

# CROSS



# WORDS

Volume 7, Number 12

A newsletter published by  
United Church of Christ, Warren IN



ALL CHURCH Christmas Caroling  
after morning services  
Sunday, December 22nd.  
We will go to Heritage Pointe  
and entertain the shut-ins.  
**The more we have  
the better we sound!!!**

WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
202 East Second Street

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 FOR  
**WORSHIP**  
Refreshments served at 8:45  
Nursery available at 9:15

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."  
Psalm 150:6

December 1, 2019

## Thoughts from the Pulpit

### **Christmas Without Christ?**

*As we here at WUCC begin the Advent season, I was thinking of what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ means, to us all, throughout the year. However, at Christmas time, I think of typical things like family and friends at this time of year. Smiles and cheer fill the air, with decorations and gifts under the tree. What a Joyous time! Which makes me wonder..... What is Christmas to you?*

Many people have different reasons for celebrating Christmas; including time for holiday, feasting, traveling, shopping and reunions. However, the main reason for the celebration is normally not remembered, it is now Christmas without Christ. This is very unfortunate and should be corrected in the minds and lives of Christians. This article encourages believers in Christ to focus more on Jesus during Christmas season since He is the reason for the celebration.





***For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... - Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV).***

***Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,... and when they had come into the house... And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh - Matthew 2:1, 11 (NKJV).***

Christmas has been turned to different celebrations other than the celebration of the birth of Jesus. What is Christmas without Christ? Unbelievers celebrate it without knowing the reason for the season. The children are more after "Father Christmas", the Christmas gifts, lights and decorations. People prepare so much for this celebration, yet, most people don't have encounter with Christ as part of the preparation.

Christmas is the accepted birthday for Jesus Christ, so the celebration should be all centered on Him. When you are celebrating your birthday, the celebration is centered on you. People gather because of you, the preparations are for the people coming because of you, the prayers are said for you and the gifts are for you. Sometimes, people may even ask you what you want for your birthday and they will be ready to do exactly what you desire. But during Christ's birthday, the highest thing done most of the time is for churches to dramatize the birth of Jesus Christ and preach about His birth. This is good, but we need to do more than that.

What are you going to do this Christmas for and because of Jesus? Jesus was given by God the Father to save us because of His love for us. One important thing you can do is to give God heart-felt thanks for giving Christ to us. Also thank God for Jesus and for all He had done in your life. It should be a season of thanksgiving unto God. The birth of the Lord gave birth to so many blessings from God, including the salvation of our souls.

Furthermore, the celebration of Christ's birth is a celebration of the love of God, which goes with giving. You need to ask the Lord what He wants you to do for Him and do exactly that. That will be a great gift from you that He would really appreciate and reward you for. Jesus is still accepting gifts. This gift could be in cash or in kind for the spread of the gospel. It could be in sharing the love of Jesus with others by meeting their needs, both spiritual and physical needs, emphasizing that Jesus loves them and that they are part of the reason why He was born. Christmas celebration should be centered on Christ.

What more can I say? The best Christmas is one spent at the feet of Jesus. Decide to spend time with Christ this season and you will be glad you did for you will never be the same again. There is no true Christmas without Christ! ***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

***Pastor Scott, Kim and Family***



# YOUTH NEWS

Celebrating the birth of our Savior in a world that tells our children:  
IT'S ALL ABOUT ME!!

Wow, here we are in advent season preparing for Christmas with family and friends. I wanted to share ways we can help our kids remember what this season is all about. Don't get me wrong. I love to buy gifts for my children and especially my grandchildren, but I also want to show them that "giving" brings such joy. Here are some of the things we have tried before

- An advent calendar
- Letting your children help pick out items for the "Angel Tree Project"
- Make homemade gifts for family members.
- One year we took our stocking money and brought presents for a neighbor that was a single mom with three boys.
- Do something nice for a neighbor: bring in their trash can, make cookies to share
- Pray for a child in your class.

We are excited to share our Youth Christmas Program "The King's birthday" on December 15<sup>th</sup> during our morning worship time. All youth are welcome to participate.

We are excited to continue our planning for 2020. We are always needing people to serve with us on Wednesdays and Sundays. Troy and I are humble and honored to serve here in Warren. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season!!!!

Blessings: Pastor Troy and Mindy





## 2019 MARKETPLACE

First, we want to thank everyone that helped or contributed to the 2019 Marketplace. This event could not be accomplished without the great help that we receive. We did not have the attendance as we have in the past, but ultimately, it was still a success.

