

CROSS

Volume 10, Number 8

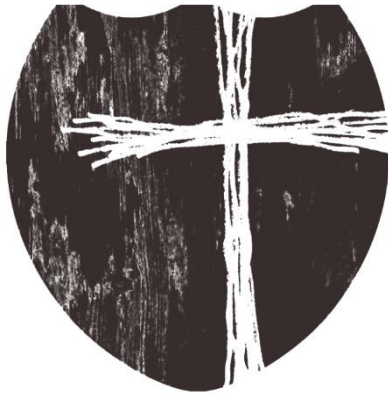


WORDS

A newsletter published by
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

WARREN
United Church of Christ

August 1, 2022



The Monthly Word

FROM
PASTOR TROY

Passion, What is Yours?

What comes to mind when you hear, or see the word passion? Webster's Dictionary says that passion is "intense emotional excitement." That excitement can run the spectrum from being "white-hot" with anger to being "red-hot" in love. Webster's also identifies the word passion with the crucifixion and sufferings of Jesus Christ. That usage can be seen the movie Mel Gibson produced a couple of years ago: The Passion of the Christ.

What does the passion of Jesus Christ mean to you and me today? What impact should it have on our lives? Would you say that Jesus was passionate about His mission here on earth? Would you say that you are passionate about your relationship with Him? If passion is connected to Christ's suffering for our salvation, then how should we relate to His sufferings? Let's begin with what Paul says in Philippians 1:29 "For it has been given to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him..."

We often want to stop at believe so that we won't have to suffer, but if we do, we cannot truly be passionate about Jesus Christ. Peter addressed the same thing in his first letter...1 Peter 4:13-14 "...as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah rejoice, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory. If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

Passionate followers of Jesus Christ are going to sharing in His suffering. If your Christian walk doesn't challenge the world around you, then you need to take a look at how and where you are walking. I like the challenge that Paul gave to Timothy in his second letter to the young Pastor... 2 Timothy 1:6-8 "Therefore, I remind you to keep ablaze the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. So don't be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me His prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God."

Paul's challenge was to stay "on fire" for Jesus—to be passionate about serving Christ. Timothy needed to remember that God didn't want him to be controlled by fear, but rather by His power, love, and the discipline that comes from allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your life. What Paul said to Timothy might be summarized by a prayer like this: Lord, teach me..., Lord, touch me..., Lord, torch me!

Let me pose one more question: What robs people and Churches of their passion? There are probably a multitude of answers to that question, but there is one thing that really seemed to hit home with me. People and Church are robbed of their passion by fatigue. People and Church just plain "wear out" or, to use the term more often associated with spiritual things, they "burn out." There is great danger with fatigue. Fatigue can cause both bridges and believers to collapse and crumble under the weight of the world around them, and I'm afraid that we have more fatigue within the Body of Christ than we want to admit. The late, great coach of the Green Bay Packers, Vince Lombardi, once said: "Fatigue makes cowards of us all." Jesus understood the weariness of life, that is why He offered this "anti-fatigue" remedy: Matthew 11:28
"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Let me offer you three common causes of fatigue in the life of both Church and believers:

1. Compromise fatigue: This is where we face the pressures to fit in, be accepted, to not make waves, to be silent when we should speak up, to be more like the world than like Christ. Ultimately it leads to us giving in, which in turns leads to spiritual fatigue.
2. Compression fatigue: This is where we face the continuing pressures of life weighing down on us, and because we are trying to hold up under the load with our own strength, eventually we give out, which, once again leads to spiritual fatigue.
3. Comparison fatigue: This is where we are constantly looking at everyone else and wondering why we can't have what they have, do what they do, be what they are. We become convinced that there is a place where the "grass is greener" and we eventually give up, which is another way of describing spiritual fatigue.

So how do we battle against these? What can we do to keep from giving in...giving out... or, giving up? I hope our story about Paul and Silas can give us some practical weapons for this battle. As we read the story keep in mind that these two servants of Christ faced the same types of challenges we do today. They could have compromised and given in, and if they had they probably wouldn't have faced nearly the problems that they did. They could have given out, under the compressing weight of their problems and just done nothing. They could have compared their problems to the ease of others and given up and walked away from their calling. They could have done any or all of those, but they didn't! Paul and Silas were passionate about their relationship with Jesus Christ, and it was reflected in how they faced the challenges that were laid before them. As a result, not only were Paul and Silas strengthened in their faith, but an entire family had their eternal future changed forever!

