



# The Cornerstone Connection

*Building lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ.*

**February 2026**

## Faith, Football, Fellowship: A Community Men's Breakfast

The Solid Rock Church Men's Fellowship will host a breakfast for men and boys in the community on Saturday, March 14. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m., followed by featured speaker Aaron Mingo, Head Football Coach at Taylor University, talking about the integration of faith and football. A free-will offering will be accepted. Reservations are encouraged for planning purposes, but walk-ins are welcome. Reservations may be made by calling the Solid Rock Church office at (260) 375-3873 or emailing [office@solidrockwarren.org](mailto:office@solidrockwarren.org). The church is located at 485 Bennett Drive in Warren.



Coach Aaron Mingo just completed his fifth year as head coach of the Taylor University football program, following 12 years of coaching experience at other faith-based colleges. In November Coach Mingo was named Mideast League Coach of the Year by the Mid-States Football Association for the second-straight season. Completing the season with a 7-4 record, Taylor averaged 48.5 points per game and scored at least 35 points in all 11 games.

## State of the Church: an Interview with the Council Chair

By Becky Brown

I still consider myself a newbie here at Solid Rock. Also, this is the first of the year, 2026. I wanted to find out more about Solid Rock. So, I went right to the source. I interviewed our Ad Council Chairperson, Gary Walter. I asked Gary for some information about how Solid Rock came about, and he provided it. I am not sharing that information here, only because so many of you were involved and know the story.

The next thing I was interested in was knowing what he saw as Solid Rock's strengths. He stated first that our strengths abound, and I have to agree. He went on to share

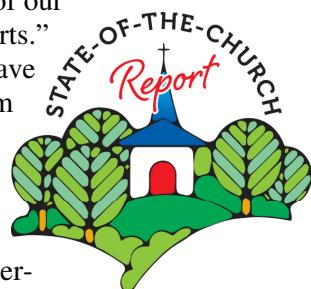
## SOLID ROCK CONCESSION STAND 2025 DISTRIBUTIONS

By the Book Bible Trailer.....	\$500.00
Missions.....	\$300.00
Friends of the Library Summer Reading Program..	\$500.00
Rebel Room + (299.35 collected in tip jar) .....	\$700.65
.....(Total) \$1000.00	
Solid Rock Youth .....	\$500.00
Bread of Life Food Pantry .....	\$1000.00
WAMA .....	\$1000.00
Southern Wells Lifewise Academy .....	\$500.00
Boy Scouts Eagle Program (Warren/Markle).....	\$100.00
Women's Retreat .....	\$200.00
AED (held in reserve until need is determined).....	\$500.00
Widows' Group .....	\$100.00
Hallelujah Hands .....	\$100.00
Salamonie Student Council.....	\$500.00
Liberty Center Community Church (AWANA) ....	\$500.00
Warren Volunteer Fire Department .....	\$800.00
Annual Fee for Amazon Prime for Solid Rock Account .....	\$159.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$7959.65</b>

that as a church, we put agape love into action. Agape is the highest form of love, defined as unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial. He added that every week he witnesses acts of unselfish, caring service among us and to our community. He stated, "We don't always do it perfectly, but with God's help, we do it to the best of our ability, and God blesses our efforts."

"There are individuals who have identified their gifts and use them in service to the church body.

The gift I see most often exercised is the gift of helps or service. Numerous individuals work behind the scenes, for no personal gain or recognition, to assist and serve one another and the church in countless ways."



Another gift Gary noticed is the gift of giving. Whenever a need is published, Solid Rock members respond in a mighty way! Our financial position is solid, just like our name. While there are months when expenses exceed contributions, this is generally made up by end-of-year giving,

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Christian Martial Arts

By Becky Brown

I am a bit inquisitive, and I bet you are too. When I look at the week's events, I see Monday night, 6 p.m., Taekwondo. I often wonder how this is in our church or who leads this group. I figured there was a story behind this and wanted to share it with you. So I interviewed the man who brings this to our church.

Let's start with the man himself, Master Rodney Howard. Master Howard is the first one I've interviewed who was extremely passionate about what he does. I know more about Taekwondo than I did when I started the interview.

Master Howard grew up in this area and attended our church at a different location for 4.5 years. He entered the military and became a Green Beret. He was a Green Beret for sixteen years. When he was in high school, he dreamed of being a Green Beret, not knowing then it would actually be a dream come true. I asked him how he got interested in Martial Arts, and he said it happened when he was in the 6th grade. He looked it up in our encyclopedias, which, in essence, is Google or Siri today. While in the service, he took a few classes at various locations.

