

News From The Rock

January 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Bear Ministry

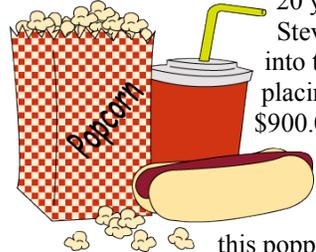
The bears in the church pews are for anyone to take and give to any individual, young or old, to let them know the Solid Rock United Methodist Church is thinking and praying for them. They have listened to the singing of the praise team and hymns, prayers and scriptures being read, so they go to the individual taking that with them and showing them that the Solid Rock Church cares for them!



Concession Stand Update

The Solid Rock Concession Stand Committee met recently. Steve Holmes recapped the year events. We had several rainout dates, therefore our net income was down about \$700.00 this year.

We discussed our concerns with the popcorn popper as we had some issues with it this year and estimate that it is over 20 years old.



Steve has looked into the cost of replacing it at about \$900.00. We decided to hold off getting a new one until this popper completely dies. We are making arrangements to borrow one from either Heritage Pointe, Warren Civic Center, or Salamonie School in case we need it to have one while our new one is ordered and delivered.

The current refrigerator in the concession stand is also in need of replacement. Rochelle has made a bid for any that may be no longer needed at Heritage Pointe. Tamara also suggested that we take the old refrigerator out of the old church. Steve is going to check into it and possibly replace it if he feels it is acceptable.

After some discussion, we decided and voted to disburse our net income as follows from this summer's concession stand profits:

Building Fund	\$1000.00
Bread of Life	\$1000.00
Christmas December to May	\$1000.00
Scholarship Fund	\$1300.00
Total Disbursements ...	\$4300.00

We also left \$1500.00 in our account for start up costs for the 2015 year. We discussed that we will each keep our current nights to work. We would also like to encourage more church members to consider joining the committee next spring to help with nightly coverage as Rochelle and Steve both worked a lot of nights with David and Jo being unable to help consistently this year.

United Methodist Women

Women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met December 4, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. President Barbara Hart shared a devotional entitled "One Solitary Life" — the life of Jesus — with nothing of His greatness and specialness showing until the later sadness of the cross. The membership followed by everyone speaking the Purpose Statement of the women present.



United Methodist Women

Barbara called our attention to the Prayer Calendar's Mission Focus, entitled "Project Crossroads" — a work of mission taking place in Mooresville, North Carolina, and reaching out to the women, children and families of that area. The article about this work noted a leader, Eva Gunnings, whose birthday is December 5. Eva works as a Human Ser-

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Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



Zechariah 4:8-10, *The Message*:
After that, the Word of GOD came to me: "Zerubbabel started rebuilding this Temple and he will complete it. That will be your confirmation that GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies sent me to you. Does anyone dare

despise this day of small beginnings? They'll change their tune when they see Zerubbabel setting the last stone in place!"
Going back to the vision, the Messenger-Angel said, "The seven lamps are the eyes of GOD probing the dark corners of the world like searchlights."

Here we are at a new beginning. The year 2015 is coming into view. Here's a couple questions that come to my mind. What will 2015 hold? What's the most important way I can, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year? Is there anything that I plan to do this year that will matter in 10 years? In eternity? How can God bring about change in and through me this year?

Zechariah received "the Word of God" affirming that Zerubbabel would finish what he started. The angel goes on to say those who scoff at these small beginnings will change their song at the setting of the final stone. Small beginnings may seem inconsequential, but when it's all said and done they weren't so inconsequential after all.

I would encourage you to take hope! If God could bring Zerubbabel through, then surely God can bring you through. Celebrate small beginnings! I find the final bit of scripture encouraging as well. Take heart my brothers and sisters, God's eyes

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Lids, lids, lids!

Save your plastic lids! There's a company, Green Tree Plastics, that takes recycled plastic lids (i.e. water, detergent, butter...large and small) and turns them into benches or picnic tables. The goal is a picnic table for the outdoors.

We need everyone to participate in doing this. It takes 400 pounds to make a bench and an outstanding 1,100 pounds to build an 8-foot picnic table! It will eventually cost money as well, but that will be quite a while. You wouldn't believe how little lids weigh!



If you'd like to join us in this collection, please remove paper or metal and clean all caps before you turn them in. You can collect a bag full or so at a time and turn in to Kоди Elliot. She will place in a barrel located in the storage building. Lids only!

