



THE ECHO... FEBRUARY, 2019

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

Bob Notes...

A special called session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet Saturday, February 23rd through Tuesday February 26th in St. Louis to vote on differing recommendations as well as several petitions connected with our denomination's stance on matters of human sexuality. The General Conference, with 864 voting delegates from around the world, (18 from Indiana) is the only body that can officially speak for The United Methodist Church as a whole.



This special session of General Conference was called by the Council of Bishops following a report from the Commission on A Way Forward. The Commission was formed following a vote at the 2016 General Conference asking that such a group be organized. The Commission on the Way Forward was assigned the task of formulating a plan to present to the special session of General Conference which would help to **move the denomination forward and seek to move us beyond the quadrennial debates on issues of human sexuality**. Instead of presenting one specific plan, the commission has presented **three plans** which basically cover all sides of the issue. It is up to the General Conference to decide which of the three plans (if any) they decide to approve. Beyond this, varying groups within the church have presented alternative proposals.

The three plans are explained below. Remember, **these three variety of plans are ONLY PROPOSALS**.

The basics of the three plans are as follows:

The **Traditional Plan** maintains the current position of the United Methodist Church that all persons are of sacred worth and loved by God, that sexual relations are to reserved for marriage between one man and one woman, and that the practice of homosexuality is contrary to Christian teaching. This plan continues the prohibition on pastors performing same-sex weddings and annual conferences ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexuals as clergy. It institutes additional accountability measures in order to gain compliance with the denomination's Book of Discipline. At the same time, it provides a gracious exit for annual conferences, local churches, bishops, and clergy who do not abide by the requirements of the church.

The **One Church Plan** removes all existing language on sexuality and marriage from the Book of Discipline, and would let every local church and annual conference choose their own paths on these issues.

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The **Connectional Conference Plan** replaces our current five geographical regions (jurisdictions) in the United States with three connectional conferences—Traditional, Progressive, and Unity. All three branches would continue to share some general church agencies such as missions, the Publishing House, and the Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and pensions. Other agencies would serve only those connectional conferences that desire to participate in them. Local churches would choose which of the three conferences they want to be part of. Each connectional conference would have its own rules for clergy conduct and standards for ordination. Conferences outside the United States would be their own connectional conference, or join one of the three United States conferences. In practicality, this plan would divide the United Methodist Church into three separate denominations in some ways.

Be aware that the media and other communication sources will focus on one plan or another and **seek to sensationalize the matter** in an effort to gain ratings, readers, or subscribers. So, I encourage you to take anything you hear or read about this in the media with “a grain of salt”.

As the special session of the General Conference draws near, we are encouraged to **be in prayer**. In fact, **our Indiana Bishop Julius Trimble is encouraging us to pray every day** between 2:23 and 2:26 pm since the dates of the Conference are 2/23 through 2/26. Obviously, many people are working or at school, or doing other things during this time, but we are encouraged to set time aside each day to pray for the Conference and that the Holy Spirit will move among all the delegates and observers. Prayer is needed for protection from those who come with evil intent and that God will lead the conference to a clear mandate.

As your pastor, I encourage you to pray. No one really knows how any of this will turn out. But God does!

Glad to be ministering among the people of Rossville,

Pastor Bob Raschka

Missions Supported in 2018

Our church supported several different missions causes in 2018. Due to the gifts of many through our weekly mission's coin collections as well as the support of our dinners for missions, we were blessed to serve as a blessing to others as we continued to slowly build our support of missions. Rossville raised a total of \$3,153 for missions in 2018. This compares with a total of \$867 just two years ago in 2016.

The monies raised were divided up among the following causes:

Honduras H.I.S. eyes project
Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon
Missionaries Felipe & Valerie Colby
The Pregnancy Resource Center of Frankfort
The Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Meal in Frankfort
Rossville Good Samaritan Fund



Beyond this, we also raised \$396.00 for the Bishop's Christmas Children's offering in December. Thanks again to everyone for your support of missions.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRAYER COORDINATOR VICKI RABANUS

Focus 2019: Prayer

Happy New Year!

If Solomon was to pen the book of Ecclesiastes today, perhaps he would include the verse: "I made New Years' resolutions at the beginning of each year, and they too were vanity!" Over the years I've learned this to be true. Resolutions seem made to be broken. For the past few years I've chosen instead to focus on a theme for the year. The first year my focus was Living Intentionally—being present in every moment. The next year was Transparency—transparent before my Lord and with the people in my life. Last year was the Glory of God.

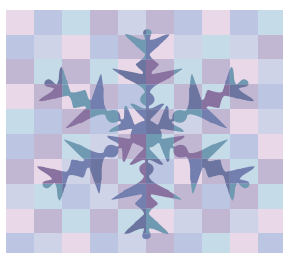
In November 2018, it was decided my 2019 theme was to be prayer. I asked Him, as I often have, "Lord, teach me to pray." He didn't wait for 2019 to begin. In December the Lord presented an opportunity for me to become prayer coordinator for our church then gave me the nudge to take this opportunity. As a result, He laid on my heart a desire to form a group of individuals that He has called to gather weekly for a few moments of prayer for our church. It has been decided that those who God has called will meet each Sunday from 5:00 to 5:30 beginning on February 24th, which is during Pastor Bob's upcoming sermon series on prayer. My prayer is that the Lord will prepare hearts during this series of messages to make a commitment to join together in prayer for RUMC. God alone knows who they are. Is it you?

