

# News From The Rock

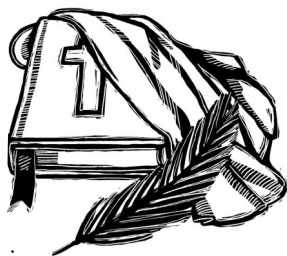
March 2017

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

## Lenten Study

Adam Hamilton's book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* will be the center of study for a six-week venture. What do you believe about yourself, about your world, about the existence of God? Not all of the answers to these questions are expected to be found. You will be encouraged to explore these issues with others, some believing, others doubting. Those participating in this study are urged to purchase a copy of the book before the first gathering.



Each session will run for one hour, with input via video from Adam Hamilton, some group activities, and a "wrap-up." Join with us in the kitchen of Solid Rock United Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m. (*Note: The time is a change from that printed in the January newsletter.*) Along with your copy of *Creed*, bring your Bible and a notebook, either electronic or hand-written.

Six different leaders will be covering the areas of God, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, The Church and the Communion of Saints, The Forgiveness of Sins, and The Resurrection of the Body. Come on, jump in, the water is warm and invigorating!

- **March 5:** Session 1: God
- **March 12:** Session 2: Jesus Christ
- **March 19:** Session 3: The Holy Spirit
- **March 26:** Session 4: The Church and the Communion of Saints
- **April 2:** Session 5: The Forgiveness of Sins
- **April 9:** Session 6: The Resurrection of the Body

## United Methodist Women

The Solid Rock United Methodist Women meet the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe.

We are called to grow as a community and are challenged to extend a welcome to those who are not yet a part of our community of faith... welcoming each person with a hug of Christian fellowship.

Our programs this year are centered on the program book "A CALL TO COMMUNITY." Our vision: Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. We live out this vision by providing opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, and put faith into action.

Join us March 2nd for our "Call to Prayer/Self-Denial" service led by Bernie Garrett.



## Soup Supper

We shared a great evening of fellowship and enjoyed delicious soup with 138 individuals at our annual Soup for the Soul supper. We want to thank everyone who attended and to those who contributed items for the soup or helped in any other way. A special thank you to The Flower Pot and Gebhart's Floral Barn for filling our bud vases with flowers which adorned our dining tables. We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did. If you didn't make it, we hope to see you next year.



from  
Pastor Paul

### Can You Forgive and Then Forget?

Forgiveness isn't something that you do for the sake of the person who wronged you. It is something you do for yourself. I don't forgive people because they deserve it, or earn it, or even ask for it. I forgive them for a very selfish reason.

The main purpose of forgiveness is to free yourself from the burden of the pain inflicted on you. Bitterness is a cancer that'll destroy you and your relationships. As a pastor of a church, I've witnessed this root of bitterness defile so many things that a person holds dear.

I knew a woman that held so much pain and bitterness against a person that she had literally made herself sick and physically weak. If she could forgive the person that had wronged her, she'd be able to release the burden of that pain and the bitterness.

The truly tragic thing about a grudge is that it hurts you more than the person you hold it against. In many cases, the other person is unaware of your grudge or the depth of your grudge or even of the fact that they may have hurt you. So your anger, bitterness, and pain are only hurting you. It is only destroying your own spirit.

Christians are supposed to be big on forgiveness. I should know. But even they miss the main purpose of forgiveness. It isn't to pretend that the wrong done to you is okay. It's not so that you can give some offender a pass on his wrong, or to pretend you weren't hurt or angry. It isn't even to demonstrate how holy and righteous you are. It is to release that anger, to release the burden of the pain that you carry around.

*(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.*

## “Feasting on the Word” Bible Study

Monday evening Bible studies continue with the Gospel of Mark. Bit by bit our attendance has increased, but there is still room for more! We are constantly being challenged by Jesus calling us as “disciples” to be with him and be shaped by his words and life. Read the designated passage as indicated below, bring your Bible, and prayerfully meditate with us the leading of our Lord Jesus. Allow our Monday evening gathering to prepare you for our Sunday worship together.