After service, he married and became a father. His wife wanted their son to do Karate, but he insisted on their son taking Taekwondo. He knew someone who was teaching Christian Taekwondo. He also emphasized that he and his



son do it together. When asked why, he said that by then he was out of shape and wanted not only to get back in shape but also to start feeling better. They both began on August 8th, 1998, and he hasn't stopped. He stopped for a while. Their son pursued other sports for a while. His son is a 2nd-degree black belt certified by the Korean government.

The instructor who trained both left and asked Master Howard if he'd like to take over the school, which he did. He has not stopped training and continues to do so today. Master Howard has received four Hall of Fame awards.



I asked him what brought him to Solid Rock. Jaz Plummer was taking the class at the time. (He was working in Marion and other places. He had classes elsewhere.) He asked Jaz's mom if she could get him into this church so Jaz could attend her classes here. Altogether, he has fourteen students. Here at Solid Rock, he presently has one student. Master Howard shared that he also plays other sports, which often divert his attention from Taekwondo. He also noted that he's had students who leave but, at times, get back into it, even after as long as 8 years of absence.

He will train the student for a black belt, but he does not promote them himself. He takes the student to a regional testing site for his association. I asked him why he chose to do it this way. The answer was simple: he wants to be fair to the students and parents, and to make an unbiased decision on the promotion. As he spoke, you could see the pride he takes in his students.

I asked Master Howard how he brings Christianity into his Taekwondo. He starts each class with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Christian Flag. After that, they open with prayer. Each week, they are given Bible

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P.O. Box 322  
485 Bennett Drive  
Warren, IN 46792  
(260) 375-3873  
[solidrockwarren.org](http://solidrockwarren.org)  
[office@solidrockwarren.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastorjohn@solidrockwarren.org)  
Cell: (260) 580-8305

Office Manager/Treasurer:  
Jane Hitzfield  
[jane@solidrockwarren.org](mailto:jane@solidrockwarren.org)

Youth Director:  
Tommy Bolinger-Hope  
[youth@solidrockwarren.org](mailto:youth@solidrockwarren.org)

Newsletter Editor:  
Gary Walter  
[gary@solidrockwarren.org](mailto:gary@solidrockwarren.org)

Newsletter Reporter:  
Becky Brown  
[becky@solidrockwarren.org](mailto:becky@solidrockwarren.org)

## Online Giving



### December Financial Update

General Fund Contributions.....	\$28,827
General Fund Budgeted Disbursements.....	\$17,878

News for the March newsletter is due February 22

(Continued from *Ghost Town Church*, page 8)

other cases, it's seeing a revival and is growing favorably. Which one is it? Are we growing or dying?

Ever since the pandemic, statistically, church attendance has declined. Because of the shutdowns we had, people found reasons to stay at home and worship via social media platforms, churches livestreaming, and self-reflection. Once the shutdown ended, the Church Universal struggled with attendance returning to pre-Covid times. Many churches, particularly the smaller congregations, have been forced to shut down permanently. Their communities have these Ghost Town Churches scattered across the country and towns. What caused their demise?

- **The loss of love** – Because of the isolation we endured, we became accustomed to the separation. We didn't have to love like we did when we were connected. The mindset of "out of sight, out of mind" became our realities. We learned about having a distant connection, something that holds no accountability for loving like Christ instructs us to love one another.
- **Using religion as a weapon** – It sounds strange, but people have destroyed one another because of their ability to weaponize religion; turning it into a reason for hatred rather than using it to bring healing and restoration. People will only "pick and choose" various Scriptures to suit their personal agenda and if the people don't follow their reasoning, they declare themselves as having a "righteous reason" to use hatred and anger against people. Add to this legalism, manipulation, and control, some will bully the church goers into submission or drive them from the church itself. These hurtful churches give people to blame God for the pain and suffering they receive from such false leaders/shepherds of the church. What we need to remember is this: God isn't the one who has done the damage, the people did it! Jesus has warned us of such leaders, and we are the ones who choose to follow them or follow Christ.
- **Business** – We have become a society that has its priorities out of sorts: we place our families, friends, activities, wealth, entertainment, politics, and everything else before our relationship/intimacy with God/Jesus Christ/Holy Spirit. We chase after things that we foolishly convince ourselves we need more than developing our relationship with God, and the world keeps us busy chasing our own tails in hopes of catching it.



Even if we "catch" it, we end up biting ourselves in the behind.

