

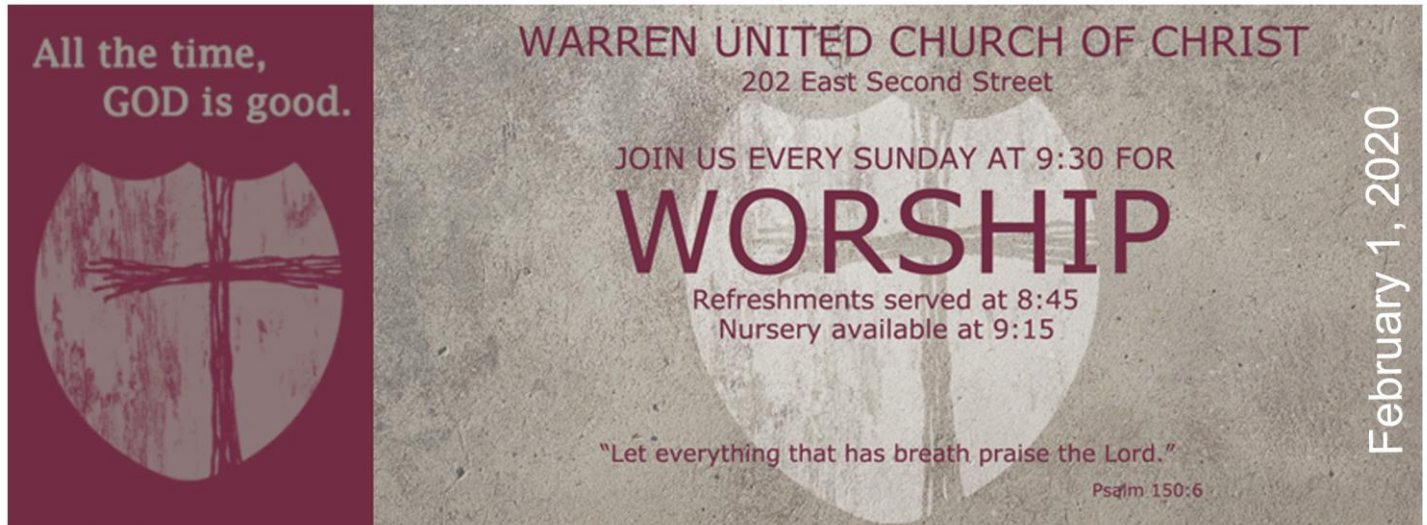
CROSS



WORDS

Volume 8, Number 2

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

February 1, 2020

Thoughts from the Pulpit



In Honor of Celebrating Friendship Month

As we go into February here at WUCC and throughout the rest of the world, I pause and give thought to the meaning of Valentine's Day. How did it get started? What's the history of telling others we love them? Do we do enough of that? I tend to see 'in-fighting' and focus on things other than Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The church is not the building! The church is each one of us "Together" as one body. Some prefer to wear their heart on their sleeve.

Americans exchange 180 million Valentine's Day cards annually. And that number doesn't include the boxed children's cards exchanged in classrooms. How did this all start? Who was Saint Valentine, anyway? And why do we send cards on his day? Saint Valentine (Valentinus) lived in Rome in the third century CE under the rule of emperor Claudius II, when Christianity was expressly forbidden. Valentine was a Christian priest, and a physician who treated people with prayer and with medicines. He often waived payment or took whatever the person could afford. By some reports, he suffered from epilepsy, and had a special consideration for those living with that challenge. Some say that he treated the son of a Roman orator for a seizure.

Because Claudius II believed unattached men made better soldiers, he declared marriages illegal. He encouraged temporary partners. Once a year, the Romans held a festival honoring Juno, one of their twelve gods. During the festival, young men drew names, lottery style, to determine their partners for the coming year. To help cement the temporary coupling, the man wore the woman's name on his sleeve throughout the festival. This is where we get the expression, "Wearing your heart on your sleeve."

Against Roman law, and in defiance of the Pope, Valentine secretly married couples in Christian ceremonies. When caught, he was arrested. During his time in prison, fellow Christians slipped Valentine notes of encouragement. The jailer's blind daughter, Julia, visited him often. Valentine prayed for her, and God restored the girl's sight. Valentine was held until the day of the lottery. On that day, February 14, he was made a public example, beaten with clubs, and then beheaded. The last thing he wrote, on the eve of his execution, was a note to Julia. He signed it, "From Your Valentine".

"The steadfast love of the Lord will never cease in your life and His mercy will never come to an end. Both will become new each day."

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

This month of February, I would pray that we all read and listen to the words above. I pray we would each incorporate them into our daily lives. Oh what a world we would have if everyone practiced loving each other, rather than portraying we're victims or martyrs or both! Everything that happens in our lives produces opportunities to learn and grow, regardless of our age. Let go of the past and work toward the future.

