

CROSS



WORDS

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WARREN
United Church of Christ

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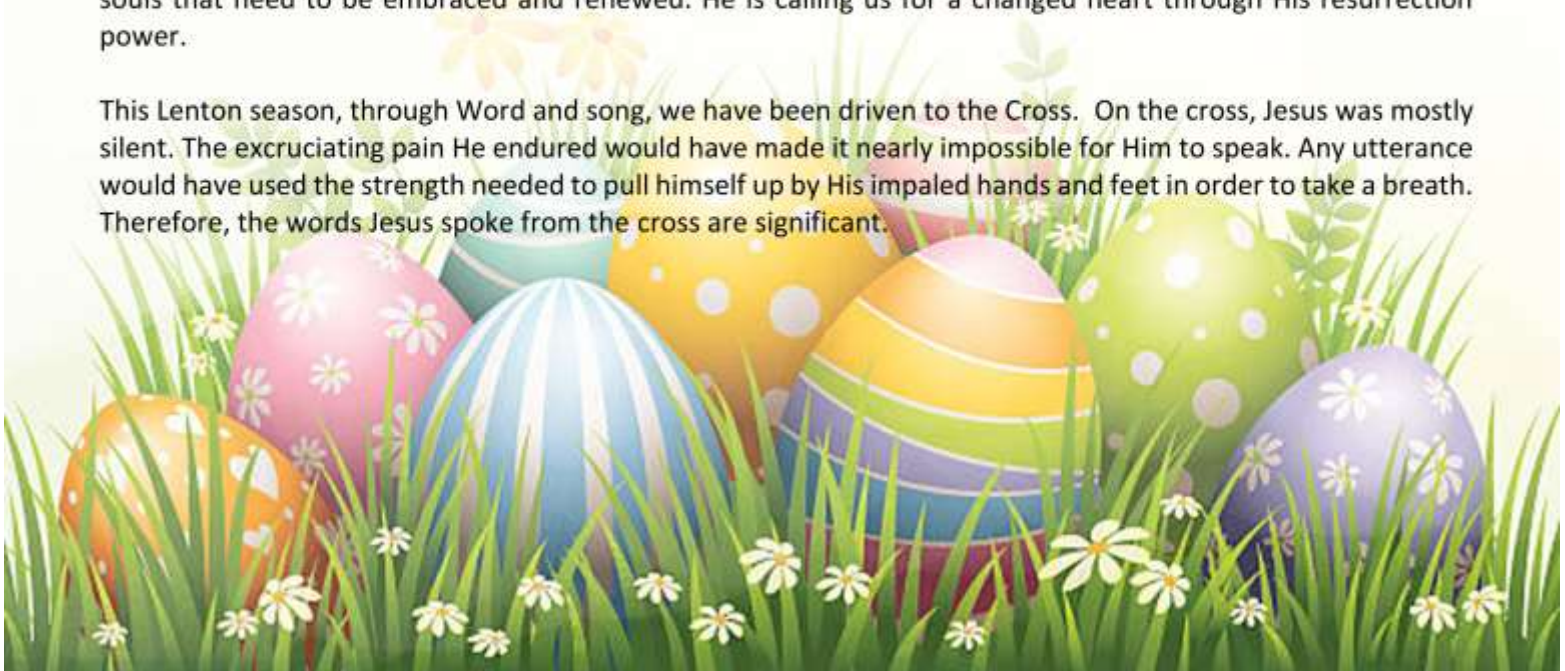
The Monthly Word

FROM
PASTOR TROY

HE IS RISEN.....OUR SAVIOR LIVES

What an honor and amazing privilege to be celebrating Easter with our church and community family. We are humbled and grateful for the privilege to be serving God in Warren, IN. After the last couple of years, this Easter seems different: more precious, more appreciated and more grateful. God has stirred something deep in our souls that need to be embraced and renewed. He is calling us for a changed heart through His resurrection power.

This Lenton season, through Word and song, we have been driven to the Cross. On the cross, Jesus was mostly silent. The excruciating pain He endured would have made it nearly impossible for Him to speak. Any utterance would have used the strength needed to pull himself up by His impaled hands and feet in order to take a breath. Therefore, the words Jesus spoke from the cross are significant.



