

# CROSS




# WORDS

Volume 9, 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, 2021

## The Monthly Word

FROM PASTOR TROY

### When You Don't Feel Like It

We all struggle with spiritual discouragement and lethargy. Some days our circumstances threaten to overwhelm us, and we struggle just to pray. Many times, we just don't feel like doing the things we know we should. For one reason or another, God sometimes seems far off and unreachable. David faced times like these in his life. The Psalms are filled with verses that express his despair and feeling of abandonment. Yet the Psalms also give us the key to living victoriously during the dark periods of life. Let's take a quick look at Psalm 119:89-95\*.

*"Forever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands. They stand this day according to Your ordinances..."*

My circumstances or feelings have not changed God. He is the same God today as He was when He hung the stars in the sky, led the Israelites through the Red Sea, and fed the five thousand.

*“For all things are Your servants...”*

All things, even the things affecting me right now, are God’s servants. The circumstance, people, and events around me are all under God. They are His servants, designed to help and bless me spiritually.

*“If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have revived me. I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts. The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies.”*

Recalling God’s faithfulness and control over everything that touches us gives us strength to walk with God even when we feel like giving up in despair. After all, our feelings and circumstances have not changed God. He is perfectly capable of sustaining us if we will only let Him. We simply need to choose to *delight* in and *diligently consider* God’s precepts (His principles and character) despite how we feel. Choosing to delight in God might not be easy. It might even involve hard work. But only God can revive and save our soul from spiritual lethargy.

Next time you feel spiritually drained or inadequate, remember that you have a choice. You can wrap yourself up in excuses and self-pity, or you can choose to draw your strength from an unchanging God.

Prayer and self-meditation are amazing ways to uplift your spirit. Remember that we need to take time for ourselves or we’ll be no good for those around us.

God’s blessings and good health to all,

Pastor Troy





# Youth News

We're having a lot of fun moving through the New Year! Youth attendance on Wednesday nights has been way up. Huge thanks to Cammy and Julie for assisting with the younger kids!

This past month we've discussed the importance of holding onto the joy of being a kid, being present in the moment, turning off the distractions of the outside world and focusing on God, and not putting so much importance on material things. All of those great topics in just the first month of the year!

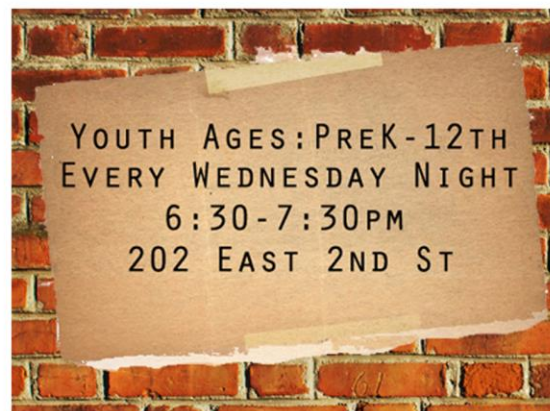
In the future we'd love to get high school and middle school kids excited about coming to church on Wednesday nights. If you are reading this and you are in high school or middle school or know someone who is, please encourage them to stop by Wednesday nights at 6:30!

**TERRY LEE MILLER**



**1John 3:18-** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
LIVE**  
WUCC Youth





# February

## BIBLE READING PLAN

Understanding  
God's love for us  
through His Word.

Day 1: Micah 6:8	Day 15: 1 John 4:10
Day 2: Matthew 5:44	Day 16: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
Day 3: Romans 13:8	Day 17: 1 Corinthians 13:8
Day 4: 1 Peter 4:8	Day 18: Proverbs 8:17
Day 5: 1 Corinthians 2:9	Day 19: Colossians 3:14
Day 6: John 13:34	Day 20: Romans 8:28
Day 7: 1 Corinthians 13:1	Day 21: John 16:27
Day 8: 1 John 3: 18	Day 22: 1 Corinthians 13:13
Day 9: Proverbs 10:12	Day 23: Matthew 22:37-39
Day 10: John 15:12	Day 24: 1 John 4:11
Day 11: Jeremiah 31:3	Day 25: Romans 8:38-39
Day 12: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7	Day 26: Psalm 13:5
Day 13: Deuteronomy 6:5	Day 27: 1 John 4:19
Day 14: John 3:16	Day 28: Ephesians 6:24

