

The Echo... April, 2018

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

Bob Notes...

If October is one of my favorite months because of the change of colors and crisp cool nights, April is one of my favorite months as flowers begin to bloom, buds on the trees turn into leaves, temperatures warm up and the days of winter are generally left behind. This year, the CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST—otherwise known as Easter arrives just as we turn the calendar page into April.

Everything that we are as Christian people and as a church rests on this one fact—Jesus Christ rose from the dead! On Easter Sunday, we will discuss the ramifications of this one event on our faith and on history.

The fact is had Christ not risen, of prophets and preachers scores of miracles and even he was. But, none of it would

My column this month takes a books of the Bible to focus in the book of Acts next month

*As Christians,
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belief.*

Jesus would have been just another in a long line who was executed. Granted, Jesus did perform brought some people back to life as a sign of who have mattered had Jesus stayed in the tomb.

break from the series I've been doing on the on the resurrection of Christ. We will resume in right in line with Pentecost.

The question I want us to consider as Easter arrives is how much difference does the fact of Christ's resurrection make in our lives? Yes, as Christians the resurrection is at center of our faith and belief. Yes we believe that the resurrection proclaimed victory over sin and death and gives us the opportunity for new life. But, does it change anything?

Are those of us who believe in this truth following this truth? Are we living out our lives in the way Christ taught us while he was on this earth? Are we loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us—or at least trying? Are we doing to others as we would have them do to us or at least trying? These and many other teachings are at the heart of Christ's teaching.

And he gave them to us not so that we could have a list of rules to follow but because Christ knew that when we live them out then we can have peace in our soul. Christ knew what brings peace, and Christ knew what brings discontent, and emptiness. He taught that which brings peace as well as those behaviors to avoid in order to overcome discontent and emptiness.

So in all our Easter preparations and celebrations, let us not forget the good news of Christ's resurrection from death which gives us new life and that peace which passes all understanding.

Celebrating New Life in Christ,

Pastor Bob Raschka



Our Conference Tithes from Rossville

One of the blessings of being part of a denomination is that our Rossville church is able to join together with other churches in our United Methodist Church to reach multitudes of people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the ways this is done is through the conference tithes. **The conference tithes (formerly known as apportionments)** is an amount that each church sends to the conference. Those funds are used for varying ministries here in Indiana and throughout the world. The amount our church sends is combined with what the other churches send and all kinds of ministries are able to happen that **no one church on its own would ever be able to accomplish**. Missionaries, schools, hospitals, nursing facilities, rehabilitation facilities, and a whole host of other ministries are able to exist because of each church sending in a tithes to the conference.

Throughout the years, **Rossville United Methodist Church was almost always one of the churches in the Indiana Conference which paid 100%** of the monies expected of us for our conference tithes. In the past, the conference tithes was referred to as apportionments and the formula used until the middle 1990's involved a church's membership. Starting **over 25 years ago, the formula was changed** and was based on an average of a church's attendance, pastoral salary, and offerings received. When the North Indiana Conference joined together with the South Indiana Conference to become the Indiana Conference in 2008, the **term apportionment was dropped and replaced with the Conference Tithes**. Whereas previously, apportionments would usually take up about 17% of a local church's budget, the Conference Tithes was simply 10% of the general offerings plus 1% for the local district. Thus, **for the past ten years the amount a church is expected to send in is 11%** of the general offerings not including special offerings for missions or capital campaigns.

As stated above, **Rossville had always sent in 100% of what was expected of us—that is until 2015.**

In the early part of 2015, following a 3-year decline in attendance and offerings, the Administrative Council decided they had no choice but to discontinue sending in our tithes to the conference. Beginning in the middle part of 2016, our attendance began to increase and new members have joined our church. We have received 13 new members in the past two years. And while we are still in a very difficult place financially as a church, we decided at our March Administrative Council meeting to take a **step of faith**.

We have decided to begin sending in 1% of our offerings for our conference tithes each month with the goal that we will eventually move to the point of sending in the full 11% by next year.

