



Rustburg United Methodist Church IN HIS SERVICE – December 2025

In a small Galilean town, a young woman named Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, was visited by the angel Gabriel. The angel told her she would miraculously conceive and give birth to a son named Jesus, who would be the Son of God. Joseph, after being visited by an angel in a dream, believed and took Mary as his wife.

Due to a census by Caesar Augustus, they had to travel to Bethlehem, Joseph's ancestral town. Upon arriving, they found no room in the inns and had to stay in a stable.



There, Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. That night, angels appeared to shepherds in the fields, announcing the birth of the Savior, and the shepherds went to worship the baby.

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'll have our regular meeting at **December 10th** at 10:00 AM. Bring your 'Sharing Santa' gift and a finger food to share for refreshments!

Love in Christ;
Donna Cameron | President of UWF



'The Greatest Gift' Program – bringing ChristOpositivity into the home. It stacks (if you position it the right way)!

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.

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 2021-2026 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.





"I love ❤️ our Community!" Volunteers abound! Neighbors served! What a blessing to continue this ministry! THANK YOU for your support and service.



WELCOME TO RUSTBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 3:00

***(Inclement Weather Date:
December 21, 2025 @ 3:00)***

***RUMC will be handing
out HOT CHOCOLATE***



**The CHRISTMAS CARD BOX will be
back for your convenience.**

Final date for cards is Sunday, December 21, 2025.

**You may drop off any cards to members of the
congregation and they'll be delivered:
no postage needed!**



Rustburg UMC

COME TO THE MANGER

Christmas Cantata



21 DEC | 11:00 AM

664 Village Hwy., Rustburg

www.rustburgumc.org



Roasted Sweet Potato Salad

Ingredients

- 3 pounds sweet potatoes
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 inch chipotle pepper adobo sauce
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup cranberries
- 1/2 cup pecans
- 2 tablespoons chives

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees (convection works best).
- Peel and cut potatoes into 1 pieces.
- Toss to coat with 2 tablespoon of olive oil.
- Arrange in a single layer on two baking sheets
- Roast for 35 minutes
- Mix 2 tablespoons oil, pepper puree, vinegar, salt and pepper to make a dressing
- Combine cranberries, pecans, chives and cooked sweet potatoes in a medium bowl, drizzle with dressing, cover. Refrigerate until chilled.

CHILI CHEESE BALL

Beat until smooth:

- 1 8oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 envelope chili seasoning mix
- 3 Tbsp. medium or hot salsa

1. Stir in one cup chopped pecans and one cup taco shredded cheese. Shape into ball and roll in additional taco cheese.
2. Can be frozen for up to three months. Serve with tortilla chips or crackers.



CHOCOLATE CHIP CHEESE BALL

- 1 8oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 cup confectioners sugar
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 3/4 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup finely chopped pecans

1. Beat the cream cheese, butter and vanilla until fluffy. Gradually add sugars, beat until combined. Stir in chocolate chips.
2. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Shape into a ball. Refrigerate for at least one hour before serving. Just before serving, roll cheese ball in chopped pecans. Serve with honey or chocolate graham crackers.

- Enjoy! Betty Cyrus

RUMC GREETER SCHEDULE 2026

If you cannot serve on your designated Sunday, please trade with someone else on the list and let Cheryl in the office know. Thank you for your willingness to serve! (bcyrus1947@gmail.com)

11/28/2025

JANUARY

4 Marie & Billy Arthur
11 Wanda Coates
18 Sarah Hamlett
25 Mae Drinkard

JULY

5 Roz Ware & Hayden Bailey
12 Martha & Buddy Maxey
19 Lisa Cameron
26 Marie & Billy Arthur

FEBRUARY

1 Betty Cyrus
8 Kelly & Jeff Gladden
15 Marvin Tweedy
22 Cheryl & Rick Pillow

AUGUST

2 Betty Cyrus
9 Kelly & Jeff Gladden
16 Cheryl & Rick Pillow
23 Frances, Presley & Aaron Wiley
30 Shirley & Homer Phillips

