

## **Prayer Request Cards**

A new option for submitting prayer requests has been added. Prayer cards will be available next to the offering plate and bulletins as you enter the sanctuary. They will be col-



lected during the service and Pastor John will read them during sharing of concerns. This will give Pastor John and the church office an accurate written record of the request. Time will continue to be provided during the service for those who prefer to voice their concerns.

## **Christmas at Solid Rock**

Solid Rock begins preparing the sanctuary for Advent

and Christmas with the Hanging of the Greens on November 24. All are invited to stay after the worship service for a light lunch and decorating of the sanctuary and other areas.

The children of the church will present a Christmas program during the 10:00 worship service on December 15. (Parents: children will

practice during the Sunday school hour at 9:00 that morning.)

Christmas Sunday worship will take place at 10:00 on December 22. This service will feature the Hallelujah Hands choir and the Solid Rock Praise Team.

Our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held December 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Plan to join us for any or all of these celebrations!



"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself." —Charles Dickens

### **Concession Stand**

The Solid Rock concession stand at Tower Park ended the season with record sales! The stand realized a profit of over \$9,000 this year. This ministry provides a caring, Christian presence at the ball park. Families are grateful for affordably-priced food, and profits are reinvested in ministries and programs in the community.

Proceeds from 2024 have been allocated as follows:

- By the Book (weekday religious education).....\$500
  Solid Rock Missions Fund.......\$500
  Friends of the Library Summer Reading .......\$600
  Little Rebel Store at Salamonie School .......\$600
  Touch of Love (assists those in need).......\$1,000
  Solid Rock Youth......\$500
  Bread of Life Food Pantry ......\$1,000
  Warren Area Ministerial Association .....\$1,000
  Southern Wells Lifewise Academy ......\$500
  Warren Veterans' Memorial lighting......\$500
- Boy Scouts Eagle Program ......\$200
- Second flagpole in front of church......\$270
- "Flock of Chickens" children's project......\$50
- Widows Care & Share .....\$100
- Hallelujah Hands.....\$100
- Salamonie School Student Council......\$500
  Liberty Center Church AWANA .....\$500

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the concession stand this year!

## **Church Council**

The Solid Rock Church Council met November 19. Primary business before the council was adoption of the proposed budget and slate of officers for 2025.

The 2025 budget of \$198,273 represents a 1.5% increase over 2024. Funding this budget will require a weekly offering averaging \$3,813.

These officers were approved for 2025: Lay Leader, Sharon Williams; Lay Member to Annual Conference, Becky Brown; Church Council Chair, Gary Walter; Nurture Ministries Chair, Brenda Conner; Witness Ministries



## Thank you!

Thank you, veterans, veterans' families and active-duty military that attended the 10th Annual Veterans Celebration, Sunday, November 10th. Thank you, Solid Rock Church family who joined in to show your love and support of our veterans and military. Solid Rock Church is



truly blessed by God with amazing volunteers and talented members and guests-great help with setting up and tearing down!

Thank you to the video and sound department, Gary and Jonathon, for going above and beyond for the veterans. Thank you to Wendell Brown, Jill Eltzroth, Jane Trickle, Cindy Boxell, Brenda Conner, Lana Myers, Rosalie Walter, Marg Bentley, Susan Mills, Marsha Boyanowski, Debb Smitley, Lynn and Vicki Bonewitz, Pastor John, Jane Hitzfield, Tim and Kelly Leidig, Bonnie Meyers, Dave Spahr, the Lightners, The Maxwells, Grant and Alysa Canady, Madi and Adam Cibulka, SOS for table supplies, anonymous donors for table settings, those who erected flags outside along the drive, and the Men's

#### **The Cornerstone Connection** is published each month by Solid Rock Church

P.O. Box 322 485 Bennett Drive Warren, IN 46792

(260) 375-3873

solidrockwarren.org

office@solidrockwarren.org

Sunday School at 9:00 Worship at 10:00

Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed Friday

Solid Rock Church is a Global Methodist Congregation

Pastor: Rev. John Boyanowski pastorjohn@solidrockwarren.org Cell: (260) 580-8305

Office Manager/Treasurer: Jane Hitzfield jane@solidrockwarren.org

Youth Director: Tommy Bolinger-Hope youth@solidrockwarren.org

Newsletter Editor: Gary Walter gary@solidrockwarren.org

Newsletter Reporter: Becky Brown becky@solidrockwarren.org Fellowship group for the main course.

Thank you to the youth group for filling everyone's cup, the entertainment by "The Trombones of the Erie Band," Hallelujah Hands, Larry Ryan, "A Few Good Men," and the JROTC Color Guard. You were all so honoring to the veterans-thank you!

