



News From The Rock

September 2015

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Scholarships

Those students who were approved for a scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year need to turn their fall schedule (which states the number of credit hours to be taken) into the church office or give it to Linda McHowell so that your check can be written. If you have a matching grant, your schedule is also needed to complete your application process. Spring schedules will also be needed to receive your spring check.



Love INC Luncheon

Warren Church of Christ will be hosting the Love INC luncheon this year on September 13 from 11:00-1:00 at the Knight-Bergman Center.



Monday Evening Bible Study

Monday Evening Bible Study meets each week at 7:00 p.m. The scripture studied is the pastor's text for the following Sunday. All are invited!

- August 31: 1 Corinthians 1:1-18; Joe Haney, leader
- September 7: Luke 15:1-10; Aletta Heath, leader
- September 14: Matthew 25:31-46; Mike Heath, leader
- September 21: Joe Haney, leader
- September 28: Luke 22:14-33; Aletta Heath, leader

July Financial Update

General Offerings	\$17,152
General Fund Expenses	\$13,460
Mortgage Balance.....	\$238,936

Youth Fellowship

Our first Rock on the Block was held on August 2nd. We had a great time! Thanks to everyone who came or helped with this outreach event!

Also, thanks to Robert and Mike for leading the August canoe trip. UMYF also helped with the Food Pantry in August, and attended the 5th Sunday Sing.

We start up in September with our first meeting on September 20th at 6:45 at the church. Note also the Fall Party coming up in October. If you are a youth and would like to join our Facebook page, please let Marie know. Come join us and bring a friend!



Upcoming Events

- **August 30:** Fifth Sunday Sing at Heritage Pointe
- **September 20:** Meeting at 6:45
- **October 4:** CROP Walk
- **October 16:** Fall Party
- **November 1:** Meeting at 6:45
- **November 15:** Meeting at 6:45
- **December 6:** Meeting at 6:45
- **December 19:** Lasagna Supper at 6:00

Missions

The Mission Team has sent from the Mission Fund \$300 to Karing for Kids, which supplies backpacks and basic school supplies to children in need in Huntington and Wells County.

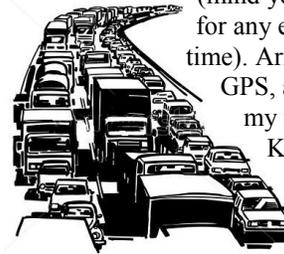
A Request

People who borrow items from the kitchen are asked to leave a note stating their name, what has been taken and the date borrowed. Timely return of items is appreciated. Thank you.



A few years ago my youngest son and I took a trip to Gettysburg. It was going smoothly until we reached Washington, Pennsylvania. Traffic on the interstate had ground to a halt. For the next 45 minutes we covered a grand total of two miles. By now it was nearly 8pm. Although we had already covered 400 miles, I was struck by the reality that we still had over 200 miles to go (not to mention still set up camp). Not knowing how far this backup went or how long we would be traveling at such a pace, my patience was wearing thin.

It was about that time that I finally spotted the exit ramp I had been waiting for (mind you I was looking for any exit ramp at the time). Armed with my GPS, a road atlas and my trusty co-pilot, Kristopher, we set off into the great unknown to get around the jam. The only



problem was that the GPS kept directing me to drive right back into the mess that had forced me off of the interstate in the first place. Being anxious about not knowing where I was going I was tempted to go right back to the interstate. In fact, twelve miles down the road we headed back to the interstate only to find that the traffic was still moving at a turtle's pace. We turned around and headed back into the unknown.

That happens in our lives too doesn't it? We find that the road we have been traveling becomes difficult to handle. We find ourselves in a jam. We don't seem to be going anywhere. Things obstruct the love and grace of God to us. The flow of God's grace can't get to our hearts. First, there are minor things, then more minor things,

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United Methodist Women

The women of Solid Rock United Methodist Church met Thursday, August 6, in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe. Barbara Hart, President, welcomed each one present and gave an inspiring devotional entitled "Unity: To Know Christ and Make Him Known."

The United Methodist Women's Purpose was recited by everyone present. The Prayer Calendar listed the mission focus as Sue Wilhelm, Epworth Children, and Family Services of St. Louis, Missouri. The birthday for August was Mrs. Nancy Carew, missionary in Liberia, West Africa.

The joys and concerns were taken by Barbara Hart. She offered prayer for those



United
Methodist
Women

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Warren, Indiana 46792

www.solidrockumc.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
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Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873
Hours: 9 a.m. to Noon

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News deadline for the October
newsletter: September 20

named.

Roll call was taken with eight members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and showed a balance of \$634.28.

