

THE ECHO...

JANUARY

2023

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



A new year has arrived. 2023. Many people approach the year with a sense of joy at the possibilities of what could lie ahead. Many folks face 2023 with a sense of excitement because it is a milestone year in their lives. They will graduate from high school or college or tech school. Some people are expecting a new baby. And for others, 2023 is the year of their retirement. They've planned it for years and now it is here.

Others approach the year with a huge sense of relief. They are glad to see 2022 fall into the history books. 2022 was perhaps the worst year they'd ever experienced, and now they can refer to it as "last year".

Each new year is also a chance to make new goals and determine ways to meet those goals instead of giving up on them in the first few weeks.

Here at Rossville United Methodist Church, God has led us to a new emphasis on prayer and spiritual growth here in 2023. Many of these seeds were planted back in the fall as a group of us worked through a Bible Study which focused on periods of growth in Christianity evidenced by "signs and wonders". Starting the Sunday after New Year's and going up through the Sunday before Lent, I will be preaching and teaching about some of the "signs and wonders" which Christ did as are reported in the gospel of John and how people responded to them. Throughout the year, we will look at examples of breakthrough prayer and how these have impacted many churches and can impact our church here at Rossville. All of this will happen against a backdrop of a period of discernment in relationship to where we as a church feel God leading us in regard to our denominational status. Is God directing us as a local church to remain part of The United Methodist Church? Will we join a conservative denomination such as The Global Methodist Church? Or will we become an independent church not affiliated with any denomination? An article about the discernment process we have developed here at Rossville is included elsewhere in this issue of *The Echo*.

I believe it is pertinent that we move into all of this with breakthrough prayer, a study on signs and wonders, and spiritual growth as our foundation. If we set these aside, or just think they are nothing more than nice sounding words, whatever process we follow otherwise will not have the results God desires for us here at Rossville. As we enter into our 192nd year of ministry here in Rossville, let us ground ourselves in prayer and discernment.

May our prayer be this one which our prayer coordinator Vicki Rabanus shared with our Sunday evening prayer group recently. This prayer was written by Sue Nilson Kibbey. May it be our prayer for Rossville UMC and for our own lives as 2023 begins.

"God, may your preferred will break through, change history, usher in and accomplish through us your new hopes, dreams and possibilities-both in the life of our church, and in our own lives. We surrender our wills for yours, in order to fully follow you." Amen.

Looking forward to what God has in store,

Pastor Bob Raschka

Officer Installation January 15th

Our newly elected officers will be officially installed into their positions during the worship service on Sunday January 15th. Listed below are all of the personnel, officers, committees, and teams here at Rossville for 2023.

Rossville United Methodist Church

2023 Officers, Committee, and Team Personnel

Underline new in position

Pastor: Robert A. Raschka

(date term ends on Dec. 31)

The Administrative Council

Lay Leader:	Gary Hathaway (2025)
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference:	Elaine Hathaway (2024)
Chairperson:	Virginia McCabe (2023)
Asst. Chairperson:	Phil Burkle (2025)
Secretary:	Elaine Hathaway
Treasurer:	<u>Brandy Marlow (2025)</u>
Trustees Chairperson:	
Staff-Parish Chairperson:	<u>Dave Need (2023)</u>
Missions Chairperson:	Lyn Burkle (2023)
Finance Chairperson:	Phil Burkle (2025)
Adventure Club Coordinator:	Linda Ostler
LRE Coordinator:	Connie Hinesley
Prayer Coordinator:	Vicki Rabanus
Membership Secretary:	Vicki Rabanus (2024)

At Large Members

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Buzz Disinger	Emily Green	Diane Miller
Nancy Disinger	Kris Need	
Mary Schiery		

The Board of Trustees

Chairperson: yet to be elected (2023)

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Gary Hathaway (asst chair)	Steve Arnone	<u>Elaine Hathaway</u>
Ken Ledman		<u>Greg Woodruff</u>
Glenn Marlow (trustees treasurer)		

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chairperson: David Need (2023)

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Dave Need	Vicki Rabanus	Lay Leader: Gary Hathaway
Margo Oren		Carolyn Bushfield
		<u>Jane Emens</u>
		Connie Hinesley

