

Thank you to all who help make Rockford beautiful during the Christmas season.



Just a Little Donkey

Author Unknown

Just a little donkey,
but on my back I bore
the one and only Saviour
the world was waiting for.

Just a little donkey,
but I was strong and proud;
I gladly carried Mary
through the chaos of the crowd.

I brought her to a stable
where she made a tiny bed...
A place for Baby Jesus
to lay His little head.

I pray the world remembers
that special Christmas night,
when just a little donkey
carried Heaven's precious light.



From Pastor Dawn

As I write this, it is 11 days before Thanksgiving. What's happening next door at my son & daughter-in-law's home? They are having their traditional appetizers while decorating the Christmas tree!

For those of you who have some unwritten rule about when the decorations go up, well what can I say.... We love Christmas! And they are leaving soon to spend Thanksgiving with her parents in North Carolina. Is that an exemption to your rule? I'm seriously thinking about putting our tree up early this year too.

I love the decorations, the lights, the nativity scenes in celebration of Christ's birthday. And the season always seems to be just too short. With the hustle and bustle of the season, before I know it, it's time to take the decorations down and pack them away! And I feel like I've not really enjoyed them or the season. I've just allowed other 'things' to get in the way.

I don't know about you, but I try each year to make more room in my Christmas celebrations for Christ. But it's so easy to get caught up in the decorating, the gift giving, the food preparation and the rush of the holiday and leave little room for Him. And for me, there's a goal I must somehow make this Christmas unique by preaching messages from a different angle to help it come alive again for you all. And before we know it, we have given very little time for Christ.

Luke 2:7 tells us; "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was **NO ROOM** for them in the inn." (emphasis by me) Did the innkeeper utter those words, **NO ROOM**? And in my actions am I also uttering to Christ there is **NO ROOM** in my holiday busyness for Him too.

Remember the book we read where Jesus takes us through each room in our home, My Heart, Christs' Home? In the living room He sits patiently waiting for us to join Him each morning for devotions and prayer with Him. And one day as we rush off for our busy day, we notice Him sitting there waiting patiently. In our busyness we completely forgot Him. That's not my intention, but perhaps it is my actions. This year, for our very first Advent week, December 1st, I will have something to share with you that you can keep in your pocket this year during Advent. I hope it will remind each of us to open our hearts and homes to Him. And we will not live an Advent life of NO ROOM!

I pray you all join me. Let's live a life this year making sure there is room for the blessed Christ.



DECEMBER Prayer Focus

Pray for those who have a difficult time during the holidays.

- Those without the necessities of life.
- Those without a job.
- Those dealing with depression and other mental health challenges.
- Those who struggle with addiction.
- Those who don't know Jesus as Savior.



Rockford celebrates Barb Abel!



Barb volunteers her time not only at Rockford but also at the Arc of Jackson County.

The Arc of Indiana is committed to all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities realizing their goals of living, learning, working and fully participating in the community.



Have You Marked Your Calendar Yet?



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 11-13, 2025
SPRING ARBOR, MICHIGAN

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

 GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Great Lakes
GREATLAKESGMC.ORG

Get ready for the Great Lakes Annual Conference session, happening June 10-13, 2025, at Spring Arbor University in beautiful Michigan!

Join us for an unforgettable experience filled with dynamic speakers, uplifting worship, and tons of opportunities to connect and grow together.

Mark your calendars—this is one event you won't want to miss!

More exciting details coming your way soon!

Anchor House Donations - December

Dec 1 – Cereal, Pancake Mix & Syrup

Dec 8 – Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta

**Dec 15 – Pop Tarts, Breakfast Bars, Mac &
Cheese cups**

Dec 22 – Soups, Canned Chili, etc.

Dec 29 – Flour, Oil, Instant Coffee, Sugar

Feel free to bring other items as well. A complete list is on the bulletin board.

Please note: The pantry is always in need of *flour, sugar, instant coffee, and oil*. They always appreciate donations of these items.