Vi Heinen gave a very interesting and informative lesson on disability. On the average, people are disabled for eight years. She opened with prayer, had a reading from Ephesians, and a closing litany.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Plummer

SOS

The Solid Rock SOS met on August 13, 2015. Highlights from this meeting:

- A devotion on Who am I? was given by Cindy Boxell. Christ is strength, peace, way, truth, light, comforter.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- A lesson on God's agape love was given by Sherry Gifford. God's agape love means kindness and patience. The littlest things we do can impact others. Verses shared: 1 Corinthians 13:4, Hebrews 13:2. Discussion was held on random acts of kindness. When was the last time you experienced a random act of kindness? A quick call from an old friend can lift us up the most. A genuine compliment from a stranger on the street also lifts us up. It can feel awkward to reach out to others or even smile at a stranger. Providing acts of kindness will be worth it in the end. We should cultivate sharing kindness. A peace prayer by St. Francis of Assisi was shared by Sherry.
- A love offering was collected to be given to the food pantry to buy feminine hygiene products.
- Old Business
 - SSF: Donations to area supporters, Solid Rock and Warren's firework fund were determined.
- New Business
 - A request to provide food for two auctions was approved.
- Committee report: No report.
- Many cards were received and sent by the Corresponding Secretary.
- Prayer partners were assigned and the meeting was adjourned with prayer and a sung benediction.
- Attendance: 17

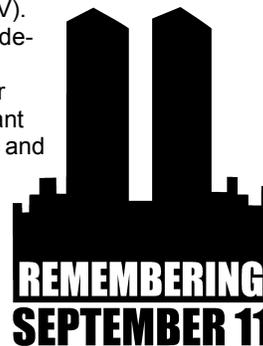
- Next meeting: September 10, 2015, at Lana Myers' house with Sherry Gifford as co-hostess and Martina Cocklin giving the lesson.

A prayer for uncertain times

An hour before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, pastor and author Stan Purdum was reading Psalm 66, which includes the words, "We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place" (v. 12, NRSV).

After watching the destruction, Purdum composed a prayer that remains relevant today, as terrorism and threats often make peace seem more "specious" than "spacious":

O God of heaven and earth, who's bigger than nations and factions, be with us as we live through times of terror, despair and danger. Be the strength of people who've been touched personally by disaster. Come with healing to those who are injured. Be the eternal rest of those who've died. Be the energy, compassion and fortitude of those who must pick through the wreckage. Grant our leaders courage and a double portion of your wisdom. The day of universal brotherhood seems farther off than ever, O God, but help us not despair of trying to accomplish it. Strengthen our faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Flagpole prayers



Each September for the past 25 years, young Christians across America have gathered around school flagpoles to pray. See You at the Pole (SYATP), which began at three schools in Burleson, Texas, is now an international event, with about 3 million participants annually.

Students organize prayer gatherings, usually at 7 a.m. local time. Teachers, parents and youth pastors often join them. The theme verse for this year's event, which occurs September 23, is Acts 1:14 — "They all met together and were constantly united in prayer" (NLT). Student-led prayer, even at public schools, is free speech protected by the U.S. Constitution. By gathering around their flagpoles, young people take a stand for Christ as they call on his name in prayer.

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then more minor things. Just like the traffic jam, it always begins with little things that slowly stop the traffic. These little things begin to block off our spirit from the Holy Spirit of God. They eventually jam up the system.

Then, when we finally get away from the sins that have caused so much trouble in our lives, we are tempted to go right back to them. Like the GPS, we desire to head back to the same road we had been traveling on. We do so because that road is something we are familiar with. We justify the cost and convince ourselves that we are willing to live with the consequences. We are fearful and unwilling to step out on faith and trust that God's way and God's grace are sufficient.

We need to realize today that Jesus Christ has paid the price to make things right in our hearts. He gave his life so that we might have a permanent flow of God's grace to our heart. Every moment, every day. This grace can flow to every part of our lives. Without this flow of Grace we are left with a clogged up spirit full of sin.

Because Kristopher and I were willing to take a different road we were rewarded with a journey down one of the most scenic roads we traveled on our vacation. We witnessed beauty that we would have never known existed had we remained on the interstate. We drove through the towns of Eighty Four, Monongahela and Charleroi. Towns that were only points on the map before we left home. We were so intrigued and taken by our new route that rather than being a hindrance it had now become a part of our journey. We were no longer worried about what time we would arrive at camp. As we headed for our new home for the week, we realized that everything was going to be all right.

That is what God's Amazing Grace and love are all about. God wants you home. God wants your heart to be open to the flow of love and grace poured out freely and abundantly today. Is your heart opened for the love of God to flow right to you? Are you willing to journey off the beaten path to experience God's grace?