- **Replacing holiness with emotions** – Before you cry foul, let me make something perfectly clear: I am NOT saying that in our relationship with God that we shouldn't be emotional. We will be and there's no way I would ever want to stop this connection with God. What I am saying is this: We must never base our closeness or intimacy with God solely on emotional responses. There are times when you might not "feel" God being present, listening, or even caring. If all we seek is an emotional response to "know" God is present and accounted for, we have missed the mark. I have a friend who continues to wait on God to "hear Him audibly" in order to "know" God is who He IS. Since he hasn't heard Him yet, he distances himself from God. Do we do the same today?
- **Self-reliance** - We sometimes try to take things upon ourselves, believing that we have all of the answers to all our questions. Sometimes, we think that we are bigger, better, and stronger than we truly are. When these things fail, people exit because we have proven ourselves to be flawed. Our self-reliance is a beacon to others that we are not reliant on God. If we do not have that reliance on God, people consider church/religion to be unnecessary. Why go someplace that claims to be reliant on God when they only rely on themselves?
- **Words** - Whether it is knowingly or unknowingly, everyone says very hurtful words that destroys the very spirit and soul of individuals. Just like in the segment of using religion as a weapon, we sometimes say things out of passion or out of emotion that if we were to take the time like Jesus did, we never would have said those things. Once these things are said, either audible or in written form, the damage is done. And because of this, the word spreads in that church/individual that it came from is now marked for eternity. Jesus used His words wisely and made sure that His words would uplift rather than tear down. We should choose our words as wisely as Christ did.

### **Ghost Town Church Resurrection**

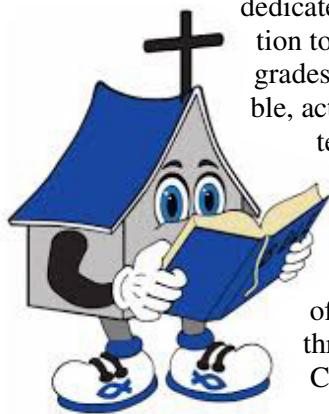
There is only one way to resurrect the ghost town church: Through the power of Jesus Christ. He is our resurrection and our only hope. The church must tap into the resource found in the Holy Spirit, we must return to the servanthood of Christ and to follow His example if we are to resurrect our Ghost Town Churches. Man cannot do this on his own; only through the power of God will our churches have the breath of life to sustain us as a holy church.

## By the Book

By Becky Brown

Each month for the next several months, I will be highlighting the different missions we support. This month, we are highlighting children's activities, from Taekwondo to helping children get Bibles.

By the Book is a Gospel-centered weekday religious education program, funded by various churches. They are



dedicated to providing Bible education to public school students in grades 3-5. Whether reading the Bible, acting out stories, singing songs, teaching children to pray, or memorizing verses, they aim to point students to God. Their mission is to bring hope and purpose to the lives of students and their families through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The first week after Thanksgiving, third graders receive a "Jesus Storybook Bible," which helps them see how the whole Bible points to Jesus. Fourth graders receive their very own "Adventure Bible." Fifth graders receive a "Wonder Devotional" from Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. These devotionals answer many tough questions that students have and help them dive deeper into the Word of God.

It costs \$10,000 to supply Bibles and devotionals to our students each year. It costs \$15 to purchase a Bible for a student. For more information and pictures, check out By The Book on Facebook.

If you enjoy reading, if you enjoy reading your Bible, if you get excited to share Bible stories with the littles, then please think about donating monthly or whenever the opportunity arises. There is a bucket for missions located in the sanctuary. If you want your donation to go to this mission, please mark it so we can pass it along.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Proverbs 22:6

## Guitarist needed

We are needing another guitar player for praise band. If you are passionate about worship and leading others with music, if you can read a lead sheet or chord chart and would like to play with the praise band, let us know. If you are interested in playing occasionally, that's fine too. We warm up at 8:30 on Sundays, and have an occasional practice. Contact Marie DeWeese if you have an interest.



(Continued from *State of the Church*, page 1)

and this appears to be the case for 2025. (I want to add that, as Mission Chairperson, I've been concerned about our Mission giving because it is not a budget item. I've checked, and we finished up well for 2025 and will be fine to start out 2026. Thank you for going above and beyond to help others.)

We are mission-minded, as I just mentioned. Our missions committee is proactive in seeking out ministries that align with our calling. We seek to bless locally and globally. Our congregation's enthusiastic support of Operation Christmas Child is one glowing example of our outreach commitment. I personally was touched by the generosity our congregation showed as they collected toys for the Henderson Community in Kentucky.

Solid Rock is an integral part of our community. We are blessed to work with other churches that share our vision and desire to work cooperatively, each contributing their own unique gifts. Solid Rock's support of the Bread of Life Food Pantry, the park concession stand, and the Women of Worship conference are but a few examples of this commitment to fostering community ties and meeting the variety of needs around us.

God has blessed us with a pastoral couple who are genuine servant leaders. Pastor John brings us practical, Bible-based, and theologically sound messages each week. Marsha teams with him, deeply involved in the congregation's life.

Our youth ministry is thriving under Tom's leadership, who prioritizes fun, fellowship, and especially spiritual development. This was seen when the Youth put on the Christmas Eve Service.

