

CROSS



WORDS

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The Monthly Word

FROM
PASTOR TROY

Answering the why questions?

The most basic question of life is this: Why are we here? It's foundational for virtually every religion and philosophy. It's a universal question. I don't even need to ask if you've asked that question. We all have...we all do! And let's not kid ourselves, it's not easy to answer. Just because we're in church doesn't mean we can smugly quote a scripture and pretend these answers the questions that all of us continue to wrestle with. The pain of life makes any easy answers seem insufficient. If you have experienced pain, you know the problem. How would you answer their questions about the purpose of life? Or if you are in transition, perhaps a divorce, or moving away from home, or caring for aging parents. Both pain and life experiences force us to answer this question again and again. So, for this foundational question, let's go back to the beginning—the very beginning:

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." [Genesis 1:1] What a seemingly simple statement. God made stuff...all stuff. End of story, right? Hardly. Perhaps you realize that Christianity is not the only religion that believes God created the world. However, our world view is radically different than virtually every other religion. This is not a criticism of anyone else just an explanation of why the biblical worldview is so different and why that matters so much to so many. It may even matter to you because however we answer this question will determine how we manage the most challenging seasons of life. Whether we have hope or despair; whether we pray or persevere, whether we see meaning beyond the seemingly random suffering in our world.

In Genesis chapter one we encounter God the father in verse one. We encounter God the spirit in verse two. In verse three, if we read between the lines, we will see the Son. "And God said, 'let there be light,' and there was light." We know God created the world by simply speaking it into existence. If we were to fast-forward to John 1:1, we would see that Jesus is the embodied word of God called the "logos." When God spoke, Jesus acted! He carried out the command of God. Paul says the same thing, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:15–17).

We might think of it this way: God the father is the architect who designed the plan. God the son was the builder who created our universe. And God the Spirit acted as the engineer to infuse this creation with life, beauty, and order. Together, the Trinity created the world we inhabit, including ourselves.

Well, this article might not answer all your why questions, but perhaps it will be a good start for you as you encounter the why's of this world. As we approach the Advent season be open to what God has for you and maybe, just maybe, you'll get the answers you need.

Much Love, Troy and Mindy Drayer



THANKFULNESS

This comes definitely from my heart. I admit the last couple of weeks I had let the busyness of life overwhelm me and I was pretty grumpy: on the inside. (just ask your pastor..haha)

I love how God stops our day to give us exactly what we need. So thankful to HIM!!!

I had the opportunity to serve in an extra way at work last week. We had a mother and grandmother come for a family session with one of our students. They came together in the same vehicle like they had done many times before. But for reasons that don't really matter, the grandmother left without taking the mother with her. So, we had a mother stranded at White's without transportation. It happened to work out that I could take the mother home. We had a delightful drive through the fall color and talked about our families. This mother shared about her excitement to have her child home in the near future and how this student had made some positive changes to stay out of trouble. This mother also shared about her time in jail and how she was trying to make good choices for herself and her family. When we arrived at her house, the Holy Spirit was telling me to pray with her. My prayer wasn't filled with elegant words or great thought, I just thanked God for our time together and asked the Lord to bless her day.

God will always give us opportunities to share His love and be grateful. We all have so much more than we deserve. This experience was just what my heart needed. I can focus on all the lists, upcoming activities, meetings, etc. and forget to live in the moment. God's moment


In 1 Thessalonians, Paul tells the church at Thessalonica to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This can be hard to do, especially when things aren't going well. So why do we have to give thanks? Why can't we give in to cynicism and thanklessness? Because God calls us to a life of continual thankfulness. It is God's will that we give thanks.

So, this Thanksgiving, whether you see the blessing abounding in your life or you are struggling to find anything to be thankful for, turn to God, the one who blesses you with grace and salvation daily and who longs for you to praise Him in the midst of your suffering, trusting in Him and His perfect purpose for your life now and forevermore.


Blessings, Mindy

Ps... Troy and I couldn't be more thankful for this body of Christ followers. We appreciate all the notes and gifts for pastor appreciation month in October. You encourage us, challenge us (in a good way ☺) and love us so much.

Happy Thanksgiving



1 Timothy
FOUR:12
WHEN: November 27, 4-5:30pm
WHERE: New Youth Room



You **BELONG** *Here!*

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**
WUCC Youth

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

JOIN THE FUN!