News From The Rock

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P.O. Box 322
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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
Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Newton
pastorkathy@solidrockumc.com
Phone: (765) 210-4368

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager: Norma Smith
norma@solidrockumc.com

Treasurer: Rosalie Walter
rosalie@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

News deadline for the February newsletter: January 25

FAQs: Communion

How often do United Methodists take communion?

Each local United Methodist church determines how often to serve communion. Many churches celebrate communion once a month, often on the first Sunday. Communion is also celebrated on special days of the year, such as Christmas and Easter. There has gradually been a move toward more frequent celebration of the Lord's Supper. Some United Methodist churches now celebrate the Lord's Supper every week.



I am not a member of the United Methodist Church. Can I still take communion?

The table of Holy Communion is Christ's table, not the table of The United Methodist Church or of the local congregation. The table is open to anyone who seeks to respond to Christ's love and seeks to lead a new life of peace and love, as the invitation to the table says.

Our *Book of Worship* says, "All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup. We have no tradition of refusing any who present themselves desiring to receive." This statement means that in practice there are few, if any, circumstances in which a United Methodist pastor would refuse to serve the elements of Holy Communion to a person who comes forward to receive.



Do United Methodists believe the communion elements actually become the body and blood of Christ?

No, we believe that the change is spiritual. They signify the body and blood of Christ for us, helping us to be Christ's body in the world today, redeemed by Christ's blood. We pray over the bread and cup that they may make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in service to all the world.



May a person who has not been baptized participate in Holy Communion?

Yes, our church does not seek to close God's Table, although the historic and nor-

mal Christian order of the sacraments is baptism first - as birth into the family - and communion following, as continuing nurture at the family table. Pastors and congregations reach out and encourage those who partake at the Table to share fully in the life of God's people, including coming to the font after appropriate preparation.



Can children take communion?

In The United Methodist Church, children are welcome to receive communion. Our *Book of Worship* explains, "All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup."



Why do most Methodist churches serve grape juice instead of wine for Holy Communion?

In the history of the church, wine has been the normal drink for Holy Communion. In the 19th century, Methodists and other denominations were persuaded that the unfermented juice of the grape was an important witness to the grace of God and of the church's resistance to the abuses of alcoholic beverage.



Who can assist the pastor in communion?

Communion is one of the responsibilities and duties of a pastor. The pastor may train deacons and lay members to serve the consecrated communion elements.

- www.umc.org

November Financial Update

General Offerings	\$21,626
General Fund Expenses	\$13,942

Not in a partying 'MOOD'

A Sunday school teacher shared the parable of the prodigal son with his class, pointing out how resentful the older son was when the father welcomed the wayward brother home with open arms and a party.

Amid the celebration, the teacher emphasized, someone in the story failed to share in the joy. "Can you tell me who that was?" the teacher asked.

Eagerly, a little girl raised her hand. "I know, I know!" she exclaimed. "The fatted calf!"

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are searching the dark, dank corners with lights so bright that nothing will be missed. Be of good courage! Live life like a victor because Jesus is the victor and He lives within you!

May God Bless Our New Year,
Kathy

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vices Board Certified Practitioner.

Next, attention was given to our members' sharing their own joys and concerns in their lives and their own families. Sue Beeks is having surgery on her second knee and should not carry responsibility on the reading program. It was discussed, and agreed, that the program does not need a leader. Members can sign out for books, read, and return them in orderly fashion. Sue's responsibility in the reading program may be discontinued — the books will still be available.

Margaret Bell, as secretary, called the roll for the meeting today. Nine members were present. Carolyn Winters spoke words to enlarge our understanding of the "Mission Moment" for today's program. Mission, she noted, can be done by all, wherever we are, whoever is working (as a servant of all). Service is essential for a spiritual life. It sets us free from selfishness. We have God as our partner in service, using God's spiritual gifts.

The budget for 2015 was the final item for discussion in the meeting, before the lesson. As it was a difficult discussion to follow, and the program, or lesson, was ready, the reading of these minutes will not present the budget discussion. It will be placed to follow as a separate element in these minutes.