Approximately 171 attended the celebration with 36 veterans and active duty honored in attendance! We are blessed to have 222 veterans and active duty, along with two service dogs and one chimpanzee on the video.

Thank you, veterans, for serving and sacrificing. God bless you every day and God bless America!

-Veteran's Celebration Committee

### That's a (re)wrap!

The Reintgen family in North Carolina will always remember Christmas 2023. At 3 a.m. on December 25, their 3-year-old son woke them up, asking for scissors to open his new action-figure toy. "That's when we realized something had gone terribly wrong," said Scott, his dad.

A quick trip downstairs revealed a mess of unwrapped gifts under the family's Christmas tree. "There was not one thing that he left unscathed," Scott said. The boy, in his defense, said he was just trying to help everyone know what they'd received.



With only hours until their other children awoke, the Reintgens were determined to save Christmas. Mom Katie raced to rewrap gifts, even managing to get most nametags back on the correct packages. Instead of being angry, the parents found humor in the ordeal. Afterward, they explained to their son the joy that people experience from receiving — and opening — their own presents.

Morals of the story? Remember this 3-year-old when you get overeager for certain parts of the holidays. Don't rush through anything, and let others enjoy Christmas at their own pace too. When something goes wrong, don't panic. Like the Reintgens, find joy in any unexpected glitches and grinches you encounter throughout the season.

-Stephanie Martin



#### **October Financial Update**

General Fund Contributions	\$11,137
General Fund Budgeted Disbursements	\$12,193

News for the January newsletter is due December 22

#### (Continued from Shepherding Moments, page 4)

who were willing to do His will (like Mary, Joseph, etc.), and the rest of Jesus' story would best serve the people of that time.

Now, you might be asking yourself, "Pastor John, what does the Scripture you provided for this article have to do with Jesus' birth?" As we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season, people will question our beliefs about Jesus' birth, about how this and that are flaws in our understanding of the December celebration, and more. Some will argue that Christmas is something that has gone by the wayside and has become "too commercialized." All of these thoughts might have some validity to them; however, what does it mean to you? Do you view it as something that Christian believers shouldn't celebrate?

When I look at Advent and Christmas events, I learn about the great love that God has lavished on us and His attempt to redeem us into the intimacy He longs to have with each of us. (I say attempt because even though He provided the way for this, it remains our choice to accept or reject His plan.) I see that God provided a miracle for mankind that would defeat sin once and for all and how it provides all who believe a way to come before a Holy God because He invited us into His family through Jesus Christ. This brings great joy to many... except to those who are threatened by His power (Herod, for instance, as evidenced by the Matthew and Luke passages). I would love to say that everyone is excited about Jesus' birth and that they are preparing their hearts for the celebration of His arrival, but sadly, I can't.

Christ came to unite us *with God.* Jesus came to save the world and to reunite us with His Father. Jesus has told us that this would bring division in various ways. Someone once told me that religion divides us, and it certainly does. Look across the various religions and note the differences each have. The story of Jesus' birth is one that shows God reaching out to the world and trying to show His love for them. If the world tries to differ with the holiday, we are to show respect as we stand on what God places on our hearts. We know that division will come and if our hearts are prepared for it as described in the 1 Peter passage shares. At the same time, we can also prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival!

Coming into this Christmas season, and even though we have heard the story many times, it brings a certain joy to my heart. It unites family and friends and brings many closer together. It has stopped wartime fighting (even for just a short time), and it has brought hope to those who feel unnoticed and unloved. Many say, "*It's not about the gifts...*"; to which I say it's VERY MUCH about the gifts – the gifts that we receive from God through the birth of Jesus Christ into humanity and all He accomplished through Christ!

I pray that God is preparing your hearts to receive His

precious gift of salvation, forgiveness, peace, and love. Take time to reflect on Jesus and the importance of Him being part of your life. If you want to know more about Jesus and all that He has done for us, please feel free to reach out to someone you trust and who knows about how great the love God has lavished on us.

#### (Continued from Church Council, page 1)

Chair, Marie DeWeese; Outreach Ministries Chairs, Rose Broyles and Becky Brown; Finance Committee Chair, Bruce Preston; Pastor-Parish Committee Chair, Jon Voght; Board of Trustees Chair to be elected by Board of Trustees; Recording Secretary, Jane Hitzfield; Treasurer, Jane Hitzfield; Financial Secretary, Rosalie Walter; Nominations Committee Chair, Pastor John Boyanowski.

