

# CROSS



# WORDS

Volume 9, Number 10

A newsletter published by  
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

A church worship poster for Warren United Church of Christ. The poster features a dark red vertical banner on the left with the text "All the time, GOD is good." and a circular image of a cross. The main background is a light, textured grey with a large, faint cross. Text on the poster includes: "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.", and "Psalm 150:6". A vertical date stamp on the right edge reads "October 1, 2021".

## The Monthly Word

FROM  
PASTOR TROY

**Encouraging those around us!**

Paul was a great leader and I think we can learn from him and the letters that he wrote in the New Testament. Reading through those letters we can see how he encouraged those believers of the early church.

Maybe You have noticed that Hebrews it is not written in the form of a letter like the other books of the New Testament. It doesn't have all those personal notes addressed to people in the first chapter like the others. It has long been debated as to whether Paul wrote Hebrews or not; however, we do want to grab something important from this book.

You can see that the writer wanted the best for these people. You can see he was encouraging them to encourage each other. We have got to learn to encourage each other in the body of Christ. When we are leaders, it is just part of the territory to build relationships and be an encouragement.

*"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:12-13 (KJV)*

Sometimes all it takes to encourage someone is just to tell them that you are grateful for them and that they are in your prayers. Can you do special things to thank people, like having them over for dinner, taking them out for coffee, or even buying them a little gift? Yes, but there isn't anything elaborate to encouraging others.

Encouragement in its purest form is a simple thing. I think so many people think they need this big plan to encourage others, especially leaders. They think they have to buy gifts or do something amazing to show their support for their team or helpers. That can sometimes be a great and noble thing to do, but I have found with working with leaders and helpers in the local church over the years, that people just want to be thanked for what they do. They want to know that what they are doing is making a difference. They want some simple recognition like a thank you or some kind of acknowledgement that their effort counts. They want contact and communication.

That is what Paul did in his letters. He just kept acknowledging the work and faithfulness of those leaders of the early church. He just kept telling them he was praying for them. He kept thanking them for their prayers. Even when he called attention to the contentions at the church of Corinth, he was still encouraging them in the work of the faith.

There is nothing wrong with surface compliments, such as "Oh, that dress is pretty!", "That color looks so good on you!", or "I love your hair that way!". Just being nice to someone is great but calling attention to those things that are on a deeper level goes to the core of Christian encouragement.

I think Paul's encouragement wasn't the surface kind. He went deeper. His encouragement in his letters revolved around talking about people's hearts, about their love for people, about how their faith had made an impact, about how he was thankful for them, about how he was thankful for their prayers, about how he is praying for them, and even about spiritual discipline.

I think as leaders we need to develop that skill to encourage other believers in a deeper and more meaningful way. I think part of it is just getting to know our helpers and volunteers on a more personal level so we can cut through the surface and encourage them more effectively. When we go deeper and reach for that significant encouragement, it's then we lift up people and propel them into action and service.

*Blessings, Pastor Troy and Mindy*





Last month we were able to discuss James 2:1-10. The theme of this passage was that God tells us not to play favorites and favor certain people over others. We should not treat people better or worse based on their clothing or how they look.

We also went over the passage Mark 8:27-38. We talked about how we all have our crosses to bear just like Jesus did. Each one of us is called to make our own sacrifices in life. We must be willing to take up our own crosses, give up everything, and follow Him.

Finally we took some time to talk about overall thankfulness. Being thankful for family and for health is so important in these uncertain times. It can be very easy to take certain things for granted but we can look to our neighbor and realize that he or she may not have those things that we are taking for granted.

Mark your calendars for the WAMA Fall Youth Olympics Saturday October 9th from 6 - 8 PM. This event is for 5th to 12th graders and will be located at Solid Rock Church.

**Terry Lee**





# WARREN

United Church of Christ

# HOMECOMING

*Bring guests, all are welcome!*

October 17, 2021  
Please join us for Worship and Fellowship  
Worship begins at 9:30am

Followed my meal provided  
by Deacons.

All the time,  
GOD is good.

202 East Second Street, Warren

## FALL PARTY & HAYRIDE!

At The Wilson's  
6780 E. State Road 218 Lafontaine

A FUN NIGHT  
FOR THE WHOLE  
FAMILY!

COME ONE, COME ALL!  
Saturday, October 30th, 5:30 pm

All the food will be furnished. There will be an apple bob  
and pumpkin decorating. We will have Hot Chocolate and  
roast marshmallows after the hayride. Dress according to  
the weather. You might need a blanket for the hayride!

We will be in the barn rain or shine!