His first words from the cross were a prayer. As the soldiers divided His clothes and cast lots, He cried out, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34). We see that even in the midst of injustice and humiliation, Jesus prayed for His persecutors. The Roman soldiers were doing what they had known and taught. Their allegiance was to the emperor, and they cared little about the Jewish scuffles of the day. However, we would later see that Jesus' prayer is answered, as the centurion overseeing the execution praised and confessed that Jesus was indeed a righteous man, the Son of God (Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47).

Jesus' second prayer, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34) is a recitation of Psalm 22. Many scholars believe this is an indication of the only time in Jesus' life when He was abandoned by the Father. Some scholars argue that this was the moment when the Son took upon Himself the sins of all humanity, and the Father turned from the presence of sin. Regardless of one's interpretation, Jesus' second prayer exemplifies the depth of His suffering on our behalf.

Jesus' final utterance from the cross is also His third prayer, *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"* (Luke 23:46). Here, Jesus quotes Psalm 31:5 and announces to all His trust in His Heavenly Father to raise Him from the dead.

Laws and rules set standards of acceptable practice within communities, nations, and organizations. Laws set boundaries to try to create safe environments for all. But we all know that laws and rules have their limits. Laws are made by people in power. Laws can easily become forms of oppression, favoring some people while limiting and burdening others. What's more, laws do not make people good. Following a rule to avoid being punished does not make a person virtuous.

Romans 3:23 makes clear that *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* But at the cross, Jesus took on himself the punishment for our sin. He paid the consequences of our lawlessness. And the power of the cross is not only in the payment of this debt but also in the freedom it offers. Jesus' death on the cross opens up for us the power to live full and holy lives, unburdened by the weight of guilt, shame, and human expectations. God is holy and good, and God created human beings as image bearers of his own goodness and holiness. The cross frees us to live as God intended—humbly, joyfully, and lovingly. Today, may the power of the cross release you into full living by God's goodness, mercy, and love.

In 1825 a typhoon came screaming across the South China Sea and literally smashed the city of Macao, where Portuguese settlers had once constructed a cathedral overlooking the harbor. When the force of the typhoon had subsided, not much was left of the cathedral. It was all gone except the front wall of the church which was left standing, and the bronze cross affixed to the crest of the facade. When the English governor of Hong Kong, Sir John Bowring, came to survey the damage, he was visibly impressed that only the **cross remained standing**. That evening as John Bowring sat in his room, he penned these words, "In the Cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime." Centuries have come and gone since Roman soldiers forced Jesus Christ to bear His cross through the narrow streets of old Jerusalem, and when He fell under its load, forced another to bear it to Golgotha, a Hebrew word for "the place of the skull." Yet, the cross endures as a kind of symbol of Christianity, a strange symbol for a religion that now is embraced by more than 1.5 billion people from every one of the 223 countries and territories on the face of the earth.

Parisians watched in heartache as 850-plus years of art, faith and culture blazed at Notre Dame Cathedral. The spire fell. The roofing was ravaged. But then, after officials announced that the cathedral would survive, signs of hope surfaced among the damage. The cathedral's golden altar **cross was seen standing** as officials surveyed the charred structure.

The CROSS still stands

Good Friday celebrates the day our Lord died for our sins on the cross. I have often sat by the hour and tried to imagine the agony and suffering He went through because of our sins. At one point He said from the cross, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). He meant that God had accepted His work on the cross as the penalty for our sins. Christ's death on our behalf is the reason God can forgive us and still be just. And His death teaches us the depth and breadth that there should be in our forgiveness of one another. While that holy Friday was tremendous, it was only a prelude to Sunday morning when He was raised from the dead. Godly women had come to see His tomb, but angels made the glorious announcement, *"He has risen!"* (Luke 24:6). His resurrection guaranteed that we, too, will be raised, if we are believers and obey His Word.

