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A Note From The Pastor  
December 2020

I was listening to music on the radio and I heard “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” In some sense it is starting to look that way. Christmas lights are being put up. Christmas decorations are in stores and businesses (although some have been there since October .) 😊 Gale is decorating the house with her collection of old-world Santa’s and Bellsnickles. The church looks beautiful, thanks to Kathy, the Ader’s, the Milligan’s, Mark S., Charlie, and Rob. All around it looks like a normal Christmas. However, we are all fully aware this is NOT a normal Christmas.

I am wondering if Scrooge is in charge this year? The “Bah, humbug!”, seems to be ruling. We have Christmas lights in town, but no Christmas tree lighting. Santa Claus sitting in places where children can see him, but are not allowed to sit on his lap. The church is decorated, but it can only be seen by camera. No Christmas plays or programs with little children singing “Away in a Manger” or “Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer.” No church plays with people wearing bath robes as they play the shepherds in a Christmas play. We try to celebrate Christmas with no gatherings, no parties, no dinners, and no homemade Christmas cookies.

There has been a long tradition in our family to meet together and go cut down our family Christmas tree with our kids when they were young, and now with our grandchildren. Bryan and his boys tried to find a place to cut a tree last weekend. There was not a single place within an hour of his house that allows anyone to cut their own tree. They had to settle for a precut tree. Our 7 and 4 year old grandsons had been talking about cutting their tree for weeks and were greatly disappointed. There has not been a year like this in our lifetimes and I hope there is not another year like this in their lifetimes. Over and over this season we all have our treasured traditions and rituals cancelled.

Gale and I like watching the animated Christmas shows. We watched the Grinch a couple of nights ago and we catch Charlie Brown on DVD. Even though these programs first aired in 1966 and 1965 respectively, I think these programs are very appropriate for 2020. Dr. Suess and Charles Shultz wrote their programs with the same message in mind. Christmas is more than decorations, gifts, lights, Christmas plays, and Christmas parties. Dr. Suess’ reminds us that Christmas is about the heart (remember the Grinch’s heart grew from 2 sizes too small to 2 sizes too big!). The Whoville citizens gathering together with beloved family and friends to celebrate the day even in the midst of tragedy was intended to be an example to us and I think it very appropriate today. Charles Shultz fought the network and threatened to pull the entire show if the question asked by Charlie Brown and the answer from Linus were not aired as part of the program.

## A Note from the Pastor Continued

In the show the frustrated Charlie Brown asks, “Doesn’t anybody know what Christmas is all about?” Linus’ answer with the recitation from the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke is a reminder to everyone that Christmas is about the Christ Child born into the world and placed in the Bethlehem manger.

We often forget the messages of these two children’s programs. Christmas is not about the dinners, the trees, or the gifts. It is about the love of God that came down in on a dark night to be the Light of the World. True Christmas should not be affected by COVID restrictions, it is about our state of heart. True Christmas is also about knowing, as Linus did, what Christmas is all about and then sharing it with those who need the message. There are many Charlie Brown’s who see the glitter and trapping of Christmas and wonder if there isn’t more to the day and the season. There are many Grinches who are turned off by the decorations, piling up of gifts, and even the “noise, noise, noise” of Christmas songs and can’t see the love that is behind it. Christmas is our time to first remind ourselves why we are celebrating this season and then show the world the true meaning of Christmas. Charlie Brown was changed through the words of God spoken by Linus and the crowd followed. The Grinch was changed by witnessing the love of the town’s people in the midst of their adversity.

As we experience the removal of all the things we *thought made Christmas special let us too speak the words that tell the true story of Christmas and display the love that can change people’s hearts.*

Merry Christmas to You ALL!!

