

News From The Rock

December 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Order of Worship to be provided

Solid Rock will begin emailing a copy of the order of worship for the upcoming Sunday each week. In addition, paper copies will be available when entering the sanctuary. If you are not already on the church's email list and would like to receive these messages, please contact Jane in the office at 375-3873.

Bazaar Happenings

The Solid Rock Fall Bazaar was a success! The lunch was super tasty, the vendors offered some wonderful items, and many visitors blew in to take part in the fun!

There were 14 vendors, six which were from our Solid Rock family. Even the Children's Sunday School got involved and were able to donate three flocks of chickens to the Heifer Project. Wow!

A huge shout of "Thanks!" goes out to absolutely everyone who helped out and attended! The SOS gals acted as our Kitchen Committee with Lana Myers and Linda Howell stepping up to organize and stalk the aisles of Kroger, Aldi's and GFS looking for supplies! Martina Cocklin, Candy Smith, Robert DeWeese, Jim and Liz Rider helped with set-up and tear down.

Because of your marvelous support, we will be able to support our own and other local ministries with the proceeds. A meeting will be held soon to discuss the distribution of funds.

We are so blessed to a part of the Body of Christ!

Blessings!
Mindy Rider,
Bazaar Chairperson

Concession Stand Report

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us for the year. Your help made it possible for us to have \$7,000 to distribute in the community. The following are the organizations we chose to give funds to: By the Book Bible Trailer, \$500; Salamonie School Student Council, \$500; Friends of the Library summer reading program, \$500; Boy Scouts of Warren-Markle, \$500; Boys and Girls Club, Warren Branch, \$1,000; Warren Baseball/Softball for equipment, \$300; Solid Rock "Flock of Birds," \$100; Solid Rock Christmas Year Round, \$1,100; Warren Area Ministerial Association, \$2,500.

We could not do this without those who volunteer. Once again thank you to all who made this possible.



Veterans Celebration

Thank you to the veterans, veterans' families and active-duty military that attended the Celebration Sunday, November 6th. Thank you to the Solid Rock Church family that 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!

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Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

God Doesn't Take Days Off

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." —Psalm 121:1-8; ESV

Solid Rock had just participated in a community service which united all the area churches and their congregations into one central area to worship together. One person came to me afterwards and stated, "So, Pastor John, you had a day off from church, huh?" I know they meant no harm in the statement, yet I felt it needed to be said that there wasn't a day off from church. There was great planning by all the pastors for preparing for such a service, and even though it might seem that some played larger parts within the service, all equally assisted to bring God glory in all that we did. The statement prompted me to write this article, so thank you for the inspiration.

It is true we all like to have days off for vacations, for family time, for self-care

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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.

Bible Study

December brings us to the end of our calendar year of 2022 and ushers in the new church year calendar. What an exciting time to be alive! This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday; how amazing. With all of the additional



activities planned for the Advent season, you are encouraged to set aside one hour on Monday evenings for the Solid Rock UMC Bible study. Pastor John will be leading us through a renewed look at the life of Jesus. Our studies are being held in the church kitchen, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Fol-

lowing are the dates and scriptures for our study.

- December 5: Matthew 2:1-12, Seeing Jesus Through Herod and the Magi (Joe Haney, leader)
- December 12: Luke 2:21-40; Seeing Jesus Through Those He Touched (Jorita Banter, leader)
- December 19: John 19:16b-37, Seeing Jesus Through Those He Touched – The Cross (Joe Haney, leader)
- December 26: John 20:19-31, Seeing Jesus Through Those He Touched – Today's World (Jorita Banter, leader)

There is always room for one more at the table of the Word.

—Joe Haney, Coordinator

SOS

SOS met on November 11 at Debb Smitley's house with co-hostess Susan Mills. The lesson was given by Bonnie Meyers around the theme of Thanksgiving.

It was reported that 400 packets of cocoa mix were handed out at the Scarecrow Festival.

SOS will purchase some kitchen items to help with the Bazaar (long-handled spoons and two roasters).

Next year's signup for committees, host, hostess, and lesson provider was passed around for member to sign up.

Officers were elected for 2023: Brenda Conner, President; Cheryl DeWeese, Vice-President; Susan Mills, Secretary; Lana Myers, Correspondence Secretary; Allison Voght, Treasurer.

The next meeting will be on December 8 with Cindy as hostess.

October Financial Update

General Fund Receipts	\$11,602
General Fund Expenses	\$13,764

Why Christmas Trees Have Ornaments

Have you ever found yourself asking, "Why do we hang ornaments on a tree?" Come along as we travel back in time to answer this question.

Join Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, in the 16th century walking home on a snowy winter evening pondering a sermon. The moon was shining bright in the sky and snow was freshly fallen. The snow was resting on the tree limbs, sparkling,

shining and glittering like the stars in the sky.

Martin was so struck by the beauty of God's nature that he wanted to capture this brilliance and bring it home to share with his family so, he came up with the idea of placing lighted candles on his Christmas tree. The Luther Family tree was displayed in the main room with lighted candles that shined the flickering candle light, just like the snowy scene. The candle light illuminated the tree's decorations.

Ornaments such as paper flowers, cookies, fruit and nuts were used to decorate Christmas trees as a sign that spring and life would return in the coming months. Paper streamers, popcorn and cranberries were strung to add color and life the Christmas tree.

To really understand why we decorate Christmas trees, we must travel back farther in time to the year 723. Saint Boniface was working his way through Germany on an evangelical mission.

