

# News From The Rock

**Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana**

October 2022

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

## Separation issues update

Solid Rock has undertaken a discernment process to determine our way forward regarding potential disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. To date, over 50 individuals have attended one of the five Listening Sessions led by Pastor John Boyanowski and Administrative Council Chair Gary Walter.

All are encouraged to attend an informational session with Rev. Kathie Jones, Associate Conference Superintendent, on September 28 at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Jones will provide further insight into separation issues in the UMC and options that churches have. She will respond to questions from those in attendance.

The Solid Rock Administrative Council has called for an anonymous straw poll to assess the current thinking of the congregation regarding disaffiliation. This poll by written ballot will be conducted following the worship service on October 2, and again on October 9 for those who were unable to participate on October 2. Responses will be tabulated at the October 25 meeting of Administrative Council. (While both members and nonmembers of Solid Rock may participate in the poll, those submitting ballots will be asked to indicate whether or not they are a member. This information is needed in order to predict the outcome of a potential official vote, in which only members would be permitted to participate per the Book of Discipline.)

Based on poll responses, Administrative Council will determine whether or not a Church Conference will be called to officially vote regarding disaffiliation. This vote would be conducted by the Conference Superintendent, and a two-thirds majority of professing members present at this meeting would be required for disaffiliation to be approved. (Professing members include all people who have come into

membership by profession of faith or by transfer from other churches. Anyone unsure of their membership status should contact Jane Hitzfield at 375-3873 to confirm.)

Anyone who has questions or who needs more information regarding this process should contact the church office.

## New Phone Tree System

Solid Rock has transitioned to a new phone tree call system provided by Call-Multiplier. This system has several new features and comes at a lower cost to the church.

All calls go out immediately. In the previous system, only one call at a time could be made resulting, in some cases, with calls taking multiple hours to be completed. Office staff can initiate calls from any location and not be required to go to the church office to prepare a call.

A message playback number is also available. If you need to hear a message again, simply call (877) 333-9336 (toll-free) to hear the most recent message.

If you experience any problems with the new system, please call Jane in the church office at 375-3873.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group would like to work with rotating volunteer leaders to come and simply engage with the kids during the Youth Group sessions. This will lighten the burden on our current primary volunteer leaders (Tommy and Emily). Our Youth Pastor job remains open, so if you have a



*(Continued on page 3)*



## Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

### Standing in Unity Even When the Reasons Differ

I was watching the ceremony for Queen Elizabeth II in her passing from this life to the resurrection life given her by Jesus Christ. As the service progressed, I noted the variety of people

gathered to pay respects to her and her legacy which she leaves behind: one of servanthood, grace, and devotion to God. There were all sorts of people present, all with

different reasons and purposes. Royalty, world leaders, priests, bishops, service personnel, journalists, family, common people, all were present for one simple reason – to stand for their beloved queen.

Not everyone agreed on the reasons which brought them to this moment; some only came to the funeral because they were ordered/requested by someone, some were present because of being family and there was an “obligation,” others came because they wanted to have the notoriety of “being part of a historic event” (bragging rights), some came to share in the brokenness of the loss of a wonderful woman. Some present were broken and possibly felt that their opportunity to “find forgiveness” had passed as Queen Elizabeth had passed (not having the time to reconcile with her for whatever reasons), broken because she was their strength and now feel abandoned be-



*(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.*

## SOS

SOS met on September 8, 2022, at Kodi's house around an awesome fire pit with Vickie as co-hostess providing delicious treats! Kodi's lesson reminded us that we need to invite people to pray with us, come to church with us, and come to our groups (like SOS) with us. The primary way the early church grew the church was to speak about experiences with the Lord (Acts 1:8).

Several joys and concerns were shared and prayed about. We discussed the Scarecrow Festival and will be handing out hot chocolate packets again.

We invite you to come join us at our next meeting on October 13, 2022. We always enjoy our time of fellowship together!

### News From The Rock

is published each month by

#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 322  
Warren, Indiana 46792

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

Pastor: Rev. John Boyanowski  
[pastorjohn@solidrockumc.com](mailto:pastorjohn@solidrockumc.com)  
(260) 580-8305

Youth Programs  
[youthministry@solidrockumc.com](mailto:youthministry@solidrockumc.com)

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[wanda@solidrockumc.com](mailto:wanda@solidrockumc.com)

News deadline for the November  
newsletter: October 23

## Communion Kits

If you are desiring to obtain a communion kit to have for the communion service each month and you are participating online, or if



you want to have Pastor John to present communion in person, please contact Pastor John at [pastorjohn@solidrockumc.com](mailto:pastorjohn@solidrockumc.com) or [pastorjohnboy@netscape.net](mailto:pastorjohnboy@netscape.net) or call the church office.

## Bible Study

The theme of "Forgiveness" continues through the month of October for our Monday evening, 7:00 p.m. Bible studies. You are encouraged to come to the Solid Rock kitchen for an hour of sharing in what God says to us. Through these Monday evening studies, we also look forward to the coming Sunday's sermon. They are linked together!



- October 3: Colossians 3:1-17 & Matthew 6:15 (Forgiving What You Can't Forget), Jorita Banter, leader
- October 10: Matthew 6:15 & Luke 6:37 (If Forgiveness Is Easy, Why Is It so Hard to Forgive Ourselves?)
- October 17: Acts 13:26-39 (When to Let Go to Move On), Jorita Banter, leader
- October 24: Romans 3:21-26 & Colossians 1:16-23 (Dealing With Sin), Joe Haney, leader

To you who are reading this article, YOUR presence at these studies would be greatly appreciated. Blessings on you, whether or not you attend.

