



# THE ECHO... MAY 2020

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

## **From the Pastor**

Well my friends, here we are, over six weeks into this period when the church is not meeting in person. Back when all of this first started, and it was recommended we suspend the in-person services for four weeks, it was beyond what I could comprehend. About a week into it, in a conversation with another pastor, he told me he was preparing for eight weeks. Turns out he was right. As of now, the Bishop has suspended all in-person services until May 17th. That would make nine weeks total. Many summer activities have already been cancelled or postponed as well. Still. I hope for the best. And I pray that the Sunday when we can all gather together again in one place (Acts 2:1) is sooner rather than later.

I do not think any of us could have imagined even a few months ago that we would be where we are. I pray for those in leadership as they determine the best methods moving forward as to re-opening the economy. Each day is one filled with conflicting messages from varying state and federal government and health officials. It's easy for us to sit here and criticize these. I don't think we will know what the correct actions are until this is all over. And we don't know when that will be.

In the meantime, families are spending time together again. (Probably more than they wanted to, but still.) Many are completing projects at their homes that they'd been putting off for a long time. Seasons have continued as spring has sprung, flowers are blooming, grass is greening, and we've been blessed with some pleasant days.

We've offered worship live on Facebook, and the response to it has been fantastic. There have been many people who have viewed our services. Easter came. Christ is still risen. The tomb is still empty. The word of the Lord is still living and active. Many people have gone out of their way to help others. Acts of generosity and kindness are widespread. God is good.

Prayers continue. And as I stated above, my prayer is that the Sunday when we can all gather together again in one place is sooner rather than later.

Hopefully,

*Pastor Bob Raschka*



### Shepherding Program

In March, one of the first things we instituted in response to the coronavirus was a shepherding program. This program consists of each person in the congregation being contacted by a “shepherd”. Your shepherd will call you each week to check on your well-being. Prayer concerns will be passed on to the pastor and the prayer group if you wish. 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 Jacque Cooper, Jane Emens, Mary Gray, Connie Hinesley, Lisa Jensen, Diane Miller, Margo Oren, and Linda Ostler

If you have not received a contact from one of the shepherds, please call the church at 379-2981, and arrangements will be made.

**Worship Live Stream**  Find us on Facebook

We continue to live stream our worship services each Sunday on Facebook. This has met with much positive feedback and response as recent weeks have had large numbers of views and engagements. You can watch any of the services we have streamed online on our Facebook page. Every service since March 22<sup>nd</sup> is available.

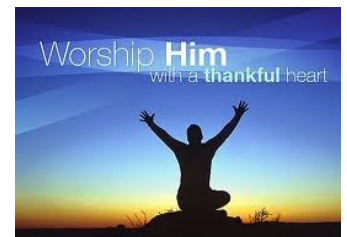


### Weekly Prayer Group meeting

Our Sunday evening prayer group is now meeting via teleconference during this period of social distancing. It meets on Sundays at 5:00 pm. If you are interested in joining us, the number to call is (978) 990-5000 The access code is 323554

### Resuming In-Person Worship Services

As of this writing, we are not certain when in-person worship services will resume here at Rossville. However, when they do, we will give plenty of notice as well as our plans to celebrate getting back together and the social distancing guidelines which will be followed in the process. In the meantime, continue to watch the live stream, or read the copy of the sermon that comes to your email on Monday. We are continuing to send out printed copies to those individuals who have requested them as well.



### United Methodist Conferences postponed due to COVID-19

**The 2020 General Conference** of the United Methodist Church which was scheduled to meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota in May has been postponed. This conference is now scheduled to meet **August 31- September 10, 2021.**

The 2020 **Indiana Annual Conference** which was scheduled to be held at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion on June 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. It will meet using a streamlined schedule on two different dates. They are **August 15, 2020** at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, and **October 10, 2020** at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis.



**Congratulation's to the Rossville High School Class of 2020**



Normally we would shower the graduates in our congregation with love in person. Due to the current events please join us in a card shower.

Addison Cooper 60 N. Otten Road Rossville, IN 46065

Allena Weida 16 Rainbow Ct. Rossville, IN 46065

Caleb Disinger 7282 West 500 South Delphi, IN 46923

Carson Disinger 7282 West 500 South Delphi, IN 46923

Victoria Seest 9160 West 800 North Mulberry, IN 46058

Zoe Marlow 16 Rainbow Ct. Rossville, IN 46065

**Church Camp**



Please pray that camp is allowed to safely happen.

Impact camp is planning on implementing extra time for sanitation and spacing campers if camp is allowed in person. In good faith we have the following campers singed up.

Please pray for our campers:

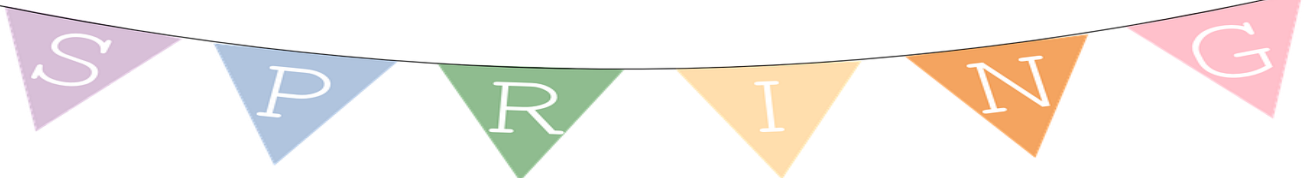
Arizona Pritchard Impact Camp at Camp Adventure June 21-26

Dominique Cassamajor, Trinity Goris, & Elissa Weida

That Thing at Epworth Forest June 21-26

**Sermon Schedule**

May 3: "In That Day" Isaiah 11:10-12; Revelation 22:1-5	May 24: To be announced
May 10: "Clear Direction" John 14:1-7; Matthew 23:37	May 31: Pentecost Sunday
May 17: "Abandoned" Psalm 91:1-6	"WHAT Happened? Acts 2:1-21




Allena Weida 7th  
 Jim Unger 8th  
 Rex Rothenberger 10th  
 Gail Seest 13th  
 Brandy Marlow 17th  
 Velma Leazenby 20th  
 Carly Disinger 24th  
 Rita Power 31st



**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



Find us on Facebook



**Happy Anniversary**  
 Jeff & Diane Miller May 13th  
 Barry & Ginny McCabe May 15th  
 Dan & Jacque Cooper May 22nd




**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.



**ROSSVILLEUMC**  
[www.rossinumc.com](http://www.rossinumc.com)

BUDGET 

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

Thank you to everyone who has sent in offerings during the time when our services are not meeting in-person.

The following is the report for the past month as well as year-to-date.

Offerings received March 29-April 19:	\$13,000	Budget Need:	\$10,158
Offerings received 2020 Year to date:	\$39,216	Budget Need:	\$40,632

