

# THE ECHO... JULY ,2024

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

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



I came across this tidbit of information recently in a weekly email I receive entitled “The Friday Update.” The emails cover a wide variety of unrelated, but usually interesting topics. One which stood out to me, and I share here is as follows:

**Surprise:** Some find Christianity unreasonable. Some find it undesirable. Until recently, Richard Dawkins—the author of The God Delusion and the one who argued that children should be “protected” from their religious parents—thought it was both. Well, apparently, he was ‘canceled’ by New Atheism, when he joined others in identifying as a cultural Christian. New Atheism advocates the view that superstition, religion, and irrationalism should not simply be tolerated. Instead, they advocate the view that the various forms of theism (belief in God) should be criticized, countered, examined, and challenged. Dawkins now was recently reported as saying, “I’m not a believer.... But I sort of feel at home in the Christian ethos. **Christianity seems to me to be a fundamentally decent religion.**” This piece reports on the recent meeting Dawkins had with his friend, *former atheist turned Christian*, Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

I find this development somewhat interesting. Christians sometimes seem to like to spend a lot of time highlighting and lamenting folks like Richard Dawkins among others, who have publicly declared not only their disbelief in God, but their disdain for all things “Christian.” Oftentimes we get all charged up when we hear of yet another public figure or institution declaring not only their disbelief in God, but their desire that anything “religious” should be forbidden from any kind of public influence. Yet, instead of complaining and lamenting how bad or misinformed these folks are, maybe we should pray. Pray for them. Someone must have been praying for Richard Dawkins, who if I am reading this article correctly, has gone from thinking children should be protected from their religious parents to at least thinking that *Christianity seems to be a fundamentally decent religion*. Someone must have prayed for Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a person whom I had not heard of before I read this article. But, he is a former atheist turned Christian.

In fact, there are many such people in our world. I could carry this farther. If we don’t like how something has turned out—pray. Seek the Lord. Pray for changed hearts and minds. Pray for the love of Christ to prevail upon the people who made the decisions, or hold opinions which are vastly different from what you view as the basics of faith and life.

No, it doesn’t sound like Richard Dawkins has decided to start believing in God all of the sudden. But, it does sound like he has moved from outright opposition, to at least sort of feeling at home in the Christian ideal. It’s a positive development.

The lesson here is stop writing people off. God is not finished with any of us yet. Pray for those who have made decisions which appear harmful to themselves and others. Pray that God will lead them onto a better path. A path onto the way of Christ. A path nurtured in God’s will.

In Hope,

*Pastor Bob Raschka*



### LADIES DAY OUT July 12th

Thirteen ladies and tow young ladies (Grace & Zoey) ate lunch at the R & D Family Restaurant in Camden. We had wonderful food, fellowship and the young ladies were quite entertaining! Then we drove to the 21 Market and shopped. The next Ladies Day Out will be Friday, July 12th. We will be traveling to The Angry Donkey in Michigantown. 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)



Christian Artists Matt Maher and Cade Thompson will be in performance at CRAM 2024 during the Frankfort Hot Dog Festival on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Three of Matt Maher’s albums have reached the Top 25 Christian Albums Billboard chart and four of his singles have reached the Top 25 Christian Songs chart. His notable writing credits include "Your Grace Is Enough", "I Will Rise", "Because He Lives (Amen)", "Christ Is Risen", and "Lord I Need You". The concerts are set for Veterans Park in downtown Frankfort, and begin at 6:30pm on July 27. There is no entrance fee. The concerts are free.



The Administrative Council voted to send monies to the following ministries or programs during the time we have stopped sending in the conference tith: Church Camp Scholarships, Midwest Missions Distribution Center, Operation Classroom Ministry ,  
  
And Africa University

#### Church Camp



Please pray for our campers this Summer and consider sending a note of encouragement.

Go to [impact2818.org/email](http://impact2818.org/email)

Arizona Pritchard Epworth Forest July 14-19      Dillen Pritchard Pine Creek July 7-12

Macy Parks Pine Creek July 7-12

#### RUMC Vision Statement

“Loving the Lord and our neighbors, teaching one another to obey the commands of God, and proclaiming Jesus Christ as Savior to all”

#### 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



Ruth Raschka July 10th & Sharon Unger July 23rd



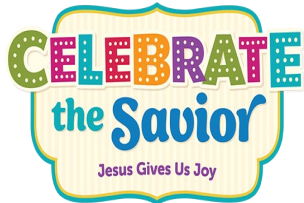
Dustin & Emily Green July 23rd

**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



A Special thank you to all the volunteers who made VBS a success! 36 kids attended & 23 adults helped. A special thank you to the Rossville Lions Club for donating ice cream for our end of the week party. 80 people attended our Ice cream party. VBS raised \$64 for the Rossville Community Outreach program.

**Worship Themes**

July 7<sup>th</sup> "What in the World?" 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

July 14<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker: Deanne Rowe

July 21<sup>st</sup> Guest Speaker: Gary Hathaway

July 28<sup>th</sup>: "The Call" 2 Samuel 11:1-15



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
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$1754.75	71.11
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 792.00	45.00
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	\$2133.00	76.00
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$547.00	47.00



Remember, the average weekly offering needed to meet our budget here at Rossville is \$2709.90. Through the end of May, the average weekly offering received so far this year was \$2253.46

# July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
<p><b>7 Communion</b></p> <p>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p><b>Milner's Service 3pm</b></p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	8          <b>TOPS 6pm</b>	9	10          <b>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</b>	11	12            <b>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</b>	13
<p><b>14 Guest Speaker DeAnn Rowe</b></p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p><b>Milner's Service 3pm</b></p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	15          <b>TOPS 6pm</b>	16	17          <b>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</b>	18	19	20
<p><b>21 Guest speaker Gary Hathaway</b></p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	22          <b>TOPS 6pm</b>	23	24          <b>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</b>	25	26	27          <b>CRAM Event Free Matt Maher Concert at Frank- fort Hot Dog Fes- tival</b>
<p><b>28 Sunday School 9am. Worship and Jr. Church 10:30am</b></p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	29          <b>TOPS 6pm</b>	30	31			