

THE ECHO... DECEMBER, 2023

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



Have you ever had a time when it seemed as if everything was “disjointed?” All of your normal plans were interrupted? Anxiety began to build. Waking up in the morning was yet another reminder that life was not going so well at the moment. All of us have probably been here at some point. Maybe you are there now. However, usually the clouds begin to lift. Not all once, but over a period of time. And you come to discover that even on the most difficult days, you look back and see that God was with you. Maybe even carrying you through them.

Well, Mary and Joseph must have felt totally “disjointed” to say the least. I mean, it wasn’t enough that she finds out she is pregnant even though she has not been with a man. And before she has a chance to let this sink in, she is told that the child is from the Holy Spirit. Who could even grasp it? Eventually, everything is affirmed when she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant even though she was supposedly way past her ability to have children. Joseph, to whom Mary was engaged, has to be visited by an angel in a dream to convince him that yes this is from God, and everything is part of God’s plan. So yeah, they accepted the news. But then, once it appeared everything was settled, they are forced to return to the town of Joseph’s birth to participate in a tax plan (a census as it was called). Unlike today where you could just get in a vehicle and go, the trek involved a 90 mile hike over rugged terrain...

We know how the rest of the story turned out. A birth. Shepherds. A star. Magi. Gifts. And eventually an escape to Egypt.

This year, as we hear and sing about the familiar story once again, let us stop and realize the struggle experienced as the whole scenario played out. And maybe in the middle of our own struggles we can be comforted even if things don’t suddenly improve. We can be comforted by the fact that the One whom we worship understands and relates.

God lowered himself to live at a very traumatic time in history in difficult circumstances so we could experience peace in our soul, forgiveness of sin, and the gift of eternal life.

Remember.

Hopefully this year, the “old, old story,” will become new and fresh and alive to you as we begin this trek through another Advent and once again celebrate the birth of the Savior.

Wishing all of you a most blessed Christmas!

Pastor Bob Raschka

LADIES DAY OUT December 8th

Eight ladies met Friday, Nov. 10th for lunch at Trisha's Red Bird Café. The next Ladies Day Out will be Friday, Dec. 8th. All ladies are invited to join us at Denny's in Lafayette on SR 26. Please meet at the church parking lot to leave promptly at **11am** to carpool.

All ladies are invited! For Questions Contact Jane Emens (765-242-0633)



Advent Dramatic Readings

Each Sunday during Advent, before we light the candle on the Advent Wreath, we will hear a dramatic reading from one of the Biblical characters in the Nativity story. They are as follows:

1st Advent Candle-Dec 3rd-: Isaiah (read by Phil Burkle)

2nd Advent Candle- Dec 10th - Elizabeth (read by Elaine Hathaway)

3rd Advent Candle-Dec 17th - Tamar the Innkeeper's Wife (read by Diane Miller)

4th Advent Candle-Dec 24th - The "young" Shepherd (read by Jeff Miller)

We are looking forward to this addition to our services throughout the Advent Season.

BRING IN THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS!

We will once again be offering the congregation 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 address directory.

Please pick one up if you haven't already. Also a list of "shut-ins" is available to mail Christmas joy to. The dates to bring in cards are Sunday **December 10th –December 24th**. Cards will be available for pick-up after church the 24th.



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.

Adult Sunday School

9:00-10:15 a.m

Sunday Worship and

Jr. Church 10:30 a.m.





RUMC's Annual Christmas Program

December 17th, 10:30am

Our 2023 Christmas Program will feature our Handbell Choir and our Choral Group. As well as special music, “The Voices of Advent”, and more of your favorite Christmas hymns. If you would like to join either choir please be at practice on Dec. 10th. Handbell practice at 3:45pm & Choir practice at 4:15pm (all ages are welcome to join). There will be no Jr. Church on Dec. 17th so that the children can take part in the Christmas program.



Christmas Eve SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services 10:30 am and 6:00 pm

Join us for Christmas Eve Services. Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, there will be a **Christmas Eve morning service**. The morning service is the fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will be completing our series about Praying Forward Through Advent as well as hearing the last of the dramatic readings at the lighting of the Advent Candle.

*Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service is at 6:00pm this year. **Notice the change of time!** This service will include your favorite carols, an account of the birth of Christ as told in the gospel of Luke, a special musical number, the sermon told as a story—this year back by popular demand from several years ago is the story of Ollie—and of course our traditional Candlelight Service. Make plans now to celebrate the birth of our Savior with us at both of these services on Christmas Eve.*

Peanut Butter Balls

5-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar

1-2/3 cups peanut butter

1 cup butter, melted

4 cups semisweet chocolate chips

1 teaspoon shortening



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.

December Worship Themes

Advent Series: "Praying Forward Through Advent"

December 3rd: "God Listens" 1 Kings 19:11-13; Luke 1:8-13

December 10th: "God Is" Exodus 3:6-14

December 17th: Annual Christmas Program

December 24th : CHRISTMAS EVE

Morning service: "God Shares" Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve Service: "Silent, Holy, Calm, and Bright"
A Story for Christmas: Ollie Luke 2:1-20

December 31st: Guest Speaker: Lay Leader Gary Hathaway



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



Diane Miller Dec. 1st

Jeff Miller Dec. 5th

Arlene Gangwer Dec. 6th

Zoey Shelly Dec. 14th

Grace Shireman Dec. 14th

Rita Rothenberger Dec. 16th

Elaine Hathaway Dec. 16th

Aaron Rothenberger Dec. 26th



RUMC Breakthrough Prayer

God, may Your preferred will break through in our church and in our lives, opening the door to the future You have chosen for us. We exchange our wills for Yours to fully follow You. Amen

Stewardship

<u>Date</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>
October 29 th	\$2,467.00	\$34.75
November 5 th	\$1,546.00	\$47.00
November 12 th	\$3,317.00	\$49.30
November 19 th	\$ 914.00	\$32.00
November 26 th	\$3,013.00	\$40.00



*Note from Treasurer– Last day to turn in receipts for reimbursement is Sunday, Dec. 31st 2023

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Religious Education</i> 1-3 pm	2 <i>Fellowship @ Mary's Christmas Party 6:30pm</i>
3 <i>Pack-A-Pew Adventure Club Sunday</i> <i>Sunday School 9 am</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</i> <i>Missions Lunch</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i>	4 <i>Missions Meeting 6pm</i> <i>Trustees Meeting 6:30pm</i> <i>TOP.S 6:30pm</i>	5 <i>Finance Meeting 7pm</i>	6 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i>	7	8  <i>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</i> <i>Religious Education 1-3 pm</i>	9
10 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</i> <i>Handbill 4:15pm</i> <i>Choir 4:30pm</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i>	11 <i>Administrative Council 7pm</i> <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i>	12	13 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i>	14	15 <i>Religious Education 1-3pm</i>	16
17 <i>Christmas Program</i> <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Worship 10:30 am</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i> <i>(Fellowship Hall reserved 12-4pm)</i>	18 <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i>	19	20 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i>	21	22 <i>Religious Education</i>	23
24 <i>Sunday School 9am. Worship and Jr. Church 10:30am</i>  <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm</i>	25  Church Office Closed	26	27 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i>	28	29	30
31 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</i>						