

News From The Rock

March 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson,
Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry will be moving our monthly kid's night to the first Thursday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Our theme for our March 5th event is a "Fruit Night." During this night kids are welcome to dress as a piece of fruit, have a lesson on the "Fruit of the Spirit," have a craft where we make a bubble wrap pineapple, and play some crazy fruit inspired games.



We are encouraging students in grades K-5th to attend Camp Lakewood on June 21-25th. We are partnering with Hanfield UMC and Dayton UMC for this week of camp. Solid Rock will be hosting VBS this year on June 1-5th from 6:00-8:00pm, we are still working on the theme.

Solid Rock hosted The WAY on February 2nd for a Big Game Party. We had a total of 21 youth present for the game/party, with 14 youth from Solid Rock.

Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth finished our series on "Overcoming Temptations" on February 16th. Cassidy Gray shared about her experiences from her mission trip to Jamaica on February 23rd. We will be starting a new 4 week series title "Prayer" on March 1st. During this series we will be taking a closer look at The Power of Prayer, Learning to Pray, Unanswered Prayers, and finally Recognizing God's Voice. March 29th will be our cookie ministry night with Cindy. Both age groups are encouraged to come from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

We are encouraging students in grades 6-8th to attend Camp Adventure on July 12-17th. We are partnering with Plainfield UMC for this week of camp. We are en-

couraging students in grades 9-12th to attend Epworth Forest on July 5-10th. We are partnering with South Whitley UMC for this week of camp.

The Solid Rock Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. The deadline to submit your application is March 20th. No late applications will be accepted. Applications can be picked up in the church office or may be downloaded from the church website. Students currently receiving a scholarship need to reapply.

Bible Study

The Monday evening Bible studies will be a good way to begin a new discipleship in a small group. Each evening attendees will study the scripture passage for the coming Sunday morning. None of the selections are lengthy! Our studies are geared to looking at the life of Jesus as he journeys to Jerusalem and the cross. Listed below are the dates and scriptures to be studied. Do come and join us in the church kitchen, Mondays from 7:00-8:00 p.m., during the month of March.



- March 2: Luke 7:36-50 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- March 9: Luke 4:1-4 & Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- March 16: Psalm 54: 1-2 (Joe Haney, leader)
- March 23: Isaiah 9: 1-7 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- March 30: To Be Announced (Perry Spahr, leader)

All of these studies are a response to the voice of Jesus, "Come, follow me!"



from
Pastor Paul

I came across this little devotional and thought I would share it with you.

Leaving Space

By L. Osman

"Make a left up there, I know we're close!"

I nodded and followed my instructor's directions. The sudden lane change was tricky and now the light was taking forever to turn green.

"Don't pull up so close to a car at a red light.

Someone might hit you from behind and you'll smash the car in front of you. Always leave space so that you can see their back tires on the pavement."

I sighed, a little loud.

"The light's green."

"I know dad."

I could feel the stress rising as the swelter of the summer day dripped down my back. My father, brother, aunt and I were on a mission to retrace our family history in their old hometown. Apparently, it was on every street.

"This is where it should be, but the house numbers are all wrong and there's no dormers." He paused. "Go ask that lady who's watering her lawn if she knows anything."

So that's what I did, because even when

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:17

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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.

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 "The Easter Ex-

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P.O. Box 322

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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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News deadline for the April newsletter: March 22

perience"

- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE

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.

The Easter Experience

What if what happened then changes everything now?

The small group which meets in the kitchen on Sunday mornings will be experiencing Easter through a DVD-driven study which brings the passion and resurrection of Jesus to life. We will find ourselves reclining next to Him in the Upper Room, walking beside Him in Gethsemane, standing near Him in Pilate's courtyard, weeping alongside Him at Golgotha, and celebrating with Him at the empty tomb. Come join us for this experience.

SOS

SOS met at the church on February 13, 2020, with Brenda as hostess and Sherry co-hostess. There were 13 in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Brenda Conner giving devotions. The Treasurer's Report was given. The lesson was given by Linda Howell, a reading on greeting this day with love in my heart. Card report was given by Corresponding Secretary Teresa Kriegbaum.

Joys and concerns were given by the members and prayer was led by Brenda. Old Business was discussed and a few new items were introduced under New Business. The love offering was collected.

Next meeting will be March 12, 2020, with Allison Voght as hostess and Cindy co-hostess, and the lesson will be given by Susan Mills. The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.

Update from Emily Oke

Greetings from Kenya! It has been almost two months since I started out on this adventure, and there has yet to be a dull moment. There are a total of twenty students here at the missionary school, and the

parents and I work together to cover all of the subjects the students need. I teach 3rd-grade language arts, 5th and 6th grade U.S. History, Art, Technology, Drama, and Handwriting. I also tutor a few students in reading and writing. The classes that I teach take place in the schoolroom or the house I am living in, and at times, the students like to stay after and play games or raid the cupboards. Our house is known for having all kinds of snacks!

I am also helping with Bible Quizzing as a coach, and our team name is the Thunder Sheep. Bible quizzing has over 200 Kenyan children that participate, and we travel to an orphanage/boarding school on Wednesdays to do Bible Quizzing there as well. Our next Quiz meet is next Sunday (March 1st). Please pray that all the quizzers would have courage and confidence as they compete.

I would also ask for prayers for Bomet, the area where I am living. Right now, it should be the dry season, but the rains have continued to come in force. While this is fantastic for the farmers, it means the mosquitoes are worse, and our area is having trouble with Malaria, which hasn't happened in years.

Thank you all so much for your love, support, and prayers as I have ventured out. I cannot wait to see you all again, and both share and listen to the stories we have to tell!