Pastor Jon



## Capital Improvement Plan for the Rockville Methodist Church

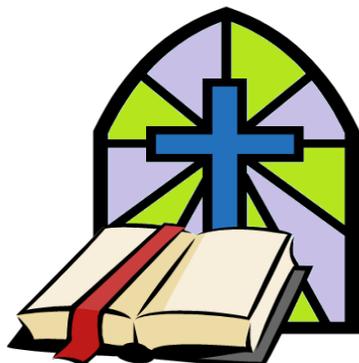
A committee of several members of the church have met for the purpose of identifying building repair projects and to place them in categories of importance in order to prioritize projects in an order of greatest need and provide cost estimates of repairs and present their findings to the Committee of Finance to acquire funding for the repairs.

An Architect has completed a thorough inspection/evaluation of the building and has identified structural and cosmetic projects for attention as funds are available. With that report as well as visual observation the committee has assigned the following categories:

1. Imperative/Priority-improvements or repairs needed to neutralize a current threat to the structural or aesthetic integrity of the building and/or the safety of the people.
2. Deferred Need-an improvement or repair needing attention in the near to intermediate future if possible. Not currently critical but could become so over time. Important to the long-term viability of the building and our ministry.
3. Want/Desire-a non-crucial improvement or repair which would add to the overall beauty, function of the building and purpose of our ministry.
4. Minor Repair/Maintenance/Cleaning-an improvement or repair which may be accomplished with minimal effort and little to no cost, either by a paid contractor or by a qualified individual donating time and/or supplies.

The intent of this committee is to recommend repairs be made in the most cost effective manner but to recognize that the long term goal is to not merely repair the project for the interim but to repair the project for the long term so that future monies will not be needed to repair a project which has already been completed.

Projects within the scope of expertise and ability of individuals attending the Church or volunteer participation will be undertaken when time, material and weather permit the work to be completed.



<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1. Tuck Pointing the Towers/Sanctuary/Wing Walls	\$100,000.00
2. Replacing Sanctuary Roof/Office Area	\$ 35,000.00
3. Stained Glass Window Preservation	\$ 63,559.00
4. Handicap Restroom Remodel - Main Bathroom	\$ 3,785.00
New Water Closet	\$ 5,345.00
5. Plaster Repair/Painting Interior-	\$ 3,900.00
6. Repair of Sanctuary Floor/Carpeting-	\$ 40,000.00
7. Fellowship Hall Repair/Closet Sound Damping <b>Completed</b>	\$ 2,500.00
8. Structural Maintenance/Basement	\$ Under Review
9. New Sign Board	\$ 7,000.00
10. Window Treatments/Chapel/Fellowship Hall- Draperies	\$ 15,000.00
Blinds	\$ 7,000.00
11. Maintenance on Handicap Ramp	\$ 1,000.00
12. Lighting Update for building- Pastor	\$ 2,000.00
13. Preservation of Entry Door Entrance	\$ 8,000.00
14. Weatherproofing Classroom Windows/Doors	\$ 300.00
15. Exterior Maintenance/Painting	\$ 5,000.00
16. Heating Unit for Handicap Entrance	\$ 500.00
Total for items listed	\$ 290,430.00

## An Opportunity To Make A Difference

As you all know, we are in the midst of fundraising to make much needed repairs to our church. The first item needing repaired is the brick exterior. The latest estimate we obtained for the brick work came in at \$106,000. The damage to the interior of the church is getting greater and greater. We need to repair the bricks this spring to stop the water from infiltrating the interior and destroying the plaster walls in the sanctuary and towers. We all realize it would be exceedingly difficult for our congregation to raise that vast amount of money by spring. We cannot put the work off any longer and we need money to make the repairs. We have been diligent in looking to other sources of money for repairs. We have applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Indiana Landmarks Foundation. If we get this grant, we will have to match the grant money. In other words, we must raise the same amount of money that we receive from the grant. If we are awarded the full \$50,000 the church must have \$50,000 of our own money to match what the Foundation awards.

