

# News From The Rock

February 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## Henderson Work Camp

On Sunday, March 20, 2022, our cluster will be heading down to Frakes, Kentucky (Henderson Settlement) for our annual work camp. We will be returning Friday, March 25. The cost of this mission trip is \$250, which covers accommodations, meals, and transportation to and from Frakes. There are registration forms in the office. The forms and registration fee are due February 28.



The work camp at Henderson Settlement will serve two purposes. First and primarily, it serves as an opportunity to educate persons in mission and the needs that exist amongst the less fortunate in our society. Secondly, work camp often serves as the bridge between dreams and reality for families of the Laurel Fork Valley of southeastern Kentucky, while giving groups the opportunity to witness for Christ through home repair and other assorted tasks.

You don't need to be an expert in any area as there will be opportunities for all ages and skill levels on this mission trip. If you have any questions concerning this trip please contact Pastor Paul at (260) 609-9260.

## UMCOR giving

Thank you for your love! In response to the tornado disaster, you donated \$491 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief during December for U.S. disaster relief.

When disaster strikes, United Methodists



have a long legacy of helping. The need continues and donations are accepted at any time. Just designate your donation for UMCOR. Don't forget: 100% of your gift goes to relief efforts. Thank you.

## Small group studies begin this month

Three new small group studies will begin the week of January 30. The purpose of these groups is to help people grow in faith and in their understanding of and love for God. It is the goal of each group to provide an environment in which participants can experience authentic community and spiritual growth in an open, non-threatening setting. The groups will continue for 10 weeks, concluding the week of April 3.



### NOOMA

**Facilitator: Pastor Paul Burris**  
**Groups will be offered two times:**  
**Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**  
**at the church**  
**First session: February 2, 2022**

Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. Wherever he went, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God

*(Continued on page 3)*



*"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them."*

As we celebrate the month of February and Valentine's Day, I felt it fitting to talk a bit about the love Jesus instructs us to have. Above you'll see two verses the disciples received. Admittedly it is sometimes easy to love those you profess to love. There are times when even that is difficult, but here Jesus tells us, His modern day disciples, to love our enemies and to love those who hate us. My response would be, "Are you kidding me? Lord you want me to love those who don't even like me? Can we talk?"



Jesus, later in Luke, explains why this is important. We as redeemed children of God must strive to be better people than sinners. I know, you've heard me call myself chief of all sinners and indeed I am. However, as a child of God I am to emulate the one who saved me. Therefore I must love those who seem unlovable to me. I must love those who refuse to love others. I am expected to love those who do not love me. So in light of the Hallmark holiday of love, think on Jesus' definition of love and join me as I strive to show Jesus' love to ALL.

See You Sunday,  
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.*

## Mini-library Shelf

A sampling of books on the church's mini-library shelf located in the fellowship hall under the bulletin board next to the janitor/supply room:

*Wounded by God's People* Discovering how God's love heals our hearts by Billy Graham's daughter Anne Graham Lotz. Everyone has been wounded, hurt, neglected. The most painful wounds may have been inflicted by religious people.

Anne leads those who have been hurt by God's people to the healing power of God's love.



### News From The Rock

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#### Solid Rock United Methodist Church

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

Closed Friday

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News deadline for the March  
newsletter: February 20

### 1001 Surprising Things You Should Know About Christianity

A collection of fun and revealing facts and brief descriptions that make up Christendom. From martyrs to holidays, battles, revivals, people, symbols, art and music become better acquainted with the Christian faith. (Not a book to read cover to cover. Just read what interests you.)

Example: #334 "The Bible is the world's best-selling book as well as the world's most shoplifted book!"

*Is God Speaking to Me? How to discern His voice and direction* by Lysa TerKeurst. Chapter titles: "A Soul that Longs for More," "Hearing God's Voice," "Radically Blessed." (A very small "Pocket Book.")

## Walking from Epiphany to Lent – "Feasting on the Word"

Monday evening Bible studies will move from new insights about the ministry of Jesus/our mission to meeting afresh the suffering Messiah. You are encouraged, even urged, to meet with others who are willing to journey



with Jesus in the life of faith. This group meets for one hour in the Solid Rock kitchen for study and prayer. Below are the dates and scriptures that will be studied each Monday at 7:00 p.m.

- February 7: Matthew 14:22-33 (Getting Out of the Boat); Joe Haney, leader
- February 14: Matthew 25:14-30 (Investing in Jesus); Jorita Banter, leader
- February 21: Luke 9:28-36 (To the Mountaintop with Jesus); Ann Spahr, leader
- February 28: John 14:1-14 (Trouble Into Triumph); Joe Haney, leader

Please note that Ash Wednesday will be March 2. This is a time to be marked as a follower of Jesus.

Do come to the Bible study to receive the bread of life.

Joe Haney, Coordinator

### December Financial Update

General Fund Receipts..... \$19,952  
General Fund Expenses..... \$18,081

## Faith's role in love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).



But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."

## The right words for victory in Jesus

My mom tells a story of me as a preschooler, swinging in our backyard and singing loudly (and off key, I'm sure): "Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He socked me and bopped me with his redeeming blood." Though that isn't an example of how to effectively share Jesus with your neighbors, the mistaken words might contain a nugget of truth.

In 1939, a stroke partially paralyzed hymn writer Eugene Bartlett. Bedridden and unable to perform anymore, he penned his final, most beloved song, "Victory in Jesus." The actual lyrics read: "O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood."

