



News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

February 2019

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

Winter small group sessions begin this month

Four intentional faith development small groups will be offered beginning this month. Intentional faith development refers to ministries, outside of weekly worship, that help people grow in faith and in their understanding of and love for God. It is the goal of each group to provide an environment in which participants can experience authentic community and spiritual growth in an open, non-threatening setting. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.



Offerings for the winter session include:

IN HIS IMAGE

Facilitators: Joe Haney and Rosalie Walter

Meeting Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00, beginning February 12 (10 weeks) at Heritage Pointe

In her book *In His Image*, Jen Wilkin explores ten characteristics of who God is — holy, loving, just, good, merciful, gracious, faithful, patient, truthful, and wise. In doing so, she helps us understand who God intends for *us* to be. We will discover how God's own attributes impact how we live, giving us purpose as we follow his will and are conformed to his image. Each participant is expected to have a copy of the book, plus a notebook for journaling. Scripture passages and growth questions are found at the end of each chapter. Come and grow in the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

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"Feasting on the Word" Bible Study

While many Americans say "I love you" on February 14, the Christian community is invited to say to God and one another "I love you" all month long. Since the celebration of the visitation by the Magi to Jesus and his parents, the church is in a time of new light shining on us. In reading this article, you are invited to gain insight to the love of God for your life. Monday evening Bible studies will be looking at life under the call of Jesus. Below are listed the scripture passages and leaders for the month of February. Come! Join us in the church kitchen at 7:00 p.m.!

- February 4: Matthew 24:36, 42-44, 50 & 25:13 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- February 11: John 13:31-38 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- February 18: Genesis 32:22-32 (Joe Haney, leader)
- February 25: John 10:27 (Perry Spahr, leader)

Henderson Work Camp

On Sunday March 24, 2019 our cluster will be heading down to Frakes, Kentucky (Henderson Settlement) for our annual work camp. We will be returning Saturday, March 30. The cost of this mission trip is \$250, which covers accommodations, meals and transportation to and from Frakes. There are registration forms in the office. The forms and registration fee is due Feb-



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from
Pastor Paul

A defendant was on trial for murder and there was strong evidence indicating guilt, but a body was never found. In the closing argument his lawyer, knowing his client would almost certainly be convicted, made a last-ditch move. He stood up and said, "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all." He looked at his watch and continued, "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom." He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked as well. A minute passed but nothing happened.



Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement; but you all looked at the door, expecting him to come in. Therefore, I put to you that there is reasonable doubt as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty." The jury, clearly confused, was excused for deliberations. About five minutes later, the jury returned with a verdict of "guilty." The lawyer was stunned and questioned them, "How could you do that? You must have had some doubt; I saw each of you stare at the door." To which the jury foreman replied, "That's true, we looked at the door... but your client didn't."

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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 Way: Walk-

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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

Family Ministry Coordinator:

John Pearson II

john@solidrockumc.com

Editor: Gary Walter

gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield

jane@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr

wanda@solidrockumc.com

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newsletter: February 17

ing in the Footsteps of Jesus," by
Adam Hamilton

- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

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

SEASONAL SMALL GROUPS Winter 2019 Groups

See the article on page 1 for a description of offerings beginning this month.

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

Family Ministry Update

by John Pearson
Family Ministry Coordinator

We will be starting Kid's Club back up on February 14, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., and doing this on Thursday evenings until March 21. The topic will be "Heroes of the Bible." We will look into a new hero each week. We have had 21 children receive Bibles during Children's Church since we started doing this in December.

We started a new topic at youth group on January 6 titled "Best Year Ever," and this will take us through February 17. We are giving Bibles to all youth that come for youth group, and we have given away 17 since December.

The WAY lock-in was a big hit with the students. We ended up having a total of 33 youth that took part in the event. There are pictures posted on the Solid Rock Facebook page. Solid Rock will be hosting The WAY on February 3. This will be a "Big Game Party" (Super Bowl) with other games and activities planned during the night, with a time for worship and a lesson during halftime of the game.

Once we are done eating during the college/young adult luncheons we are going to play different card and board games until around 2:00 p.m. This will give everyone more time to fellowship and enjoy some more laughs.

Starting on Sunday, February 3, we will have an order form for anyone who would like to order Solid Rock apparel. We will be offering the same thing as last year if you missed out on ordering something, but we will be adding a new t-shirt with the "Rock Solid Youth" logo on the back.

The church as mosaic

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow,



some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

Loved and known

"Jesus knows me, this I love," read the church sign. That twist on the classic children's song emphasizes the importance of being both loved and known. "It's not one or the other; it's hard truth and ridiculous grace," sings contemporary Christian artist Tauren Wells in "Known."



Timothy Keller, in *The Meaning of Marriage*, describes the duality this way: "To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us."

- "Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see." —Roy T. Bennett
- "Love is like a tennis match; you'll never win consistently until you learn to serve." —Dan P. Herod

December Financial Update

General Offerings	\$24,200
General Fund Expenses	\$15,601
Mortgage Balance	\$12,672

(Continued from "Pastor Paul," page 1)

In a similar way, the disciples were filled with doubts about the resurrection and didn't expect to see Jesus walk through the door. They were convinced he was dead, even though his body could not be found. But with the door sealed shut, the Lord suddenly appeared in their midst.