In order to raise the amount we need to match the grant, or move us closer to the amount of funds needed to make the repairs without the grant, we have the opportunity for another smaller matching grant. We have been offered a \$25,000 matching grant. The great benefit of this grant is that it can be used to meet the matching funds required for the \$50,000 grant. This is a one-time, unique opportunity to possibly acquire \$100,000 by raising \$25,000. This is how it will work; For every \$1 you give, \$1 will be matched up to the \$25,000. If we raise \$25,000 to meet the offer of \$25,000 matching money, we will have \$50,000 additional funds in our capital improvement account. Then if we get the Indiana Landmarks \$50,000 (and we believe we have a very good chance of being awarded this grant) we will have raised the matching money needed for that grant. So, if you give \$1 toward this first grant, it will definitely be matched with \$1 for a total of \$2. Those \$2 will then be used to match \$2 in the \$50,000 grant. Your \$1 ends up bringing the church an additional \$3. If we can raise \$25,000, we have the opportunity to at least have \$50,000 to meet our needs. With both grants, we have the possibility to turn \$25,000 into the \$100,000 we need to repair the bricks.

We spoke to those who are making the \$25,000 grant available. We all understand that December and January are tight financial months for many of us due to Christmas expenses. What has been offered to us is an opportunity to pledge the amounts we commit to give by January 31. Then everyone will have until July 1 to donate their pledge. Your pledged amount can be paid in a lump sum or by making your contributions in any manner that works for you as long as the church receives it by July 1.

At this point we need two things from you. First, I need you to join with me in prayer. Pray about what God wants you to give. Listen to what God leads you to do. If you give in accordance with God's will, He will make it possible for you to give what you pledge. I will be making a pledge for this church and congregation that I have grown to love and whom I have found makes a witness of Jesus Christ in our community. Then, make your pledge by January 31. Secondly, pray for the matching grants. Pray a prayer of blessing for those who make these two grants possible. Also, pray that we receive The Indiana Landmarks grant. Finally, pray that our needs are met in every way and we restore this beautiful house of worship.

I will be making my pledge soon. I pray you will too.

God bless you, God bless this house and the congregation that gathers in ministry within its "brick" walls.

Pastor Jon

## Capital Campaign Matching Grant Fund Raiser

I want to help save my church building through the matching grant program.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If we don't have the information below, would you please share it with us?

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

The church **may** \_\_\_\_\_ **may not** \_\_\_\_\_ publish my name on a list of donors.

I pledge to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will commit to making;

One time gift \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly payments \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly donations \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that all payments for the matching grant must be received by the church before July 1, 2020.

Please return this form to the church by mail, dropping it off at the church during office hours, or emailing to the church at [office.rockvilleumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.rockvilleumc@gmail.com) before January 31, 2021

## Volunteer Work Chore List

1. Repair and repaint wood railing around lower level of Fellowship Hall.
2. Clean up the Courtyard between the Chapel and Classrooms.
3. Remove the old air conditioner from the nursery and replace window.
4. Remove old air conditioner from Buddy Bag closet. Seal and insulate the opening.  
(Replacement bricks will be included in tuck pointing work.)
5. Repaint handicap entrance porch.
6. Replace lighting fixtures or lamps with LED in Church building and Fellowship Hall. (Fixture prices are in capital improvement plan.)
7. Repaint all 11 exterior doors.
8. Weather-strip all 11 exterior doors.
9. Remove all old baseboard heaters in Fellowship Hall.
10. Remove old boiler registers in Sanctuary. (To be done after carpets removed and before painting Sanctuary.)
11. Sell Fellowship boiler.
12. Seal air leaks under Sanctuary including old coal doors, vent, and exterior basement access stairs.
13. Repair lights over north parking area.
14. Repair and repaint cross on north wall on outside of Fellowship Hall
15. Repair and repaint the accent timbers around Fellowship Hall.
16. Remove weeds and clean lower level patio area.
17. Paint black railing on south Fellowship Hall porch.
18. Repaint church sign.
19. Clean interior of fellowship hall windows.
20. Clean exterior of fellowship hall windows.
21. Clean lower level windows.
22. Repaint chapel.

Please coordinate any work you, as an individual, or as a group, want to perform is coordinated with the Pastor or Aaron.