See You Sunday,
Pastor Paul

"If you lack knowledge, go to school. If you lack wisdom, get on your knees! Knowledge is not wisdom. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge."

—Vance Havner

Sanka-what?!

Not Sanka — *sanctification*! From its Latin roots, this term is related to words such as *holy*, *sacred* and *saint*. While classic Sanka coffee commercials boasted it was "instant" and 97 percent caffeine-free, sanctification is commonly defined as a long process of Christian growth — becoming free, we might say, from unhealthy indulgences that compromise our life in Christ.

The trouble is, we struggle all our lives to be "good Christians," to remain diligent in prayer and service, to wholly trust Jesus, even amid trouble. But we can't be holy by ourselves.

I find helpful a recent explanation I heard from a pastor: Sanctification is learning more and more throughout life how deeply we need Jesus. Because we can't cultivate our own holiness, we must let the Holy Spirit draw us to the cross of Christ, where God's unfathomable love and forgiveness make us holy, or *sanctify* us.

—Heidi Mann

The road of life

God of our life,
there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;
when the road seems dreary and endless,
the skies gray and threatening;
when our lives have no music in them,
and our hearts are lonely,
and our souls have lost their courage.
Flood the path with light,
turn our eyes to where
the skies are full of promise;
tune our hearts to brave music;
give us the sense of comradeship
with heroes and saints of every age;
and so quicken our spirits
that we may be able to encourage
the souls of all who journey with us
on the road of life,
to your honor and glory.

—St. Augustine

The whole is greater ...

Composer Iannis Xenakis said, "The collision of hail or rain with hard surfaces, or the song of cicadas in a summer field. These sonic events are made out of thousands of isolated sounds; this multitude of sounds, seen as totality, is a new sonic event."

What would one cicada sound like, or a lone hailstone hitting the ground? Would we even hear that? How about one raindrop, one low rumble of thunder? But put those individual sounds together in groups and they're powerful.

What can one coin in an offering plate accomplish? Or one volunteer from an entire congregation? What if John the Baptist's lone voice had never been joined by the disciples, and all the Christians after them, sharing the Gospel?

One voice alone isn't inconsequential, just as one coin, one volunteer, one raindrop isn't nothing. But if each felt inconsequential and stopped contributing its "sound," soon there would be nothing. Conversely, when many individuals stay in the game, soon they find they aren't alone at all. God brings their contributions together, creating a whole new "sonic event"!

North Star people

In *Scribbling in the Sand* (InterVarsity Press), Christian musician Michael Card notes that the north sky is relatively dark at night. Polaris, or the North Star, is a great



frame of reference, but when most people see the North Star for the first time, they're surprised it isn't brighter.

Card recommends that we strive to become North Star people, rather than attention-seeking stars that burn out quickly.

"Seldom will people point their telescopes at us. And when they do, they will no doubt respond, 'Oh, I thought she was brighter than that.' But as North Star people, we can serve a deeper purpose. When people need us, we can be there for them, pointing [to] the Way. While the world is spinning at a dizzying pace, we can remain grounded to the same spot, less dazzling but unmovable.

"After all, Jesus was a North Star person. There was nothing in his appearance that seemed especially brilliant, according to Isaiah. In his time there were far more dazzling messianic stars who came and went with a flash. But Jesus has always remained there, rooted to the same place in the universe, unmovable. He constantly calls out to us to turn around and behold the dazzling dimness of his light, as it shines in this present world — to find our way to it, and then to find our way by it."

[God] seems to do nothing of himself which he can possibly delegate to his creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what he could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye. ... Creation seems to be delegation through and through. I suppose this is because [God] is a giver.

—C.S. Lewis, *The World's Last Night*

A potluck of people

Many congregations enjoy gathering for potluck dinners — meals largely unplanned, when people bring food to share. Usually, the main dishes, salads and desserts balance out. The fun is the variety mixing together on a plate and the surprise factor of what's contributed.

Churches and communities — even families — are potlucks of a sort, too.

When groups assemble, each person contributes something unique and sometimes unexpected. When all is mixed together, the whole is truly greater than the sum of the parts. A beautiful balance often results: One is a good singer, the other writes well; some are strong leaders, others dependable team members; some are traditional, others innovative. Together, it's delicious!

Potlucks are sometimes called covered-dish dinners. But don't keep your gifts "covered"! Share them because you're a valued part of the whole.



Glory to you, O God, Creator and Father,
for the universe in which we live,
and for men made in your
own image.

Glory to you, O Christ,
who took a human body
and redeemed our fallen
nature.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit,
who made our bodies
the temple of your presence.

Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
whose will it is that we should be made whole
in body, mind and spirit.

Glory to God to all eternity.

- George Appleton



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