I then asked Gary what areas he thought we could improve. I have to agree with Gary when he says there is no need for major improvement. He went on to add that he does think we could build on what we're already doing. Gary envisions a church congregation in which each person has identified his or her spiritual gifts and is actively exercising them. The church body cannot fully realize its ministry potential until this is the case. God provides each church with individuals gifted to fulfill that church's calling, but it is dependent on those individuals putting those gifts into practice. I am reminded of the scripture 1 Peter 4:10.

Gary went on to say that he sees us identifying the needs of individuals and families within our church and community and discerning how we may be called and equipped to meet those needs. I am reminded of the saying, "God does not call the equipped, He equips the called."

Gary does not see us necessarily growing in numbers. "If we grow organically, by meeting real needs, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, I'm all for it," Gary said, but

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he is not supportive of what he considers artificial growth, attracting people because the music is professional and entertaining, for example. “While our music, worship services, and media may not be polished productions, they are genuine, heartfelt, and honoring to Christ.”

I asked Gary where he saw us headed in 2026 and the years beyond. Solid Rock has come through two very challenging periods. The pandemic blindsided us (and all churches), challenging us to reexamine how we were called to minister. Our attendance has not recovered to pre-COVID levels. (Again, we are not alone. Many churches experienced the same pattern.) “I would caution us not to gauge our success by numbers alone. If we are faithful to God’s call, He will bless our efforts, which may or may not result in increased numbers, but will be evidenced by changed lives.”

The second challenging period was our time of discernment as we determined our denominational affiliation. We were forced to examine who we are and how we are called to minister in our community. Gary was so pleased with the way we listened to each other during this process, setting aside personal agendas and genuinely seeking God’s will. “I believe our new alignment has been a good fit for us.”

Gary contends that these challenges have made us stronger, more resilient, and more focused on our mission. Going forward, Gary sees us continuing to reconnect with our Wesleyan roots, with emphasis on holy living, service, and spiritual growth. In the tradition of Wesley, Gary reminded me that we have two adult Sunday school classes and are planning to institute new small-group opportunities. Gary sees us continuing to explore and identify new ways of connecting. (Our online worship streaming is an example of this, another positive response to the pandemic challenge.)

Gary’s wish in 2026 is to revisit our vision statement, determine whether it still reflects our calling or needs to be modified, and continually keep it before us as a guide to staying focused on our mission.

Lastly, I asked Gary, as Ad Council Chair for some years, what the one thing is that has impacted the life of the church?

“Aside from the pandemic and denominational change, another factor that greatly impacted the life of the church was the decision of two declining congregations to join forces and create a new entity in the community. It is sad to witness congregations dying as they desperately cling to old traditions and ways of doing things rather than discerning a new path forward. I am so thankful for the vision of the leaders and members of the two congregations at the time of this merger. God has truly blessed this decision and renewed the vitality of our ministry.”

I have been in church all my life. I’ve been involved in

leadership, ministry, and missions. The one thing I’ve noticed is that leadership is the key to being what Gary has talked about in this article. We are blessed, as Gary says, with a wonderful Pastor and wife, but we are also blessed with the leadership that God has put together here at Solid Rock. I was given three churches to check out, and I am convinced God ordained my choice, and I am blessed to be a small part of this congregation.

## Shine Without Wax

How sincere are you, really? How honest, dependable, and genuine? These are traits that shape our character and help others see Christ in us.

The word sincere comes from an old Latin phrase meaning “without wax.” In ancient Rome, potters sometimes used wax to hide cracks in flawed pottery. Buyers would hold each piece up to the sunlight to see if it was truly solid and not hiding any imperfections.

When we allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, it reveals both our rough spots and our strengths. The good news is that Jesus never shames us for the cracks; he restores us. As his light works within us, we grow into people of integrity who are whole, authentic, and sincerely his.



## The Upside-Down Blessing

The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. They’re a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. The Greek word *makarios* doesn’t just mean “happy.” It describes a deep, untouchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is “the joy which shines through tears.”

Jesus flips the world’s idea of success upside down. The “blessed” aren’t the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as “Congratulations, you who feel broken, God’s kingdom belongs to you!” His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God’s favor.

Real blessing isn’t about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It’s the steady, saving presence of God — a life preserver tossed to us when we’re struggling to stay afloat. And it’s not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a *we* more than a *me*. Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

— Adapted from HomileticsOnline.com

## Concession Stand Changes

Ted and I truly enjoy our involvement with the concession stand. However, due to his health problems, we find it necessary to scale back some of our activities. Starting this year Ted will limit his involvement to working at the concession stand when needed. We are planning to set up a two-person team to run it. One person will be responsible for finances, equipment, and supplies. The other person will be responsible for staffing. There will still be a group of five nightly leaders. They along with the two-person team will make up the Concession Committee. I plan to continue as the lead and work with both team chairs in 2026 to orient them and work with them throughout this year. They would take over completely in 2027.

