

THE ECHO... JANUARY, 2025

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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Well we made it! 2024 is now history. A year ago, many people were approaching 2024 with a sense of dread. They feared how the year would play out, and if we would all manage to make it through.

2024 certainly presented its fair share of challenges. As we move into a new year, there are still many unsettled questions in people's minds. Many fear an expansion of military conflict involving Israel, Russia, Ukraine, and Gaza for starters. Others wonder (as they do most years) how the economy will perform in the new year. Many folks are dealing with concerns related to their physical health and are anxious of what 2025 will hold in that regard.

A new administration will come to Washington on the 20th of this month. The new leaders will need much prayer as the transition of administrations transpires. 1Timothy 2:1-4 encourages people to pray for leaders.

Here in Rossville, our church will begin living into decisions made last year regarding our future. Remember, the congregation will need to support its desire to continue as a local church ministering to the people of Rossville. This means attending weekly and giving financially. In the meantime, we need to seek God's will on how he wants our Rossville Church to live out from week to week, even as the future approaches. Most likely, many changes will have occurred by the time we move into 2026. Sitting here at the beginning of the year, (as in most years) there is no way we can know what the year will bring. There will be change. And there will be stability too.

My challenge for all of us is to live out the prayer Methodist founder John Wesley prayed as a Covenant—as a promise.

I share it here at the end of this column. I encourage you to pray it and allow God to help you live into it here in 2025.

--The Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition--

"I am no longer my own, but yours O Lord.

Put me to what thou will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things

to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."



Seek God in 2025. God Be With Each of You,

Pastor Bob Raschka

QUESTION: Does one have to be a member of the church to serve?

The question has arisen as to what positions a person who attends a church but is not a member is allowed to serve in?

Well, for the most part active non-members are welcome to serve in any number of capacities in the life of our local church.

Church membership is required however, for the following positions:

- The Lay Leader
- The Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
- Voting members on the Administrative Council. (non-members may serve, but not vote on motions).
- Committee members of the Nominations Committee
- The chair and committee members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee
- The chairperson of the Administrative Council
- The chairperson of the Board of Trustees



Other than these administrative positions, anyone who is a person of genuine Christian character and is active in the life of the church is qualified to serve the church in all other areas. Church membership is not a requirement.

2024 Missions Causes

Monies collected in the weekly missions offerings, and at our two missions dinners helped to support the following ministries in 2024:

International

- HIS Eyes Honduras
- Ray & Sylvia Degenkolb
- Life's Heart (Tim & Marcia Eller)

Indiana

- Lucille Raines Residence-Indianapolis
- Indiana United Methodist Children's Home--Lebanon

National

- Red Bird Mission Kentucky

Local

- Frankfort Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Backpack Buddies
- The Samaritan Fund

Other ministries supported in 2024 with funds given in addition to regular missions were as follows:

- Africa University
- Operation Classroom
- Gideon International
- Pine Creek Camp
- Epworth Forest
- Camp Adventure
- Camp Indi-Co-So
- Midwest Missions Distribution Center
- Frankfort Pregnancy Resource Center



2025 Budget Approved

The Rossville United Methodist Administrative Council approved the 2025 Budget at its December 9, 2024 meeting.



A budget of \$116,834.46 was passed. This budget is \$18,660, or 13.8% LESS than 2024. The approved budget is more in line with expected offerings and expenses.

LADIES DAY OUT January 10th

On Dec. 13th six ladies met for lunch at One Cup More in Burlington for Ladies Day Out. The restaurant is a very pleasant place to enjoy a meal (we highly recommend it). The next Ladies Day Out will be Friday, Jan. 10th and we will carpool to Southfork Restaurant in Mulberry. All ladies of the church are invited. 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)





- Carolyn Bushfield Jan. 6th
- Ron Norris Jan. 24th
- Steve Arnone Jan. 26th
- Wilma Graves Jan. 27th
- Miles Green Jan. 19th
- Mary Brown Jan. 25th
- Gary Hathaway Jan. 26th
- Kris Need Jan. 31st



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

In Sympathy
 Mary Beth Seest
 September 10, 1930– December 29, 2024

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”

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
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 Mailing address: P.O. Box 573
 Rossville, IN 46065

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

January Worship Themes

January 5th – Epiphany Sunday
 “ The Gift of Time” Genesis 1:3-5; Matthew 2:10-12

January 12th - Baptism of the Lord
 “ We Believe in Sacrament” Luke 3:21-22; Mark 14:22-24

January 19th “ We Believe in God’s Presence” Romans 8:31-39

January 26th “We Believe in Salvation” Luke 19:1-10

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

Date	Regular Offering	Missions Offering
November 24	\$1,522.32	\$77
December 1	\$1,748.00	\$19
December 8	\$2,410.00	\$411.10 (includes missions lunch)
December 15	\$4,265.00	\$76.75
December 22	\$1,180.00	\$41.00
December 29	\$2,079.00	\$62.00



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4
5 <i>Communion</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am <i>Un-Hanging of the Greens/ Pizza Party</i> Prayer Group 5pm	6 TOPS 6pm	7	8 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	9	10  Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm	11
12 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Milner's 3pm Prayer Group 5pm	13 TOPS 6pm Administrative Council 7pm	14	15 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	16	17 Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm	18
19 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 am Prayer Group 5pm	20 TOPS 6pm	21 SPRC 6pm	22 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	23	24 Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm	25 Vision Planning Retreat 9am
26 Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Prayer Group 5pm	27 TOPS 6pm	28	29 Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC	30	31 Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm	