



The Echo... December, 2017

The church newsletter of Rossville United Methodist Church - Rossville, IN

“Bob Notes...”

We take a break this month from my series on the books of the Bible to focus in on the holiday season that is before us.

As I am writing this article, it is about a week before Thanksgiving. But signs of Christmas abound. I was reminded when I went into Wal-Mart the day before this writing that it is only 39 days til Christmas—now 38, and probably somewhere in the twenties by the time you read this. The town of Rossville and many other municipalities have put up their decorations on utility poles. And, I have noticed many homes which already have their Christmas trees and outdoor displays up—such as the guy in Edna Mills with his antique car with the Frosty and Santa in the front seat. Every year about this time a jumble of memories from this period of years past goes through my mind. And a common refrain we hear from many people each year is “we can’t believe it’s the holiday season already.” Yes, time seems to move faster as the years go by. But as we approach the beginning of the Advent Season, I want us to slow down a minute.

Remember Advent? Advent comes from a word which means “coming” or “visit”. And during this season, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of the Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness. We prepare to celebrate Christ’s coming by lighting Advent Candles. We prepare by perhaps focusing our devotional time on what the coming of Jesus Christ meant for the world. We prepare with a whole host of activities such as decorating our homes, caroling, attending parties, sending cards, purchasing presents, and attending concerts and plays. But most of these latter events are more of a celebration than a preparation.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas (December 3 this year) and ends on Christmas Eve. The Sunday before Christmas (the 4th Sunday of Advent) is traditionally referred to as “Christmas Sunday”. This year it all becomes a little blurred because the Sunday before Christmas is actually Christmas Eve and therefore the service that morning will take on a different feel perhaps than during those years when “Christmas Sunday” or the 4th Sunday of Advent is on say the 22nd or the 20th of December and there is a few day period between the two.

The color we use in the church on altars and pulpits is purple during Advent. It represents royalty and repentance. Blue is used in some churches and blue represents hope.

We live in a world that is always in need of hope. The coming of Jesus Christ brings hope.

As we prepare to celebrate his coming once again, let’s spread some of that hope around by our actions and words. Let’s bring hope instead of stress and while we are at it, love instead of hate, peace instead of conflict, and joy instead of sadness into the lives of everyone we come into contact with. These themes of hope, love, peace, and joy are all part and partial of this Advent Season. Will we allow them to permeate our lives?

Wishing you all a most awesome Advent and Christmas Season,

Pastor Bob Raschka

December Worship Schedule



Advent Sermon Series: "Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph" Dec 3, 17, & 24
December 3: "A Humble Carpenter" Matthew 1:18-25

December 10: Christmas Program—"Don't Let the Grouches Steal Your Christmas"

December 17: "The Dad in the Background" Luke 2:41-52

December 24 morning service: "A Journey to Bethlehem" Luke 2:1-7

December 24 Candlelight Service: "Five-Quarter of a Mile" Luke 2:1-20

December 31: Guest Speaker: Andria Helm "More than Enough" Matthew 14:13-21



Christmas Dinner at Mary Gary's Home



Everyone is Welcome to join in an evening of great food and fellowship. Wednesday, **December 6th at 6:30pm**, come casual, and remember no gifts please.

Mary lives at 304 E. Main St.

Praise Times Three



in concert



SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 9th

Rossville United Methodist Church

6:30 pm

--Freewill Offering--



Don't let The GROUCHES steal your CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 10, 2017 10:15am



BRING IN THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS DECEMBER 10 & 17

We are continuing our tradition here at Rossville of bringing in Christmas Cards for the attendees of our congregation. You are encouraged to bring cards in and place them on the table in front of the windows in the Esther Beard room. You can get a list of names from our newly published church directory. If you did not get one, please pick one up at church, or let the office know and we will get one to you. The cards are to be brought in December 10th and 17th and will be available after the 17th for you to pick up the cards people have brought for you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DEC 20



We are meeting at the church on Wednesday December 20 to go Christmas Caroling. Let's gather at 7 pm as we go out and brighten the homes of some folks as we sing the songs of the season! See you then!



Sunday, December 24th
7:00 pm

Thanks to the generosity of many through our Sunday morning missions coin offerings and through our two missions fundraising dinners this year, the Missions Committee was able to send donations from our church to the following agencies:

- Indiana United Methodist Children's Home of Lebanon, IN. \$1,000
- Honduras HIS Eyes Project \$ 500
- Pregnancy Resource Center of Frankfort, IN \$ 500



Attention Patrons of the Rossville Recycling center



Due to our building needs and revenue loss, the Town of Rossville has chosen to close the community recycling facility effective December 31, 2017. The Town will provide curbside recycling to residential customers within the corporation limits of Rossville. Beginning February 1, 2018, the trash portion of your utility bill will increase to \$11.50 per month.

Curbside recycling will begin January 10, 2018. Pick up will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Your recyclables will need to be out for pick up no later than 7:00 a.m. Place them where your trash is normally picked up. **Please leave your recyclables bagged in a clear plastic bag or covered garage can.** No regular trash will be picked up on this day. Don't leave loose items on the curbs as they will blow. All items can be combined in the same receptacle. They do not need to be separated. No electronics, styrofoam, yard waste, construction materials, liquids, appliances, dirt, rocks, cement, burnt ash, burn barrels, tires, batteries, or medical waste. Unacceptable items will be left.

December BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Diane Miller | 13 Michael Hurley |
| 5 Jeff Miller | 14 Zoey Brock |
| 6 Arlene Gangwer | 14 Grace Shireman |
| 7 Billy Dotson | 15 Phyllis Patterson |
| 12 Mimi Nicolas | 16 Rita Rothenberger |
| 13 Tammy Cooper | 22 Carl Wright |
| | 26 Aaron Rothenberger |

December ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 27 Carl & Mary Beth Seest |
|---------------------------|



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- October 29, 2017 \$1,634
- November 5, 2017 \$1,029



- November 12, 2017 \$6,329
- November 19, 2017 \$1,342

Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,217.81

December, 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Religious Ed 1pm-3pm</i> <i>Delphi Christmas Show Outing meet at the church 5:30pm</i>	2
3 <i>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Milner's Service 3 pm</i> <i>Christmas Play Practice 4pm Choir 4:40pm</i>	4 <i>Trustees Meeting 7pm</i>	5	6 <i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i> <i>Dinner @ Mary's 6:30pm</i> <i>L.R.E. 6:30pm</i>	7	8 <i>Religious Ed 1 pm -3pm</i>	9 <i>Praise Times Three Concert 6:30pm</i>
10 <i>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Christmas Program</i> <i>ROCK Youth 6pm</i>	11 <i>AD Council 7pm Worship Team 8pm</i>	12 <i>Adventure Club & Youth group 6-7:30</i>	13 <i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i> <i>Baby Shower for Sydney Marlow 6:30pm</i>	14	15 <i>Religious Ed 1-3pm</i>	16 <i>Grace Shireman's Birthday Party 5pm</i>
17 <i>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i>	18	19	20 <i>Choir Practice 6:30pm</i> <i>Christmas Caroling 7pm</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>Sunday School 9am, Worship & Jr. Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Candlelight Service 7pm</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>Sunday School 9am, Worship & Jr. Church 10:15am</i>						