

# News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

August 2020

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

## Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson,  
Family Ministry Coordinator

The WAMA VBS group is planning to have an in-person carnival on August 1st at Hillcrest Nazarene in the gym from 3:30-7:00 p.m. This will include different carnival style games, hotdogs, popcorn, and a message time by Jim Barron of WBCL.

The Little Rocks children's ministry will be pushing back our Back-2-School Bash until September 3rd. Both

of these events are subject to change if the current COVID-19 guidelines change.

Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth saw a total of 9 students in our return to in-person meetings on July 12th. We will be having a Back-2-School Bash on August 23rd with both age groups combined from 5:30-8:00pm. During this time we will have some food and different water games, so please dress accordingly and bring a towel.

We are having a retreat for both age groups at Epworth Forest on September 25-27 and will cost \$75 per person. The money and waivers are due August 30th. This is subject to change depending on current COVID-19 guidelines.

## Bible Study

Welcome to the month of August and our adventures with God in His word to us! I hope you are doing well with our 'spaced-out' gatherings at Solid Rock. We at Heritage Pointe have had a trial-run in our



chapel this last week. Regardless of whether you are at home, at the Solid Rock building, or elsewhere, studying and meditating on God's Word is for the strengthening of the Church. The readings are scheduled as follows.

- August 2: Mark 2: 1-12 (Guest speaker)
- August 9: Ephesians 4:25-5:2, "If You Can't Say Anything Nice"
- August 16: Acts 2: 42-3:9, "Brush Your Teeth/Say Your Prayers"
- August 23: Matthew 18: 15-35, "Say You're Sorry"
- August 30: 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34, "Table Talk"

Until next month, for our guidance, Genesis 32:49, "The Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other."

Joe Haney, contributor

## Solid Rock receives grant; help needed

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.



from  
Pastor Paul

Back in the late sixties a group called Simon and Garfunkel wrote a song that stated, "I am a rock, I am an island." It indicated that no matter what happened to them, they could stand strong and that they had isolated themselves so no one else could hurt them. It may sound like a noble statement, but in reality we are flesh and bone and we have been created as social creatures and cannot function normally without contact with other people.



Encourage one another and build up each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

I have to confess that it has been a battle in my own life to get close to others. As a minister you feel like you need to have all the answers, all the time, and that you can never get down because you've always got to be positive. We've been taught and, frankly, most people expect, their minister to always be up, never depressed and ready with the answers they need in their lives. The truth of the matter is that no one minister can completely and always fulfill such a role. That's because we are all human. We all need friends and someone we can confide in. That's a lesson I've learned the hard way. I've shared many of my own blunders, mistakes, and sometimes outright sins with you through my sermons and personal conversations. I've done that because frankly people need to know that ministers are human too. They do make mistakes and they do need friendships and understanding from others.

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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

In-person worship has resumed, with social distancing and other precautions in effect. For those who are not comfortable coming into the building at this time, we will continue to offer an option to come into the parking lot and listen to the service via FM radio. The service is broadcast on FM frequency 87.9 starting at 10:00 a.m.

We will also continue to offer a pre-recorded online worship option into the future to reach more people outside our church, and for shut-ins and those not yet ready to return to worship in person. These will continue to be posted on Sunday mornings.

### News From The Rock

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#### 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, 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 September newsletter: August 23

## 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](http://solidrockumc.com) and click on "Donate."

## How to Love Your Neighbor from 6 Feet Away during Social Distancing

By Adam Weber on [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com)

We know Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, but what happens when the world is turned upside down and we're now required to be 6 feet away from any other human being? Loving your neighbor is hard on a good day, not to mention when social distancing!

So, how do we love our neighbors from 6 feet away? During a pandemic. While being quarantined.

This is a new world for all of us! I mean, even Jesus didn't walk through a pandemic while living on this earth (at least that we're aware of). Yet thankfully, Jesus does have a few good ideas for those of us who are still wanting to follow his example of loving others well—masks, no contact rules, awkward Zoom calls, limits on toilet paper (why the toilet paper, Lord?) and all.

But before we get into that, it's important to remember that your neighbors—whether that's your physical next-door neighbor, the cashier behind the plexiglass at the grocery store, or your kid's 2nd-grade teacher—need to be loved, maybe more than ever, right now. Just because "normal" life isn't a

reality for a lot of us right now, doesn't mean we should take a break from reaching out and loving the people God puts in our lives.

