

# CROSS



# WORDS

Volume 9, Number 1

A newsletter published by  
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

A church worship poster for January 1, 2021. The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a dark red background with the text 'All the time, GOD is good.' in white, and a circular image of a cross made of twigs. The right section has a light brown, textured background with the text 'WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' and '202 East Second Street' at the top. Below that, it says 'JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 FOR WORSHIP' in large letters. Further down, it mentions 'Refreshments served at 8:45' and 'Nursery available at 9:15'. At the bottom, it quotes 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.' and references 'Psalm 150:6'. On the far right, the date 'January 1, 2021' is written vertically.

All the time,  
GOD is good.

WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
202 East Second Street

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 FOR  
**WORSHIP**

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

January 1, 2021

## The Monthly Word

FROM PASTOR TROY

### A New Beginning

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." - John 1:1-4

The beginning of a new year provides an opportunity to think about our past, and our future. As we think back, what brings us joy? And what do we regret? What would we like to do *differently*?

The Bible has a great deal to say about beginnings. John simply declares that "in the beginning was the Word." The Bible also makes clear that this Word was Jesus. He was the *logos*, God's revealed Word.





Through these truths, the Bible reveals a pattern that can apply to any situation: The key is to start with Jesus. To start with the Word. With this focus, we can *know* that our hearts and minds are in tune with God. That we are building a strong foundation. That He will lead and guide us and correct us if necessary. Many people say they are Christians but fail to live according to the Bible. Yet, they wonder why they do not have the joy, peace, love, and power that God promises. How different their lives would be if they truly focused on the Word and make it their foundation!

This year make a commitment to read and study the Bible every day. In your life, make sure that you begin every day with the Word. As you have difficult decisions to make, fill your mind with the Word. Let it provide your standards. The Word will give you wisdom, and will help shape your mind and heart, and give you discernment and a victorious lifestyle. And it will prepare you to receive more of God's blessings, today, and every day

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for being with You in the past. I commit my future to You. Thank You that I can begin anew with You. Thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Pastor Troy



# HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2021!

Goodbye 2020 and hello 2021! We are very excited to move forward into the New Year. We will be kicking off the New Year with a pizza party! We are also looking at hosting a lock in / game night in the near future.

We would love to get involved with the missions committee sometime this year to provide labor for a community service project sometime in 2021. Fun, fellowship, and service is what we're looking to achieve this next year.

I think it's important just to be a fun distraction to what's going on in the outside world while also getting to the point where we can discuss the world and our effect on it.

*Terry Lee Miller*



# The Kickoff

**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
LIVE**



## Youth Group

### January 6th, 2021!!!

### 6:30pm

### WUCC Fellowship Hall





# THANK YOU!

We need  
new and gently  
used coats.



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.



## Prayer

### Continued Prayers:

Waldo Knight

Les Ackley

Jerry Williams

Cindy Boxell

Janet Fitch

Holly Villaneuva

Shafer Family



## Join us for our: FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Our January challenge is Hamburger Helper!



January Goal:  
100 Boxes of Hamburger Helper



Thank you for donating  
to the Angel Tree  
again this year!



Find us  
on Facebook!

facebook



NEW WEBSITE  
[www.warrenucc.net](http://www.warrenucc.net)

STAY  
INFORMED



**YOUTH BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION**  
Please continue to save  
your caps and drop them  
off at the church.





## 10 Christian New Year's Resolutions You'll Actually Want to Keep

### 1. Read Your Bible 20 Minutes a Day, Every Day

Sure, reading the Bible consistently may not sound like a very glamorous or interesting Christian New Year's Resolution at first, but let me tell you — it really does make a difference!

### 2. Set Aside 15 Minutes Each Day to Pray

Carving out 15 minutes of quiet time in prayer doesn't have to be difficult. For example, you could: Wake up 15 minutes earlier, Pray in the shower, Pray while you're doing your hair/make-up, Pray during your morning or evening commute, Pray on your lunch break, Pray while making dinner, Pray with your kids before they go to sleep every night

### 3. Read a Certain Number of Christian Books Each Month

While the Bible is the most important book you'll read all year, there are tons of other books out there that can help encourage you, challenge you and strengthen your faith.