MARCH

1 Roz Ware & Hayden Bailey
8 Frances, Presley & Aaron Wiley
15 Pam & Jerry Booth
22 Racheal, Kaleesi & KJ Bishoff
29 Kathy & David Phillips

SEPTEMBER

6 Sue Buchanan
13 Betty Ferrell
20 Wanda Coates
27 Mae Drinkard

APRIL

5 Betty Ferrell
12 Michelle Green & Serenity Rankin
19 Cheryl Martin
26 Sue Buchanan

OCTOBER

4 Kathy & David Phillips
11 Linda Goff
18 Racheal, Kaleesi & KJ Bishoff
25 Donna & Donnie Hamlett

MAY

3 Donna & Donnie Hamlett
10 Shirley & Homer Phillips
17 Linda Goff
24 Linda & Jimmy Jewell
31 Cynthia Metcalf

NOVEMBER

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

JUNE

7 Jimmy Cyrus
14 Barbara & Don Austin
21 Mae Drinkard
28 Buster Frazier

DECEMBER

6 Mae Drinkard
13 Pam & Jerry Booth
20 Cheryl Martin
27 Jimmy Cyrus



2026 RUMC Directory

Donna Cameron will be taking information for the **2026 eDirectory** for the month of December: *Name, photo, physical address, telephone number, e-mail address, date-of-birth, anniversary.* 2026 hard copies can be printed, at request, from Cheryl in in late January. *Dec. 31th will be the last day to submit information.* 📌

Please send any items to Donna at: donnaaleecam@gmail.com

PS: The Rustburg UWF is taking on a project for the church's **150th Anniversary**. We would like to have a Homecoming Celebration this summer and would like to include as many people as possible. Looking at timelines, one of the first goals is to get the word out and gather old pictures, stories, etc. While we are still in the planning stages, I will eventually have forms in the narthex to be filled out soon. More info to follow!

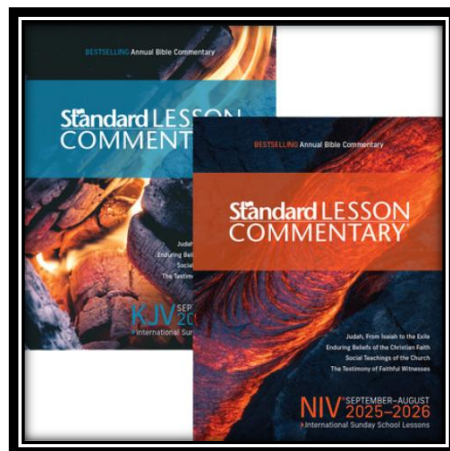
Bible Study

Led By: Reverend C.R. Brooks

12 Noon & 6:00 PM

Wednesdays: December 3,10,17,31

We are using the Standard Lesson Commentary this winter for Wednesday Bible Study. You can choose either the NIV or King James translation. Regular print books can be found at Mardel's for \$16 (+ S&H). [Deluxe/Large Print editions can also be found on Amazon for around \$16-23 (w/ free S&H for Prime members).]



DECEMBER

Wed. 12/03 **Bible Study w/ Rev. Brooks, 12 PM**
Bible Study w/ Rev. Brooks, 6 PM
Thurs. 12/04 **Handbells, 6 PM | Choir, 7 PM**
Sat. 12/06 **Magnolia Ladies Cookie Exchange;**
Kelly's Home, 11 AM
Sun. 12/07 **Communion**
Wed. 12/10 **United Women in Faith, 10 AM**
Sat. 12/13 **Food Pantry, 9:30-11 AM**
Sun. 12/14 **Men's Breakfast, 8:30 AM**
Rustburg Parade, 3 PM
Wed. 12/17 **Bells of the Blue Ridge, Snidow Chapel, 7 PM**
Sat. 12/20 **Bells of the Blue Ridge, Snidow Chapel, 4 PM**
Sun. 12/21 **"Come to the Manger" Christmas Cantata**
Mon. 12/22 **Deadline for January Newsletter**
Wed. 12/24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 PM**
Thurs. 12/25 **Christmas Day**
Sun. 12/28 **Musical Sunday: Carol Sing**
Noisy Offering/Missions Moment: Isaiah 117 House