Worship Team**Chairperson:** Pastor Bob Raschka**Class of 2023**

Kris Need

Class of 2024

Ginny McCabe

Brandy Marlow

Chancel Area Coordinators: Brandy Marlow and Joe Bowyer**Communion Stewards:** Linda Ostler & Ainura Nametullavyeva**Sound Technicians:** Christian Shireman**Live Stream Technicians:** Izzy Green, Greg Woodruff**Finance Committee****Chairperson:** Phil Burkle (2025)**Church Treasurer:** Brandy Marlow (2025)**Lay Leader:** Gary Hathaway (2025)**Lay Member of Annual Conference:** Elaine Hathaway (2024)**Ad. Council Chairperson:** Virginia McCabe**Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson:** Dave Need**Trustees Chairperson:** _____**Class of 2023**

Debbie Pollard

Class of 2024

Mary Gray

Class of 2025

Phil Burkle

Financial Secretaries (count, record, and deposit offerings): Lyn Burkle**Missions Team****Chairperson:** Lyn Burkle (2023)**Class of 2023**

Lyn Burkle

Jane Emens

Lisa Jensen

Class of 2024

Emily Green

Diane Miller

Class of 2025

Phyllis Patterson

The Welcome Committee : Kris Need, Connie Hinesley, Diane Miller**Community Outreach Representative:**

Connie Hinesley

Church Camp Coordinator:

Brandy Marlow

Backpack Buddies Coordinator:

Dave Need

Nursery Coordinator:

Church office

Prayer Chain Coordinator:

Church office

Church Historian:

Audit Committee:

Nancy Disinger, Debbie Pollard, Elaine Hathaway

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations)**Chairperson:** Bob Raschka**Lay Leader:** Gary Hathaway (2025)**Class of 2023**

Debbie Pollard

Virginia McCabe

Diane Miller

Class of 2024

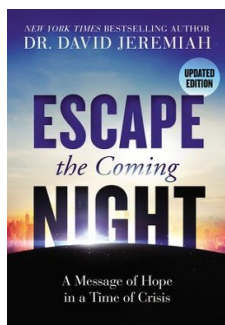
Jane Emens

Class of 2025

Nancy Disinger

Margo Oren

Rossville Women's Community Bible Study



Calling all ladies! You're invited to join the Women's Bible Study being held at The Living Stone Church. Starting Jan. 4th at 10am in the library. The study will use Dr. David Jeremiah's book, "Escape the Coming Night". In this book Dr. Jeremiah walks through scripture for these uncertain times, Revelation. In his hands this exploration of Revelation is shocking and eye-opening, but uplifting and a vital message for our time. Cost of the book is \$13.

If interested call Barbara at 765-379-2564.

Unhanging of the Greens.

Please join us after church January 8th as we put away the church Christmas décor. Many hands make light work and it's a great time of fellowship. We will pitch in to buy pizza that day.



LADIES DAY OUT January 13th



Ladies Day Out met at Red Lobster on Dec. 8th. Ten ladies attended lunch. The next outing will be Friday, Jan. 13th. We will be eating at Olive Garden 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).

WINTER MOVIE NIGHTS 2023



Last year's Winter Movie nights were met with a great response from those who attended. Therefore we will continue last year's theme by showing the last four episodes of season one of The Chosen.

Friday January 13th at 7:00pm will feature episodes 5 & 6. Episode 5 : "The Wedding Gift".
Episode 6 : "Indescribable Compassion."

Friday February 10th at 7:00 pm features episodes 7 & 8. Episode 7 : "Invitations"
Episode 8 : "I am He."

Popcorn and bottled water will be served at these events.

Rossville United Methodist Church Discernment Process

Listed below is a detailed description of the discernment process we will be following here at Rossville United Methodist Church as we consider where God is leading us in the future. Important dates mentioned in this are as follows:

Tuesday, January 24th 7:00 pm Town Hall Meeting led by Superintendent Lore Blinn Gibson

Tuesday, February 7th 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment session

Monday, March 6th 7:00 pm Prayer Discernment session

1. Christian discernment is, at its heart, an openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit guiding us in the truth of Jesus Christ. It is about being open to the living Word of God speaking to us in this moment.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

John 16:12-13

Discernment involves quieting our own inner talk, cultivating a spirit of peace rather than anxiety or fear. The Bible says, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear.” (1 John 4:18) For a biblical example of the early church doing discernment work addressing a major contentious issue turn to Acts 11:1-18 and Acts 15:1-21.

