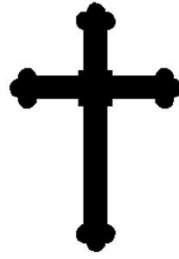


# CROSS




# WORDS

Volume 9, Number 4

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

April 1, 2021

## The Monthly Word

FROM PASTOR TROY

### **Life from Death**

It's a paradox, but from Jesus' death comes new life. And not just breathing, not just skimping by, but abundant thriving. Fullness of life.

Even through your darkest night.  
Through your pain, brokenness, and sin.  
Through your striving, planning, and controlling.  
Christ redeems it all, uses it all, and sees it all.



To illustrate this point I want to jump into the story of Job, found in the Old Testament. If you're not familiar with the general premise, Job is a righteous man with a thriving family. Through a series of events, he loses everything and even his friends begin accusing him of having some hidden sin that he needs to confess. Their conclusion is that this must be the cause for Job's misfortune. But Job continues to assert his innocence and demands a "hearing with God" where he can plead his case. Well, he eventually gets what he asks for. God comes to speak directly to Job and it's terrifying - awe inspiring - and gracious. (Job 38-42)

About halfway through the discourse Job says.

*"Behold, I am insignificant. How can I reply to You?  
I place my hand over my mouth.  
I have spoken once, but I have no answer—  
twice, but I have nothing to add."* Job 40:4-5

And then, finally, Job says something absolutely breathtaking.

*"I know that you can do all things.  
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.  
You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?'  
Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me to know.  
"You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak.  
I will question you,  
and you shall answer me.'  
My ears had heard of you.  
but now my eyes have seen you.  
Therefore, I despise myself.  
and repent in dust and ashes."* Job 42:2-6

Alleluia  
He is  
Risen



**WARREN**  
United Church of Christ

All the time,  
GOD is good.

Job thought he had heard and learned all he needed to know of God. Through his pain, suffering, and loss he'd made assumptions and even accusations against the Creator of the universe. But what he thought he knew of God changed when he came face to face with Him and had his eyes opened to the majesty and providence of the Lord in every facet of life. And he says, *"I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."* What Job is communicating here is this... I was wrong and now I see. I take comfort here in the dust and ashes, the rubble of my life. Job was only able to say that because he had an encounter with the living God. And the encounter changed his perspective and even the trajectory of his life. The story ends with God restoring all that Job had lost plus more! More sons, more daughters, more livestock, more respect and honor in his community. God gave Job abundant life and raised him from the ashes of destruction.

So here we are again. The Easter has come and went. So, my question to you is,

### **How has it changed you?**

Are there changes or upgrades that you are going to do in your life? Has it helped you to begin preparing your life for Jesus' return someday? Or was it simply a time that you needed to plan activities with your church or attend family gatherings?

It's my hope and prayer for all of us that we have the desire to keep the fire of Easter in our hearts and minds all year long. Blessings to you all.

Pastor Troy



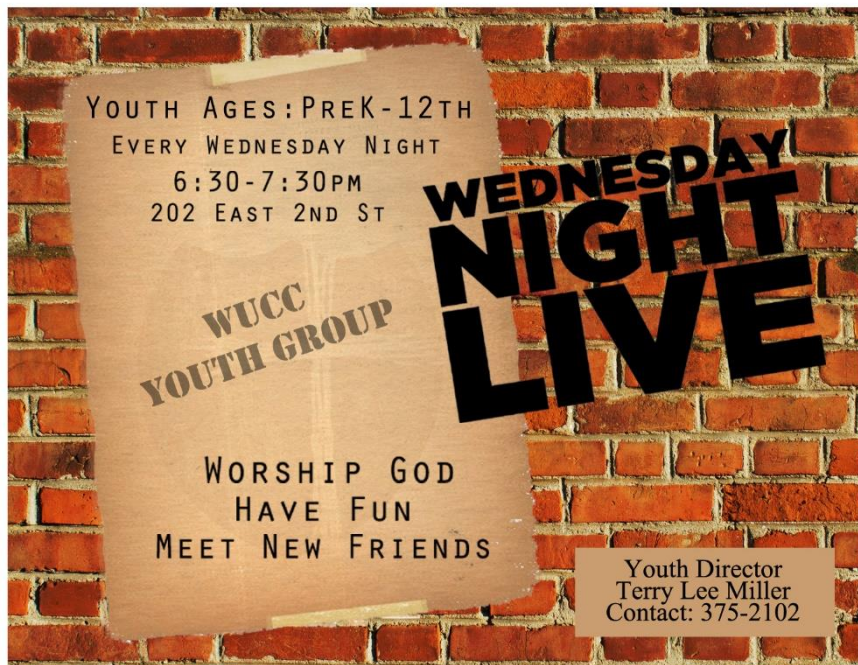
# YOUTH NEWS

This year seems like it is flying by! Last month we were able to engage in some service and clean up garbage around KBC and the playground. Looking forward to completing more small service projects in the future. If you have an idea or a need that the youth could help out with please let us know and we'd be glad to help out. The kids will be excited to help and have the opportunity to get outside.

We've consistently had 10-12 or more kids on Wednesday nights for some time now. The children are nearly outnumbering the adults at this point. We absolutely love to see it and want to remind you all that the youth group is K-12 so all ages are welcome!

As the weather warms up we will likely be spending more and more time in the park across the street. We are in the process of creating our own trail mix. The contents will be voted on by members of the WUCC youth. Lots of big things are happening on Wednesday nights. Please stop by and say hello!

*Terry Lee*



## PIZZA FIRST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH!

April 4th  
9:30am

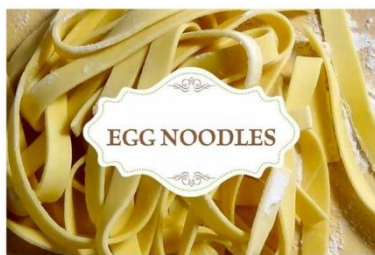


Also livestream  
on facebook

# EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN

Join us for our:  
**FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE**  
Our April challenge is EGG NOODLES!



100 bags of Noodles

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last months food pantry challenge. We again beat our goal of 100 jars of jelly! April it's egg noodles. We already have a start with 37 out of the 100 brought in. Please mark your calendars for our church's next work day at the pantry on April 7<sup>th</sup>. There are 2 shifts, 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Please let Sarah know in the office if you are able to help with either of those times. Thanks!



April

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

## Repentance & Renewal

Day 1: II Corinthians 6:1-2	Day 16: II Corinthians 7:9-10
Day 2: Revelation 3:19-22	Day 17: I John 2:28
Day 3: Ephesians 5:8	Day 18: I Corinthians 13:11-12
Day 4: Hebrews 10:16-17	Day 19: I John 1:5-10
Day 5: Philippians 1:3-6	Day 20: Hebrews 12:1-3
Day 6: Galatians 6:1-5	Day 21: Titus 3:3-7
Day 7: II Peter 3:13-14	Day 22: I Peter 1:22-23
Day 8: II Timothy 1:12-13	Day 23: I Timothy 1:14-17
Day 9: Philippians 3:13-14	Day 24: Ephesians 6:11
Day 10: James 5:16	Day 25: Hebrews 2:1-4
Day 11: James 5:19-20	Day 26: II Corinthians 13:5
Day 12: II John 9	Day 27: Ephesians 2:1-7
Day 13: I John 3:1-3	Day 28: Ephesians 2:8-10
Day 14: II Corinthians 6:16-18	Day 29: I Peter 3:10-12
Day 15: Hebrews 7:25-27	Day 30: Luke 15:20-24

Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.  
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.