Homebound

Nancy Hoffar (812) 522-6041
218 W 7th Street
Seymour, IN 47274

December Cleaning Schedule

December 2	Bard Abel & Linda Box
December 16	Pat Lewis, Bob & Jennifer Doriot
December 30	Marty & Sarah Schwab, Margie Marhanka

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Hudson Ray	12/01/2017
Andrew Plumer	12/02/2009
Randy Webb	12/03/1964
Marty Schwab	12/04/1953
Marilyn McKain	12/20
Sarah Ball	12/27/2001
Nicole Plumer	12/28/1985
Mike Abel	12/29/1950

Matt & Kirsten Gring 12/09/2023

*Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary from
Rockford Community Church!*

December Intercessory Prayers

Dec. 1 – Marilee Klopfenstein
Bill & Kris Knott

Dec 8 - Pat Lewis
Margie Marhanka

Dec. 15 – Marilyn McKain
Shirley McNew

Dec. 22 – Dave & Peg Mellenbruch
Greg & Jullie Menefee

Dec. 29 - Sharon & Bernard Miller
Carol Oktavec

December Sunday Worship Assistants

	Liturgist	Prayer	Children's Message
December 1	Bridget	Dee	Jim
December 8	Leslie	Pat	Sarah S.
December 15	Horace	Horace	Kris
December 22	Bob	Carol	Pat
December 29	Pat	Dee	Horace

November Attendance & Giving

November 3	50	Offering	\$ 1817.00
		Building Fund	\$ 38.97
November 10	40	Offering	\$ 1227.00
		Building Fund	\$ 35.42
November 17	45	Offering	\$ 1943.00
		Building Fund	\$ 42.00
November 24	52	Offering	\$ 1040.00
		Building Fund	\$ 39.50



If the weather outside is frightful...

Our trustees will assess the parking lot and roads leading to church. They will consult with Pastor Dawn and the worship team and decide on closing the church. The message will be passed down the prayer chains and the information line and posted on Facebook and on the website.

Women's Bible Study – The Birth of Isaac



The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 21:8 The child grew, and on the day that he was weaned, Abraham gave a great feast.

When he was ninety-nine years old, God visited Abraham and told him that his wife, Sarah, would soon give him a son. Abraham was very surprised to hear this and wondered if a man could have a child when he was a hundred years old.


"Can Sarah give birth to a child even though she is ninety years old?" Abraham asked God.

"Why not just let Ishmael, my son by Hagar, be my heir?"

"No, your wife Sarah will bear you a son and you will name him Isaac," said the Lord, who had other plans for Ishmael.

When Sarah learned that she was to bear Abraham a son, she was shocked and found it very hard to believe that she would become pregnant at such an old age. But the Lord kept his promise, and exactly nine months later, when Abraham was a hundred years old, Sarah gave birth to a son. Abraham named the boy Isaac, as God had told him to do.

"After so many years of longing for a child of my own, God has brought me joy and laughter," said Sarah. "Everyone who hears about the birth of Isaac will be overjoyed and wish us great happiness."

An illustration depicting the biblical scene of the birth of Isaac. Abraham, an elderly man with a long white beard, is shown in a red robe, holding a young boy (Isaac) in his arms. Sarah, a woman in a purple and blue robe, is seated next to him, looking at the child with a joyful expression. The background is a simple, light-colored setting.

Children's Time – Kris and Pat









Brayton #14
Seymour
Middle School





Liam looking
adorable! Like
always!

Freddy sending
up prayers.

(Freddy is the
owner of Julie &
Greg Menefee)





Carolyn's Corner

Christmas

Let's go back in time. Do you remember the excitement you felt about Christmas when you were a kid? Before the big day, you checked out all the tags on the gifts to find out which ones were yours and shook each one trying to guess what was inside. Christmas morning finally arrived, and you could not wait to tear the wrapping paper off so you could play with your new toys.