I plan to remain involved as a staffer at the stand. I would miss seeing all the parents and kids at the park. Martina Cochlin has agreed to accept the position as the person responsible for finances, equipment and supplies. We are in need of someone to be responsible for staffing. Please contact me if you are interested. I have some ideas on changes we can make that should help it run smoother. The concession stand has been a vital part of Solid Rock's commitment to the Warren community for many years. In the last few years, we have been able to donate even more money to a broader group of organizations. Let's continue to grow it.

—Sharon Williams



*(Continued from Christian Martial Arts, page 2)*

verses to memorize. So after the opening, they will have to recite the verse he has given them to learn. He will only take students with the "right" attitude. He does not accept bullies in his class. Unfortunately, he has had to dismiss one or more students for their bullying attitude. He went on to mention that some of his students have come from non-churched families. Once they go in, and as he said, "sees the church is falling in around them because they've entered in," they begin to ask questions about the church. Some have even joined the church because of Taekwondo. Prayer is an integral part of Master Howard's life. He sets his alarm periodically throughout the day as a reminder to pray.

One of the things he stated, which I wholeheartedly agree with, is that the more activities, the busier the church is on a weekday, the more your congregation grows. I have seen this happen. The more we invite the community to come to church, the more they feel welcome and want to attend.

We then moved into some history of Taekwondo. He pointed out that two or three of the history makers were Methodist pastors in Korea, and another, who was an American, was a Pentecostal Pastor. He himself took Local Pastor School for the Methodist Church and has, in the past, filled in for many pastors. As I listened, it was noted that Master Howard and those who came before him have used Taekwondo as an evangelism tool to reach and teach others about Christ. Christianity and Taekwondo go hand in hand with Master Howard. Taekwondo is over 2,000 years old. Taekwondo was taken out of Korea and given to Japan. Many of those who studied Taekwondo learned it from Japan. It eventually got back to Korea.

When you start, you will wear a white belt until you've earned a yellow belt, then gold, orange, green, purple, blue, red, brown, and brown with a black stripe. After that, you become a first-degree black belt. With each promotion from one belt to another, there are requirements. After meeting requirements, you promote to a 2nd degree. You can proceed up to the 9th degree. At the 4th degree, you are a Master. At the 8th degree, you are a Grand Master. He has one more Master test to reach Grand Master. He has been graded by one of the highest Grand Masters. It can take four or five years to become a black belt.

So the process goes: Master Howard will grade you to promote you. There are tournaments you attend. There are three tournaments to get a black belt. Master Howard still goes to Regionals and to Nationals. He also referees at tournaments. There are seminars if you are interested in attending. He exercises every day and practices Taekwondo regularly.

We moved on to fundamental basics. The classes run from an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes. I asked about the fee. Master Howard does not charge. He will take a donation of \$25.00. He is a non-profit organization for tax purposes. If needed, he will issue certificates stating that you have donated to the school. Someone has donated \$500 to help someone pay for the classes. It is still available for any student who may need it. You need to pay \$25 for the uniform, and there is a \$35 fee for the association's certificate in Florida. You can start on any Monday night. There is no waiting for an opening.

*(Continued on page 7)*



Master Howard (center) with Sr. Grandmaster Brenda Sell and Sr. Grandmaster Edward B. Sell receiving Hall of Fame 10 Years award.

(Continued from *Christian Martial Arts*, page 6)

Listening to Master Howard, I realized this is not a kid-only activity. It is open to anyone at any age. It is an excellent way to get in shape, stay in shape, learn a new skill, and remain active.

We never got into actually what Taekwondo is, but here is what I have found out: Taekwondo is a dynamic Korean martial art emphasizing high, fast kicks and punches, focusing on physical skill, discipline, and self-control. The benefits are fitness, coordination, confidence, and respect.

Christian Martial Arts Ministries' mission statement is as follows:

To lead non-Christians to Christ!

To guide Christians closer to Christ!

To increase self-esteem and self-confidence by giving students attainable goals to reach in the martial arts!

To sum this up, we have a gem in our church. We are lucky to have someone as qualified and excited to teach our children. Very rarely does sports address the aspects of the Christian life and how to live it out, but Master Howard not only teaches it; he lives it. If you are interested or know someone who might like to get in shape, stay in shape, and stay fit while living out your Christian life, I highly recommend this activity. Taekwondo is for anyone (man or woman), of any age (except those under 6), and in any condition.

I was blessed as I sat and listened to Master Howard's testimony and his willingness to live out his life as God has called him to do.

Rodney would like more students, and what better way to witness to our children? If you've been wanting to reach our children or youth, or you've questioned how to introduce God to someone in your life, allow them to work with Rodney, and they will be blessed by his gifts and his knowledge of Christ.