Why? Because they need it. You need it. I need it. Maybe now more than ever.

People are sick.

People have lost their jobs or are scared they will.

People are isolated and alone.

People have been forced to cancel or postpone big life events.

People are dealing with anxiety and depression at record levels.

People have had to say goodbye to loved ones and friends from afar.

Life is hard, scary, and unknown for so many right now. We're being called to love our neighbors like never before. Here's how we can each love our neighbors (even from 6 feet away):

### 1. Be Real, Not Instagrammable

Let's just say it: sometimes when we do things to love our neighbors, we end up trying too hard to make the moment picture-perfect.

I was recently talking to a friend whose dad is in a nursing home. She said she went over to visit him through the window like she'd seen others doing on social media, expecting this to be a really cute bonding experience for them.

Wrong! My friend is one of the most hilariously honest people you'll ever meet, and her thoughts on the visit? "Not cute! At all."

She explained that she ended up standing outside the nursing home window in the freezing cold (this is South Dakota, after all—we have winter nine months out of the year), trying to get her dad to talk on the phone with her through the window.

It was frustrating for both of them.

Eventually, my friend said her dad just told her to leave and call him like normal from the comfort (and regulated temperature) of her house.

The point is, not all our attempts to love our neighbor while social distancing need to be Instagrammable.

We don't always have to show what we're doing with a cute post about it online. Actually, Jesus encourages us to do the opposite: don't boast about all the good things you're doing.

Rather, invite the wonder of doing things in secret (Matthew 6:4).

This isn't me saying you shouldn't go out

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I'm reminded of a time when I let three very good back-yard mechanics think that a major department store put the wrong spark plugs in a package. The fact was that the store didn't have the size of plugs I needed and I picked the size that was the closest. That didn't work! But rather than let these men see my imperfections and ignorance, I allowed them to believe something that wasn't true. With egg all over my face, God hit me hard in the heart and I had to call each of those men and explain what had really happened. It let them know that I wasn't perfect. But you know what? In the long run I think they respected me more for owning up to my lie than they would have if I had let my ego remain intact.

We need each other and the Bible has many statements giving us instructions on how to treat each other. Here are some examples:

- Romans 15:7 tells us that we are to accept each other just as Christ has accepted us.
- Galatians 5:13 tells us that we are to serve each other in love.
- Galatians 6:2 tells us that we are to carry each other's burdens.
- Colossians 3:13 tells us that we are to accept each other and forgive those things that come between us.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us that we are to encourage and build each other up.
- And 1 Peter 4:9 tells us to be hospitable to each other without grumbling or complaining.

I'd say that this is a lot of proof that we need each other. Always remember that the sign and evidence of our Christian experience is that we love one another. All of these passages that talk about how we should treat our fellow believers are examples of this love. This is how the world knows that we are Christians. It isn't by how holy we are or how much we know, but how much we love our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Paul

(Continued from page 2)

and visit someone in the nursing home and talk to them through the window like my friend tried to do. Just make sure you're loving your neighbor, especially in this season, for the right reasons.

Also, know that sometimes things just won't go as planned. We try and love our neighbor and for whatever reason...it does-

n't work. Our plans fall apart or backfire. The other day I noticed a man standing on a street corner with a sign asking for food. I quickly went home, made a couple sandwiches, got a drink, and drove back to the corner a few short minutes later only to find that the man was already gone. So, I ended up leaving the sandwiches and drink in front of my house, where they were quickly taken by a different man who ate them.

Don't let a "failed attempt" keep you from trying again.

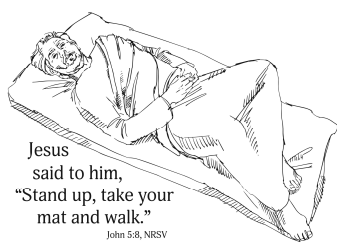
## 2. Don't touch people!

Seriously, no handshakes, hi-fives, or hugs. Stop touching! I'm kidding...sort of. I've actually been praying for huggers during this time.