Food Pantry  
needs Hat's and Scarves!  
They can be dropped off  
to rose at the pantry  
or in the church office.

Thanks



## SMOKED PORK CHOP

## DRIVE THRU DINNER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

**11AM – 2PM, OR UNTIL SOLD OUT**

WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

202 E 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET / WARREN

**FREE DELIVERY WITHIN TOWN LIMITS**

**CALL 375-2102 THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> TO  
PRE-ORDER FOR DELIVERY**

### MEAL WILL CONSIST OF

SMOKED CHOP / BAKED POTATO / GREEN BEANS  
INDIVIDUAL PRE-PACKAGE APPLESAUCE  
INDIVIDUAL PRE-WRAPPED DESSERT

**FREE WILL DONATION - PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT**

WARREN AREA MINISTRIAL ASSOCIATION

WUCC MISSIONS / WUCC JOY CLASS



## Personal Caring Drive for the Bread of Life Food Pantry

Through the end of the year our focus is on hygiene items  
for the food pantry. I will be posting the item of the month  
but feel free to bring in any items that you find on sale  
throughout the month. Thank you for your donations.

**A collection drive of basic  
hygiene items to promote a  
healthy lifestyle.**



### Collection Dates:

October - Shampoo  
November - Toilet Paper  
December - Toothbrush/Toothpaste

Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Body Wash  
Bar Soap  
Hand Soap  
Shavers  
Toilet Paper  
Feminine hygiene  
products

## THANK YOU!

Drop off location:

Warren United Church of Christ  
202 East Second Street, Warren





October is Pastor Appreciation Month.  
Thank you Pastor Troy for all you do!



Let's face it. When we invite people to church, the idea of it can be nerve-wracking. There's a lot of inner dialogue that happens. How do I bring it up in conversation? What if I come across as judgmental? What if I get rejected? What if I make them uncomfortable? The tendency is to ask a lot of "what if" questions that focus on the negative side. But what if you reminded yourself of the potential, instead?

- What if God has been preparing their heart and has been waiting for me to invite them?
- What if they say yes?
- What if they're hurting and find healing at church?
- What if they give their life to Christ, and future generations are changed because of it?



We will again be handing out hot dogs at the scarecrow festival this year. Stop by and see us! We will be collecting donation for WAMA throughout the evening.



STAY INFORMED

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

We are on  
Facebook & Instagram





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



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Church Telephone: 260-375-2102  
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ANGEL TREE



TOY  
DRIVE

Collecting  
new & gently  
used toys!



This year we are combining our Angel Tree with a Toy Drive for The Bread of Life Food Pantry. The last few years the food pantry has had a toy room that allows people to come in by appointment to pick out Christmas gifts for their kids. We thought this would be a fun outreach to the community. We will need toys brought in by November 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be tags on our Angel Tree for you to pick up as we have done in the past, but this year the gifts don't need to be wrapped. Along with the tags we will also take any other toys, new or gently used. Thank you for your continued support of our annual Angel Tree program.

# October



Keep bringing in those new and gently used coats! Our outreach has grown this year and we are provided coats to families in Warren and the surround area. It is such a blessing to "Share the Warmth" with those in need. Please check with Julie for any specific sizes she may need. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Thank you for helping to make our annual coat drive successful!

## WUCC Work Day at the Food Pantry!

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DONATE YOUR TIME TO THE FOOD PANTRY!  
Wednesday, October 20th  
2-4pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Laura Summers</i>	2
3 Sunday Service communion 9:30am <i>Dale &amp; Sondra Zahel</i>	4	5	6 Contemporary Service Youth Group 6:30pm	7	8	9 <i>Man Norris</i>
10 Sunday Service 9:30am	11 <i>Dan &amp; Jackie Norris</i>	12	13 Contemporary Service Youth Group 6:30pm <i>Matt &amp; Angie Norris</i>	14 <i>Kimberly Stroud</i>	15	16
17 Sunday Service 9:30am HOMECOMING <i>Shaylen Sushicki</i>	18 <i>Scott &amp; Kristin Flanagan Carol Nunn</i>	19 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm <i>Larry &amp; Roselyn Pochon Ruth Brooks</i>	20 Contemporary Service Youth Group 6:30pm <i>Chris &amp; Carly Brubaker Daniel Paxon</i>	21	22	23
24 Sunday Service 9:30am Pack Chop Dinner	25	26 <i>John &amp; Brenda Tokn</i>	27 Contemporary Service Youth Group 6:30pm <i>Richard &amp; Janice Brubaker</i>	28	29	30 Hayride <i>Juan Pineda</i>
31 Sunday Service 9:30am <b>Happy Halloween</b>						

2021