The lesson was a charming reading by Pastor Kathy Newton, of the many varied historical elements to be noted about the celebration and meanings of Christmas, through many years of history, going back as far as 270 A.D. A quote from Kathy's program: "Around 270 A.D., it was the Roman Emperor, Aurelius, who called December 25 'The Birthday of the Unconquered Sun,' and put it right in the middle of the Feast of Saturnalia." Kathy not only read her historical program but presented lovely pictures for us to meditate on, for instance, a picture of a family, of a small Christmas tree, of a star for a treetop, a bell, candy canes, etc.

As we attempted to complete today's meeting with "budget for 2015" discussion, some motions were made, as: (1) Pledge to

Missions: \$200 for year 2015—proposed; (2) funds for "askings": \$10 per member; (3) eliminate, for the present, funding for the School of Christian Missions and Youth. The work on budget determination may need to be carried further at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Bell, Secretary

SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on December 11, 2014. Highlights from this meeting:

- A devotion about the topic of unwrapping the gift of life from God (James 1:17) was given by Jessica Barry.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A meal courtesy of the winter committee was shared with good fellowship.
- Love offering collected and given to UMW to help fix a furnace at the Lucille Raines home for wayward girls.
- **Old Business**
 - Thank yous including pictures from DC retreat to be sent out.
- **New Business**
 - Church retreat: Jessica to see if there are plans for a church retreat for 2015
 - Winter committee arranged for an outing to the Gaither concert which was enjoyed by those that attended.
 - Prayer revival proposed by Tamara
 - Proposal passed to collect money for feminine supplies for the food pantry for the next love offering.
- Many cards were received and sent by the Corresponding Secretary.
- Prayer partners were assigned and the meeting was adjourned with prayer and a sung benediction.
- Attendance: 16

Youth Fellowship

The UMYF Lock in will be January 2-3 from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Youth should bring a snack food and a bottle of pop. Thank you to everyone who helped with the lasagna supper. We had a great turn out and good fellowship!

Upcoming Events:

- **January 2:** Lock-in at the church, 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

- **January 11:** Pizza after church at East of Chicago
- **January 18:** Meeting, 6:45 p.m.
- **February 1:** Super Bowl pizzas

Food Pantry

Thank you for your support and encouragement to the Food Pantry, taking the time to volunteer and share your talents with neighbors in our community. The Food Pantry served 184 different households this year, some families just one time, other families more often.

The fresh produce and fruit you donated was sometimes overwhelming, but we were able to share with the food pantry in Andrews and Love, In the Name of Christ in Huntington. Thank you for your donations.



Your kindness touched so many families in our communities.

The books and magazines donated have been appreciated by more families than I thought would be interested in reading. The birthday gift bags have been a special help to celebrate a child's birthday.

The Warren Area Community Garden was the recipient of an anonymous donation of eight truck loads of topsoil. They also received two grants from Huntington County Community Foundation, one for a garden shed and one for a garden tiller.

The 2014 garden volunteers this past summer included the Warren Scouts, Huntington County Extension Educator, Bob Brubaker, and LuAnn Kay. Produce harvested at the garden was given to new residents in the community, veterans, senior citizens, garden volunteers, and the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rose Broyles

Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on your blessings is to rehearse God's accomplishments. To rehearse God's accomplishments is to discover his heart. To discover his heart is to discover not just good gifts but the Good Giver.

Gratitude always leaves us looking at God and away from dread. It does to anxiety what the morning sun does to valley mist. It burns it up.

—Max Lucado, *You'll Get Through This*

Resolve to listen

Christian philosopher Paul Tillich said, "The first responsibility of love is to listen." Yet in our fast-paced culture, truly listening to someone has become a lost art.

The intricate Chinese written character for the verb to listen offers wise insight about how to listen to people so they feel heard. The symbol is actually a combination of characters for ears, eyes and an open heart. Basically it reads, "I give you my ears, my eyes and my undivided attention." What a great image of being fully engaged during the act of communication!

James 1:19 offers two wise resolutions for the year ahead: Be "quick to listen" and "slow to speak" (NRSV). Practicing the skill of active listening is a much-needed way to minister to other people, serving as Jesus' "ears" in a hurting world.

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year."

- Vern McLellan

Lord Jesus Christ,
alive and at large in the world,
help me to follow and find you there today,
in the places where I work,
meet people,
spend money
and make plans.
Take me as a disciple of your
kingdom,
to see through your eyes
and hear the questions you are asking,
to welcome all men with your trust and truth
and to change the things that contradict God's love
by the power of the Cross
and the freedom of your Spirit.

Amen.

- John Taylor



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