

# News From The Rock

June 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## New pastor appointed

Bishop Trimble and the Cabinet of the Indiana Conference have announced the appointment of Rev. John Boyanowski as pastor of Solid Rock effective July 1, 2022. Pastor John and his wife Marsha have served at Pleasant Lake UMC for the past 21 years. Pastor John and Marsha were introduced to the Solid Rock Staff-Parish Relations Committee in a meeting on April 27. His first week in the pulpit at Solid Rock will be July 10.

## An introduction

*Pastor John submitted the following information to help us begin to get acquainted.*

Pastor John and Marsha have been married for 37 years and have three adult children: April, LeeAnn, and Josh. They also have seven grandchildren with two deposits in heaven.



John and Marsha have served at Pleasant Lake UM Church for the past 21 years. Pastor John is originally from Rhode Island and Marsha is from Wisconsin and met at a church in New York. Want to know how? Just ask them for this God-filled story.

They are both graduates from Taylor University Fort Wayne and are the only couple to have both received the Pastor's Heart Award at two different years. John has worked in the mental health field for quite a few years, working with foster parents, kids, and those in the system.

Marsha has been an interpreter for the deaf and loves to sign songs and teach ASL. John likes to write in his spare time as well as taking pictures. Marsha likes to make homemade cards and scrapbook. Both John and Marsha LOVE to play games, cook, gather with friends and family, and John is a huge geek when it comes to movies/superheroes/sci-fi things.

## Farewell Lunch

Pastor Paul and Lisa's last Sunday at Solid Rock will be June 12. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will host a carry-in lunch at noon on that day to honor Paul and Lisa and bid them farewell.



Please plan to join us. Meat and drinks will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish.

## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on May 17, 2022. Prayer concerns were shared and Pastor Paul opened with prayer.

Dave Spahr reported that the trustees are continuing to consult with contractors to identify the cause of roof leaks.

The Concession Stand Committee reported sales of over \$400 on their opening night. They are always in need of volunteers to help staff the stand.

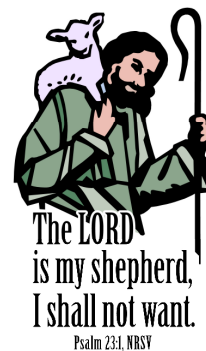
SOS will have a day outing to Winona Lake on July 16.

The Warren Public Library will once again use the Solid Rock building for summer reading programs this year.

*(Continued on page 3)*



George Buttrick tells a story about a time when he met a farmer who had just rescued a lost sheep. When Buttrick asked the farmer how the sheep got lost, the farmer replied, "They just nibble themselves lost."



They go, he explained, from one tuft of grass to another, until at last they've lost their way.

We can lose our way pretty easily and pretty quickly by moving from one little thing, one little tuft of grass, to another.

After days, hours, weeks, months, or years we look up and we realize we are lost, nothing looks familiar. We lose our way when we focus on the little things and lose track of our main thing. We seek first the things that are not really important.

Think about the image of our lives as sheep and Jesus as the Good Shepherd. When we listen to His voice and follow his leadership, life has a sense of peace about it. When we listen to our own voice and follow a different path and just nibble ourselves from one little tuft of grass to another, we find ourselves lost.

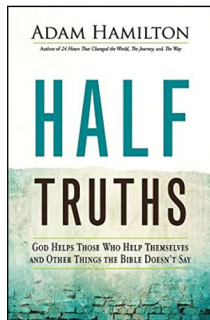
There are times in our lives when we find ourselves at a crossroad and we must decide which direction we believe God wants us to go. Because change is difficult we don't always choose the path God desires us to choose. We prefer the path

*(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.*

## Nest adult Sunday school study announced

“Half Truths” by Adam Hamilton will be the next study for the Sunday School class which meets in the kitchen. Beginning June 5, we will look at simple phrases that sound Christian – like something you might read in the Bible – but they miss the point in important ways. Pastor Hamilton searches for the whole truth by comparing some common Christian sayings with the wisdom found in Scripture. Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:00.



