

THE ECHO... DECEMBER 2022



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

Every year there they are.
Candles on tabletops. Candles
And candles around the cir-



Candles. Candles in windows. Can-
as centerpieces. Candles on altars.
cle of an Advent Wreath.

Candles appear to be as popular as ever even in a world filled with artificial light. Depending on the type of store one shops in, there are either sections of candles or full aisles with a variety of candles from which to choose. There are large candles and small candles and tiny and tea-light candles. There are candles in glass candle holders. There are stick candles in boxes. There are candles with any number of scents and aromas to set the perfect mood in whatever room one is in. There are candles for every season and time of the year.

However, in my mind the season of Advent and Christmas is the most popular season for candles. Most likely because candles represent light. And the season of Advent comes at a time of the year when the days are getting shorter—at least up until December 21st-the shortest day of the year. Darkness comes earlier in the evening and stays later in the morning. And while yes there is an abundance of light available at the flick of a switch, the light which comes from candles brings a warming effect. It is different than just turning on a lamp.

Therefore it makes sense that candles are used as part of the process throughout the season of Advent as we move towards Christmas. We light a single candle on a wreath of four candles on the first week. Then as we move through the season, others join in the process. Two. Then three. And then all four. What began as a single light almost becomes one bright light when taken together. And then.... And then. The Middle candle. The candle which represents all of this. The Christ Candle. It is lit at Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day and represents what this whole season has been building up to. The celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ—the light of the world. All the candles in the world lit together couldn't come close to representing the light which Christ brings into our lives and into in a world of darkness.

This year as we go through the symbols of the season, and as we light candles, let us allow them not just to serve as symbols of Advent and Christmas, may they lead us to live out the light of Christ.

May our prayer be as the song "Open Up" by the group The Brilliance says,

*"Where there is darkness let me shine light and may your love cause us to open up. Cause us to open our hearts. **May your light shine so bright that we bring hope into the dark.**"*

Therefore, as we light candles, as we put lights on Christmas trees, and maybe around the outside of our windows and homes, let us allow those examples of Christ's light become a reminder of the light of Christ which can indeed bring hope into the dark. And maybe, just maybe, when the season moves on into a new year, the world will be exhibiting less darkness than is currently the case.

May this be our prayer. And may we live it.

God's richest blessings on each of you throughout this Holy Season and into the new year!

Pastor Bob Raschka



Town Hall Meeting

Town Hall Meeting votes to begin Discernment process

Thirty-four people attended a Town Hall meeting at the Rossville United Methodist Church sanctuary on November 13th and were given a ream of information about many of the issues which have arisen recently in The United Methodist Church. Once the information was presented, there was a question and answer period. The spirit in the room was very calm with a good sense of camaraderie. Following the question and answer period, a straw poll was taken of those attending the town hall meeting who are full members of Rossville United Methodist Church. This is because if the day comes when there is a vote to disaffiliate, only full professing members are eligible to vote.

The straw poll had three options. A. Begin a period of prayer and discernment as to whether we should consider disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church, or not. Ask our Administrative Council chairperson to request the amount of disaffiliation cost from the superintendent. B. Wait until after the General Conference of 2024 meets to determine our future steps. C. Do not consider disaffiliation. I believe God has called us to remain as God's faithful witness within The United Methodist Church.

Twenty-five of the thirty-four people in attendance at this meeting were full members and able to vote in the straw poll. The results were as follows:

- A. Begin a period of prayer and discernment as to whether we should consider disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church, or not. Ask our Administrative Council chairperson to request the amount of the disaffiliation cost from the superintendent: **15 votes**
- B. Wait until after the General Conference of 2024 meets to determine our future steps: **9 votes**
- C. Do not consider disaffiliation. I believe God has called us to remain as God's faithful witness within The United Methodist Church: **1 vote**

Therefore, the town hall meeting recommended we begin the discernment process. This was then approved the next night at the November 14th Administrative Council Meeting.

The first step in the discernment process is an additional **Town Hall Meeting** which will be presided over by our **Conference Superintendent** Lore Blinn Gibson on **Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 7:00pm**. More information will be forthcoming at that time.



Blessed Bites will be on hold now through February and will resume March 9th, 2023!

Stay warm and we will see you again in the Spring!



Missions Dinner December 4th

Join us after church Sunday December 4th for a dinner of Ham Steak, Au Gratin potatoes, salad, seasonal desserts, and drink. Donation buckets will be on the tables for people to give to support the missions causes of Rossville UMC Church. This is the last of our two dinners for the year. Join us for a good meal, fellowship, and to support the cause of Christ through missions.

