

News From The Rock

August 2017

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Have an august August of Monday evenings

With the summer vacation almost over, it is time to settle into God's word through the study of some of the parables of Jesus. Not only can you harvest a deeper walk with the Lord, but you also can be challenged in your faith journey.

Gather with other seekers in the kitchen of the Solid Rock church building at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings for about an hour of enrichment. It helps, but is not required, if the following scripture texts are read in advance of the gathering. Bring your Bible, your questions and thoughts, and an open heart for God's word.

- **August 7:** Luke 11:1-13 (Joe Haney, leader)
- **August 14:** Luke 12:13-21 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- **August 21:** Matthew 13:44-46 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- **August 28:** Luke 6:46-49 (Joe Haney, leader)

There is always room for one more person—YOU!

Thank you

I would like to thank the Staff PPR Committee and the church for the retirement party, flowers, gifts, and cards I received. I enjoyed working for the church and doing whatever I could to help someone with a project they needed.

**JOIN OUR
BIBLE
STUDY**



Dale and I want to thank the church for the two beautiful roses we received for our 60th wedding anniversary. There were forty-four of the Smith family at church on July 16th.

Thanks to everyone,
Norma

Youth Fellowship Schedule

- **August 13:** Lunch and Discussion after church
- **September 10:** Lunch and Discussion after church
- **October 8:** Lunch and Discussion after church
- **November 12:** Lunch and Discussion after church
- **December 3:** Lunch and Discussion after church



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on July 6, 2017. Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and introduced Becky Harrold, N. E. District Secretary, our 2017 Fellowship Sister. Barbara then gave the opening devotional: "United Methodist Women Meeting Needs." The purpose of our group was recited by all.

The Prayer Calendar showed the mission focus as Open Door Community House in Columbus, Georgia. The birthday for the month is Mark Zimmerman, serving at The Nick Simons Institute in Nepal.

Joys and concerns were taken by Bernie Garrett and she then offered prayer for those mentioned. Bernie also gave an inter-

(Continued on page 3)



from
Pastor Paul

Faith vs. Works

An old boatman painted the word "faith" on one oar of his boat and "works" on the other. He was asked his reason for this. In answer, he slipped the oar with "faith" into the water and rowed. The boat, of course, made a very tight circle.

Returning to the dock, the boatman then said, "Now, let's try 'works' without 'faith' and see what happens." The oar marked "works" was put in place and the boatman began rowing with just the "works" oar. Again the boat went into a tight circle but in the opposite direction.

When the boatman again returned to the wharf, he interpreted his experiment in these strong and convincing words, "You see, to make a passage across the lake, one needs both oars working simultaneously in order to keep the boat in a straight and narrow way. If one does not have the use of both oars, he makes no progress either across the lake nor as a Christian."

I have grown to understand over the years that if we are to become the church that God wants us to be, we must have both oars in the water. James said that "faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." (James 2:17) Is your faith producing good deeds? If not, then it is an empty faith. It is my prayer that all of us will find a way to use the gifts God has given us to reach out to those around us in need.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

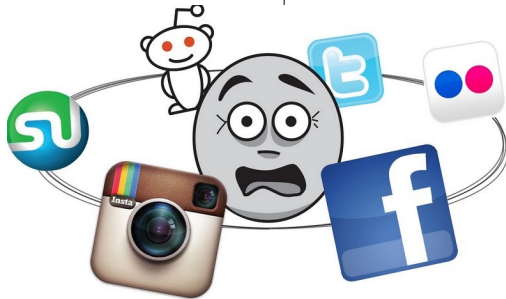
Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus, to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Three Simple Rules for Social Media

Social Media Guidelines of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

DO NO HARM

One of the benefits of social media is that it provides the opportunity to share views, thoughts, joys and concerns about all areas of our life. Our social media contributions can be very effective tools for ministry if we are careful to apply caution before we post. We will be careful that our posts are not “doing harm” by insulting or damaging the reputation of others. We will make sure our posts are respectful and in good taste. And we remember: Everything we post—status, comments, tweets, blogs—become public immediately after we click



“send” (even if we’re using a limited access setting). We can’t take it back once it’s out there, so we will use discernment with everything we post.

