



News From The Rock

July 2019

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Not a Fan

Eric leads a compartmentalized triple life. But when confronted with a near death experience he embarks on a spiritual journey that transforms his commitment to Jesus and tests the faith of his friends and family.



Join the Firm Foundation small group which meets in the kitchen Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for Kyle Idleman's six-week cinematic small group study, "Not a Fan." New participants are always welcome.

Bible Study

"Feasting on the Word" in July is NO small picnic! It is a chance to listen to the words of God, coming to us, God's children,



to give us sustenance for our journey of life. A variety of life issues will be addressed as we gather in

the church kitchen at 7:00 p.m. each Monday of the month for fellowship, study, and support. You are invited to attend and grow in your discipleship. Below are listed the study scriptures and the leader for the evening. Perfect attendance is not a requirement for being a part of these studies.

- July 1: Matthew 18:1-9 (Joe Haney, leader)
- July 8: Luke 7:11-17 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- July 15: Amos 7:7-17 (Jorita Banter,

leader)

- July 22: Romans 8:18-39 (Joe Haney, leader)
- July 29: Luke 4:1-30 (Perry Spahr, leader)

Being fed by the Lord strengthens us for service for the coming week. As one person quipped: "Seven days without reading God's word makes one weak."

Family Ministry Update

by John Pearson
Family Ministry Coordinator

Our summer VBS with WAMA will be July 7-11 at Warren First Baptist from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Our theme is "To Mars and Beyond."

We will be having a Kid's Night on July 18th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We are planning to have this be a drive-in movie night. The kids will each get to color their own cardboard box (car) and then we will watch a movie inside the cars. We will also serve hotdogs this night for supper at the start of the night.

We have a special outdoor worship scheduled for July 21st from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The theme is



Sundaes on Sunday. The youth group is planning to serve the ice cream for this.

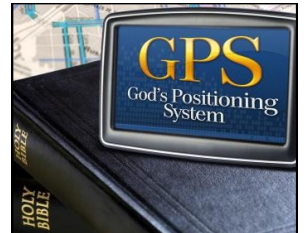
We have a family event scheduled for July 28th where we have tickets reserved for a TinCaps game. The game starts at 3:05 p.m., and tickets are \$11.50 per person. The deadline to sign up and the money for the tickets is due by July 7th. Contact me or the church

(Continued on page 3)



from
Pastor Paul

When you are driving, and don't know the way, what do you do? A GPS (global positioning system) is often our go to source of help. The Good News is that we also have a God Positioning System...a way of finding our way when we are confused, unsure, seeking direction or hope.



There are so many ways to "turn on" our God Positioning System. There are so many ways to stay aware of God's Presence in our lives. One of them is memorizing Scripture. The story below offers a powerful reminder of how relevant Scripture is. Craig Barnes is now president of Princeton Theological Seminary, and he wrote this reflection, called Finding God at the Bottom.

"My father was a preacher who believed it was important to memorize verses of the Bible. On Mondays he'd give my older brother and me a verse written out on a little white card. We were expected to recite it from memory by dinner at the end of the week when our father would point to one of us and say something like 'Romans 8:28.' If we didn't start chirping away with 'For all things work together for good for those who love God,' we'd have to leave the table.

"By the time I was a teenager I had memorized a lot of the Bible, not out of love for the sacred text but because I didn't

(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.

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 "Not a Fan" by

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

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News deadline for the August
newsletter: July 21

Kyle Idleman

- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE
 - Currently studying The Bible Project series.

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.

United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women met June 6th in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. President Barbara Hart opened the meeting with the devotional "Living the Vision of

United Methodist Women." The Purpose of United Methodist Women was recited by members.

The Prayer Calendar Mission Focus was for the Neighbor Center in Utica, New York, and the birthday of the month was

Elizabeth Hurley, missionary in Hong Kong.

Joys and concerns were taken by Bernie Garrett and she offered prayers for those mentioned.

The Mission Moment was given by Mick McNany.

Roll Call was taken and Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were given.

2019 Mission U will be held July 16-19 at University of Indianapolis.

The program was given by Vi Heinen from the book of Colossians.

There will be no meeting in July. Next meeting will be August 1st in the Calico Room at 9:30.

The meeting was closed with prayer.



May Financial Update

General Offerings	\$11,516
General Fund Expenses	\$19,569
Mortgage Balance.....	\$5,284

Weighed down

Many people dream of having the "right stuff" to fly to space. Recently, 18,300 people applied for just 12 astronaut spots at NASA! Fanfare over the moon landing's 50th anniversary is sure to spark even more interest.

Leaving behind earthly troubles and floating in zero gravity must be amazing, right? Not, it turns out, for one's body. Weightlessness takes a heavy physical toll in space. Without resistance, muscles waste away and bones weaken. Bodily systems we take for granted are disrupted, causing disorientation. To counteract these effects, astronauts wear resistance suits while exercising. Ironically, after escaping Earth's gravity, they must replace it.

Similarly, we long for trouble-free days and pray for an end to earthly burdens, not recognizing that exertion, whether physical or spiritual, builds strength. "He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood," said Harry Emerson Fosdick. "He who faces no calamity will need no courage. ... The characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of troubles."

Every weighty challenge is a reason to "rejoice ... knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5:3-4, ESV).

—Stephanie Martin



Our approachable Lord

There is not a hint of one person who was afraid to draw near [Jesus]. There were those who mocked him. There were those who were envious of him. There were those who misunderstood him. There were those who revered him. But there was not one person who considered him too holy, too divine or too celestial to touch. There was not one person who was reluctant to approach him for fear of being rejected. Remember that.

—Max Lucado, *God Came Near*



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(Continued from *Pastor Paul*, page 1)

want to be dismissed from Saturday evening dinner. I never paid attention to the words. But they were still in me.

“When I was not quite 17, my parents’ marriage broke apart. My mother left our home on Long Island and went to live with her sister in Dallas. My father left the church he had started and just disappeared. My big brother dropped out of college, got a construction job, and helped me finish high school. I got an after-school job at a gas station. Together we got by.

“Oddly, my brother and I didn’t talk about how our world had crumbled. This wasn’t just because we weren’t good at sharing our feelings. Mostly it was because we couldn’t afford emotion. We were too worried about the next meal and a place to stay.

“The following Christmas my brother and I decided we would go to Dallas to visit my mother. We didn’t have the money for a plane or bus ticket, so we did what young people sometimes do when they’re not thinking clearly. We decided to hitchhike from Long Island to Dallas.

“By the end of the first day we were somewhere in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia on Interstate 81. It was snowing hard, the sun was long gone, and we stood on the entrance ramp with our thumbs sticking out. As the snow got heavier, there were fewer and fewer cars. After two hours, we finally saw a pair of headlights pull over in front of us. It was a Virginia state trooper. We were expecting a lecture about how dangerous, not to mention illegal, it was to hitchhike. Instead he told us that the highway had been closed for two hours and that after attending to an accident up the road he would come back for us and take us to a diner that was still open. We stayed put on the side of the dark highway in the blizzard.

“After months of hustling our way through the immediate issues of making life work, my brother and I were finally forced to talk to each other. We took a stab at describing our situation, but it didn’t go very well after I mentioned that we were basically disposable to the people who were supposed to love us. We tried to pass the time by quizzing each other on sports statistics. Neither of us had ever been very good at that.

“Then my brother pointed to me and said, ‘Romans 8:28.’ We spent much of that night asking each other to recite the verses of the Bible we had memorized but never truly heard. At one point I found

myself saying the precious lines of Isaiah 43: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.’ By the time I finished reciting those words, I was crying.

“That night, when a passage about the sustaining love of God cast out fear that was too deep for me to even acknowledge, became the turning point in my life. And at the bottom, I found the relentless love of God who was with me and always will be, no matter how deep the waters.” (*Christian Century*, April 19, 2017)

The Holy Scriptures are one way God speaks to us. We never know what we are going to encounter in our daily lives. It’s up to us to keep ourselves immersed in God’s word and open to those moments when God is speaking to us.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

(Continued from *Family Ministry*, page 1)

office to reserve your tickets for the game.

The WAY is planning to attend a Tin-Caps game on August 5th at 7:05 which will only be \$5 each and is also \$1 night at the ballpark. (It is also Marvel Superhero Night). We have a limited number of tickets and this is a first come first serve basis. The deadline/waiver is due by July 14th.

What is meant by the term “image of God”?

Humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), which means we were created good. We are made to be in a close relationship with God — to love God and love our neighbor, who is also created in the image of God. It also means God gave us some responsibility to be God’s representatives in the world, to be the caretakers of God’s creation.

In an early sermon called “The Image of God,” Wesley describes pre-fall humanity as having “an unerring understanding, an uncorrupt will, and perfect freedom” and God gave “the last stroke to the image of God in man, by crowning all these with happiness.” Happiness is part of the image of God!

Sin then enters, distorting that image in

us, but it is still there. Wesley writes, “The instrument being now quite untuned” — God’s image is still there, but we are not in tune with it. God restores that image in us through God’s sanctifying grace.

The Rev. F. Belton Joyner Jr., in “United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers” offers similar insight.

“Genesis 1:26 indicates that God created humankind in God’s own image so that humans would have dominion over the rest of the created order. Being created in the image of God means, first, having responsibility as stewards of creation.

“Genesis 1:27 spells out that when God created humankind in God’s image, God created them male and female. Being created in the image of God means, second, that we are created for relationships.

“Genesis 1:26 says that God created humankind to be in God’s likeness, to live in the moral life of God. Being created in the image of God means, third, that we are intended to be in relationship with God and God’s values.

“In his sermon ‘The New Birth’ ... John Wesley used three phrases to mark these dimensions of being created in the image of God: natural image (we are spiritual beings with freedom of will); political image (we are governors of the created world and engaged in relationships with others); and moral image (we are intended for holiness and righteousness). “... this perfect image, this unbroken reflection of God, was shattered by human sin. It took the perfection of Jesus Christ to restore the image.

“To be in the image of God is not to be God. To be in the image of God is to be free to obey God. United Methodists take with great seriousness all three implications of being in God’s image: natural image (we invite persons to be in relationship with God); political image (we invite persons to care for the environment and to care for personal relationships); moral image (we invite persons to live lives of personal and social holiness).

“All persons are created in the image of God, even those we do not like, those we do not respect, and those whom we actually fear. That image is broken in all humankind, including those whom we enjoy, those whom we honor, and those who are ‘on our side.’

“Do United Methodists always live in perfect reflection of God’s love, God’s justice, God’s image? Of course not. But the God who created humankind in God’s image is still at work to restore us all to that image.”

—www.umc.org



Don't carry two days at once

"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength — carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time." This wise counsel is attributed to Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian whose family in Amsterdam sheltered some 800 Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, suffering imprisonment as a result. Her father and sister died in captivity, but Corrie was freed and later set up a rehabilitation center for concentration camp victims and supporters of the Germans alike.

Surely ten Boom couldn't have survived and achieved what she did without laying aside her worries and trusting God. Indeed, her wisdom closely echoes Jesus' teaching: "Do not worry about your life. ... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ... Your heavenly Father knows [what] you need. ... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:25-34, NIV).

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education and an honorable



way of life. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action.

Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land.

When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—peacelutherangv.org

