

News From The Rock

December 2019

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Family Ministry Update

by John Pearson,
Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry enjoyed 22 kids during our November Kid's Night. Each child was able to decorate a small gingerbread house, and they were all placed around a larger gingerbread church for an entry into the Festival of Trees. During this we had a short lesson on our forever house, Heaven. Our next Kid's Night will be on December 19th from 6:00-7:30 p.m., this will be a birthday party for Jesus.

Rock Solid Youth will be doing a short series titled "Exploring Thankfulness" where we are looking into what it means to be thankful and showing gratitude. We will be having a practice for the Christmas Eve Service on December 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Currently Rock Solid Youth is for 5th-12th grade students. Due to the big age difference and growing numbers, we will be splitting into two different groups/times.

This will be broken up into a pre-teen youth group (Rock Foundations 456), and a youth group (Rock Solid Youth). Rock Foundations 456 will consist of students in 4th-6th grades and will meet on Sundays from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Rock Solid Youth will consist of students in 7th-12th grades and will meet on Sundays from 6:45-8:00 p.m. As we split into two groups, both will be able to attend any service projects, fundraisers, or special events that are done through Solid Rock. The WAY events will be for Rock Solid Youth, but not Rock Foundations 456.

The WAY will be having a lock-in on January 3rd at First Baptist from 8:00 p.m.



-8:00 a.m. This is a free event. I am looking into doing some type of kick-off event for the pre-teen youth group during Christmas break.

There will be a special college/young adult event on December 30th. We will be meeting at the church for supper at 5:30 p.m., then going to Ft Wayne for an escape room.

New Church Directory

Solid Rock has made arrangements with Universal Church Directories to publish a new directory for the church. All who attend Solid Rock



are encouraged to participate in photography sessions on January 29 or January 30, 2020. Appointments will be available from

2:00 to 8:00 p.m. on both days.

Those who are photographed will receive a print copy of the church directory and one free 8x10 photo, with a no-pressure opportunity to purchase additional photos.

This program also permits us to offer a password-protected online directory app, which we can update.

Families not associated with Solid Rock who would like to be professionally photographed are also invited to participate and may opt out of inclusion in the directory.

If you are willing to assist with this project by making phone calls, scheduling appointments, greeting families as they arrive for their sittings, or assisting with design of the directory, please contact the office and let Jane know of your interest.

More information will be provided as photography days approach. There is no charge to Solid Rock for this program.



from
Pastor Paul

The Indescribable Gift

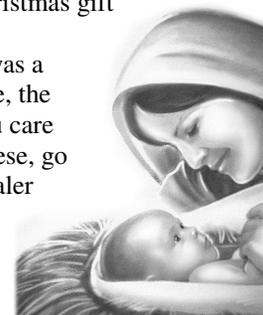
A few years ago, on "Good Morning, America," Joan Lunden featured some extraordinary gifts you might want to include on your Christmas gift list.

One of them was a Jaguar automobile, the Jaguar 220. If you care to order one of these, go to your Jaguar dealer and put down your \$80,000 deposit. Then when the automobile is delivered, you are expected to pay the balance of \$507,000. The Jaguar 220 is a \$587,000 automobile, and they only make 250 of them a year.

Joan Lunden mentioned that if you were to purchase such an automobile, you might also be interested in a new car wax that promises to give it the ultimate shine. It retails for \$3,400 for an 8 ounce can. I guess if you can afford a \$587,000 automobile, why not spend \$3,400 for car wax?

A third item she mentioned was a \$300,000 gold and silver toilet seat inlaid with precious stones. Of course, there were cheaper gifts for those who have everything: an \$18,000 frisbee, a \$10,000 yoyo, a \$12,000 mousetrap, and even a \$27,000 pair of sunglasses.

And for the proud grandparent who is wondering what to buy the new grandbaby,



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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.

Solid Rock Small Group Opportunities

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS (Sunday School)

Children's Classes

- PEBBLES (Nursery)
 - Ages 0-4
- LITTLE ROCKS/ROCK FOUNDATIONS
 - Preschool-Grade 4
- ROCK SOLID YOUTH
 - Grades 5-12

Adult Classes

- FIRM FOUNDATION
 - Currently studying "The Christmas

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Warren, Indiana 46792

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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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

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News deadline for the January
newsletter: December 22

Experience," by Kyle Idleman

- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

- FEASTING ON THE WORD
 - Meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the church kitchen

For more information on small groups, call the church office, 375-3873.