- **March 6:** Mark 6:30-44 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- **March 13:** Mark 8:1-21 (Charles Ternet, leader)
- **March 20:** Mark 8:27-38 (Joe Haney, leader)
- **March 27:** Mark 9:33-50 (Perry Spahr, leader)

### News From The Rock is published each month by

#### 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  
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Church Phone: 375-3871

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News deadline for the April newsletter:  
March 26

“Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.” (John Thompson and Randy Scruggs)

## Missions Update

We have received word that A Friend’s House in Bluffton, which Solid Rock has supported for quite a number of years, has closed. A letter explaining their reasons and process is on the mission board in the fellowship area. There is also other correspondence from various missions our church supports. Please take time to see what our mission dollars have accomplished.

## Youth Fellowship

A big thank you to everyone who supported the youth by purchasing Super Bowl pizzas. Also a big thanks goes to Tamara Spahr for her help in this project! The proceeds are used to help support our UMYF ministry.

The youth are reading the book *Why? Making Sense of God’s Will* by Adam Hamilton. They are doing a small group book talk over this book at each of our lunch and discussion times. In March they will be discussing chapter 2 of the book: “Why do my prayers go unanswered?”

If any high school or college age youth would like to join this discussion, please see Marie Dewese or Pastor Paul to get a book.

#### Schedule

- March 12: Lunch and Discussion after church
- April 9: Lunch and Discussion after church

## Solid Rock Mission Giving

Solid Rock supports a number of local, national, and international missions projects. Over the next few issues, we will highlight these projects.

#### Bashor Children’s Home

Bashor Children’s Home is a 501-C-3 non profit child welfare agency affiliated with the United Methodist Church, provid-

ing help for troubled children and their families through residential care, day treatment/ alternative education, foster care, and many other services. Bashor has become a regional provider for services over the last 90 years and works with over 150 children daily from 22 counties and 3 different states.

#### Water Wells for Zambia

The well-drilling rig is centered at Kafakumba Training Center in Northern Zambia and is used to drill water wells in area villages around the Mission Center in an expanding area to supply good drinking, cooking, and some irrigation waters for the persons living in that expanded area. An example would be the 10,000+ people who live in the Baluba Village. These wells will replace the polluted sources that were their only previous options. The cost for each well is around \$1,400.

## January Financial Update

General Offerings .....	\$16,303
General Fund Expenses .....	\$14,407
Mortgage Balance .....	\$79,411

## Giving up guilt

Rev. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who ministers to high-risk youth in Los Angeles, once quipped, “I ... don’t do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago.” Many Christians give up something for Lent but usually not guilt! Rather, Lent is seen as a time to somberly examine our sinful nature.

Having witnessed sin’s tragic effects through addiction, violence and gang warfare, Father Boyle realizes that dwelling on guilt doesn’t lead to hope or healing. Instead, he helps young people discover their God-given strengths and their ability to make life-affirming choices. His nonprofit Homeboy Industries provides positive alternatives for teenagers, who are reminded not of their guilt but of their identity as God’s beloved children.

On Good Friday Jesus conquered sin and death so we don’t have to wallow in guilt. Giving our lives to God frees us to live in the joy of forgiveness.



“Those hands that keep a million worlds from spinning into oblivion were nailed motionless to a cross — for us. ... Can you trust him?”

—Elisabeth Elliot

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus told Peter to forgive people until it became instinctual or habitual. He, being the Son of God, had much more clarity in this than we do. But the example suffices to demonstrate that unless we forgive, we have a human tendency to carry a grudge, to carry bitterness, to carry the burden of pain. This burden crushes you, not the person who hurt you.

Forgive people. Do it for yourself so you can function in life, see clearer, and not have to live with the painful burden of bitterness.