Members of the Church Council include the officers above plus the following: At-large members Noreen Preston, Tiffany Booher, Danielle Goodspeed, Ryan Goodspeed, Kodi Elliot, Cindy Boxell, and Teresa Kriegbaum. Also, Youth Directors Tommy Bolinger-Hope and Allison Voght, and Youth Representative, Jazmine Plummer.

A complete listing of all officers and committees may be obtained from the church office.

The next meeting of the Council will be January 21.

The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.

-Robert Flatt

## Christmas Celebrations

at Solid Rock Church

*Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 15 during the 10:00 service* 

Christmas Sunday Worship Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m. Featuring Hallelujah Hands and the Praise Team

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.



# Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

#### **Preparing Our Hearts**

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:13-17; ESV

As the Advent/Christmas season draws near, many begin to reflect on Jesus and their relationship with Him. Others begin to look through their calendars and see how crazy busy it's about to become with all of the traveling, gift wrapping, cooking and baking, and so on. Some are praying for snow (like me), while others are praying for warmer temperatures. Regardless of all the hustle and bustle, one thing remains for Christian believers: the anticipation of the night of Jesus' birth.

Scholars continue to debate the precise time of year when Jesus' birth took place: some mark it in around March, while others look towards September. Some others



state that the church settled on the December time to "counteract" the secular celebrations that pagans hosted. It isn't an important issue of *when it took place*, but the fact *that Jesus' birth took place at all*. The month isn't as relevant as the timeframe (year). Allow me to explain...

The many prophecies about Jesus' birth circulated for centuries before His birth. What kept

God from sending Him earlier than He did? Did God not care about the people of the Old Testament? God certainly did and continues to today. The timing of His arrival came during the time when *the world was ready to receive Him*. God knew what people had to be in place (alive), people

(Continued on page 3)







3rd Thursday each month 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Light meal served. Bring a friend Pre-K thru 4th grade.

Men's Fellowship 2nd Saturday each month at 8 a.m. at Solid Rock Church All men welcome!

> Women's Breakfast Last Saturday each month 9 a.m. at the church All ladies welcome!

NOTE: Not meeting until January 25th

# December

Cocoa Mix - Canned Spaghetti Peanut Butter - Jello Snacks Small bags of chips - Snack Bars Kleenex - Cereal



++++++ Thank you for all you do!

Monetary gifts through Solid Rock are always appreciated.

Solid Rock works Jan. 8th

Kids Praise Team practice prior to Kids Club 5:30 - 6 p.m.



Women's Widows Care & Share

Meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Christmas Party Dec. 3rd 12-3 p.m.



Christmas & New Years Cheeseball Orders Place orders by Dec. 15th and pick up Sunday Dec. 22nd. Order form in this newsletter.

Christmas Eve Service 8 p.m. December 24th at Solid Rock



### **December Helpers**

#### Liturgists

- Jane Hitzfield 1
- 8 Susan Mills
- 15 Mindy Rider
- 22 Marg Bentley 29 Debb Smitley

#### Greeter

- 1 Dave-Jorita Banter
- 8 Trudy Buffenbarger
- 15 Brenda Conner
- 22 Robert-Marie DeWeese
- 29 Lyvonne Nightenhelser

#### Nursery 10 a.m.

- **Rosalie Walter**
- 8 Stacy Wiley
- 15 Martina Cocklin
- 22 LeAnn Buzzard
- 29 Addy Wiley

#### Children's S. S. Teachers

- Brenda Conner 1
- 8 Jazmine Plummer
- 15 LeAnn Buzzard
- 22 Marie DeWeese
- 29 Marie DeWeese

#### Snacks

- 1 Charles-Shirley Ternet & Dave-Wanda Spahr
- 8 Robert & Marie DeWeese
- 15 Bruce & Noreen Preston
- 22 Greg & Becky Brown
- 29 Dave & Jorita Banter

#### Acolytes

- Kaley Campbell & Paizley Nightenhelser 1
- 8 Kinley Goodspeed & Malcolm Voght
- 15 Kalin Elliot & Scout Schweikhardt
- 22 Kaidyn Bolinger & Kerrigan Goodspeed
- 29 Kaley Campbell & Keeli Elliot

Please contact the church office at 375-3873 by Thursday prior to Sunday, if you are unable to do any above activities. Thank you!

Weekly offerings not only feed our church, but also our community and much more. In return souls are fed. Give as you can and may your hearts and minds be filled with the love of God in all you do.





## Weekly Bible Study

Monday mornings at 10 a.m.

NOTE: Check the calendar for any changes.