2. In the 45 days following the Town Hall Meeting with Conference Superintendent Lore Blinn Gibson on January 24, 2023, a series of two prayer sessions shall be organized.

(Tentative dates for these prayer meetings would be Tuesday, February 7, 2023 and Monday March 6, 2023)

3. Each session will begin with the reading of this passage from *Colossians 3:12-15*:

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

- Begin each session with prayer; regularly stop throughout for more prayer.
- Ask: In light of this moment, how does this passage in Colossians speak to your hearts?
- Listen to one another respectfully – expect the Holy Spirit will speak through the room.
- Identify what those in the room hear the Holy Spirit saying.
- Remind everyone to remain in prayerful conversation with the Lord, reflecting on Colossians 3:12-15, praying with others throughout as the Lord directs.

4. The prayer meetings shall include information about the legalities and all the steps needed if we were to disaffiliate. After each point is presented, we will follow the prayer process listed above. They will also present three different models of what the Rossville Church may look like in 3 years if we a) Remain a United Methodist Church b) Join the Global Methodist Church c) Become an independent church not affiliated with any denomination.

5. Schedule a final straw poll to determine direction in the future and next steps (two-thirds vote required).

6. Schedule final vote with Conference Superintendent (if it is determined that God is leading us in a direction of disaffiliation).

January 2023 Sermons

- January 1st Epiphany of the Lord New Year’s Day
“Did They Know? Do We Know?” Matthew 2:1-12
- January 8th Baptism of the Lord “Heaven Opened” Matthew 3:13-17
- January 15th “Saved the Best for Last” John 2:1-11
- January 22nd “Walked” John 5:1-9
- January 29th “Fed” John 6:1-15



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Don Hinesley 5th | Connie Hinesley 5th |
| Carolyn Bushfield 6th | Dave Need 8th |
| Miles Green 19th | Sue Milner 20th |
| Rob Copper 20th | Mary Brown 25th |
| Stephen Arnone 26th | Gary Hathaway 26th |
| Wilma Graves 27th | Kristine Need 31st |



- Gary & Elaine Hathaway January 16th
- Jim & Wilma Graves January 27th

Administrative Council Approves 2023 Budget

Our Administrative Council approved the 2023 budget at its December 12, 2022 meeting. The budget reflects additions of 2 staff members during 2022 as well as rising costs for utilities and other areas. Therefore an overall increase of 13.9% was approved. When divided by our membership, this comes to an increase of \$4.60 per week per member.

We will by God’s grace and the faithful stewardship of our members and constituents be able to meet the weekly expenditures of God’s church here in our part of Rossville in 2023 as we continue to minister for Christ.



Financial Stewardship

	Regular Offering	Missions Offering
November 27 th	\$2,002	\$47
December 4 th	\$2,025	\$152
December 11 th	\$ 793	\$140.30
December 18 th	\$6,524	\$18
December 25th	\$1,501	\$20

Missions Dinner on December 4th raised \$475 for missions.



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Communion Sunday School 9am</p> <p>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 10am @ Living Stone</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Religious Education 1-3pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Milner's service 3pm</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Administrative Council 7pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 10am @ Living Stone</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</p> <p>Religious Education 1-3pm</p> <p>Movie Night 7pm</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Installation of New Officers</p> <p>Sunday School 9am</p> <p>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 10am @ Living Stone</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Religious Education 1-3pm</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday School 9am</p> <p>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Town Hall Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Ladies Bible Study 10am @ Living Stone</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Religious Education 1-3pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Administrative Council Vision Planning Retreat 9am-Noon @ Ellie's Retreat House</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday School 9am</p> <p>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Worship Team 6pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Staff Parish Rela- tions Committee 6pm</p>				