To think about: Is the post “doing harm” to the reputation of the Church, Christ, or another person or organization? Can the post be interpreted as harmful, offensive, rude, or distasteful? If using the post as an outlet to vent, is there a more productive, less public way to do so?

DO GOOD

Social media is one of the most effective methods of church networking and communicating today. When used properly, it can have a significant encouraging influence on our readers

and become a powerful tool for delivering the Gospel message to a large audience that extends beyond our contact list. It is a great tool for networking and providing the world with news about our church and ministry. It also is a very useful tool for obtaining feedback and ideas from our audience and can be used to gain insight for sermons, Bible study topics, worship times, needs of the community, etc. The “good” and positive uses of social media are endless.

To think about: Can the post be described as good? Will it help the Kingdom and fellow believers? How will it be perceived by non-believers? How will the post be received by people with different cultural or faith backgrounds? Are we communicating effectively by asking questions in addition to providing information?

STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD

Social media is a great way to find meaningful devotional materials, thought-provoking blog posts and videos, inspiring worship videos and media resources, and current articles and tools for our ministry. Users have reported that their social media usage helps keep them informed and enthusiastic about their ministry on a daily basis. While it can definitely help us “stay in love with God,” it can also be very distracting. We will make sure our use of social media does not occupy so much of our time that we are no longer participating in meaningful Bible study, devotional times, worship and conversations with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Social media can serve as a tool to aid, promote, and conduct discussions, studies and devotional times, but should not be our primary source of interaction with the world.

To think about: How is/can social media

helping me to stay in love with God? How is it hindering me? How am I helping others stay in love with God by my social media contributions?

Remember: Our character and faith is reflected in each post we make, so if we are not sure about something, we won’t post it.

—United Methodist Churches of Indiana

The power of weakness

In *Tramp for the Lord*, Corrie ten Boom describes traveling to Russia during the Cold War — when Christians were being persecuted — to thank an old woman who’d been secretly translating Christian books (including ten Boom’s). Ravaged by multiple sclerosis, the woman could move only an index finger. Yet with it she typed constantly, translating words while praying for people who’d eventually read them.



Ten Boom’s reaction was, “Oh Lord, why don’t you heal her?” But the woman’s husband said God had a purpose in his wife’s suffering. Although the secret police closely watched other Christians, they left this woman alone, assuming she couldn’t accomplish anything.

Jesus works through our weaknesses, making his power perfect in them (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). He doesn’t ask if we’re capable — only if we’re willing.

“When all the other doors in life are closed to us, Jesus will be for us the ever-open door. ... To call any situation hopeless is to shut the door on God.”

—Anthony Coniaris

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News deadline for the September newsletter: August 20

June Financial Update

General Offerings	\$13,842
General Fund Expenses	\$17,343
Mortgage Balance	\$69,609

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(Continued from page 1)

esting mission reading entitled “Heaven is a Beautiful Place.” Roll call was taken and the Secretary’s report given by Martha Plummer. Barbara gave the Treasurer’s report.

Becky Harrold shared news from the North East District and a discussion followed. We were asked to lift up in prayer the 2017 uMission at DePauw University, July 18-21, and the Saturday Sampler, July 22.

An informative and very interesting program, “Called to Serve Communities Around the World,” was given by Barbara Hart. We have been left the greatest legacy: Jesus Christ.

In addition to Becky, our Fellowship Sister, one guest was present. The next meeting will be held August 3, 2017.

Food Pantry Needs

- Cereal
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Snack Crackers
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Spaghetti
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pudding Snack Packs
- Ramen Noodles



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

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

Why Does God Ask Us to Do Hard Things?

You know you’ve asked yourself—or others—these questions:

- *If God loves me, why doesn’t He change this?*
- *If God can do all things, why doesn’t He fix this?*
- *What is God’s purpose in allowing me to go through this hardship?*

It is in our nature to want the reasoning behind the difficulties we experience. We look and long for a lesson within the pain, a redemptive purpose, and a gradual resolution.

But the older I get, and the more I minister to others who endure hardships, the more I realize that our difficulties are more

about God and what He wants to accomplish in our lives, than about us. They are more about the glory He wants to receive, and the way He wants to mold us into the likeness of His Son.

