

News From The Rock

May 2022

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

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

Pastor Paul receives new appointment

In a meeting with Associate Superintendent Rev. Kathie Jones on April 2, the Solid Rock Staff-Parish Relations Committee learned that Pastor Paul Burris has been appointed by Bishop Trimble and the Cabinet as pastor at Syracuse Calvary United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2022. This news was shared with the congregation on April 3.

Pastor Paul's last Sunday at Solid Rock will be June 12. He and Lisa have been at Solid Rock for seven years. Farewell activities are being planned.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has completed and submitted a Church Consultation Form, informing the Bishop and Cabinet of Solid Rock's pastoral needs so that a new appointment can be made. It is anticipated that an announcement will be made soon.

Special Offering, May 1, for Native American Ministries

For hundreds of years, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, compelled by the gospel, have chosen to become disciples of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we have affirmed that relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is contained in the Good News of Jesus Christ. We bear witness to the mercy of God through our faith, continuing in discipleship and ministry.

Your gifts provide scholarships for Native American seminary students and grass-



root work within Native American churches and Native American outreach ministries in annual conferences. Just remember: mouthwash, gum, and syringes were invented by Native Americans. Native Americans were instrumental in code breaking during World War II, Pacific theater.

Native American Ministries Sunday is May 1. Your designated donation can be put in the offering plate any Sunday. Thank you.

—Your Missions Committee

Bible Study

During the month of May, our "Feasting on the Word" Bible studies will continue to relate to the resurrection and its meaning in our lives. Each Monday evening,



at 7:00 p.m., you are invited to join in a search of God's Word and listen for what God has to say to us.

Those gathering are no longer required to wear face masks and be socially distanced. Our hope and desire is that we are drawn closer to God and each other. In case you have not ventured this direction previously, we meet in the kitchen of Solid Rock Church. Following are the dates and scriptures for each study. If you cannot be in attendance, please hold the gathering in your prayers.

- May 2: Luke 24:13-35 (On the Road with Jesus), Jorita Banter, leader
- May 9: John 20:19-31 (Questions, Questions, Questions), Joe Haney, leader

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The hymn writer famously wrote, "O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!"



Have we lost a sense of awe and wonder in this world? For most of us, a normal day of life doesn't leave us in awesome wonder. We pass by trees and grass, see the sun and moon every day, but they are altogether ordinary, not awesome to us.

The Scriptures teach us that the natural world is not only God's creation, but God's revelation. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." In Romans 1:19-20, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made."

Have you ever wondered why God created everything in this world from the smallest ant to the Appalachian Mountains? The natural world is not merely the result of random, unguided processes, but is the masterpiece of God. The Bible tells us that every created thing reveals the glory of God. It is a sort of language by

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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.

How UMC pastoral appointments are made

In The United Methodist Church, clergy appointments are made annually by the bishop, who has the responsibility for setting all the pastoral appointments in the conference. This unique system of assigning clergy dates back to John Wesley. Congregations in The United Methodist Church do not “call” or “hire” their pastor. The system is called “itinerant” or “itineracy.”

Each year, usually in the fall or winter, the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee consults with the district superintendent and communicates if it desires a change in pastoral leadership. Recommendations of the committee are advisory only.

Pastors also can indicate annually whether they wish to stay at their current

appointments, wish to move to another appointment or have no preference. However, they are not assured that they will get their first choice. Elders and local pastors in The United Methodist Church agree to serve where sent and to accept and abide by the appointments.

The bishop and the cabinet (all the district superintendents in the conference) look at appointment needs throughout the conference, taking into consideration the needs of each church, the gifts and talents of each pastor, and other circumstances in the conference. They then determine the appointments for each church in the conference. The bishop will “fix” the appointments at the annual conference meeting each year. These meetings usually take place in April, May and June.

Saying goodbye to your pastor

By Pastor Stephen Rasmusson

Farewell. ‘Til we meet again. Later. Go with God.

