



The Echo... February, 2018

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

BOB NOTES...

Since I last wrote this column, a lot has happened in my life. Namely, the visit I made with the porch when I decided in a split second on a beautiful snowy Christmas Eve afternoon that I should not pay attention to what I was doing and therefore fall right into it. And as most of you know, in the process of trying not to fall, I ruptured the tendon that holds the quadriceps muscle in place and therefore allows us to bend the knee. God has been with me throughout this ordeal and now I am starting to improve. Therefore, it's time to pick up with our series on the books of the Bible. This month we close out the Old Testament with the Minor Prophets.

As I mentioned last month, the Minor Prophets are called such not because they are less important than the Major Prophets, but because the books are much shorter in length.

There are twelve books in the Minor Prophets. A synopsis is included below.

Hosea, whose name means "the Lord saves" has as his major themes: God suffers when His people are unfaithful; God cannot condone sin; and God will never cease to love his own and will seek to win back those who have forsaken him.

Joel whose name means the "Lord is God" describes the invasion of Judah by a plague of locusts that destroyed everything and impoverished the people. The prophet looks far into the future at coming judgment and coming joys.

Amos whose name means "to bear a load" was burdened over the sin of the northern kingdom in the eight century before Christ. Amos was outraged at the violence they had done to the justice and righteousness of God. God pleads with them to return to Him. Judgments are declared as well as the final restoration of Israel predicted.

Obadiah means "worshiper of the Lord". His prophecy is generally believed to have been written one year after Judah was taken into exile in Babylon. The theme of this short, one chapter book centers upon the doom of Edom.

Jonah is probably the best known of these twelve books. His name means "dove". The book centers on the prophet whom God called to warn the people of Nineveh of coming judgment. He refuses and runs away on a ship going in the opposite direction. A storm comes along and Jonah is thrown overboard and ends up in the belly of a large fish. Jonah spends three days in the fish before he repents and is delivered. He goes to Nineveh, warns of the judgment, and God relents from his planned destruction. The theme of this book is God's mercy.

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Micah whose name means “who is like the Lord” was written in the 8th century BC. The book is divided between condemnation and captivity; reproof and restoration; and pleading and assurance of mercy. “Loving justice, showing mercy, and walking humbly with God” is encouraged.

Nahum whose name means “comfort of God” is related to Nehemiah. He prophesied during the 7th century BC and the book forms a sequel to Jonah. Whereas in Jonah the people of Nineveh repented, in Nahum the capture of Nineveh by the Babylonians and their allies is detailed. The cause of their destruction is explained.

Habakkuk whose name means “embrace” prophesied to Judah concerning the impending invasion by the Chaldeans (Babylonians). He was a man of a deeply tender nature and spiritual character and manifested a great love for the people. His questions and doubts arise from his jealousy for the holiness and justice of God.

Zephaniah whose name means “the Lord hides or protects” was a great-great grandson of King Hezekiah. He prophesied probably during the great revival of 621 BC in the time of King Josiah. He also predicts the coming invasion by the Babylonians and makes predictions of judgment coming to surrounding nations as well.

Haggai whose name means “festive” was one of the early prophets following Judah’s release from captivity. His ministry was to rebuke the returning exiles for their delay in rebuilding the Temple and to encourage them to set to work.

Zechariah whose name means “the Lord remembers” was a prophet of restoration from Babylon. The book includes a series of eight visions to comfort Jerusalem as well as prophecies concerning the end of the age of Israel and the reign of the Messiah.

Malachi whose name means “my messenger” is the last book of the Old Testament. This final message of the Old Testament contains the prophecy of the ministry of John the Baptist. The book challenges the corruption of priests and the sins of the people against the family and their miserly attitude toward God. The book ends thus the Old Testament ends with a prophecy about the Coming Day of the Lord and the return of the Messiah.

Next month, in the month of March, we will be right in the middle of Lent, and we will begin our explanation of the books of the New Testament.

Faithfully,

Pastor Bob Raschka

WINTER MOVIE NIGHT FEBRUARY 9

THE CASE FOR CHRIST

Join us for the second of our two winter movie nights on Friday, February 9th as we will be showing *The Case for Christ*. This movie is a true account of *Chicago Tribune* journalist Lee Strobel's journey from an avowed atheist to faith. He set out to disprove Christianity, but found something else instead. This movie is an engaging account of his journey and helps to answer many of the questions even strong believers have about the Christian faith.



We will begin our observance of the holy season of Lent on Wednesday, February 14th with an Ash Wednesday Service. The service begins at 7:00 pm and is an opportunity for introspection and repentance. All are welcome to attend this special service.

