

News From The Rock

May 2018

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

God Has a Cure for Your Worries

Coming in May in the church kitchen on Sunday mornings at 9:00, Max Lucado's *Anxious for Nothing*. Do you feel weighed down with worry? Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Are irrational fears your constant companion? Could you use some calm? In this five session video Bible study, Max explores God's treatment plan for anxiety found in Philippians 4:4-8. While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate your life. Find the peace that "transcends all understanding." Session titles are: Rejoice in the Lord Always, Let Your Gentleness Be Evident to All, Present Your Requests to God, The Peace of God Will Guard Your Heart, Meditate on These Things.



Everyone is welcome to join us. Please do!

"Feasting on the Word" Bible Study

"Feasting on the Word" for the month of May will allow us to join all nature in the growing sphere. We will begin the month with two selections from the book of Proverbs, followed by a selection on growing from First Peter, and concluding on Memorial Day with a reading from Luke. You are



invited to join with others in the faith to look at the call of Jesus on the formation of our life as a disciple. This Bible study group meets in the church kitchen at 7:00 p.m. each Monday evening. Bring your Bible, an open spirit to be formed into the likeness of our Lord Jesus, and a hunger for God's Word. For your preparation, the scripture passage for each evening is listed.

- May 7: Proverbs 31:1-31 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- May 14: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 (Joe Haney, leader)
- May 21: 1 Peter 2:1-10 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- May 28: Luke 4:1-13 (Jorita Banter, leader)

There is always room for you to join our study group, and feel free to bring a friend!

Parsonage Kitchen Benefit Auction

The recent auction held at Solid Rock to raise funds to help remodel the parsonage kitchen was a very fun and successful evening. Dave Smitley's friends, Jim Van Schepen and Dan Baker, both retired auctioneers, did a wonderful job of keeping the auction moving and entertaining. Thanks to all who donated goods and services and all who came to bid, we raised \$5,400! Also, thanks to everyone who helped set up for the auction and tear down tables and get the church ready for Sunday morning worship when the auction was over.

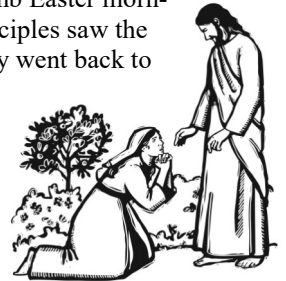
March Financial Update

General Offerings.....	\$15,078
General Fund Expenses.....	\$15,234
Mortgage Balance	\$42,878



If you were given a special audience with Jesus, what would be your first reaction? Would you dance for joy, fall down in awestruck wonder, step back with a quizzical look, or run over and hug Him? The Bible tells us the stories of two very different responses to meeting Jesus after his resurrection.

Mary Magdalene was one of the first women at the tomb Easter morning. After the disciples saw the empty grave, they went back to their homes, but Mary stayed at the tomb to grieve. Then Jesus, who Mary assumed was the gardener, approached her and called her by name. At the sound of Jesus speaking her name, Mary turned and embraced him. Jesus said to Mary, "Do not hold on to Me." (John 20:17) If you are the kind of person who naturally gives and receives hugs you might wonder why Jesus didn't want a hug from Mary. Was this an unreasonable response to seeing the resurrected Christ for the first time by one of His most devoted followers?



In another incident Jesus appeared in the upper room a second time, one week after His first appearance on Easter Sunday. Thomas, who was not there to see Jesus at his first appearance, doubted the resurrection reports of his fellow disciples. Now Jesus stood in front of Thomas and said, "Put your finger here; see My hands.

(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.

SOS

SOS met at the church on April 12, 2018, with Martina Cocklin as hostess and Linda Howell as co-hostess. There were 14 in attendance.

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

The minutes for the March meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given.

The lesson was given by Susan Mills on Martha, and was based on the book *Just Like Us* by Frank Minrith.

Card report was given by Corresponding Secretary Teresa Kriebbaum.

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.