JUNIOR CHURCH IS
AVAILABLE
SUNDAY MORNINGS
FOLLOWING
THE CHILDREN'S
MESSAGE.

COME SEE US
EVERY SUNDAY!



Family Day Celebration! Thank you Deacons for a wonderful meal!



PORKCHOP DINNER

Thank you for your support!

WE SERVED 48 DINNERS FOR DINE-IN AND 285 DRIVE THRU. MOST OF THE REMAINING CHOPS WERE SOLD IN BULK PACKAGES. THE PROFIT WAS SPLIT THREE WAYS AT \$718.03 EACH FOR WAMA, JOY CLASS AND WUCC MISSIONS.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL EVENT. AS WE HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, IT TAKES A VILLAGE, AND WE HAVE A PRETTY AMAZING VILLAGE AT WUCC!! GOD'S BLESSINGS TO ALL!

Entertainment Committee

Julie Korporal & Cammy Ackley

Joy Class Representatives

Cindy Fitch, Guy Jackson, Jerry Wilson

ANGEL TREE



TOY DRIVE

Collecting
new & gently
used toys!



The last few years the food pantry has had a toy room that allows parents to come in by appointment to pick out Christmas gifts for their kids. This has been a wonderful and successful outreach to the community. We will again participate in this program by collecting new and gently used toys. (Most needed are items for teen boys.) They ask that donations be dropped off by November 20th to allow time to get everything ready by the first of December. We will also be adding tags to the Angel Tree for clothing and toys to help the ladies at Remnant Ministries provide Christmas gifts for their children. Gifts do not need to be wrapped this year. Thank you for your continued support of our annual Angel Tree program.



DECORATE the Church

Sunday
November 13th

After 9:30 service
stay and help decorate
the church for the
Christmas season.
A meal will be served
following service!

Please consider helping, thank you!

HISTORIC WARREN MAIN STREET PRESENTS:

HOLIDAY WALK

Festival of Trees • Gingerbread Houses

NOVEMBER 18, 2022



5-8 PM • DOWNTOWN WARREN, IN

Historic Warren's Holiday Walk & Festival of Trees

Friday November 18th 5-8pm

Mark your calendars to come downtown on Friday evening the 18th to join in on the fun. Visit all the local business, vote on your favorite tree or maybe enter the gingerbread house contest. Be sure to stop in at the church. We will have 2 tree's entered in the contest. Pick up a treat in the fellowship hall while you wait to go on the horse and buggy ride. There will also be a craft for the kids to do!

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Christmas for Crossroads



CROSSROAD
Child & Family Services

Sisters in Faith are again sponsoring a UCC gift tree for the Crossroads Children. The tree will be in the sanctuary and gifts can be placed under the tree through December 11, 2022. We would like to deliver the gifts so the children can enjoy a gift for Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact me, Linda Hammel, or Sarah.

The items requested for the children this year: pajamas (all sizes of men's and women's and larger sizes of boys' and girls'), art kits, paint and canvas, Lego sets, sketch pads, and colored pencils. Just a suggestion for the pajamas could be comfy lounge pants with elastic waist and t-shirts.

In the spirit of God's love – Suellen Jones, Sisters in Faith

November 2022

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2 Refresh & WNL 6pm	3	4 Trevia Schmidt	5
6 Service 9:30am Communion Business Meeting DeWayne & Kelly Jones	7	8 Kathy Pugh	9 Refresh & WNL 6pm	10	11 Jerry & Peggy Wilson	12
13 Service 9:30am Church Decorating Following Service Mary Clark	14 Kevin & Shelbia Deakyne	15 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm Landon Green	16 Refresh & WNL 6pm Don Williams	17	18 Holliday Walk 5-8pm	19
20 WAMA Thanksgiving Service Soup Dinner 10am	21	22 Nancy Smyth	23 Refresh & WNL 6pm Sandy Heathcote	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25 Ryan Campbell	26
27 Service 9:30am 1st Sun. of Advent FOUR:12 Youth 4-5:30pm	28	29 Danielle Shape	30 Refresh & WNL 6pm Colleen Oden			

REFRESH

Every Wednesday 6pm
Meal Followed by
Bible Study
WNL Youth
at the same time!

church business MEETING

November 6th
Following Worship Service

We will be voting on the
nominations for positions
within the church. Thank
you to all who volunteer!
Please plan to attend
meeting on Nov. 6 following
our morning service.

