

News From The Rock

November 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Separation Discernment Update

Following tabulation of straw poll ballots regarding Solid Rock's potential disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church, the 13 members of Administrative Council in attendance at their October 25 meeting voted unanimously to not call for an official church vote. This decision concludes the discernment process at this time. Results of the straw poll:

- Members voting to disaffiliate: 27 (61%)
- Members voting to remain in UMC: 17 (39%)
- Nonmembers voting to disaffiliate: 8 (57%)
- Nonmembers voting to remain in UMC: 6 (43%)

A successful vote to disaffiliate would require a 2/3 majority of members present. It is advised that a failed vote is potentially divisive.

The possibility of disaffiliation could be revisited in the future as new developments in the denomination are monitored, in particular any decisions coming out of General Conference 2024.

Veterans Homecoming Celebration

All veterans, active-duty military and their families, and passed veterans' families are invited to a Veterans Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, November 6 at Solid Rock UMC. The eighth annual patriotic ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m., serving up a complimentary dinner followed by an armed forces tribute by A Few Good Men and more.

Please share your talents by playing an

instrument, singing a special song, sharing a favorite verse, creating a skit, or making desserts. Share your talents to honor our military!

Officially Veterans Day is Friday, November 11. We are excited to show all veterans our support on the Sunday before, in order to help bring awareness to Friday, November 11.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 6. You are welcome to wear your military uniform. Pictures in your military uniform or "in action," along with your branch of service, dates of when and where you are currently serving or have served, will be displayed on the screen during the event. The photo and info may be emailed or scanned and returned to you at Bolinger's Propane Service, located at 115 N. Wayne St. in Warren by Wednesday, November 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Please email ginac@agbest.com or call (260) 375-4505 or (260) 917-1707 with any questions, to send your photo/details, to schedule your talent, to volunteer, and to RSVP, in order to help prepare for this event. Currently there are 165 military troops on the tribute video. There is always room for more!

Solid Rock Church is located at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren, across from Heritage Pointe. Walk-ins are welcome. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration to show support to our military. Thank you, veterans and active-duty military, for all you do for our country. God Bless America!

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

—G.K. Chesterton



Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

Freedom of Speech?

Is there truly such a thing as freedom of speech? Is there not a price for every word we say? Are we not judged by the very words we speak into existence? We see in all forms of media, in every social setting (even the church universal) that there is no freedom of speech. Yes, it is supposed to be a Constitutional right which everyone has in America. Truth be told, we might be able to express various viewpoints and beliefs, but there is ALWAYS a price which is hidden. Is this why people are afraid to voice what they wish they could express?

"Freedom of speech is a principle that supports the freedom of an individual or a community to articulate their opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship, or legal sanction. The right to freedom of expression has been recognised as a human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law by the United Nations. Many countries have constitutional law that protects free speech. Terms like free speech, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression are used interchangeably in political discourse. However, in a legal sense, the freedom of expression includes any activity of seeking, receiving, and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used."

— Wikipedia

This is the way it is supposed to be, yet everyone is subjected to the judgment of others. That judgment sometimes carries

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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.

SOS

SOS met on October 13, 2022, at Billie Horrell's house with 14 in attendance. Billie served delicious fall treats to all in attendance.

Brenda provided a devotion from "Jesus Calling," reminding us to take time to be still and to relax in God's holy presence. Martina gave a lesson on the seasons reminding us how the seasons change, but God remains the same (Job 37:6-7), Christ will return (Matthew 24:32-25), and God is faithful (Isaiah 55:10-11).

At the meeting, we discussed the upcoming Scarecrow festival, bazaar lunch, and a potential upcoming trip to the Castle in Huntington as a group.

The next meeting will be on November 10, 2022 at Debb Smitley's house and we invite you to join us!

News From The Rock

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Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322
Warren, Indiana 46792

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

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News deadline for the December
newsletter: November 20

How (Not) to Read the Bible

The Firm Foundation adult Sunday school class, meeting in the church kitchen each Sunday morning at 9:00, will begin a new study on October 30. "How (Not) to Read the Bible," by Dan Kimball, explores misconceptions about the Bible and ways we misinterpret what it says.

"For centuries, the Bible was called 'the Good Book,' a moral and religious text that guides us into a relationship with God and shows us the right way to live. Today, however, some people argue the Bible is outdated and harmful, with many Christians unaware of some of the odd and disturbing things the Bible says.

"How (Not) to Read the Bible' tackles big questions like:

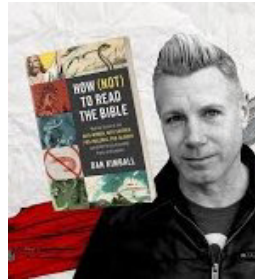
- Does the Bible degrade women?
- Is the Bible anti-science?
- How could a loving God command such violence in the Old Testament?
- Does the Bible endorse slavery?

"Bestselling author Dan Kimball guides you step-by-step in how to tackle many of the real questions that people wrestle with when reading the Bible and how to make sense of many of the more difficult and disturbing Bible passages."

Please join us!

Bible Study

During the month of November our studies will deal with the "Problem of Sin." Each Monday evening a group of people gather in the Solid Rock UMC kitchen at 7:00 p.m. for about an hour of devotional study. This group gathers to hear God speak to us and prepare for the sermon from Pastor John on the next Sunday. Below are the dates and texts for study. If your schedule does not allow for 100% participation, come when your calendar allows.



- November 7: James 1:19-27, "Following the Word to Avoid Sin"
- November 14: Jeremiah 23:1-6, "The Reign of Christ"
- November 21: Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38, "Seeing Jesus Through Mary and Joseph" (Advent 1)
- November 28: Luke 2:8-20, "Seeing Jesus Through the Shepherds" (Advent 2)

Yes, the new church year is almost here! Do come and prepare for the presence of our Savior in our life, the life of Solid Rock, and the life of Warren. Peace be with you!

—Joe Haney, Coordinator

Hanging of the Greens

The church will be decorated for Christmas on Sunday afternoon, November 20. Watch for further details. Signup sheets will be provided at the back of the church as we get closer to the date.

Fall Bazaar

at Solid Rock

November 5, 2022

9 a.m.—2 p.m.

🍁 Crafts 🍁
🍁 Bake Sale 🍁
🍁 Lunch (Eat-in or Carry-Out)
♦ Soups ♦ Sandwiches ♦ Desserts

A challenging word

Do you not know that God entrusted you with that money — all above what buys necessities for your families — to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to help the stranger, the widow, the fatherless; and, indeed, as far as it will go, to relieve the wants of all mankind? How can you, how dare you, defraud the Lord, by applying it to any other purpose?
—from a sermon by John Wesley



September Financial Update

General Fund Receipts..... \$13,491
General Fund Expenses \$29,045

(Continued from page 1)

convictions by those who oppose the point-of-view speaks on and their sentencing could become vicious and harmful. It is then when others attempt to silence the voices and will do whatever it takes to do it. Before we proceed further, it should be noted that everyone deserves to have this freedom and to be shown respect (meaning that even though we might not agree with one another, we can still love and support one another in the way God wants all to be loving one another) for their input. Sometimes, these varied opinions serve to teach and educate people to become more unified, to find better ways of doing things, and to work on overcoming obstacles and barriers. Still, people will use these same things to divide and separate one another and to promote assumed hatred. The world has too much of this!

Conservatives vs. Progressives, one political party vs. another political party, one denomination vs. another denomination, and I could go on with the divisions that take place daily in society. Each side says their way is the best way and will not listen to the other. We will speak over one another, attempt to silence the other, argue with one another and make the gulf between one another even greater than it already is. What purpose does this serve as a person, let alone for a believer of God/Christ?

In the universal church, there is a great deal of differences of opinions on a vast amount of social issues, religious beliefs and “interpretations” of what Scriptures share. Some will blame the Scriptures are being “misinterpreted” and that goes against social norms because of these flawed interpretations. Some will site that “The Bible is unreliable because it was written by flawed men who picked and chose what to add and take away from God’s Word...”. Still others will site that today’s interpretation/versions of Scriptures are poisoned by society norms which were once considered “sinful” that are now widely accepted not to be so. No matter what is said by any side, there will be judgment and pushback. This causes divisions, hatred and violence by means of not just physical aggressions, but also social, emotional, economical, mental and even spiritual aggressions with those we disagree with. When will this all stop? Is it even possible to put an end to it?

First, we need to repent for our participation in the divisions. It’s one thing to have a difference of opinion; but to allow it

to divide us? Not at all. If we love one another as we claim to, we will understand that not everyone will agree with everything all the time. Differences can be and are good. If it does cause disrespect, we must come together and have conversations to agree to respect one another, even in our disagreement. My wife and I love and respect one another deeply. We don’t always agree on everything. As this takes place, we vow to love and respect one another and to make sure that this disagreement will not interfere with our relationship. That guideline and boundary allows us to agree to disagree and to continue the loving relationship we seek with one another. Here, we seek to follow the words of John Wesley. “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.” If these are the ground rules, respect will always be present.

Secondly, listen and learn from one another. Unity and respect are earned, and when you work hard for this, it comes. As you listen, look through the life of the one sharing: why do they believe what they do and say what they say? Too many times we tend to listen with the intent to give counter arguments rather than using active and reflective listening. Listening and reflecting back which is said shows the other that they have been effectively communicating and were properly heard. This produces respect and they, in turn, will be more apt to also listen. Discussion will then be respectable and common ground can be established.

Finally, for the believer, allow the Holy Spirit to do His job; to lead and guide you into the truth of the Scriptures and what God desires of you. This is between you and the Trinity. Remember that God will not direct you to go against His Word/Will. Scriptures will say Amen to what God says to you.

It is time to focus on healing and restoration, not division. Where can we love the way God calls us to love? Are we willing to allow God to bring unity as a body or will we allow division to lead us astray? We have a choice and what we choose is what we will get.

Parsonage Kitchen Remodel

The parsonage kitchen is finally all finished! It took a full year, as the committee met for the first time on November 2, 2021.

The kitchen was made slightly bigger,

new cabinets, quartz countertop, appliances, lighting and flooring were installed. The walls were painted a beautiful shade of light blue, which looks great with the bit of exposed brick that we found during demo. Bonus!

The best part of all is that, through your generosity over the last few years, ALL invoices have been paid in full. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week: November 12-20

The Bread of Life Food Pantry is open fifty-two weeks a year. Anyone living south of Division Road in Huntington County is eligible to receive food from the Bread of Life Food Pantry. The Pantry also serves residents of Van Buren, Poneto, and Liberty Center.

In January, the Pantry served 99 homes, 324 people; May: 99 homes, 324 people; July: 109 homes, 381 people; September: 125 homes, 429 people.

As grocery items and gasoline increase, families are coming to the Food Pantry to stretch their budget more often. Dollars saved can help to pay their monthly utilities, rent, and medicine.

The Pantry is in need of simple staple items like peanut butter and nonperishable boxed food items to be able to serve the rising number of families needing assistance. The Pantry continues to have clients needing crock pots.

The Pantry is in the process of collecting items for patrons’ Thanksgiving dinner boxes.

Thank you for our prayers and donations.

—Rose Broyles



Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, Weavings,
July/August 2008

Prayer Requests

Requests for prayer should be directed to
Solid Rock Office at 375-3873
during office hours or
Pastor John Boyanowski
at (260) 580-8305
when office is closed



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday,
November 20,
10:00 a.m.
at the

Knight-Bergman Center

*There will be no service and
no Sunday school at Solid
Rock that morning.*



*Let Us
Give Thanks*

Thank You, Lord God, for this food we are about to eat. Thank You for the hands that have prepared it, for those sitting around the table who are here to share it, and for the ability to be here together under one roof, and

enjoy these blessings at Your hand. We realize that everything we have comes from You and for that we are eternally grateful. We also thank You for what we don't have this year, for we trust that You have withheld in Your goodness and out of Your protection for us.

Thank You that Scripture says You are a Good Father who loves to give gifts to Your children. We sit here as evidence of Your goodness. Thank You for the gift of today and all who are here to share it with us. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

—Cindi McMenamin

2022 NOVEMBER

