

News From The Rock

July 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Bible Study

Greetings brothers and sisters! Like the apostle Paul writing to the churches, how I wish that I could be with you in person.

What a joy to note that our gathered worship is again happening! In that theme, you are encouraged to

read and study the scripture passages listed below to prepare for listening to Pastor Paul's Sunday morning message.

- July 5: Matthew 25:25-28 (Parable of the talents)
- July 12: Luke 6:6-11 (Doing good on the Sabbath)
- July 19: Luke 5:1-11 (Peter's call to discipleship)
- July 26: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (A cluster of parables) *Please note that a guest speaker will be in our pulpit on this Sunday. We do not know what text that speaker will be using. Read and study the parables anyway.*

While we study God's word through the scriptures, may we also minister to others as that word directs! Shalom.

— Joe Haney, contributor

Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson,
Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry will not be having our Thursday evening Zoom meeting during the month of July.

The WAMA VBS "after series" will be on every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. during the month of July. The WAMA VBS group is planning to have an in-person carnival on



August 1st at Hillcrest Nazarene from 3:30-7:00 p.m. This will include different carnival style games, hotdogs, popcorn, and a message time by Jim Barron of WBCL. This is subject to change if the current COVID-19 guidelines change.

Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth are continuing to meet together weekly on Zoom every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. With all Impact 2818 camps being closed this summer, I have been looking into doing a retreat this fall involving both Rock Foundations 456 and Rock Solid Youth. The retreat is scheduled for September 25-27 at Epworth Forest and will cost \$75 per person. More information and forms will be coming out soon for this retreat weekend.

I am now looking at starting back in-person youth group on July 12th, but this could change depending on current COVID-19 guidelines. I am also looking into having our Back-2-School Bash on August 23rd as this will give students a chance to arrive back to school and invite friends to come join us for this event.

Praise Team

The Solid Rock Praise Team is looking for new members! If you have a musical talent or gift, please let Marie DeWeese know of your willingness to serve. They are especially looking for instrumentalists. (Marie says a violin would be amazing!) Contact Marie if you have questions. Call the church office at 375-3873 if you need help getting in touch with Marie.



Stealthily they walked through the jungle, a single column of men, cautiously looking right and left as they traveled. They were well armed as they moved through the brush. Their enemies would have been fools to rush them head on. Instead, one by one, they began to emerge from the bushes grabbing the last man in line, carefully covering his mouth so he could not cry out in warning to the others.

Isn't that the way it usually goes? I couldn't tell you how many movies I've watched wherein it happened this way. You'd think they would get wise to this plot after a while and put two men back to back, heavily armed with some sort of siren device on them. That way when the enemy tried to pick them off from the end of the line they would be very well guarded. But, no, they continue doing it the same old way. I've tried to tell them as I watched, "Look behind you, buddy!" But they just refused to listen to me.

But isn't life a little like that? Many live day to day looking back to what happened yesterday. We fret and worry about what we have done. Many a movie star or sports star has ruined their lives and careers because of choices they made yesterday. Perhaps they are sorry for what they've done, although in too many cases they are only sorry after they have been caught. Regardless, we can't change what took place yesterday. We can apologize if an apology is in order; we can try to repay others if we have cheated someone. We can attempt to make right what we did wrong yesterday. Still, the mark is there

(Continued on page 3)

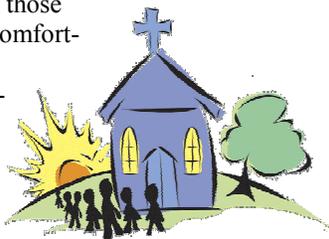
Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus,
to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

In-person worship has resumed

In-person worship at Solid Rock resumed on June 14, with 40 persons in attendance. For those who are not comfortable coming

into the building at this time, we will continue to offer an option to come into the parking lot and listen to the service via FM radio. The service is broadcast on FM frequency 87.9 starting at 10:00 a.m.

We will also continue to offer a prere-



News From The Rock

is published each month by

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

pburris@hotmail.com

(260) 609-9260

Family Ministry Coordinator:

John Pearson II

john@solidrockumc.com

Editor: Gary Walter

gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield

jane@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr

wanda@solidrockumc.com

News deadline for the August newsletter: July 19

corded online worship option into the future to reach more people outside our church, and for shut-ins and those not yet ready to return to worship in person. These will continue to be posted on Sunday mornings. This service will not include joys and prayer concerns.

