

# THE ECHO... MARCH, 2019



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

## *Bob Notes...*

The beginning of the season of Lent is drawing ever nearer. This year, the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6<sup>th</sup> and ends on Holy Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Lent, which comes from the Germanic word for springtime, and the Latin word for lengthen, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our relationship with Jesus Christ and our service to him.

During Lent, we are reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

It is common for many people to “give something up” or sacrifice or fast from something during Lent. Many people will give up something sort of frivolous such as salty snacks, or sweets. Others will go a little more in depth and sacrifice the time they spend on the internet or social media (which for some people would be like giving up an addiction to smoking or something). The thing is, if we are serious, God will honor it. And sometimes when we aren’t serious, God will still get our attention. One year for example I kind of humorously thought to myself, “what is something I can give up for Lent which isn’t too difficult for me?” I decided I would give up donuts because I really didn’t eat donuts very much anyway. Guess what? God in his infinite humor decided to show me just how much donuts really were an issue for me that year. It seemed like everywhere I went, there were donuts. If I went to a community pastor’s meeting; they served donuts. I remember going to a district pastor’s meeting and guess what? They served donuts. And to top it off, the supermarket where we often shopped in Plymouth, IN near where we lived at the time had a huge display of donuts but like 50 feet from the entrance near the deli and bakery. And these just weren’t any donuts, they were large chocolate donuts with all kinds of appetizing stuff on them. Yep, I learned a lesson. Don’t ever think that something is going to be simple or even non-important because God often has other plans. By God’s grace, I did manage to abstain from donuts during that Lenten season.

Other people, instead of giving something up for Lent, “take something on”. Maybe they will begin reading or studying the Bible more, or perhaps they will volunteer to work at a food pantry or soup kitchen. Or they will make sure they attend every church service that is held during the season of Lent. Or, maybe they will start getting more exercise. And while the purpose of giving something up for Lent is to identify with Christ’s 40-day period of testing and trial in the wilderness, the purpose of taking something on is to allow God to speak to us or guide us in a manner which will deepen our relationship with God and others.

My hope and goal for each of us during the Lenten Season this year is that we will take more seriously our faith and relationship with Christ. I pray that it doesn’t get relegated to the backburner during any of the activities at this time of the year such as the NCAA Basketball tournament or the beginning of the Major League Baseball Season. I hope that when Spring break arrives in the middle of Lent that it doesn’t end up taking precedent over your relationship with God. Allow God into all of these seasonal events of life. Allow Christ to be at the center. And then when Holy Week and Easter arrive, you will be able to experience a step forward in your relationship with Christ as it is renewed and ready to blossom into a period of blessing.

Be Blessed!

*Pastor Bob Raschka*



Adventure Club begins meeting Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm. We will meet on Tuesdays until April 9<sup>th</sup> with a week off for Spring Break on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Adventure Club Sunday is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>. The lessons this spring are based upon the life of the Apostle Paul. Several exciting activities are being planned around this theme. Bring your pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbors to an awesome "Spring" Session of Adventure Club. Since this time of the year can be unpredictable with the weather, know that if the Rossville Schools are cancelled or dismiss early due to weather, then Adventure Club will not meet that particular evening. We are hoping that nothing of the sort occurs and we can meet for all six sessions of Adventure Club! See you there!

## Vision and Planning

The Administrative Council met for their annual Vision and Planning retreat at the end of January. We reviewed the accomplishments of 2018 such as the launching of our Soup Kitchen called COMFORT KITCHEN, and the beginning of a Mentoring Program for new attendees. In 2019, a new prayer emphasis has begun with a prayer group beginning on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We are looking at making some additions to the Comfort Kitchen Program, beginning a Grief Support program, organizing a trip to see a faith-themed movie, hosting a Praise Times Three Concert on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and holding a hymn sing in the fall. These and our other ministries such as Adventure Club, and hosting Backpack Buddies and Religious Education, our involvement in the Rossville Rock, and our annual chicken and noodle dinner are all part of where God is leading us this year and into the future.



## Ash Wednesday Service



The Season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding an Ash Wednesday service that evening as we begin this season of preparation before Easter. This year's Lenten theme is "Easter Earthquake" and centers around the earthquakes both literally and figurately which happened at the time of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, and how these affect our lives as Christ-followers to this day. Our Ash Wednesday service theme of confession this year is entitled "Beginning at the End".

Make plans to join us at this special service as we begin our Lenten journey together.



**Comfort Kitchen Resumes March 7th 5:30-7:00pm**





**Next Ladies Day Out: March 8th**



Meet at the church for a Mystery Outing.

Meet in church parking lot to leave promptly at 11am!

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



MOVE CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED ON SATURDAY MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, AS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 2:00 am

**Fellowship at Mary's Resumes Wednesday, March 13th 6:30pm**

**Watch bulletin for further details!**



Dear Rev. Raschka and Rossville United Methodist Church Family,

Thank you for your generosity, support and commitment to the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. The financial contributions provided by caring United Methodist Churches like yours enable the Home to provide quality services and a caring environment to the children we serve—helping them to develop valuable life skills and to work toward stronger families.

We gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$800.00. This gift is a testament to the children we serve. It sends a message that people care about them and the quality of their future. We are grateful to have you as a partner in our mission to build better lives for our youth!

Blessings abound,

Christy Huston, IOM  
Executive Director

**CAMP FUNDRAISER!** Its time again to raise money for church camp! The first lunch will be on March 17 after church. This will be a soup sensation. Do you have a soup or chili that you are famous for? If you would be interested in bringing a pot of your sensation please see Brandy Marlow. Also if you have a child interested in attending camp please get with Brandy, early bird deadline is April 15th.





Recently, we received a wealth of information from Food Finders Food Bank in Lafayette about the Backpack Buddies program which is hosted here in our Rossville United Methodist Church and is led by participants from all of the churches in Rossville. We will be sharing some of the information in *The Echo* over the next couple of months.

First, some basic facts. There are 75 schools including Rossville in a 16-county area which participate in the Backpack Buddies Program. About 2,800 bags are distributed among these schools each week. Backpacks help to fill stomachs. It seems like a small thing, but providing consistent nutritional food on the weekends for the children in need in the Rossville School District helps to set kids up for long-term success.

Food Insecurity or Food Insecure is a term used by The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to describe a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. It is important to know that hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct, concepts.

1 in 5 children in the Rossville area are food insecure. Food insecurity looks like this:

- Do I pay the electric bill or buy food?
- Do I buy medicine or buy food?
- Do I buy gas for the car or food?
- Empty cupboards.



Kids who are food insecure are twice as likely to repeat a grade, miss school, get low grades, have headaches or stomach aches, social troubles, anxiety, attention span problems, experience bullying, and are overall less likely to succeed.

## UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday is a special offering taken each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent to assist those who are dealing with disasters. Last year, Rossville UMC collected \$181 for UMCOR Sunday. A few points about UMCOR Sunday:

### When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

**Current**  
Disaster Response



When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded. When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded. When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded. And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.

Check out the “new” look in the church nursery!  
 Thank you to everyone who helped pick out  
 paint, pick out carpet, painted, and then got the  
 nursery ready for the carpet to be laid. a “BIG”  
 thank you to the Links of Love for the purchases.  
 a new look has been in the works for 2 years.

The Trustees

**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

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Phone: (219) 851-3167 or  
 (765) 379-2982

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 Rossville, IN 46065



**March Birthdays**



- 17th Nancy Disinger
- 24th Dan Cooper
- 25th Cooper Brinsley
- 26th Hannah Dotson
- 27th Christian Shireman

**March Worship Schedule**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> The Transfiguration of the Lord “Holy!” Psalm 99:1-5, 9

Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday “Beginning at the End” Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 27:57-61

March 10<sup>th</sup> The Sundays of Lent begin “To ‘hell’ with Jesus?” Ephesians 4:7-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22

March 17<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker: David Bushfield

March 24<sup>th</sup> “Beyond our Wildest Imagination” Luke 24:13-35



**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

January 27, 2019 \$2,590.70

February 3, 2019 \$3,193.00



February 10, 2019 **\$1,746.00**

February 17, 2019 **\$972.00**

Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,333.24

# March, 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. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Communion</i>  <i>Service @ Milner's</i> 3pm  <i>Prayer Group</i> 5pm	4	5  6-7:30pm	6 <i>M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am  <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i> 7pm	7  <i>Comfort Kitchen</i> 5:30-7pm	8 <i>Ladies Day Out</i> 11am parking lot  <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	9
10  <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Prayer Group</i> 5pm  <i>ROCK</i> 6-7:30pm	11  <i>Worship Team</i> 6pm  <i>Administrative Council</i> 7pm	12  6-7:30pm	13 <i>M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am  <i>Fellowship @ Mary's</i> 6:30pm	14	15 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	16
17 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Guest Speaker</i>  <i>Camp Fundraiser Soup Luncheon</i>  <i>Prayer Group</i> 5pm	18  <i>SPRC</i> 6pm  <i>Missions</i> 7pm	19  6-7:30pm	20 <i>M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9 am  <i>Fellowship @ Mary's</i> 6:30pm	21	22 <i>Religious Ed</i> 1-3pm	23
24 <i>Sunday School</i> 9 am <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15 am <i>Prayer Group</i> 5pm	25	26  <i>No Adventure Club</i> <i>Spring Break</i>	27 <i>M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study</i> 9am  <i>Fellowship @ Mary's</i> 6:30pm	28	29 <i>No Religious Ed</i> <i>Spring Break</i>	30 <i>Tour IN UM children's Home</i>
31 <i>Sunday School</i> 9am <i>Worship and Jr. Church</i> 10:15am <i>Umcors Sunday</i>  <i>Prayer Group</i> 5pm						