Easter is a season of great gladness for those who know Christ. But for those who are without *"the light of the knowledge of God's glory"* (2 Corinthians 4:6), there is nothing to rejoice over. Jesus left us with the great hope and certainty that He is going to return to bring a new Heaven and a new earth where, we are told, there will be no more sorrow, trouble, or death for those who have believed and followed Him. There will be trouble, sorrow, and suffering for those who have neglected or rejected Him. As Christians, our great task is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again. Our prayer for you during this season of the year, when we meditate on our Savior's great sacrifice for us on the cross, is that you will be filled with great peace and hope, because *"He is risen!"* That is the Good News.

Go, tell everyone He is Victorious!!!!

Blessings and Love,
Pastor Troy and Mindy

1 Timothy

FOUR:12

'SET AN EXAMPLE'



Four12 Youth is up and running! They meet for an hour and a half every month on the last Sunday at 4:12pm. The next meeting will be held on April 24th. Our younger youth meet on Wednesday evenings during the Contemporary Service at "Wednesday Night Live". But our older youth (6th -12th grades) have broken off to their own night and time and needed an update to their name and purpose. That is where Four12 comes in. This name is in reference to the scripture 1 Timothy 4:12 – *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example to the believers in what you say, how*

you behave, in love, faith and holiness. Please help us promote our growing youth groups here at WUCC. We continue to look for a Youth Director to lead these programs. More information on this position can be found on our website, warrenucc.net. The AB Board and WUCC Staff are excited for this youth program and ask for your prayers and encouragement as we think of new ideas and ways to continue with growth. These kids are our church's future and as we move into Spring of 2022 we ask for your help to Refresh, Rebuild, and Renew.

WUCC Virtual Store

shirts • hats • cups



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



warrenucc.net
Click on the merchandise link



I am working on updating our church directory. Along with our printed directory I am working on starting up an online directory. This information would only be available to our church members who sign up. It is through Realm Connect which is what I am currently using in the office. The benefits of the online directory would be that you will have an app on your phones that would allow you to have access to everyone's addresses and phone numbers. You would also be able to update your information easily and add a photo. It will also be possible to message within groups of the church through the app instead of through email. You will be invited to join this directory by me through

email. It will ask you some questions and give instructions on how to load the app. In order for your information to be viewed by other members you need to allow permission to view by all members of the church. If you don't use email I will call you to ask if you would like to be included in the directory. So even if it's not something you will use, I can still add your information in so our member will easily have access to your address and phone number.

Join us for our: FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

April Collection!



Any brand of Biscuit, Muffin
or Cookie mix.

EASTER STORY TRAIL



HE HAS RISEN

Designed especially for our youth
but a story we all love to hear over and over again.

Warren United Church of Christ
202 East 2nd St. / Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, April 13, at 6pm

Bring your cell phones as this is an interactive story trail.
There will be 10 stations where you can
scan the QR code on each image to hear part of the story.
You will be taken from Palm Sunday, to the cross,
resurrection, and Jesus' accession back to Heaven.



Stay up
to date!

warrenucc.net



A proposal has been presented to the Administrative Board regarding creating a new room for the youth of our church. This would be for our 5th – 12th grades of youth. The proposal is to create their own space in the large basement room, right off the basement kitchen.

It would be set up with an audio/visual corner that will include couches, a TV for presentations and lessons. Another area would then be for set up with the ping pong table, pool table and the fooseball table that we already have. There would be an area then for snacks which would

include two high top tables, the popcorn machine and a hot dog machine which have been donated to the church. This would leave a different corner that could be left open for games.

The tables and chairs that are used for the fellowship hall, which currently are being stored in this area, would then be stored in the small room that was being used as the youth room. This room has become too small to use for youth nights. A larger area is needed.