These social distancing practices will be in place for health and safety:

1. We will offer parking lot and online worship options and we ask the following persons to continue to worship through these options:
 - A. Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have direct contact with a person who is positive for the virus.
 - B. Persons who are displaying symptoms of illness.
 - C. Persons with underlying health issues making exposure to COVID-19 more dangerous.
2. We will limit personal touch in the following ways.
 - A. Exterior doors will be opened by a masked/gloved greeter to minimize touching handles.
 - B. Interior doors will be propped open to the sanctuary and other areas to minimize touching handles.
 - C. Seating will be rearranged in a manner to provide for social distancing.
 - D. We ask that family units leave six feet of distance between themselves and the next family in the same row.
 - E. We will no longer pass offering plates down the rows. There will be plates to drop your offering into as you exit the sanctuary. Offering envelopes will be available in a basket beside the collection plates.
 - F. Hand sanitizer will be provided in the lobby.
 - G. We will be requesting that persons attending worship wear face masks. We will have some available for those who don't have one.
 - H. High touch areas will be sanitized after services.
 - I. The greeting time after worship will be suspended until a time in the future.
 - J. We will suspend printing and handing out a worship bulletin or other materials.
 - K. Solid Rock UMC will be a "no-handshake" zone for the time being.
 - L. Instructions for safe dismissal will be

given.

3. At the moment, all Sunday School classes before worship as well as Sunday children's ministry options will not be available, and all children will sit with their parents in the sanctuary for worship services until further notice.
4. Holy Communion will be practiced differently until we agree it is safe to return to our past communion practices. Instructions will be given on days communion is offered.
5. We will not reintroduce the Coffee Shop until we can assure relative safety in sharing food and drinks.

Donation Options

Your continued financial support of Solid Rock is appreciated. Here are some giving options.

1. Mail a check to: Solid Rock UMC, P.O. Box 322, Warren, IN 46792.
2. Most banks have online banking options, which are usually free of charge. These can be set up as one-time payments or scheduled ongoing payments. (Locally, both First Merchants Bank and Bippus State Bank have free online bill pay services.) Contact your bank for details.
3. Donate online or by using a mobile app. Solid Rock has enabled giving via Vanco GivePlus. (Vanco is a partner of the United Methodist Church's General Council on Finance and Administration.) Donations can be made using checking or savings accounts or credit/debit cards. (Givers may opt to cover the processing fees, about 2-2.5%, at their discretion.) To get started, simply go to solidrockumc.com and click on "Donate."

April Financial Update

General Offerings..... \$15,435
General Fund Expenses..... \$15,484

May Financial Update

General Offerings..... \$18,641
General Fund Expenses..... \$14,005

"Solutions are not found by pointing fingers; they are found by extending hands."

— Aysha Taryam

(Continued from page 1)

and we cannot erase it.

Many have said, "If I could just live that incident over I'd do things differently." You know what? If we made the choice we made yesterday, unless we could relive it with the knowledge we have today, more than likely we'd make the same choice as we did before.

Let's just face facts here: we make bad decisions. We get angry; we feel justified and we do things in haste as a result. God calls it sin. If we could only have a heavily armed guard in the rear protecting us from those wrong choices, mistakes, and sin that we did yesterday, wouldn't life be a whole lot easier?

In Isaiah 52:12 God, through the prophet Isaiah, speaks of this very thing. It says, "For you shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard." Isn't that a neat thought? It tells us that God will not only go in front of us but He will also be the heavily armed guard in the back. If we listen to Him, and if we follow Him, He will not only lead us down the path of safety but He will also be at the end of the line taking care of the enemy who desires to pick us off one by one from behind.

In essence He is also saying that if we are faithful in following Him, by doing what He tells us in the Bible as it witnesses to our conscience, He will not only take us down the right road of the future, protect us and guide us today, but He will also be there to help us make the right decisions that will protect our yesterdays. In other words, we won't have to live in regret of yesterday.

I know we all make mistakes and wrong choices. The Lord knows that I've certainly made my share, and then some, of bad decisions. But that only happens when we aren't in tune with Him; when we act without seeking His will and His instruction. But when we are orchestrated with the God of Heaven, and we are following His music, the music of life, then He will become our guard against yesterday.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul



solidrockumc.com



Find us on:
facebook.