Our income from baked goods, deli items and noodles was \$1972.50; free will donation for lunch \$335.00; for a total of \$2307.50 in sales. Pre expenses were \$477.10, making our profit \$1830.40 as of that weekend. We still have a few expenses coming in, but not much. As far as we can tell as of this writing, we will be able to donate around \$1600 to the benevolent fund.

Again, thank you to all who helped. God's Blessings!!

Julie Korporal & Cammy Ackley



  
**Santa is coming!!!**

Join us Sunday,  
December 15th, at 9:30am  
for our Children's Christmas Program.  
Santa will arrive following service in the  
Fellowship Hall! Everyone is welcome to join Santa  
for refreshments and fellowship. **HOHOHO!**



Find us  
on Facebook!

facebook 

New Website  
[www.warrenucc.net](http://www.warrenucc.net)

Always keep up to date  
on church activities!  
Our new website is up  
and running. You can also  
find us on facebook.

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY AT 9:30AM | WEDNESDAY AT 6:30PM



WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

MENU

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Psalm 130:4

Warren United Church of Christ  
Invite you to join us for our:  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
Tuesday, December 24th, at 11:00PM







Tags are up on the Angel tree located in the sanctuary. 2 Families are being sponsored this year. Please return wrapped gifts with angel tag attached by December 15th. Thank you for supporting our Angel Tree again this year.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Waldo Knight Taylor Reed  
Les Ackley Roselyn Poulson  
Betty Parker Geri Zickafoose  
Lou Ann Shafer Elliott Culwell  
Kyle Dahlquist Sandy Eichhorn

Carol Yeiter  
Linda Cloud  
Barb Stevens  
Norma Gayle Chambers  
Ann Jackson  
Rosemary Zeller  
Jessica Stucky Family

## DONATE YOUR TIME TO THE FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER 4TH 2-4pm and 6-8pm

FOOD  
PANTRY



### FOOD PANTRY

We are collecting Hot Chocolate for the Food Pantry through the month of December!



### ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC CAPS & LIDS

ANY PLASTIC CAP/LID WITH A RECYCLE NUMBER OF



### CAPS must be CLEAN and DRY

Any Drink Bottle Caps  
(soda, water, juice, tea, sports drinks)  
Applesauce Pouch Caps  
Baby Food Caps  
Deodorant Caps  
Detergent Caps  
(White foam gasket and labels must be removed)  
Flip-Top Caps  
Hair Spray Caps  
Marker Caps  
Milk Jug Caps  
Ointment Tube Caps  
Medicine Bottle Caps  
(Prescription & OTC / paper info packets and any cardboard must be removed)  
Plastic Sheeting Spool Caps  
Spout Caps  
Shampoo/Conditioner Caps

Spray Paint Caps  
Toothpaste Tube Caps  
Water Bottle Caps  
Cool Whip Lids  
Ice Cream Bucket Lids  
(8" and under)  
Peanut Butter Jar Lids  
Cottage Cheese Lids  
Cream Cheese Lids  
Butter Lids  
Coffee Can Lids  
Mayonnaise Jar Lids  
Nestea Lids  
Yogurt Lids  
Pringles Lids



**OUR GOAL:**  
500 pounds of caps to build 2 benches!

Benches to be placed in front of church.

### These items are NOT ACCEPTABLE:

Medicine "BOTTLES"  
(prescription or OTC bottles are not acceptable)  
the actual drink "BOTTLES"  
(bottles are a different kind of plastic than the caps)  
any Cap with a Silicon Lining  
(from chemicals/cleaners, this would include some bleach and motor oil caps)

"Pumps & Trigger Sprayers"  
(soap/lotion pumps, they may be plastic, but they have pieces inside them that are not acceptable)

"Fast-Food Drink Lids"  
(these are the wrong type of plastic. This includes fast-food cup lids & coffee drink lids, as well as the lids from deli items at Wal-Mart)

"Bags"  
(Plastic Ziplock bags or Grocery Bags)

Any "Food" Container  
(even if the plastic recycle number is a 2, 4 or 5)

K-Cups, Straws, Medical Supplies,  
plastic pieces that are not a lid/cap

**NEVER ANY METAL,  
TRASH or DIRTY CAPS!**



Our church is signed up to ring the bell at Dollar General on Saturday, December 21st, from 9am - 4pm. Please let Julie know if you can come to help! Thanks

## CROSSROADS

Crossroads is a children's home in Fort Wayne and we will be collecting items for them through the month of February. Items needed are coats, hats, gloves and socks in all sizes. Also puzzles and journals are always appreciated. They also need gift cards to food places in small amounts. Items can be placed under the "Crossroads" tree at the front of the sanctuary.



# Warren United Church of Christ

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