



Rockville First UMC Highlights

DECEMBER
2011

ROCKVILLE, IN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world..."

Cantata "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" will be Presented



Please join us on
Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 p.m.
for the Christmas Cantata,
**"The Most Wonderful Time
of the Year"**

Presented by the Chancel Choir
and the
Parke County Handbell Choir,
directed by Mary Alice Barnes.

Light refreshments will be served following;
please plan to join this time of fellowship
and opportunity to express your
gratitude to both choirs.



RFUMC *Highlights* is a monthly publication. Articles are due into the office by the 25th of the month for publication. (Holidays and/or office closings can affect this deadline). Articles may be e-mailed to:

rockvilleumc@sbcglobal.net

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Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

7:00 p.m.

&

11:00 p.m., Communion



Recent Prayer Concerns

“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.”

James 5:15

Prayer Concerns: Minerva Funk family and friends; Alta Pickett family and friends; Larry Abbott; Don Navel; Zoe Schlee; Sam Powlan, grandson of Norm Thompson; Ayres family; Jack Wall family; Bro. Don Perry family; Aaron Keene; Teddy Acklin; Barbara Clodfelter; Robert Snell; Rosemary Clayton; Gabe Douglas; Brian Messer; Braxton Vincent; Emily Gossett; John Wilson family; Jonnie Lou Overpeck; Klausmeier family missions; missionary Kevin Cauley, Africa; Dr. Trina Helderman, missionary, Africa; Toys For Tots; those unspoken; our church for growth, strength, perseverance; our schools; community and government leaders; the children of Parke Co; our U.S. military; 14th & Chestnut Community Center; inmates & staff of Rockville Women’s Correctional Center; those having financial difficulties; peace on earth.

Please remember: All prayer requests printed in the bulletin and newsletter will be automatically removed in one month unless further notified. Thank you.



Remember Our Shut-ins

Larry Abbott; Betty Alexander; Jennie Anstead; Ellen Fowler; Jennie Jerome; Margaret Lash; Leoma Nelson; Pat Reeder; Tom Selz; Charles Shelton; Mary Shockley; Ruth Welch

Active Military In our Prayers:



Son-in-law of Diana Ruark:
Major Michael J. Simek,
Marines, Afghanistan

Cousins of Randy Randall:
Josh Colagia, Afghanistan

Justin Hussey, Marines,
Japan

Michael Anderson,
Persian Gulf

Grandson of Don and Linda Navel:
Nathan Muckerheide
Afghanistan

Friend of Milligan's:
Adam Black,
Afghanistan

Friend of Darlene Ayres:
Jamie Mack, Iraq

Rockville 1st UMC Facts & Figures

Date	Sunday		Tithe & Offerings	Other Giving	Total Giving
	School Attendance	Worship Service Attendance			
11/06/2011	26	87	2872.00		2872.00
11/13/2011	17	68	2670.00	167.00	2837.00
11/20/2011	24	66	1984.05	433.00	2417.05
11/27/2011	24	77	2445.00	203.00	2648.00

2011 Average Worship Attendance to Date: 76
2011 Average Sunday School Attendance to Date: 22

A Word from Our Pastor

LISTENING FOR CHRISTMAS

If you were in church for the “Hanging of the Greens” worship service on November 27 you heard me talk about how, in the midst of all the planning that went into that service, I somehow neglected to build a time of prayer into the order of worship. Ironic, isn’t it? When the whole point of that service was to help us silence the “noise” of our culture’s Christmas commercialism and open ourselves to God, I almost forgot to include a time to simply come before God in prayer!

How easily that can happen, if we’re not careful. How easily we can let all the activities of the season—decorating, shopping, parties and other special events—drown out the “still, small voice of God.

Heck, I almost did it again the morning that I wrote this article! My wife and I had stayed up way too late the night before trying to get our huge Christmas tree decorated, so that we’d be ready for the open house we’re hosting at the parsonage on December 3rd, and the next morning I was feeling so rushed that I almost shoved aside my usual devotional time in order to meet the deadline for this newsletter.

Thankfully, the Spirit of God gently reminded me to practice what I preach. So I sat myself down with my Bible and had what turned out to be a really precious time of study and prayer. (Thank you, Lord!)

