

News From The Rock

September 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

John Pearson accepting new position

It is with a heavy heart that the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee announces the resignation of John Pearson. His decision was not made lightly, but it is best for John and his family. He will be relocating to a church in Gas City, closer to home.

John will be with us until September 30 and will be preaching on September 20. Please wish John, Stacie, and the children a blessing in this next adventure in their lives.

The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is in the process of deciding where we go from here. Please be patient with us. Thank you.

Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson
Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry will be pushing back our Back-2-School Bash again. Hopefully we can resume an in-person meeting in the near future. We will have a "Zoom" meeting on September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. I will send out the link for the meeting a week prior and also the day of. This will be a time to see each other and play a few games as well as having a short lesson time.

Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth had a Back-2-School Bash on August 23rd with a total of 18 students and 4 adults. During this time we had some hamburgers and hotdogs, played kickball



(bases were swimming pools), water balloon fight, and a water slide.

As of right now the retreat at Epworth Forest on September 25-27 is still a go. The cost for the retreat is \$75 per person and the deadline to sign up has been extended to September 20th. This is subject to change depending on current COVID-19 guidelines.

Bible study resuming

"Feasting on the Word" Bible study will resume its weekly gathering at Solid Rock on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Instead of meeting in the kitchen with limited space, we will be social distancing back by the nursery. If you are new to the building, just come in the front main doors and take a right turn. Due to the Labor Day holiday, we will have our first session on September 14. The dates and Bible passages to study are listed as follows.

- September 14: Genesis 22:1-14, "What A Sacrifice" (Joe Haney, leader)
- September 21: John 4:4-26, 39-42, "Welcoming Spiritual Travelers" (Jorita Banter, leader)
- September 28: Philippians 3:4b-14, "God's Upward Call" (Perry Spahr, leader)

At this point you are still asked to wear your face mask, bring your own Bible, and prepare to be created anew in the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus. May his peace and power be with you!

Joe Haney, Contributor



Do you have a dream and a goal for your life? Do you envision something is changing in your circumstances? Did you make a commitment to change some bad habits in your life? Do you feel that God wants you to step out in faith and start a new ministry or a business? Do you know deep down in your heart that God wants your life go in a totally different direction?

The Bible says in Philippians 2:13 that "God is working in you, giving you both, the desire and

the power to do what pleases him." Another translation puts it this way: "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to accomplish, according to his good will."

You see, so many times we have an idea or a desire. We are so sure that it comes from God. We get all excited over it. And then, all of a sudden, the excitement is taken over by doubt, fear, and uncertainty and disbelief.

But I want to encourage you to go for it and stick with it. If you feel that God is up to something in your life, please realize that God did not only put the idea, the dream and the will into your heart, but that he also has already equipped you with the power to accomplish his plan that he has for your life.

And it is a wonderful plan that God has for your life! He has put a dream and an

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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.

Worship Options

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

1. In-person worship has resumed. We have had average attendance of 50-60 in recent weeks. 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.

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

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 October
newsletter: September 20

Donation Options

Your continued financial support of Solid Rock is appreciated. Here are some giving options.

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. (Locally, both First Merchants Bank and Bippus State Bank have free online bill pay services.) Contact your bank for details.
3. Donate online or by using a mobile app. Solid Rock has enabled giving via Vanco GivePlus. (Vanco is a partner of the United Methodist Church's General Council on Finance and Administration.) Donations can be made using checking or savings accounts or credit/debit cards. (Givers may opt to cover the processing fees, about 2-2.5%, at their discretion.) To get started, simply go to solidrockumc.com and click on "Donate."

Help needed. Training provided!

Solid Rock is a recipient of the Connect Through Tech Grant 2020 from the Center for Congregations. This grant will facilitate the purchase of equipment enabling high-quality video and audio streaming and recording of services and other events.

We are in need of one or more volunteers to operate this new equipment. No previous experience is necessary, only a willingness to learn. Training will be provided. If you would be willing to work in this area, or have questions about what would be involved, please contact the church office, 375-3873.

No fishing allowed!

Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom knew the importance of forgiveness. In her book *Tramp for the Lord*, she says her favorite mental picture was of forgiven sins thrown into the sea. "When we confess our sins, God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever.... I believe God then places a sign out there that says NO FISHING ALLOWED."

She points to an important truth that believers in Jesus can sometimes fail to

grasp—when God forgives our wrongdoing, we're forgiven fully! We don't have to keep dredging up our shameful deeds, wallowing in any mucky feelings. Rather we can accept His grace and following Him in freedom.

We see this idea of "no fishing allowed" in Psalm 130. The psalmist proclaims that although God is just, He forgives the sin of those who repent: "but with you there is forgiveness" (vs.4). As the Psalmist waits for God, putting his trust in Him (vs. 5), he states that He "himself will redeem Israel from all their sins" (vs. 8). Those who believe will find "full redemption" (vs. 7).

When we're caught in the feeling of shame and unworthiness, we can't serve God with our whole hearts. Instead, we're restricted by our past. If you feel stymied by the wrong you've done, ask God to help you fully believe in His gift of forgiveness and new life. He's cast your sins into the ocean.

