



News From The Rock

October 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson

My family and I have enjoyed our time here at Solid Rock, and have loved getting to know each one of you. I have had several people ask me if I am leaving because my hours were cut. Please know that this was a decision based on God's leading and nothing else. It is where God is calling me to serve and build upon His Kingdom. This was not an easy decision and one I struggled with.

I will miss you all greatly. I hope the friendships and bonds that my family and I have formed over the last couple of years will continue for many, many more years. Thank you for all the love and support everyone has shown my family and I during our time here. I will be praying for you during this time of transition and hope you will do the same for me. Again, this is not a goodbye but rather a see you later.

Solid Rock seeking Youth Director applicants

With the resignation of Family Ministry Coordinator John Pearson effective at the end of September, Solid Rock is seeking applicants for the redefined 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 pburris@hotmail.com. Call the church at 375-3873 for more information.

Solid Rock is pleased to announce that Emily Oke has agreed to serve as Interim Youth Director until the position has been filled. Emily has been active in leadership with the youth program for some time.

The Solid Rock Fall Bazaar is ON!

Plans are underway for the Fall Bazaar. It will be November 7 from 9 to 2. There will be vendors, a bake sale and a drive by lunch.

All baked items will be made in-house in our church kitchen. Bakers will be wearing masks, hairnets and gloves. Baking times will be announced at a later time if you'd like to help. We will be asking for donations of ingredients or monetary donations to help with the cost.



The drive-by lunch will be sponsored by the SOS group. Details will be forthcoming as we figure out a menu and traffic patterns!

WE NEED VENDORS! There will be plenty of room for vendors since lunch will be totally different! Spread the word! Vendors can call Janie at the church (375-3873) or Mindy Rider at 260-519-2134 and leave a message. Tables will be \$20 for an 8 foot table. If there is a need for more than one table, the 2nd one may be a 6 foot table for \$10.

Sellers and buyers are required to wear a mask and encouraged to social distance. Come and join in on the fun!

Ministry Opportunities

As we begin to anticipate 2021, we are pleased to report that all church officer positions have been filled. There are, however, many other areas in which volunteers are needed! While some of these programs

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from
Pastor Paul

"Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land." Numbers 14:24

Life was not easy for the nation of ex-slaves in the desert. The good news was that they didn't have to labor in the hot sun making clay bricks for their Egyptian slave masters. The bad news was that they were walking through a parched wilderness. Moses had as many as one million people in tow as they crossed the Sinai wilderness marching toward the Promised Land.

The euphoria of the Exodus and the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea quickly faded under the hot and penetrating sun. The Bible tells us that they people began to murmur and complain against Moses, God's appointed leader. Even Miriam, Moses' sister who protected him as a baby boy in the Nile bulrushes, turned on her brother. The scene was miserable, not happy. Imagine camping with thousands of other people in the desert without water or easy access to food! Not exactly a picnic.

Days passed in that desolate wasteland, but God faithfully provided just what they needed until they reached the entrance to the Promised Land. Moses sent twelve spies into Canaan to check out the conditions in the land of their inheritance. When

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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.

Thank you!

I want to give a big shout out to my church family. Thank you for all the cards and prayers in the last few weeks. I am 1/4 of the way through chemo treatments and feel pretty well besides tiredness and very low (practically no) immune system. I really want to thank the SOS Group for all the painting and cleaning they have done at my new house. Also a big thank you to our young adults who helped me move. With 3 trailers and lots of people it went smooth and quickly. And of course my family who has spent countless hours helping. I am so blessed to have you all in my life. God is Good!

Cindy Boxell

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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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

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News deadline for the November newsletter: October 25

Bible Study

“Feasting on the Word” Bible study is back to nearly full swing. With the beginning of the fall season, it is time to fall into a renewed love with God’s word to his



people. For social distancing, this small group is now meeting in the social area of the church building.

Each evening we study the passage that Pastor Paul will be using for the following Sunday morning worship service. Below are the Monday night texts to be studied. Come for as many sessions as fits your schedule. You are encouraged to be a steward of your hours by devoting one to God in mutual study.

