

# THE ECHO... DECEMBER 2019



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



## Bob Notes

Why do we expect so much of Christmas? Why do we think that people who haven't spoken to each other in years will suddenly lay aside whatever has estranged them and start over again? Why do we expect everything to be perfect, why do we think that all future Christmases are ruined if something tragic happens at the holiday? What is it about us that would cause us to put so much stress on one specific day or time of the year above all others?

This thought occurred to me the other day when Ruth and I were driving somewhere, and an Amy Grant Christmas song came on that was on one of the first cassette tapes we had when we were married. I now consider the song a classic and it is part of the "soundtrack" of our Christmas season. I made a comment in passing that it suddenly occurred to me that most of the Christmas music I listen to on CDs is from an earlier time in my life and many times when I listen to them, I am instantly transported in my mind back to the time period in life when I first heard them. This is especially true of some of the CDs we have that are remastered versions of record albums produced when we were young children back in the 1960s and early 1970s. Why is this? I enjoy most of the Christmas music released today, but I can't imagine any of it affecting me the way the music from years ago does.

Most of these questions have no real answers. They are just observations about the state of what Christmas has become for me as I have now moved into the latter half of my 50s.

Maybe I am becoming too reflective. Then again maybe God is showing me that while all the trappings of the Christmas season are ok, none of it by itself can draw us closer to the celebration of the coming of God to planet earth. None of it can really give us perhaps that "special feeling" we are hoping to regain from some past special Christmas.

The real truth of the matter is that the story never gets old. God came to earth in the form of a human baby at a fairly primitive time in human history and was placed in a feed-trough. The resurrection that is central to salvation would not be possible were it not for Christ coming to earth in the first place.

And therefore we celebrate. Pull out all the stops! Declare praise to the One who came to save us from sin! And here's the message I think God is telling me. If I were somewhere with absolutely none of the trappings of the season, I should still celebrate the coming of Jesus.

I should still reach out to those in need. I should still declare the salvation Christ came to bring.

At the end of the day, none of the other stuff I get into in regard to "the season" really matters. While the customs and the other "trappings" we use might change over the years, Jesus Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) Let us never forget. And this Christmas, may we fully experience the One whose coming we celebrate.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas,

*Pastor Bob Raschka*



## **Community Fellowship Café**

**The next Community Fellowship Café is Thursday,**

**December 5th from 5:30 – 7:00pm.**

**Turkey Manhattans & Glazed Carrots will be served!**

**Free and open to Everyone! Need a Ride Call (765)379-6452**

## **PACK A PEW/FILL A ROW SUNDAY**

This year for the second consecutive year, we are having a Sunday where people are encouraged to bring friends and family with them to church and fill a row. Last year's Sunday was so successful that a few new families began attending our church on a regular basis.

This year's is scheduled for **Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Bring friends and family to this special service. The theme is "Stolen Christmas".

**Please invite all our guest on pack a pew Sunday to join us after service for lunch. The Missions team will be cooking up something special. This event is a free will offering. Join us for food and fellowship after church on Sunday December 8th.**



## **Birthday Party for Jesus**

Mary Gray is hosting a "Birthday Party for Jesus" at her home located at 304 E. Main St in Rossville on **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend to join in an evening of food, fun, and fellowship as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Mary will be serving appetizers, cake and Ice cream.



## **Next Ladies Day Out: December 13th**

Meet in church parking lot to leave promptly at 11am  
we will be going carpooling to The Stone House in Delphi.

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

Nine ladies met on Nov. 8th to eat at the Angry Donkey.

The food was delicious and the fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.!



### Christmas Program December 15<sup>th</sup>



Join us in our worship service on December 15<sup>th</sup> as we present a reader’s theatre program entitled “Away FROM the Manger”. This hilarious, yet thought-provoking program is about a group of shepherds, wisemen, stars, barn animals, and the innkeeper’s wife who managed to stay away FROM the manger for a variety of reasons. In so doing, they missed out on the birth of Christ that the other shepherds, wisemen, stars, and barn animals happened to witness. Bring a guest as we continue to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am.



**Everyone is welcome to join us for a night of Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at 6:30 pm and go Christmas Caroling to a few homes as well as at Milner’s Healthcare Community.**

### Bring in Christmas Cards

Everyone is welcome to bring in Christmas Cards on December 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. The cards are for each individual or family in the congregation. A list of names is available in the directory as well as an additional list of new families and individuals who have begun attending our church this year. Copies of this list and of the directory if you don’t have one are available outside the church office. Let’s join in wishing each person in our church a Merry Christmas.



**Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service is scheduled for Tuesday December 24, 2019 at 7:00 pm. This service will include music and carols, a reading of the biblical narrative about the birth of Christ, as well as Pastor Bob presenting “A Story for Christmas 5: Sugarplum and the Christmas Cradle”. At the end of the service, the sanctuary will be darkened, candles lit, and “Silent Night” sung. Bring friends, family, and neighbors to this special service as we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.**



**Happy Birthday**

- Diane Miller Dec 1st**
- Jeff Miller Dec 5th**
- Arlene Gangwer 6th**
- Mimi Nicolas 12th**
- Michael Hurley 13th**
- Phyllis Paterson 15th**
- Zoey Shelly 14th**
- Grace Shireman 14th**
- Rita Rothenberger 16th**
- Elaine Hathaway 16th**
- Carl Wright 22nd**
- Aaron Rothenberger 26th**



**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](mailto:rossvilleum@gmail.com)  
 Website: [rossinumc.com](http://rossinumc.com)  
 Pastor: Rev. Bob Raschka  
 Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

Pastor contact info:

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



**Happy Anniversary**

**Carl & Mary Beth Seest December 27th**



**December Worship Themes**



December 1<sup>st</sup> "Getting Prepared" Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

December 8<sup>th</sup> "Stolen Christmas" Isaiah 7:14 & John 10:7-10

December 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Program: "Away From the Manger"

December 22<sup>nd</sup> "Trusting the Journey" Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve A Story for Christmas 5: "Sugar Plum and the Christmas Cradle"

December 29<sup>th</sup> to be announced

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

October 27, 2019 \$1,759.00

November 3, 2019 \$1,337.00









November 10, 2019 \$1,573.00

November 17, 2019 \$1,375.00

November 24, 2019 \$2,049.00

Needed Weekly for Budget \$2,333.24

# December, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</p> <p>Service @ Milner's 3pm</p> <p>Play Practice 4 Choir P. 4:30 Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Trustees 7pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</p> <p>LRE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Community Café 5:30-7pm</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Religious Ed 1-3pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Delphi Christmas Play . Meet in parking lot at 5:30pm</p>
<p>8 <b>Pack A Pew</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am <b>Missions Lunch</b> Play Practice 4 Choir P. 4:30 Prayer Group 5pm</p> <p>R.O.C.K. Youth 6-7:30pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Missions 6pm Ad Council 7pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Birthday Party for Jesus at Mary's 6:30pm</p>	<p>13 <b>Ladies Day Out</b> 11am Parking lot</p>  <p>Religious Ed 1-3pm</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Reader's Theatre Choir P. 4:30</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 M&amp;M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am L.R.E.</p> <p>Caroling 6:30pm</p> 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Religious Ed 1-3pm</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Christmas Choir</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Candlelight Service 7pm</p> 	<p>25</p>  <p>Pastor on Vacay</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pastor on Vacay</p>	<p>27</p> <p>No Religious Ed</p> <p>Pastor on Vacay</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pastor on Vacay</p>
<p>29 Sunday School 9am</p> <p>Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p> <p>R.O.C.K. Youth 6-7:30pm Pastor on Vacay</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				