### 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

Pastor: Rev. Paul Burris  
[pburris@hotmail.com](mailto:pburris@hotmail.com)  
(260) 609-9260

Youth Programs  
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[wanda@solidrockumc.com](mailto:wanda@solidrockumc.com)

News deadline for the July  
newsletter: June 19

## Thank you

Solid Rock Church Family,

I thank you dearly for the scholarship towards my college tuition. It means a lot to know that you are willing to help me through school, especially with such a generous amount. This has taken part of the financial burden off of my family and I cannot express how grateful I am for that.

Sincerely,  
Isaac Rans

## SOS

SOS met on May 12 at the church. Brenda provided a devotional from *Jesus Calling* about Jesus providing rest to your soul. Cindy gave a lesson on the myths surrounding Friday the 13th.

The retreat committee is planning a day trip to Winona Lake on July 16th for the group. We continue to prepare for the Salamonie Summer Festival. It will be here before we know it!

The group enjoyed fellowship and refreshments after the meeting. Our next meeting will be on June 9.



You are invited to  
these graduation  
open house celebrations

Isaac Rans

Eastbrook High School

Sunday, June 5, 2022

3-6 p.m.

At Solid Rock UMC

Amelia Sabinske

Southern Wells High School

Saturday, June 11, 2022

1-4 p.m.

At Solid Rock UMC

## April Financial Update

General Fund Receipts..... \$13,012  
General Fund Expenses ..... \$14,555

## Peace with Justice Sunday

“Peace with Justice” Sunday is one of six special offerings coordinated through the United Methodist Church. UMC Special Offering” envelopes are available for the June 12 giving opportunity.

In 2021, United Methodists gave \$328,463 toward ministries funded by the Peace with Justice Special Sunday offering. Half of the funds collected provided grants to local churches, districts, conferences and other affiliated organizations that advocate for peace with justice. The other fifty percent of the offering remains in our annual conference to develop local peace with justice ministries. Thank you for your generous stewardship!

## Bible Study

Our “Feasting on the Word” Monday evening Bible studies for the month of June will be taking a slight turn with the change in pastoral leadership. Until we receive some direction from our incoming pastor, we will follow the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. With Pentecost being celebrated on June 5, most of our studies will come from the Gospel of Luke.

- June 6: John 16:12-15, “The Work of the Spirit,” Joe Haney, leader
- June 13: Luke 8:26-39, “Healing of the Mind & Body,” Jorita Banter, leader
- June 20: Luke 9:51-62, “The Path of Discipleship,” Joe Haney, leader
- June 27: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20, “Humility and Healing,” Jorita Banter, leader

During this “out of school” season, let the Lord refresh your life with a renewed time of study and meditation. Our studies are held in the Solid Rock kitchen each Monday evening, 7-8 p.m. Do come!

—Joe Haney, Coordinator

Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8



—God’s Little Instruction Book

(Continued from **Pastor Paul**, page 1)

we're already on because it's familiar and comfortable. We do so knowing full well that God's ways are not always our ways.

Lisa and I have reached a crossroad in our life. As many of you already know, the Bishop has appointed us to another church. After prayerful consideration we believe that God is indeed calling us to move in a different direction and accepted that call. Because of our love for this church and the people of Solid Rock, this was not an easy decision. In my 30 years of ministry I have come to learn that following God's path is not always easy.

Starting on July 1st we will be serving the folks at Syracuse Calvary. As we enter into this new period of transition it is important to remember that the Good Shepherd is calling our name and looking for us. And that when we are faithful to God's leading we will feel his comforting presence in our lives. We are grateful that God has allowed us to serve you these past seven years. The relationships we have formed here have been a blessing to both of us and we will not soon forget the grace and love you have extended to us during our time here. Please know that Lisa and I will continue to keep you all in our prayers and ask that you do the same for us. In the meantime we can all take comfort in the words that David spoke so long ago:

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me besides quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* (Psalm 23)

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Paul

(Continued from **Administrative Council**, page 1)

Kids Club continues to be well attended. Their last session of the season is May 19.

