

News From The Rock

February 2018

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Bears Ministry

Once again we will be collecting stuffed bears to give to anyone you might want to give one to: a newborn baby, someone sick, an elderly person, or just anyone you're thinking of, no matter of age.

At the end of the year, we give the leftover bears to the Food Pantry. Rose Broyles sees that they go to parents with young children for Christmas.



The tag on each bear reads: "Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things." This bear has attended the church of Solid Rock United Methodist Church. It has been blessed as it has heard scriptures read, the Word preached, hymns sung, and prayers prayed. It comes to you as a special reminder of God's healing and wonderful love."

We ask that only bears be donated. We cannot use other plush animals. Thank you!

Free "Soup for the Soul" Supper

Mark your calendar for February 13th and take your special valentine out.

You can warm their heart and their soul with a bowl of vegetable, chili or chicken noodle soup at Solid Rock's annual free Soup for the Soul supper. The temperatures may be cold outside, but we

will warm you up with a bowl of soup, also



servicing peanut butter sandwiches, relishes, drinks, cookies and ice cream, along with some great fellowship.

We will be serving from 5:00-6:30, unless the kettle runs dry. Come, bring that special valentine, your family, friends and neighbors. A sign-up sheet will soon be posted at the church so that you have the opportunity to help out. If you have any questions, see Marg Bentley or call her at 375-2317. Hope to hear from you and see you on the 13th.

Grapevine Cluster Work Camp to Henderson Settlement

When: Sunday, March April 8, 2018, (Depart after church from Liberty Center) to Saturday April 14

Where: Frakes, Kentucky, (Laurel Fork Valley of Southeastern Kentucky)

Cost: \$250 to include accommodations and meals plus gas, due February 26

Purpose: Work camp at Henderson Settlement will

serve two purposes. First and primarily, it serves as an opportunity to educate persons in mission and the needs that exist amongst the less fortunate in our society. Secondly, work camp often serves as the bridge between dreams and reality for families of the Laurel Fork Valley of southeastern Kentucky, while giving groups the opportunity to witness for Christ through home repair and other assorted tasks.

Everyone is welcome to join us on this trip. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor

(Continued on page 3)



from
Pastor Paul

Do you love your neighbor?

When Jesus was asked about the most important commandment in the whole Bible, he said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself." The first part, if I may be a bit glib, is easy. All you have to do is think for a while about how badly you messed up your life, and how miraculously God saved you, and you really can't help but love him. You



can love him by yourself in the desert, like the ancient saints used to. Loving people while living in a world surrounded by them, on the other hand, is much harder.

That's because people are annoying. People are the ones who drive slow in front of you, take fifty-eight items into the ten-items-or-less lane, play their music too loud after your bedtime, and come to your workstation five minutes before closing with something urgent that's going to take an hour. Who can love their neighbors, honestly? Yet that's what we're commanded to do.

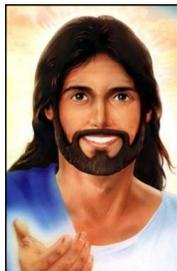
Many of us think that we're loving people because we love the people who we spend a lot of time around, the people who love us. What credit is it, really, if we love our friends? As Jesus said, "Even the pagans do that." I think there's a really good

(Continued on page 3)

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.

“Who Is This Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus”

On the eve of his crucifixion it seemed like Jesus’ influence on the world had ended. On the contrary, it had just begun. The Sunday school class that meets in the kitchen will begin this five-session video-based study February 4, 2018.



Pastor John Ortberg reveals how Jesus and Christianity came to make an inescapable influence on our world, and how you as a Christian can make an influence also. Sessions include: “The Man Who Won’t Go Away”; “A Revolution of Humanity”; “The Power of Forgiveness”;

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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Pastor: Rev. Paul Burris
pburris@hotmail.com
(260) 609-9260

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

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

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

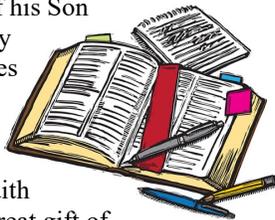
News deadline for the March
newsletter: February 18

“Why It’s a Small World After All”;
“Three Days That Changed the World.”

