

Highlights &

FEBRUARY 2021

ROCKVILLE
FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

A Note From The Pastor
February 2021

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First let me say thank you for all the donations to the Capital Improvement Matching Grant. We needed \$25,000 to meet the grant. We exceeded the needs and ended up with over \$32,000 pledged. I am excited about getting the work started. We have received bids from 2 company's and are awaiting a third. We were not able to contract for the work last year because we did not have enough funds to move forward. Now we can get our building protected and preserved for generations to come. We will make the decision on the contractor as soon as the next bid comes in and then get on the schedule for 2021.

After the bricks are repaired, we will move on to the stained-glass windows. Actually, there is some interior work on the windows that will be commencing soon. The exterior work on the windows will be completed after the bricks are repaired. We have money that has been given and designated for the windows, so we have the resources to complete the window work.

Also, after the bricks are repaired the roof needs to be recovered. There are over 100 shingles damaged on the north (library) side of the Sanctuary. Fortunately, at the present time, we do not have any leaks. We did turn in a claim with the insurance company and we will assess the church's finances after the bricks to see when the roof can be repaired.

We will keep you posted on how this is all progressing. I don't like asking for money. I don't want to act like one of those TV preachers always on the brink of financial ruin. I also want you to know that when I ask you to donate, I donate. I would never ask you to give to something that I am not willing to support financially myself.

In the past 2 plus years this building has become important to me. It is important because it is one of the most beautiful and historic buildings in the town and the county. It is a building that represents a congregation that dates back to the beginning of Rockville. According to what I have read, less than one year after the town was founded a group of people met to form a Methodist congregation. It is the second brick building to be built in Parke County. Only the Lusk home was built earlier. Our architect advised us that most likely, the bricks were made and baked in ovens on the site of the church. The beauty of the window that shines on the community every night witnessing to the presence of Christ and His invitation has a glory that can only come from God. The towers and the balcony bear witness to the history of faithful people that have met in the Methodist tradition for 200 years.

Cont'd

The building is also important because of what it represents to the community. This is a House of God. What people see when they drive or walk past is a witness to our faith and beliefs. By that, I don't mean they read the name on the sign and identify our denomination. I mean that what they see represents US and what WE think about God. This building is a testament to others about how we esteem God. Is He important enough that we make this building seem as though He lives here? We tell people He does, but does it look like we believe He does? When people see a church building in need of repair they think the congregation is dying and can't afford the building or the congregation is not really committed to their witness.

How can God be good and take care of us when He can't take care of His place of worship? We need to show people this IS God's house, He lives here, and we honor him with this building. Finally, this building is important to me because it is where you are. It is where ministry has happened for over 100 years through a congregation that has gathered in ministry for 200 years. For you that have been part of this congregation for more than a short time this building is home. It is where we gather as sisters and brothers in our Father's house. It is a full of memories, births and funerals, baptisms, weddings, and fellowship. It is where we sing, pray, learn, smile and even shed tears together. We worship and are touched by God, lifted by the Spirit, and molded into the image of Christ. This building is special and we want to make it special for those who follow. It is important that ministry continues, and lives are changed. It is important that people find forgiveness and grace, experience fellowship and acceptance, feel the love of God and His people in this place.

Thank you for your witness to your faith. Thank you for enabling God's work to continue in this place. Thank you for the enabling the witness of God's House in this community.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Jon

P.S. I miss you all and I am really looking forward to being back in church with you soon!!

Rockville First United Methodist Church
PO Box 142
Rockville, IN 47872
RE: Special Charge Conference

On January 25, 2021 an electronic Special Charge Conference meeting was held with our District Superintendent, Dr. Aleze Fulbright for the purpose of selling the church parsonage located at 216 N Market St. Rockville, IN 47872.

Those participating were Rod Belcher, Ad Council Chairperson, Alex Milligan, Men's Representative, Mary Jane Evens, Treasurer, Susan Harbison, Women's Representative, Mark Spelbring, Finance Chairperson, Greg Harbison and Doug Dixon church members and Pastor Jon Overbey.

Dr. Fulbright called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. She opened with a word of prayer.

Dr. Fulbright said there was one thing on the agenda and that was the selling of our church parsonage. Rob Belcher made a motion for Rockville First United Methodist Church to sell the parsonage located at 216 N. Market St. Rockville, IN 47872 and the proceeds to be divided as best the board sees fit.

