

THE ECHO...

FEBRUARY

2025

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

FROM THE PASTOR

[Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing! Give thanks in all circumstances! This is God's will in Christ Jesus for you!](#) (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

How often do we pray for God's will to be accomplished? How often do we seek to discern the will of God about any given situation? How often do we pray with the hope that God will reveal his will?



What is God's will? When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say, "thy will be done." We ask for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In our breakthrough prayer here at Rossville, we have been praying, "may your preferred will break through in our church and in our lives, opening the door to the future you have chosen for us." Well, what is that will? Has God clearly revealed the future he has chosen for us?

One thing we can know for sure—God's will according to 1 Thessalonians 5:16 is that we should rejoice always! What? Say that again? Rejoice Always! Huh?

Mull that one around in your mind for a minute. I can already hear the questions because I myself would ask them. "How can we rejoice when the world is so messed up and there seems to be so little to rejoice about?" Well..... These words were written to the people in a church in the ancient city of Thessalonica. The Apostle Paul founded this church during his second missionary journey. Riots and opposition had forced Paul to leave them sooner than he desired. After receiving news of their progress, Paul wrote to commend them for growing in the Lord and also to correct some misunderstandings. The world that the church at Thessalonica existed in was filled with seductive images and pressures. Therefore, Paul wrote to them in a way which brought God's perspectives to the things of their world. He questioned the secular values that undermine God's ways. The book, though written a couple millennia ago, certainly applies to a time like ours.

What was God's will in all of this? How did they live out God's will? He told them. Rejoice always! Even in the midst of the culture in which they lived. Rejoice! Rejoice is another word for joy. Joy is something which comes fully from God. It is not based on circumstance. Therefore even on days when life is a struggle, and we are not sure what direction God would lead, God's will is that we rejoice!

And pray without ceasing! Does this mean we pray every waking second? Not necessarily. But it does suggest that God's will is we are in an attitude of prayer and can even think or speak a quick prayer about any matter at any given moment and in any given place.

Rejoice! Pray! And, give thanks in all circumstances! This one is easier than one would think. How does one give thanks when they are going through a struggle? Consider this. I knew of a situation one time where the person in charge of prayer at a church service had just requested prayer for he and his spouse because they were going through a marital separation. The congregation was filled with compassion. And when he stood up at the lectern to begin the prayer, the first words out of his mouth were, "Dear Lord, thank you for who you are." He still was able to give thanks despite the terrible circumstance he was experiencing at the time. And as I reflect back, the couple did manage to reconcile.

The point here is we can give thanks to God because God is. At all times, give thanks.

What's God's will then? For our church? For our individual lives? Well.. according to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, it is "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. This is God's will". Maybe if we seek to put these verses into practice, most likely the will of God will become clear in whatever situation we are bringing before the Lord.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Bob Raschka

Rejoice.
Pray.
Give thanks.
Repeat.

Rossville Administrative Structure Streamlined

The Administrative structure of Rossville United Methodist Church was streamlined at the annual vision and planning retreat on January 25th.

Key decisions made include:

- Changed the name of the Administrative Council to The Leadership Team.
- Absorbed the worship team and the finance committee into the leadership team.
- Maintained the Board of Trustees, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Missions Team, and the Nominations Committee in the current format.

The updated list of officers and team members is listed below.

Rossville United Methodist Church

2025 Officers, Committee, and Team Personnel

Underline new in position

Pastor: Robert A. Raschka

(date term ends on Dec. 31)

The Leadership Team

Lay Leader:	<u>Diane Miller</u> (2025)
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference:	Elaine Hathaway (2028)
Chairperson:	Virginia McCabe (2026)
Asst. Chairperson:	Phil Burkle (2025)
Secretary:	Elaine Hathaway
Treasurer:	Brandy Marlow_ (2025)
Trustees Chairperson:	<u>Greg Woodruff</u> (2025)
Staff-Parish Chairperson:	<u>Gary Hathaway</u> (2027)
Missions Chairperson:	Lyn Burkle (2026)
Finance Chairperson:	Phil Burkle (2025)
Adventure Club Coordinator:	Linda Ostler
LRE Coordinator:	Jane Emens
Prayer Coordinator:	Vicki Rabanus
Membership Secretary:	Vicki Rabanus (2027)

At Large Members

Class of 2025

Diane Miller

Class of 2026

Lisa Jensen

Class of 2027

Doreanne Deweese & Kris Need

The Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Greg Woodruff

Class of 2025

Elaine Hathaway
Greg Woodruff

Class of 2026

Gary Hathaway (Asst chair)

