

# News From The Rock

November 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## Bazaar Happenings!

The Solid Rock United Methodist Church will hold their annual Fall/Winter Bazaar on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church on Bennett Drive.



Lunch will be offered from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

There will be a drive-by lunch, bake sale of goods (including noodles!) made in the church kitchen, and craft vendors.

We are still in need of helpers for the bake sale table, set-up and tear-down, and cookie bakers. Craft vendors are still welcome too. It's a great time to get involved and help with this important fund raiser!

Contact the church office or Mindy Rider (260-519-2134, leave a message) if you can help.

It's going to be a great time for fellowship and fun! Please wear your mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing at all times.

## Ministry Opportunities

There are several ministries for which Solid Rock volunteers are needed. While some of these programs are on hold until the easing of the pandemic, we anticipate needing assistance in several areas. If you would be willing to serve in any of the following capacities, or have questions about what



would be expected, please call the church office at 375-3873.

- Worship Liturgist
- Greeter
- Sunday School Teacher (children, youth, and adult)
- Coordinator for Hanging of the Greens
- Participant in Hanging of the Greens
- Children's Message
- Children's Ministries/Kids Club
- Youth Ministry
- Nursery (Sunday school and worship)
- Children's Church
- Sunday Morning Snacks
- Audio/Video Assistance

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might assist with one or more of these ministries.

## Youth Ministry Update

The youth group will be moving to a combined time of 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for Sunday evenings. The first week of this combination will be November 1st. November 1st will be a bonfire/party to celebrate the first combined youth group in a while.



## Report from Annual Conference

The 2020 Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held on August 15 at Indiana Wesleyan University and on October 10 virtually online. Due to the pandemic, most delegates attended the

*(Continued on page 3)*

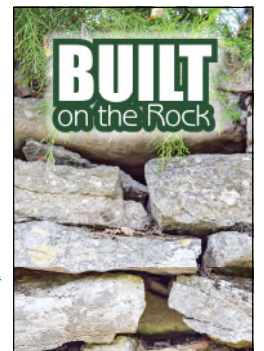


**Luke 6:46-49.** <sup>46</sup>"Why do you call me, 'LORD, LORD,' and do not do what I say?"

<sup>47</sup>As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.

<sup>48</sup>They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

<sup>49</sup>But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."



Here the Lord starts out asking a question. How can you call me Lord and Master but you don't do the things that I tell you? I lay things out for you; all you have to do is trust me and do them and you won't even do that.

He compares it to something that we can all understand. He compares it to building a house. If you are going to build a good house you must dig down deep so that the foundation is solid. The taller you want the house to be the deeper the foundation must go.

It is the same with the life of a Chris-

*(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.*

## Donation Options

Your continued financial support of Solid Rock is appreciated. Here are some giving options for those not attending in-person worship.

1. Mail a check to: Solid Rock UMC, P.O. Box 322, Warren, IN 46792.
2. Most banks have online banking options, which are usually free of charge. These can be set up as one-time payments or scheduled ongoing payments. Contact your bank for details.
3. Donate online or by using a mobile app. Solid Rock has enabled giving via Vanco GivePlus. Donations can be made using checking or savings accounts or credit/debit cards. To get

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

#### Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00 (temporarily suspended)  
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](mailto:pburris@hotmail.com)  
(260) 609-9260

Interim Youth Director: Emily Okes  
[youthministry@solidrockumc.com](mailto:youthministry@solidrockumc.com)

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News deadline for the December  
newsletter: November 22

started, simply go to  
[solidrockumc.com](http://solidrockumc.com) and click on  
"Donate."

## Worship Options

During the continuing pandemic, Solid Rock is offering three worship options.

1. In-person worship has resumed. Social distancing and wearing of masks in the building are requested.
2. A prerecorded service with sermon and praise team music is posted online each Sunday morning. Go to [solidrockumc.com](http://solidrockumc.com) and click on "Online Worship."
3. A live FM feed of 10:00 services is available in our parking lot each Sunday on FM 87.9.

## Bible Study

"Feasting on the Word" Monday evening Bible studies at Solid Rock bring to us a variety of passages and themes. In an



attempt to make a broader use of our church building, we are gathering at 7:15 p.m.

