

# News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

September 2021

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

## Informational video to be shown September 19

When the United Methodist General Conference next meets in the fall of 2022, it will consider the proposed Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation. After decades of debate over LGBTQ inclusion, the protocol would open the door for new denominations to break away.

Following the worship service on September 19 (approximately 11:30), all who are interested in learning more are invited to view a video outlining the background of the development of this proposal and options that may be available to congregations should it be accepted. Following the eight-minute video, Pastor Paul will respond to questions.

A link to the video will be posted on the Solid Rock website for those unable to attend or who wish to view it again.

## New app for online giving

Those who have been using the EGiving app to make online donations to Solid Rock should be aware that this app is being discontinued.

Users will need to download the new app, Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Effective September 30, existing



account information will migrate to this new app. Any scheduled recurring gifts will continue to process as planned. Please contact the church office if you have questions regarding this change.

## Children's Ministry Meeting

We would like to meet to discuss starting up our Kids Club for the 2021-2022 school year. Anyone interested in helping out with this important ministry of the church is invited to join us on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00

p.m. We will also be discussing other areas of our Children's Ministry within the church.

We can't do it without the help of volunteers, so your attendance is important. Please mark your calendars and plan on being a part of this meeting. If you are willing to help out and can't make it to the meeting, please let Pastor Paul, Rita Bolinger, or Jane in the church office know so we can get you plugged in.



## Bazaar Happenings

The Solid Rock UMC Bazaar is planned for October 23, 2021, from 9 to 2 at the church. We are planning on vendors and a drive-by or carry-out lunch. We are planning on a bake sale, too, with all items being donated. A sign-up sheet for those items will be set up in October. Spread the word that we are in need of vendors! And get out your best recipes! See you there!



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



Matthew in his gospel tells the story of a woman who enters the presence of Jesus as he dines with Simon the Leper. I can imagine her excited, yet anxious, as she emerges from the shadows and approaches the guest of honor. Emotion welling up inside of her, she opens her bottle of perfume and begins to anoint her Lord. The response is immediate. What a waste! All of that money could have been saved and given to the poor. Surely helping the poor was the right way to serve, to worship. Jesus' response is simple and moving: "She has done a beautiful thing to me." (Matthew 26:6-10)

Jesus saw something in this woman that nobody else took the time to consider. He looked past all personal opinions and saw



her heart. He saw that this woman was overjoyed to have the privilege to simply express her love for her Savior. This was her way of giving her sacrifice to the Lord. Her sacrifice was not the money saved to buy the expensive

perfume but rather her heart's cry of love. Psalm 51:16-17 is a similar cry to God: "You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart."

I often struggle with what God wants from me. What can I possibly give to one so far above even my own understanding?

*(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.*

## Administrative Council

The Solid Rock Administrative Council met on August 17, 2021. Prayer requests were voiced and Pastor Paul opened with prayer.

The trustees reported that the parking lot will be resurfaced this summer. They will also be installing a new, larger office sign.

Rose Broyles reported that the Food Pantry is doing well. She is most appreciative of the support from the community.

The church has not used printed bulletins since the beginning of the pandemic. Printing weekly bulletins is a significant expense. Since most information can be communicated by projection prior to the service or by announcements during the service, Council voted to continue without printed bulletins. Note-taking paper will be

provided for those who would like to use it during the service.

Council discussed the parsonage kitchen remodeling project. Because it has been some time since bids were received on this project, it was decided to request new bids before proceeding. While a portion of needed funds has been raised, additional funding will be needed. The parsonage kitchen committee will be reactivated. Anyone willing to participate should contact the church office.

An informational video regarding the proposed Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, which will be considered at General Conference in the fall of 2022, will be shown following the worship service on September 19. Pastor Paul will be available to answer questions following the video.

Pastor Paul will be undergoing a surgical procedure in October. He will be out of the pulpit on October 17 and 24. Guest speakers have been scheduled. He will work from his home office as he is able during his recovery.

home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!

—Janna Firestone

## Our help — past, present and future

This month, America marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life

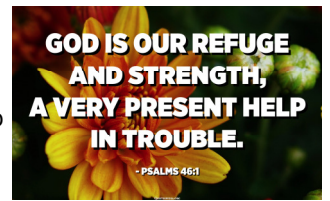
forever for millions more. The nation was shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of

us any assumption that "it can't happen here." September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of "liberty and justice for all" served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalm 46 reminds us that "though the earth should change" (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (v. 1). We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

How has God's presence and power sustained you through life's changes? How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



## Thank you

Thank you to the many members of Solid Rock who upheld us during our times of trial. Our appreciation goes to the folks who donated and served our superb luncheon. To Pastor Paul who guided us through the journey of visitation and worship we express our gratitude. For the many cards of sympathy and support, thank you. The wind chimes will always ring out the Good News of God's love. For those who heard the call of Jesus to welcome the stranger into your midst, we praise the Lord.

Sincerely,

The Family of Yvonne Haney

## Learn from leaves

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the



**Answers to prayers** come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

**Answers to prayers** come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. Some blossom early, and some blossom late, but each one will flower — have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

## July Financial Update

General Fund Receipts..... \$17,904  
General Fund Expenses ..... \$12,167

### News From The Rock

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#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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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

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News deadline for the October  
newsletter: September 19

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But the Lord responds and says that he wants a sincere heart, a humble heart. All of my attempts to bring a worthy gift to God will fail. He desires that I serve him, in whatever capacity, with a broken spirit and a broken heart, fully submitting to the acknowledgement that he is above all that I can ever offer or perfect.

