

# News From The Rock

March 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## Camp registration forms are here!

If you are interested in attending camp this coming summer and haven't picked up your registration form, you can pick one up in the church office. Senior high youth wishing to attend camp will need to register through the church office. You can do so by contacting Pastor Paul. If you have any questions concerning camp, Pastor Paul would be happy to answer them.



## Special Giving Sundays

Part of the work of our Missions Committee of Solid Rock Church is to highlight the six church-wide Special Giving opportunities for ministering to others in their time of need. Some of you may know this as "One Great Hour of Sharing" Sunday while the new wording is "UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday." This Special offering allows UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go to that project, not administrative costs.

In 2021, United Methodists gave \$1,921,619 toward ministries funded by UMCOR offerings. Solid Rock has locally responded to storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change. We have a great legacy in supporting this special offering as well as giving when new happenings pre-



sent a need.

Offering envelopes are available next to the sign-in book across from the coat room, or you may designate on your check for UMCOR for Sunday, March 27, 2022. Thank you for your participation in the outreach ministry of Christ our Lord.

## Why Easter Matters

The small group that meets in the kitchen on Sunday mornings will be ready to begin a new series on Sunday, March 13 entitled "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley.



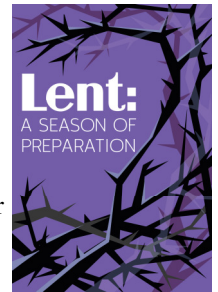
"Have you resisted, defied, or tried to bargain your way out of what you thought God wanted? You are not alone! This Easter study looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to His crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. There might be a little bit of them in all of us, too."

The group really enjoyed Pastor Stanley's companion volume, "Who Needs Christmas," that was discussed several months ago. Please join us. You'll find it worth your time!



As I age it seems time goes so much faster! Here we are coming into March of 2022. It seems just yesterday we were celebrating the New Year.

March 2 will be the beginning of Lent and is called Ash Wednesday. This will be the beginning of a journey for the purposes of evaluating ourselves and realizing what we need to clean up in our lives, or rather what we need to seek God's help in cleaning up. We come to this season with trepidation and trembling; however, as Jesus says in Luke 4, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)



Therefore let us enter into this season prepared to do the hard work of self-evaluation, but temper it with the fact that we know the end of the story. Praise be to Jesus our Lord and Savior!

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Paul



"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.

— N.T. Wright

*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 Mission Giving

The Missions Committee has met and allotted the following monies from donated missions funds for 2022. Individual donations are added to these amounts.

### WORLD

Africa University .....	\$200
Feed My Children.....	\$100
Homes for Haitians.....	\$200
Operation Classroom.....	\$200

### NATIONAL

Henderson Settlement Projects.....	\$1,000
Society of St. Andrew.....	\$100
Red Bird Mission.....	\$100

### News From The Rock

is published each month by

#### 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  
(260) 609-9260

Youth Programs  
youthministry@solidrockumc.com

Newsletter 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 April  
newsletter: March 20

### UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

International Disasters.....	Offerings Received
National Disasters .....	Offerings Received

### DISTRICT/CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

Bashor Children's Home.....	\$250
-----------------------------	-------

### SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Human Relations.....	\$50
UMCOR.....	\$50
Native American Ministries .....	\$50
Peace with Justice .....	\$50
World Communion.....	\$50
Student Day.....	\$50
Bishop's Christmas Offering.....	\$50

### LOCAL MISSIONS

Remnant House .....	\$300
Warren Area Ministerial Association.....	\$800
"By the Book" Religious Education, Associated Churches .....	\$400

## Calling heaven

Most of us have learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of our daily lives. But have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following:



Thank you for calling heaven ...

- For English, press 1
- For Spanish, press 2
- For all other languages, press 0

Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for requests
- Press 2 for thanksgiving
- Press 3 for complaints
- Press 4 for all other inquiries

I am sorry, all of our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order in which it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to ...

- The Father, press 1
- The Son, press 2
- The Holy Spirit, press 3

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4.

To find a loved one that has been assigned

to heaven, press 5, then enter his or her social security number followed by the # sign. (If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666.)

For reservations in heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our computer shows that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow. The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday, after 9:30 a.m. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your pastor.

—Author Unknown  
Submitted by Mary Ann Holmes

## Complete serenity

Many of us have heard the first part of what's called "The Serenity Prayer," attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. But we would do well to learn the rest of it as well:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen."



