

# News From The Rock

July 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## Solid Rock welcomes Pastor John and Marsha Boyanowski

Solid Rock's new pastor, John Boyanowski, and his wife Marsha will be with us for the first time on Sunday morning, July 10, for worship at 10:00. Plan to join us to join us in giving them a warm Solid Rock welcome!



Following the worship service, a welcome carry-in lunch will be sponsored by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. Those attending are asked to contribute a covered dish.

## Community Worship Service

The Warren Area Ministerial Association will hold a community worship service on Sunday, July 3, at 11:00 a.m. as part of the Salamonie Summer Festival. It will take place at Warren Riverside Park & Pavilion.

A pre-concert, featuring the group "Snyder," will begin at 10:45. Snyder will also be in concert following the worship service.

Gerald Moreland will bring the message, "Unity of Community." Communion will be served.

In case of rain, the service will be held in the Fellowship Center of Hillcrest Nazarene Church.



rene Church.

**Please note:** There will be no worship service and no Sunday school at Solid Rock on July 3.

## Vacation Bible School

"Make Waves: What You Do Today Can Change the World Around You" is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School.

Sponsored by the Warren Area Ministerial Association, it will be held July 10-14, from 6:00 to 8:00 each evening, at the Warren United Church of Christ.

"In this wet and wild VBS, kids will learn that what you do today can change the world around you. When you put your trust in Jesus, you can 'make waves' because of His Spirit living inside you."



## Bible Study

Yes! We will still have our "Feasting on the Word" Bible studies through the summer. Sometimes the leadership might change, but the texts listed will be the same until Pastor John says otherwise. The Solid Rock kitchen continues to be nice and cool. The parking lot has many empty spaces. God's word continues to lead us through this time of transition. Our studies begin at 7:00 p.m. and last for about an hour, sometimes less.

- July 4: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 (Joe Haney, leader)



- July 11: Luke 10:25-37 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- July 18: Luke 10:38-42 (Joe Haney, leader)
- July 25: Luke 11:1-13 (Jorita Banter, leader)

Especially if you are interested in a study of Luke's Gospel, come and join in this growing process.

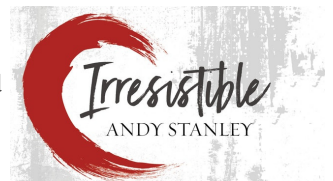
—Joe Haney, Coordinator

## New Study

The Firm Foundation Sunday school class, which meets in the church kitchen on Sunday mornings at 9:00, will begin the Andy Stanley study "Irresistible" on July 17.

"In this six-session video study, Andy Stanley will invite you to embrace the version of faith that, against all odds, initiated a chain of events resulting in the most significant and extensive cultural transformation the world has ever seen. A version we must embrace if we are to be salt and light in an increasingly savorless and dark world."

Plan to join us!



## Annual Conference 2022

The 2022 meeting of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church took place June 10-12 at Indiana Wesleyan University. The gathering featured worship, celebration of ministries, recognition of retirees, ordinations, and remembrance of

*(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.*

## Welcoming a New Pastor

Here are a few ways a congregation can help a new pastor get off to a strong start and make that new pastor feel truly welcome.

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
2. Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor and family.
3. Offer food for the first few days.
4. Give gift certificates to a local restaurant.
5. Introduce yourself to the pastor repeatedly! You have one name to learn; your pastor has many names to learn.
6. Wear name tags. Even if name tags are not a tradition, the congregation can wear them for a few weeks to help the pastor learn names.
7. Make sure the pastor has a list of home

bound or nursing home members, a list of those struggling with long term illness, and a list of those still in grief over recent deaths in the family. Better yet, take the pastor for an introduction to each of these households.



WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR!

