



News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

September 2019

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

Fall Bazaar

Solid Rock will once again be hosting a Fall Bazaar this year! The date is October 19, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be vendors, baked goods, and lunch.



There are many opportunities available on the bazaar team! There is a need for someone to contact the vendors and to be a vendor; a need for baked goods and baked good

helpers; a need for donations of food for lunch and those to help with lunch. There is a need for cashiers and setup/take down helpers.

A signup sheet will be available later, but if you know now that you would like to be a part of this great event, contact Mindy Rider, personally or by phone (260-519-2134) and reserve your spot on the Bazaar team!

There will be planning meetings on Thursday, September 5. The kitchen team will meet at 6:00 and all other interested

Family Ministry Update

by John Pearson,
Family Ministry Coordinator

We had 19 kids at our Back-2-School Bash that was held on August 15th. We will be starting up Kid's Club on September 12 from 6:00-7:30. This will be for five weeks on Thursday evenings. The first four weeks will be lessons on Proverbs: Be Trustworthy, Be Generous, Show Restraint, and Speak Kindly. The fifth week

(Continued on page 2)

Intentional Faith Development Fall Small Groups

Solid Rock Intentional Faith Development Small Groups will begin fall sessions the week of September 15 and continue for eight to ten weeks. Intentional faith development refers to ministries, outside of weekly worship, that help people grow in faith and in their understanding of

and love for God. It is the goal of each group to provide an environment in which participants can experience authentic community and spiritual growth in an open, nonthreatening setting. Signup sheets are located at the back of the sanctuary.

Four groups are being offered this session:

LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE

Facilitator: John Pearson

Meeting Mondays from 6:30-7:45, beginning September 16 (8 weeks) in the children's Sunday school room

This group will use "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage" (video series) by Mark Gungor. Even though it says marriage in the title, this small group is not limited only to married couples. If you are in a relationship and want to better understand the opposite gender this group is for you. You will experience all the facts and side-splitting fun of Mark's look at life, love, and relationships. This small group will be 8 weeks long, consisting of a 30-45 minute video and then a short discussion/game.

9 COMMON LIES CHRISTIANS BELIEVE: AND WHY GOD'S TRUTH IS INFINITELY

(Continued on page 3)



I recently came across an article I'd like to share with you....

Giving Yourself Grace When You Feel You Don't Deserve It

by Stephanie Reck (*Christian Living*, 4/30/2019)

Have you gotten angry at your spouse, again? Yelled at the kids yet again? Or cheated on your diet for a second time?

Perhaps you did something far worse than the scenarios above and you just can't forgive yourself. You play mental tapes over and over in your mind what you did wrong and what a terrible, no good person you are. If you are a Christian, you tell yourself that you could not possibly love Jesus acting and behaving the way that you did.

But what if we understood that none of us are perfect and are all flawed human beings with weaknesses and bents towards certain sins in our lives. Without the grace of Jesus Christ, we are all just sinners who could possibly never save ourselves from our sin nature. Even after conversion in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ, we still have not obtained perfection. In fact, we are working towards sanctification daily, that means we are a work in progress.

If you look back on your Christian walk, you should see progress and growth. You may have a long way to go, but you are no where near the person you were before salvation.

(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.

Solid Rock Small Group Opportunities

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS (Sunday School)

Children's Classes

- PEBBLES (Nursery)
 - Ages 0-4
- LITTLE ROCKS/ROCK FOUNDATIONS
 - Preschool-Grade 4
- ROCK SOLID YOUTH
 - Grades 5-12

Adult Classes

- FIRM FOUNDATION
 - Currently studying "The Bible Jesus

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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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Pastor: Rev. Paul Burris

pburris@hotmail.com

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Family Ministry Coordinator:

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News deadline for the October
newsletter: September 22

Read," by Philip Yancey

- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE
 - Currently studying The Bible Project series.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

- FEASTING ON THE WORD
 - Meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the church kitchen

SEASONAL SMALL GROUPS Fall 2019 Groups

- See the article on page one for details.

