

# News From The Rock

June 2021

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## We want your news!

What's happening at Solid Rock that we're not hearing about? With many previously suspended activities resuming, now is a great time to remind the church what your group or organization does! This newsletter is a great way to let everyone know. What is your Sunday school class studying? What service project is your group conducting? How can new people get involved with your ministry or activity? Simply email your news to [gary@solidrockumc.com](mailto:gary@solidrockumc.com) or drop it at the church office.



## Outdoor Worship

Outdoor worship services will take place at 10:00 a.m. at Solid Rock on the second Sundays in June, July, and August. These services will not be livestreamed, but a prerecorded service will be posted online.



## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on May 18. Some highlights of this meeting:

- The Finance Committee reported that we are currently on budget for the year.
- The trustees reported that new gutters have been installed. The parking lot will be recoated this summer.
- The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations

Committee has completed their annual clergy assessment.

- The concession stand is once again able to offer a full menu. Business has been brisk.
- The Christmas Year Round Committee has provided assistance for one family.
- Outdoor worship services are planned for the second Sundays of June, July, and August.
- SOS is planning a staff appreciation event for Heritage Pointe.
- Eight men were in attendance at the last Men's Fellowship meeting. They will meet June 12, 8:00 a.m., at Bravo's Restaurant. No advance reservation is needed.
- The COVID masking policy was revised to coincide with CDC recommendations. (Currently, those who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to continue wearing masks.)
- A community vacation Bible school will be held July 5-9.
- The next Council meeting will be August 17.

## Bible Study

Monday evening "Feasting on the Word" Bible studies has some changes to share. First, we will return to the 7:00 p.m. time since we no longer have to share our Fellowship Hall space. Second, our gathering place will once more be in the church kitchen. The third change is the list of scriptures for our study, which are found below.



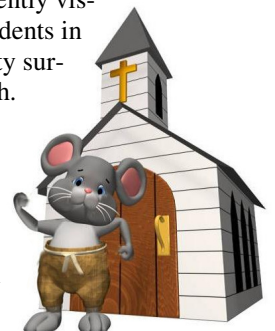
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*I came across this article recently and thought it too powerful not to share. Mitch the Church Mouse fully loved the Sovereign Lord.*

Mitch's mate, Marge, was a suitable helper to him in all aspects of his ministry. The couple consistently visited many of the rodents in the large community surrounding the church.

"God has entrusted all the mice in this area to our care," Mitch explained to Marge. "Just as God called Pastor Marvin to serve as the minister to the humans in our church, He has called us to serve the mice."



Mitch and Marge knew their church's members had spiritual needs, but they also realized the congregation had an abundance of other circumstances that needed to be changed. The couple led the congregation in starting a ministry designed to meet those needs: A food pantry, paying utilities, and help in paying the local rodent physicians and purchasing medicine for needy rodent families, etc.

Madge was among those mice receiving free cheese from the ministry. A disabled widow, Madge was unable to work.

A younger mouse, Monroe, worked hard to provide for his family, but Monroe's salary wasn't big enough to pay all the bills. The ministry stepped in and sup-

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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.*

## Library programs to take place at Solid Rock

The 2021 Warren Public Library Reading Program theme is “Tails and Tales.” Five library-sponsored programs will take place at Solid Rock UMC. While targeted for children, the programs are free and open to all ages.

### Tuesday, June 8, 1:00 p.m. Karen Land

Karen Land is from the Indianapolis area and trains sled dogs. She has participated in the Iditarod race in Alaska. Karen was in Warren a few years ago to speak at Heritage Pointe and brought two of her dogs. It is anticipated that at least one dog will be with her again.

### News From The Rock

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#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322  
Warren, Indiana 46792

[www.solidrockumc.com](http://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 - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Friday

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News deadline for the July  
newsletter: June 20

### Wednesday, June 16, 1:00 p.m. Take Flight Wildlife Education with Mark Booth

Mark will be sharing a talk called “Birds of Prey and People.” He will be bringing some large birds of prey with him.

### Wednesday, June 23, 1:00 p.m. Pretty Funny Balloons

This is the third year for Pretty Funny Balloons in Warren and this presenter is always a hit with the kids! They will be exploring the animal world through balloons, stories, audience participation, and fun facts.

### Wednesday, June 30, 1:00 p.m.

#### Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Zoomobile

Zoo instructors and some special furry friends will come to talk about animal habitats.



### Wednesday, July 7, 1:00 p.m. Noah's Ark Workshop

This is a Build-a-Bear type workshop. Library staff will help the children stuff and “bring to life” a new furry friend to take home.

## A week of tributes to Dad

To celebrate the special man in your life, use a quote a day the week before Father's Day, or honor him with tributes the whole week after. Write



**Happy  
Father's  
Day**

one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative! Every day of the

week is a good day to celebrate his love and show him yours.

“The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature.” —Antoine F. Prévost

“To the world you are a dad. To our family you are the world.” —Unknown

“The best fathers have the softest, sweetest hearts. In other words, great dads are real marshmallows.” —Richelle E. Goodrich

“Dad: a son's first hero, a daughter's first love.” —Unknown

“A good father is one whose only reason for putting down a laughing baby is to pick up a crying one.” —Linda Poindexter

“My father didn't do anything unusual. He only did what dads are supposed to do — be there.” —Max Lucado

“I love my father as the stars. He's a bright shining example and a happy twinkling in my heart.” —Terri Guillemets

## Hanging out with Dad

I've always been a “daddy's girl.” Growing up, I usually spent Saturdays in the garage with my dad. We'd build something, fix a car part or get into some trouble together.