Happy Valentine's Day.

In Christ, *Pastor Scott*



Youth Need the Church, and the Church Needs Youth

Investing in today's youth is necessary in growing the body of Christ. Teaching young people in the church to grow in their relationship with the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do. As a result, this nurtures the congregation and allows the church to flourish.

Serving young people cannot only prepare them to become future leaders, but also allow them to contribute to the church. This is seen many times in the Bible, as God often used young people to do great things. For example, God used Timothy to pastor and lead the Ephesian church when he was a teenager. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

In addition, there is much to be learned from the faith of a child. Matthew 18:2-4 says, "He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" Because of God's heart for young people, it is important to recognize their value in today's church.

We have an amazing body of youth, so many different personalities, needs, and backstories. They all bring something different to the table, which is fun, but also challenging. To meet this challenge, let's work at doing what is best for them, attempting to meet their needs, answering their questions and doing what is expected of us as Christian adults. It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a faith community to raise a youth group!

Blessings,
Troy & Mindy Drayer



FOOD PANTRY

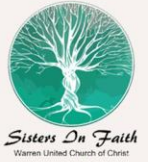


DONATE YOUR TIME TO
THE FOOD PANTRY!
Wednesday, March 11
2-4pm & 6-8pm

We will be collecting
Kleenex in February.



WAMA would like to thank our local churches and donors for their continued support and contributions. Thanks to the giving hearts of others, WAMA Pastors were able to purchase Bibles for children at Crossroads Child and Family Services. Chaplain Christina Perkins will be using these 64 bibles in their "Godly Play Program". In addition, we were able to provide coats, hats and gloves to the nearly 65 kids (6-18 yrs old) in residence at Crossroads. We continue to pray for their ministry.



You are invited!
Sisters In Faith Party

*Heritage Pointe 1A Lounge
Monday, February 24
7:00 pm
Refreshments will be served*

Tacos
YOUTH SPONSORED
FUNDRAISER
Proceeds going to
support Missions Committee

**FREE WILL
DONATION**

**Sunday, February 16th
11am Following Service**

WUCC
Annual Meeting
February 9th, 2020
Following Service



WARREN
United Church of Christ

All the time,
GOD is good.



JUNIOR CHURCH

K-5th Grade
Following Children's Message

WUCC Contemporary Service
Wednesday Evening 6:30pm
Pastor Scott Nedberg



Youth Group 6:30pm
During Service with
Troy & Mindy Drayer



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All the time,
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ALL
ARE
WELCOME!

**February 25th
Shrove Tuesday**

**WUCC
Fellowship Hall**

5-7pm

Free will donation
Pancake, Sausage, Fruit



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GOD is good.



WE WANT YOUR CAPS!



ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC CAPS & LIDS

ANY PLASTIC CAP/LID WITH A RECYCLE NUMBER OF



CAPS must be CLEAN and DRY

- | | |
|--|--|
| Any Drink Bottle Caps
<i>(soda, water, juice, tea, sports drinks)</i> | Spray Paint Caps |
| Applesauce Pouch Caps | Toothpaste Tube Caps |
| Baby Food Caps | Water Bottle Caps |
| Deodorant Caps | Cool Whip Lids |
| Detergent Caps
<i>(White foam gasket and labels must be removed)</i> | Ice Cream Bucket Lids
<i>(8" and under)</i> |
| Flip-Top Caps | Peanut Butter Jar Lids |
| Hair Spray Caps | Cottage Cheese Lids |
| Marker Caps | Cream Cheese Lids |
| Milk Jug Caps | Butter Lids |
| Ointment Tube Caps | Coffee Can Lids |
| Medicine Bottle Caps
<i>(Prescription & OTC / paper info packets and any cardboard must be removed)</i> | Mayonnaise Jar Lids |
| Plastic Sheeting Spool Caps | Nestea Lids |
| Spout Caps | Yogurt Lids |
| Shampoo/Conditioner Caps | 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!**

WUCC YOUTH GROUP
202 East Second Street, Warren
wucc@citiznet.com
260-375-2102



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All the time,
GOD is good.

Find us
on Facebook!



NEW WEBSITE
www.warrenucc.net

STAY
INFORMED

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Warren United Church of Christ
202 East Second Street, PO Box 344, Warren, Indiana 46792
Church Telephone: 260-375-2102
Pastor Scott Nedberg's Cell Phone: 260-403-6645
Church Email: wucc@citiznet.com

Warren United Church of Christ
Presents.....

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE



Youth Ages ~ PreK-5th Grade
Every Wednesday Evening
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Location: 202 East Second Street

WORSHIP GOD, HAVE FUN, MEET NEW FRIENDS
JOIN US!