For more information on small groups, call the church office, 375-3873.

Bible Study

"Feasting on the Word" Bible study on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the church kitchen will be an exciting venture for the month of September. Our studies, listed below, will center on the major



and the "people of God." As you will note, the passages are not lengthy; they are challenging.

- September 2: Jeremiah 29:11 (Joe Haney, leader)
- September 9: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- September 16: Jeremiah 2:4-13 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- September 23: Jeremiah 1:4-5 (Joe Haney, leader)
- September 30: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 (Perry Spahr, leader)

You are invited to be a part of a "growing in faith" community in this part of Indiana. Bring your Bible and an open heart to what God wants done. Hope to see you there and around town! God bless!

July Financial Update

General Offerings.....\$14,562
General Fund Expenses.....\$18,637
Mortgage Balance.....\$1,878

(Continued from *Family Ministry Update*, page 1)
will be a parent/family night where we encourage parents to stay with us as we review the four previous lessons.

The Rock Solid Youth carwash fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund was a lot of fun and raised over \$300.

We will be having a Back-2-School Bash on September 1st from 6:30-8:00 p.m. instead of having our normal youth group.

The next WAY event is going to be at CrazyPinz on November 2nd. The deadline to sign up for this is September 22nd and the cost is \$10.

We are looking into doing another special evening/outdoor worship sometime towards the beginning of October.

There will be a small group starting on September 16th from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in the Children's Sunday School room. This small group is geared towards couples. We are going to have a lot of laughter as we look into how the opposite gender thinks.

Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, "It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God." As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer's end but in celebrating the ways nearly all "duties and labors of life" can empower ministry and faith.



Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they'll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in "spiritual union with God": cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

Bound by grace

Grace binds you with far stronger cords than the cords of duty or obligation can bind you. Grace is free, but when once you take it you are bound forever to the Giver, and bound to catch the spirit of the Giver. Like produces like, Grace makes you gracious, the Giver makes you give.

—E. Stanley Jones

(Continued from **Pastor Paul**, page 1)

Reflect:

Why is it that we expect ourselves to be perfect and withhold forgiveness to ourselves when we are learning about the ways of Christ?

We stumble, we fall, but most of us do learn and continue to move forward.

- *Where does the harshness come from to our own selves when we make a mistake, fail yet again, let someone down unintentionally, or sinned in the same areas we want so desperately to be delivered from?*
- *Ask yourself, is God that harsh with you? Does God condemn you when you fail or sin or does He forgive when you ask and says your sins are as far from the East to the West?*
- *Do you see God as a hard task-master and judge that shows little or no mercy when you sin?*
- *Are other people critical, negative or harsh with you and you internalize their beliefs about you as truth?*

You may be like me; I want to do right but somehow, I seem to do the opposite of what I really want to do. The Apostle Paul understood this, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...I can will what is right, but I cannot do it (Romans 7:14-15). Paul knew there was nothing good in his flesh (v.18), yet he knew that he had the Holy Spirit within him that enabled him to fight against his sin (v.25). *Is that not what all Christians are like? How many Christians do you know never sin, mess up, fail, or are overcome with their shortcomings?* It's not the absence of sin that makes you right with God; it's knowing the One who was without sin and took all sins upon Himself.

Paul also goes on to say in Romans chapter 8, that there is NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus. *The Holy Spirit knows our weaknesses, what your particular tendencies are, what tempts you most, and what provokes you—and He is sympathetic.* He does not join your condemnation but intercedes for you and for your deliverance.

If you are not able to receive God's grace for yourself, you will not be able to give others grace. Giving someone grace does not mean that you never speak the truth in love to those caught in the vise grip of sin.

Giving yourself grace does not mean

you *habitually sin* without remorse and repentance, as well as exhibiting pride for your sin. Grace says that you are a flawed human being that desires to do right, but when you do mess up, you have a Savior ready to forgive you.