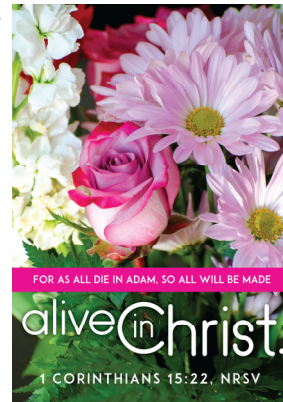
8. Send your pastor a welcome note or email. Keep it brief. Introduce yourself and your family, and offer a heartfelt welcome.
9. Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor. Your pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church to a person just like the previous pastor. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit's role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.
10. Be prepared to follow. A pastor who is worth his or her salt must lead in both optimal and challenging situations. And the kingdom of God is enriched when we as a congregation follow our pastor and embrace our mission with enthusiasm. Don't be a backseat driver. Serve with your best gifts.
11. Give your pastor permission to fail. The best pastors don't succeed 100% of the time. Don't hold your pastor to a standard of perfection that is impossible to maintain. Allow your minister room to make mistakes.
12. Speak positively about your pastor publicly and privately. One of the ways we bring out the best in our ministers is to speak well of them. With most pastors, it is easy to find something to criticize, because every minister has weaknesses. However, every pastor has more strengths than weaknesses. A healthy pastoral tenure is nurtured when we magnify our pastor's strengths, then minimize and compensate for our pastor's weaknesses.

—Excerpted from "50 Ways to Welcome a New Pastor" by Lewis Center for Church Leadership and "7 Suggestions for Welcoming a New Pastor" by Barry Howard

## All we need to know

When a loved one dies, we have questions: What caused the death? When will the funeral be? What form will our grief take? Some deaths also bring spiritual questions: Where was God? Is our loved one with God now?

Paul shared deep thoughts about death with the believers at Corinth. His complex ideas might raise further questions, but here's the key: We don't need to understand everything right away — not all of Paul's theology, or everything about God or all the practical matters around a loved one's death. Here, from 1 Corinthians 15 (NRSV), is what we do know: "Christ has been raised from the dead" (v. 20) — death doesn't have the final say. "All will be made alive in Christ" (v. 22) — a loving promise

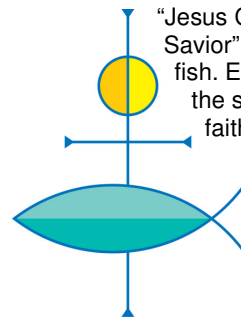


God offers to all. "The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (v. 26) — in the end, Jesus will destroy all sickness, pain, sorrow, war, poverty, oppression and even death itself. We are in God's loving hands. That's all we need to know.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

## Christian symbol

**FISH**—The first letters in the Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior" spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be "caught" for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



I C H T H U S

## No boundaries

Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn't stop at our front door or our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state's or [our] country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth, as the hymn goes. It often calls us to step outside of what we thought our boundaries were, or what others expect of us. It calls for us to sacrifice, not because doing so feels good, but because it's the right thing to do.

—Bishop Michael Curry  
*Love Is the Way*

### 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

Pastor: Rev. John Boyanowski

Youth Programs

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News deadline for the August newsletter: July 24

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clergy and spouses who passed in the last year. Interspersed with these highlights, sadly, was evidence that divisions in the larger denomination are also present in the Indiana Conference.

Reports from more than 40 committees, agencies, ministries, and affiliated institutions were received throughout the three-day Conference.

The Council on Finance and Administration reported 2021 income of

\$12,018,142 and expenditures of \$12,017,450, netting a surplus of \$692. This includes the Indiana Conference apportionment of \$4,559,526 to the General Church. A proposed Conference budget of \$7,040,053 (not including General Church apportionment) was approved.

Five resolutions were brought before the Conference. One resolution had been withdrawn as the issue addressed has been resolved. Two resolutions were ruled out of order by the Bishop.

A resolution titled "Building BeLoved Community Now" was defeated by a vote of 402 to 410. This resolution proposed that a document titled "Covenant to Build BeLoved Community" be used as a guiding document to shape the ministry of the United Methodist Church in Indiana.

Another resolution, titled "A Commitment to Grace in the Indiana Conference," called for "honor and trust [for] contextual expressions of ministry, including the decisions of clergy to choose which weddings they officiate and congregations to choose which weddings they host, so long as they are between two consenting, committed adults." Following lengthy discussion, the resolution was approved by a vote of 380 for and 332 against. This resolution has been appealed, with some questioning whether parts of its language conflict with the Book of Discipline. (The complete text of all resolutions may be viewed at inumc.org by clicking on "Annual Conference" and following the links.)