Advent (which literally means “coming to”) is a season in the Christian calendar that’s specifically designed to help us tune *out* the noise and tune *in* to God, so that God can come to us in new and life-giving ways. So, here’s my question: How will *you* make sure that, in the midst of all the busy-ness of this season, you stay open to God?

Here are just a few quick suggestions:

Block out just 15 minutes each day for **devotional time**. If you’re accustomed to reading your Bible, you might want to read just a chapter a day—perhaps in the psalms or one of the gospels—and simply reflect on it quietly. Or you may want to use a daily devotional guide like “Our Daily Bread” or “The Upper Room”.

Find a good **Christian music station** on the radio, your TV, or the internet and have it playing whenever possible, so that the true message of Christmas will keep “playing” in your mind as you work or drive or whatever.

Invest a little bit of your time and/or money in **reaching out to someone less fortunate** this season, remembering what Jesus said, “In as much as you do it to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do it to *me*.”

If possible, plan to attend **our church’s Christmas cantata** (“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”) on Sunday, December 11, at 4 p.m.

May you have a most blessed Advent and Christmas, and may you stay tuned to God’s voice this season!

Pastor Dave

Service Circle



Christmas will be the theme at Service Circle's December 7th meeting at the home of Connie Becker on Market Street. The meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. All church women are invited to attend and goodies will be furnished by hostesses Imogene Rahn, Sally Zuber and Dorothy Smith. Devotions will be given by Roleen Pickard.

This quarter's Hostess Committee is Mary Anne Jones, Chairman; Alberta Butler;

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Project



Angel Tree tags will be available on the new tree in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 4th. You can select your tags before or after church service that day. Be sure to register your tag with Shelly Gregg after selecting your angel. Angel Tree gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church by Sunday, December 18th. This is a wonderful ministry in which we have participated for a number of years. Your help will make for a wonderful Christmas for a child who has a parent in prison. Please share your Christmas!



2011 Advent Candle Readers

- 1st Sunday of Advent—November 27th:** The Waltz Family
- 2nd Sunday of Advent—December 4th:** The Holaday Family
- 3rd Sunday of Advent—December 11th:** The Hayes Family
- 4th Sunday of Advent—December 18th:** The Spelbring's
- Christmas Eve—December 24th, 7:00 p.m.:** The Dunn Family
- Christmas Eve—December 24th, 11:00 p.m.:** The Milligan's

Poinsettia Orders



If you would like to order a Poinsettia to further beautify our Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season, please fill out the form below along with \$7.00 and return to the office by **December 11th**. Those who purchase them may take them home after the Christmas Day service or as soon as possible thereafter.

Your Name _____
 In Honor of _____
 In Memory of _____

December Service Seekers



Altar Flowers

- 12/04 Carol and Alex Milligan
- 12/11 Robbin and Jim Swinehart
- 12/18 Poinsettias in place
- 12/25 Poinsettias in place

Greeters

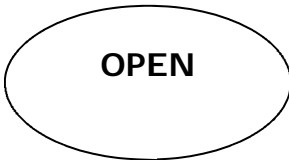


- 12/04 Betty Lewis
- 12/11 Ellen & Merideth McGill
- 12/18 Chet and Nickie Roosevelt
- 12/25 Teresa Pipes

Fellowship Refreshments



- 12/04
- 12/11
- 12/18
- 12/25



The food pantry item for the month of December is canned soups.

The need is great! Please leave your contributions in the Food Pantry tubs located in the Fellowship Hall. There were 46 Pack-A-Sack bags of food delivered to the Food Pantry. Thank You to all who donated and to KFC! Thanks, too, to Bill Russell and Dave Lash who delivered the bags to the Pantry.

December Birthdays



02 Cheryl Carver	10 Sylvia Snapp
Zoe Schlee	13 Jennie Jerome
Donald McBride	18 Judy Nuetzel
03 Beatrice McBride	20 Randy Roswell
04 Linda Hetrech	21 Martha Hartman
05 Angela Lien	23 Mike Siddens
06 Mark Spelbring	26 Kenna Hartman
07 Carol Milligan	28 Linda Navel
08 Tony Allison	Joseph Dunn
Katie Potter	30 Kyle Harbison
09 Saylor Lizbeth Harbison	
Carolyn Flock	