# WORSHIP AND PRAY

## KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS!

### Our Shut-Ins:

Diana Lows, Roleen Pickard; Lois McGrannahan; Dale & Mary Alice Barnes; Dorothy Smith

**Our World:** All the rioting and looting throughout our Country; 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, MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida; Rob Graham, Navy, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, grandson of Helen Graham; Lance Catlin, Marines, grandson of Lenora Douglas.

**Capital Improvement Fund:** \$93,896.84. This amount includes all designated project funds. Also, donations from generous givers, Grants, Fund Raisers. Some designated projects (Audio/visual) are near completion.

### FACTS & FIGURES

Date	Sunday School Attendance	Worship Attendance	Tithes & Offerings
11/01/2020	Inside/Outside Service		\$3,160.00
11/08/2020	Inside/Outside Service		\$2,245.00
11/15/2020	Inside/Outside Service		\$2,105.00
11/22/2020	Inside/Outside Service		\$865.00
11/29/2020	Outside Service		\$685.00
<b>November total to date:</b>			<b>\$9,060.00</b>



Tithes and offerings

**Needed monthly to enable the church’s ministries: \$8,468.14**  
**2020 Average Worship Attendance: 65**

## LEARN AND GROW

**Want to grow deeper as a Christian?**

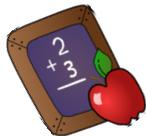
We currently have opportunities for adults and youth to learn more about God, the Bible, and how to grow in discipleship: **Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. “Drive-in Church Service” on 93.2 FM and on Facebook Live, distributed later on YouTube ; Bible Study 6p.m. (at the church) and Facebook live “Midweek Chats” Wednesdays at 7:00 p..m.**  
**Always practice “Social Distancing”**



**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**



### **BUDDY BAGS**



The Buddy Bag program will start the new school (in September) for the year 2020-2021. 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.



Mark Spelbring  
and  
Pastor Jon Overbey  
  
accepting the Grant check  
from  
Non-Profit Bridge Festival



## AROUND THE CHURCH



The Dine with a Doc ® program is \_\_\_\_\_, 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 Bethesda Gardens. *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!

### **ALL DINE WITH A DOC PROGRAMS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FEBRUARY 2021**

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



#### **January Birthdays**

03 Mary A. Jones



### **Service Circle**

**The Service Circle will postpone all meetings at this time.**



The Hand bell Choir  
cancelled until the first of the year 2021.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMEBERS 2020**

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

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***SERVE AND GIVE***

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- 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*

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**ROCK PAINTING**

Is cancelled until  
March 2021



The Clothes Closet is open  
Every Thursday from 1-5pm.

Everyone is welcome!

Everything is free!  
New items!



**CLOTHES CLOSET IS CLOSED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## How to use Amazon to fund the church projects.

As you probably know, the church has started a building fund and some of the projects to get our church ready for our 2022 bicentennial have begun.

Did you know that if you shop through Amazon, we can actually get a donation from them? The Smile website allows for a small portion of qualifying purchases to be donated to a charity of your choice, and we would hope you choose the church.

It's easy to do:

1. Open a browser window to <https://smile.amazon.com> Notice this is NOT just amazon.com, but it has a SMILE in it. This page will look slightly different than your usual Amazon page.
2. If you already have an Amazon account, you can sign in using the link in the upper right hand corner of the page.
3. Then click the "Get Started" button.
4. In the search box, type in "Rockville First United Methodist Church" and click "Search" for our church's name.
5. You should see the church name pop up in a list. Hit the gray "Select" button next to the church's name.
6. Check the box next to the statement "Yes, I understand that I must always start at **smile.amazon.com** to support Rockville First United Methodist Church."
7. Click the orange "Start Shopping" box
8. The next page you see is the regular Amazon shopping page that you normally have used.
9. You may get a pop up asking if you want to add an app to your browser to automatically go to the Smiles page each time.
10. Remember your purchases only help the church if you go to the smile.amazon.com before you start shopping.

As you do your Christmas shopping, or anytime during the year, we ask that you consider using the Smile site to make a donation to our church. Thank you for your help in supporting the church's building project.

