



News From The Rock

July 2018

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met June 7, 2018, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe at 9:30 a.m. President Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and opened with a devotional, "Good Rule of Life." All recited The Purpose of United Methodist Women.



The prayer calendar mission focus was for Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, PA. The birthday for June was Rebecca Dean, missionary in Ecuador. She assisted in the local church there and taught English at a Methodist School. She has now returned to the United States and works in the area of immigration.

Joys and concerns were taken by Bernie Garrett, who then offered prayer.

Roll call and the secretary report were given by Martha Plummer.

The treasurer's report was given and the business meeting conducted.

The program, "The Sacred Space of Prayer—Transfiguration," was given by Barbara Hart.

The next meeting will be July 5, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. The Mission Moment will be given by Vi Hinen, and the lesson by Carolyn Winters. The meeting was closed with prayer.

SOS

SOS met at the home of Teresa Kriegbaum on June 14. Cindy Boxell was co-hostess. There were 14 in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Kodi Elliot giving the devotions on the American flag.

The minutes for the May meeting were

read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given.

The lesson was given by Pamela Hensley on what we get from Jesus and why we need to tell others what He does for us.

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 fifth person to your right. Next meeting will be July 12 at the home of the hostess, Lana Myers. Lisa Burris will have the lesson.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.

Food Pantry Needs

- Cereal
- Canned Ravioli
- Snack Crackers
- Jello Snack Cups
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Juice Packs
- Ramen Noodles
- Peanut Butter



Also needed: plastic bags, books and magazines (6 months through adult)

Please leave your items in the wooden boxes in the narthex.

May Financial Update

General Offerings.....	\$11,833
General Fund Expenses.....	\$17,488
Mortgage Balance	\$37,377



from Pastor Paul

Americans love to take to the open road during the summer. I'm not sure if it is a leftover from pioneer days of "manifest destiny" when our forefathers traveled west in search of new adventures or it is just the need of 21st century people to disconnect from the daily grind. Packing up the family car with all the camping gear is a familiar sight across this great land. America's diverse beauty makes any postcard publisher smile with delight.

But taking to the open road is always an adventure because of the uncertainty that lies ahead. Perhaps

that's part of what

makes summer vacations in the car so memorable. Who could forget a flat tire in the desert, engine trouble in the Badlands or navigating a

road washed out from a summer thunderstorm? I can still vividly remember a frantic night spent replacing a broken water pump, in a hotel parking lot, in Wheeling, West Virginia, as if it were yesterday.

The Bible speaks of life as a road or path that we are called to travel. Here are a few examples of the truths we can find in Scripture about the road of life:

Matthew 7:17, "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Acts 2:28, "You have made known to me

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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.

Church History

Solid Rock marks 10 years of worship together

Solid Rock United Methodist Church was formed from the union of the Jefferson Center United Methodist Church and the Warren United Methodist Church. The two churches first worshiped together as Solid Rock on July 6, 2008, and the merger was officially recognized as of August 1 of that year.

Many months of discussion, deliberation, and prayer preceded the decision to merge. Both congregations had been seeking direction for the future of their ministries, facing challenges of declining attendance, aging congregations, and church facilities which were not handicapped accessible, not conducive to programming needs in the twenty-first century, and in need of ongoing maintenance.

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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

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News deadline for the August newsletter: July 22

A task force was appointed, consisting of members of both congregations, to study opportunities for cooperative ministries. This task force first met on January 17, 2007. The task force was named "New Ministries Vision Team." Several meetings ensued, and input was sought from both congregations. While many expressed interest in pursuing joint ministries, the work of the committee moved slowly for lack of direction and uncertainty about how best to proceed.

The Decision

In June 2007, Administrative Council members of both congregations received letters advising them of an upcoming vote to determine whether the New Ministries Vision Team should continue its work or disband. The vote directed the committee to continue its work, with the understanding that no commitment to a merger had been made, only that more fact-finding would take place.

Many members of each congregation had deep roots in their home church. As discussion continued, it became apparent that, although the congregations could remain separate and participate in some joint ministries, only through a complete merger could the desired ministry goals be accomplished. For many, this idea took some time to accept.

