

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

## From the Pastor

Depending on when you read this, 2024 will be just hours away, or will have already arrived. It blows my mind to read those words. For many folks, the fact that 2024 is already here (or about to be) reminds us just how fast time is flying by. Anyone over 40 might remember when the year 2000 was years into the future. And now, here it is 24 years ago.

As 2024 approaches, many people are somewhat anxious about what the new year will hold. On the world and national scene, will the war in Israel or the war in Ukraine spread to something larger? Will another world war break out? Or has it already? Will we know a year from now who will be inaugurated president on January 20, 2025, or will there be another contested result? What kinds of decisions will be made at the 2024 UMC General Conference? How will these affect our congregation? These and multiple other questions might or might not be background noise for all the problems and concerns people face in their personal lives. And besides, its not all doom and gloom.

There is as much to look forward to as in any year. Seasons will change. Spring, Summer, and Fall will take their turns after the current winter is complete. Some folks are expecting babies. Others will get married. Others will graduate from high school, or earn a college degree. Many will start new jobs. Some will move to a new home. Life goes on despite whatever trials or difficulties any year might bring. Each year brings its own sets of challenges and victories. I would imagine 2024 will mirror previous years in this vein.

As followers of Jesus Christ though, it is important as we enter a new year to stop and reflect. During the church year, a time of spiritual-reflection is encouraged during Lent, (which this year begins on February 14<sup>th</sup>). But, at the same time it is as common, if not more so, for folks to do this reflection at the beginning of a year. For many, the setting of goals is important in this reflection process. I encourage this practice. I like the term goals rather than resolutions. Resolutions might be forgotten in days. But goals are something we can measure and work on. And then when we come to the end of the year we can evaluate where we are in the accomplishment of those goals (or not).

I am including a list here to help spur on your mind in this area. This is not an exhaustive list by any means. But I hope it gets your mind going. Whichever, my hope for each of you and for our church at Rossville here in 2024 is a year of blessing and growth in and through the Savior.

### **Here are some ideas for spiritual goals in 2024.**

- Make daily prayer a habit.
- Read the Bible. Allocate a few minutes each day to read several verses in the Bible.
- Actively take part in church services--physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- Keep a spiritual journal. Or, write down something you were thankful for from the day before.
- Practice forgiveness. Forgiving someone who has wronged you will not only heal relationships. It will give you peace of mind, too.
- Give back. Doing charity should not only be confined to Christmas and Thanksgiving. Giving back should be done all year round. Strive to be a blessing to others every single day. You can start by volunteering at a soup kitchen or donating your old clothes to people experiencing poverty.
- As you pray, converse with God daily. Find a few minutes each day to spend alone with God. Tell him about the things you're thankful for this day as well as the things that you're worried about. Talk to him as you would a friend. These are just a few ideas to jump-start your mind. I hope you will take them as the encouragement that they are.

**Happy New Year 2024!**

*Pastor Bob Raschka*



**Winter Movie Night #1 January 5th**

Once again, we are having two winter movie nights this year here at Rossville UMC. The first one scheduled is on FRIDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, which happens to be the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas.



Therefore, we are showing the movie Christmas With the Chosen: The Messengers.

**We will begin at 6:30pm.** Bring your friends and family and join us for this meaningful movie experience as we close out the 2023-2024 Christmas season.

The second movie night is scheduled for February. Watch next month's *Echo* for details.



Plan to stay after church as you are able to help take down the Christmas decorations on **January 7<sup>th</sup>**.  
Pizza will be served afterwards.

**LADIES DAY OUT January 12th**

Nine ladies met for Ladies Day Out on Dec. 8th eating at Denny's. We enjoyed good food and lots of laughs trying to get syrup to flow on the pancakes! Friday, Jan 12th we will be going to Cheddar's in Lafayette. All Ladies are invited to 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)



**Vision Retreat**

The RUMC Administrative Council has scheduled a Vision Retreat for Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9am here at the church. Anyone who is interested in where God is leading us in reaching people for Christ this year and in future years is welcome to attend.

**January, 2024 Sermon Themes**

- |                          |                       |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| January 7 <sup>th</sup>  | "The Washing"         | Mark 1:4-11           |
| January 14 <sup>th</sup> | "Bought With a Price" | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 |
| January 21 <sup>st</sup> | "Left it All Behind"  | Mark 1:14-20          |
| January 28 <sup>th</sup> | "How Do We Know?"     | Mark 1:21-28          |



The missions committee was able to distribute a total of \$3,500 among the various missions causes listed below. This is \$600 higher than we collected last year. The money from the missions offerings as well as the mission fundraising dinners was distributed to the following groups, missions, and outreaches by Rossville United Methodist Church in 2023:

**International**

HIS Eyes Honduras: Missionaries Felipe’ and Valerie Colby  
 Life’s Heart Project, Kenya (Ken & Marcia Eller)  
 Ray & Sylvia Degenkolb: Missionary and Seminary professor to Columbia  
 Sam Naik International, India  
 Gorette project, Uganda through Forest United Methodist Church

**National**

Red Bird Mission, Kentucky

**Indiana**

Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home, Lebanon  
 Lucille Raines Residence, Indianapolis

**Local**

Frankfort Community Thanksgiving Dinner  
 Pregnancy Resource Center, Frankfort  
 Backpack Buddies Program, Rossville  
 Good Samaritan Fund, Rossville



