

CROSS




WORDS

Volume 8, Number 1

A newsletter published by
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

All the time,
GOD is good.



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

January 1, 2020

Thoughts from the Pulpit

How Are You Going To Enter 2020?

We, the family of WUCC, have had many challenges and blessings in 2019. However, as we say good-bye to 2019, I ask how you are going to enter this New Year 2020?

There are many gates to the New Year, which one have you decided to use? People, things and circumstances often determine the decisions or the steps people take in life. However, none of the above can force you to choose their way, you are the one to finally take the decision and implement it. This post tells you the best entrance to the New Year.

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death - Proverbs 14:12

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts - Revelation 21:6

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it - Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV).

There are many wide open gates to the New Year, these include: the ungrateful gate, the murmuring and complaining gate, the offence gate, frustrated gate, depressed gate, disappointed gate, etc., however, there is the narrow gate of praise and thanksgiving. Which one are you going to go through into the New Year?

You may have 'genuine reasons' why you should go through one of the wide gates, but is it the best entrance to use? Truly, they may seem right to you, but the end is the way of destruction and death ([Proverbs 14:12](#), [Matthew 7:13](#)). The narrow gate of praise and thanksgiving may be difficult considering your genuine reasons but it leads to life ([Matthew 7:14](#)). Be among the few who will find it.

This year may not have been the way you expected it, and you may have done so many things according to the scriptures to have it the way you expected and it still didn't work out (according to your own evaluation), but the truth remains that it could have been worse if not for God! And as a child of God that loves God, all things work together for your good ([Romans 8:28](#)).

All the wide gates may seem justifiable to be used, but they are the worse gates to go through into the New Year. They will only give the enemy more licenses to afflict you more.. If you are to defeat the enemy then you must stop singing his songs, which attract him to you. Choose to see the blessings of this year; count your blessings and name them one by one, and you will see reasons to take the praise and thanksgiving gate.

God is the Alpha and Omega of the coming year and He has promised to give the fountain of water of life freely to anyone who thirsts, but you have to enter His gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise ([Psalm 100:4](#)). Choose to enter the New Year full of thanksgiving and praises, refuse to be bothered with what didn't work out the way you expected it and look forward to the new year with great expectation ([Proverbs 23:18](#)). Make up your mind to be joyful in the Lord no matter what comes up in the coming year, and I tell you, the enemy will not be able to steal from you.

Thanksgiving and praise attract God and it is the atmosphere in which He operates ([Psalm 22:3](#)). A thankful person hands his battles over to God and who can defeat God? According to 2 chronicles 20:14-30 God told the Israelites that the battle was His, and when they started praising and giving thanks to the Lord, He totally defeated their enemies and gave them victory and great spoils. God has not changed, one great way of engaging God in your affairs is to praise and give thanks to Him. It works like fire!

*God, the Almighty God and author of the New Year recommends praise and thanksgiving for increase, success and victory ([Psalm 67:5-7](#)). If you desire a better next year, then it is wisdom to put aside what your flesh and circumstances are dictating to you and choose the **Master's best Entrance to 2020.***

WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

Happy New Year.....2020

The New Year is a time of new beginnings and new starts like:

- ~Getting up early for more exercise
- ~Daily devotions
- ~Doing your homework without being told
- ~And many more



God is a God of new starts and we don't have to wait until the New Year. God is always ready to help us make better choices and live life that will honor Him. As you enter a new year, I hope you can remember that God's plans have always been to prosper his people. He can transform ordinary events and difficult trials into key moments that help his plans to prosper. He is not out to harm us, but the dark moments we experience can be part of the most important lessons to help us grow nearer to Him.

We are excited about a great new year of learning, playing and growing relationships.

Blessings, Pastor Troy and Mindy



YOUTH GROUP
Wednesday
Jan. 8
6:30pm

Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!

DONATE YOUR TIME TO THE FOOD PANTRY

JANUARY 22ND

2-4pm and 6-8pm

**FOOD
PANTRY**



FOOD PANTRY

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

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.

Share the Warmth Project

This project wouldn't be possible without your help! With your donations we gave over 40 people (kids, women, men) a warm coat to wear this winter, along with hats, gloves & scarfs. All coats were handed out at the Bread of Life Food Pantry here in Warren. I'm so blessed to head this project, what a humbling experience! Thank you all so much for your donations and helping at the Food Pantry! We will continue collecting coats for next year!!

Julie Korporeal



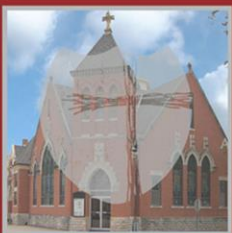
THANK YOU!

We need
new and gently
used coats.



YOUTH BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION

Please continue to save your caps and drop them off at the church. The goal is to collect 500 pounds of caps to build two benches for in front of the church.



Find us
on Facebook!



NEW WEBSITE
www.warrenucc.net

STAY
INFORMED

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Thank you to everyone who donated this year to our Angel Tree.

I was overwhelmed with all you brought in.

We were able to bless two families this year with Christmas!



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2nd Annual Remnant Ministries Auction

Friday, January 24, 2020

6 PM

Located at:

Warren United Church of Christ

Larry Bower and Pastor Scott Nedberg will be entertaining us with music and comedy. Supper is a Free will donation.

We HOPE to see you there!

CHURCH OFFICERS AND APPOINTED BOARD FOR 2020

Moderator – Jeff Souder

Clerk – Julie Korporal

Treasurer – Carrie Miller

Chairman of Christian Education – Sara Okuly

Choir Director – Chr., Cammy Ackley

Historian – John Tolen

Representative from Sisters In Faith – Linda Hammel

Chairman of Board of Deacons – Kevin Deakyne

Chairman of Board of Trustees – John Brooks

NON-ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OFFICERS

Financial Secretary – Suellen Jones

Organist – Suellen Jones

Asst. Organist – Barry Jamison

BOARD OF DEACONS

2020 – Kevin Deakyne, Terry Lee Miller; 2021 – Deb Baker, Cindy Fitch

2022 – Treva Schmidt, Julie Korporal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2020 – Jerry Brooks; 2021 – John Brooks; 2022 – Mark Stucky

BOARD OF TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Maurice Holmes, Gordon Laymon, Marvin Zeller

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2020 – Kim Nedberg, Shelbia Deakyne; 2021 – Skye Smith, Carly Brubaker

2022 – Sara Okuly, Shayna Stucky

BOARD OF USHERS

2020 – Kevin Deakyne, Craig Mounsey; 2021 – Claudia Boxell, Carolyn Rittenhouse

2022 – Terry Miller, Austin Stucky

DELEGATES TO UCC NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION

Carrie & Terry Miller

DELEGATES TO UCC INDIANA/KENTUCKY CONFERENCE

Carrie & Terry Miller

Alternate: Sarah Thiele

MISSION COMMITTEE

Kevin Deakyne, Terry Miller, Julie Korporal

CHURCH SERVICE SECRETARY

Martha Stucky

AUDITING COMMITTEE

To be approved by the board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To be approved by the board.

SOUND SYSTEM

John Tolen, Austin Stucky, John Brooks, Rick Villaneuva, Terry Miller Jr.

POWER POINT

Chod Boxell, Adam Jones, Cole Campbell, Rick Villaneuva, Terry Miller Jr.

Respectfully Submitted By: Deb Baker, Guy Jackson & Terry Lee Miller

**Thank you to all
who serve our church!**

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WUCC 2019 CHRISTMAS

