

News From The Rock

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

September 2022

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

Listening Sessions continue

Solid Rock has scheduled two additional Listening Sessions Regarding Separation Issues in the UMC. These will take place on

- Tuesday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, September 11, after the worship service with a light lunch provided

It is important that every member concerned about Solid Rock's future attend a session. Information provided will form the basis for decisions we must make in coming weeks and months.

The same information is provided at each session. You are welcome to attend more than once. Group sizes are limited to provide all in attendance the opportunity to ask questions and share thoughts.

Sign-up sheets are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or call Jane at 375-3873. Additional meetings will be scheduled if needed.

Make Solid Rock your church home!

If you are looking for a church home or have been coming to Solid Rock UMC and feel like this is where you would like to make your faith home, please contact Pastor

John. We welcome you with open arms and open hearts! If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!



Fall Bazaar

Mark your calendars! The Solid Rock Fall Bazaar will take place on November 5, 2022. Interested vendors should contact Mindy Rider.



Baptisms/Dedications

If you have been wondering about baptisms/dedications and would like to have either, please contact Pastor John.

Ministry Opportunity Forms

As Solid Rock begins planning for ministry in 2023, Ministry Opportunity forms have been distributed. If you have not yet completed and returned yours, please do so by this Sunday, August 28. Forms are available at the back of the sanctuary and are also attached to this newsletter. Thank you!

SOS

SOS met at the home of Lana Myers on August 11 with 14 in attendance. Kodi Elliot led a devotion on Isaiah 43:2, reminding us not to let what's happening around us to weigh us down.

For the lesson, Tamara Spahr interviewed Marsha Boyanowski, which was a fun way to get to know her better.

The group discussed tithes and gifts to give following the Salamonie Summer Festival. SOS will also help with the bazaar.

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Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

You are Not Your Past

Please read Ephesians 4:17-5:21; with paying special attention to 4:17, 4:20-24, 5:1-2 and 5:15-17

All of us have a past. For some, the past is joyful because we have special memories, proud of our accomplishments, and have a wonderful legacy that was once left us and now we fully embrace. For others, their past is tainted: a history of making wrong decisions and choices, brokenness, emptiness, and loneliness in various forms of trauma. Our past affects our present in ways we wish we could change and/or continue to hold on to. Many of us are judged by our past whether we like it or not. And in many cases, even if we have grown from our past and became better people, our past sins come back to haunt us and forbid us to remove these memories from the minds of those who matter to us.

A good example of this can be found in high school class reunions. How many of us are going to class reunions, only to live the days gone by? We tried desperately to hold on to our youth, our accomplishments, our relationships and, sometimes, to past grudges, hurts/brokenness, attitudes, and fantasies which never played out in our lives. We find ourselves comparing ourselves to our other classmates and to see if we are better than those we envied, if we rose above the circumstances that once held us down, and to find out what happened to our others that we used to hang with and to hear their stories. Many of us

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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.*

“The Parables of Jesus” study to begin this month

The Firm Foundation Sunday school class, which meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 in the church kitchen, will begin a new study on September 11.

“The Parables of Jesus” is a six-session study taught by biblical experts—six professors with specialized areas of knowledge.



“Jesus communicated deep spiritual truths through simple, vivid, and engaging stories. Woven from the stuff of everyday life, the parables of Jesus made the kingdom of God understandable and accessible

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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

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News deadline for the October newsletter: September 18

to his listeners. This study will give you new insights into Jesus’ parables and their meanings that will help you to appreciate more fully their relevance for your own life.”

Plan to join us!

Always room in God’s kingdom

Jesus told a parable about a man who invited his friends and neighbors to a banquet, but they declined. So he told his servants to go find anyone who was hungry or lonely or in need.

Still there was room.

“Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in,” the host said, “so that my house will be full” (Luke 14:23, NIV).

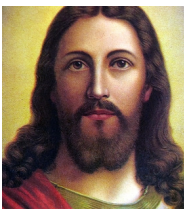


In *Searching for Sunday*, Rachel Held Evans retells this story and writes: “This is what God’s kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there’s always room for more.”

We’re all “outcasts and oddballs” in one way or another! May we know that God warmly invites us to his banquet — for no reason but that we’re hungry.

