

Highlights & *focus*

DECEMBER 2019

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A Note from the Pastor December 2019

I can't believe Christmas is almost here! I'm sitting here typing with Gene Autry singing "Santa Clause is Coming to Town" in the background. (By the way, nobody sings it like him.) I've just started on my Christmas projects, so I've got a lot to do. My biggest project is shopping for Gale, which would be easier if I had any idea where to go or what to buy. I do know what NOT to buy. No vacuum cleaner, microwave, and definitely not an exercise bike--even though she has mentioned one 😊.

For our family Christmas is a very special time. It starts with all of our kids and grandchildren coming over go pick out and cut down a live tree. EVERYONE is involved in cutting it, but I always have to carry it to the truck. Then we go to our house to decorate our "family" tree. Just about every ornament that goes on the tree has a story that we share as we pass them out. They have come from somewhere we've visited, things we've done, and special times for our family. There are ornaments for each year of the grandkid's lives, and wedding ornaments of their parents. Some ornaments go back to my Mom's childhood and are close to 100 years old. There is even one with a picture of Gale from when she first started teaching. My kids and grandkids hang "their" ornaments and the grand kids help Gale and I hang ours. Most of the ornaments end up in the lower 2 feet of the tree, but we always leave them where the kids place them. Lucas, the 4-year-old, placed Gale's teaching picture and I think she made sure it went on the back side of the tree. This year the kids wanted to help hang the lights along with the gold and red beads hanging as garland. Afterwards, they put on the icicles and had a blast getting them everywhere except on the tree. If someone comes in and looks at our tree they may think it is the ugliest, most lopsided tree in the county, but it is the most beautiful tree in the world to us.

The next on the list are the grandkid's school and church programs. Drive 2 hours over and 2 hours back, then set for an hour (you've got to get there early to get a good seat), and then watch every other group of kids sing. All that for a 10-minute program because a smiling little one said to us, "Will you come and watch me?" Wouldn't have it any other way.

About a week before the big day, the boys and I meet in Avon for a night of shopping for our wives. Not a one of us has any clue about what we are doing. It is a prime example of the blind leading the blind! We just hope that at least one of the three of us is successful.

We always pick a night and following day that we can all gather for our family Christmas. Everyone comes to the house and the grandkids all sleep in our bedroom. They get up the next day, and thanks to grandma, Santa has made another delivery. After Grandpa's pancakes we spend all day opening gifts and playing with the new toys.

Continued

A Note from the Pastor Continued

However, the highlight is actually the night before. Just before we all go to bed to wait on reindeer, we gather at the kitchen table with our Bibles, a candle lighter, 4 Advent candles and the one white Christ candle in a table centerpiece. We take turns reading passages from the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke. As we read we stop to talk about Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace and one of the children lights the candle that matches. Finally, we light the Christ candle and have a quick prayer before the younger one's head upstairs. By the way, that is everyone but Gale and me. Then Mrs. Santa tells her helper where to put the overstuffed stockings, the presents, and anything else she thinks needs to out for the kids. I finally get to bed only to hear 4 kids rustling around until they think its time to go down and see what is awaiting them. Seems like a lot, but we wouldn't trade it for anything.

You wonder sometimes if the traditions of the family matter and are they sinking in? Just before Thanksgiving, DJ and Kristen were wondering what to get their kids. He asked Norah what she was looking forward to about Christmas hoping to get gift ideas. She said doing the tree, the candles, and Christmas at Grandpa and Grandma's. She gave me my biggest Christmas blessing for this year! The rest is just icing on the cake.

May your Christmas be filled with blessings! May the Hope that does not disappoint, the Love that is unconditional, the Peace that passes understanding, and the Joy that never fades be a part of your Christmas and your live forever!

Merry Christmas

Pastor Jon and Mrs. Clause



Christmas Open House

Please join us on Sunday, December 15th
at the Parsonage, 216 North Market St
from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Hosts: Pastor Jon & Gale
Alex & Carol Milligan



HANGING OF THE GREENS



WORSHIP AND PRAY

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Our Shut-Ins:

Betty Lewis; Diana Lows, Roleen Pickard; Lois McGrannahan.

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; Offutt AFB, Nebraska; Staff Sgt. Jacob Gregg, son of Guy and Shelly Gregg, Travis Air Force Base, California; Rob Graham, Navy, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, grandson of Helen Graham; Lance Catlin, Marines, grandson of Lenora Douglas.

FACTS & FIGURES

Date	Sunday School Attendance	Worship Attendance	Tithes & Offerings
11/03/19	21	77	\$2,433.78
11/10/19	23	53	\$2,813.00
11/17/19	22	71	\$2,990.73
11/24/19	20	54	\$3,920.44
total to date:			\$12,157.95

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

2019 Average Worship Attendance: 54



LEARN AND GROW

Want to grow deeper as a Christian?

We currently have four opportunities for adults to learn more about God, the Bible, and how to grow in discipleship: Adult Sunday School and Youth Sunday School (Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.), Evening Bible Study (at 6 p.m.) Men's Bible Study (Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.) and Celebrate Recovery (Thursday nights at 7 p.m.).



**CELEBRATE
RECOVERY**

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

Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

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

Rockville First United Methodist Church

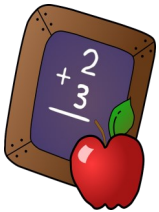
128 N. Market St., Rockville, IN

(1 block north of the courthouse)

For information, please call (765) 569-5356

There IS hope for recovery!