You need to know that **no one will be required to pray aloud** during our prayer time. Silent prayer has just as much value as prayer voiced. Those who are comfortable praying aloud will be encouraged to. There will be no right way or wrong way to pray.

I won't be calling anyone on the phone. No clipboards will be passed around on Sunday mornings. The Lord is doing this for me. I can't wait to see who answers His call!!!

J By the way: Please pray for me as I learn what it means to *coordinate*. J

Vicki

**Weather Cancellation Policy**

Almost every year there is at least a Sunday or two that appears "dicey" when it comes to the weather. We have already experienced a few such Sundays this year and even cancelled a Sunday. The question on whether we will hold services when the weather conditions deteriorate often arises when winter decides to make a strong push. First and foremost, we encourage people to use caution if for any reason the roads appear dangerous due to weather conditions where you live. The conditions where you live might be different than they are in town. Second, you should know that whenever we have a church service, the parking lot is always plowed, and the sidewalks, ramp, and steps are well-shoveled and salted. Safety is of our first concern.

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The Administrative Council adopted a written policy at its January 14th meeting in regards to weather cancellations. There are three situations that would cause us to automatically cancel a church service.

- If a level 2 travel advisory (travel watch) has been issued by Clinton County. This means that while travel is not restricted, it is highly advised that people not travel.
- A snow emergency has been declared, thus making it illegal to travel unless for emergency purposes.
- The power at the church building has failed.

If a church service is being cancelled, communication will be done through our automated phone tree. If one of the three above situations occur on a Saturday, then you will receive a call by Saturday night at 8:00 pm. If the decision is not made until Sunday morning, you will receive a call no later than 8:00 am on Sunday. If you do not receive a call, the service has not been cancelled. Beyond the phone tree, we will also post the information on Facebook.

It is our hope that this policy makes clear our concern for safety as well as taking into consideration the efforts we go to in order to provide clear communication should a reason to cancel a worship service arise.



Church Ladies Day Out

Once a month we will meet for lunch.

Our first outing will be on Friday, February 8th, 11:30am at Treece's Restaurant.

Need a ride call Connie Hinesley at 379-2234 or Jane Emens at 379-3176

WINTER MOVIE NIGHT FEBRUARY 8th



The second of our two winter movie nights is scheduled for Friday, February 8th @ 7:00 pm. We will be watching HEAVEN IS FOR REAL. When their young son Colton (Connor Corum) enters the hospital with a life-threatening illness, devastated parents Todd (Academy Award nominee Greg Kinnear) and Sonja Burpo (Kelly Reilly) are uncertain whether he will make it out of the operating room alive. But in what Colton's doctors credit as "a miracle," he survives -- and with an incredible story that seems to confirm the existence of heaven. Later, despite Colton's accurate and intimate revelations about people he has never encountered -- including his sister who died in Utero and his late grandfather -- skeptics hastily dismiss any possibility that the young boy's fantastical claims could be true. Meanwhile, his astonished parents seek meaning in the alleged miracle that has turned their once-peaceful lives completely upside down.

Everyone is welcome to attend this time of fellowship, popcorn, and a good movie on February 8th.



February Birthdays

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

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:
 Email: bob.raschka@inumc.org
 Phone: (219) 851-3167 or
 (765) 379-2982
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 Rossville, IN 46065

Worship Themes

PRAYER SERIES- A.C.T.S. (adore, confess, thanks, supplication)


February 3: Adore: "Loving God" Psalm 29:1-4; Luke 11:1-2

February 10: Confess:" We Are Not Worthy" 1 John 1:9-10

February 17: Thanks: "Enduring Kindness" 1 Chronicles 16:31-34

February 24: Supplication: "ASK" Matthew 7:7-8 & Luke 11:3

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

December 30, 2018 \$6,525.00		January 13, 2019 \$7,205.00
January 6, 2019 \$1,755.00		January 20, 2019 No Service

Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,333.24

February, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	2
3 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>Service @</i> <i>Milner's 3pm</i>	4 <i>No School</i> <i>Trustees 7pm</i>	5  <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	6 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study 9 am</i> <i>L.R.E. 6:30pm</i>	7	8 <i>Ladies Day Out</i> 11:30am <i>Treeces</i> <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm <i>Movie Night 7pm</i>	9
10 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>ROCK 6-7:30pm</i>	11 <i>Worship Team</i> 6pm <i>Administrative</i> <i>Council 7pm</i>	12  <i>Bible Study 7pm</i>	13 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study 9 am</i>	14 	15 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	16
17 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i>	18 	19	20 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study 9 am</i> <i>L.R.E. 6:30pm</i>	21	22 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	23
24 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:15 am</i> <i>Prayer Group</i> 4pm <i>ROCK 6-7:30pm</i>	25	26 <i>Adventure Club</i> 6-7:30pm	27 <i>M&M Ladies'</i> <i>Bible Study 9am</i>	28		