



News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

September 2017

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

Intentional Faith Development groups to begin this month

After several months of preparation, Solid Rock's new Intentional Faith Development groups will begin meeting in September. Available groups and sign-up sheets will be posted at church beginning Sunday, September 3, and groups will begin meeting during the week of September 24.



Intentional faith development refers to ministries, outside of weekly worship, that help people grow in faith and in their understanding of and love for God. It is the goal of each group to provide an environment in which participants can experience authentic community and spiritual growth in an open, non-threatening setting.

Seven or eight groups will be offered, each addressing a particular topic, such as "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" or "How Can I Practice My Faith More Effectively?". All groups will engage with the questions, "How is the amazing grace of God changing your heart, your life, and your relationship with other people?"

Groups will meet once per week, beginning the week of September 24 and continuing through the week of November 12 (a total of eight sessions), for approximately 90 minutes each week. Child care will be provided. (Please indicate on the sign-up sheet your need for childcare so that we can be prepared.)

One offering will be an online group. This group is designed for persons who are unable to commit to a specific meeting

time each week.

Please pray for this new Solid Rock initiative, Pastor Paul, group facilitators and hosts, and participants. Especially be in prayer as to which group God is calling you to participate in. Invite your friends outside of Solid Rock to join a group as well.

Watch for the posting of groups on September 3 and listen for announcements with further details. Join us in this new journey!

College Addresses

Brooke Kratzer
1026 W Rex St
Muncie, IN 47303

Madi Canady
605 Taylor St - Room 340
Joliet, IL 60435

Wyatt Korporal
7636 S 1000 W-90
Warren, IN 46792

Tom Bolinger
Box 208
Warren, IN 46792

Rob Bolinger
Box 208
Warren, IN 46792

Olivia Bolinger
409-G Canal Court North Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Walker Spahr
1100 E 5th St
Anderson, IN 46012

Lily Sabinske
Dehority Complex
Room 108
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306



I've been reading "The Journal of John Wesley." In the entry for 24th May 1738, he wrote a detailed account of his spiritual pilgrimage. As a young boy in the family of a clergyman he had been "carefully taught" that salvation could only be obtained by "keeping all the commandments of God." Over the years at school and university, he wrote, "I now hoped to be saved by, (1) Not being so bad as other people. (2) Having a kind of religion. And, (3) Reading the Bible, going to church, and saying my prayers. I doubted not but I was a good Christian."

He was eventually ordained as a minister and lived very strictly. As he put it, "I omitted no sort of self-denial." But this brought him no peace with God. He went as a chaplain to the American Colonies and came under the influence of Moravian Christians, and on his return to England in that January he realized that what he was lacking was "faith in and through Christ." He wrote in his Journal that he resolved to renounce all dependence upon his "own works or righteousness" and instead turned to a "saving faith, a full reliance on the blood of Christ shed for me." He finally knew he was converted when his heart "was strangely warmed" within him and "an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins."

We too can take comfort in the fact that Christ's blood was shed for us and the forgiveness of our sins. Nothing we do or say can take away from the reality that Christ loves us unconditionally and desperately wants us to be in relationship with him.

(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.

Preaching Truth Still Matters

August 12, 2017

Brother and Sisters,

I come to you this evening with a message that I did not intend to send today. In fact, I began this day with another topic on my heart and mind, however as I listened, watched, and learned more about the recent news in Charlottesville, Va., the Holy Spirit changed the words of my brain to expose what weighs heavily on my heart and the hearts of many across our country tonight.

Initially, I hoped to address the wide variety of preaching styles that I was fortunate enough to hear throughout my travels across the state throughout the past year; each richly unique in their ways of delivering God's word to all of God's people in our churches and our communities.

God's call and claim on our life is real and, most importantly, it cannot be ignored, as we would be running from what we are

truly created to be.

For those of us called to live the Gospel message, in a time such as this, we must remember that the world needs the Church and we need the world, for neither can survive without the other.