Saying goodbye is a spiritual practice. And like many spiritual practices, it does not pretend to be easy. Even though life is full of goodbyes, it does not mean that it is easier with practice. Even when we are surrounded by the powerful Easter promises of resurrection and new life, parting always feels like a moment eternally trapped in Holy Saturday, when Hope lies in the tomb and resurrection is not yet. It is a time of confusion for some, anger for others, hope for others, and intense grief for others still.

When a pastor leaves, the process of saying goodbye is even more difficult. The years of spiritual direction, the bedside visits, the moments of celebration and sorrow, of hurt and rejoicing that have shaped each of our experiences together betray the best and worst of human nature. Your pastor has had the privilege of presenting the person of Jesus in word and deed. And your pastor has shown you the deep brokenness of humans who dare to stand in the presence of God.

1. REJOICE: Recall the many times that you have been touched by a new insight into the grace and love of God that have been shown in the teaching and life of your pastor. Don’t be afraid to say thank you in person or in a note to your leaving pastor. These moments will carry the spirit of your

pastor into deeper service in Christ’s name. Our church is a worldwide church, and your former pastor will bring a part of you into the new call. Rejoice that others will be blessed with the unique gift of grace proclaimed through her or his preaching and ministry.

2. RECONCILE: Hopefully your pastor has taught you how to repent, and to accept apologies. Reconciliation is at the center of all human relationships before Christ. We forgive as we have been forgiven. If there is any sorrow for brokenness in the relationship, now is the time to set it right through forgiveness and repentance.

3. RESPECT: Your pastor has had the privilege of serving for a period of time as the person who holds the official office of pastor for you and your friends and family. It is helpful to respect the person of your pastor by respecting the office that he or she has held. When your pastor takes leave, the office stays. This means that, though you will continue to pray for and love the person who is leaving, you do not call on your former pastor to visit you when you are ill, have a crisis, need a funeral or a wedding performed, or the like. The new pastor, the person God will call to fill the “Office of the Pastor” will bring the word of grace into those situations for you.

4. REMEMBER: God is good – all the time. As you reflect in future months and years on the work of God in your faith community when your leaving pastor was among you, do so with an eye to the future. God will have new ventures ahead, new visions of service and deepening of faith, new opportunities that will come with your new pastoral leadership. Look for the hand of God at work in your faith community’s past, so that you can more easily see the Spirit in your future.

And finally, don’t forget – Soli Deo Gloria – To God only is the praise. Praise God from whom all blessings flow – now and forever.



Make a Pearl

The most extraordinary thing about the oyster is this: Irritations get into his shell. He does not like them. But when he cannot get rid of them, he uses the irritation to do the loveliest thing an oyster ever has a chance to do. If there are irritations in our lives today, there is only one prescription: make a pearl. It may have to be a pearl of patience, but, anyhow, make a pearl. And it takes faith and love to do it.

—Harry Emerson Fosdick



March Financial Update

General Fund Receipts\$13,650
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P.O. Box 322

Warren, Indiana 46792

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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. Paul Burris

pburris@hotmail.com

(260) 609-9260

Youth Programs

youthministry@solidrockumc.com

Newsletter Editor: Gary Walter

gary@solidrockumc.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield

jane@solidrockumc.com

Financial Secretary: Wanda Spahr

wanda@solidrockumc.com

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which God communicates with people that he exists and that he is glorious. We ought to be moved to worship, seeing God's goodness, grace, power and creativity in the things around us. Nothing is ordinary in God's world. The next time you take a walk in the forest and smell the dead leaves, sink your teeth into a delectable cheeseburger, stare out the window at the sparkling snow, play with your dog, or listen to the gentle chirping of crickets in a summer night – stand in awesome wonder and let your soul sing, "How great thou art!"