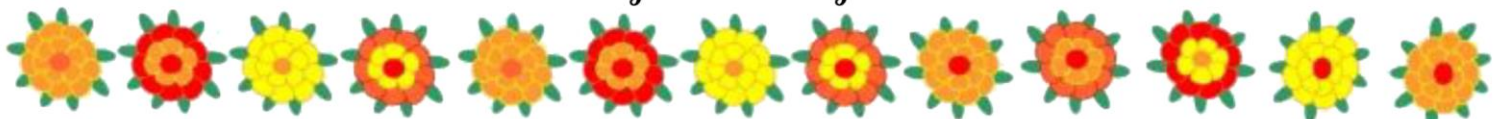
Are you living passionately for Christ today? Or are you experiencing spiritual fatigue? My guess is that if we put our spiritual lives on a scale with passion at one end, and fatigue at the other, many of us would have to admit that we are closer to fatigue than passion. So, what do we do? It may seem simple, but I believe we need to do the same things I see in the story of Paul and Silas:

Surrender to God fully
Lean on God's power not your own
Start sharing what God has done in your life

Blessings,
Pastor Troy and Mindy

prayer

Jo Spade
Ruth Brooks
Barb Jones
Jim Eichhorn
Martha Stucky



Youth Group (6th-12th)

You **BELONG** *Here!*



1 Timothy

FOUR:12

‘SET AN EXAMPLE’

Kick-off Party
August 28th, 4-5:30pm

Location: NEW YOUTH ROOM!

YOUTH AGES: PREK-5TH
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
6:30-7:30PM
202 EAST 2ND ST

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**

WUCC
YOUTH GROUP

WORSHIP GOD
HAVE FUN
MEET NEW FRIENDS

JOIN THE FUN

WNL Youth is for PreK-5th grades! We gather on Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm and will then go upstairs during the Contemporary Service. We would love for parents to stay for service or you can pick kids up at 7:30 back in Hall after youth group.

Warren United Church of Christ

Happy Family Day

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Location: 202 East Second St.

Service begins at 9:30am

Meal provided by Deacons



Entertainment Provided By MUSICLECTICS

Will perform during service and again following lunch.

(We are theater performers/singers who have come together! Our songs, ranging from A Capella to classical to modern, make our sound "Musically Eclectic"!)

Everyone is invited!

Current Members! Past Members!
New Members! Visitors!

Share the Warmth

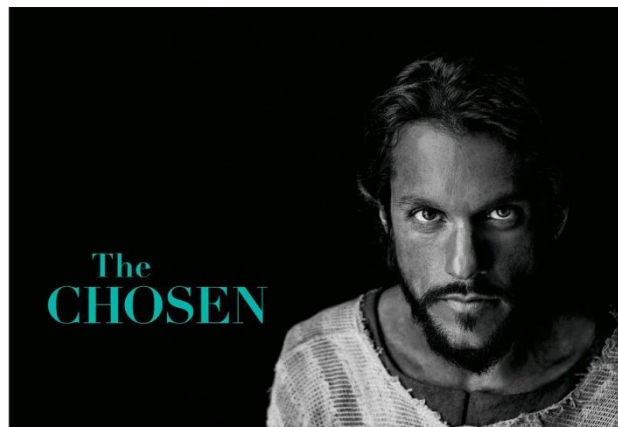


WE WILL SOON BE PREPARING
FOR OUR ANNUAL COAT DRIVE.

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALL SIZES OF HEAVY COATS
WITH HOODS FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

FOUR:12 Youth Room Project

Thank you again for always supporting the youth programs at WUCC. We will continue to accept donations until we meet our goal! We have currently raised just over \$5,000 of the \$10,000 needed for the room.



Sunday Evenings

5:30 PM

Beginning July 31st

Riverside Park

Come and See

Season 1

Inclement weather site: Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene 402 E 1st Street, Warren
260.375.2510
warrennaz.org

4H Sunday

Sunday, August 28th, we will be recognizing all our 4H participants. If you have pictures and information on awards you would like to share, please email it to Sarah at wucc@citiznet.com Thank you.



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



August Challenge:
Chili Seasoning mix and
Chili Beans



Next Food Pantry
Work Day:
August 10th, 2-4pm

SISTERS IN FAITH

Sisters-in-Faith would like to say a thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our "Bake-less Bake Sale". We would like to express much gratitude to Marcia Stroud and Kim Stroud for chairing this successful project.