I am reminded that there is division and discourse inside the walls of our Church, our homes, our government, on the walls of our Facebook accounts, and from the characters that we publish on Twitter. Many would argue, convincingly, that these are not ordinary times. Fear is on sale for half price and evil is ever present in global threats, relational discord, and dysfunctional leadership.

We are flooded with news that stirs us to our core, and that makes us more fearful of our brothers and sisters which threaten the health of a world in desperate need of what I heard a preacher share more than twenty-five years ago. "The Church has something to offer the world that the world can get from no other place." God reigns and the God we believe in is Love. We declare that Jesus Christ has and can make a way out of no way.

However, for the world to get anything from us, we must be honest and truthful. We can not avoid naming or calling out what is evil in its purest form ever manifested. Naming hate, injustice, and the sin of "-ism" is the only way for us to tackle the forces that would divide us and that would have any one of us believe that there is less opportunity to reach our highest God-given potential because of one group of people or another.

Brian Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of Just Mercy, said in an interview earlier this year, "In faith perspectives, to get to salvation— at least in the Christian tradition —you have to repent. There is no redemption without acknowledgment of sin. It's not bad to repent. It's cleansing. It's necessary. It's ultimately liberating to acknowledge where we were and where we want to go. We haven't done that collectively."

As our communities continue to wrestle with senseless acts of violence, as well as a recent rise in traffickers of hate that many thought to be dead and gone or at least they lied dormant in their appearance for years - it is the Church who can help unite and break down barriers and free those who are chained by society or by their own views, born in the falsity, that any human being is less than another.

So as the Body of Christ, I implore each

of you to join me in living truth by:

1. Share this in your congregation, communities, mission fields, workplaces, at your dinner tables, and beyond in the days ahead;
2. Recommit to the vows that we took for our membership as United Methodist; and
3. Be living examples of the peace of which we are praying for in every corner of the world.

As we do all of these things remember that Together we are more.

Be encouraged,
Julius C. Trimble
Resident Bishop

Charge Conference

Charge Conference has been set for 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 5, at Decatur St. Mark's United Methodist Church. In the meantime we will be asking several of you for input concerning information that will be shared. The Nominations Committee will be working diligently to fill leadership positions in the church during the month of September. Many of you will be contacted and we are asking that you prayerfully consider remaining in the position you are already serving in or whether you would like to serve in another capacity. If you would like to be replaced or are interested in serving in another capacity please contact Pastor Paul.

July Financial Update

General Offerings.....	\$16,943
General Fund Expenses.....	\$11,678
Mortgage Balance.....	\$67,887

Thank you!

I'm a little late, OK a lot late in thanking the church family for their prayers, flowers, and concern during the past three years of my continual surgeries. My thinking I was finally done with surgeries and could finally start building my strength back was wrong. On July 1st I fell, fracturing three fingers and jamming one, again in a cast, only for a month this time. I think I'm on the road to recovery!

Becky Parker

News From The Rock
is published each month by

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
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Editor: Gary Walter
gary@solidrockumc.com

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

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr
wanda@solidrockumc.com

News deadline for the October newsletter: September 24

(Continued from page 1)

When we come to that realization we are to then live our lives accordingly. The way we treat one another is a reflection of how Christ is working both in and through us.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

Administrative Council

Solid Rock Administrative Council met on August 15. Council learned that blinds have been ordered for all of the windows in the fellowship hall and should be installed within the next two months. Some trees on the property will be removed. Steve Schell, the church contractor, had someone come to look at the roof and a few other items that need to be taken care of.

“The Way” (Warren Area Youth) had their August meeting at the Solid Rock outdoor worship area. There is a need for an outside sound system. This has been looked into and council approved funds for the project.

A worship service and evening meal are being planned to honor veterans on November 12.

Pastor Paul conducted two small group leadership workshops. There will be seven or eight groups. Starting September 3, you will have three weeks to sign up for a group. The meetings will start September 24 and run for eight weeks, ending the week of November 12. You are to ask outside people to join you for these groups.