### 4. Memorize Scripture

When is the last time you intentionally sat down to memorize Scripture? Has it been a while? If so, setting a Christian New Year's Resolution to memorize more Scripture is a great opportunity to start back up again!

### 5. Forgive Past Grudges

The Bible makes it abundantly clear — if you are a Christian, you are expected to forgive those who have hurt you. Note: This doesn't mean what they did is okay or that you need to allow them the ability to do it again, but you do need to get rid of any grudges or unforgiveness you may be harboring in your heart.

### 6. Break an Addiction

Do you have any addictions in your life right now? It doesn't have to be a drug addiction or drinking problem. It could be something as seemingly small as being too attached to your phone, too attached to cookies for comfort, or too attached to social media.

### 7. Be Content with What You Have

It can be difficult to be content in America. There are always ads and commercials surrounding us, reminding us to want more, more, more. This year — maybe you want to get intentional about fighting that urge. Perhaps you'd like to try a "No Spend" month, and then save that money for something important or give it to charity?

### 8. Listen to Christian Music

This one is super easy, but it can make a world of difference. Put on Christian radio in the car, at work, or even while you're cleaning the house and see how it changes your mood, your outlook and even the atmosphere of your home!

### 9. Stop Complaining

Are you guilty of complaining? Philippians 2:14 reminds us to *"Do everything without complaining and arguing."* Trust me, I know how satisfying it can be to complain about slow drivers, annoying people at work, opinionated people on Facebook, and grocery cashiers who put raw meat in with raw vegetables (*seriously people!*), but in this case, it really is best to just bite your tongue.

### 10. Do Random Acts of Kindness

This is a fun one — and it's actually really easy to do if you're willing to get creative! Choose a set number to do every week or month, and get your kids involved if you can. It will be well worth it!



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# WUCC CHRISTMAS 2020



NEW YEAR, NEW START

January 2021

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
GOAL OF THE MONTH:					1 Happy New Year LES & RUTHANN ACKLEY	2 BUTCH ARBUCKLE
3 SERVICE 9:30AM	4 CAITLIN WRIGHT WANDA CAMPBELL	5	6 CONTEMPORARY AND YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM YOUTH KICK-OFF PIZZA PARTY	7	8 JOHN TOLEN	9
10 SERVICE 9:30AM	11	12	13 CONTEMPORARY AND YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM	14	15 WALDO KNIGHT JOSH GOETZ	16
17 SERVICE 9:30AM KANDY VILLANUEVA	18 JERRY WILLIAMS OLIVIA GOETZ	19 AB BOARD MEETING 6:30PM	20 CONTEMPORARY AND YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM	21 BRANDON BOLINGER	22 MARVIN & KAREN ELTZROTH SHELBY BOXELL	23
24 SERVICE 9:30AM KAIKELA KAOLI SERVICE 9:30AM	25 WILLIAM SHAPE SANDY EICHORN	26	27 CONTEMPORARY AND YOUTH GROUP 6:30PM CAROL BYRD	28	29	30 BROOKLYN KOBERLEIN
31						

## Slow the Spread

As the number of cases of COVID-19 has continued to increase in our county we want to assure you we are continuing to take extra measures to help slow the spread. We will continue our in-person worship as well as Facebook live stream. To help protect our members, especially those who are more vulnerable to the virus we strongly encourage you to wear a mask upon entering and exiting the service as well as whenever you are not seated in a pew. Please be aware of social distancing with respect to others as you find your seats. We have hand sanitizer and face masks available as you enter the sanctuary.

Our Contemporary Service through the month of December has been live-stream only. We hope to begin meeting in person again soon. Please watch Facebook for updates on this.



**HAVE** hope  
**TRY** new things  
**BE** active  
**SEE** the good  
**SAY** "I Love You," more  
**CHALLENGE** yourself  
**CHOOSE** to be happy  
**EAT** better  
**ENJOY** today  
**FORGIVE** more readily  
**READ** more often  
**BECOME** your best you