## How to activate AmazonSmile on your iPhone or Android

1. Step 1: Join **AmazonSmile**. ...
2. Step 2: Open the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. ...
3. Step 3: Open Settings within the app. ...
4. Step 4: Tap **AmazonSmile**.
5. Step 5: Tap the button for "**Turn on AmazonSmile**" ...
6. Step 6: Make note of your renewal date.

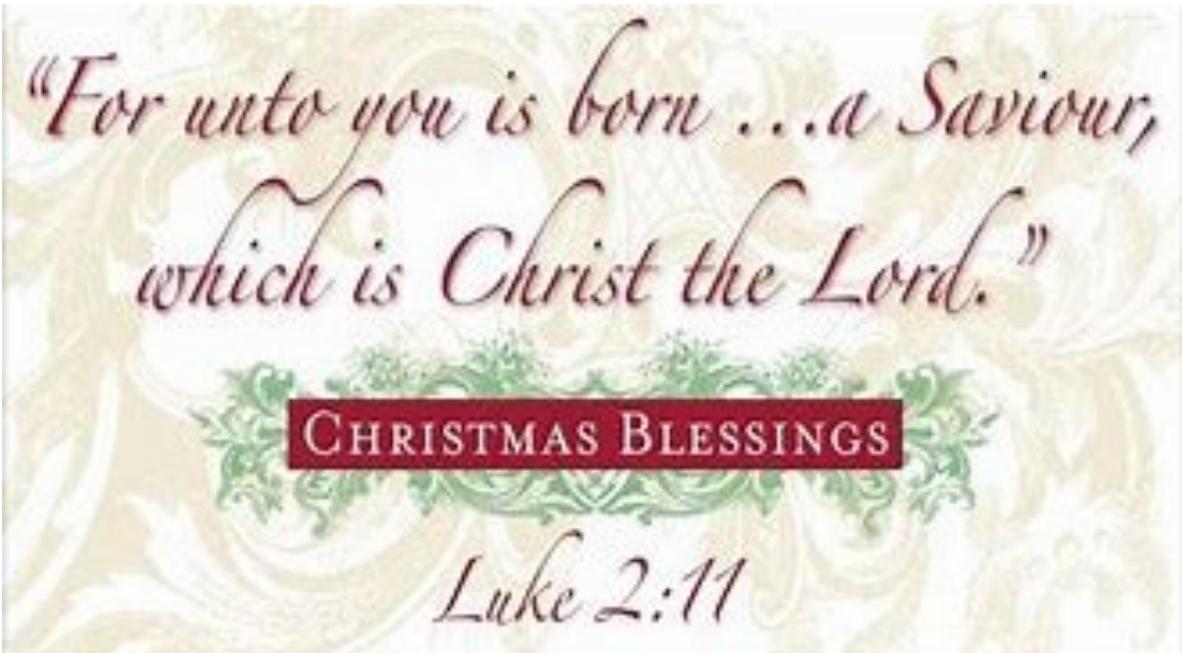
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Worship with  
Rockville FUMC

Drive-in Church Service  
or  
Face book live

Sunday Evening Bible Study  
6:00 p.m.  
Also Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Face book live



