

**ROCKVILLE
FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Highlights &

DECEMBER 2021

A Note from the Pastor December 2021

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Wow. Its hard to believe December is here already! Seems like July 4th was just a few of weeks ago and wasn't the festival just a couple of days past??? Sure seems that way sometimes.

I know December is here because the church is once again clothed in the beauty of Advent and Christmas. I really appreciate those of you who worked to get the decorations prepared and those who participated in the "Hanging of the Greens" service. I am so thankful that we are conducting services in the Sanctuary again this year. Mark and Mark, Meredith, and others worked very hard last year to make the broadcasts as good as we could make them, but it is not the same as being in the church during Advent! Each Sunday of Advent is special as we count down to Christmas. I am really looking forward to the Christmas Eve Service this year. It is such a beautiful and holy time to gather with one another and celebrate with awe that the God of Heaven and Earth came to be one of us and to be among us. Hope to see you all there. Advent and, especially, Christmas Eve is a wonderful time to bring a friend or family member.

December is my favorite month of the year. I love summer and all that goes with summer outdoor activities. But nothing is like December and Christmas. My mom started our love of Christmas. I can't remember a time when I was growing up that Christmas was not special in our house. We started with the Christmas shows, Rudolph, Santa Clause is Coming to Town, and Charlie Brown. My mom saved up her money one year and bought an artificial tree. It was the kind where you had to put each row of branches on from the bottom to the top in the holes in the trunk which was just a green pole with holes drilled in it. Believe it or not, she had that tree for about 30 years. She drug the "tree" out shortly after Thanksgiving and we decorated it together. We tried the popcorn strings once, but with three kids not much of the popcorn made it to the tree. I can remember the old light strings with the fabric covered cords. They got so hot my mom was afraid they would catch the tree on fire. She liked the lights and did not want to get rid of them. (Which was why she bought the artificial tree). We even had these foil collars that went between the bulb and the sockets. I still have one of those strings of lights although the foil is now gone. My mom loved Christmas so much that after we were all out of the house, she became a sales representative for Christmas Around the World. She took the bedroom that was used by me and brother Robin and turned it into a show room for every kind of Christmas decorations that you could imagine.

Cont'd

A Note from the Pastor Continued

She had sales parties in that room all year long. The money she made was used to buy Christmas presents for us and then for grandkids. Before long, her health was failing, and she was not able to work so she changed tactics. The grandkids still got presents, but not the kids. She took Tupperware cake containers, both the rectangular and round and layered them with all kinds of homemade cookies. There would be 8 or 10 different types in the containers. She would also make "Freezer Jelly" for us all. Honestly, I think she made that type because you used juice instead of the fruit to make the jelly which was a whole lot cheaper. The cookies did not last long but the memories still remain fresh and strong. I started to say that I miss the cookies, then I realized it is not the cookies, it was what she put into the cookies. I can't tell you what kind of cookies I got from her, what I do remember is the joy she had in making them and the joy we had in receiving them.

Traditions are important. They are important in our families. I continued the family love of Christmas with my kids and my grandkids. To honor my mom, Jessi, DJ, Bryan, and I made cookies when they were children. This year the plan is to make cookies with my granddaughter, Norah. All the family gathered together to go pick out and cut down the family Christmas tree, bring it to the house, and then help the kids decorate it. We gather around the table on the night before we celebrate Christmas and light candles as we recite the 4 aspects of Advent (Hope, Joy, Love, Peace.) Four of our grandchildren spend the night in grandma & grandpa's bedroom while they await Santa to come to our house.