Here is what I’ve learned—through experience and years of ministering to others—about why God asks us to do hard things:

He wants to mold and shape our character. Scripture tells us: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). The very next verse tells us WHY and HOW God works for the good in all things: “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29). That means the “good” that God works toward in our difficulties isn’t necessarily an eventual blessing or a realized dream, but the transformation of our character into Christ’s. Hard things make us more like Jesus.

He wants the relationship. God knows that when our lives are easy, we tend to think we don’t need Him. And we certainly don’t cling to Him. But when we suffer, we become more dependent on God. We realize how much we need Him. It forces us to our knees. That’s where God wants us... communing with Him, relying on His strength, bringing to Him our every concern and waiting for Him to come through for us. Our sorrows and suffering help us relate to the sufferings of Jesus. Hard things deepen our relationship with the Living God.

He wants to do through us what is beyond us. The Apostle Paul recognized, through his sufferings, that Christ’s power was made perfect in his weakness. He said “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). When God asks you to do hard things, you are relying on His strength to get you through...and that glorifies God and shows the world what He can do through you. Hard things show the world how strong our God is.

It is His prerogative. Simply stated, He is the Creator, we are the created. He is God and we are not. When we realize our lives are not our own, we can more readily accept what God allows into our lives and trust that He knows what He’s doing. Scripture says “you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:20). If you and I call Jesus our Savior, then He is also our Master and we are owed nothing, but exist to please Him

and we do so, gladly, because He’s a loving master and we wouldn’t want to be in the service of anyone else. Hard things remind us that He is God and we are not.

Since God is going to do what He is going to do, it helps for you and me to keep in mind these three things about the character of our Loving Master:

1. He is more concerned about our eternal state than our temporary happiness. You’ve heard it said “God’s aim is not to make us happy, but to make us holy.” Well, it’s true.

2. He is good and loving and cannot act apart from His nature. Therefore, what you deem as bad, hard, or painful, God still sees as loving and eternally good for you. I find comfort in that. Instead of instantly demanding a “reason” from God, I find peace and comfort by acknowledging He is in control and He is always good and nothing touches us that hasn’t first passed through His loving hands. That fact takes away the randomness of pain. It also takes away the desire to blame. We can then respond with a quiet surrendered trust in the One who allows whatever comes our way.

3. He knows what’s best and what He’s protecting us from. I learned long ago that when God closes a door, allows an injury to slow us down, lets our car break down just before the trip, delays the plane, or allows us to go through a disappointment, hardship or learning curve, He is not only preparing us for something to come, but He is often protecting us from something we can’t (and might not ever) see. I’d much rather have a wise, all-knowing, all powerful God engineering the events of my life than to be thinking I’m running it myself, not knowing what lurks around the corner or waits for me further up the road.

Is God asking you to do something hard right now? Embrace it. Trust that He knows what He’s doing and thank Him for the opportunity you’ve been given to gradually become more like His Son.

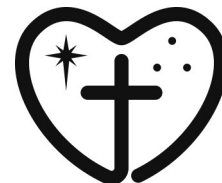
—Cindi McMenamain on crosswalk.com

The heart of Jesus

The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there.

Jesus’ heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.

—Max Lucado



Know your target

Businesses must know their target market. Writers must know their target audience. And we all make better decisions when we consider the target of our actions.

A college religion teacher set up a cardboard target in his classroom. "Draw someone who has upset you," he instructed. Students sketched ex-boyfriends or -girlfriends, coworkers who'd mistreated them, childhood bullies. Each, in turn, then placed their drawing over the bull's-eye and took aim with a bow and arrow. Afterward, the bull's-eye was riddled with holes.

The students congratulated one another ... until the teacher pulled back the target, revealing Jesus' scarred, torn face.

Silence fell as he read: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

In choosing actions — no matter the human target — remember who else will be struck by your arrows. Let's take aim with love, not hurt.



Back to School Blessing

God of knowledge and wisdom, bless all students young and old, as they begin a new school year. Help them discover and develop the gifts you have given. As they grow in knowledge, help them to also grow in kindness and compassion, learning respect for themselves and others.



We ask your blessing on parents and all those who care for students. Strengthen them to surround our students with encouragement, support, and love.

Remind us that wherever we go, you are always with us. Fill us with the joy of learning so that we may be better equipped to be your servants.

Amen

—Face Forward Columbus