The Lord Jesus appears in our midst in a variety of ways every day. Yet we rarely expect to see him walk through the door in the midst of our troubled lives. When we become people who truly believe he is present in our lives every step of the way, and act accordingly, only then can we experience him in the fullness of life.

See You Sunday,
Paul

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THE PRODIGAL GOD (Online Group) Facilitator: Gary Walter Begins the week of February 10 (7 weeks)

The word *prodigal* does not mean "wayward" but "recklessly spendthrift." It means to spend until you have nothing left. In what we call the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the father's welcome to the repentant son was literally reckless. His response offended the elder son and most likely the local community. This group will study the parable using Timothy Keller's book *Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith*. The first five chapters unlock the parable's basic meaning, Chapter 6 demonstrates how the story helps us understand the Bible as a whole, and Chapter 7 shows how its teaching works itself out in the way we live in the world. This group meets online, using a private Facebook page.

SOME FOLKS FEEL THE RAIN ... OTHERS JUST GET WET

Facilitator: Paul Burris

**This topic will be offered to two
groups at two different times**

- **Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00,
beginning February 13 (9 weeks)**
- **Thursdays from 6:30-7:30, begin-
ning February 14 (9 weeks)**

This is another way of saying that some people smell the roses, while others just complain about the thorns. In his warm, conversational style, popular author James W. Moore explores the reasons why some

people are able to see our time on earth as a gracious gift from God rather than as an agonizing endurance test and, simply put, why some people have the ability to celebrate life with an abundance of gratitude. Each chapter in this book includes a reference to an important passage of Scripture, powerful stories and examples from the lives of others, and practical suggestions for better daily living.

(Continued from "Henderson," page 1)
ruary 26.

The 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.

You don't need to be an expert in any area as there will be opportunities for all ages and skill levels on this mission trip. If you have any questions concerning this trip please contact Pastor Paul at (260) 609-9260.

The Hard Road of a Methodist Circuit Rider

It's difficult to comprehend the hardships faced by Methodist circuit riders in early America. It is estimated that Francis Asbury traveled some 270,000 miles and preached 16,000 sermons during his tenure. The challenges of these pastors on horseback are well-documented in journals penned during days spent alone on the trail.

Methodist Church records from 1844 record a church membership of over 1 million, with 4,000 ministers riding circuits in the U.S. These preachers spreading the word were a different breed, says historian Dale Patterson. "When you start across the Appalachians, or even across the Potomac, you could travel days before you got to a town, and a day or so from one farm to the next, and once you got into the frontier it was even more lonely."

Some of their mementos give us a glimpse into their unusual circumstances. Barbara Duffin curates the collection found at historic Barratt's Chapel. "We have Ezekiel Cooper's lap desk. There's also two hidden drawers in the desk in which we found letters from women proposing marriage to him. He cut out their names, so

we're not exactly sure who they were. In his lap desk, you can see that he had to carry everything he needed; fishing lines in case he needed to go fishing, wax to seal letters, even bleeding instruments are here."

Typically, circuit riders traveled 200 to 500 mile routes on horseback.

At times, they preached every day. Sometimes circuits were so large that it took six weeks to complete a cycle. Exhaustion, illness, animal attacks, and unfriendly encounters were constant threats.

Circuit riders would have to spend the night with any family that would put them up and eat whatever was available to eat.

John W. Talley's diary recalls a meal shared by a family he stayed with. "Fed upon musty cornbread, and the tough lungs of a deer fried in rancid bacon grease and corn coffee sweetened with sirup."

Ministers rarely served longer than two years on the same circuit. Some say this provided a great opportunity to recycle sermons, but the schedule also prevented preachers from marrying, which might distract from the ministry.

Isaac Boring recorded in 1829, "While riding through the rain and dark, with no human being with me, my soul was comforted on the reflection of the omnipresence of my Saviour: I felt he was near to bless and preserve me."

Theirs was a difficult and often short life. Prior to 1847, nearly half of Methodist circuit riding preachers died before the age of 30. But their passion for saving souls was unprecedented, then and now.

Empowered

The One who calls you to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature is the One who by your consent, goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel to every creature through you!

—W. Ian Thomas

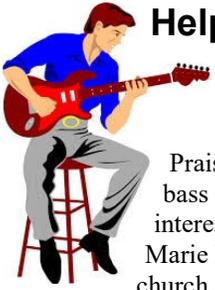


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Help Wanted: Bass Player

The Solid Rock Praise Team is in need of a bass guitar player. Anyone interested should contact Marie DeWeese or the church office.

Hotcakes for Henderson

Saturday, February 16
Liberty Center UMC, 7-11 a.m.
Free will offering



Purpose: To raise money for our mission trip to Henderson

Settlement (March 24-30). Everyone is invited for pancakes and sausage. If you'd like to help out, please let Pastor Paul know.

Father God, I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty and yet overwhelmed by your love for me. I thank you that there is no human experience that I might walk through where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest mountain you are there, and yet if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life, you are there. Teach me today to love you more. Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the simple trusting heart of a child. In Jesus name, Amen



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