

News From The Rock

June 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

In-person worship to resume June 14

In-person worship is resuming! What will it look like? Our Governor, Eric Holcomb, announced on May 1 a plan for getting Indiana "Back on Track" in the next weeks and months.

That plan allows churches to return to in-person worship beginning on May 10. Other leaders, including our Bishop, Julius Trimble, are calling for a slower pace of return.

We will return to worship together in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 14, unless a spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths in the next few weeks makes that too risky. A phone tree message will be sent out with any changes in the expected date of return to in-person worship.

For those who are not comfortable coming into the building at this time, we will offer an option to come into the parking lot and listen to the service via FM radio. The service will be broadcast on FM frequency 87.9 starting at 10:00 a.m. This will be the entire service including joys and prayer concerns. You will need to be in the parking lot to be able to hear the service.

We will also continue to offer a prerecorded online worship option into the future to reach more people outside our church, and for shut-ins and those not yet ready to return to worship in person. These will continue to be posted on Sunday mornings. This service will not include joys and prayer concerns.



These social distancing practices will be in place for health and safety:

1. We will offer parking lot and online worship options and we ask the following persons to continue to worship through these options:
 - A. Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have direct contact with a person who is positive for the virus.
 - B. Persons who are displaying symptoms of illness.
 - C. Persons with underlying health issues making exposure to COVID-19 more dangerous.
2. We will limit personal touch in the following ways.
 - A. Exterior doors will be opened by a masked/gloved greeter to minimize touching handles.
 - B. Interior doors will be propped open to the sanctuary and other areas to minimize touching handles.
 - C. Seating will be rearranged in a manner to provide for social distancing.
 - D. We ask that family units leave six feet of distance between themselves and the next family in the same row.
 - E. We will no longer pass offering plates down the rows. There will be plates to drop your offering into as you exit the sanctuary. Offering envelopes will be available in a basket beside the collection plates.
 - F. Hand sanitizer will be provided in the lobby.
 - G. We will be requesting that persons attending worship wear face masks. We will have some available for those who don't have one.
 - H. High touch areas will be sanitized after services.
 - I. The greeting time after worship will

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from
Pastor Paul

Every once in a while something will be said that we don't quite agree with, or something will be done that we don't think should be done at the time, and it may get under our skin. It comes down to how the person sets his priorities. Every day we set priorities on everything we do, whether it is reading our Bible or praying. If we get woke up before it is time to get up and there is something important to do, do we stop and take time with God first or do we just go ahead and do what we must do first? Which has priority?

The definition of *priority* is something given meriting attention before completing alternatives. Everyone has their own opinion as to where to set their priority and it is based on what they have been taught. Who is right? Everyone will answer to God as to how we set our priorities, right or wrong.

Let's look at how some people set their priorities. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you." If you set your priorities with God being first, he will take care of everything else you need. Jesus set his priorities with the will of God being above all things. In Luke 2:49 Jesus was 12 years old and was not found in the caravan as they were going home. When Mary and Joseph found him they questioned him but

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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.*

Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson

Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry is still continuing to meet on "Zoom" every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. until we are able to resume our normal meetings. We are currently working our way through each day of creation.

Unfortunately, our traditional WAMA VBS that was scheduled for June 1-5 has been canceled. We will, however, be having an online VBS with all the local churches on June 22, 23, and 24. We are



still working on the time for an "online viewing party," but it will be pre-recorded so you can go back and watch it if the time doesn't work. We are also planning to follow this up with a VBS after series that will be held each Wednesday through July. We will not have our Thursday night zoom meeting during these VBS weeks. At this point the VBS group is hopeful to have an in-person carnival on August 1st for the kids. Keep an eye out for more information as we get closer.

I am also hoping to have a Back-2-School Bash on August 6th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. as our tentative return to in-person meetings.

Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth are continuing to meet together weekly on "Zoom" every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. We are starting a new series on 1 Timothy 4:12 and looking into how we can't let anyone think less of us because we are young. We will take a look at the life of Josiah, Ehud, Deborah, and Gideon. I am hopeful we can have a Back-2-School Bash on August 2nd from 5:30-8:00 p.m., with 4th-12th grade meeting during this time. This is a target date for resuming in-person youth meetings, so this could change.