Though Joseph wasn't Jesus' biological father, he certainly served as a father figure for God's Son. Jesus followed in Joseph's footsteps as a carpenter, but we're told little about his childhood. When Joseph advised Jesus to “measure twice and cut once,” did Jesus mention he'd get it right on the first measure? How many craftsman tips did Jesus learn from Joseph? And did Joseph learn



a few from Jesus? Surely young Jesus looked up to Joseph. What did wonder look like in the eyes of the One who invented wonder?

How am I hanging out with God on a regular basis? Am I continuing to learn his “trade”? Do I intentionally mimic his words, his kindness, his ways of loving others well? Take a minute to ponder that. Imagine yourself out in the garage with God (or in the kitchen with God, or at the computer with God). What task do you imagine doing together? What does God say to you as you look into his eyes?

—Janna Firestone

- “Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.” —John Lubbock
- Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” —Winston Churchill
- Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers and singers of song.” —Pam Brown

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plied the resources required to meet all of the family's needs.

Millie, another younger mouse, had been laid off from her job as quality control inspector at the local cheese processing plant. While Millie faithfully searched for a new job, the ministry helped buy her groceries.

"I'm glad you sensed the Lord leading us to start this ministry," March told Mitch. "It's having a huge impact on the entire community."

Indeed, as word about the ministry spread, more and more mice began seeking assistance from the ministry, as well as attending the worship services.

Moses was among that group of mice. The ministry provided much needed assistance in Moses and his family replenishing their bare cupboard with cheese. The family joined the church and excitedly began participating in the ministry's outreach.

The ministry began growing so rapidly that the available mouse power was not enough to minister to the entire metropolitan area of mice.

After being mentored by Mitch for a few months, Moses said he believed the Lord was calling him to begin a new branch of the ministry to the under-served part of the community.

Although it was hard for Moses to explain to his mentor God's call on his life, Moses explained the holy encounter this way: "It was sort of like when God spoke to the Moses of the Bible out of the burning bush that wasn't being consumed."

"You mean God spoke to you out of a burning bush?"

"No, it was more like I was standing too close to a nearby firecracker that exploded, but I still got the message loud and clear!"

—Greg Miller, 2016

We never know when or how God is going to call us to service. However, we need to keep our ears and eyes open for the moment He does. During the course of any week there are many opportunities for us to be open to God's leading in our lives. It's up to us to be ready when that moment comes.

See you Sunday,  
Paul

### April Financial Update

General Fund Receipts .....\$12,979  
General Fund Expenses .....\$13,167

(Continued from *Bible Study*, page 1)

- June 7: Psalm 139:13-17 (Reaching Your Full Potential), Jorita Banter, leader
- June 14: Mark 5:21-43 (Healing and New Life, guest speaker), Ann Spahr, leader
- June 21: Mark 4:31-41 (The Storms of Life), Joe Haney, leader
- June 28: Mark 6:1-13 (Sent Out on Mission), Jorita Banter, leader

Come to feed your life with the Bread of Life. Our numbers are slowly growing with the easing of restrictions. Share with us your journey with the Lord as these scriptures impact your daily living. May the Lord bless!

Joe Haney, Coordinator

### Congratulations, graduates!

Congratulations to these graduates!

Graduating from high school are Breann Kratzer and Ethan McGray.

College graduates are Olivia Bolinger, Carson Bolinger, and Lily Sabinske.



### From guilt to grace

For Jerry Schemmel, a 1989 plane crash that killed more than 100 people ended up shaping his life and faith. The sports broadcaster walked away from the tragedy with minimal physical injuries but was haunted by survivor's guilt and PTSD.

"The big turning point for me came when I became a Christian," he says. "Things got much easier to deal with after that, I believe, because I had the best ally fighting the fight with me, Jesus Christ."

Schemmel, author of *Chosen to Live*, says he'd love to be able to "go back and rewrite the script" and change what happened that July day in Sioux City, Iowa. "But since I can't, I just have to keep on trusting God, trusting that he put me through this experience to serve him, to be the man he wants me to be and ultimately give him glory."



### Our way out

While in London, Timothy Merrill was intrigued that signs with arrows read WAY OUT, rather than EXIT, as they do in America. "Everywhere I went, I saw signs that showed me the



WAY OUT," he writes. That made him ponder all the Bible characters who looked for a WAY OUT of predicaments. Moses

looked for a WAY OUT of Egypt, Daniel certainly wanted a WAY OUT of the lions' den and countless people thought (and still think) there's no WAY OUT from their sins.

"The good news of the Gospel," Merrill writes, "is that Jesus Christ is the WAY OUT! He is our exit from the messes and disasters we create. He is the exit from sin and unrighteousness. He is the WAY OUT of a life without purpose and the WAY IN to an abundant life. And the symbol of the WAY OUT is not an arrow but a cross. What a blessing to know that Jesus knows — and is — the WAY OUT!"

### A kindled fire

"I can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building." That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline.

Certainly it's possible to worship and talk to God among his creation. In fact, George Washington Carver called nature "an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in." And Martin Luther said, "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: "At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through." When we're away from God's house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. So this summer, spend time in nature but don't neglect "to meet together" (see Hebrews 10:25)!



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## Celebration of Life

Please join us for a Celebration of Life in loving memory of Joenita Keller on Saturday, June 26,

2021, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Warren Sportsman's Club. We will be gathering to share some of our favorite memories, our stories to share, to cry and to remember a very special person who is greatly missed.

Light refreshments will be served.



## Concession Stand

Solid Rock operates the concession stand at Tower Park. There is a need for volunteers. Call Steve Holmes at (260) 917-1000 or 375-2766 if you can help.

**Loving God**, Creator of all times and places,  
we thank you for the gift of summertime,  
the days of light, warmth and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and the more time to spend with family and friends.



As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people, open our hearts to receive all as gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation. **Amen.**

—marquette.edu

