

# CROSS




# WORDS

Volume 9, Number 12

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

December 1, 2021

## The Monthly Word FROM PASTOR TROY

### Ugly Christmas Sweater

Have you ever attended an Ugly Christmas sweater Party? If so, then you know how fun it can be to see all the hideous displays of fashion that can come together over the holidays. But what happens when our outward appearance is as ugly as our inward thoughts and motives towards one another. When our inward motives and thoughts are ugly, they can manifest themselves as ugly words and actions. Aren't the holidays supposed to be about love and kindness? Peace and goodwill towards God and man?

THOUGHTS ~ MOTIVES ~ WORDS ~ ACTIONS



The month of December we address ugly thoughts, motives, words, and actions. November 28th, we look at the “Ugly Thoughts” we have. Christmas is meant to be a time of Joy and happiness based upon the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Too often, this fact gets lost in ugly thoughts, words, motives, and actions. This Christmas, things can change, and you can celebrate Jesus in the way you think, speak, and live toward the people around you. Then on December 5th we talk about the “Ugly Words” that can spew from our mouth. Spending time with friends and family during Christmas season can too often result in us saying things that we regret. Tensions can run high, and if we’re not careful to tame our tongues, we can find ourselves hurting those we love with our ugly words. If we call ourselves Christians, we should be careful to choose words to communicate love, especially during the holidays.

Then on December 12th, we look at “Ugly Motives.” Every person is motivated to act by specific things in life. The question is, what is your motivation? Sometimes we are searching for praise from people when we should be seeking praise from God only. With healthy motives, we become people who live a healthy life. We wrap up this series on December 19th on the topic of “Ugly Actions.” All of life as a Christian is about living in a way that honors Jesus. Many people miss this and live day-to-day only thinking of themselves. Christmas is all about God’s selfless actions to come to earth and rescue His people. In response to His generosity, we must make choices to bless others and make Jesus famous by the actions we take.

It is our prayer as we approach Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, that we can look ourselves in how we approach those in our life. Can others see the joy of Christ in you? It’s good for all of us to look inward and take inventory of how we show the love of God to those we encounter.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve each of you, Warren United Church of Christ, and the Warren community this past year and looking forward to what God has for each of us as we work to share the “Good News” of Jesus to all.

Merry Christmas and God bless,  
Pastor Troy and Mindy Drayer





Our forever gift.....

If you were asked the question, "What is the meaning of Christmas", what would your answer be? Would it be the gifts you receive? Would it be the time spent with family? Would it be the vacation from school?

All of those things are part of the Christmas Season, however it is not the true reason we celebrate. Have you ever heard the phrase "Jesus is the reason for the season"? It is because of his birth that we have hope in our lives. The Christmas season is meant to celebrate not only the Birth of Jesus Christ, but to also remember he is the hope of the world, brought salvation to all and loves everyone the same.

How about this year instead of thinking only of the gifts you wish to receive, the decorating of your tree, and the treats you want to eat; you remember the birth of our Lord and Savior and spread his hope to others.

*Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a Child will be born. To us a Son will be given. And the rule of the nations will be on His shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Teacher, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace."*

Our forever gift..... The love of Jesus!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



# SHOE DRIVE

Donate Now-March 9

**DONATE**  
your clean,  
gently worn,  
used, & new  
**shoes**

- DEWEESE SOFT WATER & APPLIANCES
- WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY
- WARREN CIVIC CENTER
- UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
- WARREN BAPTIST CHURCH
- SOLID ROCK CHURCH

*Not sure if your shoe fits?*

Help us collect shoes to raise funds for Small World Preschool's growth and scholarship funds. Our vision is to increase our number of classes, keep tuition affordable for all families, and provide a quality education. By donating shoes, you're helping the young kids in our community have exposure to a solid education.

But it doesn't stop there! Collected shoes are sent to support micro-enterprise vendors worldwide. Micro-enterprises are small businesses in developing nations that are typically operated by one person or family and friends, depending on size.

