

ROCKVILLE
FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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Highlights & *focus*

February 2019

I just got back from a trip to Crawfordsville 1st UMC with Rob and Aaron to look at their audio-visual system. We are investigating a new system to replace the projector/wall equipment that we presently use. It was -15 degrees when we got to Crawfordsville and -17 when we left. On the way home I thought about the Aders' and Ruarks' basking in Florida and what they are missing up here in Indiana. While we were in the truck, Aaron remarked about how nice it looked outside. The sun was shining, and the skies were blue. He said, "You would never know how bad it is by how it looks." As I sat here and pondered about what Aaron said, I thought about how often that statement is true in other areas as we go through the days of our lives. So many times, we are tempted about how nice something appears and do not see the danger it holds. As cold as it has been, it was not a surprise. The dangers of the bitter cold have been laid upon us for days. We've seen it on the news and weather reports of both local and national news channels. The warnings have been in the paper and on the radio. Facebook and social media were full of warnings also. Gale was watching QVC and even they mentioned the polar vortex! We are all safe because we heeded the warnings about the dangers outside. We kept ourselves protected because we did not let the beauty blind us to the dangers we were facing. We need to utilize that same level of diligence in our Christian walk. The most serious dangers we face are often hidden with something that looks harmless, beautiful, and/or beneficial. The trait that kept us safe in the dangerous weather can also protect us when other situations arrive. I have noticed, sometimes in retrospect, there were always warnings as I faced those situations in my life. I am sure it is the same in your life also. God does not want us to fail and has warnings to prevent us from falling for the hidden dangers. Instead of news anchors and weathermen, He has preachers and Bible teachers. Instead of newspapers and radio, He has the Bible and Christian publications. He can also use Facebook and social media, if you are communicating with the right people through those mediums. (I don't know how QVC fits into the plan 😊.) The men's Bible study class has been examining what happened when God's people did not heed His warnings in years past. There were serious consequences, just as there could have been in ignoring the weather warnings in the past few days. God does not want you to fail. Learn and heed His warnings as you face those temptations. Then you will find yourself safe in the warmth of His Love and Grace.

Blessings to you all, *Pastor Jon*



Rockville UMC participated in the Parke/Vermillion Crisis Center Soup Cook off @ Hillcrest



AROUND THE CHURCH ROCKVILLE UMC



VALENTINE'S DAY MEAL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.
LASAGNA, GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD
WILL BE PROVIDED.
BRING A DESSERT.





A Valentines thought and lesson from the Pastor.

We don't usually think of Valentine's Day as an explicitly Christian holiday. Other major holidays have obvious Christian origins: Christmas (Christ's incarnation) and Easter (Christ's resurrection), sure, but Valentine's Day? It's true that Valentine's Day is not connected with an event in the life of our Lord like Christmas and Easter are, but Valentine's Day does have some intriguing Christian roots. Along with most holidays, Valentine's Day has suffered from its share of commercialization and confusion, yet the poignant story of the original Valentine's Day is worth remembering.

In the interest of full disclosure, after about 1,700 years of history, it's kind of hard to know exactly who Valentine was and what he did. The truth is, there were probably several Valentines. Also, the truth is probably not as highly dramatized as we may wish. The truth is embedded somewhere in the depths of history, never to be known until we get to heaven. What follows may be part tradition and part truth, but completely fascinating.

The year was 270. The Roman Empire was engaged in a desperate attempt to retain the *Pax Romana* that had endured for centuries. Christianity was active during the 3rd century. Although Christ had died over two centuries prior, Christians were eagerly propagating their faith and churches were springing up everywhere. These early centuries of the church were the times of the great apologists such as Clement, Ignatius, Origen, Polycarp, Athanasius, and Chrysostom. But the 3rd century was also the time of the Christian martyrs. Prior to Constantine, the empire was not friendly to Christianity—not at all. Claudius, the reigning emperor of the time, was a warlord, intent only upon preserving his empire and routing his enemies. Christianity was not on his like list. His primary interests were military, and he would stoop to nothing to ensure that his mighty army remained loyal to him.

It was Claudius's maniacal grip on the military that led him to install a very foolish policy empire-wide. Claudius had a problem on his hands when it came to the army. Believe it or not, his men would actually prefer to get married and stay home with their wives and families rather than risk their lives and sacrifice for their country! Military recruiting was suffering because of the petulant affection between man and wife. Love was getting in the way of patriotism! Claudius would have none of it. Being the man with the big stick, he could make laws and enforce them, too.

So he did. Claudius passed a law forbidding anyone to get married. Obviously, this was an outrage. Was he serious? No marriage?

Living in this anti-Christian and anti-marriage climate, was Valentine. Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome. He knew from the Bible that marriage was good and honored by God. He knew that marriage was lawful according to the Christian faith, so he took it upon himself to perform Christian marriages—contrary to the law. As a priest, he performed secret marriages for couples who desired to be married bravely defying the anti-marriage edict. It wasn't just marriages that Valentine was working on. He was also trying to protect persecuted Christians who were being chased down and haunted by the aggressive Roman leaders. Christians knew that they could flee to Valentine to find protection.



