

hello, THE ECHO... JUNE 2022

*it's been a while since
i've seen you last*

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



A few have asked me lately “what’s going on with the denomination?” While we have discussed some of these matters at our Administrative Council and Staff-Parish Relations meetings, I have not shared anything with the



whole congregation on the matter. I am using my column this month for this purpose. I hope I can make something which is rather involved and complicated sound as simple as possible.

First of all, for many years there has been a struggle within United Methodism (and many other traditional Protestant denominations) between traditional and liberal views of Scripture. Despite these opposing views through the years, ministry still continued. Both sides managed to work together for the cause of Christ and for the common good. The United Methodist Church’s Book of Discipline (which is basically the law book for the denomination) has over these years reflected these differences. Yet, the basic doctrine of the church as outlined in the Book of Discipline and the Church’s stance on certain social issues has remained fairly traditionalist in nature. Especially on issues such as human sexuality.

Despite the official stances of the denomination in this regard, every four years, at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, efforts have been made to either soften, liberalize, or completely abolish the church denomination’s stances on these matters—specifically homosexual practice. While The Book of Discipline encourages ministry with all people, sees homosexual persons as people of sacred worth, and is open to all people who attend our churches, the church has consistently (since 1972) declared that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. In 1984, the denomination declared that a “self-avowed practicing homosexual” shall not be ordained as a pastor in the Church. Then in 1996, the denomination declared that same-sex marriage ceremonies shall not occur on any United Methodist Church property nor facility. Each time these issues are voted on at General Conference, the current stance is continued. Yet, the process has brought more and more contention throughout the years to the point that most General Conference sessions since at least the year 2000 have been disrupted by activists in an effort to force change and thus forestalling action on other issues of importance in the life and ministry of the Church.

Therefore, a special session of General Conference was held in 2019 in an attempt to settle these matters once and for all. The 2019 General Conference strengthened the Church’s current stance, but by a very close vote margin. One action at that General Conference gave local churches the option to leave the denomination (disaffiliate) due to disagreements over the Church’s stances on human sexuality by the end of 2023, and to be able to keep their buildings and properties in the process. Previously, all United Methodist Church facilities are held in trust by the denomination and not technically owned by local churches. This has been the case since the original establishment of Methodism in 1784. Previously, if a church left the denomination, they would usually purchase their building from the denomination for a minimal amount. This is no longer the case. Churches can now leave, at least through the end of 2023 and keep their buildings, but they must pay a substantial amount of money (two years’ worth of the local church’s tithe to the denomination, plus two years’ worth of that local church’s share of pastoral pensions based on church size).

This has meant anywhere from \$80,000 for small churches to over \$2 million for the largest churches. Several United Methodist Churches in Indiana have already completed this process and have disaffiliated. It is believed that many more will by the end of 2023.

In the meantime, a group was organized in late 2019 in order to come up with some sort of a solution to the place where the denomination finds itself. This group, representing all sides of the issues, developed "The Protocol of Grace through Separation". It was to be voted on at the 2020 General Conference. The plan would have created a new conservative denomination known as "The Global Methodist Church". This denomination would receive \$25 million to start up. However, due to COVID-19, the General Conference did not meet in 2020. Nor in 2021. And the rescheduled one for 2022 was postponed until 2024.

When this latest postponement occurred, the Global Methodist Church decided to launch on their own rather than waiting until 2024. The Global Methodist Church launched on May 1st of this year. They have not held a convening Conference as of yet, but are being overseen by a transitional council. They have developed a [Book of Doctrines and Discipline](#) for the interim. Congregations which have left the United Methodist Church can now become part of the newly formed Global Methodist Church if they so desire, and complete the application process. Or they can become independent, or they can apply to join another existing denomination.



If a church chooses to begin the process of disaffiliation, there is a lengthy process involved. It is financially very expensive. (as mentioned above) Only full professing members of a congregation are eligible to vote, and then a 2/3 majority vote in favor for a church to disaffiliate. Yet, many congregations have been waiting for years for the opportunity to leave, and so they have raised or borrowed the funds to do so.



For now, here at Rossville, the opinion appears to take a wait-and-see approach as to what occurs in the next year or so or at the 2024 General Conference. We continue to prayerfully discern God's path ahead for us. If God does not give us a clear word for Rossville, it would be detrimental to try to jump ahead of where God wants us to be at the present time.

We will continue to minister the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible while we remain the Rossville United Methodist Church. And **at such a time as we feel God is leading us elsewhere**, we will prayerfully follow that process.

We live in a time of divisions and separations. Let us make it our goal to stay grounded in faith and in Scripture. And in the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,

Pastor Bob Raschka

Custodian Hired

Rossville United Methodist Church has added a custodian to our paid staff effective June 1st. Dustin Green is our new custodian. Dustin, his wife Emily, and two of their children, Israel and Miles, have been active attendees and members here at Rossville for the past five years. We are excited to bring Dustin onto our staff here at Rossville.



Comfort Kitchen is back under a new name... Blessed Bites Café

Join us the 2nd Thursday each month for food, fellowship and the Cutler Band.

First Café night is June 9th 5:30-7pm



BLESSED BITES
@Rossville UMC
FORMALLY Comfort Kitchen

WHO: YOU

TIME: 5:30-7pm
MENU

WHAT: Music and fellowship

June 9 Taco Bar
With all the fixings

WHEN: SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH THRU DECEMBER

July 14 Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

WHERE: ROSSVILLE UMC 110 W. Main St. Rossville, IN

August 11 Tater Tot casserole

WHY? BECAUSE WE WANT TOO!!!!

Sept. 8 Ham and cheese sliders

We want to have fun, food, fellowship and great music from

Oct 13 Baked Potato Bar

The Cutler Band!!

