

News From The Rock

December 2018

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Scholarship News

The Solid Rock Scholarship Fund began as The Kriegbaum Fund at Warren UMC in 1959, provided by Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Kriegbaum. Since then many students have applied themselves to this fund as a means to defray



their expenses for higher education. Christians are called to strive for good practices in stewarding well their time, practical knowledge, academic talents, and finances for God's glory in their work. Anyone aspiring to apply for the 2019-2020 academic year Scholarship may obtain this year's application form, as early as Monday December 3, from the church office or from the church website at solidrockumc.com. The due date for completed applications will be March 15, 2019. You are welcome to reach out to myself or the Committee with any questions you may have.

—Chairperson, Kelly McCormick Bangs
(260) 375-2223
kellymcbangs@gmail.com

Thank you!

Thank you to the veterans, veterans' families and active duty military who attended the Celebration Sunday. Thank you to the Solid Rock Church family who joined in to show your love and support of our veterans and military. Solid Rock Church is truly blessed by God with amazing volunteers and talented members and guests!

Thank you to the video and sound department for going above and beyond for the veterans. Thank you to Dave Spahr, Lynn and Vicki Bonewitz, the SOS group,

Tara Korporal, Kelly Leidig, the dessert makers and the top-notch decorators, greeters, servers and kitchen staff! Thank you to John and the youth group for getting drinks to everyone.

Much appreciation for sharing their talents goes to Larry Ryan, Huntington Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the musical group led by Linda Walters, "A Few Good Men," with sign language by Jen Plummer.

Approximately 225 attended the Celebration with 43 veterans and active duty honored. Praying that Solid Rock and guests provided our veterans and military with an honorable service, meal and entertainment that they are SO DESERVING of! Most of all, thank you veterans for serving and sacrificing. God Bless You and God Bless America!

Feasting on the Word

Getting ready for the celebration of God's gift to us of his Son is the center of the Monday evening Bible studies. The faith of the Church is that gift giving began with God a long time ago, in the promises of God coming to us in the form of a special person. The disciples recognized that person as Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God. Listed below are the Bible texts for these Monday evening studies in the church kitchen, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- December 3: Isaiah 2:1-5 (Joe Haney, leader)
- December 10: James 5:7-11 (Perry Spahr, leader)

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from
Pastor Paul

I'm not leaving the Church!

by Bishop Julius C. Trimble

My grandparents, Julius and Lucile Pryor, and parents, John and Marybelle Pryor Trimble, were members of Old Ship African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church in Montgomery, Alabama. My mother, who is 96 years old, still remains connected to, and shares a part of her title with, Old Ship AME Zion. Established in 1852, Old Ship AME Zion Church is listed as the oldest black church in Montgomery, Alabama. This historic church was served by white ministers until 1862. Its original building was given to the congregation by the Court Street Methodist Church which is now First United Methodist of Cloverdale, Alabama.

When my parents were married and moved to Chicago, they chose the nearest Methodist church within walking distance as our family had grown and, at the time, my parents were raising six children. Christ Methodist Church, now Christ United Methodist Church, a community-based church on the Southside of Chicago became our home. It was out of Christ Church that I was confirmed and became active in MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship). It was at Christ Church I was able to attend Methodist camps and participate in Young Life urban ministries such as going camping in Boulder, Colorado. It was at Christ Church that the Bible came alive and peace and justice were never divorced from evangelistic efforts aimed at becom-

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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.

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- December 17: Luke 2:1-52 (Jorita Banter, leader)

Please note that because of the Christmas date, our December 24 gathering will be the Christmas Eve service. The December 31 gathering will also be our New Year's Eve worship.

You are encouraged to use these Monday evenings for the strengthening of your life journey!

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on Thursday, November 1, 2018. President Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and opened with a devotional on United Meth-

odist Women World Thank Offering. The Purpose of the United Methodist Women was recited by all.

The November Prayer Calendar Mission Focus was for Wesley House Community Center, Knoxville, Tennessee. Birthday of the month is November 2 for Ardell Graner, native of North Dakota and a missionary of Global U.M. Missions, serving in the Dominican Republic.

Bernie Garrett asked for joys and concerns and offered prayer for those mentioned.

