

# Highlights & *focus*

OCTOBER 2022

## A Note from the Pastor October 2022

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Wow, October is here already. It seems like we just celebrated the 200th anniversary last week. Now the Covered Bridge Festival will be starting soon. Traffic, tents all over town, traffic, food booths, traffic, tourists, and did I mention the traffic? There are times that I have been down by the lake on festival Saturdays and have seen the cars backed up on the bridge. They are usually headed for Mansfield. What astounds me is the fact it is 10 miles from the bridge to Mansfield. People come from all over and are willing to sit in that kind of traffic just to go buy the treasure that awaits tucked in some tent out there in festival land.

The festival benefits a lot of people and organizations. Our church utilizes the festival as our only fund raiser of the year. We park the cars and have the yard sale in the fellowship hall to raise money to operate the church and some ministries. It's a lot of work packed into 10 days.

When Gale and I go to festivals or other such events we look for churches, fire departments, youth groups and other non-profit organizations. We try to support them in any way we can do so. This has been our practice for many years now.

As I was getting ready to write this note someone asked me how long I have been at the church? I started on the last Sunday in October of 2018. I performed a wedding for a young bride from Newport on Saturday night and stepped into the pulpit here on Sunday morning four years ago. I had no idea so much could be packed into four years. Nor did any of you!

My first year was spent getting to know everyone. Learning how things are done, or not done, here. Getting things realigned and reorganized after the time the church spent with no pastor. Putting together an accurate budget and many other things. During the end of that first year two things became apparent. First, I had picked up and begun to read the old blue church history book. It was fascinating. I was quickly surprised to read the congregation was almost 200 years old. I was even more surprised that no one else was aware of this fact. As soon as I told the Ad Council about this everyone wanted to hold a special celebration to commemorate the day. Secondly was the building. Many of you may not know there was a time in my life when I had a remodeling business. I've even built houses. That type of work has continued to be an interest of mine and I have tried to stay up on the products and techniques of the business. I have also continued to do small jobs for friends and others. I started noticing issues with the building and some serious problems in the structure.

Cont'd

## A Note from the Pastor Continued

As year two started we put together a Capital Campaign Committee. They were tasked with examining all the building issues. Placing them in 4 categories, things that have to be done to save the structure (bricks, windows, roof, and such), safety issues (tripping hazards in the carpets, unsafe steps, emergency lighting), cosmetic and energy saving things that will need to be done (plaster repair, painting, window dressings, changing lights to LED's), and things we would like to get done (new sign, handicap restroom, etc.) We also had a restoration architect examine the church and present a recommendation plan, scope, and cost estimate. The architectural assessment was to cost \$5000, but they decided to donate the work. The Committee completed their work, we presented the plan to the church along with the need to raise the money to proceed in February of 2020. In March of 2020 we had this scary thing called COVID-19 spreading around. We had Dr Steve inform us of the facts as he knew them then. The next week we were closed down due to the virus. We were not able to hold Easter Services in the Sanctuary. We started Facebook Live broadcasts. Honestly, it was a struggle for a while. Trying to get equipment to work, sound to be good, and finding cameras compatible with the computers, about made us pull out our hair. We had outside services at the fairgrounds, parking lot radio broadcasts (remember tooting your horn for the "amens?") There is always Grace that shines through. We reached more than double the people by Facebook than we had in church. We still have a Facebook following of people. We started a "Midweek Chat" that was to last a couple of months that is still going. We also now broadcast our weekly Bible Study that reaches about 60 people. Billie Sue told us about a grant, which we received, that enabled us to buy a high-tech camera, 2 computers with the associated equipment, and 2 tv's so we could project, record, and broadcast our services in a professional manner. Later in the summer we were allowed back in the sanctuary and then had to close again. It was a rough year, but like so many other times, the grace of God shone through this congregation. The online attendance, the outdoors fairgrounds and church attendance, the radio/parking lot attendance was more than many other churches experienced. The Facebook attendance did grow and we still have more people online than in church (although some of them need to be back in church 😊). Even though we were not meeting in the church our expenses kept going. We had to heat and cool the building, although not as much. Kathy was still in the office during regular hours to do all the things she does. Insurance, maintenance, and everything else still had to be paid. Everyone stayed faithful and our church offering didn't falter. Many of you even kept putting money in the Capital Campaign fund. I do have to admit that Christmas is not the same without Hanging of the Greens, Advent, and the Christmas Eve service.

