



News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

November 2018

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

Veterans Homecoming Celebration

Solid Rock invites all veterans, active duty military and their families, and passed veterans' families to our 10:00 a.m. church service and a complimentary dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 4, with an "Armed Forces Tribute" to follow. Please feel welcome to wear your military uniform!

Pictures in military uniform along with the branch and years of service will be displayed during the events and may be dropped off at Bolinger's Propane at the stoplight in Warren by November 2. (If you previously submitted a picture, you do not need to do so again.)



Please share your talent on Sunday evening, November 4, by reading a favorite scripture, performing a skit, playing an instrument, or singing a song.

Volunteers are appreciated to help set up, serve, bake, or clean up, all talents that are shared to support and honor our veterans during their Homecoming Celebration! Please contact Gina Canady if you are able to help, via email at gina@wssbpc.com, or call 375-2556 or 375-3010 or 917-1707.

Our passion is to show all veterans our love and support on Sunday, November 4, in order to bring awareness to Veteran's Day on Sunday, November 11. In order to help prepare for this event, please RSVP to Solid Rock at 375-3873. Walk-ins are welcome.

Thank you, veterans and active duty military, for all you do for our country. God bless you and America!

Thank you for your prayers for the Vet-

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Harvest Sundays

During this month of thanksgiving, Solid Rock observes "Harvest Sundays," on November 4, 11, and 18. On these Sundays, you are encouraged to bring donations for the Bread of Life Food pantry and place them at the church altar.

Family Ministry Update

by John Pearson,
Family Ministry Coordinator

Kid's Club has come to a close for the fall semester, but our overall attendance and average were slightly higher than previous years. I am looking into a couple ideas and ways of extending some form of Kid's Club. More will come later. If you have any ideas or suggestions please bring them to Rita Bolinger, Jenifer Myers, or John Pearson.

We have been averaging 6-10 kids during youth group on Sunday evenings. For youth group we have been looking at topics such as discipleship, prayer, forgiveness, and spreading the gospel. During youth group on September 21, our lesson was on the topic of serving others. I am looking forward to our first opportunity to serve as a youth group at the Veterans Supper on November 4.



We have eight youth and four adult sponsors signed up to attend the "Big Church Night Out" concert in Ft. Wayne on November 9.

We will be having another volunteer meeting on November 13 at 6:30. This is an important meeting for those dealing with the children/youth, I will be showing how to operate the "planning center."



"Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and the 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy."

—Henri Nouwen

November is a month when we take the time to notice and celebrate gratitude. Although there has been a long history of celebrating a festival of Thanksgiving in the month of November, it wasn't until 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, that Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday of Thanksgiving.

We often mark our thanksgiving by what we have, by the things in our lives for which we

are grateful. We might consider ourselves blessed that we have loving family, or plenty of food, clean water, so many things that we know we often take for granted that others around the world often live without.

But while it is important to recognize the good things in our lives and to remember our sisters and brothers who might not have those things, is this gratitude of comparison really the heart of blessing or

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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

- FAITHFUL FAMILIES
 - Learning about living out God's hope and love for marriage, for raising

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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

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

Family Ministry Coordinator:
John Pearson II
john@solidrockumc.com

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield
jane@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

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children, and for giving to God's work in our community.

- FIRM FOUNDATION
 - Currently studying "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today," by Adam Hamilton
- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE
 - Currently studying The Bible Project series.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

- FEASTING ON THE WORD
 - Meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the church kitchen

SEASONAL SMALL GROUPS Fall 2018 Groups

- EVERYBODY, ALWAYS
 - Online Group
- TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY
 - Meets Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 at Solid Rock
- FAITHFUL FAMILIES
 - Meets Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 at Solid Rock

For more information on small groups, call the church office, 375-3873.

SOS

SOS met at the home Debb Smitley on October 11. Co-hostess was Susan Mills and the lesson was given by Lana Myers. There were 12 members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Lana Myers.

The minutes for the September meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given.

The lesson was given by Lana on worry. Joys and concerns were spoken by the members and prayer was led by Lana.

Old business was discussed and a few new items were introduced under New Business.

The love offering was collected. The monies collected each month are given to a local resident or organization who is in need of funds.

Prayer partners for the next month will be the first person to your left. Next meeting will be November 15 with Marie DeWeese as hostess. Cheryl DeWeese will act as co-hostess; LeAnn Buzzard will present the lesson.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.

Has The United Methodist Church always had an official symbol like the cross and flame?

The official insignia of The United Methodist Church has been the Cross and Flame since its founding in 1968. Prior to that, the Evangelical United Brethren Church, one of our predecessors, adopted an insignia with the church name encircling clasped hands in front of a Latin cross. The symbols and seals for other predecessor denominations were generally varied in form and use.

In 1966, a commission on church union, representing

The Methodist

Church and The Evangelical United Brethren, was authorized to develop an official insignia. Edward J. Mikula (art director) and Edwin H. Maynard (editorial director) were appointed to develop the design.

Early on they established principles for the design: that it should be simple, bold, instantly recognizable, obviously Christian and uniquely Wesleyan. They determined that it should have official colors, but also be capable of reproduction in black and white.

One of their designs, the one officially adopted, was the Cross and Flame. Following more than two dozen conceptualizations, a traditional symbol of the cross was linked with a single flame with dual tongues of fire.

The resulting insignia is rich in meaning. It relates The United Methodist Church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

The elements of the emblem also recall a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed." The two tongues can also represent the two bodies that united in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church. The 1968 Uniting Conference adopted this design as the official insignia of the new denomination, and so it has been to this day.

