

# THE ECHO... JULY 2020



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

## From the Pastor

Twice each year, it is my turn to write a column for *The Carroll County Comet*. The column is entitled "Lessons from the Heart". The pastors in the area are on a rotation. And even though Rossville is technically not in Carroll County, they still ask Rossville area pastors since we are only a mile from the county line.

The week of June 17<sup>th</sup> was my turn. I include the article I submitted to *The Comet* here in *The Echo* for July, and I hope it brings some perspective at this time we are facing in our nation related to matters of race.

Does it seem like we are living in one continuous loop? The same types of incidents continue to happen. The same types of responses to those incidents occur. Every entity feels pressured to distribute or post some kind of public statement so that everyone will know we stand against racism. New laws are proposed. Challenges are heard. Demonstrations are organized. Most start out quiet and peaceful. Many of the demonstrations are soon taken over by those who loot, destroy, and burn property. Sadly, more innocent lives are lost in the process.

And soon... And soon, it is all placed on the back burner as we move onto the next news cycle. The names change. The details of the incidents vary from one to the next. Yet, they still continue. Whether it was George Floyd, and then Rayshard Brooks less than two weeks later. Or Breonna Taylor a few weeks before all of this. The names continue. I hope this time things will change. This time...

As a follower of Christ, it is tempting to get caught up in all of the talk and responses, and forget what we are called to. We are called to love God, and to love people. (Mark 12:30-31). Sometimes this is easier than others. Yet, in a time where people automatically seem to jump to the worst conclusions about any person or group which holds a different opinion than themselves, it becomes difficult. Still, we are called to love. What would happen if more people began to "take a deep breath and pray a prayer" before lashing out? Why do we so easily paint everyone into different corners with a "broad brush?" Most of the people who protest are not looters for example. And the vast majority of police officers are not out there seeking to make life difficult for those of other races.

I guess what I am saying in all of this comes not only from the Bible, but is echoed in an old song we used to sing in my youth group in high school in the early 1980's. It goes like this.

"Love, love, love, love. The gospel in a word is love. Love thy neighbor as thy brother or sister. Love. Love. Love." Maybe it sounds too simplistic. But I believe it is the best place to start.

Hopefully,

*Pastor Bob Raschka*

## Junior Church and Nursery relaunch July 5<sup>th</sup>

Junior Church relaunches on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Junior Church is a time of Christian education and worship for children up through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The children are dismissed to go downstairs for junior church after the Lord's Prayer. Our teachers take turns in leading the students. The teachers are Linda Ostler, Tonya Bushfield, Carolyn Bushfield, and Mary Schiery. We will reopen the nursery on July 5<sup>th</sup> as well. The nursery is available for children up through age 4. The nursery is located in the basement just past the entrance to the elevator.



### COVID 19 Guidelines

We are continuing to practice social distancing guidelines for the foreseeable future until we are given further guidance by the state department of health.

These include the following.

- The wearing of masks is encouraged but not required. We have masks available for those who need one.
- Each person is led to their seat by an usher. Ushers collecting the offering will wear masks and latex gloves.
- The church is being sanitized each week.
- Half the seats in the sanctuary have been removed, and the remaining seats have been spread out to allow for better social distancing.
- At the conclusion of the service, the ushers will dismiss each row of people one at a time.

### Worship Schedule

- July 5<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Sunday  
Esther Series sermon #2  
"A Broken World" Esther 2:19-23
- July 12<sup>th</sup> Esther Series sermon #3  
"One" Esther 4:14-17
- July 19<sup>th</sup> Esther Series sermon #4  
"Coming Home to Roost" Esther 6:1-11
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker: Guy Studebaker



Adult Sunday School 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship and

Jr. Church 10:15 a.m.



*The purpose of the Rossville United Methodist Church is to love the Lord and our neighbors, teach one another to obey the commands of God, and proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior to all.*

Scriptural Foundations:  
Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 12:29-31

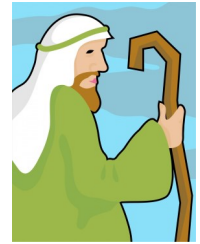


## Shepherds groups

During COVID 19, we divided the congregation up into shepherding groups. Each group was assigned a leader who would contact the individuals within the group to check on

well-being and to see if there were any prayer concerns. Now that we have restarted in-person worship services, we have made some changes.

The shepherds will now make contact once every two weeks. Several of the groups were changed, and you might notice you are contacted by a different shepherd than you were previously. Our group of shepherds now consists of Carolyn Bushfield, Jacque Cooper, Jane Emens, Connie Hinesley, Lisa Jensen, Diane Miller, Margo Oren, and Linda Ostler. If you do not receive a call or text from one of the shepherds by July 12th, please contact Pastor Bob (219-851-3167; 765-379-3982) or Connie Hinesley (765-438-7651) immediately.



## Rossville UMC receives "Connect Through Tech" grant

Rossville United Methodist Church has been awarded a grant in the amount of just under \$5,000 for the use of improving our audio and live stream capabilities. Our microphones and sound capabilities will be upgraded. And, we will purchase equipment which will allow us to present a higher quality production of our service on live stream. Along with our current connection through FaceBook, we will add the capability of linking the service through You Tube as well as to our church's website. People will be able to view our service without having to go onto FaceBook once this is in place. This will help us to reach more people who do not attend our church with the weekly service, as well as provide an outlet for those who are unable to attend on a Sunday to still participate in the service.



The grant was provided by the Indiana Center for Congregations through resources provided by Eli Lilly. Our goal is to have the new equipment up and running by the end of the summer.

## Rossville Summer's End Festival

The annual Rossville Summer's End Festival is still scheduled to take place on the weekend of August 21st-23rd. Our church will still be serving our famous chicken and noodles on Saturday August 22nd. Mark the date. We will include more details about what that will look like in regards to social distancing in next month's issue of *The Echo*.



**Mandee Nicolas 7th**  
**Kody Nicolas 8th**  
**Anna Hayward 10th**  
**Ruth Raschka 10th**  
**Jessica Boldenow 17th**  
**Jacque Cooper 18th**  
**Sharon Unger 23rd**  
**Neilie Wright 28th**



**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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**Happy Anniversary**  
**Dustin & Emily Green**  
**July 23rd**



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**



**Offerings**

Weekly budget need: \$2,539.51  
 Average weekly received May 24- June 14: \$1,834.75  
 Average weekly received year to date: \$2,189.20

Average weekly received during in-person worship services for 2020(14 weeks):\$2,232.71  
 Average weekly received on weeks when in-person services did not meet (10 weeks):  
 \$2,138.28