Christmas Program, Handbell Choir, and Choral Ensemble Rehearsals

Our annual Christmas Program is during the worship service on **December 18th** and will include a handbell choir, our choral ensemble, and other meaningful experiences.



The rehearsals for the handbell choir and the choral ensemble are **December 4th** after the missions dinner, and December 11th. On **December 11th**, the handbell choir will rehearse at 3:45pm and the choral ensemble will rehearse at 4:15pm.

LADIES DAY OUT DECEMBER 9th



“Ladies Day Out” had 10 ladies met for lunch at Freddie's on Nov. 11th. Next “Ladies Day Out” will be Friday Dec. 9th. We will be going to Red Lobster in Lafayette.

All ladies are invited to join.

Meet at the church parking lot to leave promptly at 11am.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH AT 6PM

Free Cookies and Punch

Clinton County United Methodist Churches Christmas Sing-A-Long at Kilmore UMC

(4159 N. Co. Rd. 0 EW, Frankfort, IN 46041)



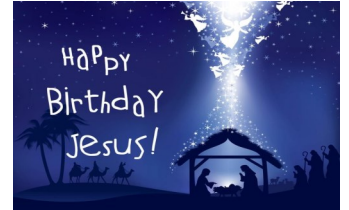
Presented by:
 Colfax UMC
 Forest UMC
 Hopewell UMC
 Jefferson UMC
 Kilmore UMC
 Michigantown UMC
 Mulberry UMC
 Rossville UMC



BRING IN THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS!

We will once again be offering people the opportunity to bring in Christmas Cards for each of the families, couples, or individuals within our congregation.

A list of all the names is available in our newly printed address directory on the tables outside the offices. Please pick one up if you haven't already. The dates to bring the cards in are Sundays **December 11th or the 18th**. Cards will be available for pick-up after church on the **18th**.



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Saturday, December 24th at 7:00pm. The service will include your favorite carols, special music, an inspirational account of a gentleman who blamed Christmas for

past tragedies and how another potential tragedy was used to awaken his spirit. The service will end in candlelight.



The next morning, Sunday, December 25th at 10:30am will be a shorter-than-normal service as we gather to rejoice in the unexpected blessing that come from the most unexpected of places.

December Worship Themes

December 4th: "Is There Peace?" Isaiah 9:6-7 & Colossians 3:15-16

December 11th: "Joy Restored" Psalm 98:4-9

December 18th: Christmas Program

Christmas Eve: "Blaming Christmas?" Luke 2:1-12

December 25th: "Unexpected" John 1:1-14





- Diane Miller Dec. 1st
- Jeff Miller Dec. 5th
- Arlene Gangwer Dec. 6th
- Mimi Nicolas Dec. 12th
- Zoey Shelly Dec. 14th
- Grace Shireman Dec. 14th
- Rita Rothenberger Dec. 16th
- Elaine Hathaway Dec. 16th
- Aaron Rothenberger Dec. 26th

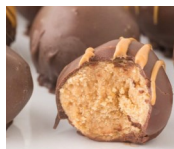
Rossville United Methodist Church

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

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 Pastor: Rev. Bob Raschka
 Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

Pastor contact info:
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 Rossville, IN 46065

Peanut Butter Balls



5-1/2 cups confec-

tioners' sugar

1-2/3 cups peanut butter

1 cup butter, melted

4 cups semisweet chocolate chips

In a large bowl, beat the sugar, peanut butter and butter until smooth. Shape into 1-in. balls; set aside. Microwave chocolate chips and shortening on high until melted; stir until smooth. Dip balls in chocolate, allowing excess to drip off. Place on a wire rack over waxed paper; refrigerate for 15 minutes or until firm. Cover and store in the refrigerator.



Stewardship

Date	Regular Offering	Missions
October 30 th	8,648.74	44.00
November 6 th	3,952.00	111.00
November 13 th	1,253.00	42.00
November 20 th	625.00	4.00





December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Religious Education 1-3pm	
4 Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Missions Lunch Choir/Handbell practice after lunch Prayer Group 5pm	5 Missions Team 6pm Trustees Meeting 7pm	6	7 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	8	9  Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am Religious Education 1-3pm	10 Delphi Dinner Theater 6:30pm
11 Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Milner's service 3pm Choir/ Handbell Practice 3:45pm Prayer Group 5pm	12 Administrative Council 7pm	13	14 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	15	16 Religious Education 1-3pm	17
18 Sunday School 9am Christmas Program Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Basement re- served 1-4:30pm Prayer Group 5pm	19	20	21 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7pm
25 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am 	26	27	28 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	29	30	31