Please pray and support Master Howard as he moves forward in the journey God has called him to.

## Global Methodist Church Update

The Global Methodist Church (GMC), of which our congregation is a part, continues to grow and develop as a worldwide denomination. Recent months have brought encouraging signs of both stability and expansion as the church moves from its founding stage into a more established connection.

The GMC now includes more than 6,000 congregations globally, with strong growth in Africa, Eastern Europe, and parts of Asia, as well as continued development in the United States. This global reach reflects the denomination's commitment to shared mission, mutual accountability, and connectional ministry across cultures. Important progress has also been made in leadership and

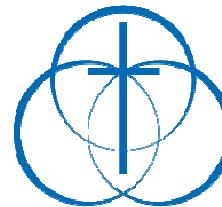
governance. The Assembly of Bishops continues to expand with international representation, and planning is underway for the 2026 Global Methodist General Conference, which will help shape the church's future policies and priorities.

Another key milestone is the approval of several theological seminaries and training institutions to prepare pastors for ministry within the GMC. This provides clearer pathways for clergy education rooted in Scripture, Wesleyan theology, and faithful pastoral leadership. (Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University has three-year provisional approval.)

Throughout these developments, the Global Methodist Church remains focused on its mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to spread scriptural holiness across the globe. As a local congregation, we participate in this larger story through worship, discipleship, service, and witness in our own community.

Please continue to pray for the Global Methodist Church, its leaders, pastors, and congregations worldwide, as together we seek to be faithful to Christ's calling.

—AI-assisted content (ChatGPT)



## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

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—AI-assisted content (ChatGPT)

## Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction.

Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.





# Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

## Ghost Town Church

Please read Revelation chapters 2-3.

*"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*

*" I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the*

*name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

—The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Re 3:7-13)

**ghost town noun:** *a once-flourishing town wholly or nearly deserted usually as a result of the exhaustion of some natural resource*

If you have ever read stories of the Old West or have seen any Western movies, you would see sometimes towns called *ghost towns*, once flourishing communities that somehow perished and were left deserted. These are scattered across the West and you can see these if you are willing to visit them. Towns in the middle of nowhere, yet, at one point, were highly populated. Some started because of the Gold Rush. Some began because of the expansion of our country. For whatever reasons, they died and are now only inhabited by the wildlife in the area – no one lives there anymore.

I began thinking about the Church Universal: we're hearing mixed reports that people are leaving the organized church religious structures, and then we hear that in

*(Continued on page 3)*



P.O. Box 322 • Warren, IN 46792

**SOLID ROCK** CHURCH



## EVENTS

### Office Hours



**New year changes in the church office,  
but always available to serve you.**

Pastor John office hours Mon-Thurs. 8:30-4:30  
Jane office hours Mon-Wed. 8:30-4:30

Call during office hours to 260-375-3873  
If you need prayer requests or help with anything.

.....  
After hour needs or prayer request;  
text or call and leave a message for  
Pastor John at 260-580-8305.

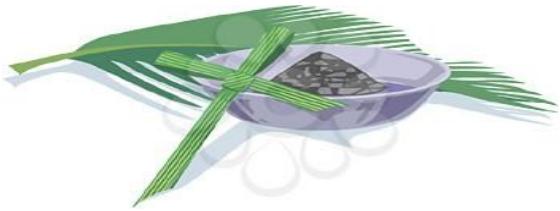
### Little Rockers Praise Team



February Practices

Feb. 3rd 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 17th 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Multi-Church Ash Wednesday  
Service at Solid Rock  
Feb. 18th at 6 p.m.**



**Everyone Welcome!**

**Stock the shelves in February**  
Solid Rock's monthly food pantry challenge

**Pudding Cups  
Fruit Cups**



+++++

**Thank you for all you do!**

**Monetary gifts are always appreciated.**

**Solid Rock Participating Dates at the  
Bread of Life Food Pantry for 2026**

March 4	April 15	May 27
July 8	Aug. 19	Sept. 30
Nov. 11	Dec. 21	

**Concession Stand  
asking early for help if  
you can.**

If you want to have fun and meet the kids and adults in the community, sign up to work in the concession stand this summer. You will not regret it. Only a couple of hours a week. Great fellowship and very rewarding. Call Sharon Williams 260-228-8127



## February Helpers

### Liturgists

- 1 Marsha Boyanowski
- 8 Stacy Wiley
- 15 Addy Wiley
- 22 Jane Hitzfield



### Greeter

- 1 Gordon & Martina Cocklin
- 8 Steve & LeAnn Buzzard
- 15 Greg & Becky Brown
- 22 Brenda Conner