Please join us.

“Feasting on the Word” Bible Study

From Psalm 35:9 Laurie Klein wrote the chorus, “I Love You, Lord.” What a great way to affirm the love of God for us through the gift of his Son Jesus! While many in the United States will say “I love you!” with flowers or candy, we of the Christian faith celebrate God’s great gift of Jesus.



During the month of January Pastor Paul, from the book of James, urged us to combine our faith with actions. Now you are encouraged to join with our Bible study group on Monday evenings, 7:00 p.m., in the church kitchen for the wedding of faith with action. You may join with us in spirit at home or you may join us in body as we let God speak to us through the following scripture passages.

- February 5: Matthew 5:1-12 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- February 12: Genesis 9:12-16 & John 13:3-35 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- February 19: Genesis 17:1-7 (Joe Haney, leader)
- February 26: 1 Corinthians 1:24-31 (Perry Spahr, leader)

There is always room for one more at the foot of the cross – COME!

Food Pantry Needs

- Cereal
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Snack Crackers
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Spaghetti
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pudding Snack Packs
- Ramen Noodles



Also needed: plastic bags, books and magazines (6 months through adult)

Please leave your items in the wooden boxes in the narthex.

10 biblical ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. “To answer before listening — that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. “The righteous give without sparing” (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. “We have not stopped praying for you” (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife” (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. “Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. “[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. “Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. “A longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).



—From various websites;
all Scriptures NIV

In awe of God

A feel-good gospel is attractive but not transformative, writes Michael Yaconelli in *Dangerous Wonder* (NavPress). “The nice, nonthreatening God needs to be replaced by the God whose very presence smashes our egos into dust, burns our sin into ashes, and strips us naked to reveal the real person within. A healthy, childlike fear should make us more in awe of God than we are of our government, our problems, ... our doctrines and agendas, or any of our other earthly concerns.”

Yaconelli urges Christians “to become people whose God is big and holy and frightening and gentle and tender and *ours*; a God whose love frightens us into his strong and powerful arms where he dares to hold us in his terrifying, loving presence.”

“When all other doors in life are closed to us, Jesus will be for us the ever-open door. ... To call any situation hopeless is to shut the door on God.”

—Anthony Coniaris

way to measure how loving we really are, and it's by gauging the way we treat two groups of people who are the hardest to love: strangers and the people who hate us.

The Bible does talk a lot about loving strangers. It usually refers to a few specific types of them: widows, the fatherless, and people who are traveling through the land. The common theme between those people, and the thing that makes loving strangers such a sacrificial act, is that most of them are utterly unable to give anything back to you, except perhaps for the joy you get from serving.

The quintessential story of stranger-love in the Bible, the parable of the Good Samaritan, was compelling because the Hebrew and the Samaritan were strangers, not even from the same country. If they'd been best friends, the tale might not have had the same impact. Giving to strangers strikes at the heart of selfishness, which even in saved people, is often the strongest instinct there is. The last time I went out of my way to really help a stranger was several months ago. When did you last part with a major chunk of money that you really shouldn't have given away? When did you last pick up something that somebody dropped, or even let someone cut in line in front of you?

I've heard other Christian writers talk about how people often speak of love using economic metaphor. You "invest" in a relationship. You "spend" time with people, and you "pay" them attention. Trust is "earned." Words are power, and without even realizing it, we think of love the same way we think of money, and the end result is that we frequently only spend our love when there is something in it for us. Showing love—which usually means parting with our time and/or our money—to strangers gives us nothing in return. To use economic metaphor, it gives us no return on investment. There's no compelling reason to do it at all, except that God says to. Because there's nothing in it for us, because there's no reason to do it except for personal conviction, it's a great measure of how loving we really are.

The second way to gauge our love is to see how we react to the people who don't love us. This might mean different things for all of us—a difficult co-worker, an abusive parent, or an unloving spouse. For many of my Christian friends, it simply means the people who have different Christian beliefs. The most natural reaction is to lash out against these people with the pain, indignation, and frustration that their ac-

tions seem to deserve. Yet again, what credit is it to us if we treat the people well who treat us well and treat the people poorly who treat us poorly? Even the pagans do that.