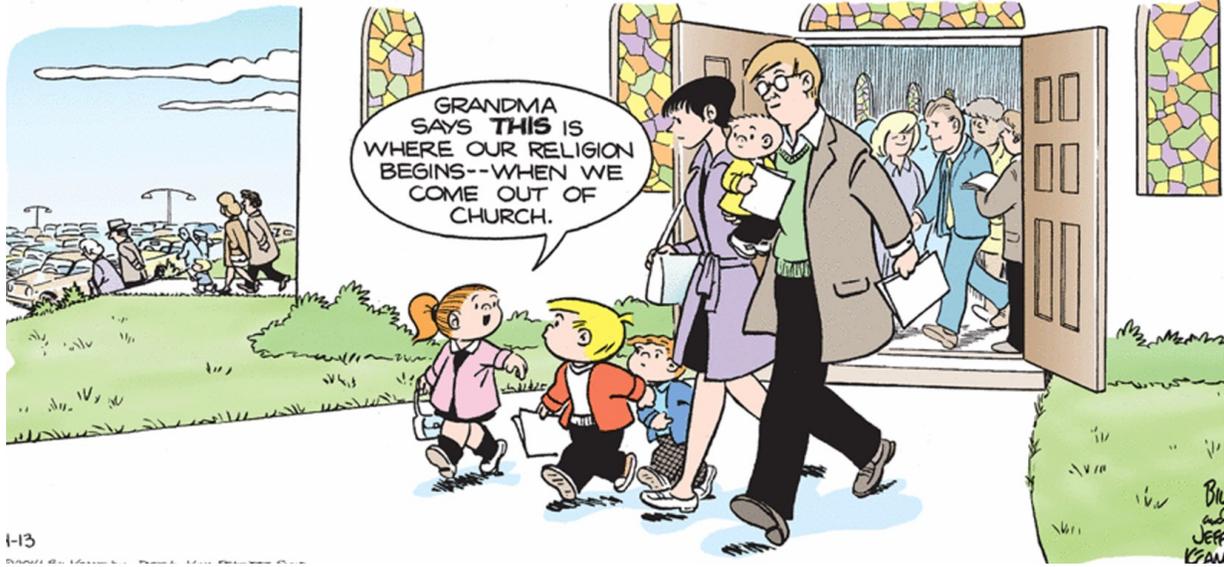


**\*SAVE THE DATE!**

**West District Charge Conference  
Sunday, November 15, 2020,  
United Methodist Temple, Brazil, IN  
6:00 p.m.**

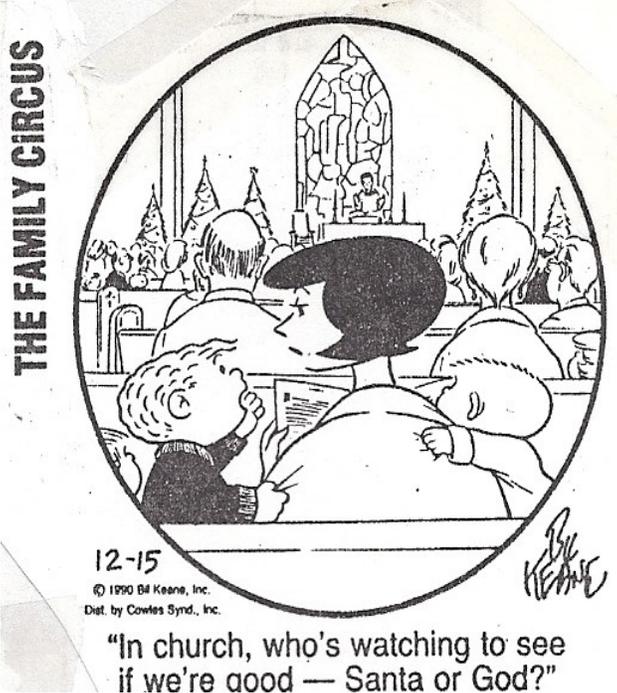
*More details to come soon!*





1-13

Bill and Jeff Kraus



The number of followers you have doesn't make you better than anyone else. Hitler had millions, Jesus had 12. ~ **Anonymous**