Dr. Fulbright called for a vote by hand of all watching/present in favor of the motion. Motion was carried with no objections.

Dr. Fulbright moved and affirmed unanimously to proceed with the sale of the parsonage.

At this time Steve and Elaine Waltz joined the electronic meeting after the vote was taken.

Rob Belcher asked one question, "Was the Church obligated to give the District or Conference any monies from the sale?" Dr. Fulbright stated there are no expectations of any money from the sale of the parsonage to go to the District or Conference. The proceeds from the sale may be used for Capital Improvement or ministries. It may not be used for operating expenses.

Dr. Fulbright ended the meeting at 7:07pm.

Mary Jane Evens, Recording Secretary for meeting



“Pastor Jon getting ready for the midweek chat. He has a stool on top of a high chair tray. His computer is on the stool supporting his iPad for Facebook and his phone for YouTube. He has Gale’s iPad to play music while everyone is signing in and joining together. . . . Very professional. 😂 Or just southern Indiana “make it work.””

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: \$113,711.84. 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
1/03/2021	Inside/Outside Service		\$3,110.00
1/10/2021	Outside Service		\$2,662.00
1/17/2021	Outside Service		\$3,540.00
1/24/2021	Outside Service		\$1,075.00
1/31/2021	Outside Service		\$1,580.00
January total to date:			\$11,967.00



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.

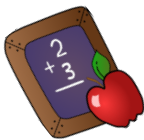
(Doors open at 6:30p.m.)

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.



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 FURTHER NOTICE



04 Fletcher Waltz
Rusty Akers
05 Becky Black
22 Kathy Allison

March Birthdays
01 Randy Randall



It is with much sadness we announce the Service Circle has dissolved and all money was given to the Matching Grant Fund. There are so many memories of Jr-Sr Banquets, May Breakfasts, hosting Ministers in our District, Wedding receptions, Covered Bridge Festivals, Bereavement Dinners and lasting friendships made. We would like to thank the ladies of the church for supporting our endeavors thru the years.

Jean Birch, President
Mary Jane Evens, Sec/Treas.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMEBERS 2021

Rob Belcher, Council Chair
Elaine Waltz, SPRC-Chair
Bill Becker, Trustees Chair
Mark Spelbring, Finance Chair
Mary Jane Evens, Treasurer, Women’s Rep

Alex Milligan, 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

ROCK PAINTING

Is cancelled until
March 2021



The Clothes Closet has partnered with Parke Heritage High School to provide clothing and personal hygiene items to students. In January, nine students visited the Clothes Closet with their guidance counselor. The students were able to get brand new socks, underwear, hats, gloves and blankets, thanks to a partnership with the Catholic Church. The students also took gently used clothing items, as well as full-sized hygiene items that were donated by our congregation and community. There are plans to serve additional students in the near future. Additionally, all students plan to return in March and May to shop for spring and summer apparel.



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.

Worship with
Rockville FUMC

Drive-in Church Service
or
Face book live

Sunday Evening Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Inside & Facebook

Also Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Facebook live



RFUMC CLOTHES CLOSET

In November 2019, the Rockville First United Methodist Church began a new Clothes Closet as an outreach to provide new and gently used clothing to our community. As we neared our one-year anniversary, our Clothes Closet had doubled in size and more space was needed. Elaine Waltz suggested the Closet and Nursery exchange places. Now, our Clothes Closet fills both rooms of the former nursery. It contains clothing, shoes, hats, gloves, coats, blankets, small household items and more!

All members of the community are invited to come in and “shop”. There are no income requirements and there is no limit to how much one person can take. **Everyone is welcome and everything is free.** Monetary donations are accepted, but not necessary. At one point, attendance had waned. During a discussion with Kaleigh Ford, an idea came to light. The Clothes Closet was listed on numerous Wabash Valley Facebook Yard Sale Sites. Soon after, we had 59 people come to shop in one four-hour period! We currently average 18 people per Thursday. Each person typically shops for more than one person. We estimate that 40 people are impacted by our ministry each week. The Clothes Closet continues to be listed on multiple Facebook sites each week, and has been advertised in The Sentinel twice. We ask that you spread the word, as well. The church is asking respectfully that shoppers wear a mask when visiting the closet to help protect the health of the volunteers.