Wed. December 3,10,17,31: **Bible Study w/ Rev. Brooks, 12 PM & 6 PM**
Thurs. December 4,11,18: **Handbell Rehearsals, 6 PM**
Choir Rehearsals, 7 PM

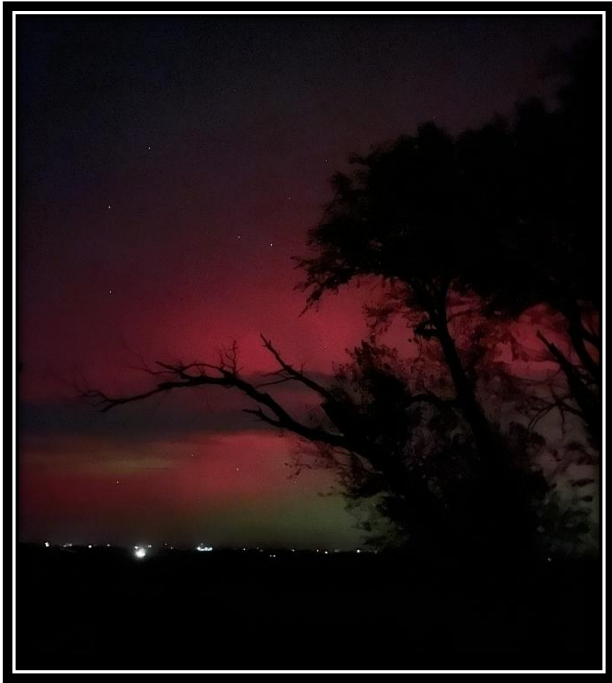
Isaiah 117 House December Mission & Noisy Offering



“When children are removed from their homes out of concern for their safety, they are usually brought to a child welfare services office to await placement. This wait can be a few hours to several days. These children often have nothing with them and are scared, lonely, hungry, and in dirty clothing.

Isaiah 117 provides a comforting home where these children instead can be brought to wait – a place that is safe with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys, and snuggly blankets. This space allows children to receive the comfort and care they need while child welfare staff can do the necessary paperwork and identify a good placement.”

- <https://isaiah117house.com/>



November 2025 Aurora in Oklahoma, by Annette Patrick.

NOVEMBER RUMC OFFERINGS

General Offerings: \$14,871.91

(Daycare rent included)

Budget: (17,329.50)

Shortfall: (2,457.59)

Drainage Project: 250.00

Other: 351.31

Total Oct Offerings: \$17,991.22

Magnolia Ladies Cookie Exchange

When: Saturday December 6th

Time: 11 o'clock in the morning

Where: Kelly Gladden's House

4268 Bear Creek Rd

Rustburg, VA

R.S.V.P.: by text or call to 434-258-6409 no later than Sunday Nov 30th.

MAKE 5 dozen Cookies FROM SCRATCH



There will be winners for

- **Most Festive**
- **Most Creative**
- **Best Tasting**

December Greeters

07 Kay & Haywood McCrickard
14 Pam & Jerry Booth
21 Cheryl Martin
28 Betty & Jimmy Cyrus



01 Lou Merryman
05 Marsha Henderson
06 Mary Frazier
09 Barbara Wiles, Linda
DeJarnette, Donald Austin
11 Karen Merryman
14 Mary Bailey
16 Troy McCrickard
18 Jeff Gladden
20 David Hawkins
26 Donnie Hamlett