Mission Moment was given by Doris Souers, "The First Thanksgiving of November 1621."

Roll call and secretary's report were given by Doris Souers. Barbara Hart gave the treasurer's report.

The Mini Mission U and Officer Enrichment Day will be November 10 at Aldersgate U.M. Church in Fort Wayne,

The program presented by Barbara Hart was "World Thank Offering." It was about celebrating and feasting with family and friends, using scripture from John 21:1-19, with Jesus feeding the disciples gathered around the table, and giving instructions to them, nurturing both the body and the spirit. A "Thank Offering" was also given by those attending.

The next meeting will be December 6. Bernie Garret has the Mission Moment and Martha Plummer has the program.

The meeting was closed by all reciting the prayer.

Doris Souers,
Secretary



- ROCK SOLID YOUTH
 - Grades 5-12

Adult Classes

- FAITHFUL FAMILIES
 - Learning about living out God's hope and love for marriage, for raising children, and for giving to God's work in our community.
- FIRM FOUNDATION
 - Will be studying "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton beginning December 9. Adam travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem, looking at the birth of Jesus.
- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE
 - Currently studying The Bible Project series.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

- FEASTING ON THE WORD
 - Meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the church kitchen

For more information on small groups, call the church office, 375-3873.

SOS

SOS met at the church on November 8. Co-hostess was Cheryl DeWeese and the lesson was given by Debb Smitley. There were 14 members and one guest in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Kodi Elliott.

The minutes for the October meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given.

The lesson was given by Debb, giving us various readings about Thanksgiving.

Joys and concerns were spoken by the members and prayer was led by Kodi.

Old business was discussed and a few new items were introduced under New Business.

The love offering was collected. The monies collected each month are given to a local resident or organization who is in need of funds.

Prayer partners for the next month will be the second person to your right. Next meeting will be December 13 at the church and will be our Christmas celebration.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.

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

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

Pastor: Rev. Paul Burris

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News deadline for the January newsletter: December 23

October Financial Update

General Offerings	\$15,347
General Fund Expenses	\$15,817
Mortgage Balance	\$24,254

Solid Rock Small Group Opportunities

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS (Sunday School)

Children's Classes

- PEBBLES (Nursery)
 - Ages 0-4
- LITTLE ROCKS/ROCK FOUNDATIONS
 - Preschool-Grade 4

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ing disciples of Jesus, bringing others to Jesus, and professing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

While shooting pool at Africa University with students this past October, I was able to share that it was at my church where I first learned to play ping pong and shoot pool. The church was a place of belonging and affirmation, and out of this inner-city Chicago church over 25 men and women expressed a call to ministry – some of us remain connected today.

The early disputes, I remember, in our church were related to the addition of a Gospel Choir and drums in the church, pastoral authority, and how welcoming we would be to outside groups who wanted to use the church building. Over the course of 25 years, even after I had left the church for college and seminary, there were several chapters in the life of the church when a handful of people would leave for a more popular church, a safer neighborhood, a senior choir dispute, the length of worship service, or the proverbial “I’m not getting fed the Word” excuse. My mother never left. She never stopped tithing and she never stopped praying for whoever the pastor assigned to our church was. After being widowed in 1969, it was the church that walked with my mother and our family in grief. It was the church that helped this public school teacher raise six children, sending five off to college.

Our church was not perfect and we did not always get the welcoming piece right. Like many churches, we became comfortable with the people we knew and the ministries we supported.

People moved away to different communities, young people went off to college and the military, and the church would decline in number, rebound and decline again. Some people stayed and served meals in one of the largest feeding programs in that part of Chicago based in the church. Some continued to support children and youth who often came without parents. And some stayed committed to weekly prayer and Bible study, and the ministry of encouragement.

My mother was and is one of those persons. On the matter of getting spiritually-fed, she has always believed that we each have a responsibility to read the Bible and participate in Bible study. “When I go to church on Sunday I have already had breakfast, prayed, and read daily devotions.” She, to this day, writes and sends notes and letters of prayer support and en-

couragement all over the country to family and friends, including to those who share with her the experience of losing their spouse to death.