Sincerely,
Emily

January Financial Update

General Offerings.....\$15,477
General Fund Expenses.....\$20,106

February Financial Update

General Offerings.....\$15,597
General Fund Expenses.....\$11,148



(Continued from page 1)

you are in your 50's you still follow your father's commands and impromptu driving lessons. As I stepped out of the car, my brother and I exchanged a teasing look. I glanced over at my aunt and saw that the twinkle was back in her eyes. It had been quite a journey.

A few minutes later I returned to tell dad he was right. This had been the site of my aunt's foster home, but the 1910 bungalow had been torn down years ago and was replaced by the stucco monstrosity in front of us. His "I told you so!" smirk almost took up the whole front seat.

"We better get moving. We've got a few more places to see before the traffic gets bad", he announced.

Although we weren't our normal chatty selves, we were having a nice time. It still felt awkward to be together. Anyone driving past probably thought we were a bunch of lost tourists or a family out for a Sunday drive. Both of those scenarios were true, but most of all we were a miracle.

It had been a little over two years since my aunt and brother were homeless; living in a campsite, drowning in one bad decision after another. Help wasn't necessarily wanted, and all relations were strained. But my dad had found his way into the mess one kindness at a time. A tent here, some food there and daily visits with words of hope. It was the beginning of a long road that had gotten us to where we were today.

"You forgot to leave space again!" Dad blurted out followed by a chuckle. He was right. I couldn't see the tires on the road where the car in front of me had stopped. I backed up a little and let out my own grin. The peanut gallery in the back seat joined in with their wisecracks and for a moment a sense of normalcy filled the air.

My dad was right all those months ago too. I couldn't see how my aunt and my brother could reverse the path they were on, but he was compelled to go the extra mile. His love went longer and deeper than anyone else's could. But even he knew he had to leave space. Space for them to ponder, space to let love grow and most of all, to leave space for a miracle.

The Bible verse Colossians 1:17, "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together," has always been a favorite of mine. To me, it's talking about "leaving space". Space for God to come in and "hold all things together" where nothing else was ever meant to be. Like mortar between bricks on a wall, only God's perfect love can fill in the gaps where healing and

strength are needed. I still have a lot to learn from my Father in heaven and my father on earth, but I can hear them both saying, "Don't forget to leave space... for the miracles."

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

A conversation with Bishop Trimble

State of the Church: Protocol, Perspective, and Priorities

Please plan to join Bishop Trimble in any of five locations near you for a discussion on the State of the Church. He will share details about the Protocol, offer perspective, and clarify priorities of the church in Indiana, but he also wants to hear from you. [The Protocol is a proposal that would preserve The United Methodist Church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination. It will be considered by the 2020 General Conference in May.] Come ready to share in this dialogue about the state of The United Methodist Church.

- **Fishers United Methodist Church:** Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Washington Christ United Methodist Church:** Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Huntington Evangelical United Methodist Church:** Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Seymour First United Methodist Church:** Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Lafayette Christ United Methodist Church:** Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Of rocks and repentance

Before recently closing to tourists, Australia's majestic Uluru (formerly called Ayers Rock) was popular with climbers.



Many took home illegal souvenirs, sometimes later mailing them back to park rangers after experiencing what they considered bad luck.

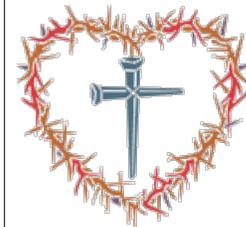
So many pilfered mementos were returned, often with notes of apology, that rangers called them "sorry rocks." The returns merely created more work for park staff, who urged visitors not to take specimens in the first place.

"Sorry rocks" is a fitting image for our sins, which the Bible describes as weights and entanglements (see Hebrews 12:1). As sinners, we can't remove those heavy burdens on our own. But through Christ's redeeming work on our behalf, we can "return" the rocks of wrongdoing. When we repent and seek forgiveness, God promises to "remember [our] sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

Our Lenten focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus'



death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die

for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

—John Ortberg,
The Life You've Always Wanted



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Keep clinging

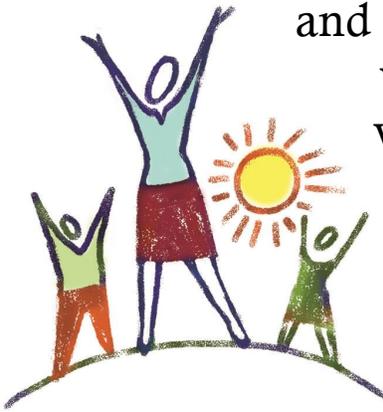
When his wife received a stage-four cancer diagnosis, Mike Nappa was asked why he wasn't angry at God. His first answer: Anger is "beyond futile," as it can't change tough circumstances. His second answer was another question: "Why would I lash out in anger toward the only thing that brings me solace? That'd be akin to punching the lifeguard who's trying to save me from drowning."

"I must cling to Christ — desperately, determinedly, gratefully — for strength to see myself through every moment, both good and hurtful, both joyful and sorrowful," Nappa writes. "I've found Jesus to be more than sufficient. He is a man of sorrows who knows how to share mine and who tells me gently, in ways that I can believe, that in the end, everything is going to be OK. God is good; he is always good."

—Adapted from *Hard Way Home* by Amy & Mike Nappa. © 2019 Nappaland Communications Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

A Prayer to Love the Life You Have

God, help me love the life I live right now.
Show me the good things I often overlook



and help me be content with what I have. Forgive me when I compare myself to others, forgive me for longing for things outside of you and your kingdom. Thank you for loving me right where I

am, right as I am. Help me keep my eyes on you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Nicki Koziarz