December Ushers

Michael Metcalf
& Ricky Pillow



December Sunday School

Donna & Sarah Hamlett
Alice Watson
David Hawkins
Pam Booth

RUMC Contact Info:

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



Prayer Requests: Family of Helen Booth, Barbara Coleman and husband Monnie, Jessie (Shug) Phillips & Family, Family of Pastor Charlie Johnson, Atha Bailey, Nancy Bennett, Cooper (Tara Ferrell's son), Family of Melvin Coates, JohnWyatt Newcomb, Bill Torrence, Cindy and Danny Torrence, Danny DeJarnette, Mason "Bo" Clark, Kathleen (Jon) Bagby, Pastor Sung and family,

Jackie Robinson (church custodian) has asked for prayers for her sister. Susan Cascone (Sharon Nolley), Buster Frazier, Mary, Pam and Dennis Cowart, Kenneth Grubbs, Joyce Rush, Marguerite Eimer, Betty McClung, May Nolley, Tammy Fielder, Frank Merryman, Mary Alice Preston, Tina Shaver, Marsha Henderson, and Bangladeshi families.

Rustburg United Methodist Church | Leadership 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Pastor: **Rev. C.R. Brooks**

Administrative Board Chair: **Sharon Nolley**

Lay Leader/Lay Delegate: **Pam Booth**

Lay Leadership Team: **Pam Booth, Annette Patrick**

Finance: **David Hawkins**

Treasurer: **Annette Patrick**

Finance Secretary: **Marvin Tweedy**

Admin. Board Secretary: **Lisa Cameron**

Trustees: **Clarence Coates**

Staff Parish: **Jeff Gladden**

Worship: **Frances Wiley**

UWF: **Donna Cameron**

Men's Group: **Clarence Coates**

Communications: **Lisa Cameron**

Building & Grounds: **Clarence Coates**

Nurture: **Shirley Phillips**

Education: **Donna Hamlett**

Missions: **Pam Booth & Kelly Gladden**

Day Care Liaison: **Bernice Dooley**

Church Historian: **Lee Merryman**

Nominations: **Rev. C.R. Brooks**

Administrative Assistant: **Cheryl Martin**

COMMITTEES

Trustees | Clarence Coates: *Chair*

2026: Bernice Dooley, Clarence Coates, Buster Frazier, Rick Pillow

2027: Homer Phillips, Marvin Tweedy, Rev. C.R. Brooks

2028: Shannon Hall, Clif Tweedy, Ed Watson

Finance | David Hawkins: *Chair*

Annette Patrick: *Treasurer*, Marvin Tweedy: *Financial Secretary*

Robert Bailey, Clarence Coates, George Nolley, Shirley Phillips, Rick Pillow, Clif Tweedy

Staff Parish 2026 | Jeff Gladden: *Chair*

2026: Jerry Booth, Danny DeJarnette, Jeff Gladden

2027: Bernice Dooley, Rick Pillow

2028: Lisa Bailey, Donna Hamlett

Nurture Committee | Shirley Phillips: *Chair*

Sue Buchanan, Betty Cyrus, Linda DeJarnette, Betty Ferrell

Nominations & Lay Leadership | Rev. C.R. Brooks, *Chair*

2026: James Cyrus, Kay McCrickard

2027: Lisa Bailey, Cheryl Martin

2028: Kelly Gladden, Donnie Hamlett

Worship | Frances Wiley: *Chair*

Alice Watson: *Music Director*, Heather Wilson: *Pianist*,

Jerry Booth: *Ushers*, Donna Cameron: *Communion Steward*

Bernice Dooley: *Church Closers*, Pam Booth: *Video*, Lisa Cameron: *Communications*

Donna Hamlett: *Education Representative*, Lisa Bailey: *Flowers*

Rev. C.R. Brooks, Kelly Gladden, Cheryl Martin, Bill Torrence.