Boniface came across a pagan gathering. The people were dancing around a decorated oak tree, preparing to sacrifice a baby in the name of Thor. Boniface was appalled at the sight and in one swing of an axe, chopped down the oak tree in the name of Jesus Christ. When the oak tree fell, it revealed a small fir tree. Boniface explained to the group that the fir tree is a symbol of the one true God; its leaves are ever green and it will not die, with even its needles pointing to heaven. Tradition states that from that moment, fir trees were brought into Christian homes, decorated in the name of Jesus. Hanging religious ornaments on a tree was a way to honor the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus Christ's birth.

So, why do we decorate Christmas trees? The answer has a historical birth, but it has also become an honored family tradition. It is a time to gather as a family, reflect on the year and celebrate the upcoming Christmas season with those we hold dearest and nearest to our hearts.

Each Christmas ornament tells a story and allows the family to celebrate each milestone, reflect on vacations, pastimes, hobbies, and interests. Each family's Christmas tree tells a unique and beautiful story that is special to them. Traditional ornament collections are passed down from generation to generation. The next time you walk into a friend's house, ask about the story of their ornaments and you may uncover a lovely story.

—Rachael Mitchell



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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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Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Friday

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(Continued from *Pastor John*, page 1)

and other reasons; myself included. At the same time, being called by God to do the things I do as a pastor and bondservant to God, if the needs arise, I do whatever God needs me to do whenever He needs me to. Why? Because He set the example for me. As the passage shares, He never slumbers or sleeps when it comes to caring for us, loving us and desiring intimacy with Him. He never takes a day off.

I know that this is where some of you good Bible students will say, “*Oh yeah? What about when God created the heavens and the earth? In Genesis, it tells us He rested on the seventh day... What about that?*” Good question. Here’s the answer: His work on creation was completed; *there was no more work to do*. Also, the day of rest was established not for the sake of God needing rest, but for mankind. God is an unlimited resource of power, strength, and abilities. As the Scriptures share just what He does for *each of us*, just those examples scratch the surface of all that He does for us. I know I alone am a full-time task to look after!

Knowing this, can you begin to understand just how great His love is for us? As my wife and I began to have our children, we noted that we couldn’t take “days off” of being parents. Yes, we might have had some time apart from them; however, it didn’t stop us from worrying about our children and their safety. We realized how God feels about each of us; not that He’s worried but caring for us. Look at the ways He longs to bless us and to provide for all our needs. Just like a parent, our heavenly Father seeks every opportunity to bless us.

Think of your children for a moment when they were young and playing in a playground or in your yard: what was it like for the children? Did they know how you kept watch over them for protection? Did they have an understanding that they could go about their playing and interactions with one another/others because you were keeping watch over them? Probably not. In the same manner, how many of us can not see how God does this for our lives? We have freedoms, choices, relationships, and protection because of God looking out for our wellbeing. It brings me comfort that God doesn’t take days off or slumbers because I don’t want to imagine what could take place if He wasn’t present in my life.

As Christmas comes, we are reminded about the gift that God gives us in Christ. I hope that we also remember the gift which

God gives us in Himself. Along with that, I pray that we also remember the gift of the Holy Spirit and how His presence protects and guides us to a fuller and more intimate relationship with God, Jesus Christ and to remember that none of the Trinity rests or slumbers when it comes to caring for each of us!

(Continued from *Veterans*, page 1)

Thank you to the video and sound department, Gary and Bruce, for going above and beyond for the veterans. Thank you to Wendell Brown, Rose Broyles, Brenda Conner, Lynn and Vicki Bonewitz, Pastor John, Kelly and Tim Leidig, Dale Parker, Robert DeWeese, Jane Hitzfield, Donna Bolinger, Jill Eltzroth, Lana Meyers, Dave Spahr, Beth and Monte Lightner, the Plummer Family, the Men’s Fellowship Group, Pastor John, the table arrangement crew, the dessert makers, the top-notch decorators, greeters, servers and kitchen staff!

Thank you to the great youth group for getting drinks to everyone. Much appreciation for sharing their talents goes to “A Few Good Men” and the veterans, Tim Eckert, Michael Blaugher, George, Ed Robbins, and Leland Gamson!

Approximately 140 attended the celebration with 30 veterans and active duty honored in attendance. We are blessed to have almost 200 veterans and active duty with two service dogs on the video. 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!
—Veteran’s Celebration Committee

Sound system upgrades

Administrative Council recently approved a tune-up of Solid Rock’s existing sound system. In addition, they established a Sound System Upgrade Fund to begin collecting funds for eventual replacement of some key components. Donations toward this project will be gladly accepted.



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From trashed to treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom.

They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured.

—Heidi Mann



Worthy of repair

In Quito, Ecuador, Gonzalo Gallardo belongs to the Heritage Guardians, a group of traditional artisans.

His specialty is restoring figurines, and near Christmas he often fixes Baby Jesus statues for nativity scenes.

“People don’t throw them out,” he says. “The feeling is, ‘This is my figure, and I will repair it.’”

Gallardo’s restorative gifts don’t end there. He uses the same pigments (made from vegetables, minerals and oils) to treat actual humans. People with sunburns, bruises and scars stop by Gallardo’s shop for skin “treatments” that cost pennies. “We are here to help people,” he says.

How much more does God, through the Christmas gift of Jesus, repair our brokenness and restore us from death to life so we, like Gallardo, can help others.

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.”

—Neal A. Maxwell

Prayer Requests

Requests for prayer should be directed to
Solid Rock Office at 375-3873
during office hours or
Pastor John Boyanowski
at (260) 580-8305
when office is closed

A fresh look

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
God Is in the Manger



In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting—that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth—and Your death—sealed Your promise to us forever.

— Rebecca Barlow Jordan

2022 **DECEMBER**

Warren, IN 46792
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