All of you have traditions. Some may be complex and some may be simple. Some may be called rituals. Traditions are important to us as individuals, families, a people, and a church. Traditions help us to identify with those who have gone before us. They connect and anchor us to one another. That is why traditions in the church are so important. Whether it be Advent, Lent, All Saints Day, or any of our other traditions. Our "Hanging of the Greens" service was full of tradition. Not just the service itself, or hanging of greenery, which dates back 1500 to 2000 years in Europe, but the other aspects of the service. The tradition of the Christmas tree started around 500 years ago in Germany. The idea of lights on the tree came shortly thereafter. The nativity scene is from the 1200's in Italy. Gift giving began in about 270 A.D. in Turkey. Even the poinsettias original use for Christmas began 400 years ago in Mexico even though it was much more recent when they arrived in the USA. The traditions we keep connect us to the people of Christ in all times and all places. They are important because they identify who we are and to whom we belong. They remind us we are part of a long line of Christians and celebrate Christ as people have done for 1000's of years. It is important that we carry on our traditions with and for those who are coming up behind us in order to keep the connection unbroken for them and their faith. John Wesley and the Anglican Church believed so strongly in tradition that it is placed second only to Scripture as guiding our faith lives and taught it is more important than reason or experience.

I'm so glad to be a part of the tradition of this congregation that has carried the faith in Rockville for 200 years. Let's continue the tradition so our church will remain a strong witness of Christ for all the years until He returns.

God Bless you all,

Pastor Jon

Merry Christmas to you all!!



WORSHIP AND PRAY

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS!

Our Shut-Ins:

Diana Lows, Roleen Pickard; Lois McGrannahan; Mary Alice Barnes

Our World: 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: \$300,487.07. This amount includes all designated project funds. Also, donations from generous givers, Grants, Fund Raisers. Many of the projects have begun!

FACTS & FIGURES

Date	Sunday School Attendance	Worship Attendance	Tithes & Offerings
11/07/2021		53	\$4,294.00
11/14/2021		52	\$1,239.71
11/21/2021		55	\$2,937.00
11/28/2021		46	\$2,526.79
August total to date:			\$10,997.50

Needed monthly to enable the church's ministries: \$8,468.14
2021 Average Worship Attendance: 52

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: **Adult and Children Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. Inside service; Facebook Live, distributed later on YouTube; and radio station 92.3; and Facebook live. Sunday evening Bible Study 6 p.m.; "Midweek Chat" Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Always practice "Social Distancing"**



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A Christ-centered recovery program for adults struggling to overcome hurts, habits

Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

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

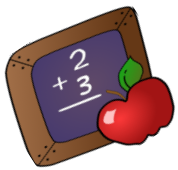
Rockville First United Methodist Church

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 has been extended throughout the summer also, for the year 2021-2022. 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.



The 2nd Tuesday
of every month.
9:00 a.m. at
Benjamin's.



**Greeters for
December 2021**

5th Harbison Family
12th Waltz Family
19th Carol Keller
26th Holaday Family

AROUND THE CHURCH

The Dine with a Doc[®] program is **cancelled until March 2022**

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 _____ . 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!



December Birthdays

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

Worship with
Rockville FUMC

Adult and Children
Sunday School 9:00a.m.

Inside Service 10:00 a.m.
OR
Face book live; radio 92.3

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

Also Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Facebook live



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMEBERS 2021

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

Alex Milligan, Men's Rep
Merideth McGill, Young Adult Rep
Pat Ballinger, Lay Leader
Randy Randall, Member-At-Large
Maddie Belcher, Youth Rep
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



Hand bell Choir will meet each
Monday, in the Chapel
6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
New members always welcome.

The Clothes Closet is open to the public
every Thursday
1:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.
Everyone is Welcome
Everything is FREE.
Please use the side door on York St.

If you have donations,
please drop off during office hours only
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday



Rockville First United Methodist Church Brick Tuck Pointing is Complete

Our next project
North Entrance Ramp

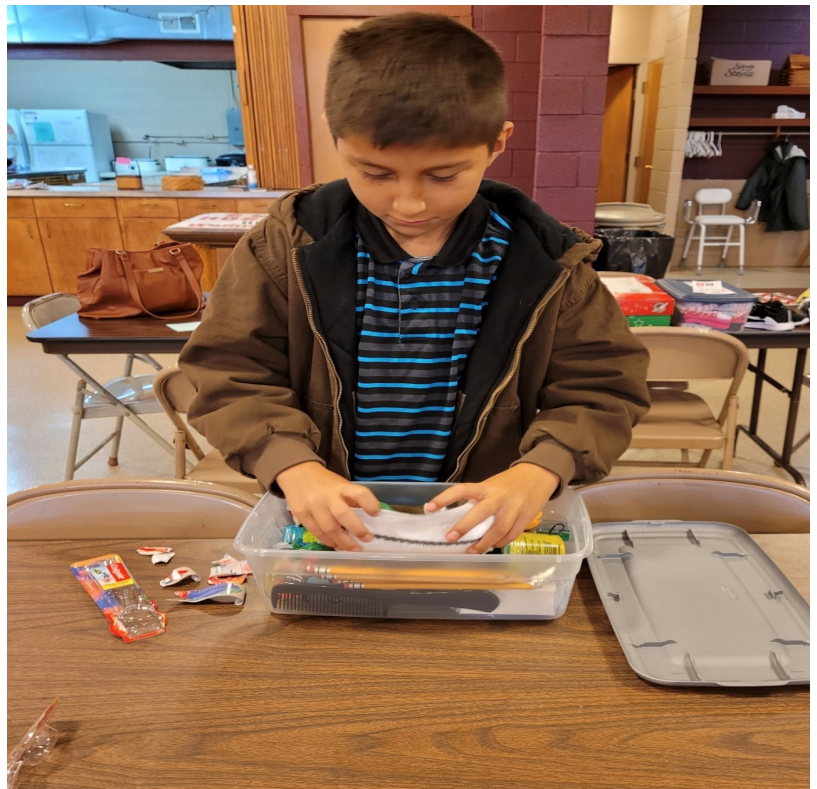
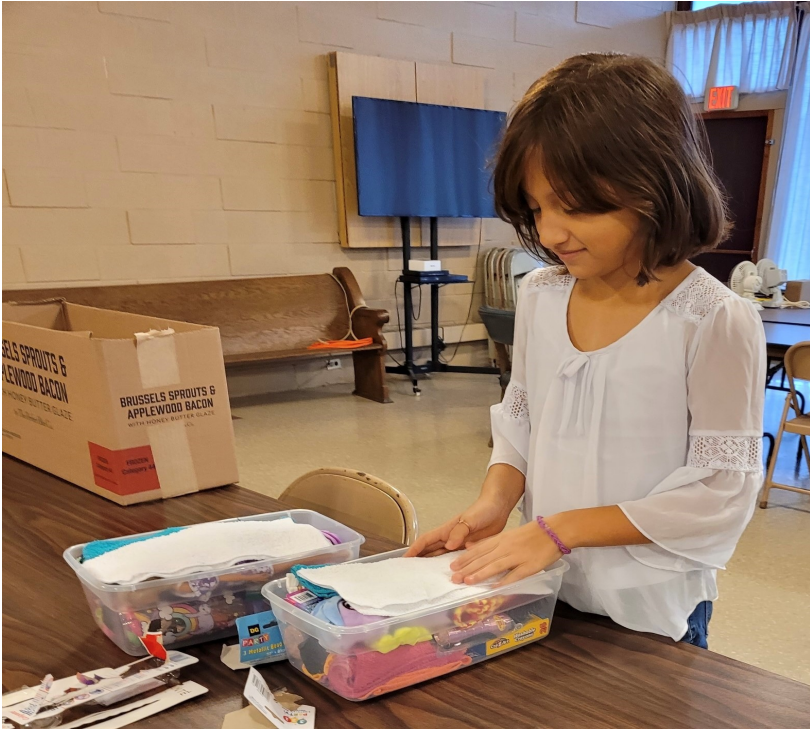


Hanging of the Greens



Packing Shoeboxes
Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

RFUMC packed 20 boxes





As You start your holiday shopping — Remember Amazon Smile

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:

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.

If you already have an Amazon account, you can sign in using the link in the upper right hand corner of the page.

Then click the "Get Started" button.

In the search box, type in "Rockville First United Methodist Church" and click "Search" for our church's name.

You should see the church name pop up in a list. Hit the gray "Select" button next to the church's name.