Education | Donna Hamlett

Billy Arthur, Pam Booth, Betty Ferrell, David Hawkins, Linda Jewell, Sharon Nolley, Alice Watson;

All Sunday School Teachers

Building & Grounds | Clarence Coates: *Chair*

Billy Arthur, Lisa Bailey, Pam Booth, Jimmy Cyrus, Bernice Dooley, Buster Frazier, Shannon Hall, Homer Phillips, Rick Pillow, Clif Tweedy, Ed Watson, Frances Wiley, Ray Dooley

Missions | Pam Booth & Kelly Gladden: *Co-Chairs*

Donna Cameron, Lisa Cameron, Betty Cyrus, Dennis Cowart, Pam Cowart, Mae Drinkard, Donna Hamlett, Donnie Hamlett, Sarah Hamlett, Linda Jewell, Alice Watson, Frances Wiley

Day Care Liaison & Children Protection | Bernice Dooley: *Chair*

Clarence Coates, Cheryl Martin, Haywood McCrickard, Homer Phillips, Cheryl Pillow

Church Staff

Alice Watson, *Music Director*

Heather Wilson, *Pianist*

Cheryl Martin, *Administrative Assistant*

Jackie Robinson, *Custodian*

Lisa Cameron, *Communications Coordinator*

November 5, 2025

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Matthew 1:18 – 2:12

Luke 1:26 – 2:21

The traditional Christmas story, as depicted in crèche scenes and greeting cards, is a mixture of the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke to which is added some pious traditions. Mary, Joseph and the Infant Jesus are pictured at the manger along with the angels, shepherds and the wise men. These are all mentioned in Matthew and Luke. Tradition has added sheep, cows and goats and other favorite animals with the camels of the wise men standing in the background. However, the Gospels do not mention this menagerie. Matthew pictures the wise men coming later and visiting Jesus in a house (Mt 2:11).

The Birth Narratives of the Gospels

The Christmas story in the Gospels focuses our attention on the birth of Jesus as a world-transforming event. This is clear from the beginning. God has come to be with us humans to transform us (Mt 1:22 – 23). Jesus “is called Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” The Infant Jesus is the Savior, through whom God acts to forgive sins. His name means “God saves” (2:21).

How God Saves

The Christmas story tells of how God brings salvation through Jesus in two contrasting ways. In salvation God is reaching down to us no matter how battered and broken we may be. God meets us in our poverty and weakness. God reveals his saving power to poor, marginal people: not the rich or powerful. God empowered a poor Jewish girl by the Holy Spirit to bear the Christ. Mary and Joseph could not afford a place to stay. The birth was celebrated by shepherds, poor lads who lived out in the hills with their flocks.

This birth was an act of sheer grace. God does not wait until we are good enough to be saved. God reaches out to us where we are. God is fully present in His glory in this act of revelation. God does not deal with us at send-hand. God’s glory is always near. Angels bring the glad tidings from the highest heaven that transformed a stable into a royal throne. Wise men came from a far country to worship the Infant King with rich gifts. The heavens were reordered to provide a star to lead them.

Mary pondered the meaning of the mysterious events surrounding the birth of her child. Luke tells us His mother treasured all these things in her heart (Lk 2:52). Christmastime is our opportunity to treasure these events and ponder them in our hearts. God is reaching out to each one of us, no matter who we are, to save us. God meets us in our guilt, fear and pain to reveal the glory that is ours in faith. Dare to believe anew that God’s own self is touching you with the glory of new life.

