



THE ECHO... JUNE 2020

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

From the Pastor

Most people who know me, know that I listen to a variety of music styles. From contemporary Christian pop and rock music to worship songs to “classic hits from the 70’s and 80’s” to some classical music and once in a great while some country music that is more “pop sounding” in nature. The point being, God blesses us with a diversity of music styles. I am grateful that music is a major part of my life, having performed it with the violin for many years now. Many years...

Yes, many years. The other night I was listening to a CD I had not listened to in a while. The album was “Point of Know Return” by the progressive rock group Kansas. This album was released in late 1977. I always associated it more with 1978—8th grade. That is the year “Dust in the Wind”, which is a cut off of this album, was receiving a ton of play on the radio. Anyway, as I was listening to the album and reliving old memories in my mind from that era, it dawned on me like a slap in the face—“this was 42 years ago!” 42 years! Eek! Like seriously? Where did the time go? And if this wasn’t enough, the day before I listened to this album I was kind of melancholy as I realized that day was the 30th anniversary of my graduation from seminary. Normally, I would want someone to celebrate the fact and would maybe throw a party. But in this case it was really bothersome to consider that thirty years had passed. I then began thinking back through the different churches God has brought us to serve through these years and I was grateful and humbled. And I kept wondering to myself, “where did all the time go?” How is it that our children are 32, 29, and 25, when it seems like yesterday they were in elementary school? How is it that we are grandparents these past 3 ½ years? Where did all the time go? The older we get, the faster time seems to go, even though each hour is sixty minutes, and each day is 24 hours. Time neither speeds up nor slows down. It is always the same. It just appears to speed up, does it not?

This has put me in mind of some Scripture. Psalm 103:15 “The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.” Days fly by. Seasons come and go. The years pile one upon another. And God is above it all. God lives outside of time. On earth, we are limited by time. In eternity, there is no time. I believe time is a gift, however. I cannot imagine how wild and almost disastrous the world would be without the constraints of time. Therefore the Lord tells us in Psalm 90:12, “teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

I think the lesson here is that we should take seriously the fact that time continues to march onward. We cannot keep putting off God. We cannot keep putting off spending time with those who are near and dear to us. We cannot keep putting off making the changes in our life we know we need to make. Soon, the opportunity to do so will have passed.

Therefore, let us celebrate each day God gives us as a gift. No matter how difficult the experiences of the particular day might be, no matter how much of a struggle the day is, God is with us. God will guide us if we allow. And in this year of 2020 where it seems everything is turned upside down, remember. God is still in control. And time continues forward.

Thoughtfully,

Pastor Bob Raschka

In-Person Worship Resumes May 31st

The Administrative Council decided at their May meeting to resume in-person worship services on May 31st-Pentecost Sunday. The consensus of the group is that we will offer the opportunity for those who feel comfortable attending a public gathering. This Sunday is a week and a half after Indiana entered stage 3 of the “Back On Track Indiana” program. Stage 3 says that social gatherings of up to 100 people may take place following CDC social distancing guidelines.



Listed below are some guidelines.

1. The Church will be sanitized for the protection of all.
2. The wearing of masks is encouraged but not required.
3. Ushers will guide people to their seats upon entry into the building. Socializing can occur outside the church building.
4. Every other row of seats will be closed off in order to allow more space between individuals. Family units may still sit together, but everyone else will be encouraged to sit approximately six feet apart.
5. The nursery will remain closed until July 5th. Jr. Church will not begin meeting again until July 5th. Parents/guardians are responsible for staying with their young children during the service. We will provide crayons and coloring sheets for the children to have during the service and to take home with them afterwards.
6. If you think you are at risk due to COVID-19, we advise you to stay at home and watch the service online. Currently, we are on Facebook. Hopefully, in the coming weeks we will make the service more accessible through you-tube as well as on our web page.
7. The service will begin with welcome, announcements, joys, prayer concerns, birthdays, and anniversaries at 10:15. The online broadcast will begin at 10:30 with worship music.

Rossville Vacation Bible School Cancelled

The Rossville Community Vacation Bible School, which was scheduled for June 28th- July 2nd has been cancelled. The Living Stone, which is this year's host, made this regretful decision in light of COVID-19 and the fact that Indiana will not enter into the next stage until the 4th of July. Living Stone plans to host the program in 2021 instead. Also, they are tentatively planning a special Saturday for children and the community on August 1st. More details to follow.

Easter Reboot!

Since we did not hold in-person worship on Easter Sunday this year, we have decided to celebrate Easter in-person on the second Sunday we resume. Therefore, June 7th is our Easter reboot. We will have Easter oriented music and preaching. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection in our lives.





Summer Church Camp Cancelled

Nick Yarde, the director of the Indiana Conference Impact 2818 church camping program has announced that all church camp activities for 2020 have been cancelled.

'It is with a heavy heart that we are suspending all Impact 2818 events for the summer of 2020. Through countless plans and tireless efforts, we have exhausted any remaining avenues to provide a safe experience for participants and staff both during camp and upon reentering homes and communities'.

Unfortunately, we are out of time. Our communities are still being impacted in ways we can't overcome. Information and policies are still changing at a rate that can't be integrated across our camps. Our partner churches are having a tough time regaining community themselves.

Finally, we were left with no choice when we considered our Christ-like imperative to put the care for others over our own desires, agenda, and assumed future.

The staff will contact every camper family and give them a choice regarding any fees already paid for this year's camps. You will have the choice of forwarding your registration and fees to future events, requesting a full refund of fees paid, or inverting a portion of your fees to a donation to 2020 maintenance and upkeep of the facilities.



Backpack Buddies Update

Our last weeks have been challenging, to say the least! My deepest thanks to all of you for your continued work and support of these community programs!! You continued to keep the children's backpacks filled even as the system had to make changes to accommodate the closing of school and the backpacks were no longer viable, and you continued to respond to needs in the community, keeping the communications lines open for our neighbors in need. I give thanks for each of you and your churches. Special thanks to Dave Need and Mary Lou Spear for always taking the backpack pantry inventory, ordering the food from FoodFinders, going to Lafayette to pick up the order, and restocking the shelves in the pantry. It is a 2-times-a-month, at least, routine, and we thank them very much.

--Donna Enersen



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.

Happy Birthday!

Carl Seest June 1st

Bob Hinesley June 6th

Dominique Cassamajor June 15th

Jim Graves June 21st

Caleb Disinger June 23rd

Carson Disinger June 23rd

Mary Gray June 26th

Rossville United Methodist Church

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Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am
Worship and Jr. Church: 10:15 am

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Glenn & Brandy Marlow June 5th

Phil & Lyn Burkle June 22nd

Larry & Margo Oren June 23rd

June Sermon Schedule

June 7th "Easter Reboot" John 20:1-18

June 14th "A Piece of Cake" Genesis 18:1-15

June 21st "As For Me and My House" Joshua 24:14-24

June 28th "It's All About..." Esther 1:1-2