### Nursery 10 a.m.

- 1 Stacy Wiley
- 8 Jane Hitzfield
- 15 Addy Wiley
- 22 Lana Myers

### Children's S. S. Teachers

- 1 Brenda Conner
- 8 Marie DeWeese
- 15 Jazmine Plummer
- 22 Marie DeWeese

### Snacks

- 1 Greg & Becky Brown
- 8 Breann Kratzer
- 15 Jessica Bendorf & Tim Kane
- 22 Mike & Rita Bolinger

### Acolytes

- 1 Lily Lichtenberger & Malcolm Voght
- 8 Kaley Campbell & Kerrigan Goodspeed
- 15 Kalin Elliot & Kinley Goodspeed
- 22 Paizley Nighthenhiser & Lily Lichtenberger

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

## Special Music Talent

If you or anyone you know has a musical talent please invite them to share their joy with us on Sunday. Either call the office or let Marie DeWeese know. Thank you!

## Join the Sunday Snack Team

We would love to have more people sign up to provide snacks and drinks on Sunday morning between Sunday School and Worship. The more people signed up the fewer Sundays you need to contribute. It is a great way to have fellowship with all who come through the line and you also get to hear a lot of stories, which are the best.... Let the office know if you would like to be a part of the team!



2/1	Pamala Hensley	2/20	Mary Richardson
2/2	Kinley Goodspeed	2/21	Scott Canady
2/4	Bonnie Meyers	2/23	Rita Bolinger
	Dewey Jacks		Mallary Kinnett
2/5	LeeAnn Boyanowski	2/24	Cindy Boxell
	Harper Scout Schweikhardt		Brady Booher
2/7	Jay Shaw	2/25	Donna Benefiel
	Ashley Cook		Noah Bolinger
2/9	Jon Bordeaux	2/27	Kaley Campbell
2/12	Brenda Conner		



2/20 Jim & Jackie Blinn

## Women's Widows Care & Share

Meeting Feb. 10th & 24th @ 2 p.m.



## Weekly Bible Study

Monday mornings at 10 a.m.

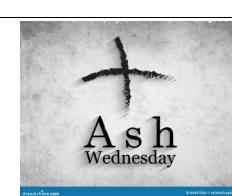
NOTE: Check the calendar for any changes.





# February



<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Communion Rock Solid Youth 6 - 8 p.m.	<b>2</b> Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	<b>3</b> Sign Language 10 a.m. Little Rockers practice 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ad Council Mtg 7 p.m.	<b>4</b> Henderson Mtg 6:30 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 8 p.m.	<b>9</b> Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	<b>10</b> Sign Language 10 a.m. Widows Care & Share 2 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> S.O.S. 7 p.m.	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b>  Men's Fellowship 8 a.m.
<b>15</b> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 8 p.m.	<b>16</b> Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	<b>17</b> Sign Language 10 a.m. Little Rockers practice 6:30-7:30 p.m.	<b>18</b>  Ash Wednesday Service 6 p.m. at Solid Rock	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Office Closed	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. March Birthdays-Anniversaries Newsletter Info due Gary W. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 8 p.m.	<b>23</b> Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	<b>24</b> Sign Language 10 a.m. Widows Care & Share 2 p.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b>

## SOLID ROCK PRAYER REQUESTS

## 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

## Cluster Churches and Pastors

Liberty Center Community/Rev. Diane Samuels - Bluffton First UMC/Rev. Sherrie Drake - Markle Riverside John 3:16/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

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT  
HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

## Prayers for Health & Healing

Phil Brown  
Mike Carey  
Sue Carpenter  
Jeff Daugherty

Ellee Fox  
Janice Highley  
LaTishia Horrell  
Mary Ann Jackson

Mandy Ramsey  
Eric Snively  
Mike Vogleman  
Shirley Wohlford

# Unspoken Silent Struggles

**Please let the office know if someone listed above is doing better and can be moved to prayers answered or if someone needs added for prayers of health and healing.**

# Heritage Pointe

Darrell Blair	Dee Pattison
Jim & Jackie Blinn	Dale & Norma Smith
Bill Boxell	Doris Souers
Pat Boxell	Alyce Tinkle
Rochelle DeHaven	Carolyn Winters
Don Douglas	



## Prayers Answered

Dewey Jacks  
Jerry Kline  
Kevin Pitzer  
Lisa Shriver  
Ted Williams

# Solid Rock Daily Prayer Card for February 2026

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:



