

News From The Rock

May 2021

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Bible Study

Greetings, brothers and sisters. With the approach of May we have a new set of Bible texts for our study and meditation "Feasting on the Word."

Even though we have opened part of our services to closer gatherings, for the month of May, those studying the passages are asked to meet in the fellowship area of the church at 7:15

p.m. each Monday evening. Our schedule is as follows:

- May 3: John 15:9-17 (A Friend Request); Joe Haney, leader
- May 10: Matthew 20:29-34 (God Stopped for You); Jorita Banter, leader
- May 17: John 21:1-17 (Punch Holes in the Sky); Ann Spahr, leader
- May 24: Colossians 1:3-6 (You Can Make A Difference); Joe Haney, leader
- May 31: 2 Timothy 1:7 (The Spirit of Power, Love and Sound Mind); Jorita Banter, leader

This is an invitation for you to come and join in the group of disciples who want to share the blessings of walking under the leadership of Jesus our Lord. This venture is NOT limited to a certain group of persons; you are welcome!

Activities Resuming

Numerous activities that had been suspended due to the pandemic have resumed. In-person worship services restarted on February 21, and Sunday school classes began meeting again on April 11. Child

care is available in the nursery, and children's church has restarted.

Greeters will soon be stationed at the front door. If you are willing to be a greeter, please contact the church office at 375-3873.

The mask mandate has expired, but those attending services are encouraged to continue wearing face masks until all in the congregation have had the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

The Solid Rock service is now broadcast live each Sunday morning at 10:00 on the church's Facebook page, and can also be viewed any time after the livestream. The service is also broadcast to the parking lot on FM 87.9.

Solid Rock seeking Youth Director applicants

Emily Oke has been filling the position of Interim Youth Director for Solid Rock. She will be concluding those duties at the end of this school year.

Solid Rock is seeking applicants for the permanent position of

Youth Director. The position will be 20 hours per week. A job description is posted on the church website, solidrockumc.com.

Applicants should submit a resume. It may be mailed to Solid Rock UMC, P.O. Box 322, Warren, IN 46792, or emailed to jane@solidrockumc.com. Call the church at 375-3873 for more information.



"If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way Mom told you to in the beginning."

—Unknown



from
Pastor Paul

When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother." From then on, that disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:26-27) How fitting that we would talk about Jesus' love for His mother as Mother's Day is very near.

It's hard to believe that this will be the 15th year our family will be observing Mother's Day without our mom. However that doesn't diminish the role she played in our lives all those years before she passed. It is a reminder that we never know how much time is left for us to show our loved ones just how much they mean to us and how grateful we are they are in our lives.

For those of you who have lost a mother, this day can be a time to remember, and cherish, what she meant to you and the important role she played in your life.

For those of you whose mother is still around I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to show your love for her these seven ways.

First, love her verbally. When is the last time you told her you love her? Every one of us needs to hear those words.

Second, love her physically. That is to say, when is the last time you gave your

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THANKS,
Mom!

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.

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is observed this year on May 21. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on

the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In early Christianity, Easter Day was the primary day for baptisms. The newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry.

THEY SAW WHAT SEEMED TO BE TONGUES OF FIRE THAT SEPARATED AND CAME TO REST ON EACH OF THEM.
ACTS 2:3, NV

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White is also used because Pentecost was the major day for baptisms in the early church. Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may be referred to as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

—umc.org

May the members of our armed forces be supplied with the courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

Sovereign God and Lord of all nations, may we take time to reflect on the great blessings we share as a nation and as a people. Our blessings have come at a high cost to others. May we remember these sacrifices always with deep gratitude.

We ask that you would grant wisdom to the leaders of our armed forces. Guide and direct them in their decisions. May they be led by your will and your heart as they pursue our nation's freedom. We continue to pray for peace in our world. Lord, let your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

—learnreligions.com

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www.solidrockumc.com

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Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
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Church Office
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Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Friday

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News deadline for the June newsletter: May 23

A week of tributes to Mom

To celebrate the special woman in your life, use a quote a day the week before Mother's Day, or honor her with tributes the whole week after. Write 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 her love and show her yours.

"There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one."
—Jill Churchill

"The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children."
—Elaine Heffner

"An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."
—Spanish proverb

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."
—Erma Bombeck

"The mother's heart is the child's school-room."
—Henry Ward Beecher

"Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible."
—Marion C. Garretty

"Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had."
—Linda Wooten

Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

On this day of remembrance for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we consider how they have followed in the footsteps of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray for your peace, provision, hope, and strength to fill their lives.



March Financial Update

General Fund Receipts\$15,657
General Fund Expenses\$19,061

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mom a hug or a kiss on the cheek or even just simply put your arm around her?

Third, love her patiently. There is no job like being a mother! It's 24/7/365 whether you're 1 month old or 100 years old. Dr. Dobson read this letter from an 80 year old mother. "To my children, I suppose my upcoming birthday started my thoughts along these lines... This is a good time to tell you that what I truly want are things I can never get enough of, yet they are free. I want the intangibles. I would like for you to come and sit with me, and for you to be relaxed. We can talk, or we can be silent. I would just like for us to be together... Love Mom."