One Word

Author and lay minister Samuel Gordon told of an elderly woman whose memory began to fade. “She had once known much of the Bible by heart.



Eventually only one precious bit stayed with her [2 Timothy 1:12, KJV]: ‘I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed

unto him against that day.’ By and by, part of that slipped its hold, and she would quietly repeat, ‘That which I have committed unto him.’

“At last, as she hovered on the borderline between this and the spirit world, her loved ones noticed her lips moving. They bent down to see if she needed anything. She was repeating over and over again to herself the one word of the text, ‘Him, him, him.’ She had lost the whole Bible, but one word. But she had the whole Bible in that one word.”

A living mystery

In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L’Engle quotes Emmanuel Suhard, a French cardinal in the Catholic Church during the 1940s: “To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist.”

What would it look like in your life to be “a living mystery” — to live in a way that wouldn’t make sense if not for God’s existence? What risks might you take for the sake of wholeness and justice in the world? To what lengths might you go to serve a neighbor? What fears might no longer fill your heart and rule your mind? Will you see Jesus in people who are poor, be surprised to find him revealed amid suffering? What “fruits” might you allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate in you — generosity, patience, self-control? What grace will you show to others because you have experienced God’s love so powerfully? All of which makes sense only because God exists!

Easily given

It was only a sunny smile,
And little it cost in the giving;
But it scattered the night like morning light,
And made the day worth living. ...

It was only a kindly word,
A word that was lightly spoken;
Yet not in vain, for it stilled the pain
Of a heart that was nearly broken. ...

It was only a helping hand,
And it seemed of little availing;
But its clasp was warm, and it saved from harm
A brother whose strength was failing. ...

A smile may lighten the falling heart,
A word may soften pain’s keenest smart,
A touch may lead us from sin apart.
How easily either is given!

—Source uncertain

- “Prayer is thinking deeply about something in the presence of God.”
—Wayne Cordeiro
- “To say it was a beautiful day would not begin to explain it. It was that day when the end of summer intersects perfectly with the start of fall.”
—Ann Patchett

July Financial Update

General Fund Receipts\$13,824
General Fund Expenses\$12,832

(Continued from *Pastor John*, page 1)

will try to recapture the good old days because our current days are not so good: we do not view ourselves as successes or better people. Why is that?

In this passage from Ephesians, we see Paul writing to the church, and after talking in his letter about unity in the body of Christ, we are encouraged to be living as Children of the Light. (Living the life that God has called us to according to his grace and mercy.) In this particular passage, Paul instructs us to be able to live not as the way that we once did: being selfish, following our wrong mindsets, having deceitful desires and taking advantage of others for our own self pleasure. Some of us want to hold onto these things because they do bring us pleasure; after all, if we're honest with ourselves, we can admit that sin is fun because it meets the needs of our selfishness and brings us pleasure in many cases. However, at the same time, we discover that this sinful nature leads us into the past, which brings us more harm than it does good. This selfishness leads us to isolation, depression, in many times brokenness, and into the slavery of thinking that these things are more important than our relationship with God and others.

It breaks my heart to see individuals suffer needlessly because of past mistakes and choices. I understand that choices have natural consequences, good, bad, and indifferent; however, how long must a person pay for their sins in the eyes of man? I do know that the Scriptures tell us that the wage of sin is death, but it also goes on to say how salvation is the gift from God. When we come to God and ask Christ to forgive us of our sins, they are removed forever, and God chooses never to hold us accountable of our past because that past has been forgiven. When we asked for forgiveness, according to Scriptures, the old is gone and the new has come. That is a fresh start for us which allows our present and future to not only have hope, but also the capability to become whatever God has in store for us. What does that mean for us?

It means that regardless of our brokenness, we have value. Our hopelessness now turns to possibilities. The unforgiven is now forgiven for ever more; even though it may not be in the eyes of man, it is in the eyes of God. It means that we can learn to love ourselves in the same way that God loves us and that we can stop hating ourselves for our past. We can finally lay to rest our past and not be identified by it anymore.