As 2021 began we were still meeting "virtual". I don't like that term because it means just like reality. There was nothing that could match being in church, so there was not much "virtual" to it. Palm Sunday we were back in the Sanctuary. Palm Sunday and Easter Services seemed so extra special that year. We also had two enormous tasks ahead of us, Repair of the building and the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Planning started for both. We applied for every grant we could find, but really did not get any grant money. We sold the parsonage and applied that money toward the Capital Campaign work. The roof was repaired. The bricks were repaired, the chimney was removed, and several openings in the exterior of the church were closed. The brick work was estimated to take 4-6 week, but due to the poor condition of the bricks took 3 months to complete. We also added a beautiful new ramp to the front of the church. There was a gracious person who offered a matching grant for \$25,000 if we could raise a matching \$25,000 and we raised over \$30,000. We also had a couple of sizeable gifts from people outside of our congregation. On Labor Day Sunday we had our kick-off dinner as we started the countdown to the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

## A Note from the Pastor

As this year started, we removed the old heaters in the sanctuary. The plaster was repaired in the sanctuary and both levels of both towers. The painting was finally done after spending way too many weeks out of the sanctuary. The carpet was replaced. Wheelchair spaces were added. The church is beautiful. The 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee worked tirelessly and pulled together a wonderful day. We started the Bus Bunch that takes a bus trip to a restaurant each month. We are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas season again this year. There are families that have refreshed the restrooms, treated the lower level floors, renewed the 2 classrooms including replacing the fiberglass panels in the hallway.

The past 4 years have seen us bid farewell to many of our saints as they went to join the Lord in Glory. We've had a wedding, baptisms, and people join the church. We had the youth active, then COVID, and now they are getting active again. We've added a clothes closet and additionally, assist students with hygiene products. There is now a Bible study happening weekly. We have had a lot happen in 4 years, more than any of us would have expected. It is very apparent the Glory of God shone through as we experienced more in the past 4 years than most churches experience in 15 years. It was only by the Grace of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we did not just survive, we ***thrived*** in the past 4 years.

There has been a lot the past 4 years since I came to join all of you. More than I ever expected. Some of the events were trying, most were fantastic. I am proud, humble, and so thankful to be a part of your lives and the life of this congregation for the past 4 years. To say I have been grateful and blessed to be with you is an understatement. I look forward to the days ahead, although the LORD could make the next year a little less eventful so we can concentrate on growing in Love, Spirit, Grace, and in attendance too.

Thank you for letting me be your Pastor!

God Bless you all!!!

*Pastor Jon*



# WORSHIP AND PRAY

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS!

## **Our Shut-Ins:**

Diana Lows, Sandy Buck

**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.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Date	Sunday School Attendance	Worship Attendance	Tithes & Offerings
9/04/2022		139	\$5,912.10
9/11/2022		44	\$1,791.00
9/18/2022		47	\$1,475.00
9/25/2022		37	\$1,610.00
<b>September total to date:</b>		<b>267</b>	<b>\$10,788.10</b>

**Needed monthly to enable the church's ministries: \$8,468.14**  
**2022 Average Worship Attendance: 67**

## 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.**



### 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.)*

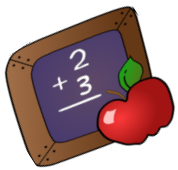
**Rockville First United Methodist Church**

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 has been extended throughout the summer also, for the year 2022-2023. 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.



***Greeters for  
October 2022***

2nd Doug Dixon  
9th Rob & Shannon Belcher  
16th Tony Allison & Kids  
23rd Rusty Akers  
30th Steve & Elaine Waltz

## AROUND THE CHURCH

The Dine with a Doc ® program for **November 3rd** at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at The Rockville First United Methodist Church. We are pleased to welcome: Dr. Tom Nicholas (Family Practice). 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. *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!

### September Birthdays

03 Logan Carlton  
04 Kapria Collings  
05 Charles Allen Miller  
06 Nick Waltz  
08 Richard Keller  
18 Karen White  
21 Clara Jack  
22 Jacob Bryant  
25 Russell Hall  
28 Kinley Noelle Geiger  
31 Mary Jane Evens



29 Rob & Shannon Belcher

November Birthdays  
06 Karen Kent  
12 Avery Lee Harbison

Worship with  
Rockville FUMC  
Adult and Children  
Sunday School 9:00 a.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.



