

News From The Rock

April 2023

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Disaffiliation Update

In a Church Conference held on March 14, the 61 Solid Rock members in attendance voted to approve the motion to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. A two-thirds vote was required for the proposal to pass, and 80% of members voted in favor of the motion. The vote concluded a seven-month period of reflection, discussion, and discernment.

A Disaffiliation Task Force will now work through the steps which need to be accomplished to complete the process. Task Force members include Pastor John Boyanowski, Gary Walter (Administrative Council Chair), Steve Holmes (Finance Committee Chair), David Spahr (Trustees Chair), Jon Voght (Staff-Parish Relations Chair), and Bruce Preston (Council Member.)

Some of the tasks that need to be completed include obtaining a title search on the property, forming a new legal entity to which all assets and property will be transferred, obtaining insurance coverage, submitting copies of historical records to the Conference, and obtaining a loan to cover disaffiliation costs. Following completion of requirements, disaffiliation will be officially approved at Annual Conference in June, and disaffiliation will be effective July 1, 2023.

Disaffiliation costs of approximately \$106,000 will be due prior to July 1. In addition there will be attorney fees for legal steps that need to be accomplished. A Disaffiliation Fund has been established, and donations to this fund will reduce the amount of the loan needed.

Options for next steps will continue to be explored, with the goal of having a plan in place for a smooth transition on July 1.

Next Steps

Now that the disaffiliation vote has been completed, we need to determine our direction going forward. Options include:

- Remain an independent congregation
- Affiliate with the Global Methodist Church
- Affiliate with another denomination

We will conduct another straw poll on March 26 and April 2 to assess the preferences of the congregation at this time. Please pick up a ballot as you enter the sanctuary and place it in the designated location as you leave. (You may also complete a ballot at the church office between 9:00 and 4:30 on March 27, 28, 29, or 30.) There will be space on the ballot to submit questions you may have.



Blessing of the Bikes

Solid Rock and the Christian Motorcycle Association will hold a Blessing of the Bikes at Solid



Rock on Sunday, April 23. This is open to all bikers. The event will begin with the usual worship

service at 10:00 a.m., followed by the blessing of each bike and rider. For more information, contact Pastor John Boyanowski or Phil Brown at (260) 385-6757.



Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

I Still Believe

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me....” John 14:1; ESV

The vote is now over, and we know where we are going as a church. In some cases it’s what we hoped for, and for others it’s not what we ever imagined for Solid Rock Church. We believe that God is leading and calling Solid Rock Church to continue to be a blessing and impact for its members, visitors, the community, and the kingdom of God, the way it has been in years past. Our beliefs haven’t changed, nor have our callings. In fact, I personally believe we are on the verge of something AMAZING for each of us! I still believe in Solid Rock Church because



it is built on The Solid Rock, Jesus Christ!

We are a non-stationary church, meaning that we don’t remain in our past and that we look towards the future: as individuals, the church body, and ministry to the community. Staying still only brings stagnation; Living Water constantly flows and moves. However, how do we move on from this point?

First and most importantly, let God lead. We might pass through some wildernesses and deserts on our journey. There might be some times when we feel fright-

(Continued on page 3)



Good Friday Service • April 7 • 6:30 at Solid Rock



Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Photos requested for website update

Plans are underway for an update of the Solid Rock website. We hope to feature lots of photos of Solid Rock happenings. Please take pictures as your groups engage in various activities and submit them to gary@solidrockumc.com. Thank you!

Newsletter Refresh

With changes in our denominational affiliation, this is a good time to refresh our newsletter as well. (It has had no design changes since the inception of Solid Rock 15 years ago.)

Here are some proposed names for the Solid Rock newsletter:

News From The Rock

is published each month by

Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322
Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren
Church Phone: 375-3871

Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Friday

Pastor: Rev. John Boyanowski
pastorjohn@solidrockumc.com
(260) 580-8305

Youth Programs
youthministry@solidrockumc.com

Newsletter Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield
jane@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

News deadline for the May
newsletter: April 23

- News from the Rock (keeping the current name)
- The Cornerstone Connection
- The Rock Report
- Solid Rock Reflections

What do you like? Send your thoughts to gary@solidrockumc.com or call Jane in the office at 375-3873.

Widows Care & Share

The WCS (Widows Care & Share) small group is growing and we are having fun doing it. If you are a widow or know of one, we would like to have you join our group. This is NOT A GRIEF group. The purpose of this group is: "with God's guidance to gather with other widows and meet the needs and desires of their heart through the sharing of feelings with others who have undergone the same or similar experience and find some peace and comfort. It is the desire that new friendships can be formed and needs met by loving one another as God loves us."

You do not have to attend Solid Rock Church or even live in Warren to become a part of us.

In the past months we have had discussion groups (with a special speaker), went out to eat, and worked on a service project. Below you see what we have planned for the next couple of months:

- April 4th — Discussion on "Does the pain ever go away?" and "How is your social life going?" 2:00 p.m.
- April 18th — Let's have a fun day in the Kitchen! 2:00 p.m.
- May 2nd — Headed to Shippshewana Day! (Pray for sunshine and wear comfy shoes.) Time TBD
- May 16th — "Are you getting the support you need? – How can we help you?" 2:00 p.m.

If you would like more information on this group, please contact Billie Horrell, (260) 366-7533 or the church office. Or just show up at one of the meetings. We would love to see you!



Solid Rock Youth Group
appreciates you! You're invited...