In early 2008, the New Ministries Vision Team felt the time had come for the congregations to decide whether or not to go forward with a merger. Both Administrative Councils agreed to hold Charge Conferences on the evening of March 18. Both Conferences ratified the proposed merger, and the process which had previously progressed slowly now began to move steadily forward.

The Transition

Having made the commitment to unite the congregations, the next questions were "how" and "how soon?" Various scenarios were considered. Were either of the existing churches large enough to accommodate combined worship? Could the two congregations perhaps meet together at a third site once a month? Change was coming quickly. How soon would members of the two congregations be able to adapt and feel comfortable with a complete merger?

Warren and Jefferson Center United Methodist Churches held their first joint Administrative Council meeting on April 29, 2008. The main business of the meeting was to approve appointments to four new committees. These included a Naming Committee, a Transition Committee, a Building/Site Committee, and a Capital Funds Committee.

In May 2008, the plan was for the churches to continue meeting in their individual locations, with Jefferson Center holding its worship service at 9:00 a.m. followed by Warren's service at 10:30. On July 6, the congregations would meet jointly at the Warren site at 9:30, then attend the Salamonie Summer Festival community service together.

Naming a new church

Ten members from each the Warren and Jefferson Center Churches were appointed to the Naming Committee. The committee met on May 4 and May 12, 2008. Over 80 names were prayerfully considered and discussed. Committee members freely voiced their opinions. A paper ballot showed that one name was by far the favorite and stood out as fitting the criteria established by the committee. The sixteen members present voted unanimously by a show of hands to recommend to the combined Council: Solid Rock United Methodist Church. The name was enthusiastically accepted at the May 20 meeting of the joint Administrative Council.

Two become one

Enthusiasm over the merger and the opportunities for combined ministry became so great that, by the June 17 meeting of the new Solid Rock Administrative Council, it was decided not to proceed with the plan of holding two services each Sunday in the two locations, but to begin meeting together permanently beginning with the July 6 service. The new congregation would meet at the two sites in alternating months.

Meanwhile, the work of the Building/Site Committee was proceeding. After considering several potential building sites, a parcel of land on Bennett Drive owned by

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the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.”

Romans 11:33, “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”

2 Corinthians 6:3, “We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.”

John 14:6, “Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

According to Scripture, the road of life is narrow, is not easy to find, is sometimes mysterious, teaches us to care for others, and begins with knowing Jesus who is the way to heaven...our ultimate destination.

A number of years ago I came across this description of the road to hope we travel in life. I thought I’d put it in print so you can keep it and ponder its message no matter where summer 2018 is taking you:

“THE ROAD TO HOPE IS NOT STRAIGHT...THERE IS A CURVE CALLED FAILURE ...A LOOP CALLED CONFUSION...SPEED BUMPS CALLED TRIALS...RED LIGHTS CALLED ENEMIES...CAUTION LIGHTS CALLED FAMILY...AND FLATS CALLED SUFFERING. BUT...IF I HAVE A TANK FULL OF LOVE...A SPARE CALLED DETERMINATION.. AN ENGINE CALLED PERSEVERANCE...INSURANCE CALLED FAITH...MY GPS FIXED ON THE SECOND COMING...AND A DRIVER CALLED JESUS...I WILL MAKE IT TO A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN FILLED WITH HOPE!”

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

Where’s your favorite place to pray?

We know God hears us wherever we pray, but some United Methodists find special places where they most like to spend time with Jesus.

At home

Many return to a room in their house. Brenda Grundrum, for example, prays in her den. “That is my turf,” she shares, “Me and my Lord’s space.”

Some like Fran Wheeler are a bit more specific. “A particular chair in a particular room,” is her special spot for prayer. “It seems to have been sanctified over years of use.”

Others have special pieces of outdoor furniture where they enjoy time with God. “I pray and chat with Jesus on my swing in our backyard,” Simone Sutter shares. “All I see is nature. All I hear is birdies and frogs... I feel so very close to Him there.”

While active

Melody Daily prays while working in her garden. “There’s not much that’s as holy as that to me,” she writes. “God is right there in the earth and the sounds of the birds and crickets and the breeze rustling up some little patch of dust.”

Similarly, Lee Cole prays, “While riding the farm tractor while mowing or plowing.”