**CODA ~ COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE**  
**Meets at the**  
**Rockville First United Methodist Church**  
**every other Wednesday**  
**at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Next Meeting will be November 7th**



**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEMEBERS 2022**

Rob Belcher, Council Chair  
Diana Ruark, SPRC-Chair  
Bill Becker, Trustees Chair  
Mark Spelbring, Finance Chair  
Mary Jane Evens, Treasurer  
Carol Keller, Women’s Rep

Rusty Akers, Men’s Rep  
Merideth McGill, Young Adult Rep  
Alex Milligan, 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 Administrative Council Minutes August 16, 2022**

Present- D Rob Belcher, Maddie Belcher, D. Ruark, M. Spelbring, M.J. Evens, R. Randall, A. Milligan, C. Keller, Bill Becker

Absent: and M. McGill, J. Overbey

The meeting was brought to order and a prayer was given by Rob Belcher.

Minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting were read and approved with corrections.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Trustees Items:**

- 1. Ramp Handrail Update** – No updates
- 2. Classroom Update** -Electrical still needs installed in Martha's classroom. Painting will be finished soon. Trim still needs painted/stained. Bill Becker will contact Mark Downing to get started on windows and doors.
- 3. Classroom Security door** – not here yet
- 4. Painting in Sanctuary and Chapel**- The Chapel will be finished after the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Painters are to remove and dispose of curtains.
- 5. Stained glass glazing** -Current quote is 2 years old. Rusty Akers will contact Professional Glass in Clinton for a quote.

### **New Business**

- 1. Next Main Street Event** – Not Main Street, Chamber Event on September 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2. Front Doors** – All front doors have been repaired and painted.
- 3. iPad Purchase** – Rob Belcher presented quotes on purchasing an iPad air versus iPad pro. Council will discuss further.
- 4. Nomination Committee** – A committee of at least three, council and non-council persons is needed. Rusty Akers volunteered to serve. Two positions will be vacated in 2023, Treasurer and Young Adult Rep will be replaced in January of 2023. Mary Jane Evens has volunteered to stay on as Treasurer. Maddie Belcher, Youth Rep., will be leaving for college in the fall of 2023.

### **Trustee's Report**

Rusty Akers will paint and reseal the foundation to match the stone.

Council discussed placing 2 short pews in the front row of the sanctuary and 1 short pew in the back row after the carpet is laid. We will ask the carpet installers to move. The carpet quote has changed due to installing carpet in the Chapel instead of laminate. [\$41,000 instead of \$47,000]

### **Finance Report**

Mary Jane Evens gave the financial report. Edward Jones is on the plus side.

### **Staff Parish**

Diana Ruark discussed survey on assessments of the pastor's use of time and priorities with council members. Also discussed Pastor's salary.

**10. Bi-Centennial Celebration**- History book has been delivered to the printers at DePauw by Susan Harbison, Diana Ruark, Diana Ader and Karin Woodson. We have received a grant for \$1000 to aid in paying for the printing. 100 books have been ordered. Program is being finalized. Apparel has been printed. The committee will meet one more time on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Alex Milligan closed in prayer.

Next meeting is September 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.





# Rockville First United Methodist Church Transaction Detail By Account

## Capital Improvement Expense

Audio/Visual	\$15,111.80
Carpet	\$42,984.96
Painting	\$19,440.00
Plastering	\$ 3,750.16
Ramp	\$36,750.00
Roof	\$19,355.00
Roof Chimney	\$ 400.00
Stained Glass Windows	\$ 1,160.00
Tuck Pointing/Ramp	\$104,890.00
Capital Improvement Other	\$ 2,536.67

**Total** **\$246,378.59**



Congratulations

Madelyn Belcher



# Covered Bridge Festival 2022 has begun



We are  
Parkin' Cars



# Covered Bridge Festival 2022 Has begun



RFUMC

And...  
Rummage Salein'



More to come in the November Newsletter



# OCTOBER 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	3 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells	4	5 6:00 p.m. CODA 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat	6 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	7	8
9 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	10 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells	11 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	12 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat	13 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	14 COVERED FESTIVAL	15 BRIDGE THRU 23RD
16 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	17	18	19 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper	20 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	24 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells	25 6:30 p.m. Ad Council Meeting	26 7:00 p.m. Mid-week Chat	27 1-5 p.m. Clothes Closet 6 p.m. Buddy Bags 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	28	29 5:00 p.m. Hog Wallow Farm
30 10 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Bible Study	31 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice 6:45 p.m. Handbells Halloween on the Square					

# 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.