WORSHIP THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving gifts. In keeping with that theme, Pastor Dave's Advent sermon series is entitled, "**Outside the Box: Opening Christmas**". You'll want to invite your friends to share in worship during this wondrous season!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture(s)</u>	<u>Special Features</u>
December 4	"Open Up...<i>Expectation</i>"	Mk 13:32-37; Lk 1:26-28; 2 Peter 3:8-9 Reader: Cyndi Whittier	Holy Communion
December 11	"Open Up...<i>Acceptance</i>"	Isaiah 40:1-6a; Mt 1:18-25; Philippians 3:8-14 Reader: Tom Potter	
December 11 4:00 p.m.	Choir Cantata: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"		Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the cantata
December 18	"Open Up...<i>Family</i>"	Isaiah 61:1-4; Lk 2:1-20; Hebrews 13:1-3 Reader: Chris Schlee	
December 24 Christmas Eve 7 pm & 11 pm	"Come to the Light"	Prov. 4:14-18; Jn 1:1-14; 1 John 1:1-9	Holy Communion; candlelight singing of "Silent Night"
December 25 Christmas Day	"Tell It on the Mountain!"	Psalms 145:1-6; Lk 2:20-38 Reader: Darlene Ayres	
January 1 New Year's Day	"All Things New"	Ps 104:24-30; Jn 3:1-16; Revelation 21:1-5	Holy Communion



We welcome Bob and Janie Pound and Mary Marty to our church membership.

Bob and Janie became members by way of transfer from Rockville Christian Church.

Mary, by transfer from Calvary United Methodist, Syracuse, IN.
We welcome them and pray God's blessing upon them!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE VISION TASK FORCE

At the vision retreat on November 3rd the recommendation was made to form a Vision Task Force that would meet no more than 2-3 times for the purpose of fleshing out a "picture" of how our church could/should look in 3-5 years and specifying some key ministry goals during that time period. This vision will then be presented to the Administrative Council in January. Pastor Dave, Greg Harbison (current chair of Admin Council) and Tom Potter (incoming chair of Admin Council) were asked to name a Task Force of seven people. Those named to the Task Force include **Tom Potter, Pat Ballinger, Alan Ader, Carol Milligan, Katie Edington, Laura Hayes** and **Pastor Dave**. Please pray for these people and for the Administrative Council as together we *all* seek God's direction for the coming year(s).

2011 Advent/Christmas Offering Benefit Children Locally and Globally



For the past few years our church has designated its special Advent/Christmas offerings to be used in the local area. This year, though, you're invited to open your hearts to children both locally and around the world by giving generously to **"The Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children"**. This special offering, to be received from United Methodists throughout Indiana, will go to support the following ministries in the coming year:

- Indiana Conference Camping program will receive 20% to go to first-time campers and children in need;
 - Indiana United Methodist-related children and youth homes will receive 30%;
 - Indiana Conference-related "Operation Classroom" (in the African countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia) will receive 10%;
 - Local outreach projects will receive 20%;
 - Bishop's fund for emergency children's projects will receive 10%;
- United Methodist Advance Projects (to fund children's ministries both nationally and globally) will receive 10%. These programs have been selected and endorsed by the Indiana Conference Special Offerings Committee. Your offering will bless the lives of many children, so please give what you can, using the special envelopes that will be available in the pews beginning November 27. And, as Bishop Mike Coyner often says, "Please pray for *all* the children of the world." THANK YOU!



Alta June Pickett, died in her home on November 29, 2011. A native of Manhattan, Kansas, she was born June 24th, 1917, her mother's birth date. Married to Keith Pickett, now deceased, they had five children, Keitha Swaim of Burnsville, NC; Lowell Pickett of Indianapolis, IN; Patricia Harsch of Dayton, Ohio; Paula Pickett of Dade City, FL; and Philip Pickett of Terre Haute, IN. The mother of 5, she had 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She felt passionately about both community service and her life as a Christian. In the field of community service, she served in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, American Heart Association, Cooperative Extension Service Home Economics Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and United Way. She served as a transporter for people of the community needing medical attention, transporting them to appointments in both Indianapolis and Terre Haute. She was active in the planning of the Covered Bridge Festival and served as housing coordinator for over 25 years. She helped start the Area Seven Nutrition Site (Meals on Wheels) in Parke County. Her last solo venture outside the home was as a volunteer for the Parke County Food Pantry from which she reluctantly took a leave of absence at the age of 94. Being an avid reader, she was a member of Current Literature Club and Epsilon Sigma Omicron honorary reading sorority of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. A member of the Rockville Methodist Church for the past 54 years, she cared deeply for her Lord. She supported it actively and loyally in whatever ways she could through the United Methodist Women's Society, many church offices, and by closely following the activities of the church youth. She spent little on herself but gave generously to charities and individuals in need. One of her greatest gifts was that of making those she spoke with feel particularly special. That gift of listening intently, with genuine selfless interest, is one of the many reasons the world was a better place while she was in it. She will be greatly missed by family and friends alike.