Therefore, while it is small, we have decided to begin sending in 1% of our offerings for our conference tithes each month with the goal that we will eventually move to the point of sending in the full 11% by next year. This is a small step, but it is a step nonetheless. **God rewards us when we take steps of faith** and we are trusting God that we will reach the point of sending in the full tithes once again and joining together with fellow United Methodists in Indiana to help **make new disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**.

In Memoriam 

SHARON NEED

October 4, 1947 – March 16, 2018

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life"



AND



The Annual Rossville Community Easter Cantata is being presented this year on Sunday, April 1st at 7:00 AM at the Rossville Church of the Brethren. A choir of community members from various churches has been rehearsing under the direction of Jane Massey. The cantata being presented this year is entitled "Behold the Lamb" and was written by Lloyd Larson. The cantata remembers the sacrificial and resurrected Lamb of God. Several vocalists from Rossville UMC are participating, and Pastor Bob is one of the narrators. Everyone is welcome. After the cantata, everyone is welcome to stay for a communitywide Easter Breakfast at 8:00 AM.

Announcing the Rossville United Methodist Church

Comfort Kitchen Outreach

April 5, 2018

5:30-7:30

Free & Open to all ages!





Burger Bash 2018 is almost here!

April 8th after church!

Free will Donation!

All Proceeds go to send kids to church camp!

Don't miss out on this great time of fellowship and farm fresh beef hamburgers donated by Jeff Miller.

MYTHBUSTERS

APRIL 8-MAY 13

Pastor Bob will be delivering a series of sermons during the Sundays of Easter this year that deal with busting several of the **common myths and misconceptions** that are out there about the Christian faith, God, and God's interaction with us.

The topics:

April 8: God doesn't let bad things happen to good people.

April 15: God helps those who help themselves.

April 22: A loving God would never condemn anyone to hell.

April 29: God just needed another angel.

May 6: Christianity is a crutch for the weak.

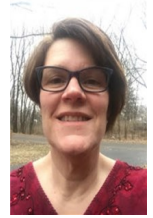
May 13: God never gives us more than we can handle.

These are excellent topics to bring your non-churched friends and loved ones to church for. Hearing the real truth on any of these has the power to transform many people's misunderstandings about the faith and subsequently deepen their faith and understanding about Christ.

So, plan to be a part of the myth busters! April 8- May 13 Rossville United Methodist Church

Lore Blinn Gibson is assigned our new superintendent beginning July 1

Bishop Julius C. Trimble is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Lore (pronounced Lorie) Blinn Gibson to serve as the Conference Superintendent assigned to the Northwest District. She succeeds the Rev. Chris Newman-Jacobs, who transitioned to disability leave effective March 1, 2018.



Gibson brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Her professional life began in education, where she taught middle school music, before answering the call to ministry.. She has a passion for building community partnerships and equipping churches to engage in recovery ministry, as well as tending to the environment and land around us.

"It is a privilege to be invited by Bishop Trimble to listen, learn, and work together with the people of the Northwest District to 'stir up the gifts of God' already in us for the transformation of our corner of the world," said Gibson.

Ordained a Deacon in 1991 and an Elder in 1993, Gibson has served a variety of churches including: Mishawaka Coalbush United Methodist Church as part-time Director of Music; interned at Church of the Abiding Savior (Lutheran), Durham, NC; interned at Midway Circuit and Reidsville Circuit, Western North Carolina Conference; Brookston UMC as lead pastor; Frankfort St. Matthew UMC as associate pastor; Elkhart Trinity UMC as senior associate pastor; and currently serves as the senior pastor of Lafayette Grace UMC.

"Lore leads with enthusiasm and a sense of focus in her ministry," noted Trimble. "She also has a passion for exploring ways in which we can be more collaborative as we engage the mission and will be a welcomed addition to the Extended Cabinet."

She has Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Indiana State University and a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School.

In addition to her professional ministry, Gibson is a piano player and enjoys knitting, crocheting, forestry, poetry, dabbling in art, Duke sports, wondering, and learning new things.

Lore is a native of Logansport, IN and was raised in Pulaski County. She is married to Randy Gibson, Ph.D., who serves as a clinical nurse specialist at Cook Research Inc., teaches philosophy at Ivy Tech, and is an ethics instructor for the Course of Study Extension School. The couple has two children: daughter, Maia who is a Junior at the University of Indianapolis where she is studying English Teaching and serves as the News Editor of the *Reflector*; and son, James who is a Freshman at Lafayette Jefferson High School and plays on the football team. They also have a dog, Kitty, and credit her as a "sausage on four legs." Lore's mother, Charlotte, is a resident of Winamac and a lifelong member of Star City United Methodist Church.

Gibson will begin in her new appointment July 1, 2018.

Please note that the Rev. Kate Walker continues to serve as the Interim Conference Superintendent of the Northwest District until June 30, 2018.

Worship and Sermon Themes

April 2018



Thursday March 29 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7 pm
 Friday March 30 Community Good Friday Service @ Church of the Brethren 7 pm
 April 1 Sunrise Cantata: "Behold the Lamb" 7 AM at Church of the Brethren
 April 1: "All the Difference!" Mark 16:1-8
 April 8: MYTH BUSTERS SERIES BEGINS
 "Good Things? Bad Things? Good People? Psalm 73:1-5 & Matthew 5:44-45
 April 15: "Can you Help Yourself?" Isaiah 25:3-4 & Romans 5:5-8
 April 22: "Does a Loving God Condemn?" John 3:16-21 & Luke 16:25-31
 April 29: "The Real Promise of Life" Isaiah 14:12-15 & 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

April BIRTHDAYS



Shelby Brock 2	Lyn Burkle 19
Isaac Harris 2	Tegan Weida 19
Cheri Mckoon 2	Ainura Nametullayeva 23
Jack Mckoon 3	Ali Burkle 25
Corey Nicolas 13	Dylan Disinger 25
Vanessa Dotson 15	Kate Harris 26
Israel Green 15	
Niki Knox 16	

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Linda Ostler April 6th
 Rex & Jane Rothenberger April 17th
 Phil & Jane Emens April 28th
 Don & Connie Hinesley April 29th

Rossville United Methodist Church

110 W. Main St. P.O. Box 568
 Rossville, IN. 46065
 (765) 379-2981
 Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am
 Worship and Jr. Church: 10:15 am

Email: rossvilleumc@gmail.com
 Website: rossinumc.com

Pastor: Rev. Bob Raschka
 Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

Pastor contact info:
 Email: bob.raschka@inumc.org
 Phone: (219) 851-3167 or
 765) 379-2982
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 573
 Rossville, IN 46065

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

February 25, 2018 \$2,752
 March 4, 2018 **\$2,211**



March 11, 2018 **\$1,293**
 March 18, 2018 **\$1,682**

Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,272.31

April, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><i>Community Easter Cantata & Breakfast @ Brethren Church</i></p> <p><i>Worship and Jr Church 10:15am</i></p> <p><i>Milner's Service 3 pm</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Trustees 7pm</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>VBS Planning @ Brethren 7pm</i></p> <p><i>Adventure Club & Youth Group 6-7:30pm</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Fellowship @ Mary's 6:30pm</i></p> <p><i>L.R.E. 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Comfort Kitchen 5:30-7:30</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Religious Ed 1pm-3pm</i></p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>Sunday School 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p> <p><i>Burger Bash after Church</i></p> <p><i>ROCK 6pm</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Administrative Council 7pm</i></p> <p><i>Worship Team 7pm</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Adventure Club & Youth Group 6-7:30pm</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Fellowship @ Mary's 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Religious Ed 1 pm -3pm</i></p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p><i>Sunday School 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>SPRC 6pm</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Adventure Club & Youth Group 6-7:30pm</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Fellowship @ Mary's 6:30pm</i></p> <p><i>L.R.E. 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Religious Ed 1-3pm</i></p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p><i>Sunday School 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p> <p><i>ROCK 6pm</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Adventure Club & Youth Group 6-7:30pm</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i></p> <p><i>Fellowship @ Mary's 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Religious Ed 1-3pm</i></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><i>Sunday School 9am,</i></p> <p><i>Worship & Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p>	<p>30</p>					