

The Echo... December, 2018



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

BOB NOTES...

As I write this column, we are just a couple days past Thanksgiving, and the excitement of the Christmas season is in the air. Many homes are decorated and lit up for Christmas. The huge display out at Cottrell's farm which draws thousands of people every year has started. The town of Rossville has decorations and wreaths hanging from the utility poles, and a tree at each corner of the main intersection in the middle of town; and of course, the place in Edna Mills has their antique car with Santa and Frosty sitting in the front seat as well as other decorations on display. The shopping season is in full force, and a slew of Christmas oriented programs on TV as well as concerts, plays, and other presentations are all set to begin.

I wonder though. Would we still be as thrilled to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ without all the traditions and expectations of the holiday season?

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In my more honest moments about Christmas, while I would like to think my focus is on the birth of the Prince of Peace, I know I spend a lot more time on all of the preparations for the "Season" than I do thinking about the birth of our Savior. Yes, my core values have this birth at the center of our worship and of the beginning of each day of my life. But, it becomes so easy to get caught up in all the trappings and forget about the birth of the ONE whom I preach.

I was at Hobby Lobby the other day and while looking through their wide assortment of Christmas decorations, I came across one of those "Jesus is the reason for the season" signs. And the thought occurred to me—is he? Is Jesus really the reason for our season? Is Jesus all that thrilled about what we have turned the season into? Yes, it is a time of giving, but in my understanding of what Christ expects of us, I think he would rather have us commit our lives to Him than for our focus to be solely on the trappings of a season we say exists because of Him.

It is something to think about. I am all for the decorations and the music and the programs and everything else we have come to associate with Christmas. But at the end of the day, when everything is over and all the stuff is put back in its boxes, and we go back to singing "regular music" again, and the new year comes, my deepest hope and my most earnest yearning is that we will not put Jesus Christ back into a box and forget about Him until the next holiday. My hope is that the light of Jesus Christ will not only shine on our world at Christmas but will shine in and through our lives every day.

Is Jesus the reason for the season? Does the season we have allowed Christmas to become have anything to do with Jesus? Many good Christian people celebrate the season without so much as giving Jesus a second thought. However, Jesus is the reason for our salvation. And this is what we should be about declaring as we celebrate His birth once again.

May his peace reign in your hearts and lives throughout Advent and Christmas and into 2019.

Jesus is the reason for LIFE!

Wishing you a most blessed Christmas!

Pastor Bob Raschka

Comfort Kitchen Outreach

Rossville United Methodist Church

110 W Main St, Rossville

Thursday, December 6th

5:30—7:30 pm

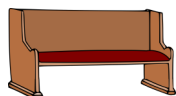
Turkey Manhattan, Mashed Potatoes,
Celery, Carrots, Dessert, and Drink



Free!

Open to ALL ages

***Come
ALL!
Come
One!***



PACK A PEW/ ROCK A ROW DECEMBER 9TH

On Sunday, December 9th, everyone is encouraged to bring friends and family with them to church in an effort to “pack a pew”, or in our case “rock a row”. What better time than during the season of Advent to invite people to a church service? Let’s all do our part to bring people to worship the Lord especially on this particular Sunday. Maybe we can fill the church!



Our Rossville UMC Missions team will be hosting a fundraiser lunch after church on Sunday, December 9th in order to raise funds for the annual Bishop’s Christmas offering. The lunch will consist of an assortment of baked ham and/or turkey sandwiches, baked beans, green bean casserole, corn casserole, chips and dip, brownies and other deserts. The proceeds from the Bishop’s Christmas offering are divided among Church camps, three Indiana children and youth homes, local outreach projects, emerging children’s projects, and Advance projects. Everyone is welcome to stay after church on the 9th and enjoy good food and fellowship while also supporting ministries to children and youth through the Bishop’s Christmas Offering.

BRING IN THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Our Rossville tradition of bringing in Christmas cards for each of the families and individuals in our congregation continues this year. You are welcome to bring them in and place them on the table set up in the Esther Beard room by the offices on Sundays December 16th and 23rd. They will be available for pick up after church on the 23rd. A list of names is available in our newly published church directory. An updated list is also available on the table outside the church office.



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: rossvilleum@gmail.com

Website: rossinumc.com

Pastor: Rev. Bob Raschka

Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

Pastor contact info:

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(765) 379-2982

Mailing address: P.O. Box 573
Rossville, IN 46065



A READER'S THEATER DECEMBER 16TH

Our Christmas program this year is at the 10:15 worship service on Sunday, December 16th and is a reader's theater entitled, "The Twelve Days of Christmas". 14 of our congregants are part of this presentation of the Twelve Days of Christmas which centers on the meaning of each of the twelve gifts represented in the song.

This fun and educational program will help to bring God's true love into our lives as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming this Christmas.



DECEMBER 18TH

Let's gather on Tuesday evening December 18th to go Christmas caroling. We will meet at the church at 6:00 pm to go and sing carols at Milner's Health Care Center and at the homes of a few other folks. This is always an enjoyable experience for all involved.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR TO SING ON CHRISTMAS SUNDAY DECEMBER 23RD

We have gathered a group of people together to sing in a choir at church on the Sunday before Christmas—December 23rd. The choir will be a nice addition to our service on Christmas Sunday as we draw ever closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service is scheduled for Monday, December 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Join us as we gather and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This will be the fourth year Pastor Bob will present "A Story for Christmas". This year's story is "Nativity Seen Smiling". The service will include traditional carols as well as the lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night at the service's conclusion.

Happy
Anniversary

Carl & Mary Beth Seest December 27th

December Birthdays

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



Worship Themes

December 2nd "Calm and Bright" Jeremiah 33:14-16
December 9th "Shepherds Quake" Luke 2:8-14
December 16th Reader's Theatre: The Twelve Days of Christmas
December 23rd "Love's Pure Light" Luke 1:39-45
Christmas Eve A Story for Christmas IV: "Nativity Seen Smiling"
December 30th "Another Year of..." Luke 13:6-9

Christmas
starts with
Christ

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

October 21, 2018 \$6,133.50

November 4, 2018 \$1,781.00

November 18, 2018 \$2,097.20



Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,272.31

October 28, 2018 \$1,700.00

November 11, 2018 \$2,265.00

November 25, 2018 \$1,358.00

December, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>1st Sunday Advent</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Communion Service @ Milner's 3pm Choir 4pm Play Practice 4:30pm	3 Trustees 7pm	4 	5 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> Bible Study 9 am <i>Fellowship @</i> <i>Mary Gray's</i> 6:30pm L.R.E. 6:30pm	6 Comfort Kitchen 5:30-7:30 	7 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm <i>Play in Delphi</i> 7pm	8 <i>Grace Shireman's</i> <i>Birthday Party in</i> <i>the fellowship hall</i>
9 <i>2nd Sunday Advent</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am <i>Missions Lunch</i> ROCK 6-7:30pm	10 <i>Noodle Making</i> 9am <i>Worship Team</i> 6pm <i>Administrative</i> <i>Council 7pm</i>	11 <i>Bag Noodles 9am</i> 	12 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> Bible Study 9 am <i>Fellowship @</i> <i>Mary Gray's</i> 6:30pm	13 	14 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	15
16 <i>3rd Sunday Advent</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Christmas Reader Theater Choir Practice 4pm	17 <i>Missions Team</i> 7pm	18 <i>Christmas</i> <i>Caroling 6pm</i> 	19 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> Bible Study 9 am L.R.E. 6:30pm	20 	21 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	22
23 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Christmas Choir	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Service 7pm</i>	25 Christmas 	26 	27 	28 	29
30 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am	31 					