Nov. 10 Turkey and Noodles

Time: 5:30-7pm

Dec. 8 Lasagna

We will be taking the months of January and February off and will start back up again in March 2023.



The Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is meeting June 8th-11th at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. The theme of this year’s Conference is “Love God Love Neighbor” based on Matthew 22:36-40. This is the first time since 2019 that the Conference has been able to meet in person. Elaine Hathaway is our lay delegate.

We are collecting UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) School kits which will be distributed by the Midwest Mission

Distribution Center. A table will be set up here at Rossville Church beginning **Friday June 3rd and running through Tuesday June 7th** for anyone who would like to bring materials for our church to donate. Pastor Bob will then take these with him to the Annual Conference Session.

The UMCOR School Kit is listed below and will be in the May 29 and June 5th bulletins.

- One pair blunt scissors, round tip only, no plastic scissors.
- One box of 24 crayons, only 24-count boxes are accepted.
- Three one-subject notebooks, no marble composition books, no 3 or 5 subject notebooks.
- One pack of loose-leaf paper, 100-200 page packets are acceptable, wide or college rule accepted.
- Six unsharpened pencils.
- One eraser, two inchers or larger.
- One two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag.

In some areas, children lack access to books and essential school supplies. Classes are held in inadequate buildings. School kits may be some children’s only educational resource.

LADIES DAY OUT June 10th

Nine Ladies met at Bob Evans for lunch last month and want to invite you to join them next month. Friday, June 10th meet in church parking lot to leave promptly at 11am. The will be carpooling to Applebee's in Lafayette.

All Ladies are invited!

For Questions Contact Jane Emens (765-376-3176) or Connie Hinesley (765-379-2234).



Baby Bottle Campaign

Your change can change a life!

Something as simple as your pocket change can save a life and win a soul!



Pregnancy Resource Center is having their annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Please take a bottle & fill with your weekly pocket change or a check and return it by June 19th to help women & babies in need!



PRAISE TIMES THREE coming to Rossville June 19th

The Praise Times Three gospel trio will be returning to Rossville on Sunday, June 19th. They will be leading our worship as we celebrate Father's Day. Bring your dads and everyone else to worship on the 19th to experience worship with Praise Times Three.

Praise Times Three is based out of Portland, Tennessee. They have performed here at Rossville across the last several years for a Saturday evening concert. This is the first time they will be a major part of our Sunday morning worship. The group is made up of Rossville-native John Bower, Judy Surface, and Corina Helm.

2022 Rossville Community Vacation Bible School JUNE 20th-24th



This year's VBS is scheduled at Fountain of Life Church in the Bennett Room on North St. All the churches of Rossville will join together during this week to help lead the VBS program.

This year's theme is "CHILDREN of GOD". Watch future bulletins and Facebook and Web page articles for further information.

VBS begins Monday June 20th and runs through Friday June 24th from 6:30-8pm.

ROSSVILLE ROCK WEDNESDAY June 1st & 15th

The Rossville Rock Youth Ministry will meet June 1st & 15th this month at the Rock Building on Ramey St. All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend as a way to fellowship with others your age and grow in your relationship with Christ. Doors open at 6:30pm with a program scheduled from 7-8 pm. The Rock will meet two Wednesdays each month year round except for December.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, love and concerns throughout the years concerning my mom.
Thank you for your encouraging words the past few weeks.



You are loved, Jane Emens



Bob Hinesley June 6th Dominique Cassamajor June 15th
 James Graves June 21st Caleb Disinger June 23rd
 Carson Disinger June 23rd Mary Gray June 26th



Glenn & Brandy Marlow June 5th
 Phil & Lyn Burkle June 22nd
 Larry & Margo Oren June 23rd
 Stephen & Kristin Arnone June 29th

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 & Jr. Church: 10:30 am

Email: rossvilleum@gmail.com
 Website: rossinumc.com
 Pastor: Rev. Bob Raschka
 Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

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



June Sermon Themes

June 5th PENTECOST SUNDAY “ Many” Acts 2:1-8, 12-21
 June 12th “Where’s Wisdom?” Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
 June 19th Father’s Day Praise Times Three presentation
 June 26th Summer Sermon Series on the Book of James begins
 “ T=P” James 1:2-8 & 12-18



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.

Financial Report

April 17- May 22 average weekly offerings: \$1,548.97
 2022 average weekly offerings Jan 2nd-May 22nd: \$2,257.72
 Weekly Budget need: \$2,457.50
 Total Missions dollars raised through May 22nd: \$1,552.60



June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p>  <p>Mary's Fellowship 6:30pm</p> <p>ROCK 6:30-8pm Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	2	3	4
<p>5 Communion Sunday 9am Donuts & Coffee Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Membership Class 3:30pm Prayer Group 5pm</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Trustees Meeting 7pm	VBS Planning Meeting 6pm FLC	<p>8</p>  <p>Mary's Fellowship 6:30pm PotLuck</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	Blessed Bites Café 5:30-7pm	 <p>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</p> <p>Remaly Rehearsal 5-10pm</p>	Emma & Ryan Wedding 1-5:30pm
Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church						
<p>12 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Membership Class 3:30pm</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Administrative Council 7pm		ROCK 6:30-8pm Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC		Religious Ed 1-3pm	Fellowship Hall Baby Shower 9-2pm
<p>19</p>  <p>Praise Times Three Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Prayer Group 5pm</p>	20	21	22	23	24	25
	VBS 6:30-8pm @ FLC	VBS 6:30-8pm @ FLC	VBS 6:30-8pm @ FLC	VBS 6:30-8pm @ FLC	VBS 6:30-8pm @ FLC	
<p>26 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Prayer Group 5pm</p>	27	28	29	30		
		Worship Team 7pm	Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC			