

# CROSS




# WORDS

Volume 9, Number 3

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

March 1, 2021

## The Monthly Word

FROM PASTOR TROY

Our lives can sometimes feel like they're a pile of ashes. We can be broken, shattered and destroyed. However, the good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is we can experience new life and have our lives raised from the ashes. This 6-week series is the perfect lead into resurrection Sunday (Easter), and a great way for new or seasoned believers to grow in their faith and understanding of Christ.

We started out on February 28<sup>th</sup> discussing "Temptations". We learned that first and foremost today we all need to acknowledge that temptation should be expected in our lives. We all experience temptation each and every day. No one is immune from the desires to have things or do things that do not align with the way of Christ. This can lead to things that we all would agree are devastating; broken marriages, ruined relationships, careers in the toilet, ministries closing down, the list goes on and on.



Our second topic on March 7<sup>th</sup> deals with the subject of “Humility”. Jesus demonstrated humility by coming to earth from heaven and washing the feet of His disciples. When we choose to exercise humility, we look most like Christ to the world around us.

Week 3 we’ll discuss “Contemplation”. In the busyness of life, we often neglect our connection to the source of life. Drawing near to God through contemplative prayer is the way in which we experience the nearness of God. This is an intentional practice that won’t happen by accident.

Week 4 we look at “Confession”. Confession is the process of recognition of sin, turning from it and experiencing the forgiveness of God. Having a regular practice of searching our lives and coming into the light can cultivate a life full of grace and mercy as we rise from the ashes of past sins and poor decision making in our lives.

Week 5 we’ll look at “Sacrifice” (Palm Sunday). The Hebrew people experienced the temporary forgiveness of sins by the blood of an animal sacrifice. The sacrifice of Jesus, to leave heaven and offer himself on the cross, was an atoning sacrifice that is effective throughout eternity. Through Christ we are completely redeemed from the ashes of our former life.

Week 6 We have arrived at the “Resurrection” (Easter). The centerpiece of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead gives hope to His followers that since death was defeated, then there is nothing that cannot be overcome. As believers, we identify with Jesus in His death by dying to our old self, and being raised to new life.

We’ve just barely cracked the door and gazed upon the Savior. His temptation, humility, sacrifice, prayer, and resurrection. You could spend a lifetime getting to know Jesus and never grow weary of it. He is the source, the promise, the way, the truth, and the life. Commit your life to Him today.

Rise up, dust off the ashes, and take a step of faith towards the Savior of all mankind. He’s ready for you.

We are ready to see everyone again! Won’t you consider spending some time with us this Lenten season. Come back and join us and we will grow in Christ together.

Blessings and Health to you all,  
Pastor Troy





# YOUTH NEWS

We are very excited to see the temperature rising and the snow melting! We're very much looking forward to spending some time outside at the park on Wednesday evenings.

February seems like it went by so quickly. We were able to discuss topics such as God's unique plan for us and using moments of stillness to handle stress and anxiety. The youth also participated in the WAMA service on Ash Wednesday.

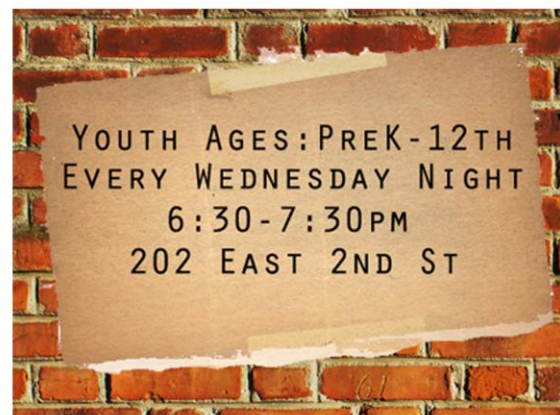
Julie and Cammy have been doing a great job with the younger children. They have a well put together lesson that includes an activity and a craft. As a reminder we will always have a snack available and the first Wednesday night of the month is pizza night sponsored by East of Chicago Pizza!

Looking ahead, we are still looking for someone to help out with the younger kids on a permanent basis. We are also looking forward to the participation of our middle school and high school kids again.

TERRY LEE MILLER



**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
LIVE**  
WUCC Youth





## Join us for our 6 week Sermon Series.



WARREN  
United Church of Christ  
All the time,  
GOD is good.

Sermon Series: Beginning Sunday, February 28

# FROM THE ASHES

• embracing the full life of God •

**YOU ARE NOT BROKEN BEYOND REPAIR**

Each week, take a deep-dive into one pivotal aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. Our feelings of burn-out and emptiness are redeemed as we look to Jesus for hope, forgiveness, and repair.

## BARGAIN BASEMENT

### HOURS:

Every Friday & Saturday  
9am-4pm

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

The Bargain Basement will be open again on April 9<sup>th</sup>. They are in need of some volunteers to get things ready. This is another great opportunity to help the Warren Community. If you have time and would like to volunteer, please contact Denny Stroud at 375-3711. He will be available after March 20<sup>th</sup> and will be able to set up a day and time that will fit your schedule. The Bargain Basement blesses many families with clothing, toys, household items and so much more.



**CROSSROAD**  
Child & Family Services

Thank you for this year's Crossroads Children's Home donations. Several bags of items have been delivered. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated.



## Join us for our: FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Our March challenge is JELLY!



March Goal:  
100 Jars of Jelly

Our WUCC members are awesome! We again surpassed our food pantry challenge goal of 100 bottles of salad dressing. In March we will be collecting jelly. I have no doubt we can again hit a 100 jar total! Let's do it!!!! April 7<sup>th</sup> will be our next Food Pantry work day so mark it on your calendars. We can always use volunteers. Thank you to everyone for the support.



Our Missions Committee here at WUCC has helped many individuals in the Warren area throughout this past year.

Every month the Missions donate to the Food Pantry as well as the Remnant House. They rely on donations and fundraisers to be able to reach out and help those in need. They are hoping this summer they will be able to have another fundraiser, but until then, they are asking for support from the congregation. If you would like to donate to the Missions Fund you may give Sunday at church or mail to PO Box 344. Thank you for your support of our WUCC Missions.



# March

Scripture for the  
season of Lent.

## BIBLE READING PLAN

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Joel 2:13            | 17. Romans 5:15      |
| 2. Hosea 10:12          | 18. Galatians 3:26   |
| 3. Psalm 51:1-2         | 19. Philippians 3:12 |
| 4. Acts 17:27           | 20. Matthew 6:19-21  |
| 5. Romans 1:16          | 21. 1 Timothy 1:15   |
| 6. Matthew 16:24        | 22. Titus 2:11       |
| 7. 2 Corinthians 6:2    | 23. Luke 5:32        |
| 8. Isaiah 43:25         | 24. Matthew 5:17     |
| 9. Lamentations 3:25-26 | 25. John 10:27-28    |
| 10. Psalm 9:10          | 26. Hebrews 10:14    |
| 11. Jeremiah 29:13      | 27. Galatians 1:3-5  |
| 12. 1 Timothy 4:10      | 28. 1 John 3:5       |
| 13. John 14:23          | 29. Luke 9:20        |
| 14. Mark 1:15           | 30. 1 Timothy 2:5-6  |
| 15. 2 Corinthians 5:21  | 31. John 12:46       |
| 16. 1 John 2:2          |                      |

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46 (NIV)  
BlessingsOverflowing.com



Waldo Knight  
Les Ackley  
Jerry Williams  
Holly Villaneuva  
Guy Jackson



Warren United Church of Christ  
Contemporary Service  
202 East Second Street

JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:30PM FOR  
**WORSHIP**

Bring your kids for Youth Group at the same time!  
*ENTER TO WORSHIP, DEPART TO SERVE*

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



**ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN  
BY SUNDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>**

Anyone wishing to contribute a plant in memory of a loved one, or who would like a plant to take home with them call Sarah in the church office to place your order. Order forms also available in the sanctuary Sunday mornings.



Find us  
on Facebook!



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

**WEBSITE**

WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

warrenucc.net

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



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@citiznet.com](mailto:wucc@citiznet.com)



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## **Holy Week Schedule**

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday**  
Service begins at 9:30am

**Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday**  
The church will be open from 6-8pm for prayer and open communion.

**Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday Prayer Vigil**  
7am-6:30pm the sanctuary will be open for all who want to come and pray.  
Good Friday Tenebrae Service to be announced.

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday**  
Breakfast served in Fellowship Hall from 8-9am.  
Easter Service begins at 9:30am.

If you declare with your mouth,  
"Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in your heart  
that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved.  
Romans 10:9

**He is risen.**



# March

2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	1 Claire Eckert Gary Yount	2	3 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Nick Stucky	4	5	6
7 Sunday Service Communion 9:30am Cindy Fitch	8	9	10 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm	11 John & Machele Suchcicki Caden Brubaker	12 Ava Green	13 Roselyn Poulson Betty Bozell
14 Sunday Service 9:30am Karen Johnson Wendell Brown	15	16 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm Ellen Laymon	17 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm HAPPY St. Patrick's Day	18 Elizabeth Norris Mariah Okuly	19 Marsha Walton Troy Drayer	20
21 Sunday Service 9:30am	22	23	24 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Sharon Gebhart Linda Shuttleworth	25	26 Holly Villanueva	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:30am	29	30 Robert Jones	31 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm	1	2	3

## FROM THE ASHES

• embracing the full life of God •

Join us every Sunday for our 6 week Sermon Series in-person or on Facebook Live. Study sheets will be provided if you would like to further study at home. Begins on February 28<sup>th</sup> and will continue though Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