## Christian symbol

**40**—In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood.

Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



## January Financial Update

General Fund Receipts .....	\$21,598
General Fund Expenses .....	\$13,318

## Bible Study

The small group of “Feasting on the Word” Bible study continues to meet in the kitchen of Solid Rock UMC at 7:00 p.m. each Monday evening. We are losing one of our group to another small group meeting, which means that leadership for “Feasting” only rotates between two persons. Each Bible study is a preparation for the pastor’s message the next Sunday. Following is the schedule for the month of March. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2, as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross.



only rotates between two persons. Each Bible study is

a preparation for the pastor’s message the next Sunday. Following is the schedule for the month of March. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2, as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross.

- March 7: John 14:15-27 (Affection Determines Direction); Jorita Banter, leader
- March 14: John 15:1-17 (Jesus In, Jesus Out); Joe Haney, leader
- March 21: John 16:4-15 (Put Your Trust in Jesus); Jorita Banter, leader
- March 28: John 16:16-24 (Grief Will Turn to Joy); Joe Haney, leader

Soon the evening time will be brighter and easier to be out at night. We hope that you will find this time with the Lord and other disciples an enriching experience.

—Joe Haney, Coordinator

## Solid Rock Administrative Council

Administrative Council is the governing body of Solid Rock UMC. Members and the offices they hold for 2022 include:

- Pastor: Paul Burris  
Chairperson and Member to Annual Conference: Gary Walter  
Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Recorder: Jane Hitzfield  
Co-Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr  
Men’s Fellowship Chairperson: Dale Smith  
Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson: Shannon Rogers  
Nominating Committee Representative and Finance Committee Chairperson: Steve Holmes  
Board of Trustees Chairperson: Dave Spahr

Nurture Ministries Chairperson and Sunday School Secretary: Brenda Conner  
Children’s Education: Rita Bolinger  
Outreach Ministries Chairperson and Lay Leader: Rose Broyles  
Witness Ministries Chairperson: Marie DeWeese  
Members at Large: Bruce Preston, Teresa Kriegbaum, Cindy Boxell, Linda (Mc) Howell

## A prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners’ foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they’re a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life (“You are dust, and to dust you shall return,” Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus’ death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday.

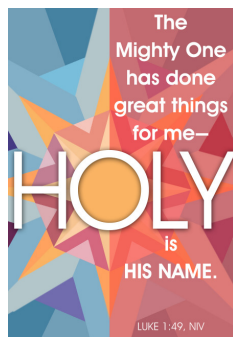
For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: “O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit.”



## Mary’s yes calls us to love

On March 25, we remember the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her she is to bear the Son of God, and she says yes.

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: “I am a Christian not because of anything I’ve done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes — yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly under-



stand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son’s. ... And through Mary’s example, God invites us to take the risk of love.”

## Facing life’s giants

During the NCAA basketball tournaments, many fans enjoy rooting for an underdog, hoping a Cinderella story will emerge. First-round March Madness matchups often are billed as David vs. Goliath events, with perennial powerhouses facing off against little-known schools.



Underdogs play key roles in the Bible: Moses takes on Pharaoh’s army, Daniel defies a king and David squares off against an actual giant. Being an underdog didn’t faze David, who knew the source of his strength: “For the battle is the Lord’s,” he says in 1 Samuel 17:47. What assurance as we battle life’s “giants”!

In *Goliath Must Fall*, Louie Giglio writes, “Our giants keep taunting us, so we need to hold God at his word: that he is already victorious.” Instead of “staring at our giant,” we must “lock eyes with Jesus” and remember that “life is short and God is big.” With bold hearts, adds Giglio, we can worship with “holy urgency” while giants fall.

## Jesus has gone there first

Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure — God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.

—James Healy



[solidrockumc.com](http://solidrockumc.com)



## The power of let

I once crafted a trendy sign that read “Make it happen.” It reminded my high-achieving self to take the bull by the horns and work hard. Though that message isn’t necessarily harmful, I’ve come to appreciate a different approach.

On her podcast *The Next Right Thing*, Emily P. Freeman shared the concept of “Let it count.” She decided to trade out the word *make*, which implies forceful effort and control, for the word *let*, which is surprisingly more powerful. Consider Colossians 3:15, which begins, “*Let* the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (NIV, emphasis added). *Let* involves an intentional decision to set aside my selfish desires to *make* and to allow God’s way and will to play out instead. When we *let* Christ’s peace rule, we can truly “let go and let God,” relinquishing control to the One who ultimately holds it.

Although I still have my sign, now it’s a reminder to let God and his peace happen — and to let him take the reins of my days and my life.

—Janna Firestone



Dear God,

In this season of Lent we’re reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain, we don’t see how our circumstance



can ever change. But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf. Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we’ve walked through. Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence. Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise. We choose to give you thanks today and believe that this season of darkness will fade away. Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face, and that you are greater than this trial. We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus, and we are confident that you have good still in store for our future. We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty. We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus’ Name, **Amen.**

—Debbie McDaniel

MARCH  
2022