**Rossville United Methodist Church  
 2024 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 (2026)
Asst. Chairperson:	Phil Burkle (2025)
Secretary:	Elaine Hathaway
Treasurer:	Brandy Marlow_(2025)
Trustees Chairperson:	Steve Arnone
Staff-Parish Chairperson:	Dave Need (2024)
Missions Chairperson:	Lyn Burkle (2026)
Finance Chairperson:	Phil Burkle (2025)
Adventure Club Coordinator:	Linda Ostler
LRE Coordinator:	<u>Jane Emens</u>
Prayer Coordinator:	Vicki Rabanus
Membership Secretary:	Vicki Rabanus (2024)

**At Large Members**

**Class of 2024**

Emily Green  
 Kris Need

**Class of 2025**

Diane Miller

**Class of 2026**

Lisa Jensen

**The Board of Trustees****Chairperson:** Steve Arnone (2024)**Class of 2024**

Steve Arnone

**Class of 2025**

Elaine Hathaway

Greg Woodruff

**Class of 2026**

Gary Hathaway (Asst chair)

Glenn Marlow (Trustees treasurer)

**Staff Parish Relations Committee****Chairperson:** David Need (2024)**Class of 2024**

Dave Need

Vicki Rabanus

**Class of 2025**

Carolyn Bushfield

Jane Emens

Debbie Pollard**Lay Leader:** Gary Hathaway**Class of 2026**

Margo Oren

**Worship Team****Chairperson:** Pastor Bob Raschka**Class of 2024**

Ginny McCabe

**Class of 2025**

Kris Need

Brandy Marlow

**Chancel Area Coordinators:** Brandy Marlow and Joe Bowyer**Communion Stewards:** Linda Ostler & Ainura Nametullavyeva**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:** Steve Arnone**Class of 2024**

Mary Gray

**Class of 2025**

Phil Burkle

**Class of 2026**

Debbie Pollard

**Financial Secretaries** (count, record, and deposit offerings): Lyn Burkle**Missions Team****Chairperson:** Lyn Burkle (2026)**Class of 2024**

Emily Green

Diane Miller

**Class of 2025**

Phyllis Patterson Lyn Burkle

Debbie Pollard

**Class of 2026**

Jane Emens

Elaine Hathaway**The Welcome Committee** : Kris Need, Diane Miller**Vacation Bible School Director and Assistants:** Brandy Marlow**Community Outreach Representative:**Debbie Pollard**Church Camp Coordinator:**

Brandy Marlow

**Backpack Buddies Coordinator:**

Dave Need

**Nursery Coordinator:**

Church office

**Prayer Chain Coordinator:** Church office**Audit Committee:** Nancy Disinger, Debbie Pollard, Elaine Hathaway, Joann Rothenberger**Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations)****Chairperson:** Bob Raschka**Lay Leader:** Gary Hathaway (2025)**Class of 2024**

Jane Emens

**Class of 2025**

Nancy Disinger

**Class of 2026**

Virginia Mc Cabe

Diane Miller

Debbie Pollard

Carolyn Bushfield Jan. 6th  
 Miles Green Jan. 19th  
 Mary Brown Jan. 25th  
 Steve Arnone Jan. 26th  
 Gary Hathaway Jan 27th  
 Kris Need Jan. 31st



**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](mailto:rossvilleum@gmail.com)  
 Website: [rossinumc.com](http://rossinumc.com)  
 Pastor: Rev. Bob Raschka  
 Office Manager: Brandy Marlow

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



Happy Anniversary

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

**Thank you for all the Cards, & Gifts this Christmas!**

God Bless, RUMC Staff  
 Pastor Bob, Brandy, & Dustin



**2024 Rossville United Methodist Budget**

The Rossville Administrative Council approved a 2024 budget which totals \$135,494.96. This is a 6.7% DECREASE, or \$9,590.50 LESS than 2023. Many costs increased in 2023 and we operated at a deficit through most of the entire year. Your Finance committee, with final approval given by the Administrative Council, worked prayerfully and diligently to restructure and find savings in several areas of the budget in order to bring it closer in line with the monies which come through our offerings. The weekly budget need for 2024 is \$2,656.73. Please prayerfully consider how you can help to give to the ministry of Rossville UMC in this new year.

**Stewardship**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Regular Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,013.00	\$40
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$4,896.00	\$36 plus \$530 from missions dinner
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,111.00	\$40
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,870.00	\$40



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5  6:30pm	6
7 <i>Communion</i>  <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9 am</i> <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:30 am</i>  <i>UN Hanging of</i> <i>Greens After</i> <i>Church</i>  <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i>	8    <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i>  <i>Administrative</i> <i>Council 7pm</i>	9	10   <i>Jesus Night</i> <i>7pm @ LSC</i>	11	12  <i>Ladies Day Out</i> <i>Meet at church</i> <i>parking lot 11am</i>  <i>Religious</i> <i>Education</i> <i>1-3 pm</i>	13
14  <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9am</i> <i>Worship and Jr.</i> <i>Church 10:30 am</i>  <i>Prayer Group</i> <i>5pm</i>	15   <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i>	16	17   <i>Jesus Night</i> <i>7pm @ LSC</i>	18	19   <i>Religious</i> <i>Education 1-3pm</i>	20
21  <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9am</i> <i>Worship 10:30 am</i>  <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i>	22   <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i>	23	24   <i>Jesus Night</i> <i>7pm @ LSC</i>	25	26   <i>Religious</i> <i>Education</i>	27   <i>Vision Planning</i> <i>retreat (Here at</i> <i>RUMC) 9AM</i>
28  <i>Sunday School</i> <i>9am. Worship and</i> <i>Jr. Church</i> <i>10:30am</i>  <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i>	29   <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i>	30	31   <i>Jesus Night</i> <i>7pm @ LSC</i>			