Right now, we're really not allowed to touch anyone besides our immediate family or the people we live with (and by now, we're all probably at that point where we don't even really want to touch them). But loving our neighbors isn't limited to physically touching people. In fact, there are some big moments in Jesus' life where he was able to love people, even heal people, without touching them.

One story that comes to mind was written by a guy named John. John tells us that Jesus went up to Jerusalem one day for one of the Jewish festivals, and stopped at a pool there. Note: this wasn't Jesus stopping for a casual swim and a trip down a waterslide. This pool was more like a big public bathhouse for people who were disabled in some way.

While he was there, Jesus met a man who hadn't been able to walk for 38 years. Jesus talked to him a little bit, and after



Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." John 5:8, NRSV

hearing how long he had been coming to the pool and lying there, he simply said this to him: "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (John 5:8, NIV).

And guess what? The man did! He got up, picked up his mat, and walked out of there. So cool!

But what's even more awesome for us to remember right now is: Jesus loved this man without having to touch him at all. Like not even a pat on the shoulder, he simply healed him through a few words.

Our words matter. Like Jesus shows us in this story, our words are powerful.

Maybe we can't make someone walk with our words, but we can use them to change someone's day. Maybe their life. Calling a friend. Writing a note and sending it to your grandma. Hosting a Zoom Bible study. Putting away the phone and really

connecting with your spouse. Playing a game with the whole family. Texting someone who you haven't seen in a while to ask how they're doing.

We don't have to touch our neighbor to love them well. Words are powerful. Let's use them. To let someone know they're not alone. To help someone see the ways God is at work in their lives. To tell a person about the incredible gifts they have.

## 3. Start with One Person a Day

Okay so all of this is nice, but how do we practically accomplish loving our neighbor right now?

I mean, Adam, I'm working from home for the first time.

I'm trying to homeschool my kids and am overwhelmed just trying to do that!

I can't seem to find the motivation to get out of my pajamas every day, much less love my neighbor.

Start with one person a day.

One person? Yep, just one. That's not that many.

Send one text today. Schedule one Zoom call. Drop off a gift card for a friend. Write one letter. Bake cookies for your next-door neighbor. Budget money you want to donate. Sign up to volunteer.

Make it your goal to love one person today and watch that multiply.

It's easy to get overwhelmed with all the people that need our love right now and all the different ways we could love them. But what if you just started with one person today? That's not so crazy, right?

When we start with one person a day, it makes it easier to love our neighbor from 6 feet away. We stop being so stressed, and start seeing this as an opportunity to really love that one person well.

So, who is the one person you can love today? Is it your mom? The person down the hall of your apartment building? Your roommate? That friend from high school? Your grandpa? The cashier at the grocery store? Your favorite barista that you haven't seen in a while?

Go do it. Love them! Love one neighbor today, and see how that changes their day (and yours) for the better. What if this time we're in right now is one of the greatest opportunities we have to love others in our lifetime?

These are just a few ways we can be the hands and feet of Jesus even when we have to stay 6 feet apart from each other. Even with recent talks of restrictions being lifted, a sense of normal seems to be weeks, maybe months away.

Once all this is over, let's remember not to take for granted those simple acts of love that are harder to come by right now—a handshake, a hug, a helping hand—and commit to always loving our neighbors well, no matter what the circumstance.

## June Financial Update

Receipts .....\$18,732  
Disbursements .....\$16,418

## Back-to-school Bible verses

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (GNT)

I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength.

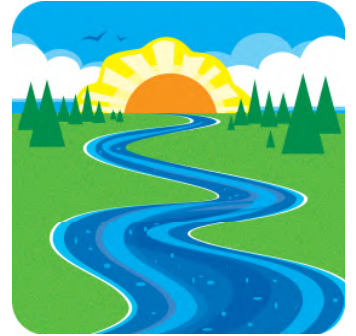
Philippians 4:13 (ICB)

Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.

Philippians 4:6-7 (CEV)

## A Prayer for the Overwhelmed

Lord, when my heart is overwhelmed, overwhelm me with Your peace. Lead me to You, my rock. Guide me to Your Word which gives me strength and refuge. Help me not to run to lesser things. Draw me to run to You first. Help me get into the habit of taking my “overwhelmed” and placing it under your will. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



—Jennifer Rothschild