*The Ruffled Mangle*



Waldo Knight  
Les Ackley  
Jerry Williams  
Holly Villaneuva  
Guy Jackson  
Becky Poulson  
Janet Sneed  
Wanda Campbell

"The Lord is near  
to all who call on him,  
to all who call on  
him in truth."  
[Psalm 145:18]



Stay up  
to date!

warrenucc.net

# **READ THE EASTER STORY IN THE BIBLE**

## **PASSAGE 1: MATTHEW 26-28**

### **MATTHEW 26-28**

Reading these three chapters will take you from Jesus' time in the garden of Gethsemane through the end of the Gospel story as written by the apostle, Matthew. Matthew gives details to the behaviors of various key characters of the time, including Judas and Pilate. Matthew was definitely a people-watcher. Matthew concludes his book with Jesus ascension and final promise. Don't miss the beautiful declaration in the last verse of the last chapter of the book: *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

## **PASSAGE 2: MARK 15-16**

### **MARK 15-16**

The apostle, Mark, provides a straightforward account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. In two chapters, he relays his view directly and precisely. It's interesting how he ends his narrative with the proof of the confirmation that Jesus was more than a man. The next to last verse explains how Jesus ascended to heaven and then Mark closes with "*the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*" And isn't it how awesome that he continues to confirm his word in our hearts today?!

## **PASSAGE 3: LUKE 22-24**

### **LUKE 22-24**

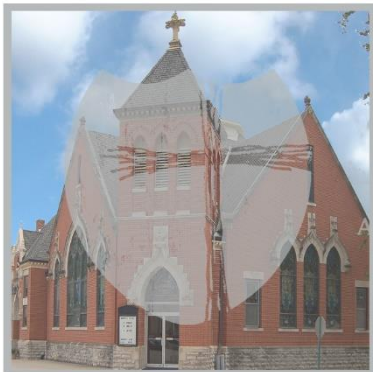
Luke chapter 22 begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus. Luke's personal account of the Gospel story is very detailed and reveals his attention to the physical process of the crucifixion. While there are only three chapters to Luke's account, each chapter contains more verses than either Matthew's or Mark's account. As a doctor, Luke provided insight enhanced by the skills of his profession. Two small phrases at the end of Luke's gospel explain his depth of emotion "with great joy" and "praising God."

## **PASSAGE 4: JOHN 17-20**

### **JOHN 17-20**

John calls himself the disciple whom Jesus loved. His writing is more extensive from the garden of Gethsemane to the ascension of Jesus to heaven than any other gospel writer. It is interesting that he provides the conversations between the people. Words were important to John; his outline of Jesus' prayer before entering the garden of Gethsemane is beautiful. He is the only writer of the four Gospels who was actually present in the garden to hear the prayer spoken by Jesus. John often notes the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in his gospel writing and he concludes chapter 20 with a wonderfully fascinating statement: *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* That little phrase "which are not recorded in this book" is intriguing, because in chapter 21, he further gives more detail on what Jesus did before the ascension. More than any other disciple. And his final conclusion to his gospel account? *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