Beloved Gaither hymn has local tie

Solid Rock is scheduled to sing the beloved Bill Gaither hymn "He Touched Me" during a service in July. You may know that Gaither is a native Hoosier, but did you know that the inspiration for this hymn has a local connection?

As a graduate of Anderson College with a major in English and a minor in music, 27-year-old Bill Gaither was teaching high school English in 1963. Weekends and evenings were spent collaborating on songs with his wife, Gloria. After writing a song, they would duplicate it on an old mimeograph machine and hand it out for choir rehearsal at their church.



Dr. Dale Oldham was a well-known preacher in the area. His son, Doug Oldham, a gifted musician, assisted his father in his meetings. One evening in 1963, Dale Oldham invited Gaither to play piano with them at a revival meeting in Huntington, Indiana. Many people responded to the invitation to follow Christ at that meeting.

On the drive home, the three talked about how they had all felt the presence of the Holy Spirit during this meeting. In fact, it felt as if the hand of Jesus had touched them. Dropping Bill off at his home, Dr. Oldham remarked, "You should write a song that says, 'He touched me, oh, He touched me.'" Working through the night, Bill completed the song, revising it with Gloria the next morning.

The following week, Bill handed a copy of the handwritten song to Doug Oldham and said, "Let's see if we can sing this one tonight."

Doug was the first to record the song in 1964, but it was soon also recorded by some of the greatest names in the music industry. Elvis Presley recorded "He Touched Me" in 1971, releasing it as a single in 1972 and later that year as the title song of his album "He Touched Me." Elvis received three Grammy awards for this album.

Other versions were recorded by The Bill Gaither Trio, The Blackwood Brothers, Jimmy Durante, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Lawrence Welk, and Steven Curtis Chapman, among many others.

"He Touched Me" launched Bill Gaither's music career. He feels it was successful simply because it expresses the testimony of so many who come to Jesus: "I had no hope, I was done. Then the hand of Jesus

touched me."

He Touched Me

Verse 1

Shackled by a heavy burden
'Neath a load of guilt and shame
Then the hand of Jesus touched me
And now I am no longer the same

Chorus

He touched me
Oh He touched me
And oh the joy that floods my soul
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole

Verse 2

Since I met this blessed Savior
Since He cleansed and made me whole
I will never cease to praise Him
I'll shout it while eternity rolls

CCLI Song # 13072

William J. Gaither

© 1964 William J. Gaither, Inc.

The "wow!" factor

After the final notes concluded at a recent symphony performance in Boston, the conductor hadn't yet lowered his baton when a child exclaimed, "Wow!" The break in protocol, magnified by excellent acoustics, didn't upset the participants or audience, however.

Instead, several later said it brought them great joy. One even called the moment life-changing.

The incident was especially meaningful because the child, a 9-year-old named Ronan, has autism and is generally nonverbal. Music, his family says, tends to attract his interest and make him happy. When symphony officials learned Ronan's identity, they arranged a private performance so he could meet some musicians.

How often do you shout "Wow!" — in a good way — at what you see and hear? You may tend to do so on vacation or while observing God's natural wonders, but what about during your day-to-day life? Think about the people you encounter and their talents — and your own. When have these sparked a "Wow!" of thanks to God?

Every blessing, large or small, is a wow-moment — a gift from God that warrants our praise.

—adapted from HomeTouch Ministry



Mixed messages

For their summer offering, Sunday school students donated money to a missionary family. Before teachers sent a care package overseas, they asked students to write short notes, letting the recipients know they were in children's prayers.

"The family is pretty busy," one teacher mentioned, in case the kids hoped to become pen pals. "You might not get a response, but it's kind of you to write."

When teachers collected the messages, they chuckled at what one brutally honest child had written: "We're praying for you, but we don't expect an answer."



"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

—Anthony J. D'Angelo

"The mere whisper of the Holy Spirit can drown out the thundering noise of an entire world."

—David Jeremiah

Dear God,

As we face these uncertain times in our nation and the world, we ask you, Lord, to dwell among us. We are comforted by the knowledge that You alone are our Savior and Lord, and the ultimate Master of life. We trust our nation to Your loving care, Lord. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. Give us Your light and Your truth to guide us in our ways so that we may seek Your will in our lives and impact the world around us for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name we pray. **Amen**

—dayspring.com

