

THE ECHO... APRIL 2020



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

From the Pastor

At the end of May, it will have been thirty years since I graduated from seminary and began serving in full-time pastoral ministry. In these thirty years, once in a while a church service was cancelled because of a snowstorm but that was it. And while at this time we are not meeting in person, Church is still being held. But now, in a mostly empty sanctuary as the COVID-19 limitations have taken affect.

Thankfully, there is technology available so that we can broadcast the service and sermon on Facebook. We hope also in the near future to make this available on You Tube as well. For those people who do not have access to those platforms, e-mail is available. There are still some who have no computer access, and the folks who have requested it, receive a copy in the mail.

To be rather frank here, this is really a **weird time**. Is it not? Sometimes it feels like one day we will wake up and tell everyone about this incredibly **strange dream** we had where a world-wide virus hit, thousands died, and almost everything closed down since there was no vaccination available to stop it. O wait. It wasn't a dream. **It's real**. And worse yet, it has ratcheted up right as we come upon Holy Week and Easter.

We should know however, that there is **nothing** that **can stop Holy Week** from happening. There is nothing that can stop the fact that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people shouted "Hosanna!" There is nothing that can stop the teachings our Lord gave early during that week. There is nothing that can stop the fact that Jesus sat at a dinner table with his disciples and **transformed the Passover feast** into a meal to remember his upcoming sacrifice. He would become the "sacrificial lamb." There is nothing that can stop the fact that **Jesus suffered** through a sham of a trial, severe beatings, and then being **nailed to a cross**. There is nothing that can stop the fact that Jesus **lay dead in a tomb**. And above all, there is nothing that can stop the fact that the **stone** covering that tomb **rolled away** and **Jesus rose again**. No, there is nothing that can stop any of this.

But still. It's different. As of now, it appears that none of the extra community wide services normally held during Holy week will happen.

Many are anxious. Many are uptight. Some are going stir-crazy and some have "cabin fever". But be encouraged. **These days will pass**.

Continue to pray for those on the front lines in health care. Pray for those who continue to make deliveries. Pray for those who have any kind of exposure to the public. Pray for those who have been infected, and for those whose loved ones have died as a result. Pray for an **end to the virus**.

In the meantime, God has led us as a church to establish some new ministries as a result of COVID-19. You will read of these elsewhere here in *The Echo* this month.

I hope each of us will spend some of the time we are at home remembering the events of Holy Week. Maybe since we are not as busy as normal, they will become more meaningful to you this year and in your life. May the blood of Christ which was shed for our sins be upon your life in the days ahead.

Pastor Bob Raschka

Services on Facebook



For the past several months, we have bantered around the idea that perhaps we should start figuring out a way to live-stream our worship services on Facebook. We would respond, saying “yeah, that’s a good idea.” But then we never followed through or set out any plans. Well, God sometimes has a way of getting our attention. The suspension of in-person worship services at least through April 12th due to COVID-19 spurred us into action.

We began with the March 22nd worship service. And for now, we have every intention of continuing these even after we have resumed our regular services.

If you are on Facebook and have not seen a service yet, here’s how.

1. Go to your Facebook page
2. Do a search for Rossville United Methodist Church
3. Once it comes up, press the “like” button. This automatically makes you a follower

You will then receive a Facebook message each week telling you that “Rossville United Methodist Church” is live.

You can watch it live, or you can click on the video of the service any time.

It’s as simple as that.



Shepherding Program

During this time when the governor has basically ordered everyone to stay home except for essential reasons, we have set up a program in which each person in the congregation is contacted by a “shepherd”. Your shepherd will call you a time or two each week during this period to check on your well-being. If you need someone to go and pick up groceries or a medication for you, please let your shepherd know and then we will make the arrangements.

Our shepherds are Linda Ostler, Lisa Jensen, Jane Emens, Mary Gray, Diane and Jeff Miller, Margo Oren, Jacque Cooper, and Connie Hinesley.

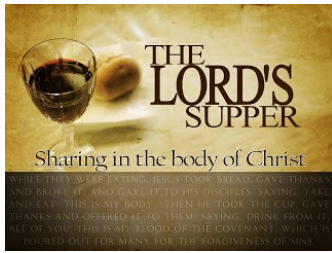
Those who have volunteered to pick up groceries or medications are: Gary & Elaine Hathaway, Seth Querry, Connie Hinesley, Rex and Jane Rothenberger, and Mike Fadness

Offerings

It is important that the Rossville United Methodist Church remains funded during this period when we are not meeting. Please send your offering to

Rossville United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 568
Rossville, IN. 46065





-- Communion for Palm Sunday

We are still planning on serving Holy Communion at the service on April 5th--which is Palm Sunday. For those of you who watch the service at home on Facebook, you are encouraged to have some bread and juice ready for that portion of the service so that we can take part in the Holy meal of communion together.