"Feasting on the Word" Bible studies for December

The 7:00 p.m. Monday evening Bible study group will meet in the church kitchen to look at scriptures preparing us for the coming of the Christ into our world. These studies will coordinate with Pastor Paul's



message the following Sunday. The shepherds were amazed at the Good News of the birth of Jesus.

King Herod was perplexed by this news. We are invited to hear anew the Good News of the arrival of our Lord and Savior. Do come and prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ in our studies.

- December 2: Isaiah 11:1-4a (Joe Haney, leader)
- December 9: Matthew 11:1-11 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- December 16: Matthew 1:18-25 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- December 23: John 21:15-19 (Joe Haney, leader)
- December 30: To Be Announced (Jorita Banter, leader)

We look forward to your attendance.

Firm Foundation Class studying "The Christmas Experience"

In anticipation of our celebration of Christmas, the Firm Foundation Sunday school class, which meets in the church kitchen, is studying "The Christmas Experience" by Kyle Idleman.

"As the story of Jesus unfolds, you'll be reminded that the Christmas holiday is

more than just a commercialized, secularized event...but an opportunity to remember that what happened then changes everything now.

"Join Kyle Idleman as he examines the Christmas story in detail, emphasizing how God chose each individual in the Christmas story for a specific purpose. You'll watch as Joseph leads his family with selfless faithfulness, as Mary follows obediently God's plan for her life, and as shepherds struggle with doubt as they wonder...could this really be their Savior?"

Plan to join us for this study on Sunday mornings at 9:00!

Light shines in the darkness

In Nepal, where blindness is prevalent due to under-funded medical care and a lack of eye doctors, ophthalmologist Sanduk Ruit has made it his mission to treat

poor people. He's performed more than 130,000 cataract surgeries to restore sight, sometimes walking for a week with surgical equipment in tow to reach patients. Dr. Ruit also found a way for replacement lenses to be made locally for less than

\$3 each, rather than buying them internationally for 100 times as much. The physician brings healing to remote villages and celebrates "big eye-opening festivals" with people who "were blind yesterday, and ... are seeing today."

At Christmas we celebrate the Word of God who came to live among us as Jesus, the light of the world. In countless ways since, God has brought light to those living in literal or figurative darkness.

We celebrate people, such as Dr. Ruit and the 650 doctors he has trained, whom God uses to cause "light [to shine] in the darkness" (John 1:5).



- "More light than we can learn, more wealth than we can treasure, more love than we can earn, more peace than we can measure, because one Child is born." —Author Unknown
- "Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." —C.S. Lewis
- "The birth of Jesus is the sunrise in the Bible." —Henry Van Dyke

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how about a \$28,000 pacifier?

Such gifts stagger our imagination, don't they? But they are not indescribable. Only God can give gifts beyond description, and priceless besides. His greatest was the gift of Christ Jesus. At Christmas, we remember our most precious gift—the gift of the Christ child, God with Us, who came into the world to show us a better way to live and the forgiveness that came through his sacrifice on the cross. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! A gift that continues to keep on giving through the power of the Holy Spirit present in our lives today!

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

Thank you!

Thank you to the veterans, veterans' families and active duty military who attended the Celebration on Sunday, November 10. Thank you to the Solid Rock Church family who joined in to show your love and support of our veterans and military.

Solid Rock Church is truly blessed by God with amazing volunteers and talented members and guests! Thank you to the video and sound department, Gary and Bruce, for going above and beyond for the veterans. Thank



you to Wendell Brown, Rose Broyles, Lynn and Vicki Bonewitz, Kim Nelson, Tara Korporal, Kelly Leidig, Cammy Ackley, Dale Smith, Dale Parker, Robert DeWeese, Brenda Conner, Bonnie Zeller, Linda Howell, Lisa Burreis, Jane Hitzfield, Donna Bolinger, Jill Eltzroth, Scott Canady, Pat and Curly Boxell, Lana Myers, Jennifer Myers, Dave Spahr, Cindy Boxell, Beth and Monte Lightner, the Plummer family, The Remnant House ladies, Kelly Jones and the Warren Royalty Court, the Men's Fellowship group, Pastor Paul, the table arrangement crew, the dessert makers, the top-notch decorators, greeters, servers and kitchen staff!

Thank you to John, Tom, Emily, and the youth group for getting drinks to everyone. Much appreciation for sharing their talents goes to the Huntington Veterans of Foreign Wars, Club Saxophone, Larry Ryan, David and the Three Blondies, and the musical

group led by Linda Walters, "A Few Good Men," with sign language by Jen Plummer.

Approximately 265 attended the celebration with 59 veterans and active duty honored in attendance. We are blessed to have 150 veterans and active duty with two service dogs on the video.

Praying that Solid Rock and guests provided our veterans and military with an honorable service, meal and entertainment that they are SO DESERVING of! Most of all, thank you, veterans, for serving and sacrificing. God bless you, and God bless America!

Gina

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met Thursday, November 7, 2019, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, had an opening devotional entitled "Thanksgiving Time" by Deborah Ann Belka and scripture reading of Hebrews 13.

The reciting of the Purpose of United Methodist Women was by all attending.

From the prayer calendar the mission focus was Racial Justice Advocacy and Education. Birthday of the month was for Evana Lewis, Bronx, New York. She is a deaconess consecrated and commissioned through U.M. Women by the U.M.

Church to ministries of love, justice and service through a full-time vocation of service ministry.

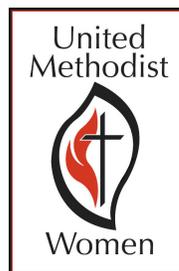
Joys and concerns were voiced and Bernie Garrett offered prayer.

Martha Plummer had the Mission Moment about Susan Collins, a trailblazer for U.M. Women. A student from Illinois, she went to Africa, working for 13 years at no pay. At the age of 50 she was told she was too old to work, but she worked 15 more years for pay.

The secretary's report, roll call, and treasurer's reports were given.

The next meeting will be December 5. Bernie Garrett will give the Mission Moment and Vi Hienen will have the program.

Today's program was "World Thank Offering" by Barbara Hart from the book of Ruth. Our World Thank Offering helps U.M. Women with their missions and advocacy. The program was closed by reciting the litany.



The first Nativity scene was created in 1223

At some point in childhood, many kids don a blue shawl or fake beard and act out the nativity scene in front of doting parents and grandparents. Whether performed by children, set up as little figurines in a home or installed as a life-size tableau in front of a church, these scenes are a staple of the Christmas holidays. But when did this tradition begin?



Slate explores the history of the nativity scene:

"Blame St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death.

"According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about 'the babe of Bethlehem.' (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn't say 'Jesus.')

The nativity scene's popularity took off from there. Within a couple of centuries, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. Later scenes began incorporating dioramas and live actors, and the cast of characters gradually expanded beyond Mary, Joseph and sweet baby Jesus, to sometimes include an entire village.

Nativity buffs will know, however, that the familiar cast of characters relied upon today—the three wise men and the shepherds—is not biblically accurate. Of the New Testament's four gospels, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus' birth. Matthew mentions wise men, while Luke comments on shepherds. But nowhere in the Bible do shepherds and wise men appear together. What's worse, no one mentions donkeys, oxen, cattle or other farmyard friends in conjunction with Jesus' birth. But what would a nativity scene be without those staples? Luckily for all the kids cast as King #2 or random shepherd, some artistic interpretation is permitted.

—Smithsonian Magazine

October Financial Update

General Offerings.....\$14,491
General Fund Expenses.....\$20,727

Christmas Eve at Solid Rock



7:00 p.m.
Worship Service with
Pastor Paul

11:00 p.m.
Worship Service
led by Rock Solid Youth

Children's Program

The Children's Christmas Program will be on December 22 during morning worship.

The children's choir will be practicing following church on December 1, 8, and 15.

Now the Work of Christmas Begins

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.



December 2019