Don't look at the other person to determine if they are worthy of your forgiveness. It's not an issue of worthiness or even of relevance. It is about you releasing anger, pain, and bitterness. Carrying such a burden will affect your marriage, your friendships, your family, and every other relationship you possess. Your revenge plotting twists your mind more than it makes the person who hurt you suffer.

Let it go—for your own sake.

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Paul

## Food Pantry Needs

- Canned Spaghetti
- Oatmeal
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Snack Bars
- Cocoa Mix
- Cereal
- Ramen Noodles
- Single Serve Applesauce



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

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



[solidrockumc.com](http://solidrockumc.com)



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## 2017 Mission Giving

The Solid Rock Mission Team has allocated mission giving for 2017. Summarized below are United Methodist-related missions. Next month we will publish non-United Methodist missions. Additional contributions from individuals are always accepted as well! Contact the office for details.

### General Church Advance Specials

#### World

Africa University.....	\$700
Feed My Children .....	\$500
Homes for Haitians .....	\$300
Operation Classroom.....	\$300
Water Wells for Zambia .....	\$500

#### National

Henderson Settlement .....	\$600
Red Bird Mission .....	\$400
Society of St. Andrew .....	\$200

### United Methodist Committee on Relief

International Disasters.....	\$200
National Disasters .....	\$200

### District/Conference Ministries

Bashor Children's Home .....	\$700
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### Special Sunday Offerings

Human Relations, One Great Hour of Sharing, Native American Ministries, Peace with Justice, World Communion, Student Day, Bishop's Christmas Offering	\$100 each.....	\$700
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### Other United Methodist Missions

Cluster Group Henderson Project .....	\$1,000
Henderson Mission Trip Workers (\$250 each) .....	\$500

**Total UM Missions .....\$6,800**

## Praise and Fellowship at Knight-Bergman

Please join us on Saturday, March 4, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Knight-Bergman Center for a night of Praise and Fellowship. We will have chili soup, hot dogs, applesauce, chips, desserts, and

drinks, followed by devotions and praise and worship time led by the Warren Church of Christ Praise Team. At the conclusion, we will have open gym time for basketball and kickball.

This is a free event and open to all the community, so be sure to invite your family and friends and join us as we fellowship and praise the name of our Lord together. Everyone is invited!

## Upcoming Events

Watch for more details regarding these upcoming March events.

- **March 1:** Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m. at United Church of Christ
- **March 9:** Senior Saints, 1:00 p.m. at Heritage Pointe
- **March 12:** A Few Good Men Concert, 6:00 p.m. at Solid Rock
- **March 18:** Pork Fundraiser
- **March 23:** Warren Community Volunteers Supper
- **March 26-April 1:** Grapevine Cluster Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement

## The cost of hiding our light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered — without being disconnected first — during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news,

**You are the light of the world** we do indeed hide "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

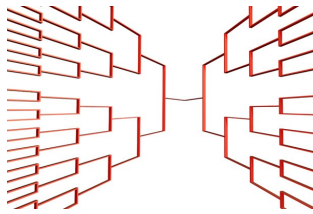
Matthew 5:14

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus says, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (verse 16).

## Perfect victory

Many people enjoy making basketball picks in March, though their brackets are soon “busted.”

Selecting every correct victor throughout the NCAA tournament would be quite a feat. Accord-



ing to Mental Floss magazine, if you flipped a coin for each game, the odds of achieving a perfect bracket would be one in 9.2 quintillion! By comparison, your odds of becoming president are one in 10 million, and your odds of bowling a perfect game are one in 11,500.

For odds that are less of a long shot, consider this: Your chance of living an imperfect life is one in one. Sin is the ultimate bracket-buster, and you’d be hopelessly lost without a Savior. “But thanks be to God, who gives [you] the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Forgive those things we have done  
which have caused you sadness,  
and those things  
we should have done  
that would have brought you joy.  
In both we have failed ourselves,  
and you.



Bring us back to that place  
where our journey began,  
when we said that we would follow  
the way that you first trod.  
Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.

—faithandworship.com

