

News From The Rock

June 2018

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Work Days



The trustees have set aside June 22 and 23 to accomplish some needed church maintenance tasks. Projects include washing windows, cleaning and boxing plastic lids, and replacing light bulbs. Work will begin at about 9:30 each day. All volunteer help will be appreciated!

“Kitchen” class to study heaven

What is Heaven really going to be like? What will we look like? What will we do? Will there be marriage? Will Heaven get boring after a while? We all have questions about Heaven. After 25 years of research, Dr. Randy Alcorn has answers based on Biblical truths.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the kitchen for this video series beginning June 17.



Feasting on the Word for June

The Monday evening Feasting on the Word scripture studies will be challenging this month. The series in Luke will be concluded, and several guest preachers will be filling in while Pastor Paul is on vacation. An additional challenge will be summer sports events. Nevertheless, you are en-

couraged to take the time and energy to read in God’s word and have your faith strengthened while joining with others in inviting God to shape and form your faith. Readings for the month are as follows:

- June 4: Luke 6:17-26 (Joe Haney, leader)
- June 11: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- June 18: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- June 25: Micah 6:3-8 (Joe Haney, leader)

These studies are held in the Solid Rock kitchen at 7:00 p.m. for about one hour. Bring your Bible, a friend, and an open heart to God’s transforming grace and mercy!

SOS

SOS met at the home of Susan Mills on May 10. Martina Cocklin was co-hostess. There were 14 in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Kodi Elliot giving the devotions entitled “What Mother’s Day is About.”

The minutes for the April meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer’s Report was given.

The lesson was given by LeAnn Buzard and was based on John 10:3b and 4b.

Joys and concerns were spoken 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. The monies collected each month are given to a local resident or organization who is in need of funds.

Prayer partners for the next month will

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from
Pastor Paul

I came across this article recently and thought it was too good not to share. Enjoy!

Don't Bug Me, I'm Worshiping!

My mom was the kind of gal who expected everyone to meet her needs the moment they occurred to her. So it should not have surprised me when those same expectations accompanied us to church that Sunday morning. By the time she had rattled off her list of complaints during our twelve minute commute and conducted an involved expedition for the best seat in the sanctuary, I was exhausted. However, it was when she demanded her purse be hung on her walker “the right way” for the tenth time that I seriously considered taking up smoking, right there in the pew. Instead, I stepped out into the foyer to collect myself and to avoid singing songs like, “Lord, I Will Do Whatever You Ask” or “Thank You Jesus For The Trials You Bring My Way.”

A few minutes later, I returned to my seat in a better frame of mind and observed Mom as she tried to sing along with the congregation. As long as I could remember she had battled with anxiety and anger, her lifelong struggle. She needed a spiritual breakthrough and I hoped today was the day she would experience it. I said a quick prayer under my breath then stood to join the chorus of voices surrounding me. It wasn’t long until I felt a light “tap-tap”

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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.

Three Cheers for Dad

It's been years since I bought a Fathers' Day card. My father and father-in-law are both long dead. But this year I can't help but notice the cards. Perhaps it's because I bought one for my son — this is his first Fathers' Day — and it called my attention to the others.

In any case, I'd love to send my dad a card this year, particularly after reflecting recently on the place of dads in the lives of their children.

We live in a culture where many would write off fatherhood as a nice but quite unnecessary option in the lives of children. One or two mommies will do just fine. It's a way of understanding the family that is summed up on T-shirts, bibs, and hoodies proudly and succinctly announcing: "My Daddy's Name is Donor."



That worldview is as dangerous as it is ignorant. There are mountains of social science evidence demonstrating the importance of dad and warning about his absence. The outline of those mountains are available at FamilyFacts.org along with footnotes citing study after study.