The woman with the perfume loved Jesus and desired to express that love with a humble heart. Worship is our response to his majesty in our lives and beyond our existence. It is a song, it is a prayer, it is a conversation, it is how we live our lives as an expression of our heart. We worship in spirit and in truth.

When we come to church, it does not matter what songs are played, who plays them, what style the songs are, what instruments are played, or anything else. If our hearts are behind our songs and we desire to bring him glory, then who are we to differentiate between the "right" and "wrong" ways to sing?

We all have our own preferences and opinions about how worship should be and what it should sound like. But let us not forget, worship was never the sound or the style, it was the heart. It is the heart of our songs and God hears our hearts. Worship is our way of coming before God in song and in deed to simply give him glory. This is the heart of worship, no matter what the style or sound.

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Paul

## Bread of Life Food Pantry

Thank you for your faithful donations to the food pantry. With your assistance, the pantry is able to offer a consistent amount of simple but nutritious items. Results are a tasty and healthy meal for our neighbors.

Thank you for all your surplus garden items. The families appreciate the fresh vegetables.

The pantry is in need of hats, scarves, and gloves for children this winter.

The pantry is collecting new and gently used toys and games for children age 0 to 18. These items will be offered to families needing Christmas assistance.

The month of July the pantry provided assistance 196 times. The pantry will continue to be a "drive-through" pantry, open every Wednesday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Thank you for caring.

Gratefully,  
Rose Broyles

## Bible Study

With the Pentecost season of the church nearly half way through, the "Feasting on the Word" Bible studies in the church kitchen will have the following scriptures



to read. Our main emphasis is to be growing in our ability to give witness to the amazing ways in which God

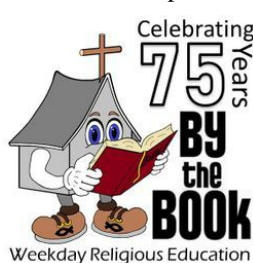
is working in our midst. In other words, "be alert to the movement of God's Spirit in our day to day living." I give special thanks to those who are taking turns at leading the evening studies. What a way to grow!

- September 6: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (You Must Have the Wrong Number); Ann Spahr, leader
- September 13: John 4:5-42 (Streams in the Desert); Joe Haney, leader
- September 20: John 7:53 – 8:11 (Caught); Jorita Banter, leader
- September 27: Mark 10:2-16 (God Is Present Even in Suffering); Ann Spahr, leader

These Bible studies are a venture in walking with Jesus and with each other. Most of the attendees have chosen not to wear face masks, but you are still welcome if you would be more comfortable being masked. Our goal is to be "more like the Master." Remember, Monday evenings, 7-8 p.m., in the Solid Rock UMC kitchen.

## By the Book

Begun in 1945 as "Weekday Religious Education," By the Book has been providing Bible classes for Huntington County school children for over 75 years. Due to COVID-19, in-person classes were sus-



pended during the 2020-2021 school year, but they are resuming this fall. The classes are offered free to all third through fifth grade students.

(Previously it was offered only to third and fourth grade students.)

Please pray for all the teachers and volunteers as this program resumes. Pray that

students develop a hunger and thirst for the things of God. Pray for safety and good health for teachers, volunteers, and students. Pray that hearts would be open to God and His Word. Thanks for your prayers!

If anyone would like to help by being a volunteer for a day, please contact Billie Horrell at (260) 366-7533. Both men and women are needed and welcomed.

Monetary donations in support of this program are always appreciated and may be mailed to Associated Churches of Huntington County, P.O. Box 344, Huntington, IN 46750.

## Children's Sunday school

With the experience of Covid and online Sunday school, our church has learned how much the children want to learn about God's love. They showed up week after week for Sunday school. Our children hunger for His peace and grace just the same as all of the adults. Even through that difficult time, many children were with us online, and working through some tough questions and lessons. The kids were there.

It's time to refocus our Children's Sunday school. A new curriculum is being prepared. It will be easy to teach, involve a small amount of preparation, and be organized for you each month. We will need to know the number of volunteers we have in order to plan for the number of classes that we will be able to have for our children.

Please consider volunteering for this very important ministry. We need all of you—even if you can't teach on Sunday morning, you could still be a person who organizes the supplies for a craft, or a game. You might be the person who volunteers to tell a Bible story to the kids once a month, or help to lead some songs. Whatever you are able to do will be so welcome! Please contact the church office (375-3873) or Pastor Paul (260-609-9260).

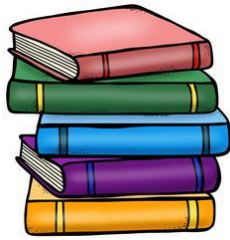
## God's surprises

Don't assume that God will always work in your life the way he always has. A sunset is proof that God colors outside the lines. He has no status quo. Even the laws of nature are his to interrupt. As many times as you've prayed before, today may be the day when God sends the answer so swiftly — so divinely — that you're windburned.

—Beth Moore

## Books for loan

Solid Rock has a number of books available for loan to anyone interested. They are located on shelves under the bulletin board in the fellowship area. Sign-out instructions are posted there.



## Free books

Also in the fellowship area is a box of free books. Help yourself!

- "If you want the peace that passes understanding, you're going to have to give up your right to understanding. It's called trust." —Bill Johnson
- "Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith." —Henry Ward Beecher

*God beyond time ... teach us to pause in this moment, to tuck ourselves into the curve of your slow arm, that we may know the miracle of now, the gift of this moment: you beside and beyond us, welcoming us outside of all we measure, and standing with us in it.*



*May we see the goodness of our still hours and days, sunrises, sunsets, and the darkness where our rest is found.*

—Micha Boyett in *A Rhythm of Prayer*

2021  
September