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."

Click the orange "Start Shopping" box

The next page you see is the regular Amazon shopping page that you normally have used.

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.

Remember your purchases only help the church if you go to the smile.amazon.com before you start shopping.

This hasn't been tested on a mobile device, but if you use a phone or a tablet it may offer to load an app that will automatically go to the Smile account.

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.

Rockville First United Methodist Church Administrative Council Minutes, November 16, 2021

Ad Council members present: Pastor J. Overbey, M. J. Evens, B. Becker, Mark Spelbring, R. Randall, E. Waltz, R. Belcher, S. Harbison, A. Milligan
Absent: M. McGill, Maddie Belcher, P. Ballinger

Council Business

Rob Belcher opened the meeting with prayer.
The October minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tuck Point construction is complete with the exception of the wing wall and the north ramp. There was a price reduction of \$910, due to taxes, total price \$105,290. City Welding will be the contractor for the handrails. Ramp and north handrails will be \$73,500; South end handrails will be \$2850. The roof project is complete with a total price of \$19,355. The completed bill will be turned into State Farm Insurance for reimbursement of previous roof damage.

Handicap Ramp: This project will be started soon.

Mark Downing will give estimates on plastering in the chapel; also taking out the rest of the radiators. Four radiators have been removed. Bill Becker will look for additional estimates. Mark will also look at the damage of the nursery windows.

Classroom project is making progress. Still 1 couch and getting the flooring up. Council discussed dry-walling the hallway and installing LED lighting.

All boilers have been disconnected, but still need to be capped.

Council discussed forming a planning committee for the basement clean-up. Start thinking about colors for the Chapel and repainting the Fellowship Hall. Keep in mind that we can fix up the restrooms, but if we remodel in anyway, they will have to be brought up to ADA Standards.

Security door for classrooms: We need to figure what kind of door is needed, i.e. wood, metal? The area is not a secure area due to all the windows down both side of the basement. Therefore, a patio door such as one in the entry to the fellowship hall. Rob Belcher will look for a door.

Grant updates: We have received \$15,000 grant from the Parke County Community Foundation. We have applied for a grant through the United Methodist Foundation, we have not heard back. The Buddy Bag grant has been approved through International Paper but has not been presented. We have received a grant through Parke County Food, Security Alliance for \$2335.95. Security Alliance will also reimburse any food purchased back to April 19, 2021, and they also donate food.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, November 28th. We will meet Tuesday, 11/23 at 9:30 a.m. to prepare for Sunday. The men will meet Wednesday, 11/24 to set up the Poinsettia tree. We will have our Christmas Eve Service again this year. Time will be determined.

There are a few Administrative Council seats that need to be filled for 2022 - SPPRC Chair; Women's Rep and Lay Leader

Cont'd

Ad Council Minutes, Cont'd

Pastor's Report: Charge Conference will be Sunday, November 21st at Brazil UMC at 3:00 p.m. Christmas Dinner will be December 12th following the Morning Service. Chicken/Noodles and Mashed Potatoes, tableware and drinks will be provided. Christmas Caroling will be December 20th. Council discussed gathering at the "36" to thank Mark Vanderheyden for the use of the parking lot during the Covered Bridge Festival.

Trustee's Report:

Finance Report: Mary Jane Evens reported tithing is down. Our gas bill doubled from last month.

Staff Parish Relations Report:

Pastor Jon requested no increase in compensation for 2022. Put money toward capital campaign.

Bicentennial Committee: Next meeting will be Thursday, November 18th. We have decided on a logo. Save the date cards will be sent out after January 2022. Invitation cards need to be sent to outside donors.

The next meeting will be December 21, 2021.
Pastor Jon closed in prayer.