Rehearsing how much you failed or screwed up again will not stop you from sinning again. Partnering with the Holy Spirit by repenting of your part and asking God to help you overcome your sins will be much more beneficial to you.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Paul

(Continued from *Small Groups*, page 1)

BETTER (Online Group)

Facilitator: Gary Walter

Begins the week of September 15 (9 weeks)

Maybe God isn't who you think He is. Maybe He's much better. In his book *9 Common Lies Christians Believe: And Why God's Truth Is Infinitely Better*, pastor and speaker Shane Pruitt guides readers in identifying the Christian cliches we've all heard that are actually unbiblical lies. He then counters with the truths about God as presented in the Bible, truths that bring encouragement and freedom for our lives. Among the lies examined: "God won't give me more than I can handle," "God just wants me to be happy," "Believe in yourself." This group meets online, using a private Facebook page.

ATTITUDE IS YOUR PAINTBRUSH

Facilitators: Paul Burris, Lisa Sabinske
Meeting Thursdays from 6:30-7:30
beginning September 19, at the church

This group will be reading *Attitude Is Your Paintbrush* by James Moore. The author uses a conversational style to inspire readers to transform negative, pessimistic attitudes into positive, optimistic attitudes centered on the love and hope of Jesus Christ

SHORT STORIES BY JESUS

Facilitators: Joe Haney and Rosalie Walter

Meeting Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00, beginning September 17 (10 weeks), at Heritage Pointe (First Floor East Lounge, Fahl Building)

Short Stories by Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine will be the study source for this group. For ten weeks we will look at ten parables of the New Testament as seen through the eyes of the Professor of Jewish Studies of Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Ten-

nessee. Each week participants will have an opportunity to explore the stories told by Jesus and gain a new perspective on how these stories can be used for our growth in discipleship. Group size will be limited to the first twelve responders. Each participant is urged to purchase their own copy of the book.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met in the Calico Room at Heritage Pointe on Thursday, August 1, 2019. President Barbara Hart gave a welcome and opened with a devotional, "Living the Vision of United Methodist Women (Faith, Hope, Love in Action)." The Purpose of the United Methodist Women was recited by members.



The prayer calendar mission focus was the Ruth M. Smith Center, an assisted living facility in Sheffield, Pennsylvania. Birthday of the month was Jerrica Becker (US 2) Missionary Assistant Chaplain for the Murphy-Harpst Children Center in Cedartown, Georgia.

Bernie Garrett asked for joys and concerns and offered prayer for those mentioned. Carolyn Winters gave the Mission Moment, "Let Your Light Shine." Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth."

Roll call and secretary's report were given by Doris Souers. Barbara Hart gave the treasurer's report.

The next meeting will be September 5. Doris will have the Mission Moment and Mick McNany will have the lesson.

The interesting program, "Women Offering Belongingness," was given by Barbara Hart. Women of the Bible, like Lydia, Priscilla and Aquilla, and others opened their homes for biblical leadership and the church gathering of people in the name of the Lord. She read from Acts 16:11-40; Romans 16:3-5; and 1 Corinthians 16:19.

The meeting was closed by all saying the litany in unison.

Secretary,
Doris Souers

- "God is not out there or back there or yet to be, but hidden in the most ordinary things of our ordinary lives."
—Sallie McFague
- "The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent." —Sam Levinson

Happy birthday to — and for — you!

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone is, not what they've done. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"



To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."

PRAYER FOR GOOD HUMOR

Grant me oh Lord, good digestion,
and also something to digest.

Grant me a healthy body,
and the necessary good humor
to maintain it.

Grant me a simple soul that knows
to treasure all that is good and
that doesn't frighten easily
at the sight of evil,
but rather finds the means to put
things back in their place.

Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumbles, sighs,
and laments, nor excess of stress,
because of that obstructing thing called "I."

Grant me O Lord, a good sense of humor,
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover
in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others.

Amen



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH