

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



I heard it again this last Christmas season. It was the day after Christmas, and I heard people complaining that many stores had put out their Valentine-related merchandise already. Every year it's the same. And it's not just Valentine's.

Whether it is Halloween stuff in August, Christmas stuff in October, and no doubt Easter stuff in late January. Especially since Easter is at the end of March this year. Anyway, people like to complain just because. Obviously, the retail industry has learned over the generations that it is apparently profitable to push whatever the next season or holiday is as far in advance as possible. These are trivial matters.

Human nature is such that while we complain about things being 'early', the next thing you know whatever the day is arrives. I confess, I have already kind of griped about the fact that this year, Ash Wednesday (the beginning of our Lenten Season) is on the same date as Valentine's. The day when tradition holds that people might "give up" something, or even begin a season of fasting is on the same night as couples might go out for a meal to celebrate their relationship. Still. What does it matter?

As a person of faith, and a person who has pretty much followed the Christian calendar most of my life, does it matter if a secular date or event occurs on the same date as an important date in the Christian year?

These dates are meant to draw us closer to Christ. And the beginning of the Lenten Season is probably one of the more important of them all. Right now, all of this is still a couple weeks away. But it will be here. The days tick by. Life continues.

May each of us, regardless of what special day or holy day appears on the calendar, make it a point to seek out the Lord's guidance through each day. And yes, as the season of Lent approaches, let's prayerfully consider if there is something God would like us to give up, or even purge from our life. On the other hand, maybe there is something God would like us to "take on." What have we been putting off for eons? Where does God want us to start in going deeper, and as a result making a difference in our lives, the lives of those around us, and the communities in which we interact?

Reflecting,

Pastor Bob Raschka

LADIES DAY OUT February 9th

Ladies Day Out was canceled in January due to the weather. Friday, Feb. 9th 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)



Join us on Wednesday evening, February 14th as we begin the Lenten Season together with our Ash Wednesday service. The service begins at 7:00pm and is usually a short service of reflection, Scripture, music, and the imposition of ashes for those who would like to receive them. Bring a friend and join us on this special evening.

Vision Retreat February 17th

The RUMC Administrative Council has scheduled a Vision Retreat for Saturday, Feb. 17th 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.



Witness to the Cross Lenten Bible Study begins Feb. 21st

Pastor Bob invites everyone to join him for our Lenten Bible Study which begins Wednesday February 21st at 7:00pm. We will meet each Wednesday through March 27th.

The Lenten Bible Study this year is entitled. Witness to the Cross. This video based Bible Study features enthusiastic author Amy Jill-Levine.

In the study, we will experience Good Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross.

A book to purchase is available (but not required) for this Bible Study. We will have sign-up sheets available February 4th and 11th at church.



Winter Movie Night Saturday February 24th 7pm



In the 1970s, young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) is searching for all the right things in all the wrong places: until he meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a hippie-street-preacher. Together with Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer), they open the doors of Smith's languishing church to an unexpected awakening of radical and newfound love, leading to what TIME Magazine dubbed a JESUS REVOLUTION. Bring your friends and kick back and relax with some popcorn and snacks on the Saturday evening of February 24th as we watch this movie together. The action begins at 7.

February WORSHIP themes

February 4th "Nothing. And Wings." Isaiah 40:21-31

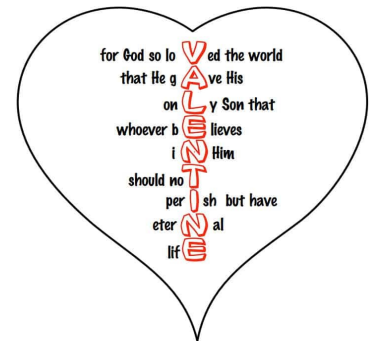
February 11th Special presentation by Ray and Sylvia Degenkolb

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: "On the Road From Jericho to Jerusalem"
Ash Wednesday service Feb 14th : " Hungry?" Exodus 33: 14-23

February 18th: "A Valley of Darkness" Matthew 4:1-11 & Psalm 23:4

February 25th: "We've Lost Jesus !" Luke 2:41-52

John 3:16



What Is Valentine's Day and Is it Connected to Christianity?