**JOIN US
DECEMBER 24TH**

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



Please Join us

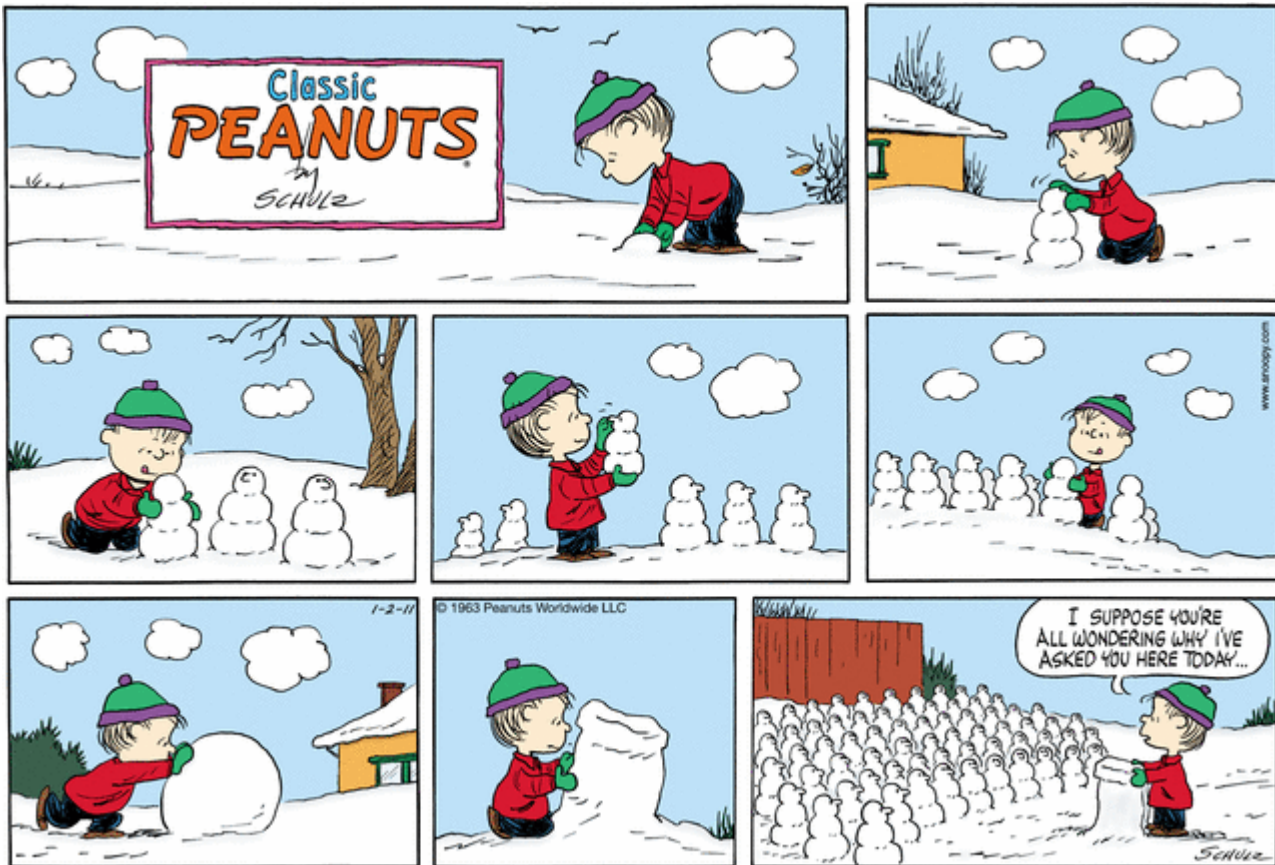
Christmas carry-in dinner, December 12, 2021, 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Chicken/Noodles & Mashed Potatoes, rolls along with tableware & drinks will be provided.
Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert.