## **Card Ministry December Specials !**

If you haven't looked at the rack across from restrooms lately do so. Lot's of beautiful homemade crafted cards.

**Christmas-Holiday cards are now** on the rack and on the back table.



12-4 Jessica Boxell	12/15 Trudy Buffenbarger
12/5 Donna Bolinger	Dennis Miller
12/6 Lois Hildebrand	12/20 Sharon Williams
12/7 Barbara Souder	12/23 Tony Benefiel
Dave Roberts	12/24 Mary Ann Jackson
12/8 Whit Conner	Katie Moser
12-12 Stacy Wiley	12/27 Matt Walter
Jane Landrum	12/30 Dale Parker



- 12/1Pastor John-Marsha Boyanowski Brad-Jenifer Myers
- 12/5 Darrell-Marge Blain
- 12/13 Mike-Aletta Heath
- 12/15 Max-Lois Spahr
- 12/17 Charles-Shirley Ternet
- 12/18 Marty-Vicki Sieberns

	Christmas Cheese Balls
1. Dried Beef	\$ 10.00Qty ———
2. Hawaiian	\$ 10.00Qty
3. Cheddar	\$ 10.00Qty
Dharta	
Order deadline for Christi be December 15th with p Sunday, December 22nd	ickup at the church on
Early pickup dates may b	e available upon request.
Please ask family and frie	ends to place orders.
Give orders to Linda How 375-2909 or call church o	

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1st Day of Advent Communion Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	Sign Language 10 a.m. Widows Care & Share Christmas Party 12-3 p.m. Trustee Mtg 7 p.m.				Church reserved
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	Sign Language 10 a.m.		S.O.S. 7:30 p.m.		Men's Fellowship 8 a.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Children's Program 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	Sign Language 10 a.m. Widows Care & Share 2-3 p.m.		Kids Praise Team practice 5:30-6 p.m. Kids Club 6 –7:30 p.m.		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Newsletter news due to Gary Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service 8 p.m.	Merny Christmas			
29	30	31	1			
Jan. Birthdays-Anniversaries Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	New Years Eve "Be Safe"	Happy New Year			

#### SOLID ROCK PRAYER REQUESTS

#### Pastor John Boyanowski

#### Other

Abortion - Addiction - All Missions - Bargain Basement - Our Nation & Leaders - Missionaries - Local Churches - Solid Rock Ministries Bread of Life Food Pantry - WAMA - Healthcare Providers & First Responders - Schools and Educational Leaders - Our Service Men & Women

#### Well Spring (Wells Co) Cluster Churches and Pastors

Liberty Center Community/Rev. Diane Samuels - Bluffton First UMC/Rev. Sherrie Drake - Markle Riverside 316/Pastor Dan First Epworth UMC Bluffton/Pastor Marlene Ellis - Ossian UMC/Rev. David Herr - Lancaster Chapel UMC/Pastor Dewey Miller - Boehmer UMC/Pastor Steve Neviu Petroleum Community/Rev. Greg Andrews - Poneto Faith Community/Pastor Roy Nevil - Solid Rock/Pastor John Boyanowski

#### Health and Healing

Wyatt Amburgey Jim Argerbright Ann Arnold Rose Marie Beck Robbie Bolinger Tiffany Booher Levi Bordeaux Sandra Boxell Betty Bradford Kyle Breedlove Mary Lee Brinneman Kiara Bowers Mark Burns Richard Buyck Rosalie Buyck Bob Carter Sue Carpenter Elizabeth Cloud Jan Cormican Dillon Coss Karen Czerwonka Brian Driscoll Amanda Elliot Kami Fox April Frayley Patricia Franzen Andy Gebhart Loran Gifford Sr Betty Green William Harvey Aletta Heath Mike Heath Norm Heiser Danica Henderson Gary Henderson Patty Hensley Rob Hensley Steve Herr John Highland Billie Horrell LaTishia Horrell Mary Ann Jackson Mary Ann James

Rick Jones Dave Keller Jo Keller Kaitlyn Kilts Rory Kim Brenda Kinney Kate Lambert Judy Long Julius Longardner Nathan Ludwig David Martin Jenny McComb Bethany McGuigan Sadie McIntire Betty Mefferd Lynn Mefferd Kory Miller Melanie Mills Audrey Moreland Andrew Morris Rod Mowery Kammen Odom Nikka Palmer Becky Parker Madie Pitaels Derryle Pharr Richard Preston Samuel Rakozy Mike Roberts April Rogers

Tom Rupert Sue Shake Anita Sharp Deb Shaw Jay Shaw Dale Smith Norma Smith Beverly Smitley Wanda Spahr Terry Stafford Marge Stephenson Jamie Straley Mary Strawsma Tom Tallman