Minerva Ellen Funke, 102, died November 23rd, 2011. She was born July 12, 1909 in Judson, Indiana and had been a resident of Rockville Nursing and Rehabilitation. She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Frederick J. Funke who died in 1986. Also, by two brothers, John W. McBride and Elvin McBride and four sisters, Susie Dilworth, Jessie Hollis, Evelyn Ritzenthaler and Hazel McBride. She is survived by five nephews and two nieces. Minerva, a homemaker, was a 1928 graduate of Marshall High School and attended Rockville First United Methodist Church. Services were Monday, November 28th at Gooch Funeral Home, Rockville, with Rev. Dave Marty officiating. Burial was in Memory Garden Cemetery, Rockville.



PASTOR DAVE & MARY INVITE YOU TO JOURNEY WITH THEM TO ISRAEL

November 12-21, 2012

If you've ever dreamed of walking in the footsteps of Jesus and of having the Bible come alive for you in ways you've never known before, then Mary and I would like to invite you to join us on an amazing 10-day pilgrimage to Israel next November.

Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives

This once-in-a-lifetime journey will begin with a flight out of Indianapolis that will land us in Israel on November 13, where we'll settle into our hotel in Bethlehem. From that point on, our itinerary will look like this:

Day 3 – Bethlehem, the Herodion, and Jerusalem

We'll visit the Church of the Nativity, including the cave where tradition holds that Jesus was born, along with Shepherds' Field where angels spread the Good News. Next we'll travel to the Herodion, the fortified palace and final resting place of Herod the Great. Then we'll explore the excavations of the ancient "City of David" in Jerusalem, plus several other historic sites before returning to Bethlehem.

Day 4 – Judean Wilderness, Qumran, Dead Sea, Jordan River Baptismal Site, and Jericho

After traveling through the wilderness where Jesus was tempted, we'll visit the ruins of the mysterious community of the Essenes and see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. After a brief stop at the Dead Sea (floating anyone?), we'll head to the traditional site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, then to Jericho, the oldest city in the world. Then we'll return to Bethlehem for our last night there.

Day 5 – Sea of Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tabgha, and Wadi Hamman

Our day will begin on the peaceful Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached his famous "Sermon on the Mount". Then we'll enjoy a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, the center of Jesus' ministry around Galilee, and visit the ancient synagogue that stands on the foundation of the one in which Jesus himself taught. We'll also see the site where tradition says that Jesus fed the 5,000; then we'll visit a Bedouin village at the base of Mt. Arbel, ending our day at a hotel in Tiberias, beside the Sea of Galilee.

Day 6 – Upper Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Tel Dan, and the Golan Heights

First, we'll journey to Caesarea Philippi, where Peter proclaimed, "You are the Christ", then to Tel Dan, a large mound containing the ruins of several ancient communities, including an altar built by King Jereboam (1 Kings 12:25-30). The trip back to our hotel in Tiberias will then take us along the rocky plateau of the Golan Heights.

Day 7 – Lower Galilee, Sepphoris, Nazareth, Jezreel Valley, and Caesarea Maritima

Starting with Sepphoris, once the Roman capital of Galilee and the traditional birthplace of Mary, we'll then travel to Jesus' boyhood home of Nazareth. Next, we head to Caesarea Maritima by the Mediterranean Sea, where Peter baptized the Roman centurion Cornelius. Then it's on to our hotel in Jerusalem!

Day 8 – Jerusalem, Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, Mt. Zion, Upper Room, Caiaphas' home

This full day will take us to the places where Jesus walked, taught, ate, prayed, was arrested, and perhaps even imprisoned during his final week in Jerusalem. Then we'll rest again at our hotel in Jerusalem before...