Come enjoy the food and fellowship



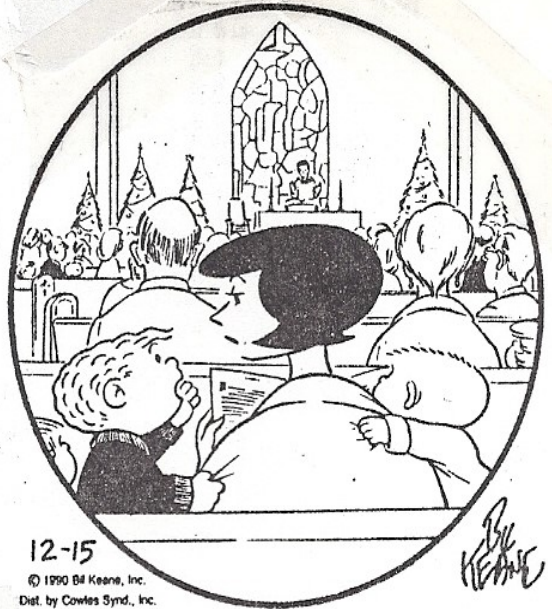
During our Christmas Dinner
We will be collecting donations
for our
staff Christmas gifts
Any Council member will be happy to assist you
Donations will be accepted until Dec. 12th





"If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns."

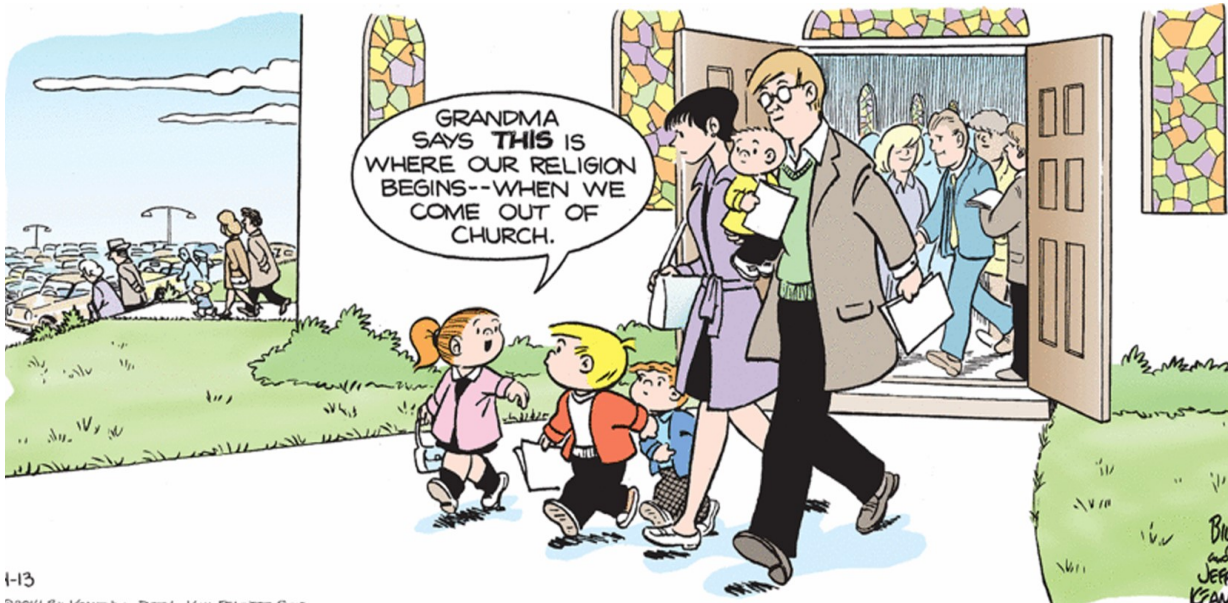
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



12-15

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"In church, who's watching to see if we're good — Santa or God?"



I-13



DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat 12:00 p.m. CODA	2 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	3 6 :00 p.m. Fellowship Diner	4 1:00 p.m. Lester's Southern Gospel Group Matinee & Buffet
5 10 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 6 p.m. Bible Study	6 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells	7	8 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat	9 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Youth in Gov. Day	10	11
12 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study Christmas Dinner 12:00 p.m.	13 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells	14 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	15 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat 12:00 p.m. CODA	16 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	17	18
19 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	20 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells 6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling	21 6:30 p.m. Ad Council Meeting	22 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat	23 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	24 Candlelight Service 8:30 p.m.	25 
26 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	27 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells	28	29 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat 12:00 p.m. CODA	30 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	31	

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.