With the passing of time and increased maturity our excitement regarding Christmas may change. Our reason for celebrating grows deeper and more meaningful as our focus shifts from gifts to Christ. The tree reminds us of the tree Jesus died on to pay for our sins. The lights testify that Jesus is the light of the World, and the gifts are a mere shadow of the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ. The giver of this amazing gift was God the Father, Jesus has existed as a member of the Trinity. The reason the Father gave His Son was because God loved us and wanted us to have eternal life with Him. John 3:16. This gift from heaven humbly wrapped, instead of coming down in a grand display of glory Jesus was quietly conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was the sacrificial gift. Jesus came to earth to rescue us from eternal punishment. A ransom who could pay for our sins so we could be forgiven. No human being was qualified, the Son of God is the most precious gift ever given. Jesus is Immanuel "God with us." We were not redeemed with silver but with His precious blood as of a lamb, spotless Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:19)

Just remember, the presents you open on Christmas Day quickly become old and useless, but Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation Jesus offers us will never change or pass away. This Christmas gift is personal. This offer is given to everyone who chooses to accept the gift of the Son. We can share this gift with our family, friends,

our children, and those who we do not know. We are offering each one the gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus loves you unconditionally. Christmas is one of the most meaningful holidays we celebrate because it's all about the gift of Jesus! Amen!

Merry Christmas to all and all a good night!

Carolyn Plank



Crossword #4

Across

1. Chocolate alternative
 6. Venomous snake
 11. "Goodfellas" fellas
 14. Cocktail garnish
 15. Hot spot
 16. Indignation
 17. Prince hit, "I Wanna Be Your ____"
 18. Pick up the tab
 19. Conk out
 20. Kind of leather
 22. More miffed
 24. Pet name
 25. In all respects
 26. Take in
 29. Dress down
 30. Scribble (down)

31. Aussie "bear"

33. Choppers, so to speak
 36. Region
 38. Kind of wine
 40. Take a chance
 41. Drive away
 43. Miser's problem
 45. Sargasso, for one
 46. Modular home
 48. Passel of pups
 50. Workplace newbie
 52. Belinda Carlisle, once
 53. Legalese word
 54. Motorcycle escort
 58. Poetic palindrome
 59. Fluid build-up

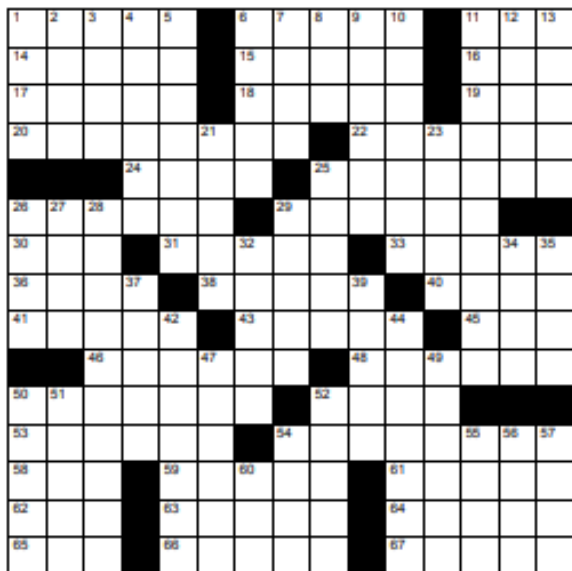
61. Skip a syllable
 62. Vintner's vessel
 63. Word repeated twice in a 1983 Bond film
 64. Twill fabric
 65. Picnic pest
 66. What's hot
 67. Pittsburgh product

Down

1. Hard-hearted
 2. Succulent plant
 3. Tear apart
 4. Cook too long
 5. Bad way to go
 6. In motion
 7. Mend socks

8. Word on an invoice
 9. Beguile
 10. Machine gun sound
 11. Bahrain's region
 12. Bay window
 13. Drunken
 21. Shish ____
 23. Old-fashioned
 25. Coquettish woman
 26. Open, a little
 27. Drag
 28. Mike Brady was one
 29. Book jacket ad
 32. Pool problem
 34. Elder or alder
 35. Preside over

37. Lofty nest
 39. Feudal slave
 42. Far from strict
 44. Go off-topic
 47. Ding site, maybe
 49. Bathroom furnishing
 50. Sorority letter
 51. Air again
 52. Prison profession
 54. Black cat, to some
 55. Nearly hopeless
 56. Drop-off point
 57. Rod's companion
 60. Cain raiser