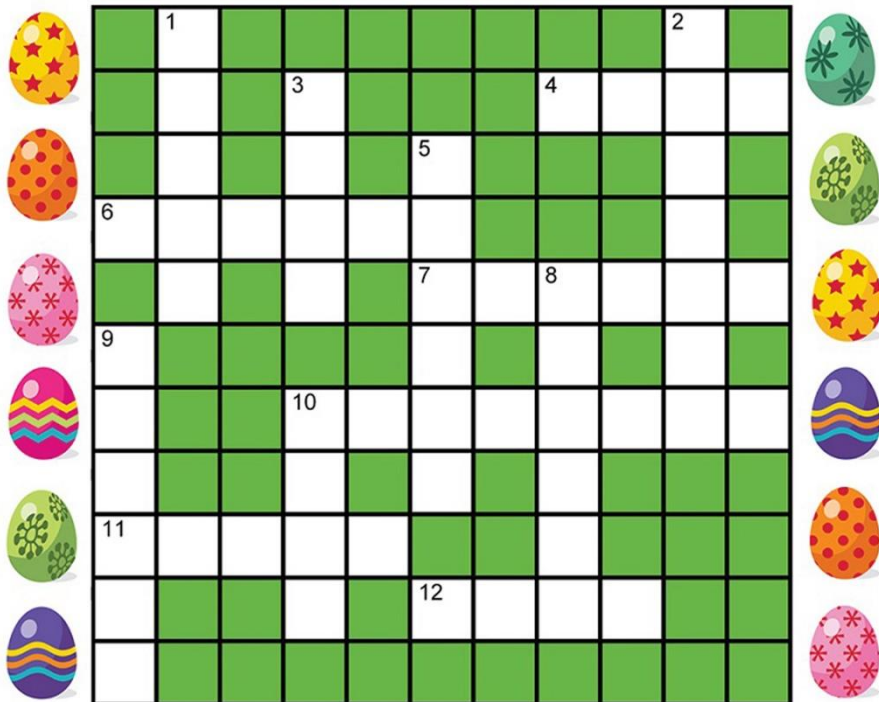
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PO Box 344  
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202 East Second Street, PO Box 344, Warren, Indiana 46792  
Church Telephone: 260-375-2102  
Pastor Troy Drayer Cell Phone: 260-228-0064  
Church Email: wucc@citznet.com

## Easter crossword

Time yourself to see how quickly you can solve  
our quick crossword about Easter!



### Across

- 4 A large white flower with six long petals. (4)  
6 On Easter Sunday, families will often get together for a yummy roast ---. (6)  
7 This holiday occurs on a Sunday in either March or April. (6)  
10 --- buns are easily identified by the two lines of white that go across the top. (3,5)  
11 The Easter --- brings chocolate and hides colourful eggs for children to find on Easter morning. (5)  
12 At Easter, these symbols of new life can be coloured, hidden, or turned into chocolate shapes and eaten! (4)

### Down

- 1 A medium-sized spring flower with petals that stand straight up; you'll often see pink varieties at Easter. (5)  
2 These are grown in gardens and given as pretty bouquets (Hint: these are what you'd call both 4 across and 1 down) (7)  
3 To gather all of the eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny, you must --- them. (4)  
5 Chocolate eggs, Simnel cakes, mini eggs and hot cross buns are all different kinds of Easter ---. (6)  
8 The season in which Easter occurs. (6)  
9 Another word for bunny. (6)  
10 An Easter Egg --- is a fun indoor or outdoor activity at this time of year. (4)

# April

## 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Maundy Thursday Church Open 6-8pm Communion	Good Friday Service Larry & Janis Highley Guy Jackson	
4 Easter Sunday 9:30am Communion Leslie Fowler	5	6	7 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm	8	9 Daxton Rooks	10 Greg Stucky Jo Spade
11 Sunday Service 9:30am	12	13 Carrie Miller	14 Service & Youth 6:30pm Kevin & Sarah Thiele Dan Norris	15 Craig & Connie Mounsey Kevin Rittenhouse	16 Bev Sneed	17 Shane Wright Bill Paxson
18 Sunday Service 9:30am Don & Kristi Williams	19	20 Sarah Thiele Ruth Booher Machelle Suchcicki	21 WAMA Service Youth Group 6:30pm Jay Dee Walters	22 Max Tyner Chris Brubaker	23	24 Jeff & Becky Souder
25 Sunday Service 9:30am Kristi Williams John Sneed	26 Cylest Brooks	27	28 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Melissa Jones	29 Janet Smith	30 Troy & Mindy Drayer	

### Good Friday

Tenebrae Community Service  
Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene  
7pm~All are welcome.

### EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Breakfast  
Fellowship Hall 8-9 am  
Easter Service  
9:30 am

**AB Meeting**  
April 20, Tuesday  
6:30pm