This change/remodel would be an extensive project which would include:

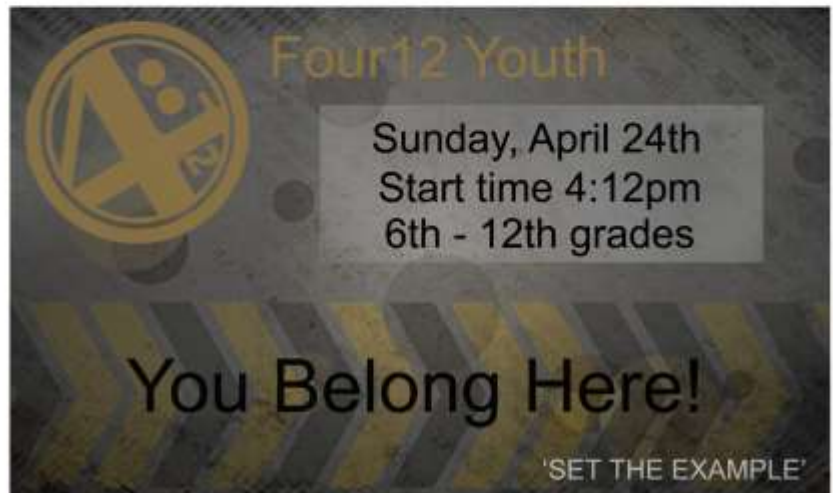
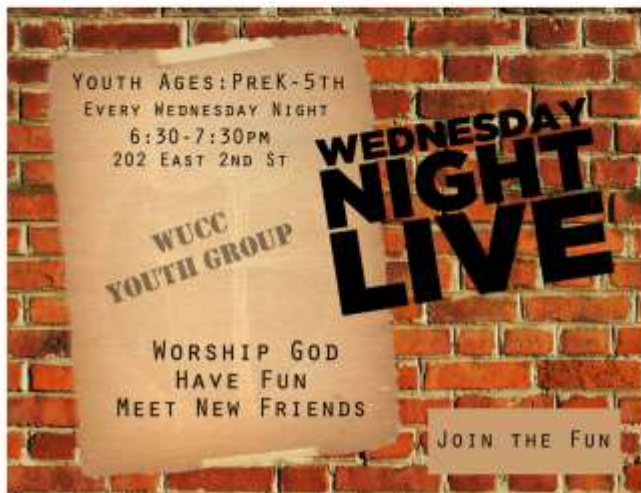
- Repairing the cracks in the floor
- Carpeting the floor with carpet tiles
- Removing all the wallpaper
- Painting the walls and stairway
- Replacing ceiling tiles and ceiling lights
- Replacing lights on the walls and stairway



In discussions with the board, the concern was presented about the “noodle making” project that has been done in the past. It would be rather difficult to make noodles with the carpeting and furniture in the room as tables are set up throughout the whole room for noodles to dry.

The board elected to take the concern to the congregation. The question is, will there be future noodle making on that large of a scale that the basement needs to be left as is?

Please give Sarah a call at the church to let her know your thoughts and concerns.



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All the time,
GOD is good.



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 10th – Palm Sunday

Service begins at 9:30am

Wednesday, April 13th

Easter Story Trail, Fellowship Hall 6pm

Thursday, April 14th – Maundy Thursday

The church will be open from 6-8pm for prayer and open communion.

Friday, April 15th – Good Friday Prayer Vigil

7am-6:30pm the sanctuary and chapel will be open for all who want to come and pray. Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene, 7pm.

Sunday, April 17th – 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.





April

2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
						Guy Jackson
3 Sunday Service 9:30am Communion	4 Leslie Fowler	5	6 Contemporary Youth 6:30pm	7	8	9 Daxton Rooks
10 Palm Sunday 9:30am Greg Stucky Jo Spade	11	12	13 Easter Story Trail 6pm Carrie Miller	14 Maundy Thursday church open 6-8pm Kevin & Sarah Thiele Dan Norris	15 Good Friday Service 7pm Craig & Connie Mounsey Kevin Rittenhouse	16 Easter Egg Hunt KBC 10am Bev Sneed
17 Easter Sunday Breakfast 8-9am Service 9:30am Bill Paxson	18 Don & Kristi Williams	19 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm	20 Contemporary Youth 6:30pm Sarah Thiele Ruth Booher	21 Charlotte Fowler	22 Max Tyner Chris Brubaker	23
24 Sunday Service 9:30am Four12 Youth 4:12pm Jeff & Becky Souder	25 Kristi Williams John Sneed	26	27 Contemporary Youth 6:30pm	28 Melissa Jones	29 Janet Smith	30 Troy & Mindy Drayer