Drive-In Communion for Maundy Thursday

We would be remiss if we did not offer some sort of opportunity for individuals to partake in Holy Communion on the night of the Last Supper. Therefore, we are offering

drive-in communion. Beginning at 7:00pm and continuing until around 8:00 or as long as it takes all the cars to drive through, Pastor Bob will serve communion to each person at their car window. Please enter in the back parking lot, drive up to the entrance to the ramp, and the pastor will serve you. He will have prayed over (consecrated) the Communion elements in advance. Even though we can't gather together in the building, we will at least have the opportunity to receive communion on Maundy Thursday. Spread the word. This is open to everyone. **Thursday April 9th at 7:00 pm.** Please note: There is a chance that if the Covid-19 cases in our area increase dramatically before the 9th that this event will not be held. We will send out a phone message on the 8th communicating whether or not we will hold this event.

Sermon Schedule

April 5th PALM SUNDAY "Praise, Joy, and Help" Matthew 21:1-11

April 12th EASTER SUNDAY "In Total" John 20:1-18

April 19th "Never Fading" 1 Peter 1:3-9

April 26th "You Can't Buy It" 1 Peter 1:17-23




A big thank you to everyone who took part in the chili Cook-off.

\$511 was raised to send kids to church camp. We have 7 youth from our church who wish to attend. A week at camp is an average of \$460. We still need \$560 to give all 7 a scholarship. Without the opportunity to have another dinner please consider mailing a donation to the church and write campership in the memo .



Thank you for loving our Youth, Brandy Marlow

Shelby Brock 2nd
 Corey Nicolas 13th
 Vanessa Dotson 15th
 Israel Green 15th
 Niki Knox 16th
 Lyn Burkle 19th
 Tegan Weida 19th
 Ainura Nametullayeva 23rd




Happy Birthday!

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
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 (765) 379-2982
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 573
 Rossville, IN 46065




Happy Anniversary

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

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests for the church can be submitted to the church office. Pastor Bob or Brandy will start the phone tree system as soon as possible after receiving a request.


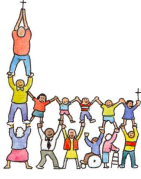

BUDGET 

The Rossville UMC budget for this year is \$128,950.85.
 The weekly amount needed on average is \$2,528.44

General offerings received the weeks of March 1st through March 22nd : \$6,308.
 The amount needed to meet the budget during this time was \$10,158.04.

2020 year to date offerings received: \$24,958.57 Budget need: \$31,134.39
 Missions offerings received year to date: \$647.40

April, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p> <p><i>Service @ Milner's 3pm Prayer Group 5pm</i></p> <p><i>R.O.C.K. Youth 6-7:30pm</i></p>			<p><i>1 M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i></p> <p><i>LRE</i></p>	2	<p><i>3 Religious Ed 1-3pm</i></p>	4
<p><i>5 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p> <p><i>Prayer Group 5pm</i></p>	<p><i>6 Administrative Council 7pm</i></p>	7	<p><i>8 M&M Ladies' Bible Study 9 am</i></p> <p><i>W</i></p>	9	<p><i>10</i></p>  <p><i>Ladies Day Out 11am Parking lot</i></p> <p><i>Religious Ed</i></p>	11
<p><i>12 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am Chili Cook Off after service</i></p> <p><i>Prayer Group 5pm R.O.C.K. Youth 6-7:30pm</i></p>	<p><i>13 V.B.S. call out 6pm @ Living stone</i></p> <p><i>SPRC 6pm</i></p>	14	15	<p><i>16</i></p>  <p><i>Mary's Fellowship 6:30pm</i></p>	<p><i>17 No Religious Ed Spring Break</i></p>	18
<p><i>19 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p> <p><i>Choir 4pm</i></p> <p><i>Prayer Group 5pm</i></p>	20	21	22	<p><i>23</i></p>  <p><i>Mary's Fellowship 6:30pm</i></p>	<p><i>24 No Religious Ed Spring Break</i></p>	25
<p><i>26 Sunday School 9am</i></p> <p><i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:15 am</i></p> <p><i>Choir 4pm</i></p> <p><i>Prayer Group 5pm</i></p>	27	28	29	30	<p><i>Religious Ed 1-3pm</i></p>	