**ALL** shoe types including baby shoes, work shoes, sports shoes, heels, slippers, sandals, flip flops, etc. are accepted as long as they are clean and in wearable condition. The only exclusion is heavy snow boots, roller blades, and ice skates.

Some of our littlest members, Carson and Luke Thiele, and Brooklyn Koberlein, all attend Small World Preschool. Their school is collecting new and gently used shoes for a shoe drive fundraiser. We will have a collection box at the church if you have any shoes you could bring in. These kiddos would appreciate your help with their fundraiser!



### Jesus Makes Us Beautiful Again

Ugly Christmas sweater parties bring us together to laugh at the hideous displays of fashion over the holidays. But there's nothing funny when our words and actions become just as ugly. Join us as we celebrate the beauty of Christ! Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> we will discuss motives, December 19<sup>th</sup> we will discuss actions. We look forward to seeing you!



If you haven't made it down to the Hall yet to see Ruth Brook's Christmas village there is still time to see it. They had it up again this year for the Historic Warren Holiday Walk and will leave it up through Christmas. It continues to grow each year and really is a site to see! Thank you Jerry and Ruth for sharing your village with us again this year.

warrenucc.net

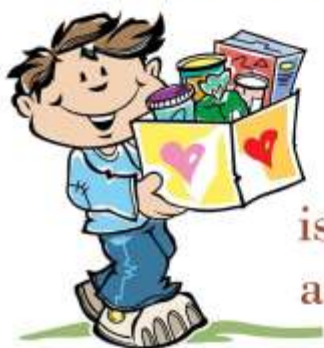
**STAY INFORMED**

Warren United Church of Christ  
202 East Second Street

*Christmas*  
Candlelight Service  
Join us Friday, December 24, 7pm



Join us for our:  
**FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE**  
Let's fill the pulpit!!!



December  
Challenge  
is Toothbrushes  
and Toothpaste!



Thank you for supporting the Warren Food  
Pantry! Our church's next work day is  
Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm. Please  
let us know if you can help. December  
collection is Toothbrushes and Toothpaste!



*Santa  
is coming!*

Mark your calendars for  
Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>!  
Santa will arrive at the church  
following service. Stay after  
church Sunday and come  
down to the Fellowship Hall  
for refreshments and  
pictures with Santa.



*Ring the Bell*

Call the church office  
if you would like to  
ring the bell this year.

December 11  
10am-4pm

Location:  
Dollar General



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)

## Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?

Why do we celebrate Christmas,  
A "Mass" for Christ, each year?  
Why do we shop and give out gifts,  
Basking in Christmas cheer?

Our joy is based in the Gospel,  
The amazing "good news" of Christ;  
We're grateful for what He gave to us  
And all He sacrificed.

Priceless gifts He brought,  
Eternal life, and more,  
A perfect role model for all of us,  
He opened heaven's door.

At Christmas time let's be  
Reverent and devout,  
Celebrating a Christmas real and true:  
Jesus Christ is what it's about.

~Joanna Fuchs



# December 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Contemporary Service Youth Group Aspen McCool	2 Amanda Tolen	3	4
5 Sunday Service Communion 9:30am	6	7 Gary & Jill Yount	8 Contemporary Service Youth Group Carson & Luke Thiele Jerry Wilson	9 Shari Sue Brown Jill Yount	10 Jada Johnson	11 Brenda Tolen Keaton Jones
12 Sunday Service 9:30am Deb Baker	13	14	15 Contemporary Service Youth Group Bill Byrd	16 Ron & Cynthia Wartzok	17 Peggy Wilson	18 Ceaton Brubaker
19 Sunday Service 9:30am Santa Visit!	20	21 Karl Green Kevin Deakyne	22	23 Brittney Eppard	24 Joyce Dahlquist	25 Merry Christmas
26 Sunday Service 9:30am	27 Weston Eppard Cole Campbell	28	29	30	31 Chod & Claudia Boxell	

Contemporary Service & Youth Group 6:30pm  
Food Pantry Work Day, December 8th, 2-4pm  
Santa visit, December 19th, following service