Individuals are asked not to use the church sound or video projection systems without assistance.

Thank you!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and support through my years of school. It has shaped me through high school and gotten me to where I am today. Thank you for the scholarship. I will be attending Ivy Tech to work toward a degree in visual art communication.

Rob Bolinger

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on August 3, 2017. Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and gave a devotional entitled

“Opening Doors.”

The purpose of our group was recited by all. The prayer calendar showed the mission focus as “Progressive Youth Connections in St. Louis, Missouri.” The birthday for the month is Valerie Massman-Calestin, a Deaconess of the United Methodist Church. Joys and concerns were taken by

Bernie Garrett and she then offered prayer for those mentioned. The mission reading was given by Martha Plummer. Martha gave the secretary’s report and roll call was taken.

Barbara gave the treasurer’s report and shared a thank you received from Becky Harrold of the North East District UMW. A very interesting and informative program, “Refreshing Ourselves for Mission,” was given by Mick McNany.

The next meeting will be held September 7, 2017. The meeting closed with prayer.

Monday Evening Bible Studies for September

The kingdom of heaven is like ... During the month of September, the Feasting on the Word Bible study group, meeting on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the church kitchen, will be seeing what God says about his kingdom. John Wesley urged his people not only to study the scriptures but to also let God’s word make a change in their behavior. Will you be willing to change your behavior to attend these study sessions? The studies for this coming month are taken from the Gospel of Luke and will be the foundation for the coming Sunday’s message. Below are outlined passages for each evening.

- September 4: Luke 13:18-21 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- September 11: Luke 15:4-7 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- September 18: Luke 15:8-10 (Joe Haney, leader)



Joys and concerns were taken by

- September 25: Luke 15:11-32 (Jorita Banter, leader)

Consistent attendance is encouraged but not mandated. Advance reading of the passage helps in the sharing of understanding what God is wanting us to do. If you do not have your own Bible, there are study copies available at the session. Come, and let us grow together!

Church Bazaar

The annual Church Bazaar will be October 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be craft vendors and baked goods, and a soup lunch will be served. Please contact Martina Cocklin if you want to reserve a booth space.

Veterans Homecoming Celebration

Solid Rock is proud to announce the Annual Veterans Homecoming Celebration on November 12. Please drop off veterans’ photographs at Bolinger’s, located at the spotlight in Warren. (If you submitted a photograph last year, you do not need to do so again.) Please call Gina Canady at 260-375-3010 if you have any questions or if the pictures need to be picked up. Thank you.

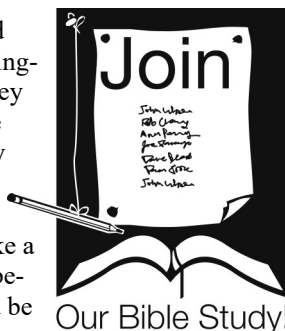
God’s left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. “Look at the gorgeous leaves!” Grandma exclaimed. “Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!”

“Yep,” said her grandson, “and he did it left-handed.”

Perplexed, Grandma asked, “Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?”

“Because,” said the boy matter-of-factly, “we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God’s right one.”



Our Bible Study!



solidrockumc.com



@solidrockumc



Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Ravioli
- Oatmeal
- Kleenex
- Jello Snacks
- Pop-Tarts
- Snack Bars
- Popcorn
- Macaroni & Cheese



Also needed: plastic bags, books and magazines (6 months through adult)

Please leave your items in the wooden boxes in the narthex.

A sign of what's to come

When God is about to do something great, he starts with a difficulty.

When he is about to do something truly magnificent, he starts with an impossibility.

—Armin Gesswein

Lord, teach me how to still my racing thoughts. Help me to come to you arguing nothing, pleading nothing, asking nothing, except to be still in your presence. Give me the faith that will enable me to lay my burdens at your feet, and to leave them there to exchange for the peace which passes all understanding.

—Frank Topping