BUDDY BAGS



The Buddy Bag program will start the new school (in September) for the year 2019-2020. 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.



JOIN US DECEMBER 24TH

A Service of Scriptures and Carols
8:30 p.m.



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 December 5th, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at The Rockville First United Methodist Church. 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, courtesy of Clinton Gardens. The speaker will be Sherry Dowell, LPN. Topic: Essential Oils in Biblical Times and Today.

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 (765-569-2349).**

All senior citizens are welcome (reservations are required), so please invite your friends and neighbors to join you! We hope to see you there!



06 Mark Spelbring
07 Carol Milligan
08 Tony Allison
09 Saylor Lizbeth Harbison
30 Kyle Harbison



Service Circle

The Service Circle will meet December 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions will be given by Carol Keller. Hostesses are Mary Ann Jones and Miriam Lash.



Greeters for December 2019

1st Jean Birch
8th Randy Randall
15th Diana Ruark
22nd BillieSue & Kent Langdoc
29th Susan & Greg Harbison

OUR VETERANS.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



Clothes Closet



There is no charge to shop, but love offerings would be accepted.

Rockville First United Methodist Church

128 N Market St
Rockville, IN 47872

Corner of Market and York
Enter through the side exit off of York

Open Thursdays 1 – 5pm
Call the church at (765)569-5356 to check for cancellations

Wednesday Rockville Bus Service

Bus route from Rockville First United Methodist Church will be as follows:

York Villa Apartments-red	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00
Burnette Manor-red	1:05	2:05	3:05	4:05
The Pines Apartments-red				
Anderson Green Apt-red	1:10	2:10	3:10	4:10
Dollar General				
Ace Hardware				
JR Pharmacy				
IGA Grocery	1:15	1:15	3:15	4:15
VPCHC Medical/Parke Vision	1:25	2:25	3:25	4:25
CVS Pharmacy	1:30	2:30	3:30	4:30
Family Dollar				
High Street Apartments -red	1:35	2:35	3:35	4:35
Downtown-South west corner				
Downtown-South east corner				
Downtown-North east corner-stop				
Downtown-Post Office parking lot	1:40	2:40	3:40	4:40
Library/Post Office/Old National				
East High Street -red	1:45	2:45	3:45	4:45
Methodist Church-York Villa Apartments-and the beginning of the route				

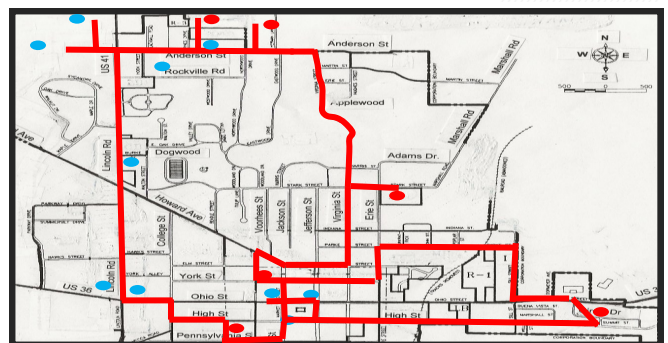
This **Free Bus Service** is provided by **Rockville First United Methodist Church** running Wednesday **afternoons** from 1:00-4:00 p.m. through July 1, 2020-for our first trial period. Donations are appreciated but not required to ride.

***Sorry! No Handicap Access Features on our Bus**

***Children MUST be accompanied by adult**

***Be courteous: no eating, drinking, smoking/**

Need a ride to an in town Doctor appointment, to the grocery, pharmacy, or shops downtown? Try the new Rockville Shuttle Bus Service provided by the Rockville First United Methodist Church! Wednesday afternoons 1-4 p.m!



- Red dots are Pick Up locations
- Blue dots are possible Drop Off locations

For questions call The Rockville First United Methodist Church Office 569-5356
M-Th 9am-1pm

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMEBERS 2019

Alex Milligan, Council Chair
Elaine Waltz, SPRC-Chair
Aaron Mathis, Trustees Chair
Rob Belcher, Finance Chair
Mary Jane Evens, Treasurer, Women's Rep

Randy Randall, Men's Rep
Merideth McGill, Young Adult Rep
Pat Ballinger, Lay Leader
Susan Harbison, Member-At-Large
Jon Overbey, Pastor

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.*



PLEASE JOIN US

Christmas carry-in dinner, January 5, 2020, 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a well filled basket.

Come enjoy the food and fellowship







DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 a.m. Worship Hanging of the Greens	2 7 p.m. Hand bells	3 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Rock Painting 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study	4	5 11:00 a.m. Dine with a Doc 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	6 6 Fellowship Diner	7
8 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	9 7 p.m. Hand bells	10 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast-Benjamins 6:30 Rock Painting 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study	11 9:30 a.m. Women's Service Circle Head Start 4-8 Nursery & Fellowship Hall	12 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	13 Alan Adar Youth/Ag Day	14
15 10 a.m. Worship 2-4 p.m. Christmas Open House - Parsonage 6 p.m. Bible Study	16 7 p.m. Hand bells	17 6:30 Rock Painting 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study	18 6:30 p.m. Administrative Council Meeting	19 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	20	21
22 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	23 7 p.m. Hand bells	24 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast-Benjamins 6:30 Rock Painting 7 p.m. Men's Bible	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27	28
29 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	30 7 p.m. Hand bells	31 6:30 Rock Painting 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study				

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 & Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

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

6:00 p.m. - Bible Study

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.