My mother would be considered in our current debate on the way forward, a Traditionalist with progressive beliefs about full inclusion. For her, it is God who judges and we who have the opportunity and responsibility to love God and others. Her roots are too deep to leave the church. People did not leave the Church even though they were slaves in 1852, and Methodists were slave owners. The Church remained segregated until 1968 and people stayed committed to the mission. People did not leave the Church even though God was calling women to preach and the Church did not have open doors, minds, or encouragement. People did not leave the Church even though some believe the death penalty does not honor the commandments in the Bible and is denounced in the Book of Discipline while other United Methodists believe that the death penalty is an appropriate dispensation of justice for those convicted of capital offenses.

The Judicial Council has ruled on the three main proposals and their constitutional legality, giving more direction for those who will deliberate and vote next February.

What should we do? Let us commit to “Praying Our Way Forward.”

No prayer no power, little prayer little power, much prayer much power!

The 2016 General Conference authorized the Council of Bishops to help our church remain united in mission and find a way forward out of our long-standing conflict over human sexuality and inclusion. Lost in much of the debate around Biblical authority, and justice and inclusion is the keyword associated with the Commission established to propose options for us to stop fighting and re-engage in our public mission of evangelism and world transformation.

The Commission on A Way Forward was established with a focus on a new horizon for The United Methodist Church. Lost in the translation of Christian Conferencing Guidelines and protracted debates about language in our book of Discipline is the compelling call for a more helpful and fresh Wesleyan movement to frame our passion for grace and growth.

“A way forward.” As an adverb, forward means “to or toward what is ahead or in front.”

As a verb.....” to promote or help on-

ward; advance, cultivate, encourage, fasten, further, incubate, innovate, nourish, nurture.”

When I left the Council of Bishops meeting after having received the last update from the Commission on A Way Forward I discerned that the conversation to lead us out of the present conundrum was centered on “a way forward.”

Not a way back. Not a way out. Not a way to create winners and losers, insiders and outsiders.

Not a way to devour or destroy. Not a way to divide, or to quit. Not a way to sugar coat new forms of segregation or redefine the denomination.

As the hymn writer puts it;
“Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall,
in each loss or triumph, lose or conquer all.
Bound by God’s far purpose in one living whole,
move we on together to the shining goal.
Forward through the ages!”

(*The United Methodist Hymnal* Number 555)

I’m not leaving regardless of what proposal or plans are passed. You don’t have to leave either.

Stay true to the primary mission of making disciples of Jesus and sharing the love of Jesus with one another as commanded in John 13:34-35:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.” (NRSV)

Remember dearly beloved, we are not voted into the Church, we are baptized into the Church.

Family Ministry Update

by John Pearson
Family Ministry Coordinator

In the newsletter last month I mentioned that we are looking into somehow extending Kid’s Club. We are still working on what that will completely look like, but we will be having a special Kid’s Night on January 24th from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Rock Solid Youth attendance has been averaging 10 the past few weeks. We had a great time at the “Big Church Night Out” concert on November 9th. We started a topic in November on Hell and will be looking into that and Heaven over the next couple months.

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We are doing a lock-in with "The WAY" on January 2nd-3rd from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m. Permission slips and money are due by December 16th.

While the college kids are home on break we will be doing a game night here at the church on December 19th starting around 4:00 p.m. and going until whenever. On December 20th we will be going skiing together for those college kids that would like to go.

We are in need of volunteers for children's church and the nursery during service. We have a curriculum that we are using for children's church, so there will be minimal planning involved. If you are interested in helping in either or both of these areas, please let me know.



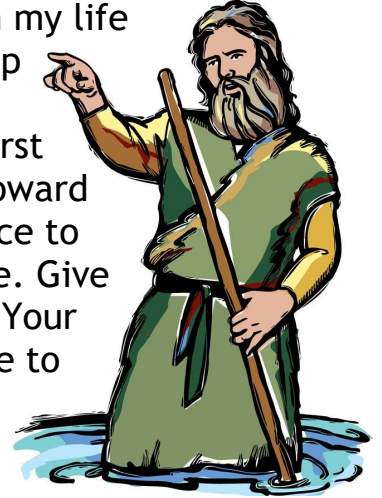
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Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worship of You this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward the day where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus. Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change my ways.



—Sarah Martin