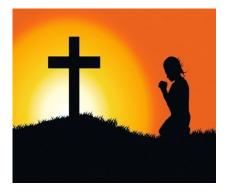
Charles Ternet Eric Threlkel Todd Tinsley Danny Trout Beverly Vandtzant Bryleigh Vetor Vonda Watson Kara Wheat Ted Williams Diane Winkler Jackson Womack Tyler Woodman Drew Wutke

#### Cancer

**Terry Knight** Carol Alyward Steve Krachinski **Steve Barnes** Amanda O'Brian Griffin Brundige Jay Overmyer Brian Cathman Kathy Paul Valerie Ditzler Martha Paxson **Connie Evans Dave Pearson** Allan Frayley Sharon Purvis Tracy Geotz Teresa Rhodes Ken Groves Herb Rinearson **Denise Hanzz** Ann St. John **Diane Hull** Mark Wilson Jon Jennings

#### Heritage Pointe

Darrell Blair Bill Boxell Curly & Pat Boxell Don Douglas Ann Miles-McCammon Eva Mae Minnich Dee Pattison John & Doris Souers Alyce Tinkle Carolyn Winters



Those Undergoing Treatment					
Marge Blair	Eric Snively				
Dale Irwin	John Trout				
Casey Jarvis	Courtney Woods				
Iris Perez					

Please let the office know if someone listed above is doing better and can be removed or someone needs added for prayers of healing.

# Solid Rock Daily Prayer Card for December 2024

Prayer is the greatest, simplest privilege of our lives as believers. Thank you for continuing to pray for Solid Rock. Following are some special requests:



- Blessed Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. It's so easy to remember Your gift but sometimes we
  forget how important this gift is to us. Help us to ponder our lives without Jesus being part of it and to realize that
  only because of Jesus' birth do we have salvation and forgiveness. Allow us to see the depth of the love You gave
  us in Jesus and appreciate this endless act of love. May we never take for granted You, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
  Help us to stay connected with You even beyond Advent. In Your Name, we pray, Amen.
- Precious Jesus, we welcome You into our lives and hearts. May Your presence remain our focus, and may we cherish You as much as You pursue us and long to bring us into God's presence. This Christmas, as we open the gifts of others and give our gifts, may we give others the gift of You and truly make this Christmas one to remember! In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.
- Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us and allow us to see and experience the miracle of the birth of Christ. Warm our hearts
  and enlighten us to behold Jesus' birth like the shepherds, guide us to our knees to bow down and worship like
  the Magi and the Wise men, and let our voices proclaim the joy in our hearts like the angels declared when You
  were born. Help us to anticipate Your arrival like Simeon and Anna; knowing that we can depart because we have
  seen God's Chosen with our own eyes. We celebrate God's Gift in Jesus and thank You for revealing Christ to us.
  Blessed be Your Name, Amen.
- Blessed Trinity, have Your way in our lives. Just as we have received God's gift of the Christ child, may we offer to You our lives for Your good pleasure. May our gift to You be our acceptance of Christ and our devotion to You. Let our lives reflect to light we have received and may it bring others to also accept You as God, Savior, and Lord. Just like Your gift to us was You, we now give ourselves to You as our gift. Let Your will be done. In the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



# **Christmas Word Search**

Christmas

Word Search

В	a	Ь	У	У	t	d	o	n	k	e	У
e	J	е	S	u	s	w	s	g	x	a	z
+	e	с	h	f	s	0	a	ą	d	n	z
h	g	e	S	М	a	r	У	k	р	g	u
1	i	n	n	S	g	s	5	L	g	е	е
е	m	s	k	Ρ	u	h	е	u	Н	1	с
h	a	u	Ь	d	j	ŧ	x	k	e	n	j
е	d	Ş	S	h	e	Р	h	e	r	Ч	s
m	u	i	t	e	h	d	m	I	0	x	t
е	ą	w	a	×	h	r	У	0	d	1	a
a	Ь	I	r	+	h	n	k	t	9	d	Ь
o	u	J	o	s	e	p	h	k	d	n	I
a	h	r	h	d	g	1	В	i	Ь	I	е
m	a	n	g	e	r	a	е	n	Ь	g	h
a	Y	k	g	Ь	с	e	w	g	a	f	j



Baby	census	manger	donkey	
king	Mary	Herod	anget	
Bethlehem	unn.	birth	shepherds	
Joseph	stable	Luke	star	
Jesus	worship	Bible	hay	



sure to visit busybooksandmore.net