Please note this new time! Our group will also be meeting in the social area at the back of the sanctuary. Here is the list of scriptures to be studied.

- November 2: Mark 12:38-44 (Joe Haney, leader)
- November 9: Mark 2:18-20 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- November 16: Ephesians 1:15-23 (Joe Haney, leader) (last Sunday of Pentecost – "Christ the King" Sunday)
- November 23: Luke 21:25-28 (Jorita Banter, leader) (1st Sunday of Advent)
- November 30: Luke 1:26-38 (Perry Spahr, leader)

You are still being requested to wear your mask and to stay 'socially distanced' at our gathering.

The Lord Jesus continues to call us into deeper discipleship!

Joe Haney, contributor

## September Financial Update

General Fund Receipts..... \$15,077  
General Fund Expenses..... \$21,561

## Christmas Poinsettias

Orders of Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary will be placed on November 29.

An order form with prices has been attached to this newsletter. Contact Jane at 375-3873 if you have questions.



## Harvest Sundays

Collection of donations for the food pantry will be received on November 8, 15, and 22. You may leave non-perishable items at the altar.

## By the Book Update

This year, By the Book celebrated 75 years of ministry, and this one has been one for the books! Because of Covid-19 concerns, our program was suspended for this fall, but we are hoping and praying that second semester we will be approved to have classes in the Bible trailer, with the appropriate modifications. In the meantime, we are doing a monthly mail and online ministry for our third and fourth grade students. We are excited to connect with our students and their families and have this opportunity to present God's Word. Please pray for the impact of these Bible lessons and pray that God will open doors for us to have traditional classes in January. Thanks for your support and prayers for this ministry.

Stephanie Thompson,  
By the Book Director

## A lachrymatory lesson

To calm his crying children, Charles Ferrell used to say, "Wait until I get a jar! I want to catch and save your tears." While he pretended to search for a vessel, his kids usually quieted down.

Tear jars were actually common in biblical times. Called *lachrymatories*, they're still sold in Old Jerusalem. Bible characters had a variety of uses for these jars. The woman who cried at Jesus' feet may have felt such sorrow about her wayward lifestyle that she brought a jar of her tears and added to them. In Psalm 23:5 (KJV), the cup that "runneth over" may have referred to a lachrymatory filled with tears of joy due to God's goodness.

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

tian. If you want to soar with the eagles or walk hand in hand with Christ you must get deep into the word of God. You can not expect to just do surface reading through the Bible and build a good solid foundation. You must really dig in and understand what the Lord is talking about. If you don't understand a word pull out a dictionary. If you don't understand what is being said follow the references and pull out a commentary. But it takes more than just reading the Bible like a story book. Get a good understanding and the Lord will set you on a solid foundation.

Lets look at the house on a shallow foundation or no foundation at all. The water will erode the dirt under the foundation and animals will tunnel under the foundation and before you know it the foundation cracks and the walls start falling apart and the house falls down.

It is the same with a Christian. If we only read the Bible like a story book, then it doesn't get set in us. If we don't understand what we read we will not allow it to become a part of us and the foundation is shallow. When hard times come or we talk to someone about Christ we are easily confused and our feet get knocked out from under us and before long we believe the same as whoever we are talking to. We become as the ocean tide, we believe one thing when we talking to one person and something else when we are talking to another person. This is not how the Lord wants us to be.

Someone that wants to see signs and wonders following them is like the man that wants to build a skyscraper. The rule is the higher you want to go, the deeper you must dig.

See you Sunday,  
Paul

(Continued from **Annual Conference**, page 1)

August 15 meeting virtually or at a remote site.

Routine business was addressed. Reports were heard from Conference Lay Leader David Johns, the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana, Inc., the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and Emerging Leaders.

Emily Reece, Director of Church Development, presented two newly-chartered churches: Disciples Korean UMC in West Lafayette (January 2020) and Abundant Vida Nueva UMC in Indianapolis (December 2019).

Emily Krach, reporting for Children Matter Most, noted that Indiana has the second highest infant mortality rate in the Midwest, that Indiana has the highest rate in the country of teens who have considered suicide and the second-highest of those who have attempted it, and that, compared to neighboring states, Indiana has the highest rate of children in the foster care system.