See you Sunday,
Paul

(Continued from *Bible Study*, page 1)

- May 16: John 21:15-17 (It's About Relationships), Jorita Banter, leader
- May 23: John 13:1-17, 34-35 (A Life of Love and Service), Joe Haney, leader
- May 30: John 14:8-17, 25-27 (The Gift of the Spirit), Jorita Banter, leader

Those looking closely at our last reading will note that we are almost to the celebration of Pentecost. Gift after gift! We are truly blessed. Do come and journey with our Lord in a life of ministry!

SOS

SOS met on April 14 at the church. Kodi gave an Easter devotion on how Skittles can help remind us that Jesus died for us. Shannon provided a lesson based on Philippians 4:8 and turning lemons into lemonade.

SOS will be helping with the upcoming volunteer lunch for the food pantry volunteers as well as Backpack-palooza. Plans are being made for SSF time!

Come join us on May 12 at our next meeting. We'd love to have you come join in our fun!

Missed Opportunities

The other day I ran across the story of a man who had a great opportunity that he missed. His friend took him for a ride one day way out in the country. They drove off the main road and drove through groves of trees to a large uninhabited expanse of land. A few horses were grazing, and a couple of old shacks remained. The friend, Walter, stopped the car, got out, and started to describe with great vividness the

wonderful things he was going to build. He wanted his friend Arthur to buy some of the land surrounding his project to get in on the ground floor.

But Arthur thought to himself, Who in the world is going to drive twenty-five miles for this crazy project? The logistics of the venture are staggering.

And so Walter explained to his friend Arthur, "I can handle the main project myself. But it will take all my money. But the land bordering it, where we're standing now, will in just a couple of years be jammed with hotels and restaurants and convention halls to accommodate the people who will come to spend their entire vacation here at my park." He continued, "I want you to have the first chance at this surrounding acreage, because in the next five years it will increase in value several hundred times."

"What could I say? I knew he was wrong," Arthur tells the story today. "I knew that he had let this dream get the best of his common sense, so I mumbled something about a tight-money situation and promised that I would look into the whole thing a little later on."

"Later on will be too late," Walter cautioned Arthur as they walked back to the car. "You'd better move on it right now."

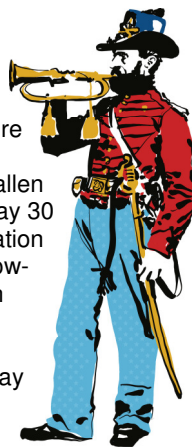
And so Art Linkletter turned down the opportunity to buy up all the land that surrounded what was to become Disneyland. His friend Walt Disney tried to talk him into it. But Art thought he was crazy.

—James S. Hewett, *Illustrations Unlimited*

We remember

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.



A preemptive prayer

Becoming angry is quite easy. The difficult part, as Aristotle observed, is "to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way." That, he added, "is not within everybody's power."

But with God's power — and prayer — we can resist the pull of anger. Use these Scripture-inspired words: "Teach us, O God, how to keep our cool when provoked, exercising patience and self-control so we can think wisely and creatively about how to handle stress calmly, after the heat of the moment has passed. Help us choose our associates wisely, avoiding those who are hot-tempered and easily angered. Help us choose your way of handling anger, rather than our own, so we might conquer harmful impulses by doing good. In the name of Christ, who showed us how to use anger for good rather than evil. Amen."

Mothers

"If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?"

—Milton Berle

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

—Abraham Lincoln

"When you are looking at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know."

—Charley Benetto

"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' It is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."

—Erma Bombeck

"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."

—Tenneva Jordan



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Keep moving!

As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: "Congratulations!" (in a loud voice) and "Keep moving" (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don't stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!



Patience is a quality you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead.

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools."

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9

—God's Little Instruction Book

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which
you have won for us, for
all the pains and insults
which you have borne for
us, O most merciful
Redeemer, Friend and



Brother, may we know you more
clearly, love you more dearly, and
follow you more nearly, day by day.

—Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

2022 MAY 

Warren, IN 46792
P.O. Box 322
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sold Rock