It's beautiful to realize that Jesus did indeed seek me out and pay the ultimate price for me. But sometimes I forget — and that's when he "socks me" and "bops me." Jesus loves me too much to let life's chaos and struggles distract me from him and what he's done. Let's all remember to celebrate our victory in Jesus!

—Janna Firestone



(Continued from page 1)

is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in.

Nooma is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. Nooma is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. Starting on February 2, 2022, Pastor Paul will be lead this 10-week study to dig a little deeper into issues that we care about and are faced with on a regular basis. There will be two opportunities for you to sign up for: Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

### EXPLORING THE GOSPEL OF LUKE Online Group

Facilitator: Gary Walter  
Beginning the week of January 30

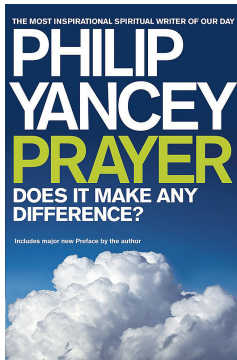
This group will explore the first five chapters of Luke with Pastor Matt Whitman. Our lessons will be in the form of engaging YouTube videos on Matt's channel, "The Ten Minute Bible Hour." This group meets online, using a private Facebook page. Participants will be expected to read brief scripture passages, view two 10-15 minute videos, and post at least one question or comment each week. Join us as Matt tackles such topics as "Mary Crushes It," "Humble Pie Tastes Like Garbage; Has Benefits," "First Century Superhero Landing," and "You Just Don't Eat Your Kit-ten." For more information, contact Gary at gary@solidrockumc.com.

Signup sheets are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

### Sunday morning "Prayer"

The small group meeting in the church kitchen on Sunday mornings is beginning the study by Philip Yancey: *Prayer: Does it Make any Difference?*

What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work? In six sessions, we will explore and experience the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect—of our relationship with God: prayer. Please join us.



### Honor thy teachers

When President Eisenhower invited James Michener to a White House dinner, the bestselling author replied: "Dear Mr. President, I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers." Instead of taking offense, Eisenhower answered: "In his lifetime, a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents. But a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."

Fine teachers are indeed worth cherishing, whether they hold classes in churches or public schools, on Sundays or on weekdays. Let us honor and appreciate all teachers, all year long. Thank you for preparing lessons with care, for going above and beyond to meet each student's needs, and for sparking curiosity about God and everything he created. You're a blessing!

### A prayer to our omnipotent God

Remind us, O God, that you are above us, watching over us as a good shepherd. You can see what we cannot see. Remind us that you are below us, ready to lift us up in our weakest moments. Remind us that you are behind us, to give us encouragement when we feel like giving up. Remind us that you are in front of us, calling us to move forward in faith, even when we can't see how things will work out. Remind us that you are beside us, holding our hands, no matter what we're going through. Remind us that you are within us, closer than each breath we take.

Jesus, thank you for being Emmanuel, God-with-us, and for not abandoning us. Thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit, who comes alongside to help us, even when no one else can. As we remember you, O God, strengthen our hope and restore the joy of our salvation. Amen.

—Malcolm Marler, adapted

### Valentine's Day trivia

1. Passing out Valentines is a 600-year-old tradition.

The oldest record of a Valentine is a poem Charles, the Duke of Orleans, wrote to his wife when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415, in which he refers to his wife as his "Valentine."

2. Today, millions of greeting cards are purchased every year.

We're talking 145 million greeting cards being exchanged industry-wide every year for Valentine's Day in the U.S. alone, according to Hallmark, making it the second largest holidays for greeting cards after Christmas.

3. "Vinegar Valentines" were used to deter suitors in Victorian England.

During the Victorian Era and into the 20th century, those who didn't want the attention of certain suitors would anonymously send "vinegar valentines" or "penny dreadfuls," which would range from sassy to cruel and could be purchased to insult just about anyone in your life.

4. Candy hearts were originally medical lozenges.

In 1847, Boston pharmacist Oliver Chase invented a machine that simplified the lozenge production process, resulting in the first candy-making machine. After identifying an opportunity to revolutionize the candy business, Chase shifted his focus to candy production with Necco wafers.

5. The candies got their iconic shape much later.

It wasn't until 15 years after the creation of Necco wafers that Daniel Chase's brother, Oliver Chase, developed a way to press words onto the candy lozenges with a felt roller pad and vegetable food coloring. It wasn't until 1902 that the conversational candies officially became heart-shaped.



6. Candy hearts weren't available in 2019.

In 2018, Necco declared bankruptcy, forcing the company to close its original plant and sell off its candy brands. Spangler Candy Company ended up acquiring the rights to Sweethearts, and after setting up production in a new plant, Sweethearts returned to shelves in 2020 — but not without a few changes due to equipment problems. Luckily, by 2021, Spangler had worked out the kinks.

—womansday.com



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### Biblical love notes

The following compliments from the Song of Solomon may not go over well on Valentine's Day: "I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots" (1:9). "Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead" (4:1). "Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing" (4:2). "Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses" (4:4). "[Your] eyes are like doves beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set" (5:12). "Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat" (7:2).

On the other hand, how about this one: "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you" (4:7).

As the sun rises, may your  
 love rise in my heart.  
 A love that dispels tiredness.  
 A love that overcomes  
 difficulty.



A love that builds a relationship.

A love that inspires diligence.

A love that delivers excellence.

A love that develops trust.

A love that produces praise.

Lord, may I live in the light of your love.

Amen.

—justdisciple.com

2022 FEBRUARY