Robin Hamm prays while walking her dog, and Lisa Hughes and her husband “pray together as we walk in our neighborhood park every morning before work.”

“Deep in the woods while hiking,” is a special place for William White, and Rhianon-John Thomas prays while running. “Clearing the mind and focusing on the Word while I run,” Thomas explains, “helps immensely in my faith walk.”

In nature

Whether active or still, nature is an important element of many special prayer spots.

Charlotte Johnson Bennardo has a meditation garden that sounds like a wonderful place for prayer. “No one bothers me there,” she writes, “and I have as long a chat with God as I need. The beauty of the flowers, trees, birds and such, calms me.”

Bodies of water are also popular nature spots for prayer. Jan Coulbourne likes to pray while walking on the beach, adding, “I’m sure Jesus tucked a few pieces of sea glass in his robe pockets too.”

Some like Paul Sebastian Gómez have specific spots to which they return. Gómez found his special place when he was 15 years old and his father became pastor of Red Mountain United Methodist Church in Mesa, Arizona. “I remember taking a short drive on the Bush Highway just a few miles north of the church, and seeing these cliffs. It was the most comforting thing to see in a completely new world. Throughout the years, this little spot has become a safe place where I know God has called me to be.”

While driving

Praying behind the wheel is another popular spot among respondents. The quiet alone-time makes the car a substitute

“prayer room,” as Dena Kea Jackson describes it.

Lenna Mullins pauses for prayer at the end of her driveway in the morning. “It faces east. The sun is rising. Birds are singing. The air is fresh. We get to start the day with a clean slate.”

Sandra Elaine Pyles Parker prays during her commute. “I like to pray in my car while headed to my teaching job in the mornings. I feel God’s presence as I call out to Him. It makes my day!”

Deb Overdahl likes “to pull over by a peaceful lake or pretty scenery,” to pause and “thank God for such a beautiful site.”



“This little spot,” Paul Sebastian Gómez shares, “has become a safe place where I know God has called me to be.”

In churches and chapels

Others drive to a church or a camp for special times of prayer. Skippi Posey travels to Dooly Campground in Vienna, Georgia, where, “I went to Emmaus and worked many walks... When I drive on the grounds I can feel the presence of our God.”

Churches are also favorite places to pray. Small chapels and empty sanctuaries are favorites, but others like Alex Byrd find smaller, nearly secret spots. “There’s a hidden hallway behind our stage for access to the baptistery. The way it’s laid out and the feeling I get from praying there is like the holy of holies.”

In bed

After a full day, many take time to close their day with prayer in their favorite spot... bed.

“Every night, I get on my knees, by my bed, and humble myself before my Lord,” Sharon Gilbert says. “I can’t crawl into bed, no matter how tired I am, without my time with Him!”

Cynthia Fuller, who gave us her age to assure us she wasn’t “a little kid,” was more descriptive. “I meet with my father in my bed. I sit in the middle with the covers over my head and we have a wonderful time. I pray. I talk. The wonder and the richness of Him being there with me is amazing.” She then rhetorically asks, “When you think of spending most of your life there... Where oh where would you want His Presence more?”

Special places are wonderful additions to our prayer lives, reminding us that God is ready to hear us wherever we pause to pray. “The Lord is close to everyone who calls out to him, to all who call out to him sincerely.” (Psalm 145:18 CEB)

— Joe Iovino on umc.org

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Heritage Pointe was selected.

The building having been sold, the last service at Jefferson Center was held on May 31, 2009, celebrating 82 years of ministry to the community. The congregation would now meet at the Warren site until a new facility was constructed.

The Capital Funds Committee was also active during this time. A capital campaign was conducted in the fall of 2009, with a goal of raising \$400,000. At the conclusion of the campaign, commitments totaled \$556,000.

A new facility

Planning for a new building began at the inception of Solid Rock. An 11-acre tract was purchased on Bennett Drive. The congregation approved plans for the new facility on October 16, 2011, followed by groundbreaking on October 30. Construction was completed and the first service in the new building was celebrated on August 11, 2013, five years after the founding of Solid Rock.

A prayer for the 4th



Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate

JULY 2018