This passage in Ephesians that is shared for this article is the perfect demonstration of how we can let go of the past. But it is not an easy path to stay on because it requires us to let go of those things that have changed us in slavery to sin and to desire that freedom that we have in Christ and because of Christ. We have to desire it, do our best to do as the passage tells us to release our past and to change our own mindsets from selfishness to selflessness. This means that we must discipline our hearts and our minds and our spirits in the way that the Holy Spirit leads us. I need to remind us all that this is a lifelong journey and that we will forever need to be vigilant as we strive to do our best to let go of the past and to embrace the present and future.

Are you struggling with your past? Are you or others not allowing yourself to move forward to become the person that you and God desire to be? Do you believe more in what man says versus what God says in accordance to our past and its impact on us?

You are not your past and you no longer need to be defined by that past. Yes, you may have consequences from the past which you are still dealing with; however, these do not define you. You are defined by your love for God and love for one another. (And I would also include your love for yourself.) We are here for you and with you! Contact me at pastorjohnboy@netscape.net or pastorjohn@solidrockumc.com.

(Continued from *SOS*, page 1)

After the meeting, there was a fun fellowship time with yummy desserts provided by Allison Voght.

We welcome new folks to come and spend time with us! Our next meeting will be on September 8, 2022, at Kodi's house at 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study

"Peace" and "Forgiveness" are the themes for the September, Monday evening "Feasting on the Word" Bible studies. These Bible studies are designed to strengthen us in our response to the words: "The word of God for the people of God."

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the kitchen of Solid Rock United Methodist Church, a group of disciples read and work on how God is speaking to us. In the stewardship of time we strive to limit our time to one hour. Below are the dates and scriptures to study

for each week. If you cannot be present for the study, you are encouraged to meditate on these passages.

- September 5 (Labor Day): Romans 7:13-25, "Peace with Self" (Jorita Banter, leader)
- September 12: Colossians 1:15-23, "Leading Others to Peace" (Joe Haney, leader)
- September 19: Luke 24:44-49, "What Is Forgiveness?" (Jorita Banter, leader)
- September 26: Matthew 18:21-35, "What Forgiveness Is NOT" (Joe Haney, leader)

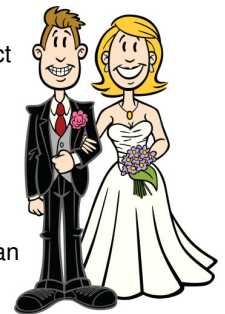
Inserting new commitments takes a lot of effort. Do come and journey with us in our mutual walk in faith!

—Joe Haney, Coordinator

Nuptial LOLs

When Outreach magazine asked pastors for their most embarrassing mistakes during wedding ceremonies, the responses took the cake. Hundreds of clergy fessed up about dropping rings, using the wrong names and even driving to the wrong venue. Have a laugh at these "I do" don'ts!

- I asked the groom if he promised to leave his wife and cleave to all others. Before I could correct it, he said, "I do."
- Due to a bulletin typo, the Bible reading from 1 John was listed as John 4:16-19. In those verses, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "...for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."
- I accidentally read, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and money and be united to his wife."
- While praying, I meant to say, "Lord, please bless this marriage." The word *message* started to come out instead, and I tried to stop it. Unfortunately, the result was "Lord, please bless this mess."
- I asked the groom, "Do you take this wedded woman to be your wife?"



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Prayer Requests

Requests for prayer should be directed to
Solid Rock Office at 375-3873
during office hours or
Pastor John Boyanowski
at (260) 580-8305
when office is closed

Heavenly envoys

If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.



—Ralph Waldo Emerson

God, we come before you and thank you for your presence with us. You promise to never leave us or forsake us. Even on days that are long and leave us feeling weary and empty, we know that you have not left us. On the days when our circumstances have consumed us, you hold us. You are with us and will not let us go. Even the darkness is not dark to you — you are the creator and the light of your presence shines through our darkest days. May those in our community who are tired and overwhelmed find you to be a close comfort. Show them that you are walking beside them, carrying them through today. Lift their heads to see the ways that You are present. Thank you for being Emmanuel, the God who walks with us. Amen.



—Mary Beth Thomas

2022 SEPTEMBER 

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Solid Rock 