Take teen pregnancies. A study by psychologist Bruce Ellis of the University of Arizona indicated that girls whose dads were present (a fairly low threshold) during their childhood were less likely to become pregnant as teenagers. In fact, girls whose fathers were absent during their early childhood were seven to eight times more likely to become pregnant as teenagers and those whose fathers were absent later in childhood were

two to three times more likely to become pregnant. This is in part because, as another study points out, teenaged girls who feel they have a close relationship with their fathers tend to wait longer before getting involved in sexual activity.

Boys benefit too. Dr. Marcia J. Carlson of the University of Wisconsin published a study in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* explaining how teenaged boys whose dads are meaningfully involved in their lives have fewer behavioral problems and feel less anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Other studies show that boys with good relationships with their dads are less likely to be arrested, sell drugs, carry a gun, steal, run away, or become violent.

Far from simply avoiding negative behavior, it has been shown that dads who invest in their seven-year-olds by reading to them, taking them on outings, and showing an interest in their schoolwork can expect those children to attain higher academic levels as young adults. Adolescent boys who have a close relationship with their fathers — even if the father doesn't live in the same home — are more likely to anticipate having stable marriages when they become adults.

And the dads who are most likely to be close to their children and to positively influence in their lives are dads who attend church and live their faith. In fact, church attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of a father's positive involvement with his children.

So stop in the card department and look over the Fathers' Day cards. If you still can, buy one for your dad, granddads, and father-in-law. If there's no longer reason to buy one, stop anyway to give thanks for your own dad and to pray for the dads around you. Our children are counting on them.

—James Tonkowich
crosswalk.com

Connecting the dots

Commencement speeches and greeting cards are full of advice for graduates, yet good intentions and careful plans can't guarantee a perfect life — whatever that might mean.



"You can't connect the dots looking forward," said Steve Jobs. "You can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life ..."

As Christians, we can do more than that: We can trust in God. Yes, he may speak to us through a "gut" feeling, and our eternal "destiny" is assured. And we know that life, not death, will win out. But recent grads — and all of us — need not just sit and wait to see how the dots of our lives will someday connect. God has shown us through Scripture, the church and, above all, Jesus that the dots connect this way: from God's heart, to Jesus' sacrifice for us, to our entry into relationship with God, to our heart and finally to our own loving outreach to others.

Whatever shape your education, work and family take through the years, "commence" with this: God has drawn your life to connect with him and your neighbors. If you follow those Spirit-etched lines, you'll be fine.

—Heidi Mann

Decisions matter

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

My compliments to the Creator

Dear God,

I saw the Grand Canyon this summer. Nice piece of work!

Love,
Kyle (age 9)

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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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on my left hip. I chose to ignore it and sang a bit louder.

Tap-tap!

“Don’t bug me, I’m worshiping!” almost came spilling out of my mouth. I needed to worship. I needed my sanity. I raised my arms and started swaying to the music. The song seemed appropriate, “Jesus, I’m Keeping My Eyes on YOU.”

Tap-tap!!

“Lord, I’m going to lose it!” could almost be heard as a hum between my vice-gripped lips. All good on the outside, volcano ready to blow on the inside.

TAP-TAP!!

“WHAAAT?!” I conveyed, looking at her with my best nonverbal dragon face. In the sweetest, calmest voice I had ever heard my mother use she said, “Honey, you have a toilet seat cover hanging out of the back of your pants. I’ve been trying to get it, but you keep moving around.”

Did I mention we were in the third row from the front? I can’t imagine who all were rooting for her as she tried over and over again to grab the paper out of my backside. The expression, “Can I have a witness?” has a whole new meaning now. I quickly sat down and removed my uninvented accessory. For the rest of the service mom kept her eyes forward, while I plotted how to open the emergency door without setting off the alarm.

The following week, there was another kind of interruption. It had been a difficult morning and once again I had arrived emotionally exhausted. Thankfully, finding the right seat had gone smoother this time. As the music started I stood with the congregation and closed my eyes. I was having a hard time concentrating.

Tap. Tap.

Oh no you don’t! I thought to myself and scooted over a bit.

Tap, tap.

