



News From The Rock

December 2013

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Dedication Sunday

Solid Rock's new facility was dedicated during morning worship on Sunday, November 3, 2013. Participating in the dedication/consecration liturgy were Building Committee Chair Bruce Preston and Northeast District Superintendent Rev.



Dr. Dave Michel. Executive Assistant to the Bishop of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Cindy Reynolds, delivered the sermon.

Numerous praise songs and hymns were featured throughout the service. Members brought their own offerings of rocks to add to the rock garden outside the front entrance. The morning celebration concluded with a shared carry-in lunch.

Relief opportunities

If you would like to donate to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for disaster relief due to the typhoon in the Philippines or tornadoes in Indiana and Illinois, please place your donation in the offering marked appropriately. Please pray for the victims who are hurting physically and emotionally.



Youth Fellowship

UMYF had a great fall party! Thank you to Cindy and Deb for providing soup for us. We carved pumpkins and played games.

Thanks also to those who have provided snacks for our youth meetings. At our last meeting we talked about empathy, and how to show that to others.

Remember to turn in reservations for

the lasagna supper to Marie or the church office. The youth are working hard on entertainment for the supper and it should be a fun time!

If anyone is interested in being a youth mentor, please let us know. UMYF is for all youth in grades 6-12. Please join us and bring a friend!



Upcoming UMYF Events

- December 1: Caroling with the church at Heritage Pointe
- December 7: Lasagna Supper, 6:00 p.m. at the church
- December 22: UMYF Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- January 3-4: Lock-In at the church
- January 19: UMYF Meeting, 6:45-8:15
- February 2: Make pizzas after church
- February 16: UMYF Meeting, 6:45-8:15

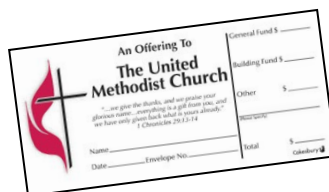
Scholarship reminder

College students, remember to turn in to the church office your credit hours for the next semester so that your scholarship check may be written.



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes will be distributed by request this year. If you would like offering envelopes for 2014, contact



Wanda Spahr at 375-3147 (home) or 375-3873 (church office.)

Just Leaning on the Rock!

by Pastor Kathy Newton



All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The

"Do you want to have the best Christmas ever? Then come home to Christ."

shepherds were frightened. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's home-

town a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:9-11)

This quote from Tim Keller is spot on: "Christmas is the end of thinking you are better than someone else, because Christmas is telling you that you could never get to heaven on your own. God had to come to you." God sent His Son to be born of a virgin to take our sin and redeem us. The sooner we realize that we had NOTHING to do with this the better off we will be. God's grace had everything to do with it and we had nothing other than our helplessness. We celebrate Christmas with a fervor for family, gifts, gatherings and food but do we make Christ a priority? Do we worship the One who left the perfection of heaven to walk this earth?

Do you want to have the best Christmas ever? Then come home to Christ. You will remain unfulfilled and restless and homesick until God becomes your dwelling place and you find your home in Him. It's time to come home right now. The good news is that we don't have to find our way home – Immanuel (Christ with us) has found His way to us.

Come Home this Christmas,
Pastor Kathy

O.K., she wins this one

The learning continues: In every move made previously, renting a storage unit was not part of the process. However, when one house is sold and there is no possibility of moving into the next one for an indeterminate amount of time, the storage unit becomes a part of the solution.

Since the previous homeowners had experienced foreclosure, they apparently did not attempt to maintain the upkeep of their home. Every single room needed paint. Where floors were carpeted, new carpeting was absolutely necessary. All towel bars and switch plates were removed. Needless to say, the asking price reflected the condition and I was firmly convinced that not only would the "fixing up" keep me occupied as I tried to get accustomed to a September without "going to school," but ultimately it was going to be a good investment.

News From The Rock

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Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship at 10:00

at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren

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News deadline for the January newsletter: December 22

My plan went something like this: as soon as one room is ready, drive to the storage unit, pull out whatever is supposed to go in it, take it home, unpack and set everything in its place. Truly, had no concept of how the entire contents of a home were packed and stacked into a 35' storage unit or the impossibility of trying to reach the top of the stack, or find boxes that contained anything I wanted on any given day. Had kept out the shoes I was wearing, and only two changes of clothes, not realizing how long "closing" was going to take. If I did manage to open the door by myself, could not then reach high enough to close it. Had to have my brother or any number of nephews with me every time. Took 17 days to find my shoes.