Fourth, love her attentively. Be watchful and responsive to her needs and, yes, it's even ok to respond to her wants. Heaven knows she's done it for us.

Fifth, love her gratefully. Do you remember that she got up in the middle of the night with you? Do you remember when she kissed your boo-boos away? Do you remember when she listened while you poured out your broken heart? There are many more, so why not show our gratitude?

Sixth, love her generously. She has lavished her love on you for all your life. Why not give her a fraction of that in return?

Lastly love her honorably. We are told to "honor our fathers and mothers." (Exodus 20:12) Some words that are synonyms of honor are esteem, appreciation, admiration, estimation, favor, regard and respect. Show your mom you love her today! Happy Mother's Day to all the moms, and mother figures, out there!

See you Sunday,
Paul

From our history Naming of Solid Rock

Thirteen years ago this month, Solid Rock was given its new name. So how did that come about?

Ten members from each the Warren and Jefferson Center Churches were appointed to the Naming Committee. The committee met on May 4 and May 12, 2008. Over 80 names were prayerfully considered and discussed. Guidelines for naming churches were read and the following criteria were considered important for choosing a name for the new church.

- Welcoming (not too "churchy" to exclude the unchurched; appeal to all ages)
- Spiritual connotation (meaningful as a

church name 50 years from now, not just a reflection of the present merger)

- Unique (not shared by another entity in the area, nor the name of more than two other UMCs in Indiana)
- Memorable (easy to pronounce, easy to remember, clear meaning)

Guidance was sought from the District Superintendent's office. The name should be followed by "United Methodist Church" and must be approved by the combined Administrative Council of the two churches. Caution was given: it was best not to have an all-church vote.

Committee members freely voiced their opinions. A paper ballot showed that one name was by far the favorite and stood out as fitting the criteria. Dave Spahr moved, Ron Neff seconded, and the sixteen members present voted unanimously by a show of hands to recommend to the combined Council: **Solid Rock United Methodist Church.** "Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock." Matthew 7:24 (CEV)

The name was enthusiastically accepted at the May 20 meeting of the joint Administrative Council.

Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an "EGR." I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they're the most in need of love because they're hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much" (Matthew 5:46, NLT).

Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts.

At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend to us and then through us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God's grace and love with people who need it.

—Janna Firestone

Adopted by God

Anecdotes abound of couples who become pregnant soon after finalizing a long-awaited adoption. A *Reader's Digest* contributor recounts how one such mother later handled well-meaning inquiries about which

child was "hers" (biologically). She replied: "I've forgotten."

That mindset, perhaps, is why John Piper calls adoption "a picture of the Gospel." God, through his Son Jesus, makes us his very own eternally beloved children.

Max Lucado writes: "If anybody understands God's ardor for his children, it's someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the papers and took you home."

Worth celebrating

While going through the so-called "daily grind," it's fun to anticipate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holiday meals — especially when other people cook and clean up! Although every day is full of countless reasons to rejoice, we may not always feel like celebrating. Life's concerns pile high, distracting us from gratitude, joy and intentional acknowledgment of our blessings.

When you need a reason to smile and celebrate, head to www.NationalDayCalendar.com. Almost every food item and hobby now has its own day, and you'll even find gems such as National Be Late for Something Day (September 5, if you want to plan ahead!).

These fun "occasions" can help you embrace small joys and may even inspire you to celebrate them with family or friends. As you do, consider what it is about today and each gift from God that makes this day special.

Here are a few for May:

- May 1st: School Principal's Day
- May 3rd: National Lumpy Rug Day
- May 8th: National Coconut Cream Pie Day
- May 9th: National Lost Sock Memorial Day
- May 13th: National Frog Jumping Day
- May 16th: National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day
- May 20th: National Pick Strawberries Day
- May 25th: National Tap Dance Day
- May 29th: National Paperclip Day

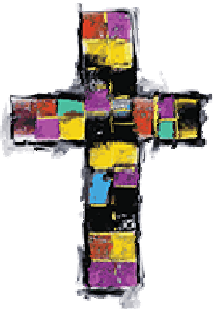


solidrockumc.com



Trust the Artist

We must offer ourselves to God like a clean, smooth canvas and not worry ourselves about what God may choose to paint



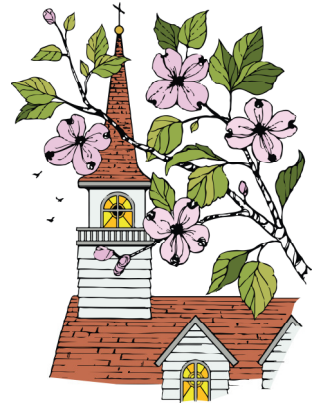
on it, but at each moment, feel only the stroke of his brush. ... It is the same with a piece of stone. Each blow from the sculptor's chisel makes it feel ... as if it were being destroyed. ... All I know is that I must stay immobile in the hands of the sculptor.

... I have no idea what he is doing ... but I know his work is the best possible.

—Jean Pierre de Caussade

“The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today,” says Priscilla Shirer. “Like the Israelites, it means you are spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future, all the while missing what God is doing right now.”

Let all the world in every
corner sing,
“My God and King!”
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow,
The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out:
But, above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
“My God and King!”



—George Herbert (1593-1633)