—Amy Boucher Pye
in *Our Daily Bread*



All workers are essential

The concept of vocation, Latin for "to call," previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of all types of labors. The reformer pointed out that "God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does."

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled "God Makes Pizza," describes how this looks today: "God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing 'daily bread' through the work that you do, no matter what that work is."



- "The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent." —Sam Levenson
- "God is not out there or back there or yet to be, but hidden in the most ordinary things of our ordinary lives." —Sallie McFague

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idea in your heart and mind, and he has given you the power to fulfill that dream. Being your heavenly father, it gives God great pleasure to watch you accomplish his plans for your life.

Here is a lesson that you can learn from a postal stamp. When you mail a letter, the stamp stays on the envelope until it reaches the final destination. Many people have great and noble plans but they give up too soon. As soon as some problems come along the way they quit. Some quit because some good Christian friends just "can't see it being from God." Others work hard towards accomplishing their dream but then they give up just steps away from the finish line.

Let me encourage you to:

1. Set yourself a goal that is reachable and has value for yourself and others.
2. Start today to take at least one step every day toward that goal.
3. Never lose sight of your goal. (Think and dream about it all the time.)
4. Don't listen to people that have no interest in your accomplishments.
5. Stick to it until you reach your destination. Just like a stamp!

Let your dreams, goals and desires come alive in your heart and mind again. They must fill you with a burning desire. Be convinced that you will reach your God-given goal because with God NOTHING is impossible!

And never give up! Tell yourself every morning: It is too early to give up!

Pastor Paul



solidrockumc.com



Prayer walk?

Something I would really like to do is to go to Washington, DC, for the Prayer Walk for our country with Franklin Graham on September 26 at noon. Every time I mention it around Perry he looks at me like I have two heads and three eyes! So what I need from all of you Solid Rockers is prayer to see what God wants me/us to do with this feeling that I have. Do we need to join Christians in prayer for our country

on September 26? Call me if you any ideas of what we should do to expand prayer on September 26.

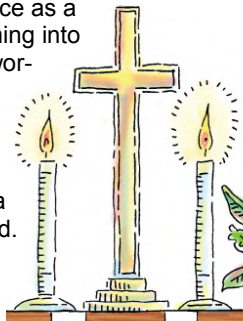
Tamara Spahr
375-2859

July Financial Update

General Fund Receipts	\$14,767
General Fund Expenses.....	\$12,634

Why do we light candles during worship?

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Many congregations use two candles on the altar to point out that Jesus was both a human being and God. At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. The acolyte leaves the worship service at the pastor's direction, carrying out the lighted candle lighter. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve."



—from *Worship Matters: A United Methodist Guide to Worship Work, Vol. II* by E. Byron Anderson

When God crosses our paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that

buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to guide us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

From our history:

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune was an African-American woman, a pioneer of women's leadership, and a devoted Methodist who opened doors of education by founding a school that continues today.



In 1904, Mary McLeod Bethune financed a dream by baking sweet potato pies. With 5 girls and \$1.50, she started a school that became a Methodist institution. Mary was born in 1875 on a South Carolina cotton farm.

Mary went to college and opened doors of education. Her school for girls grew quickly. In 1931, the Methodist Church helped the merger with the Cookman Institute for boys to form Bethune-Cookman College.

Mary Bethune traveled extensively, was a delegate to four Methodist General Conferences, advised five U.S. presidents, and was the only black woman present at the founding of the United Nations in 1945. Back on campus, she was "Mama Bethune."

The icon passed away in 1955, leaving a last will and testament full of wisdom and love.

"I leave you love. 'Love thy neighbor' is a precept which could transform the world if it were universally practiced."

"I leave you hope."

"I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another."

"I leave you a thirst for education."

"I leave you respect for the use of power."

"I leave you faith."

"I leave you racial dignity."

"I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow man."

"I leave you finally a responsibility to our young people."

"If I have a legacy to leave my people, it is my philosophy of living and serving. I think I have spent my life well. I pray now that my philosophy may be helpful to those who share my vision of a world of Peace, Progress, Brotherhood, and Love." — Mary McLeod Bethune 1875-1955

—umc.org

Church Signs

- Too hot to keep changing sign. Sin bad. Jesus good. Details inside.
- Do you know what hell is? Come hear our preacher.
- This too shall pass. It might pass like a kidney stone, but it's gonna pass.
- Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.
- How many verses in the Bible are about 'Eagles' and 'Patriots'? Eagles 33. Patriots 0
- God has no favorites, but the sign-maker does. Go Packers!
- Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.
- If God had a refrigerator your picture would be on it.
- Now open between Christmas & Easter
- Ever wonder why Noah didn't swat those 2 darn gnats?
- Just love everyone. I'll sort 'em out later. —God
- Some people should use glue stick instead of ChapStick.

Set free, O Lord, my soul from all
restlessness and anxiety; give me that
peace and power which flow
from you; keep me in all
perplexities and distresses,
in all fears and
faithlessness; that so
upheld by your power and
stayed on the rock of your
faithfulness, I may through
storm and stress remain in you, through
Christ Jesus our Lord.



—From *New Every Morning*

