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classes listed inside

pray

Please pray for the WATER students
as they prepare for their summer in
missions.



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02

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Preparing for Life & Ministry

Solid Rock

by: Clifford Schrock

In 2021, SMBI constructed a new house on the campus. During the basement excavation, the soft shale gave way to solid rock, which made excavation much more difficult. This process also exposed a large pile of shale, which our children enjoyed exploring. They made an exciting discovery of well preserved marine fossils.

In 2024, our family was privileged to travel in the western states. The rock layers of the Grand Canyon are absolutely fascinating, and one can ponder how it was formed. The massive granite cliffs of Yosemite and other mountains are awe-inspiring. Everywhere one looks, there is some type of rock to catch our attention.

In the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus described the wise man who built his house upon a rock in contrast to the foolish man who built on the sand. Historically, the imagery is of a house built on the solid rock of the wadi walls or on the mountains rather than the sand that accumulated in the wadi bottoms where the destructive waters of flash floods would rush.

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus proclaimed that He would build His church upon a rock. There is some question about the rock He was referring to, but in the context, Caesarea Philippi was a center of very immoral worship of Pan, the Greek god of nature and fertility. The rock formation, cave, and spring were thought to be a gateway to the underworld and were sometimes known as “the gates of hell.” In the 4th century, a church was actually built on this very rock!

In the Old Testament, there was another rock and a spring that provided life-giving water in the wilderness. This rock which followed them is identified as Christ (I Co. 10:4)

Paul and Peter both identify Jesus as the chief corner stone (Eph. 2:20, I Pet. 2:6). This is a clear fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that God would “lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner

stone, a sure foundation” (Is. 28:16). It is probably not coincidence that the context of Isaiah's prophecy includes references to “waters that overflow” and “agreements with hell.”

A corner stone is literally just that- the first stone placed in a building which becomes the reference point for the rest of the construction. All measurements for size, square, level, and plumb start from the corner stone. To the degree that the other points of the building do not align with the corner stone, there will be constant difficulty in fitting everything together.

Paul also wrote that “other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 3:11). Since Jesus is clearly the corner stone and foundation, we observe that all of life traces back to the character and nature of God himself. The physical world which was spoken into existence is continually sustained by Him and declares His glory. The laws of nature and laws of logic find their origin in God.

The law and prophets are an expression of and reveal his character and nature to us! The material and immaterial world all orient around who God is. To the degree that they do not align with the Chief Cornerstone the building becomes increasingly chaotic and dysfunctional. Building on solid rock starts by first recognizing the chief cornerstone. In a world of relativity, there is an absolute starting point. From there, we start with the simple, but foundational basics. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. So simple, yet so profound! To the degree that we get these straight, the law and the prophets fit into place!

In the daily walk of life, there are many places and ways to build. The wise man will be intentional to build on the Rock. Effective building also begins in our hearts as we take on Christ's mind and become partakers of His divine nature, reflecting Him in our daily walk and action. Make sure to build on Solid Rock!

Return Service Requested

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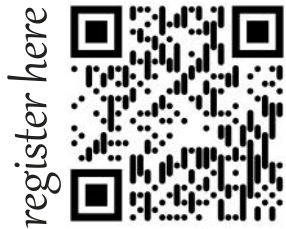
Upcoming Events



Family Week

Daily Schedule

Periods	Courses
8:40-12:00	Character Training & Child Care
8:45-9:40	Life-giving Relationships—Youth (Austin Weaver—Lebanon, PA) Biblical Manhood—Men (Duane Weber—Reading, PA) Women of Purpose—Ladies (Suzette Weber—Reading, PA)
9:50 - 10:45	Anchors of Faith—Parents (Larry Bergey—Lansdale, PA) Choir—Youth (Samuel Heatwole—Harrisonville, PA)
10:55 - 11:50	“Go Ye Therefore...” —Youth & Parents (Duane Weber—Reading, PA)
11:50 - 12:00	Announcements
12:00	Lunch
1:00-1:55	Distracted Disciples—Youth (Samuel Heatwole—Harrisonville, PA) Children’s Activities
2:00-2:30	Choir—Youth
2:30-5:15	Family Time
5:15	Chapel
6:15	Supper
7:15	Group Recreation



Summer Projects

Summer always brings opportunity for necessary upkeep and maintenance. The biggest project on schedule for 2025 is to add a 30 x 40 picnic pavilion to the campus facilities between the existing fire pit and the brick building by the ball field. We expect this to be heavily used during the summer months for family week and by rental groups. However, students will also enjoy it during nice weather. Expected cost is approx. \$25,000. Approx. \$17,000 in donations, labor, and materials, has been received for this project.

We also plan to upgrade the ladies dorm with new carpet, paint, and other updates. The right bedroom in the stage area will be updated at the same time. Approx. cost for these projects is \$9,000. Before our assistant administrator moves into apartment 1, the vinyl flooring will be upgraded with vinyl planking. Approx. cost is \$3,000. If you wish to contribute to any of these projects, you can send a check to the office or use the online support page. Note the project in the memo line.

2025 Graduates



Cali Kline | Richard Herr

1st Term 2025 Classes

September 15—October 17, 2025

- Developing the Servant—Larry Bergey
- Gospel & Culture—Elijah Yoder
- James—Elijah Yoder
- Mennonites In America—Samuel Heatwole
- Ezra / Nehemiah—Austin Weaver
- Christian Family I—Clifford Schrock
- Anabaptist History & Theology—Larry Bergey

Also included in first term is Discipleship Groups. Small Groups assigned to a group leader to work through your life story throughout the term.

Songs and Stories For Children

Sale! \$10

- As a Little Child
- Give Thanks to the Lord
- Walking With Jesus
- “John & Harry”
- J-O-Y Medley
- “Jamie’s Lesson”
- If I Were a Butterfly
- Slippers With Wings
- A Little Talk With Jesus
- “Hailing the Chief”
- Jesus Loves Me
- “Light of the....Storage Closet?”
- Dare to be a Daniel
- Stand Alone
- “Meena of Nepal”
- Children of the Heavenly Father
- The Umbrella Song
- “Tom the Candlemaker”



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Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute

Support the Work

Student Aid Fund

provides discounts for pastors (and those supporting their children), school teachers, long-term mission staff, and those with financial need

Recurring Donations

We rely on contributions from churches, individuals, and businesses to provide 35% of our annual budget! Just 30 donors contributing \$1/day adds over \$10,000 to the budget!



weddings

Burton Heatwole Jr. & Alecia Hege - 5.3.25