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile. ~ **Billy Sunday**

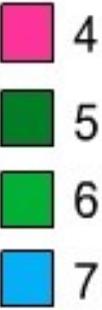
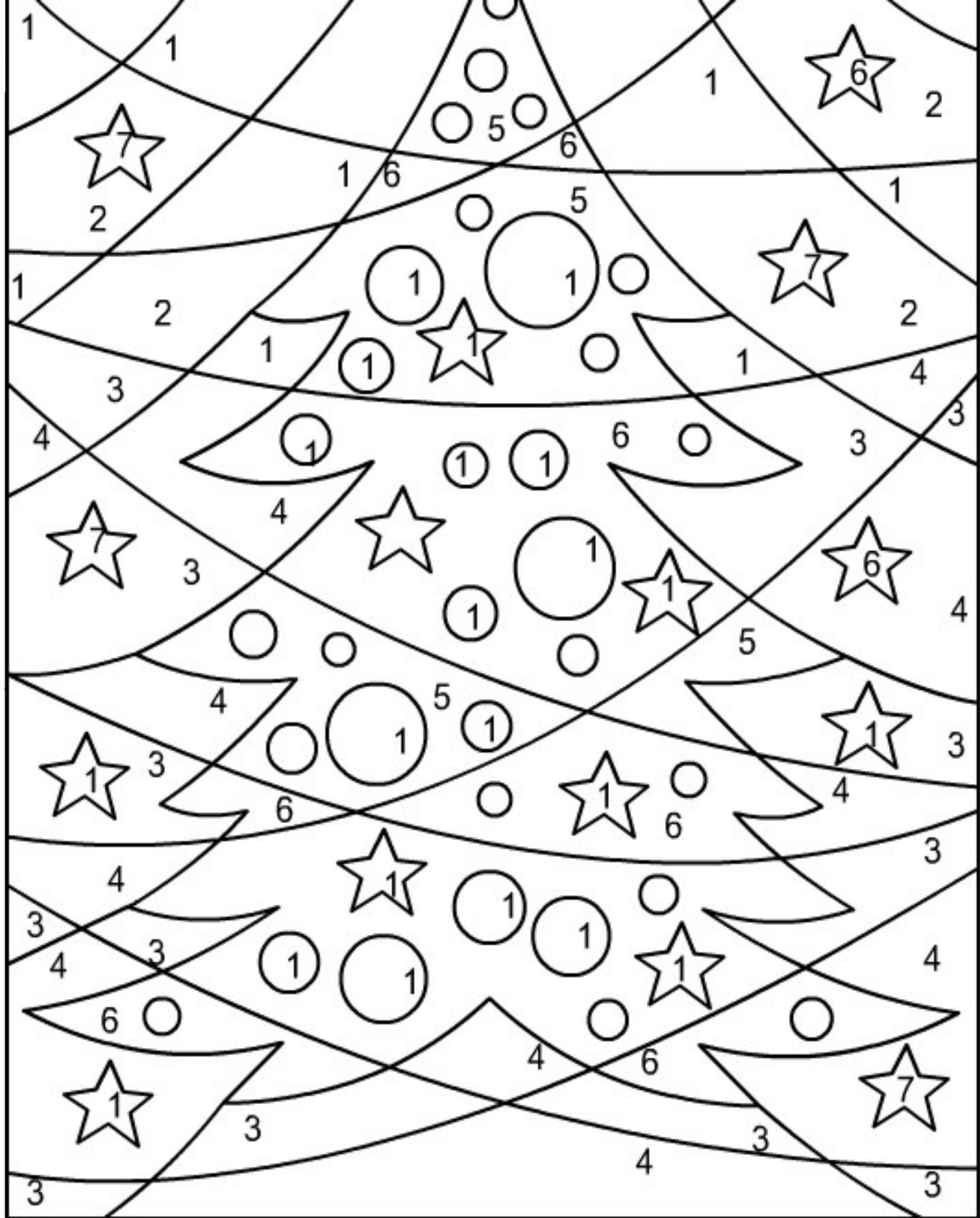
A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip. ~ **Billy Graham**

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. ~ **G. K. Chesterton**

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close. ~ **Mark Twain**

The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank. ~ **Dante Rossetti**





B = Brown    T = Tan    R = Red  
 G = Green    Y = Yellow    W = White  
 O = Orange    L = Light Blue

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# DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	4 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Christmas Fellowship Diner	5
6 10 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 6 p.m. Bible Study	7	8	9	10 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	11	12
13 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	14	15	16 6:30 p.m. Ad Council Meeting	17 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	21	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	25 	26
27 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	28	29	30	31 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](mailto: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.