In view of the Sisters having some funds, we were recently made aware of some needs of Crossroads. The UCC Sisters-in-Faith have supplied men's and women's underwear, men's and women's socks, composition books, adult coloring books and crayons. These items have been delivered to Crossroads. We are grateful to have the funds to help cover some of their needs.

Sisters-in-Faith:

Suellen Jones, Linda Hammel, Marcia Stroud,
Kim Stroud, Claudia Boxell

VBS 2022

The week of July 10-14 was our area youth VBS. The Theme was "Making Waves" and WAVES we made with over 50 children each day. It was a rewarding week for us as volunteers as well. My prayer is that every child had a great time here and wonderful memories and friendships were made. I can't thank our volunteers enough for everything they did to make this VBS successful. Thank you to Troy and Mindy for their time and dedication to this church. They did a fantastic job in leading in song and dance and narrating each day. Thank you, Claudia and Chod for the wonderful meals each night and snacks for the kids. Thank you John Tolen for his talent on the sound and screen. He did a wonderful job. We had countless more volunteers throughout the week, too many to list! I appreciated each and every one of you! We couldn't have done it without you.

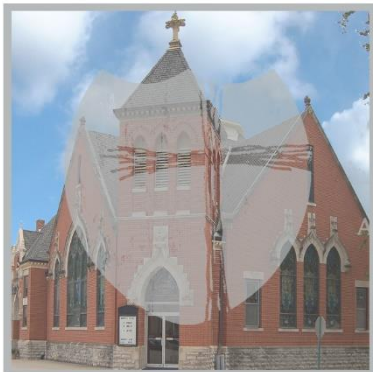
Chairman of Christian Education, Julie Korporeal



Find more pictures on our website
warrenucc.net



Warren United Church of Christ
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PO Box 344
Warren, IN 46792



Warren United Church of Christ
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Church Telephone: 260-375-2102
Pastor Troy Drayer Cell Phone: 260-228-0064
Church Email: wucc@citznet.com

Exercise Your Gift

From preaching to encouraging, hospitality to administration, God equips His children with gifts to serve Christ. (See [1 Corinthians 12](#) and [Romans 12:6](#)). When a church body is healthy, its members realize they are part of the congregation not only to receive but also to be a



blessing. Statistics reveal that in most churches, 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. This is not to guilt you into "getting involved" at your church, rather it is to inspire you. Imagine, God has supernaturally gifted you so that He can glorify Himself through you as you serve Christ ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). Many see work happening at church and think, *They really don't need me*. Don't be deceived. A well running ministry may appear to have all its bases covered—and it might. But if you look closely

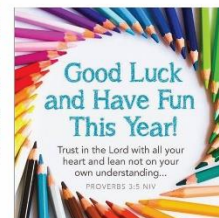
you'll discover many individuals who are doing more work than they'd like simply because today, just as in Jesus' day, *"the harvest is truly great but the workers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers..."* ([Luke 10:2](#)). Your willingness to minister in your church with what God has gifted you is likely the answer to someone's **prayer** for God to send more workers to help with the harvest. If you don't know how to use your gift, ask Pastor Troy and Mindy, they will help you discern. It takes all of us to reach God's potential for this church.

Use whatever gift you have
received to serve others. * 1 Peter 4:10





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Ruthann Ackley	2 Barry & Linda Hammel	3 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Colsen Brubaker	4	5	6
7 Sunday Service Communion 9:30am Cynthia Wartzok Jeff Souder	8	9	10 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Food Pantry 2-4pm	11 Sam Jones Suellen Jones	12	13
14 Sunday Service 9:30am	15	16 George Dye Terry Miller	17 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Austin & Mercedes Stucky Tim & Cindy Fitch	18	19	20
21 Sunday Service 9:30am	22	23	24 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Chod Boxell	25 Dale Zabel	26	27 Sierra Laymon
28 4H Sunday 9:30am FOUR:12 Youth 4-5:30pm Claudia Boxell	29	30 Mindy Drayer Shayna Stucky Mike Johnson	31 Contemporary Youth Group 6:30pm Neil Laymon	<div> <p>Now Hiring! Youth Director</p> <p>Find more information at warrenucc.net</p> </div> <div> <p>TO DO LIST THIS WEEK</p> <p>INVITE someone to CHURCH</p> </div>		



Have a great first day at School!



Stay Connected
Find us on Facebook!
Website: warrenucc.net