A complete kitchen renovation at the parsonage will begin soon. Flooring throughout the upper level will also be replaced, and all rooms repainted.

Pastor Paul's last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 12. Supply pastor John Yoquelet will preach on June 19 and June 26.

Solid Rock will participate in the community worship service at 11:00 on July 3, with no service at Solid Rock. Pastor John's first Sunday will be July 10.

A farewell carry-in lunch to honor Paul and Lisa will take place at noon on June 12. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be responsible for providing meat and drinks.

## A greeting from Pastor John and Marsha

Hello Solid Rock family! This is Pastor John and Marsha Boyanowski. We wanted to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor! We are excited to be coming to your church and looking to see how God is going to move us and bless us as a family and as a congregation.

We are very open people and look forward to meeting each and every one of you and get to know you more intimately. Both Marsha and I are very relational and come with various gifts and talents. Our main focus is going to be on you: what are your hopes and dreams as individuals, as a church body, plans for your future? We are hoping to walk alongside of you and work beside you as we serve Solid Rock.

We do our best to try to lead as examples and to live out the decrees that Christ puts on each of us. We look forward to hearing your stories and look forward to being in the next chapter of your lives. We know that you had a great pastor in Pastor Paul and his wife and we hope that you continue to honor and love them as they move on to their next chapter. We come to you not to overtake and overshadow their ministries with you; we are hoping to complement their ministries and build upon the Solid Rock foundation that they leave in each and every one of you.

I believe that Marsha and I will be a good fit the church, the community, and for you as individuals. We are very approachable and we look forward to having the opportunity to love you the way God loves you! Please feel free to come and talk with us about anything and everything and allow us to be able to encourage you, disciple you, and minister to you to bring you closer to God in relationship and to encourage you in the various callings that God has placed upon you.

Please feel free to contact me or Marsha via email at [pastorjohnboy@netscape.net](mailto:pastorjohnboy@netscape.net), and Marsha and I look forward to starting our ministry and life with you guys!

## The church hive

Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations.

Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ'" (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?



## Going the second mile

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he teaches, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Matthew 5:41, NRSV). Back then, Jews were subject to Roman rule and often compulsory service. Commoners could be forced to fetch water, carry baggage and perform other menial tasks. So Jesus suggests that rather than complying with gritted teeth and muttered curses, people offer to carry the pack a second mile as well.

These days, the second (or extra) mile denotes going beyond what's expected or required, whether in effort or kindness. In *Going the Second Mile*, Mel Blackaby describes the concept as "the difference between living as a good person and enjoying life as a child of God." He explains, "When you 'do your best' for someone, you go the first mile. When God does his best through you, you experience the second mile. This can happen only when you let Christ in you take over and empower you to accomplish what is impossible by your natural abilities. While others see you on the first mile, they see Christ on the second."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

## Prayer Requests

Requests for prayer should be directed to  
**Solid Rock Office at 375-3873**  
**Pastor Paul Burris at (260) 609-9260**  
(until June 15)

If these are not available, please call  
**Allison Voght at (260) 530-6570**

## Our fun-loving God

Whence comes this idea that if what we are doing is fun, it can't be God's will? The God who made giraffes, a baby's finger-nails, a puppy's tail, a crooknecked squash, the bobwhite's call and a young girl's giggle has a sense of humor. Make no mistake about that.

—Catherine Marshall

- "The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close." —Unknown
- "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" —John Wesley

**God of Love**, we give you thanks and praise for your steadfast mercy, love and grace. Through faith, we trust that you are with us in every season of life and in every transition and change.

We trust in your goodness and know that with each ending comes new beginnings. So, come, Holy Spirit, come. Guide, strengthen, and encourage us on the journey that lies

before our church family. It's the assurance of your unfailing love that enables us to trust you with all the transitions we go through in life, even when there are uncertainties about the future. May your Word dwell in us richly and your peace rule in us powerfully, and may your glory be our main passion and greatest delight. We pray this prayer in the powerful and precious name of Jesus. **Amen.**

—messiahchurch.org