SPAGHETTI LUNCH &

B I N G O

Sunday, April 2

11:15am

How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one

to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him...
"Rabboni!"

John 20:16, ESV



—Heidi Hyland Mann

Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

—Madeleine L'Engle,
The Rock That Is Higher

(Continued from page 1)

ened because we might have some dark moments. This is where we know and understand that God is with us! As we follow Him, we will be led in the same manner as Moses was as they left Egypt.

The passage provided is to remind us to not worry or to let our hearts be troubled. We are called to “believe in God; believe also in me (Jesus).” The vote has caused a great deal of fear, confusion, heartache, and possibly hurt. I still believe in the heart and connection Solid Rock Church has with God and for one another. I know this decision will only draw us closer to one another and closer to God—if we choose to allow it to be this.

God grants us free will and choice and where we go from here is a choice that each of us must make. We have a great history together, but we also have an equally great future ahead of us if we simply follow God’s lead. One question I hear from others is “Where do I fit in?” You have never lost your place in the family, and you never will. You can still follow your callings here or wherever God is leading you. Solid Rock Church will continue to help you with your calling and service as He directs you. I still believe that God is continually moving us to find how to use our gifts and talents to bless others and ourselves as we remain faithful. You fit in as a family member and friend. You are precious to not only God but to each of Solid Rock Church’s members.

Next, we must hold fast to biblical truths. These are shown to us through the Holy Spirit (see John 14:15-31), Scriptures, and daily communication with God through prayer. These are not defined by man, but by God. Man doesn’t have the wisdom, knowledge, and foresight that God has. Man’s ability to see and know what God sees and knows is only based on how we seek God’s will and direction in our lives. This first begins on the individual level and progresses into the church body. To achieve this, we must be unified as one body. The hand might work independently from the foot, but if the foot doesn’t move to where the hand needs to be, the hand will never reach its full potential. Remember that Christ is the Head and that without this, the body doesn’t exist. We need the intellect of God to move us toward our goals!

Where do those go who believe they have no place because the vote didn’t go their way? Most importantly, you are family and ALWAYS will be! But this is where

God might be calling you to educate us (the church) on how to meet your needs and callings. Maybe, just maybe, God is using this time to move us towards greater things and better ways to meet the needs of not only our community but also this generation. This takes a partnership with one another: the young and the old listen to one another and hear one another in ways yet to be discovered, each one teaching the other their hearts and concerns. When this communication takes place, we then can work together to grow in grace and compassion for one another. How can we know one’s heart unless we engage with one another in fellowship?

Finally, remember that we continue to have a solid foundation. Our core beliefs, our calling to serve, and our ministries remain. God hasn’t changed any of this because the needs haven’t changed. People still need God, the need for assistance in connecting with Him, for us to be the hands and feet of Christ, meeting the needs of the church/community, and the need for grace. That foundation is found in Christ. God uses each of us to complete the tasks which He places on our hearts. That has never changed. We are called to be the light to those in the darkness; let’s combine our lights to create such a brilliant light (Christ shining in each of us) that others are drawn toward God!

I believe Solid Rock Church remains the church that came together years ago to create what it is today. Look at how far we’ve come since 2014 to where we are today... now think of what is ahead of us as we allow God to lead us into the future of Solid Rock Church... I still believe we have a great future together!

I am so humbled to be part of this great community of believers! Yes, we might have differences from time to time, but all families do. I look forward to serving alongside each of you!

Death doesn’t win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned rem-

nants were visible in the background, just as Easter’s backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter’s foreground means death won’t win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life “isn’t all daffodils,” we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.



Easter reveals that God will “give us the joy, and it’s going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well,” added the pastor. “And that just makes me draw closer to God.”

Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn’t believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus’ death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus’ responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: “Touch my body” — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.



“STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE!”
JOHN 20:27, NIV

- “Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with our resurrection.”
—Watchman Nee
- “God doesn’t just give us grace; he gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace.”
—Joni Eareckson Tada



solidrockumc.com



Prayer Requests

Requests for prayer should be directed to
Solid Rock Office at 375-3873
during office hours or
Pastor John Boyanowski
at (260) 580-8305
when office is closed



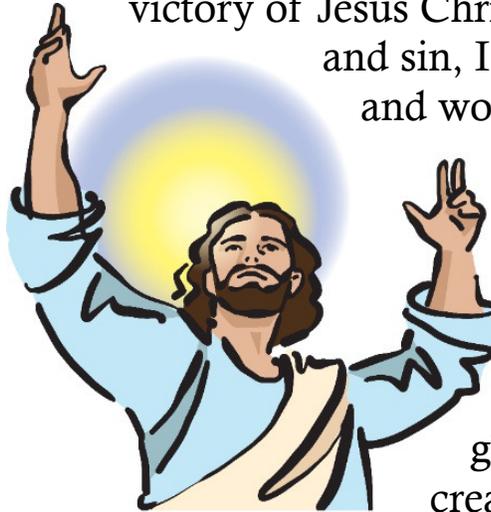
**April 23,
2023**
at
**Solid Rock
UMC**

**Worship at 10:00 a.m.
followed by a bike blessing**

**Come rain or shine
and join us**

For more information,
contact Pastor John
or Phil Brown at (260) 385-6757

Lord God, as I celebrate Easter and the triumphant victory of Jesus Christ over death and hell and sin, I fall down before You and worship You. I cry with



others around the world, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" All of

creation bows before You, Lord Jesus, because You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords who has won the victory and conquered death!

— Becky Harling

April 2023

