

# THE ECHO... , 2025

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

## FROM THE PASTOR

A lot of what comes at us these days presents itself as urgent and ultimate. No matter the point, whether it is the latest news item (causing some to fret and fear and others to rejoice and celebrate) to the next “weather system” which is predicted to come through; to the instances of our own life each day; everything seems to vie for our attention. It’s like, “look here!” “No, over there!” “No, over here!” “This is the worst ever.” “No, that is.” “Our worst fears have been realized.” “No, we are finally seeing things the way we had hoped they would be.”

On and on it goes. I suppose it is trite to say it, but as bad as life sometimes seems, and as difficult as it is to hear the constant squawking between varied viewpoints on every issue, things have been much worse before. How annoying. “Well of course we know they have, but that doesn’t make today any easier.” We get so hung up on now, acting like things can never improve for the better. But guess what, into all of this comes the season of Lent.

This year, Lent begins on March 5<sup>th</sup>. And while Lent is commonly known as a time of reflection which can sometimes lead us to feel “kind of down”, there is hope.

Lent reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made so that people like David can write these kinds of words about 1,000 years before Christ came to earth. He said as is recorded in Psalm 131:1-2, “my heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have calmed and quieted myself.”

David had many fear-producing moments in his life. But, as Mike Woodruff says, “he managed to talk himself down from the ledge.” He put his faith and trust in the One who would send his Son to pay the ultimate price.

This year during Lent, I encourage you when you hear the latest rage or squawk about sports, politics, the weather, or just regular life, take a deep breath. Allow the Spirit of God to permeate your soul—to bring you to a place of peace in the midst of storms. Remember the resurrection even in the midst of times of sorrow.

Lean on Christ. Yes, Lent can cause us to realize those areas of life in which we lack. Lent should cause us to recall perhaps the goals we set at the beginning of the year.

And remember, Lent means to lengthen. The days are getting longer. Spring arrives. And of course, baseball season begins! (had to throw that in). And March Madness too!

Days of hope in the midst of times of trial. Therefore, in the words of David, “calm and quiet yourself”. “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

Prepare for the resurrection by observing a Holy Lent. Don’t let the days flitter away. Grow. Learn. Strengthen. Lean upon the Lord.

Expectantly,

*Pastor Bob Raschka*

**Tuesday, March 4th & Wednesday, March 12th 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!



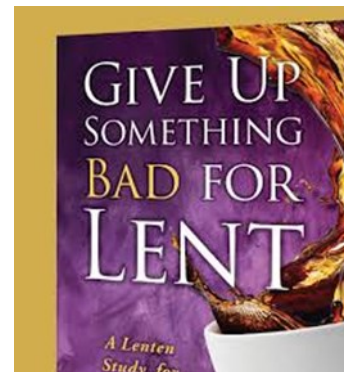
**Ash Wednesday Service March 5<sup>th</sup>**



All are welcome to join us as we begin the season of Lent on March 5<sup>th</sup>. A service of repentance and renewal is scheduled for 7:00pm. Let’s begin the holy season of Lent together.

**Lenten Bible Study begins March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Our Lenten Bible Study this year is based upon James Moore’s book, Giving Up Something Bad for Lent. During the 40 days of Lent many people give up things they love such as chocolate or sweets or other food items. But what about going deeper and banishing bad habits such as envy, jealousy, apathy, gossip, and negative thinking - for good? In this session study, Scripture verses, personal readings, reflection questions, and prayers will empower you to make positive personal changes - once and for all! All for the glory of God and the deepening of your faith as we move towards Holy Week and the celebration of the resurrection.



Join us for this study led by Pastor Bob on Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The following sessions are on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesdays March 25<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, also at 7pm. You can order the book by letting the church know you are interested, or you can purchase it online at cokesbury.com.

**Fellowship at Mary’s is back on Wednesday’s**

Fellowship at Mary’s will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. March 12– April 30th (no fellowship March 26th due to spring break). Each week involves a meal, fellowship, music, and discussion. Please bring a dish to share. Everyone is welcome to join us at Mary’s (304 E. Main St.)