During the Celebration of Ministry on August 15, 57 retirees were honored for their 1,705 combined years of service. Four persons were commissioned for the work of deacon, and nine persons were commissioned for the work of elder. Two were recognized as associate members, one person was ordained into the Order of Deacon, and twelve were ordained into the Order of Elder.

Bishop Julius Trimble offered his message "Climbing our Second Mountain" without wearing his shoes, though he donned his United Methodist socks. "Where God's name is proclaimed and Christ is lifted as our Lord and Savior is holy ground," he said. Bishop Trimble referenced David Brooks' book, *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*, as he defined a "second mountain." people who radiate joy and clarity of purpose. He encouraged members to live that way. "We can choose joy. We can choose justice. We can choose life with Jesus!"

Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright opened the Celebration of Life Service on October 10 with prayer and scripture. Rev. Dave Neckers preached on Proverbs 13:22, challenging the Conference to leave an inheritance through investing in the lives of others. The Conference then honored the lives of 46 clergy and 30 spouses who have joined the Church Triumphant during the last year.

The Conference Nominations Committee's report was accepted. Clarifying language to the Rules and Structure document was approved. The report of the Board of Trustees was accepted.

The ministries of legacy churches were celebrated. There were three church mergers and seven church closures within the last year.

The Conference recognized the oldest ordained Elder by presenting the Conference Cane to 98-year-old Chester Mahan.

Larry Whitehead recognized the members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was tasked to examine the way the Conference is organized and make recommendations moving forward. He presented the Master Plan, including the reduction of two Conference Superintendents and one Conference Director. The report was approved as presented.

The Council on Finance & Administration reported that the Conference has experienced a significant decline in tithe giving, a reduction of 9% (\$575,000) as of August. The Conference has received \$1,232,685 as part of the Payroll Protection Plan, which is expected to be forgiven. The Conference approved the 2021 budget, with approximately \$7 million designated for the mission and work of the Indiana Conference and approximately \$4.3 million for the worldwide ministry of the United Methodist



2020 Indiana Annual Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

Church.

The Conference heard an update on the plan for making anti-racism more of a priority, including the designation of \$50,000 for further development of anti-racism efforts.

Bishop Trimble shared an impassioned Episcopal Address entitled "Always – A Promise We Should Remember," based on Matthew 28:19-20, during which he encouraged members of the Conference to remember that God is with us always, even in the midst of life's storms.

A total of 1,598 registered delegates participated in the Conference. Solid Rock was represented by Paul Burris (clergy delegate) and Gary Walter (lay delegate). Detailed information regarding Annual Conference may be viewed at [inumc.org/annual-conference/](http://inumc.org/annual-conference/).

- "Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for." —Epicurus
- "A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying ... he is wiser today than yesterday." —Alexander Pope
- "In life, there are many promotions in spiritual growth, but there is no graduation." —T.J. Bach

## Strangers no more

Some people open their holiday meals to strangers, and one host even did so inadvertently. In 2016, Wanda Dench texted 17-year-old Jamal Hinton about Thanksgiving dinner, thinking she was contacting her grandson. When a skeptical Hinton requested a photo and received a selfie of someone with a different skin color, he chuckled — but then asked if he could still come eat! Thus began a new friendship and a new annual tradition, which Hinton documents online. “Family is more than blood,” says Dench. “It’s the people you want to be with.”

This year’s meal will be bittersweet, with an empty chair for Dench’s husband, who died of Covid-19 in April. To show support after that loss, Hinton sent his “grandma” a collection of loving video messages. Strangers worldwide expressed condolences to a woman who’d fully embraced a stranger.



O Lord our God,  
who supplies us with countless blessings,  
lift up our hearts in gratitude and thanksgiving.  
Help us to remember the gifts we  
seldom notice, the abundance  
we take for granted, the rich  
possibilities you provide.  
For our daily bread, for  
water that is pure, for  
houses to live in and friends to  
enjoy, we give you humble thanks.  
For beauty and fruitfulness, for healing and hope,  
for the comfort of your presence, we lift our voices  
in joyful praise now and always.  
Amen.