Class of 2027

Joann Rothenberger
Glenn Marlow (Trustees treasurer)

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chairperson: Gary Hathaway (2027)

Lay Leader: Diane Miller

Class of 2025

Carolyn Bushfield
Debbie Pollard

Class of 2026

Margo Oren

Class of 2027

Virginia McCabe
Gary Hathaway

Missions Team

Chairperson: Lyn Burkle (2026)

Class of 2025

Phyllis Patterson
Debbie Pollard

Class of 2026

Lyn Burkle
Jane Emens
Elaine Hathaway

Class of 2027

Emily Green
Diane Miller

Nominations Committee

Chairperson: Bob Raschka

Lay Leader: Gary Hathaway (2025)

Class of 2025

Nancy Disinger

Class of 2026

Virginia Mc Cabe

Class of 2027

Diane Miller
Debbie Pollard

Service Areas

The Welcome Committee : Kris Need, Diane Miller

Church Camp Coordinator:

Nursery Coordinator: Church office

Audit Committee: Nancy Disinger, Debbie Pollard, Elaine Hathaway, Joann Rothenberger

Community Outreach Representative: Debbie Pollard

Backpack Buddies Coordinator: Dave Need

Prayer Chain Coordinator: Church office

LADIES DAY OUT February 14th

Six ladies enjoyed lunch and fellowship at South Fork Restaurant I Mulberry, Jan 10th. The next “Ladies Day Out “ will be Friday, Feb. 14th. We will be eating at Treece’s in Rossville. All ladies of the church are invited. Please meet at the church parking lot to leave promptly at **11am** to carpool or meet at the restaurant.

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



Wednesday, Feb. 19th & 26th

Tuesday, March 4th (Due to Ash Wednesday),

Wednesday, March 12th at 6pm -7:30pm

Join us as the Adventure Club team takes you through “Adventures with Abraham”.

Each week there will be a Bible story, music, crafts and light meal.

Adventure Club is free and open to any child

Pre-K (potty trained) through 5th grade.

Check in for the Club will open at 5:45 each week.

Scan QR code and sign up today!



2025 Rossville Church Scripture of the year

The Leadership team has agreed that the Scripture passage of the year for 2025 here at Rossville is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. “Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing! Give thanks in all circumstances! This is God’s will in Christ Jesus for you!”

NEXT STEPS UPDATE

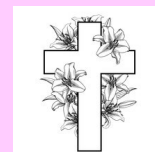


The Leadership Team approved a sub-committee to lead the Rossville Church through the closure and re-opening process. Doreanne Deweese is the head of the sub-committee. Other members include Brandy Marlow, Dave Need, Linda Ostler, and Gary Hathaway. They will present updates throughout the process.

In Sympathy

Barbara McCullah

November 13, 1938– January 7, 2025





- Dustin Green Feb. 3rd Vicki Rabanus Feb. 6th
- Larry Oren Feb.12th Cathy Norris Feb. 17th
- Jane Emens Feb. 22nd Lisa Jensen Feb. 23rd



- Steve & Debbie Pollard February 16th
- Ron & Cathy Norris February 21st

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



February Worship Themes

- February 2nd “We Believe in Holiness” Ephesians 3:14-19
- February 9th “We Believe in Doing No Harm” Galatians 5:13-16
- February 16th “We Believe in Goodness” Luke 6:27-28; 3 John 11
- February 23rd “We Believe in Loving God” Psalm 105:1-4; Colossians 2:6-7



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”

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

Stewardship

Date	Regular Offering	Missions
January 5 th	\$2,333.00	\$36.00
January 12 th	\$9,089.00	\$40.00
January 19 th	\$1,554.00	\$47.50
January 26 th	\$ 873.00	\$46.45



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 <i>Communion</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9 am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p> <p>Trustees Meeting 6:30pm</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>District Training here at RUMC 10-3pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Milner's 3pm</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	11	<p>12</p>  <p>Adventure Club Volunteer Meet- ing 6:30pm</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	13	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p>  <p>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</p> <p>Religious Ed 1- 3pm</p>	15
<p>16</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Missions 6pm</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	18	<p>19</p>  <p>Adventure Club 6-7:30pm</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	22
<p>23</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	25	<p>26</p>  <p>Adventure Club 6-7:30pm</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	