**LADIES DAY OUT March 14th**

On Friday, Feb. 14th, eight ladies met for lunch at Treeces Family Restaurant. We enjoyed fellowship, lots of laughs and good food. The next “Ladies Day Out” will be Friday, March 14th. We will be traveling to Cracker Barrel in Lafayette. All ladies of the church are invited. Please meet at the church parking lot to leave promptly at **11am** to carpool.

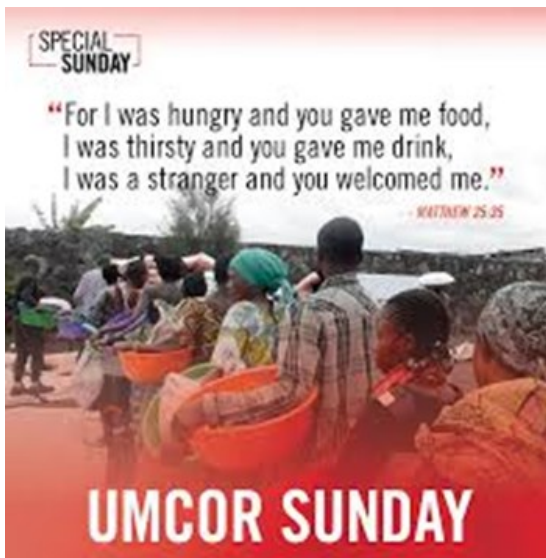
All ladies are invited! For Questions Contact Jane Emens (765-242-0633)





The Rossville Community 2025 Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup> through Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>** from 6-8pm at Rossville Church of the Brethren. A call-out meeting for individuals interested in volunteering is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** at 6:15 pm at the Church of the Brethren.

Turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>. We wouldn't want to be an hour late for church the next day.



Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, a special collection is taken for UMCOR. UMCOR provides disaster assistance to those who have experienced tragedies in their communities due to events such as fires, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other disasters. The special offering on Sunday, **MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>** this year will support this vital ministry of the Church.

### 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!"

Just in Case You Missed the Announcement....

Administrative Council voted to combine the Worship Team, Finance Team, and Council. The new name Leadership Team was voted for this group and will meet the 2nd Monday each month at 6pm.



Janice Leazenby March 6th

Nancy Disinger March 17th

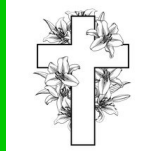
Dan Cooper March 24th

Christian Shireman March 27th

**In Sympathy**

**Arlene Gangwer**

**December 6, 1935– February 10, 2025**



**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

**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



**Sermon Themes—March, 2025**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Transfiguration Sunday “Shine...and Fade” Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

March 5<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday “Parading Around? Not!” Matthew 6:1-6

March 9<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent “The Showdown” Luke 4:1-13

March 16<sup>th</sup>: “Scared” Psalm 27

March 23<sup>rd</sup>: “Worse than Others” Luke 13:1-9

March 30<sup>th</sup>: “Change...or not” Joshua 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-3



**Stewardship Report**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Regular offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$1,648.25	\$31.00
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	\$791.00	\$44.55
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,557.00	\$38.40
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$2,359.43	\$316.00*



\*Missions collection on February 23<sup>rd</sup> was to help a local family who experienced a house fire. The \$316 was added to a \$400 donation from the missions committee for a total of \$716.00

# March 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>4</p>  <p>Adventure Club 6-7:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service 7pm</p>  <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Community Out- reach Meeting 7pm @ Presbyter- ian Church</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Religious Educa- tion 1-3pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>District Training Event 12:30- 5pm</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>Leadership Team 6pm (formally Ad. Council)</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Lent Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Adventure Club 6-7:30 pm</p> <p>Fellowship @ Mary's 6:30pm</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Ladies Day Out Meet at church parking lot 11am</p> <p>Religious Ed 1- 3pm</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>SPRC 6pm</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p> <p>Lent Bible Study 7pm</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>FELLOWSHIP</p> <p>Fellowship @ Mary's 6:30pm</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Spring Break NO Religious Educa- tion</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lent Bible study 7pm</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Spring Break No Fellowship</p> <p>Jesus Night 7pm @ LSC</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Spring Break NO Religious Ed</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Sunday School 9am Worship and Jr. Church 10:30 am Prayer Group 5pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>TOPS 6pm</p>					