- October 5: Genesis 22:1-14 (Joe Haney, leader) (This is a repeat passage! This passage was originally scheduled for Sept. 20 when John Pearson brought the message.)
- October 12: Genesis 37:1-18 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- October 19: 1 Timothy 6:11-12 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- October 26: 1 John 3:1-3 (Joe Haney, leader)

Please bring your Bible, an open heart to God’s leading, and a spirit of mutual strengthening. Blessings and wholeness!
Joe Haney, Contributor

August Financial Update

General Fund Receipts..... \$17,170

General Fund Expenses..... \$14,794

Truth + love

Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the Christian Post, “Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, ‘If you cut off someone’s nose, there is no use in giving him a



rose to smell.’ If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener’s nose, there is no use in giving them the sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child’s head, and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love.”

A fixer-upper

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing.



He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and

does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is he up to?

The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of — throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but he is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it himself.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

A new call

Noted preacher Will Willimon received a frantic phone call from parents who feared their college-age daughter was throwing away her life. Asked to intervene, Willimon inquired why she was ending her studies to work with the children of migrant farmers. What had motivated her radical decision?

“It was your sermon yesterday that started me to thinking,” she replied. Willimon had talked about how God wants us to do something important with our lives, leading the young woman to choose a new path that would make more impact and hold more meaning. After a long silence, he stammered, “But I was just preaching!”

Willimon was just preaching, and the worshiper was just attending church while home on break. Yet she perceived a change in calling that led to a change in identity, security, priorities — and fulfillment.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

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they returned, ten spies reported seeing “giants” in the land and advocated retreat. The remaining two spies reported seeing a “land flowing with milk and honey” and advocated claiming the land as God promised.

The people believed the majority report and a violent rebellion broke out. “If only we had died in Egypt.” “Let’s stone Moses.” “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.” Defeat and complaints ruled the hearts of God’s people to the point that they actually wanted to give up and die or go back to slavery. Neither option sounds too attractive for those of us who look back from our vantage point thousands of years later.

The trip that should have taken a few weeks ended up taking an additional forty years because of a fatal flaw in the unbelieving hearts of God’s people. They refused to believe God for what He promised and for what they could not fully understand. The result was a defeated nation wandering around until one generation died off.

As we journey toward heaven, the ultimate Promised Land, we can grow weary and unbelieving. When trouble strikes and life gets hard we are tempted to adopt the same kind of ungrateful reasoning that plagued ancient Israel. “If God is leading me, why am I here in this painful circumstance?” “Why doesn’t God deliver me out of my problems?” “What good is it to be a Christian if I have to suffer like this?” If we continue down that path we soon discover that our two closest companions are grumbling and complaining.

However, the Bible gives us the examples of Caleb and Joshua to show us a better path. These two men experienced the same wilderness sufferings as their countrymen and they saw the same “giants” in the Promised Land, but they believed God instead of complaining. The Scripture records that the entire rebellious generation of adults died off in the desert except two men, Joshua and Caleb.

How did God reward these men who had a different heart and a different view of the same hard circumstances? God said, “I will bring him into the land.” (Numbers 14:24)

If you have been called to live through a long and difficult ordeal of suffering or need, learn from Caleb and Joshua. They looked beyond the lesser giants challenging them and saw a bigger Giant...God!

See you Sunday,
Paul

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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.

CROP Walk

Solid Rock will not be hosting a CROP Walk in Warren this year; however, we have been invited to participate in the Huntington CROP Walk on Sunday, October 4. The three-mile walk will begin and end at Central Christian Church, starting at 2:00 p.m. Pledges raised by walkers will support Love INC (25%) as well as hunger relief around the world (75%). Contact the church office for further information. Walkers can register online at crophunger-walk.org.



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 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.

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 started, simply go to solidrockumc.com and click on “Donate.”



solidrockumc.com



A lesson in appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”



What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.

- “When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.” —Peter Marshall
- “Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.” —Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

Just be — and be still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: "I am a human being, not a human doing. It's okay to just be sometimes." Many of us get anxious if we think we're not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it's not a waste of time to just be: "To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most."

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus' spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and "do." Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It's sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God's presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. "In quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

An Autumn Prayer

Abba, Father, the trees are ablaze with your glory.
The seasons change, but you never do. You are always beautiful, in the green and freshness of spring as in the golds and reds and chills of autumn. Make me like you.



Let my life reflect your beauty, season after season, as the calendar of my life turns and turns and turns.

The trees are letting go of this year's foliage. Help me let go of both blessings and burdens, and surrender them both to your loving care. Fallen leaves pattern the ground with variety. So design my own fallings and failings into whatever design will please you most.

In Jesus' name, I pray,
Amen.

—Bob Hostetler