Winter Chill

D R E B M E V O N Y R U A H J M R
G N L I U T E X T D L J K N X M E
A I I C O C N Z H M S I G Y Z Y T
D O O R E B M E C E D W M Y V F N
J A R A F I R E P L A C E A J C I
T K T X Z Z Y L L I H C X A F O W
S A P Z C A L F R I E N D S T O S
E L L A B T O O F D R N L A X E T
V H J S N O W F L A K E S S B T R
A O K G S G N D W D Q S E V O L G
E L X C E A E F V N B H E X V B D
L I G T L H I V I Y W W Z D U H Z
O D A S D K S B X R L T Q F A O V
O A M O N N O I T C E L E O D T D
D Y R R A R E H T A G B C M S E P
T S N F C C E T A R B E L E C I B
D O G I G D L Z J S C A R F G P D

Snowflakes
Fireplace
Celebrate
December
Election
Football
Holidays
November
Bonfire
Candles
Friends
Sweater
Gather
Gloves
Chilly
Family
Leaves
Winter
Scarf
Frost
Coat
Pie



Pastor

Pastor Dawn L. Barnes
Cell Phone: (812) 593-4480
Email: pastordawnlbarnes@gmail.com

Social Media

Church Email: rockfordccseymour@gmail.com
Church Website: www.rockfordcommunitychurch.com
Church Facebook Page: Search for Rockford Community Church,
Seymour Indiana or use the link:
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082103007596

WIFI

Rockford Wi-fi Name:	PrivateNetwork1
Wi-fi Password:	Password1234

Global Methodist Great Lakes Conference

Conference Facebook: [Facebook.com/GreatLakesGMC](https://www.facebook.com/GreatLakesGMC)
Conference Website: GreatLakesGMC.org

Fellowship Hall Use

Should you need entrance into the fellowship hall or sanctuary and do not have a key, please contact:

Mike Abel	(812) 522-1903
	(812) 498-5750
Marty Schwab	(812) 405-2740
	(318) 614-0668

Please check the doors when you leave to make sure they are locked.

Rockford Community Church Volunteers

Lay Leader/Ad Council Chair	Carol Oktavec
Recording Secretary/Communications Chair	Leslie Ball
Finance Chair	Terry Thomas
Treasurer	Cinda Summa
Pastor-Parish Relations Chair	Sarah Schwab
Trustee Chair	Mike Abel
Worship Chair	Dee Plumer
Evangelism/Missions Chair	Pat Lewis
Christian Education	Kris Knott
Organist	Dee Plumer
Pianist	Sarah Schwab
Song Leader	Janet Dyer
Second Sunday Singers	Shirley McNew
Video/Screen	Jim Israel
Prayer Team Coordinator	Pat Lewis
Information Line Coordinator	Leslie Ball
Rockford Women of Faith (RWF)	Dee Plumer
Rockford Church Men's Group	Terry Thomas

Solution for Crossword #4

1	C	2	A	3	R	4	O	5	B		6	A	7	D	8	D	9	E	10	R		11	M	12	O	13	B
14	O	L	I	V	E					15	S	A	U	N	A					16	I	R	E				
17	L	O	V	E	R					18	T	R	E	A	T					19	D	I	E				
20	D	E	E	R	S					21	K	I	N			22	M	A	D	D	E	R					
					24	D	E	A	R					25	T	O	T	A	L	L	Y						
26	A	B	S	O	R	B				29	B	E	R	A	T	E											
30	J	O	T			31	K	O	A	L	A			33	T	E	E			34	T	H					
36	A	R	E	A		37			38	B	L	U	S	H			40	D	A	R	E						
41	R	E	P	E	L				42		43	G	R	E	E	D			44		45	S	E	A			
				46	P	R	E	F	A	B			48	L	I	T	T	E	R								
50	T	R	A	I	N	E	E				52	G	O	G	O												
53	H	E	R	E	I	N				54	O	U	T	R	I		55	D	E	R		56		57			
58	E	R	E			59	E	D	E	M	A				61	E	L	I	D	E							
62	T	U	N			63	N	E	V	E	R				64	S	E	R	G	E							
65	A	N	T			66	T	R	E	N	D				67	S	T	E	E	L							

Thank you for a wonderful year of Rockford Review Newsletters. It is a joy to share information, memories and fun with all of you. We will be taking a break this coming month and will not have a publication for January 2025. Please continue to share your photos and stories to be included in the February printing of the Rockford Review!

Be blessed and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Leslie