I ignored it and began to pray. Lord, I am so hurt. She needs to apologize! Tears were starting to well up. It felt like the music was carrying me.

Tap. Tap.

“Don’t bug me I’M WORSHIPING JESUS!” I almost shouted, but held my tongue not wanting to make another scene. Subconsciously, I touched the back of my pants – all good.

Tap! Tap!

“This really needs to stop!” crept out of my mouth. I peered at the seat next to me, forgetting it was empty. Mom had blown up at me that morning and had decided not to

come to church.

Tap. Tap. “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest,” said a familiar voice.

“Oh! Jesus — it’s you!” I sat down, putting my head in my hands. “Sorry about that. I know she’s my mom, but I can only take so much. As soon as this service is over I’m going to give her a piece of my... uh, prayer.” I averted my eyes (which is a tricky thing to do with someone who is omnipresent) and started singing again, maybe a bit too fast.

Tap. Tap. “You will be worshiping right next to her in heaven, so how about forgiving her now just as I have forgiven you? Oh, and by the way, you have something hanging out of your eye. Possibly a branch.”

I let out a sigh. Apparently, I wasn’t dealing with “subtle Jesus.” There was no doubt which Bible verse he was referring to: “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” Wasn’t I entitled to put her on the “To Be Forgiven Later” list? This is more her issue than mine. Is Jesus just going to let her off the hook? Then it occurred to me...

“You can hear me, can’t you?” I said under my breath.

Only a patient silence could be detected.

“I know. I hurt her too.”

“I’ll be with you every step of the way,” was the response.

I started to feel uncomfortable and peaceful all at the same time. Maybe I was the one who needed that spiritual breakthrough. As the music swelled again I gave thanks for interruptions, did a quick wardrobe check and made a mental note to call my mom. Then I stood up and joined in the last stanza singing, “...All to Jesus, precious Savior, I surrender all”.

—L. Osmon, Copyright 2016

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

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be the second person to your left. Next meeting will be June 14 at the home of the hostess Teresa Kriegbaum with Cindy Boxell as co-hostess. Pamela Hensley will have the lesson. Note that the hostess and location is a change from the published schedule.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.

United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on Thursday, May 3, 2018. President Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and opened with a devotional, “Missions Funds: Giving Hope.”

All attending recited the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

The May prayer calendar included Killingsworth Home, Columbia, SC, whose mission is to support, empower, and advocate for women who have been in crisis situations. The birthday of the month was Carla Warnock, May 8. She is a nurse and medical coordinator to U.M. missionaries around the world.

Carolyn Winters asked for joys and concerns, then offered prayer, as well as a prayer for the World Day of Prayer.

Mission Moment was given by Mick McNany. She presented “Of View from Atop Pikes Peak — the Beauty of Earth” and “The Lining of Silver — Count Your Blessings.”

Doris Souers took roll call and gave the secretary’s report.

The treasurer’s report was given by Barbara Hart, followed with the business meeting.

Vi Hienen had the lesson on “The Sacred Space of Nurturing — Mother’s Day Reflections.” The first Mother’s Day was observed on May 10, 1908, at Methodist churches in Grafton, WV, and Philadelphia, PA. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother’s Day as a national observance in 1914. Assisting Vi Hienen with the lesson were Martha Plummer, reading Luke 2:41-52, and Doris Souers, reading Ruth 1:6-18.

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 7. Mission Moment will be given by Bernie Garrett, and the lesson by Doris Souers. Barbara Hart closed the meeting with prayer.

Secretary,
Doris Souers



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April Financial Update

General Offerings \$17,552
General Fund Expenses \$12,523
Mortgage Balance..... \$40,028

Day by day

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close.

Then let every one of these short lives

leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself.



—John Ruskin

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone
that I dwell unafraid.



Let us bless
the Life-Giver,
the Pain-Bearer,
the Love-Maker,
let us praise and exalt
God above all for ever.
May God's name be
praised above the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

—from *Prayer at Night*