In Jesus Name, Rev. C.R. Brooks



The CHRISTMAS STORY

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 - Mary and Joseph came from _____
- 2 - Mary was the mother of the Christ _____
- 3 - Mary and Joseph lived in the city of _____
- 4 - Jesus _____ is the Son of God.
- 5 - An angel also visited _____
- 6 - _____ was the cousin of Elizabeth.
- 7 - Jesus would be known as the _____ of God.
- 8 - A new _____ was a sign of Christ's birth.
- 9 - The King of Kings came to Earth as a _____
- 10 - Jesus was a descendant of King _____
- 11 - A precious gift given by the wisemen.
- 12 - These men followed a star to find Jesus.
- 13 - _____ saw angels outside the city.
- 14 - Mary rode a _____ to Bethlehem.
- 15 - The only place Joseph could find for Mary.
- 16 - At the _____ Simeon met the Christ child.
- 17 - The wisemen travelled on _____

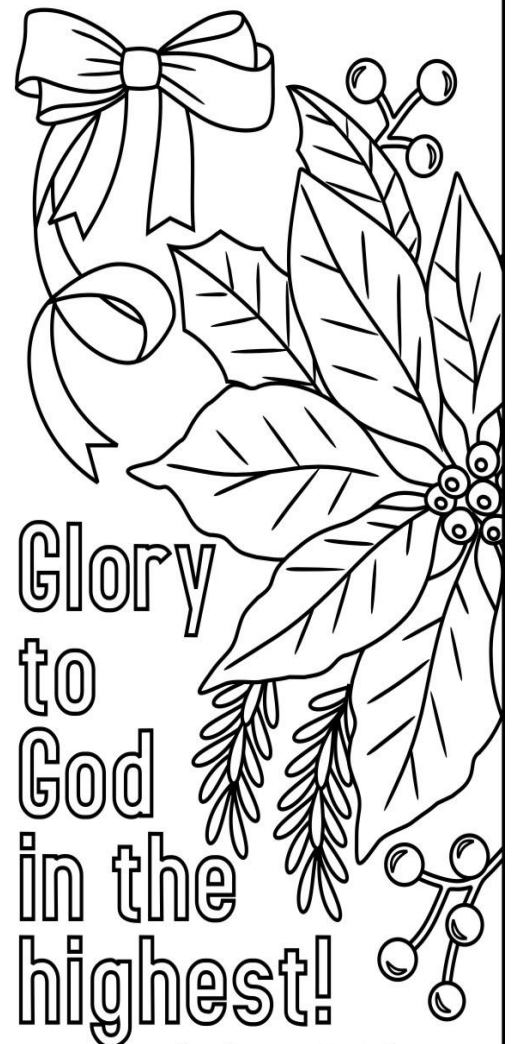
DOWN

- 1 - The angel _____ revealed Christ's birth.
- 2 - Christ was born in _____
- 3 - Away in a _____, no crib from a bed...
- 4 - The _____ One of Israel.
- 5 - Bethlehem was _____ David's city.
- 6 - _____ was one of the wisemen's gifts.
- 7 - The Christ child would be born to a _____
- 8 - _____ appeared to the shepherds.
- 9 - A shepherd's job is to care for his _____
- 10 - Jesus was a descendant of King _____
- 11 - Another gift from the three wisemen.
- 12 - _____ was the capital city.
- 13 - The House of Israel awaited their _____

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o	e	l	a	y	w	h	k	a	r	m	a	v	u	r
g	r	j	i	d	s	i	m	n	i	d	l	m	s	r
m	n	d	o	n	k	e	y	j	a	s	s	f	e	y
t	i	h	p	e	s	o	j	z	s	r	q	g	j	m
o	i	e	q	x	d	b	e	n	t	n	f	w	a	c

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| donkey | myrrh | Bethlehem | Joseph |
| Herod | Jesus | frankincense | sheep |
| wisemen | shepherds | Mary | night |
| star | manger | | |
| travel | gold | | |



Glory
to
God
in the
highest!

Luke 2:14





**Rustburg UMC, P.O. Box 336
(664 Village Hwy.) Rustburg, VA 24588**

RUMC Phone: 434-332-5454 | Email: rustburgumc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 11 AM to 2 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Rev. C. R. Brooks, Ph.D.

Phone (cell): 434-895-6032 | 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

Please like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/RustburgUnitedMethodistChurch