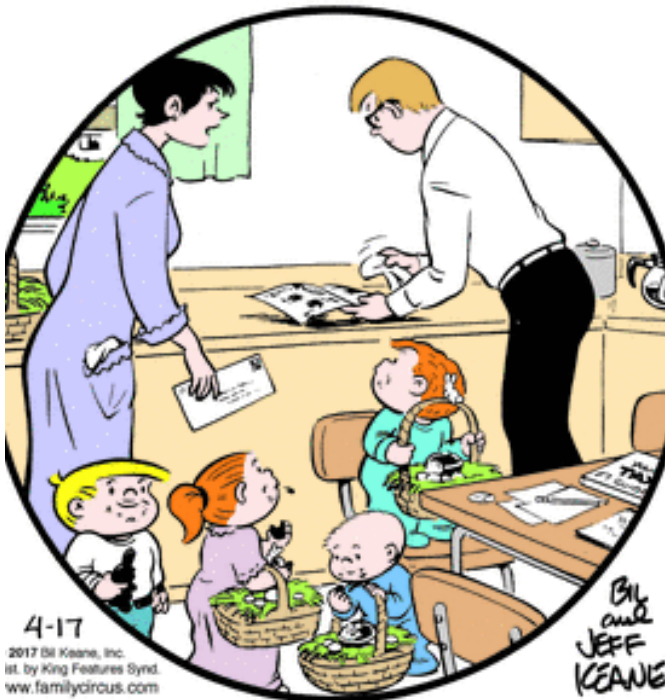
Charla Malone, Carole Perry, and Shannon Belcher volunteer to allow the Clothes Closet to be open weekly. Current hours are Thursdays from 1-5pm. Other volunteers include Diane Ader, Cindy Hein, Carol Milligan, Linda Spelbring, Robbin Swinehart, and Elaine Waltz, who launder items as needed. Although the program is time-intensive, the response from the community has been amazing and makes the work well worth it.

The Clothes Closet is always in need of children's clothing. Donations of all kinds are accepted during office hours on Monday – Thursday from 9am – 1pm and while the Closet is open on Thursdays from 1 – 5pm. If these hours don't work, you can send a message to the church's Facebook messenger to set up a different time. It has been exciting to watch this project out grow its storage and display space and serve so many people. This is a rewarding outreach and our thanks to the volunteers who put in many hours to make this available to so many!



THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By The Keane

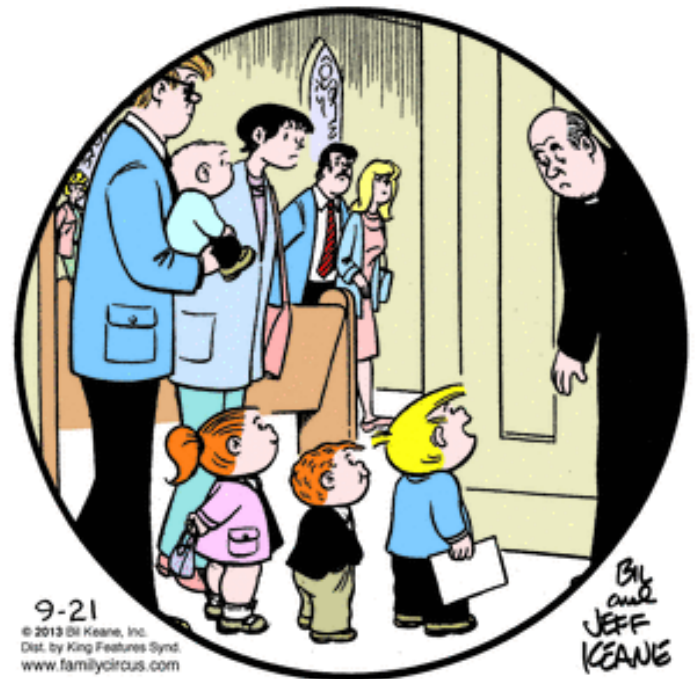


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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

“Don’t worry about it. Ours won’t be the only chocolate-covered tax return they’ll get.”