Valentine was taking a huge risk. Not only was it absolutely forbidden to marry or to perform marriages, but it was also a criminal offense to aid or abet Christians—especially ones whom the Roman Empire had on their hit list! Valentine was enmeshed in what the Roman Empire considered high treason and traitorous activity. Although he was being loyal to his faith, he was flying in the face of Roman law. The Roman government hunted him down and locked him up in prison. Now, Valentine—protector of Christians and performer of marriages—was himself suffering for his love and devotion to God.

It got worse. Valentine, true to his bold character, tried to convert Emperor Claudius to Christianity. This had gone too far. Claudius demanded that Valentine recant his faith and submit to the cruel and godless tyranny of Rome. Valentine staunchly refused. The Roman Prefect condemned him to torture and death. He was beaten violently, then beheaded.

Valentine was martyred for his faith.

According to legend (and probably false), Valentine himself fell in love during his time of imprisonment. The daughter of the prison guard met Valentine and fell head over heels in love. As the story goes, their romance was the prototypical saga of steadfast love, broken only by the tragic death of Valentine. He wrote a note to her, allegedly penned on February 14, the day before he was beheaded. He signed the note, “Love from your Valentine.” Henceforth, we have the first Valentine’s Day card.

Although the story of Valentine’s Day is shrouded in mystery, buried in tradition, and (thanks to commercialism) stripped of its significance, we can bring some of the truth back. The truth is, love can’t be squelched, outlawed, or stamped out. The significance of Valentine’s life was not that he defended love and romance and performed secret marriages. Valentine—a day now besmirched by cupids, chocolate, and candlelit dinners—is a day founded upon the life of a martyr. Valentine died a bloody death, beaten and beheaded. The truth is, Valentine was in love with his Savior, Jesus Christ. Love for Jesus trumped his love of self. Valentine nobly gave his life for the God he loved.

That is true love. But true love is deeper still. It goes beyond our love for God. “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. John 3:16 defines love: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

This Valentine’s day do something different. Sure, talk about love, but talk about true love—the love that God had for us. The love that sent Jesus to a cross. Talk about our love for Him—the kind of love that goes beyond mere comfortable Christian existence. The kind of love that is willing to take risks, to sacrifice everything, and even to give our lives for Him who loved us.

Written by Daniel Threlfall, [Sharefaith](#) Magazine



WORSHIP AND PRAY

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Our Shut-Ins:

Flo Clark; Betty Lewis; Helen Graham; Imogene Rahn; Wanda Nickle; Phyllis Akers; Diana Lows, Roleen Pickard



Our World:

Churches and People of Congo; Veterans dealing with PTSD and Re-Entry; Operation Classroom; Klausmeier family missions; Covered Bridge Cluster; Parke Vermillion Community Pregnancy Center; our schools, community, and government leaders; the children of Parke Co.; emergency personnel; local businesses; Kairos ministry; inmates and staff of Rockville Women's Correctional Center and the Parke Co. Jail; those suffering from mental illness; those having financial difficulties; homeless children and adults; immigrants; refugee; widows; orphans; peace on earth; 1,132 churches and 536 pastors of the Indiana Conference.

Keep in your prayers church family in active U.S. military service:

Ben Ford, Air Force, Son-in-law of Rob and Shannon Belcher; Lackland AFB, Texas; Senior Airman Jacob Gregg, son of Guy and Shelly Gregg, Travis Air Force Base, California; Lt. Col. Jason W. Neumann, Florida Army National Guard, son of Linda and Mark Spelbring; Rob Graham, Navy, Pearl Harbor,

FACTS & FIGURES

	Date	Sunday School Attendance	Worship Attendance	Tithes & Offerings
	1/06/19	13	55	\$2,369.00
	1/13/19	23	38	\$4,331.44
	1/20/19	no	service	\$0.00
	1/27/19	12	44	\$3,933.00
	January total to date:			\$10,633.44

Needed monthly to enable the church's ministries: \$12,438

2018 Average Worship Attendance: 48

LEARN AND GROW

Want to grow deeper as a Christian?

We currently have three opportunities for adults to learn more about God, the Bible, and how to grow in discipleship: Adult Sunday School (Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.), Men's Bible Study (Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m.) and Celebrate Recovery (Thursday nights at 7 p.m.).



A Christ-centered recovery program for adults struggling to overcome hurts, habits and hang-ups.

Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Rockville First United Methodist Church

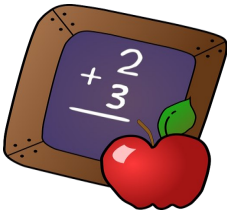
128 N. Market St., Rockville, IN

(1 block north of the courthouse)

For information, please call (765) 569-5356

There IS hope for recovery!

BUDDY BAGS



The Buddy Bag program is up and running for the 2018-2019 school year. Buddy Bags are distributed to needy children on Fridays to help ensure that they have adequate food over the weekend to be able to return to school on Monday ready to learn. If you would like to volunteer to help pack and/or distribute the Buddy Bags, please contact Larry or Charla Malone.