Actually, many of the same things that made it difficult to love strangers also make it difficult to love these people, and those difficulties are often multiplied. While loving a stranger is hard because you don't gain anything and may never see them again, loving a co-worker is hard because you see them almost every day, and loving a parent or spouse is hard because it's such a deep emotional relationship. Rather than simply gaining nothing from your love, you actually stand to lose a lot, by opening yourself up to the pain of rejection or the chance that they may take advantage of your kindness. If you've ever loved someone who's hard to love, you know what I'm talking about, and you probably understand why it's such a rare occurrence, even among Christians. But the difficulty of it is precisely what makes it another accurate gauge of whether we're loving people or not.

I think that most of us, upon looking honestly at how we treat the strangers and the haters in our lives, have no choice but to admit that we fall pretty short of the standard that Christ laid out. Those people, though, represent the pinnacle of love. There's no reward for giving them time, attention, or money. Yet, as Jesus said, what reward can there be if we merely give people the love or unlove that their actions deserve? We are called on to love unconditionally. That is the example set by Jesus, dying for you and me rather than giving us the condemnation that our actions so justly deserve. Let us all strive to follow his example, spreading love and kindness to friends, strangers, and enemies alike.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

(Continued from page 1)

Paul. Registration forms are available in the church office.

"Hotcakes for Henderson" is our fundraiser that will be held at Liberty Center UMC on Saturday, March 10, from 7-11 a.m. It's a free-will offering. Even if you're not planning on going on the trip, we hope you'll join us for breakfast.

"Love doesn't make the world go around. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

—Franklin P. Jones

SOS

SOS met at the church on January 11, 2018, with Cindy Boxell as hostess and Brenda Conner as co-hostess. There were 16 in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Kodi Elliot giving devotions. Her devotions were based on 1 Corinthians 2:2 and were about New Year's Resolutions. She stated that we should all resolve in 2018 to focus more on Jesus.

The minutes for the December meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given.

The lesson was given by Sherry Gifford on washing our spiritual dishes. In Matthew 23:26, Jesus tells the Pharisee to clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Sherry stated that we must wash our spiritual dishes every day, washing away less than noble attitudes. She gave each one there a dish towel with a prayer on it to help us remember.

Card report was given by Corresponding Secretary Teresa Kriegbaum.

Joys and concerns were given by the members and prayer was led by Kodi.

Old business was discussed and a few new items were introduced under New Business.

The love offering was collected

Prayer partners for the next month will be the fourth person to your left. Next meeting will be February 8 at the church with Brenda Conner as hostess, Allison Voght as co-hostess, and lesson by Linda Howell.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.



solidrockumc.com



@solidrockumc



December Financial Update

General Offerings	\$49,536
General Fund Expenses	\$19,697
Mortgage Balance.....	\$49,397

Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is “no mild, tepid thing,” writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). “It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant.”

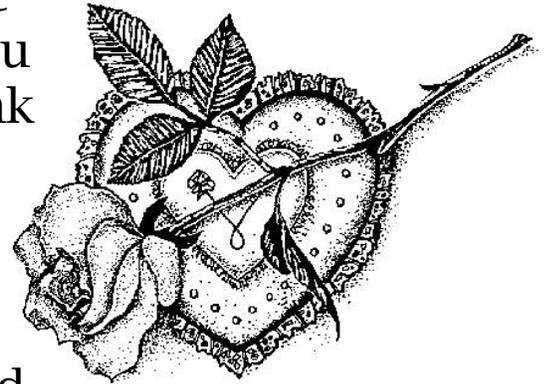


Giving credit where due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, “Lord, if you’ll find me a parking spot, I promise I’ll start going to church again.”

Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. “Never mind,” he said to God. “I found one!”

O God, fountain of love, pour your love into our souls, that we may love those whom you love with the love you give us, and think and speak of them tenderly, meekly, lovingly; and so loving our brothers and sisters for your sake, may grow in your love, and dwelling in your love may dwell in you, for Jesus Christ’s sake.



—Canon E. B. Pusey (1800-1882)