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)  
BlessingsOverflowing.com

"The LORD bless you  
AND Keep you;  
The LORD make His Face  
Shine UPON you, AND Be Gracious  
to you;  
The LORD lift up His  
Countenance UPON you,  
AND Give you Peace."  
Psalm 134:1-6

## Prayer Concerns

Waldo Knight

Les Ackley

Jerry Williams

Cindy Boxell

Janet Fitch

Holly Villaneuva

Guy Jackson

## WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SHROVE TUESDAY



Tuesday, February 16th, 5-7pm  
AN EVENING OF PANCAKES  
FREE WILL DONATION!!

## WHAT IS SHROVE TUESDAY?

Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day) is the last day before Lent. It is traditional on this day to eat pancakes. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent. The name Shrove comes from the old word "Shrive" which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During Ash Wednesday Service the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshippers. Historically, ashes signified purification of sorrow for sins.



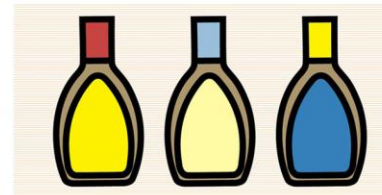
# BARGAIN BASEMENT

**HOURS:**  
Every Friday & Saturday  
9am-4pm  
**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

The Bargain Basement will open again the end of February. Volunteers are needed to help with sorting donations and soon switching out winter clothing for summer. If you want to work a few hours or the day, there will be a job for you. Just stop in Friday or Saturday from 9am-4pm and Denny will get you started in an area that suits you. This is another great opportunity to serve our Warren community. Contact Sarah in the office with any questions.

## Join us for our: FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Our February challenge is Salad Dressing!



February Goal:  
100 Bottles of Salad Dressing



*Mark your calendars for our next Food Pantry work day on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4pm. Please come 15 minutes early. Let Sarah know in the office, 375-2102, if you are able to volunteer. Thanks!*

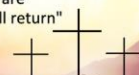
## Ash Wednesday WAMA Community Service February 17th, 6:30pm

Location: Warren United Church of Christ  
202 East Second Street

Speaker: Pastor Rusty Strickler



"for dust you are  
and to dust you shall return"



**WARREN**  
United Church of Christ

All the time,  
GOD is good.

# ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**  
Immediately following service.



Warren United Church of Christ  
202 East Second Street  
PO Box 344  
Warren, IN 46792



Warren United Church of Christ  
202 East Second Street, PO Box 344, Warren, Indiana 46792  
Church Telephone: 260-375-2102  
Pastor Troy Drayer Cell Phone: 260-228-0064  
Church Email: [wucc@citznet.com](mailto:wucc@citznet.com)

## KEEP INFORMED

WELCOME  
TO WUCC

*live*

Live on Facebook  
Sunday Mornings  
9:30am



Follow us on  
**Instagram**  
[warrenunitedcc](https://www.instagram.com/warrenunitedcc)



WUCC Youth & Families

**FACEBOOK PAGE**

Stay up to date on youth  
events and activities!



Contemporary Service  
Facebook Live, Wednesday, 6:30

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

# WEBSITE

WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

[warrenucc.net](http://warrenucc.net)

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Find us  
on Facebook!





# February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Bill & Carol Byrd Austin Stucky	2	3 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Noah Laymon	4 Jackie Norris Elijah Dimond	5	6
7 Sunday Service 9:30am Communion	8 Linda Hammel	9 AB Meeting 6:30pm	10 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Bill Shuttleworth	11 Gauge Eppard	12	13 Jorden Bennett Tim Fitch
14 Sunday Service 9:30am Valentine's Day Kristen Flanagan	15	16 Shrove Tuesday 5-7 Don & Janet Smith Carly Brubaker Kayla Villanueva	17 Ash Wednesday WAMA Service Youth Group 6:30pm Food Pantry 2-4	18	19 Janice Brubaker	20 Kathy Stucky
21 Sunday Service 9:30am Annual Meeting	22	23 Alex Tolen Les Ackley Jerry Brooks	24 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm	25	26	27 Martha Stucky Savannah Deakynne
28 Sunday Service 9:30am						



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

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.