Once the unit was empty, I was sharing my whine with someone who had her own story. Her husband's company gave him a job on the west coast and hired movers for them. With the van packed, the couple began the drive across country. Upon reaching their destination, while waiting for the moving van to arrive they were informed the job had fallen through. No house, no furniture and no job.

No contest. She wins.

Barbara Kleinhans

Muscular Dystrophy Association Fundraiser

To support Pastor Kathy's fundraising effort on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, please visit this website:

www2.mda.org/goto/pastorkathynewton13



Read on to learn about local camper Jared.

- Age: 12
- Number of years at camp: 3
- Favorite camp activities: Art Barn, horseback riding, swimming, archery
- What Jared enjoys most about camp: Enjoyed the movie night with his entire cabin and practicing his archery skills
- Interests: Legos, science, and exploring
- Diagnosis: Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is a genetic disorder characterized by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness. DMD is caused by an absence of dystrophin, a protein that helps keep muscle cells intact. Symptom

onset is early, usually between ages 3 and 5, and primarily in boys. Muscle weakness first affects the muscles of the hips, pelvic area, thighs and shoulders, and later the skeletal (voluntary) muscles in the arms, legs and trunk. By the early teens, the heart and respiratory muscles also are affected and a wheelchair becomes necessary on an everyday basis. With medical advancements, life expectancy is increasing but still in the mid-20s for most.

Thank you for helping provide services and support for Jared throughout the year!

Your dollars support:

- \$30: Flu Shot
- \$70: One Minute of Research
- \$100: One Support Group Session
- \$150: One Therapy Consultation
- \$300: Initial MDA Clinic Appointment
- \$500: Medical Equipment Repair
- \$800: Sends one kid to camp!
- \$3,900: One Hour of Research

Every dollar stays in Northern Indiana!

October Financial Update

General Offerings	\$12,893
General Fund Expenses	\$23,212
Building Fund Contributions	\$2,856

What do the candles in our Advent wreath mean?

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle.

Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.



The lighting of the first candle symbolizes expectation, the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.



A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS
gyhMti

dGo

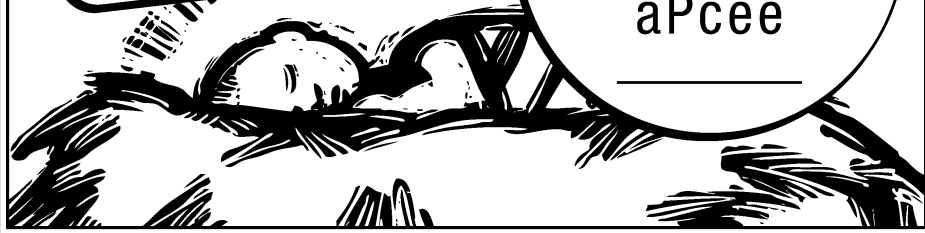
MY NAME IS
lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS
vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY NAME IS
niPcre _____ of
aPcee



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Happy birthday, Jesus!

Each Christmas, a family celebrated by holding a birthday party for Jesus. To remind themselves of Jesus' presence, they placed a chair of honor for him at their dinner table.

The highlight of the party was



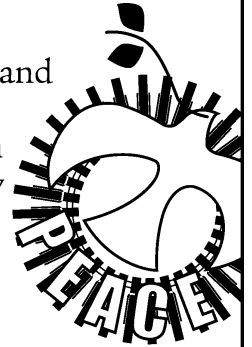
singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and then blowing out the candles on a special cake.

One Christmas, a visitor asked the family's 5-year-old daughter, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" The girl paused and then answered, "No! It's not my birthday!"

PEACE Wreath

What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- Paint brush
- Embroidery hoop
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- Glue
- 3 white feathers
- Floral wire (two pieces)



What you do:

1. Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green. When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
2. Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
3. Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
4. From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
5. From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
6. Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
7. Attach wire to the back and hang up your wreath.

A tale of the candy cane

The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.



The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for "Jesus."

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; receiving is better than giving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.

Dear Lord, I cannot comprehend that You, the Creator of the universe, took on flesh and were born of a peasant girl. You, the One who spoke galaxies into existence, became a speechless newborn baby. You, the One who gave the stars their light, veiled Your own glory and slipped unnoticed into the human race. You, the One who clothed all of nature in its boundless beauty and order, came to us wrapped in rags and lying in a feeding trough. The miracle of Your incarnation is all too unexpected, too mysterious, too holy for me to understand. I can only follow the



shepherds to the manger and bow in astonishment and thanksgiving, glorifying and praising You for all that I have heard and seen. I love you. Amen.

- Prayer from the
Maranatha Worship Bible
(Luke 2)



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