—Excerpted from "The Cross and Flame: A Personal Memoir" by Edwin H. Maynard



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thanksgiving?

The bold beginning of Thanksgiving as a national holiday in the midst of the Civil War reminds us that we can live gratitude even in the midst of difficulty, that we can find blessing even in the midst of pain. Perhaps our blessings have less to do with the list of all the things we have and more to do with the very gift of life, the gift of love, and the gift of God's loving presence with us.

Mary embodies this spirit, when she sings in thanksgiving for her blessings in the midst of dealing with all the fallout of her pregnancy with Jesus: a fiancé who isn't sure if he can trust her and stay with her, a community judging her harshly as an unwed teenage mother in a time when that was considered unacceptable.

All that is true, and yet she sings: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:46-48). Her spirit rejoices and she boldly claims herself as blessed in the midst of it all because she trusts that God is with her and doing something amazing.

How can we cultivate this practice of gratitude not through comparisons but through the awareness of God with us this Thanksgiving season?

As you reflect back over the year or perhaps over your life, where have you seen and noticed God's presence with you? May we sing with Mary this Thanksgiving season, aware and grateful for the ways God is present and at work in all of our lives.

See You Sunday!
Pastor Paul

(Continued from *Veterans*, page 1)
erans Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, November 4! Please bring your desserts Sunday morning, November 4, or by 4:00 p.m. Following the church service on November 4, tables and chairs will be set up for the dinner. It will be much appreciated if you can help. Decorating and set-up will start around 3:30-4:00 p.m. if you signed up for work detail.

Please attend the Veterans Homecoming Celebration to support your veterans and the entertainers. Please wear red, white or blue attire for working the event this evening.

If you have any questions, please call Gina's cell at (260) 917-1707. Thank you,

Solid Rock Church Family, for praying and uplifting the Veterans Homecoming Celebration!

"Feasting on the Word" Bible Studies for November

With the arrival of a new month comes a range of celebrations and church/national festivities. Two Sundays in the month will have "guest" ministers sharing in the Good News. On November 4, Pastor Paul will share in Holy Communion where we "feed on Him by faith with thanksgiving." The second Sunday of the month, Rev. David Smitley will be sharing on Veterans Day. On November 18, we will be looking forward to national Thanksgiving Day. Finally, on November 25, Family Ministries Coordinator, John Pearson, will share the message as the Church Universal closes out the old year with the Festival of Christ the King and looks forward the first Sunday of Advent. Join with us in the church kitchen as we prepare for the Lord to lead us through an exciting month of Bible studies.

- November 5: Mark 12: 28-34 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- November 12: Luke 17: 1-19 (Joe Haney, leader)
- November 19: Jeremiah 18: 1-11 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- November 26: Luke 21: 25-36 (Jorita Banter, leader)

You are invited, urged, and welcome to share your insights to God's amazing work in our midst. Bring your Bible and an open spirit to God's Word.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on Thursday, October 4, 2018. President Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and opened with a devotional, "God Is Our Refuge and Strength," from Psalm 46:1-10. The Purpose of the United Methodist Women was recited by all.

The October Prayer Calendar Mission Focus was for Wesley Community Center, Dayton, Ohio. They equip people for better

lives through education, health, etc. Birthday of the month is the 5th, for Mandy Caruso, who has helped with Habitat for Humanity in Kansas City and is serving as a deaconess in the U.M. Church.

Bernie Garrett asked for joys and concerns and offered prayer for those mentioned.

Mission Moment was given by Carolyn Winters on "Sister Teresa and Her Wonderful Ministries," as she was God's servant living among the poor and castaways of Calcutta, India. Roll call and the secretary's report were given by Doris Souers. The treasurer's report was presented by Barbara Hart.

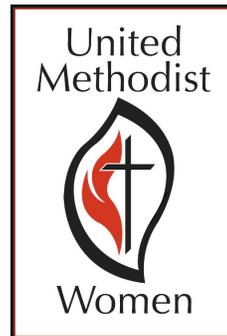
The U.M. Women Conference Annual Meeting is October 5 and 6 at Garden of Gethsemane in Muncie, Indiana.

Officers for 2019 will be: President and Treasurer, Barbara Hart; Vice-President, Marguerite McNany; and Secretary, Doris Souers.

Doris Souers presented the program, "The Sacred Space for Gathering." The space we gather can become temples of love, hospitality and justice. Paul and Silas joined women who had gathered outside in Philippi and they spoke to them. Lydia, "a worshiper of God," listened as they spoke. God touched her through Paul's words at that gathering and she, along with her household, were baptized. For Christians, Jesus promises to be in our midst whenever we gather together.

The next meeting will be November 1. Barbara Hart will give the program on "World Thank Offering." Doris Souers will have the Mission Moment.

Doris Souers,
Secretary



JOIN OUR
STUDY

Women's Study Update

Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study at Heritage Pointe has been disbanded. It may be reorganized at a later date if there is interest expressed.

September Financial Update

General Offerings	\$15,474
General Fund Expenses	\$14,885
Mortgage Balance	\$27,093



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Little word, big difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks *for* everything. You don't need to give thanks *for* that bad day. Or *for* that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is — you are not to give thanks *for* the difficulties but rather *in* the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks in everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans

Dear God,

Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over our lives. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. We're so grateful to you for your amazing love and care, for your mercy and grace, for always working on our behalf, even behind the scenes when we're unaware. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us, even through loss and the most difficult of times. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy, this Thanksgiving Day and every day. We give you thanks and praise, for you alone are worthy!



In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

—crosswalk.com