FUELING THE FUTURE OF MINISTRY

Do you need assistance starting a capital campaign in your church?

Capital Campaign Workshop February 5, 2019 3-7 pm (EST) 3-5:30 pm
presentation by The United Methodist Foundation of Indiana
Manet Shettle and Glenn Howell
6-7 pm Dinner and Q & A
Gobin Memorial United Methodist Church
307 Simpson, Greencastle, IN 46135
\$10 each person (Registration Required)



The Hand bell Choir will meet each Monday, in the Chapel from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. New members always welcome

AROUND THE CHURCH



The Dine with a Doc ® program is **FEBRUARY 7**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at The Rockville First United Methodist Church. Speaker will be Rick A. Brewster, Attorney at Law. Dine with a Doc ® is a FREE educational program that welcomes senior citizens to get to know the doctor of the month while enjoying a free meal.

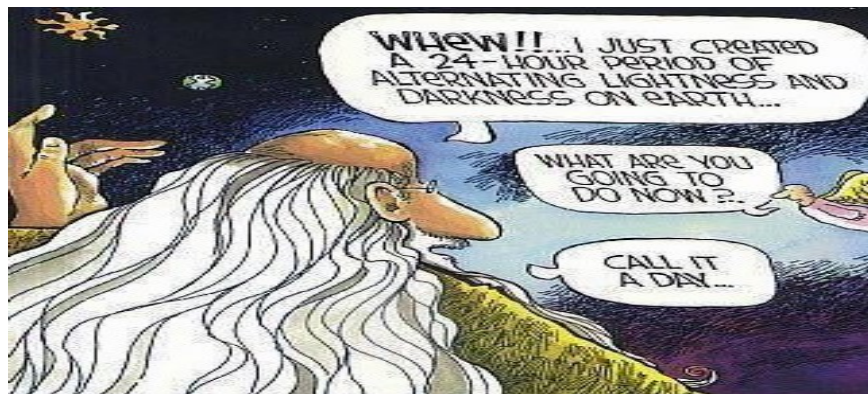
*For your convenience, the ramp door on the South side of the church will be open allowing easier entry in to the church. Please **R.S.V.P.** to **Carole Perry (765-569-2340)**. All senior citizens are welcome (reservations are required), so please invite your friends and neighbors to join you! We hope to see you there!*

04 Fletcher Waltz
Rusty Akers
05 Becky Black
22 Kathy Allison



Service Circle Meeting

The Service Circle meeting is March 13, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at RUMC. Devotions by Mariam Lash, the new hostesses are Sally Zuber and Marjorie Sneath . All women are invited to attend.



SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019



MT. PLEASANT UMC

3050 E. DAVIS DRIVE, TERRE HAUTE

West District Lay Servant Academy

March 30, 2019 8:00 am - 4:00 pm ET

Mt. Pleasant UMC | 3050 E Davis Dr, Terre Haute, IN

You are invited to join us for the Spring Lay Servant Academy to begin or continue training for living out the call to make disciples for the transformation of our churches, communities, and world.

SERVE AND GIVE



- Peanut Butter
- Pasta (boxes or bags)
- Pasta sauce (jars or cans)
- Vegetables (cans)

Please bring your donations to the office. Thank you!
(Please make sure you bring **un-expired** goods, as we can't distribute food that is expired.)

*Our Food Pantry is an independent ministry of our church
benefitting our neighbors in need.*



Saturday, March 9, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church

Franklin, Indiana

Cost: \$15 per person, lunch included.

"Create a Passion for Community Ministry in Your Church"

For more information about the registration process contact Lisa Timmerman at lisa.timmerman@inumc.org



Greeters for February 2019

- 3rd Martha Holaday
- 10th Greg & Susan Harbison
- 17th Pat Ballinger
- 24th Mary Anne & Bob Jones

FEBRUARY 2019

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	4	5 11 a.m. Men's Bible Study	6	7 11 a.m. Dine with a Doc 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	8	9
10 10 a.m. Worship Valentine's Dinner	11 7 p.m. Hand bells	12 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast-Benjamins 11 a.m. Men's Bible Study	13	14 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship	18 7 p.m. Hand bells Presidents Day	19 11 a.m. Men's Bible Study	20 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting	21 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	22 6 p.m. Fellowship Diner	23
24 10 a.m. Worship	25 7 p.m. Hand bells	26 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast-Benjamins 11 a.m. Men's Bible Study	27	28 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery		

ROCKVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

128 North Market Street
P.O. Box 142
Rockville, IN 47872

Church Phone: 765-569-5356
Church Email:
office.rockvilleumc@gmail.com
Church Website:
rockvilleumc.net
Facebook:
facebook.com/rockvillefirstumc

Office Hours:

M-Th 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



~Pastor Jon Overbey~

Email: Jon.overbey@inumc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND STUDY

9:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

10:15 a.m. - Children's Church

Rockville First United
Methodist Church is a
bridge to help all:

- find the WELCOME
of Christ,
- learn the WAY of
Christ, and
- become His
WITNESSES in our
world.