February 14 is when we celebrate Valentine's Day. Although some enjoy it as the celebration of love, others reject it as a materialistic commercialized holiday. Valentine's Day started with a connection to Christianity but there is a lot of information to wade through to find the truth. The details within the stories connecting it to Christianity are difficult to prove. Nevertheless, Valentine's Day *is* connected to Christianity, but not solely. Valentine's Day began as Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The feast was first established by Pope Gelasius I to honor one or two saints named Valentinus for being martyred on February 14. Those familiar with this connection believe there to be a single man, but there were actually three saints bearing the name Valentine or Valentinus. Two were from Italy and one was from Africa. Two were clearly beheaded, while the third one's martyrdom is only "supposed" by some. One Valentine's story is that he was a temple priest who was imprisoned for ministering to Christians when they were being persecuted by the Roman empire. While in prison, he fell in love with a young woman (possibly the jailer's daughter) and sent her a farewell note (from "Your Valentine") before his execution. One version of the story states that the young woman was blind, and Valentine healed her, while other stories leave that part out. Another Valentine's story says that he was beheaded for performing secret weddings when Emperor Claudius had outlawed them for young soldiers. And yet another story: Valentine was a priest who was arrested, but instead of being put in jail, he was put into the custody of an aristocrat named Asterius. After hearing Valentine speak, he challenged him about the validity of Christ. He bargained with him to heal his for Asterius to believe. Valentine healed her and they all got baptized. After Emperor Claudius II found out, he had Valentine killed. With the difficulty of determining which details are true, it's no wonder they can be found all mixed together, giving us the idea of a single person. While it is clear that the origin of Valentine's Day is connected to Christianity, there are those who claim paganism is the root.



Dustin Green 3rd
 Vicki Rabanus 6th
 Erika Rothenberger 10th
 Larry Oren 12th
 Barb Nulph 20th
 Jane Emens 22nd
 Lisa Jensen 23rd

Steve & Debbie Pollard February 16th



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



Adult Sunday School
 9:00-10:15 a.m
 Sunday Worship and
 Jr. Church 10:30 a.m.



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



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.

Stewardship

| Date | Regular Offering | Missions |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Dec. 24 th | \$12,516.00 | \$32 |
| Dec. 31 st | \$465.00 | \$52 |
| 2023 Grand Total | \$130,550.00 | \$3,057.64 |
| Jan. 7 th | \$1,865.00 | \$79.00 |
| Jan. 14 th | No service held due to weather | |
| Jan. 21 st | \$9,333.00 | \$65.00 |



Tithes and offerings

February 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 <i>District Leadership Day 10am-3pm @ Monticello UMC</i> |
| | | | | | <i>Religious Education 1-3 pm</i> | |
| 4 <i>Communion</i> <i>Sunday School 9 am</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i> | 5 <i>Trustees Meeting 6:30pm</i> <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i> | 6 | 7 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i> | 8 | 9  <i>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</i> <i>Religious Education 1-3 pm</i> | 10 |
| 11 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</i> <i>Milner's Service 3pm</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i> | 12 <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i> <i>Administrative Council 7pm</i> | 13 | 14 <i>Valentines Day</i>  <i>Ash Wednesday Service 7pm</i> <i>Jesus Night 7pm</i> | 15 | 16 <i>Religious Education 1-3pm</i> | 17 <i>Vision Planning Retreat 9am</i> |
| 18 <i>Sunday School 9am</i> <i>Worship 10:30 am</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i> | 19 <i>Missions Meeting 6pm</i> <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i> | 20 <i>SPRC Meeting 6pm</i> | 21 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i> | 22 | 23 <i>Religious Education 1-3pm</i> | 24  <i>Jesus revolution 7pm</i> |
| 25 <i>Sunday School 9am.</i> <i>Worship and Jr. Church 10:30am</i> <i>Prayer Group 5pm</i> | 26 <i>Worship Team Meeting 6pm</i> <i>TOPS 6:30pm</i> | 27 | 28 <i>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</i> | | | |