Unfortunately, all Impact 2818 camps have been canceled for the 2020 summer. I was looking forward to an amazing time with the students at camp, but we will have to wait until next year. I am going to look into doing some type of weekend retreat this fall for Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth.

Donation Options

Your continued financial support of Solid Rock during this period of suspended worship services is appreciated. Here are some giving options.

1. Mail a check to: Solid Rock UMC, P.O. Box 322, Warren, IN 46792.
2. Most banks have online banking options, which are usually free of charge. These can be set up as one-time payments or scheduled ongoing payments. (Locally, both First Merchants Bank and Bippus State Bank have free online bill pay services.) Contact your bank for details.
3. Donate online or by using a mobile app. Solid Rock has enabled giving

via Vanco GivePlus. (Vanco is a partner of the United Methodist Church's General Council on Finance and Administration.) Donations can be made using checking or savings accounts or credit/debit cards. (Givers may opt to cover the processing fees, about 2-2.5%, at their discretion.) To get started, simply go to solidrockumc.com and click on "Donate."

Stuff church people say: The funniest sermon responses

I recently had a guy come up to me after church and say, "You are getting better." I thanked him and decided that was a win. And then I thought, Well, maybe other pastors get equally interesting responses so I put out a tweet asking, "What's the strangest thing anyone has said to you after a sermon?"



- Jeremiah: "Early in my first pastorate I had a guy stop me after service to introduce himself: 'You know how Paul said he had a thorn in the flesh?' I nodded and he continued, 'I'm yours.'"
- Christopher: "Would you like me to tell you how many times you said 'um'?"
- Jeff: "I was new to my first church and someone said: 'You're not like most pastors; when you say that you sin - we believe you.' Still trying to figure whether that was a compliment..."
- Gary: "Elderly female guest pianist to me after the service: Did you go to seminary?"
Me: Yes ma'am
Her: Did you graduate?"
- Scott: "Not me as I'm not a preacher, but I know a brother who received an anonymous note after preaching that said, 'The Gettysburg address was only 272 words.'"
- Tom: "The Lord healed me of insomnia during your message."
- Vince: "A guy in my church approached me after what must have been a personally convicting sermon and said, 'Great teaching. But don't you ever talk to me like that again.'"
- Alan: "I was preaching in a church that met in a space with a bathroom just off the worship space. Guy said - 'Your sermon was so good I left the bathroom fan off so I could hear you preach.'"

—Compiled by Ed Stetzer

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

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

News deadline for the July newsletter: June 21

(Continued from *Worship Resumes*, page 1)

- be suspended until a time in the future.
- J. We will suspend printing and handing out a worship bulletin or other materials.
- K. Solid Rock UMC will be a “no-handshake” zone for the time being.
- L. Instructions for safe dismissal will be given.
3. At the moment, all Sunday School classes before worship as well as Sunday children’s ministry options will not be available, and all children will sit with their parents in the sanctuary for worship services until further notice.
4. Holy Communion will be practiced differently until we agree it is safe to return to our past communion practices. Instructions will be given on days communion is offered.
5. We will not reintroduce the Coffee Shop until we can assure relative safety in sharing food and drinks.

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he answered, “Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”

At 12 years old Jesus had already set his priorities to do the will of the Father. How did he know what he was supposed to do everyday? As you study the Gospels you find that Jesus withdrew himself and prayed. As you study deeper, he would be alone each morning before daylight and talk with the Father. God would give him instructions and guide him by the Holy Spirit. Then there will be no question as to what the priorities are.

Let’s look at the person named the second most in the Gospels, Peter. Some say he was always messing up and sticking his foot in his mouth. I disagree. He wanted to know everything he could know about Jesus Christ the Messiah. He would ask questions when no one else would. He would do things that no one else would do because he wanted to know. He had set his priorities to know Christ and to become as close to him as he could. He didn’t care what it looked like.