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

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 June newsletter: May 20

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 third person to your right. Next meeting will be May 10 at the home of the hostess Susan Mills with Martina Cocklin as co-hostess. LeAnn Buzzard will have the lesson. Note that the hostess and location is a change from the published schedule.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of our benediction.



solidrockumc.com



@solidrockumc



When was The United Methodist Church created?

The United Methodist Church was created on April 23, 1968, when The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church joined to form a new denomination.

Uniting the two churches had been in the making for more than 10 years. Two years before the union, the General Conferences of each church separately approved the Plan of Union.

On April 23, Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, representing The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of The Methodist Church joined hands at the constituting General Conference in Dallas, Texas. In unison, the two bishops, 1,300 delegates and 10,000 visitors recited these words: "Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church. Amen."

To make the union happen, each denomination made compromises. The racially segregated Central Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church was eliminated, women clergy were assured the right to be ordained and have full clergy rights, and the Methodist practice of life tenure for bishops was



adopted.

The Uniting Conference also approved the development of an official insignia for the new church and the cross and flame was adopted later that year. Late in the conference, delegates realized that the work of actual uniting could not be completed in 1968. A special session of General Conference was approved for 1970. It met in St. Louis.

Thus these two churches, each with distinguished histories and influential ministries in various parts of the world, came together to become the largest Protestant denomination at that time.

In good hands

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, they were full of questions — "Where are you going? How will we know the way there? Would you please just show us the Father?" — and not very satisfied with his answers. So Jesus promised to send them "another Helper" (John 14:16, ESV). And we can almost hear them protesting, like kids bemoaning a favorite coach's retirement or church members grieving a beloved pastor's call to serve elsewhere: "Oh, great. Someone new for us to get to know. It won't be the same. It won't be *you*."

Except ... the word *another* has two forms in Greek: "another just like this one" and "another, different version." And when the author of John translated Jesus' Aramaic into Greek, the first definition was the accurate one. Jesus was assuring his disciples they'd be in good hands, at peace and secure because the new Helper — the Holy Spirit — would be another just like him.

—Based on *Fearless*, by Max Lucado

Following God's lead

Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the "father of black gospel music." At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs — rejected by many mainstream churches as "the devil's music."

In 1932, after Dorsey's wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

Reach out your hand and put it into my side.” (John 20:27) Jesus invited Thomas to personally examine his wounds. Upon examination Thomas fell down at Jesus’ feet and exclaimed, “My Lord and My God!”

There is a seeming incongruity between Jesus’ statements to Mary and to Thomas. On the one hand Jesus does not want to be touched by Mary; on the other he invites it from Thomas. What can explain this? Jesus’ inconsistent responses are resolved when we examine the language Jesus employed and consider the basic difference between the two situations.

In John 20:17, the Greek means “to cling to, to lay hold of.” This wasn’t just a touch; it was a grip. Obviously, when Mary recognized Jesus, she immediately clung to him. Matthew 28:9 records the other women doing the same thing when they saw the resurrected Christ.

Mary’s reaction was motivated, possibly, by several things. One is simply her loving devotion to the Lord. Mary is overwhelmed by the events of the morning, and as her grief turns to joy she naturally embraces Jesus. Another motivation is Mary’s desire to restore the fellowship that death had broken. She had lost him once, and she was going to make sure she didn’t lose him again—she wanted to keep Jesus with her always. Also, Mary may have been thinking that this was the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise to return (John 14:3), in which case He would take her (and all believers) with him to heaven.

However, it was not Jesus’ plan to stay in this world always, and his resurrection was not to be seen as his promised return. That is why he tells Mary of the ascension. His plan was to ascend to the Father and then send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7; 20:22; Acts 2:1-4). Fellowship with Jesus would continue, but it would be a spiritual communion, not a physical presence.

In loosening Mary’s hold on Him, Jesus was in effect saying this: “I know you desire to keep Me here, always present with you. I know you want everything to be just the same as before I died. But our relationship is about to change. I’m going to heaven, and you will have the Comforter in My place. You need to start walking by faith, Mary, not by sight.”