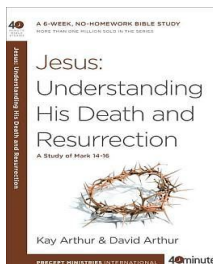
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY BEGINS FEBRUARY 22

Join us beginning Thursday February 22nd for our Lenten Bible Study series. The study will meet five Thursdays and one Wednesday during the Lenten Season. This year's study is entitled Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection. In this study, we will **discover afresh the good news of the gospel**. The long-awaited Messiah had finally arrived only to be betrayed and sentenced to death. Why would Jesus, who knew beforehand all that would happen and who held the power of heaven at His command, submit to being humiliated, tortured, and ultimately killed?

In this powerful study centered on the final chapters of the gospel of Mark, you'll consider for yourself all that Jesus endured to bring forgiveness to sinners and hope to the hopeless. And you'll understand as never before why it's so essential to share with others the good news of His death and resurrection.

The book is based on Mark 14-16 and was written by Kay and David Arthur. If you would like to purchase a copy, it will be available for this class for a donation of \$7.00.

Interested individuals should either sign up at church on February 4th or 11th, or contact the office via email or phone.



Rossville United Methodist Church

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Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am
Worship and Jr. Church: 10:15 am

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ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SPRING 2018

TUESDAYS FEBRUARY 20 – MAY 1, 2018
(EXCEPT DURING SPRING BREAK ON MARCH 20)

GRADES PRE K – 5

Music, Lesson, Snacks, Games

AND



GRADES 6-12

Music, Lesson, Discussion, Snacks

Ruth and I extend our most heartfelt thanks for all the cards, meals, and phone calls received during my convalescence following my fall and the resulting surgery. You have truly shown the love of Christ to us and I am deeply grateful. I am undergoing a period of physical therapy for the next many weeks. But I am glad to be back in the pulpit and also able to keep some office hours too. I haven't been released to drive yet however.

Thanks again for everything.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob

thank
you

SERMON THEMES –February 2018

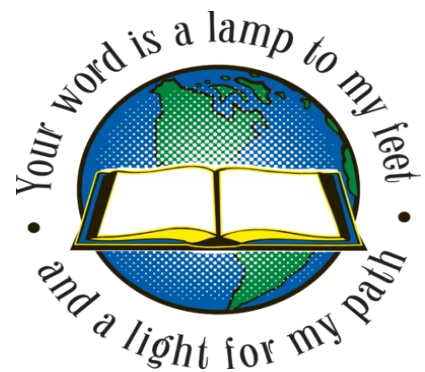
February 4 "The Others" 1 Corinthians 12:10-11

February 11 "What's Your Gift?" 1 Corinthians 12:29-31

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14 "The Almost Christian" Acts 26:24-29

February 18 "The Greatest Gift" 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 25 "The Wake Up Call!" Ephesians 5:8-17



February BIRTHDAYS



3 Dustin Green
4 Brooklyn Cline
6 Vicki Rabanus
10 Erika Rothenberger
12 Larry Oren
20 Barb Nulph
22 Jane Emens

February ANNIVERSARIES

16th Steve & Debbie Pollard



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

December 24, 2017 \$2,307

December 31, 2017 \$2,325



Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,272.31

January 7, 2018 \$6,872

January 14, 2018 \$1,405

January 21, 2018 \$ 3,458

February, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>Religious Ed</i> <i>1pm-3pm</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Milner's Service</i> <i>3 pm</i> <i>Easter Choir</i> <i>Practice</i> <i>@Brethren 4pm</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Trustees Meeting</i> <i>7pm</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>L.R.E. 6:30pm</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Religious Ed</i> <i>1 pm -3pm</i> <i>Case for Christ</i> <i>Movie Night</i> <i>6:30pm</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Easter Choir</i> <i>Practice</i> <i>@Brethren 4pm</i>	<i>12</i> <i>AD Council 7pm</i> <i>Worship Team</i> <i>8pm</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Service 7pm</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>Religious Ed</i> <i>1-3pm</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Easter Choir</i> <i>Practice</i> <i>@Brethren 4pm</i> <i>ROCK 6pm</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Adventure Club &</i> <i>Youth Group 6-</i> <i>7:30pm</i>	<i>21</i> <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>L.R.E.</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Lenten Bible</i> <i>Study 7pm</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Religious Ed</i> <i>1-3pm</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9am, Worship & Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Easter Choir</i> <i>Practice</i> <i>@Brethren 4pm</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> <i>Adventure Club &</i> <i>Youth Group 6-</i> <i>7:30pm</i>	<i>28</i> <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>9 am</i>			