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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

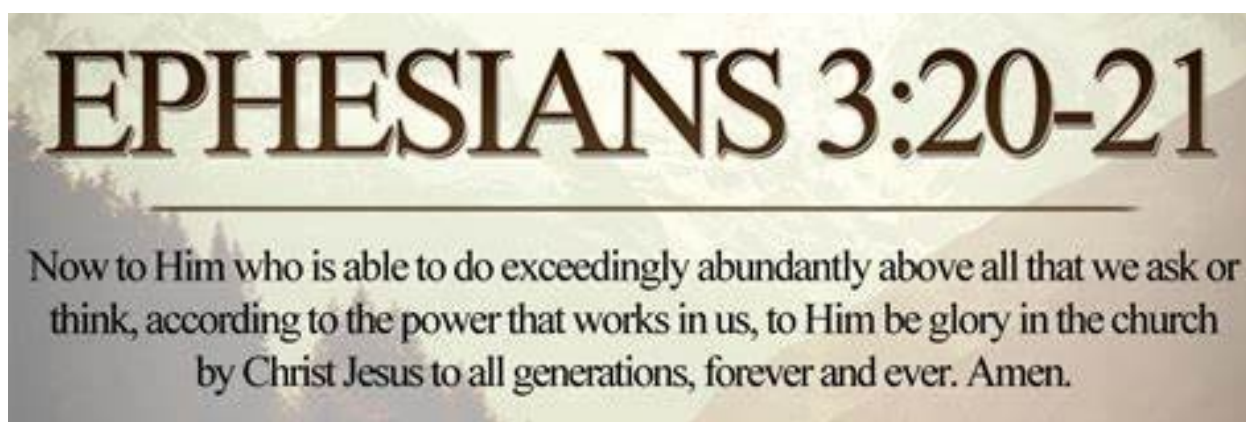
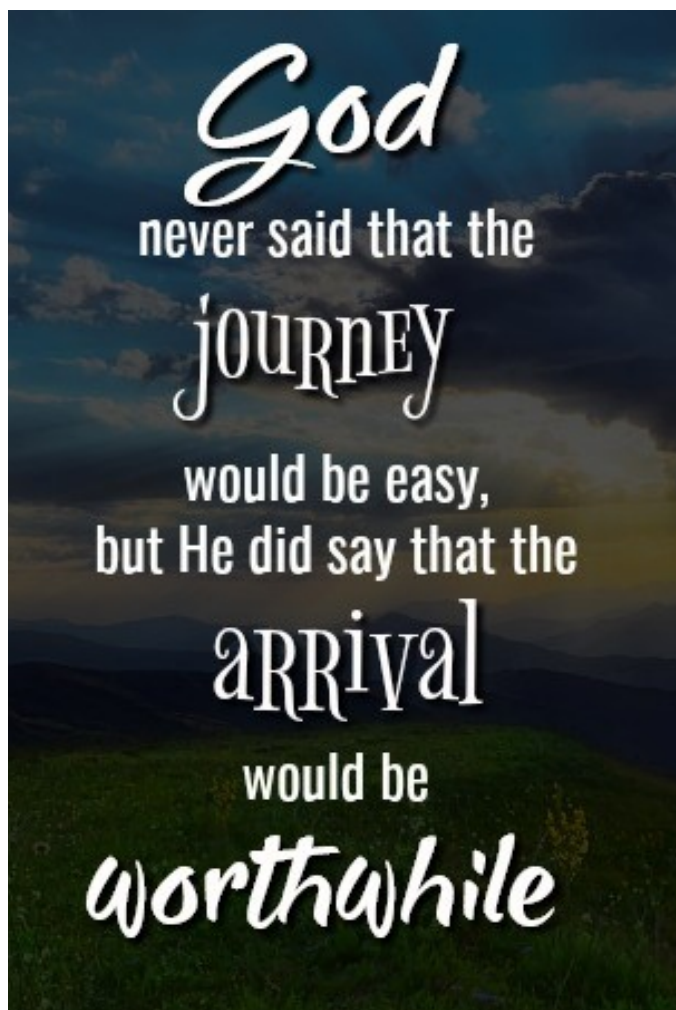
“The sermon was good, but I think you could’ve used a couple jokes to jazz it up a bit.”



When all you have is God, you have all you need.

The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people

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





FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	5	6
7 10 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 6 p.m. Bible Study	8	8	10	11 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	12	13
14 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15 President's Day	16 6:30 p.m. Ad Council Meeting	17 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	18 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	19	20
21 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	22	23	24	25 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	26 6 p.m. Fellowship Diner	27
28 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. 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.