The Board of Camps and Retreats reported on the Conference's seven campsites. They received \$758,339 in Paycheck Protection Program funds, which paid salaries, maintained buildings, and allowed staff to prepare for a partial reopening in 2021. The camps opened at 50% capacity last summer. They recorded 198 first-time



commitments to Christ, 233 recommitments to Christ, 488 volunteers, and 168 who acknowledged God's call on their lives. All camps are fully open for summer 2022.

The Board of Trustees reported that 29 churches in the Conference disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church in 2022. With more applications for disaffiliation in process, Bishop Trimble has called a special session to act on these requests on November 19, 2022. The Bishop stated that, "If you are leaving The United Methodist Church ... you are not my enemy! We are all children of the Most High God! Some may choose to walk another trail, but I trust that making disciples of Jesus Christ will be our common hymn."

While there was much to celebrate at Annual Conference 2022, the reality that the Conference is experiencing much change as churches seek to discern the context in which they are called to serve Jesus in their communities was evident. Please pray for all United Methodist congregations, including Solid Rock, as they determine their path forward.

—Gary Walter  
Solid Rock UMC

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

## Annual Conference By The Numbers

- \$102,373.72 was raised so far for the missional offering.
- 2 children were baptized.
- 8 individuals were ordained as Full Elder.
- 4 individuals were commissioned into ministry as Provisional Elder.
- 2 individuals were commissioned into ministry as Provisional Deacon.
- 58 clergy members entered into retirement.
- 1,282 years of combined faithful service by retiring clergy members was celebrated.
- 46 clergy and 27 spouses who entered into the Church Triumphant were remembered.
- 1,337 attended Annual Conference.

## May Financial Update

General Fund Receipts.....	\$14,176
General Fund Expenses.....	\$12,815

## Mission Update

The Mission team has approved sending \$150 to Warren First Baptist Church to help defray the cost of their "Backpack Palooza" outreach to students in the Warren area. The donation was greatly appreciated.

## Oxygen for ministry

Flight attendants instruct airplane passengers that if oxygen masks are needed, we should secure our own before assisting someone else. Why? If we aren't getting enough oxygen ourselves, we can't help another person for long.

The Holy Spirit empowers Christians for ministry — the work of loving and caring for our neighbors and God's creation. But if we aren't Spirit-fueled on an ongoing basis, we will soon lack capacity to serve. This may manifest as burnout, cynicism, exhaustion or even lack of faith. So how to ensure we're breathing in the Spirit's energy and guidance instead of poor-quality "air"?

By taking part in corporate worship regularly, immersing ourselves in the Scriptures (devotional reading and Bible study), praying "continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NIV) and spending time with Christian friends and mentors. Opening ourselves to the Spirit in these ways allows the Breath of God to flow into us, which in turn empowers us to reach out to others in love.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



- "In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree. ... If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own."  
—Harry Truman
- "A life without love is like a year without summer."  
—Swedish proverb
- "What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity."  
—Joseph Addison



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## Prayer Requests

Requests for prayer should be directed to  
**Solid Rock Office at 375-3873**

If there is no answer, please call  
**Allison Voght at (260) 530-6570**

## Name Tags

Name tags have been prepared for our regular attendees. As we welcome our new pastor, please pick up your name tag from the table as you enter the building, and return it to the table as you leave. (If one has not been preprinted for you, please fill out one of the blank tags.) Wearing of name tags will help Pastor John and Marsha learn our names (and help us learn each others' names as well!). Thanks for your participation.



Thank you for your great love and blessing over our lives. Thank you that your favor has no end, but it lasts for our entire lifetime. Forgive us for sometimes forgetting that you are intimately acquainted with all of our ways, that you know what concerns us, and you cover us as with a shield.

We ask that we would walk in your blessing and goodness today. That your face would shine on us. That you would open the right doors for our lives and for our loved ones. That you would close the wrong doors and protect us from those we need to walk away from.

Establish the work of our hands and bring to fulfillment all that you have given us to do in these days. We pray that you would make our way purposeful and our footsteps firm out of your goodness and love. Give us a heart of wisdom to hear your voice, and make us strong by your huge favor and grace.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

—Debbie McDaniel