- Father God, You tell us to bring our prayers and petitions to You. Here we are to do just that. We pray that You will continually turn our hearts toward You and Your will for our lives. We seek to understand our part in Your plan for our lives. Help us to be obedient to Your will. Create compassion, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and zeal to proclaim Your majesty and love. Allow others to see You in every aspect of our lives and for them to be drawn closer to You. Help us to put our wills aside to honor and do Your will as a service of our love for You. We ask this in Your holy and precious Name, Amen.
- Sweet Jesus, February is known as the month of love. Precious Savior, in You alone do we find an eternity of Love. Help us to never take this for granted but teach us to share this same love with others - even those whom we differ from. Allow us to love in the same ways You love, and may we help others (and ourselves) to find the joy of this love. You have already proven Your love toward us, now, may we prove our love toward You. Thank You for accepting us as we are and transforming us to be even better than You found us. All of this brings joy to the Father. We bless Your Holy Name, Amen.
- Holy Spirit, never stop being our guide to the Father. Continue to draw us closer to Jesus and away from worldly passions and desires. Lead us to follow the Great Shepherd and Savior. Bring us into the presence of God the Father. Teach us to serve God with our whole heart. Cause our hearts to love instead of having hatred. Transform us in obedience and to rest in the peace that only the Trinity can bring. Thank You for bringing us towards God. Blessed be Your Name, Amen.
- Blessed Trinity without You, we are nothing. All of our existence is meaningless apart from You. We are lost when we are apart from You. Lead us, feed us, love us, forgive us when we wonder away. Bring us under Your wing and shelter us in Your great Love. We honor and adore You now and forever, Amen.



### Bible Word Search

# Apostles / Disciples



O	I	J	E	H	J	F	X	T	U	Q	R	H	T	B
S	W	I	B	M	A	A	V	Q	O	P	O	U	Q	S
T	J	W	E	L	U	A	M	L	B	N	H	B	G	Z
W	U	N	Q	B	J	Y	W	E	I	G	H	B	Z	E
E	D	B	F	H	U	Q	J	C	S	G	D	F	O	E
H	A	B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	Q	C
T	S	L	T	I	S	B	H	H	S	W	O	W	C	U
T	H	Z	Q	A	Q	N	N	P	P	F	W	Z	G	B
A	G	A	M	G	O	K	U	H	X	J	E	S	P	F
M	B	O	D	M	P	J	J	R	Z	F	R	X	I	J
Y	H	R	I	D	F	H	R	J	N	H	D	F	L	C
T	C	S	S	V	A	E	R	V	A	M	N	P	I	Y
H	P	T	W	X	T	E	V	P	H	U	A	D	H	O
R	K	Z	C	E	K	A	U	J	A	M	E	S	P	R
G	E	F	P	E	W	T	B	S	M	Y	C	O	Z	

### Word list:

PETER  
ANDREW  
JAMES  
JOHN  
PHILIP  
BARTHOLOMEW

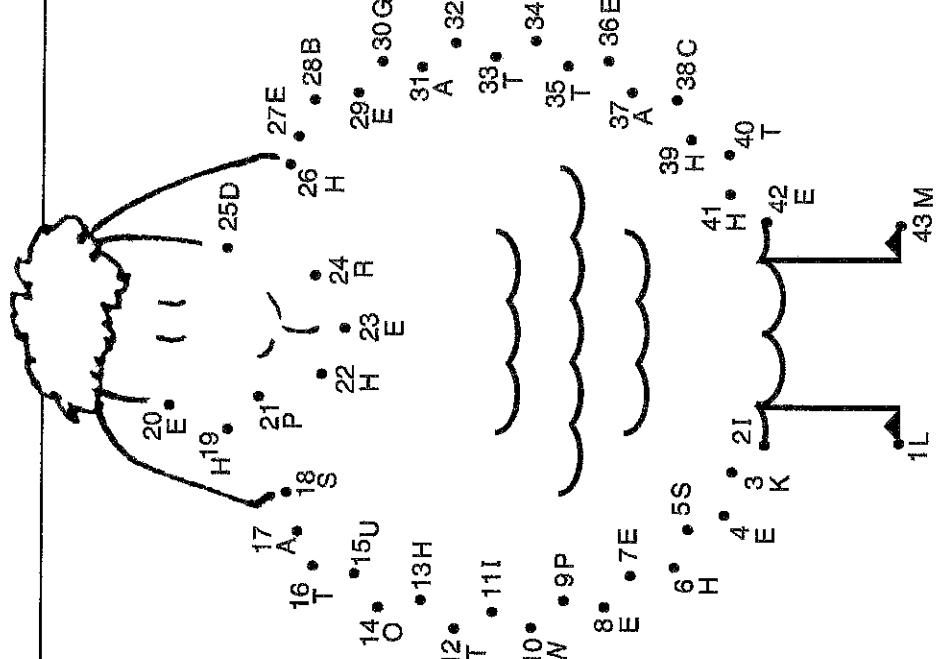
THOMAS  
MATTHEW  
JAMES  
THADDAEUS  
SIMON  
JUDAS



Jesus and His disciples went by boat to a solitary place. The people ran on foot and got there first. Jesus saw them and had compassion on them.

He said they were ...

Follow the dots to fill the blanks.



Begin with the first letter. Write every other letter on the lines.