Day 9 – Way of the Cross, Temple Mount, Garden Tomb, Church of the Holy Sepulchre & more

We'll walk the route that tradition says Jesus walked to Calvary, see two sites where he may have been crucified and buried, and celebrate his death and resurrection in Holy Communion. Finally, we'll pray at the Western ("Wailing") Wall before ending our journey on the "Teaching Steps" of the Temple, where Jesus finished his public ministry. Then we'll return home on Day 10 to share our transforming journey with others.

The total cost for this entire pilgrimage is only \$3,098, which includes round-trip airfare from Indianapolis, bus fares, first-class hotel accommodations, breakfast and supper each day, guide and driver fees, and all taxes and tips. Not included are lunches, travel insurance, and personal expenses.

For a complete brochure and other details (including discounts for early registration), contact Pastor Dave.



December 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Christmas Piano Music CD's by Janie Pound are available from the office for \$10.00 each.



1 3:15-Jr. Trp. 01638
5:30-Vision Task Force mtg.

2

3 6:00 p.m.- Parsonage Open House

4



Communion
Angel Tree tags up for selection
5:00- Bible Study
6:00- Bible Study
7:30-Cantata rehearsal

5 3:15- Cadet troop 10462
7:00-Handbell practice

6 7:00-Men's Bible Study

7 9:30 a.m.- Service Circle mtg, Connie Becker's
11:00 Rotary Youth & Govt. meeting
3:15-Kids For Christ
6:30 G.S. Leaders

8 3:15 Brownies 01638

7:00 Choir practice

9

10 10:00 a.m.- Mission Committee meeting at Shelly Gregg's

11



Poinsettia orders due
4:00 p.m.- Christmas Cantata
5:00- Bible Study
6:00- Bible Study

12 3:15- Cadet troop 10462
7:00-Handbell practice

13 7:00-Men's Bible Study

14 3:15-Kids For Christ
6:30-Trustee mtg

15 1:00 Current Lit mtg
3:15 Jr. Trp 01638
6:30 Pack Meeting, Fellowship Hall
7:00 Choir practice

16

17

18



Angel Tree Gifts due back
5:00- Bible Study
6:00- Bible Study

19 3:15- Cadet troop 10462
7:00-Handbell practice

20 7:00-Men's Bible Study

21 No Kids For Christ
6:30- Administrative Council meeting

22 3:15 Jr. Trp 01638
7:00 Choir practice

23

24 
7:00 p.m.- Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m.- Candlelight Communion Service

25



Christmas Day
No Sunday School

26

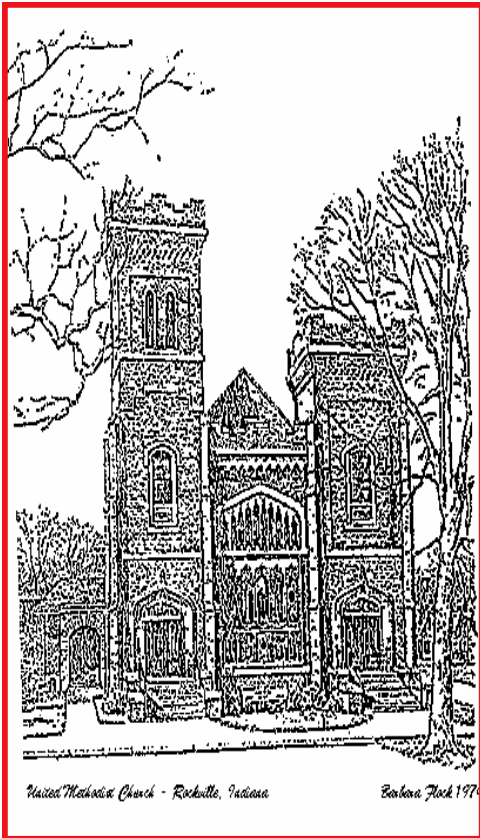
27 7:00-Men's Bible Study

28 No Kids For Christ

29 7:00 Choir practice

30

31



Rockville First United Methodist Church



Regular Church School and Worship Schedule:

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Contact information:

~Pastor Dave Marty~

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~Church~

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Office Hours M-Th, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.