When Jesus spoke to Thomas, it was not to counter a misplaced desire but to rebuke a lack of faith. Thomas had said he would not believe until he had touched the living body of Jesus (John 20:25). Jesus, knowing all about Thomas’s declaration, offered his body as living proof of his resurrection.

This was something He did on another occasion as well (Luke 24:39-40).

So, both Mary and Thomas needed more faith. Mary needed faith enough to let Jesus go. Thomas needed faith enough to believe without empirical proof. Mary needed to loosen her grip; Thomas needed to strengthen his. The resurrected Christ gave both of them the faith they needed.

How’s your grip on the resurrected Christ? Are you struggling with doubt? Then reach out and touch him, because he is there. Are you insecure and frightened that you might lose your grip on him? Relax, he will never leave you. Jesus sent you the Holy Spirit who will never leave you nor forsake you.

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on Thursday, April 5, 2018. President Barbara Hart welcomed everyone and opened with a devotion, “Who We Are,” followed by all reciting the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

On the prayer calendar: Mission focus was the Gum Moon Residence Hall, founded in 1868 to meet the needs of women and children, located in the heart of Chinatown, San Francisco, California.

The birthday of the month was April 5 for Sue Lim, a missionary in Seoul, Korea.

Joys and concerns were voiced, and Bernie Garrett offered prayer for those and others.

The Mission Moment was “After Easter,” given by Helen Campbell.

Doris Souers took roll call and gave the secretary’s report.

The treasurer’s report was given by Barbara Hart, followed with the business meeting. She announced the Northeast District Women Spring Spiritual Enrichment Day, April 14, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne,

Martha Plummer gave an interesting lesson on “Rest,” mentioning several Bible scriptures focusing on rest. She closed with a litany from Matthew 11:28-29.

The next meeting will be May 3, 2018. The Mission Moment will be given by



Bernie Garrett, and the lesson by Vi Heinen. Carolyn Winters closed the meeting with prayer.

Doris Souers,
Secretary

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. “I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life,” he said. “She’s a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice.”

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. “It’s really hard to read my mom’s handwriting,” he said.



Of pizza and sin

Whenever I’m in Chicago, I feel driven, as if by unseen forces, into a deep-dish-pizza restaurant. My recent visit was no exception. As soon as I stepped off the plane, the cravings began. Soon I was in a pizzeria, awaiting a handmade pie with giddy anticipation. It was a sad scene. I was dining alone, so there was no pretext of community; I was just there to gorge myself.

And that’s precisely what I did. After a few slices, I hit a wall but consumed one more. One too many, it turned out. While maneuvering away from the table, I realized: Deep-dish is a lot like sin. Both start with bliss but end in misery. Both take you further than you wanted to go, faster than you wanted to get there. And both require confession. So that’s what I’m doing here. I hope you’ll absolve me. Next time, I’ll try to eat less.

—Drew Dyck,
Church Humor Newsletter
(October 10, 2017),
CTPastors.com. Used with permission.

The Giver

It is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out-give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to him, he will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave.

—Charles Spurgeon

The Programmer's Prayer

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash. He installed His own software on the hard drive of my heart; all of His commands are user-friendly.

His directory guides me to the right choices for His name's sake. Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my backup. His password protects me. He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies. His help is only a key-stroke away. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and my files will be merged with His and saved forever.



*Happy
Mother's Day*

A decorative graphic for Mother's Day featuring the words "Happy Mother's Day" in a pink, cursive font. To the right of the text are several colorful flowers, including tulips and roses. To the left is a single pink carnation.

O God our Father, we would
thank you for all the
bright things of life.
Help us to see them,
and to count them,
and to remember them,
that our lives may
flow in ceaseless
praise; for the sake of
Jesus Christ our Lord.



— J.H. Jowett (1841-1923)