## World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2022

The Missions Committee of Solid Rock UMC keeps our congregation aware of six special giving Sundays throughout the calendar year. One of these offerings falls on

World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022. Offerings collected by United Methodist churches are used to fund scholarships for young students and seminarians. Donations equip racial and ethnic-minority students in the United States and international students to transform the church and communities. Half of the proceeds from the offering is for World Communion Sunday Scholars, administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining half is to be used for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, both of which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. It is hoped that you will be generous in your financial and prayer support for these ministries.

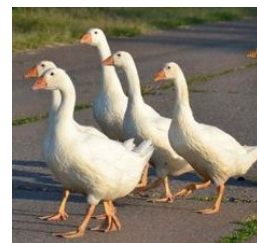
Interested in developing a small group/new ministry or being mentored? Contact Pastor John!

## Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.



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

(Continued from *Pastor John*, page 1)

cause of her death (even though they understand her passing, they never prepared themselves to learn how to stand independently), and I could go on with perceptions noted.

I shared the experience with someone about my observations, which led into a discussion about our church and what we are going through trying to discern where God is leading us as a church. We discussed the aspects of being a church which “welcomes EVERYONE and makes them feel safe and accepted” and at the same time, being able to stand for Jesus Christ and what He has placed on our hearts. Relating this to the funeral of the queen, it was noted that several of the royals that were present were unable to wear their royal titles/clothes because of their forfeiting of these because of their choices to “worldly” poor judgments. Yes, they were present, but were forbidden to be recognized because their choices were in distinct opposition to the standards set by Queen Elizabeth and those before her. These individuals knew fully in advance about the outcomes of their decisions and yet chose to follow their own ideals rather than those of the royalty which they derived from. I share this for this reason...

While we discern what God is doing for us individually and as a church, we must discover how God is talking to us and is guiding us to become the church HE desires us to be: one which will serve the community to try and bring peace and safety to all who enter. There are some people who may believe that going a certain direction with the church will not only hinder this progression into the church that God has called us to be, but it would also separate us from the rest of the world. The Scriptures tell us that people will hate and despise us because of our stance for God. And it is true that there is a possibility that people will look at us differently no matter what direction we go, and that God leads us; so, what should we do as a church? How can we be like Jesus and embrace everyone and at the same time, be able to maintain the integrity that God is trying to develop within us?

First, we MUST remember our calling: both as individuals and as a body. As individuals, just like with the recent queen’s funeral, we can be called to different types of service and still serve God equally and effectively. Is God calling us to create a specialized ministry/outreach for the church to develop an understanding of

those we serve/wish to serve? Can we have REAL relationships with those who differ from us in thought, belief, and customs without any form of judgment? Are there new ways to reach the world around us that is a “win-win” for all involved? Or has God called us to stand on the principles which are not accepted by the world’s standards? I ask you this question: Are those who want our respect for their beliefs ready and willing to accept us for our beliefs to the point where harmony can take place or (for either side) is there no chance of harmony for us? All involved must make it happen to make it happen. If not, it becomes one-sided. If it does become this, which side do you choose? It is an UN-AVOIDABLE question to answer, and we all must answer it. Can we live with the decision (both physically and spiritually)? Some might not think this is so, but in the eyes of God, it is one we must answer.

Secondly, are we willing to stand on our decisions and accept the natural and spiritual consequences for our decisions? Like in Queen Elizabeth’s family, certain decisions may cause us to forfeit our blessings and possibly kinships. Is the decision we are about to make going to bring us closer to God or to the world? There will be many different responses and debates to this question. One might ask, “Why does there have to be a decision?” God asks each of us to choose whom they serve. I love Joshua’s response, “... As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15). If this is an unpopular response to many, I am sorry. I, like Joshua, choose to serve the LORD.

Finally, as a church, I believe that if we stay true to our calling and to reach out in the same love and compassion which Christ has shown us, and we stay FOCUSED on serving, we will be too busy meeting the needs which God has us addressing to bring others into a relationship with Him (God/Christ/Holy Spirit) to allow division to even get its foot in the door. Things like this can either destroy or strengthen the body. Which do you choose?

### August Financial Update

General Fund Receipts .....\$10,027  
General Fund Expenses.....\$9,507

**Need to hear that phone tree message again? Just dial (877) 333-9336 to hear a replay of your most recent message.**

(Continued from *Youth Group*, page 1)

passion for our youth and would like to maybe sign up for volunteering once a month or more, please prayerfully consider contacting Tommy, Emily or Pastor John. A sign-up sheet will be available this Sunday. Thank you for your continued support of our youth, the leaders, and Solid Rock!

## Cents-ible stewardship

During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)

The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity —

not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies.

When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.

—Julie Lee



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**facebook.**

## East of Chicago Pizza FUNDRAISER

**October 18, 2022**

**5:00–8:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by  
Men’s Fellowship**

Proceeds, including all tips, will be used for local ministries



## 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

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- September 28 at 6:30 p.m.: Rev. Kathie Jones will present information and take questions regarding UMC separation issues.
- October 2 and October 9 following worship service: A straw poll will be conducted to assess the congregation's thinking regarding potential disaffiliation.

See the article on Page 1 for more details.

Father God,

We thank You for this day. Father, You are the same today as You were yesterday, and as You are tomorrow. Since the beginning of mankind, You sought to have a relationship with Your creation, to instruct us in the way that we ought to go.

Father, today we pray for discernment. We pray that the Holy Spirit that dwells within us will give us a peace beyond understanding to know precisely when something is You, and when something is not.

Father, we want to be obedient to Your call in our lives. We pray for such discernment to not only make wise choices, but in the course of it all to know we can trust Your guiding hand.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

—dailybiblemessage.com

