

CROSS



WORDS

Volume 9, Number 6

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United Church of Christ, Warren IN

A church worship poster for Warren United Church of Christ. 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, 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, followed by "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 "Psalm 150:6". On the far right, the date "June 1, 2021" is written vertically.

The Monthly Word FROM PASTOR TROY

Letting go and letting God!

I enjoy watching action-adventure movies especially when it involves history or finding hidden treasures. Through the years I have loved watching the Indiana Jones movies, lots of action, humor, and suspense. In Indiana's third show we find him searching for the "Holy Grail" (the cup of Christ). For Indiana and his father this has become an obsession.

Well at the end of the movie we find Indiana is hanging on with one hand trying to reach the grail with his other hand. He's on the verge of falling to his death and then dad reaches down to grab his son's hand and tells Indy to let it go! Its not worth your life, we found it but we don't have to have it in our hands to claim it.



Letting go. But what are we meant to let go of? I mean, we're typically so invested in "hanging onto", preserving, even grasping and clutching, that the idea of "letting go" can seem foreign, unobtainable, even dreamlike. As Daphne Rose Kingma writes in "The ten things to do when your life falls apart:"

We're not used to letting go. We're used to hanging on for dear life. We hang on for lots of reasons: because something is familiar; because the past is a known commodity, and the future is a question mark; because we lack imagination and can't conceive of a future better than the past we've had; because blankies (no matter how ragged and trashed they are) and relationships (no matter how complete they already are or inappropriate they have become) are a comfort to us. We hang on because we've simply been taught that persistence is good, and we should never give up. Or we're simply afraid of the free fall, afraid of coming alive as ourselves.

So, if we're able to let go, we open up space for new, and even wonderful, things to occur. And yet, As Kingma notes, that first step-letting go of the person, thing, situation or way of being in the world to which we cling-is pretty darn hard. Thus, I ask again: how do we let go and what are we meant to let go of?

I believe that God provides a model for us. For, as the Prophet Jeremiah proclaims: God really wants a new life for us. In fact, God wants so much to be in a life-affirming, renewed relationship with us that God is willing to "let go," to "wipe the slate clean," to enter into yet another covenant with his people, and to forget that we ever sinned!

Now, please let me clarify. For I can imagine that those of you who are carrying burdens you didn't "choose"-a sick family member, loss of employment, a failed relationship-may be thinking: "Is he kidding? I'd set this burden down in a second if only I could. But I can't!" Oh yes, you may still have to deal with them. But...You do not have to carry them. You don't have to hold your burdens alone.

When you have identified that which you wish to let go, ask God to help you. Yes, ask for help, listening for a response. Focus your attention on your heart and feel what it might be like to let this thing or person or situation or way of being go. Do you think, with God's help, you might be able to do it? What is the freedom that, afterward, you might experience? And is there a first step you could take this very day?

God Bless!
Pastor Troy



YOUTH

Summertime is officially here! The kids are all out of school, it's hot, it's humid and we are looking forward to a fun and engaging summer for our youth.

Last month we were able to discuss what it means to have a positive attitude at all times. We talked about how to handle negative emotions and making the conscious decision to think about things positively overall.

We had a great turn out during our game night! There was plenty of pizza, soda, and games to go around. We will definitely be making plans for another game night just like that this summer.

Still searching for consistent volunteers to help out on Wednesday nights as our youth program continues to grow. If you feel as though you are called to volunteer with the youth please reach out.

Terry Lee





Caden Brubaker is a 2021 graduate of Huntington North High School, a member of the National Honor's Society, a 4 year scholar athlete and a graduate with distinction. While in high school Caden was a 4 year member of the

Varsity Golf team, serving as Captain during his Senior season, earning multiple medalist honors. He was also a 4 year FFA member, where he was awarded his Greenhand Degree, Chapter Degree, State Degree, the Star Farmer award and he is the 2021 Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Winner at the State level, earning him the opportunity to compete on the National level next year. Caden is also an accomplished 10 year 4-H member, earning many Champion or Reserve Champion awards in swine, goat & jumbo garden projects. He has also exhibited pigs at the Indiana State Fair for all 10 years of 4-H and has been showing pigs nationally since he was 4 years old. Caden plans to attend Purdue University to pursue an Agronomy or Animal Science degree from the School of Agriculture.



Haley Trout is graduating from Eastbrook High School on June 4th. While in school she participated in basketball, National Art Honor Society, FFA and is a Ten Year 4-H member. She's still undecided on a future career so she's

planning to start General Studies classes at IVY Tech this Fall.



Congratulations Caden and Haley! Please join us as we celebrate our graduates on Sunday, June 6th at 9:30am. Prayers and blessings on your graduation and your future.

Class of 2021

*It is not in the stars
to hold our destiny
but in ourselves.*

— William Shakespeare

HAPPY
MEMORIAL DAY
TO ALL WHO SERVE
AND SACRIFICE

Warren United Church of Christ
Sunday, May 30, Memorial Day Service
Location: Riverside Park, 10:30am
No service in sanctuary.

WAMA
Bible School
July 5-9, 2021
6pm-8pm



You've got problems,
God's got solutions!

Warren Church of Christ
302 N Wayne Street

CLASS OF

2021

GRADUATION
SUNDAY
JUNE 6, 2021
9:30AM



Caden Brubaker
Haley Trout

**Remember to
pray for**

Waldo Knight
Les Ackley
Jerry Williams
Wanda Campbell
Butch Arbuckle
Cammy Ackley
Carrie Miller
Joni Paxson
Ed Clark
Guy Jackson

Bring chairs, side dish to share & drinks



Warren United Church of Christ

CHURCH **PICNIC** 

June 27th, Service at 10:40am

Location: Craig & Connie Mounsey's
5398S-600E, Markle

Swimming

Food

Bring Games!

Fishing

Fellowship

Fun





June 2021



Anniversaries

- 3 – Mark & Shayna Stucky
- 5 – Brandon & Miranda Bolinger
- 7 – Waldo & Margaret Knight
- 10 – James & Kari Green
- 12 – Bob & Ann Jackson
- 16 – Terry & Carrie Miller
- 17 – Joe & Danielle Shape
- 22 – Greg & Kathy Stucky
- 27 – Rev. Ed & Mary Clark

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Abbey Paxson	2 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Barry Hammel	3 Kent Poulson	4 Ron Wartzok Scott Flanagan	5
6 Sunday Service 9:30am Communion Graduation Sunday	7	8 Zach Tolén Harrison Campbell	9 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm James Green	10	11 Barb Strayer	12
13 Sunday Service 9:30am	14	15	16 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm James Koberlein Carolyn Rittenhouse Janis Highley	17 Adam Rooks Meggan Rittenhouse	18 Jackson Johnson	19 Nicole Scheiman
20 Sunday Service 9:30am Father's Day	21	22 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm Maddy Clark	23 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm	24 DeWayne Jones Amiah Easthom	25 Joanie Paxson	26
27 Church Picnic	28 Barb Jones	29	30 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm			



Help Needed!

The Salamonie Festival Parade will be July 2nd. We need help with this years float. Contact Cammy or Julie if you would like to help out!