What about Paul? He persecuted the Christians with zeal. When Christ got hold of him on the road to Damascus, he changed his perspectives and his priorities and his priorities became to spread the

word of God no matter what it cost him. He was beaten and stoned and shipwrecked, but he kept his priorities with God first.

Where are your priorities? I don’t want your answer that is between you and God, who by the way already has the answer. So if you tell yourself anything less than the full truth you are only lying to yourself. Are we any better than Christ himself, who being filled with the Holy Ghost needed to talk to God? It boggles my mind that we can go through the day, the week, the month or the year without talking with God. I imagine that some people believe that they don’t need to spend time with God to figure out where their priorities should be. The rest of us need that daily time with God. Just think about it. What has priority in your life?

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

“Feasting on the Word”

Even though our weekly Bible studies have been interrupted by the Covid-19, we can still look at some scriptures as we move into the summer months. In past

months we have used the following Bible passages as a preparation for the coming Sunday worship service. You are encouraged to read and meditate on the following scripture texts in a spirit of unity within the Solid Rock fellowship.

Preparing for:

- June 7: Matthew 1:1-10
- June 14: John 1:1-12
- June 21: Genesis 37:18-28
- June 28: Nehemiah 2:1-8

It is hoped that you will be enriched in your faith as you study the above passages as we look forward to our face-to-face meetings in the months to come. The grace and peace of the Lord is with us all!

— Joe Haney, Convener

Ideas for celebrating Pentecost at home

Pentecost, an important day in the life of the church, can be a wonderful opportunity for family worship, discussions about church and the Holy Spirit, and a celebration of our faith. Pentecost is celebrated the seventh Sunday after Easter, May 31,

2020.

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. There was a powerful wind and tongues of fire (see Acts 2:1-41). With the gift of the Spirit, the disciples were able to tell people from all over the world about Jesus in ways each could understand. The Bible reports that about 3,000 people were baptized that day, creating the first church.

Creatively celebrating Pentecost in the

home can be a wonderful addition to your family’s devotional life, as you give thanks to God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the church.

Here are some ideas to help get you started.

- Wear red: Red is the color of Pentecost, symbolizing the Holy Spirit’s arrival with tongues of fire.
- Pretend to be Peter: Peter was concerned that some people misunderstood the disciples’ faith and the work of the Holy Spirit. If you were Peter today, what would you want to say to help others understand what it means to follow Jesus?
- Tell the story: Read together the story of Pentecost in Acts 2. Imagine the scene. Ask each family member what they will try to remember from the story.
- Enjoy the wind: Make and fly a kite. Blow bubbles and watch the wind carry them away. Play with pinwheels. Talk about all the wind does, even though you cannot see it.
- Pray together: The Rev. MaryJane Pierce Norton shares the following prayer for families to use:

Gracious God. We are reminded again when the first believers in Jesus were given the courage to tell others about Jesus. We believe you give us that same courage to tell others about Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. You know, O God, that sometimes we are fearful and we feel alone. But just like that Pentecost long ago, we, too, are surrounded by your love and presence. Help us live in such a way that others see in us a reflection of your love. Help us have the courage to tell others about the difference it makes in our lives to trust in your love and care. Help us see those around who want to be in the fellowship of Christians. Help us to witness to one another so that we grow in faith.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit and the witness of your son, Jesus the Christ, we pray today. Amen.

— Joe Iovino, umc.org



**In-Person
Worship
is Resuming!**



June 14, 10:00 a.m.

Please read the article on page one for details regarding safety practices to be observed.

Other options:

Stay in your car in the parking lot and tune to **FM 87.9**.



Prerecorded services will continue to be posted online on Sunday mornings.

Merciful Jesus, you are my guide, the joy of my heart, the author of my hope, and the object of my love. I come seeking refreshment and peace. Show me your mercy, relieve my fears and anxieties, and grant me a quiet mind and an expectant heart, that by the assurance of your presence I may learn to abide in you, my Lord and my God. **Amen.**



— *Enriching Our Worship 2*

