger, Betty McClung, Family of Dennis Cowart, Pastor Samiran, Erin Rosser McDevitt, Harry Brooke (diagnosed w/ Stage 4 bone cancer) and Bruce Norton (diagnosed w/ esophagus cancer), Family of Ann Bailey, Kim Saunders/Republican Grove UMC, Vicky Gamon (waiting for liver transplant), Pastor Sung & family, Monnie & Barbara Coleman, Atha Bailey, Nancy Bennett, JohnWyatt Newcomb, Cindy & Danny Torrence, Jackie Robinson's sister, Kenneth Grubbs, Joyce Rush, Marguerite Eimer, May Nolley, Frank and Lorretta Merryman, Mary Alice Preston, Tina Shaver, Marsha Henderson, Bangladeshi families, and military families.

November Birthdays

03 Billy Arthur
05 Jimmy Cyrus
06 Jimmy Jewell
08 Rev. C.R. Brooks
10 Dana Kinsley
11 Madison Phillips
14 Sarah Hamlett
16 Dale Torrence
23 Linda Jewell
25 Clif Tweedy
30 Aaron Bailey



November Anniversaries

06 Edison & Gabi Watson
09 Jimmy & Linda Jewell
11 Jeff & Kelly Gladden
19 David & Cathy Phillips
22 Buddy & Martha Maxey





Finding Our Way in This Confusing World

How We Order Confusion

The ancient world was not organized in nation states with clearly marked boundaries that identify people with street addresses, birth certificates, Social Security numbers and more serial numbers than we can remember. In the ancient world people were identified by their ancestry. In trying to identify all the people of the world *Genesis1 – 11* has tables of nations that account for the multitudes through long lists of Who was begotten by Whom. (Gen 4:17 – 5:32; 10:1 – 32 and 11:10 – 32) These lists also identify the ancestors who invented the skills of civilized life - hunting, herding, farming, metal working, music, gardening and wine making.

But if all people came from Ham, Shem and Japheth, how did they end up speaking different languages? The story of the Tower of Babel gives the reason. God the Lord did this to prevent human beings from trying to take God's place as Ruler of all that is (Gen 11:1 – 9). From the beginning, God has been concerned with preserving divine-human boundary (3:22 – 24 & 6:1 – 4). Sin can be terrible, but God finally sets limits to it.

When Success is Self-defeating

When human beings start to believe there is no power greater than their own, moral chaos is the result. We start to believe we have the final word on everything and everybody. Sin and arrogance grow horrendously because human skill and creativity can be used for evil as well as good. The evidence of this is in the great city on the Plain of Shinar where humans built a great tower that was to reach to heaven (11:3 – 4).

Babylon Becomes Babel

The earliest Hebrews were nomadic herds people wandering in the Fertile Crescent in search of pasture and water. Like all nomadic peoples, they took a dim view of the city that were starting to arise around the best water holes and filling in the good pastureland. They particularly noticed the city of Babylon with its high mountain-like temples called Ziggurats (ruins of these are found in modern-day Iraq).

The Babylonians had mastered the technology of making hard-fired bricks that allowed them to build these towers to unprecedented height. They said "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves;(11:4)." They celebrated their gods as the Most High. Heaven was directly overhead. So, if the Ziggurat is high enough, they could become equal to the divine forces that rule the world. This is the ultimate arrogance - making what you make, shape and control take the place of God.

The ancients thought of God or the gods as living quite literally in "the high places," the mountains or just above them in the sky. These were holy places where the divine energy is concentrated. If the tower was high enough, they could take the place of God. Their arrogance was not just an idea; it became a vast building made with their own hands.

God Sets Limits

God sees the limitless potential of human power – a power to do great good or terrible evil.

> *The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built.*
> *And the Lord said, '…this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing will now be impossible for them.' 11:5 – 6*

They will build towers to heaven and make themselves equal to God (11:7). Confusing their speech undercut their ability to create this false sense of security.

Although ancient Israel becomes a nation-state and builds a great capitol city, Jerusalem, they remained wary of urban life as a source of moral corruption and loss of faith. Amos and the prophets glorified the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites as a time of faith and morality. In the wilderness they had no resources to fall back on in times of crisis only faith in God, and God delivered them. Urban life provided the means for accumulating reserves of food and great military power. People came to trust in these instead of trusting in God. This is a theme that returns throughout the history of Israel and the Church. Many working mothers recalled the sermon preached in their small-town home churches before they left to work in the big cities. The minister warned them of the temptations so strong they could not resist them, temptation that could be avoided by staying near home.



But there is a deeper truth in this story. It is not an explanation of why humans speak different languages but of how humans act. The world has been multilingual as humans developed in different places and times with limited communication. Babel is about the about use the use and abuse of human powers.

As human power has grown, the misuse of human power has grown also. We have power to take us into space, share information instantaneously, provide food, medicines, shelter and civil order. We are tempted to believe there is no problem that cannot be served by our urban, technological civilization. We humans have so much power we can control everything and bring meaning, hope, peace and joy to the world, if we only think clearly enough and work hard enough. Babel is a story about human limits.

The only way we humans can be saved from the selfish contradictions of life, the meaninglessness and despair, is by a power beyond our own. – the power and presence of God. This power and presence of God is opened to us in faith, the faith shaped by Jesus Christ. God sets a limit to human life. But God meets us at that limit was grace; giving new life, when we approach it in faith.

In Jesus' name;
Rev. C.R. Brooks

BEING THANKFUL

N R Q P I H O L Y S P I R I T L Q S D T N V N H
E U K B C B J F W N C W H D D M N Q M R W B A C
F O O D P Q N M B L Q X M X R K M W Q P A L B G
H S N G T W I T J F R I E N D S H V Z A W O H I
C H N B U M D E D Q Y T C K N R G M X Z J V B Q
C N N O F N T H A N K F U L K U T O S Q S E F X
Y H V F D D V O E S F G I V E T H A N K S E W L
W R G H N A S Y B F O U R S E A S O N S Z L Q H
R M Q K F H G N C W U A B P O Y M E R C Y N I R
M B C R O S S P O S I T I V E H S M R U N G W M
S O C G G O D E N M S I E P L A N T S J D J M W
T O W X D T H A N K S E R D E L F J A Q U R Z P
V K M F S F C L U E H I Y S S U U K D W D J K D
G S K C Z Q B I Z Q I R O K T G R L F Z K B L X
P I Q O N V B H O P E O Q W M M O F K N P H W V
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R L U T R Y S U U W A S D K E V V A C N V N O K
Z D Z E J Q O F I X M A M G R A C E F A M I L Y
U N P N T C N I K S U U H Y K B N R B A A H J F
D V G T M T H E B I B L E L N M I E C W W G T H
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S G R N Z U W A D A G G M J L C N O K Y P O O Y
Z N P T D B F U G P P J E S U S C H R I S T R N

FOUR SEASONS
GIVETHANKS
FRIENDS
BOOKS
LOVE
SON
JESUS CHRIST
THANKFUL
PLANTS
MERCY
FOOD
HOLY SPIRIT
THE BIBLE
FAMILY
GRACE
HOPE
CONTENTMENT
POSITIVE
THANKS
CROSS
GOD



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Rev. C. R. Brooks, Ph.D.
Phone (cell): 434-895-6032 | 405-466-9786 | Email: revcrbrooks@aol.com
Lay Leadership Team: Pam Booth, Annette Patrick
Music Director: Alice Watson | Pianist: Heather Wilson
Administrative Assistant: Cheryl Martin
Communications Coordinator: Lisa Cameron

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: To be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.

Visit our **church website** at www.rustburgumc.org
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