

CROSS



WORDS

Volume 11, Number 1

A newsletter published by
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

January 1, 2023



Gather
& Grow
WUCC GROWING TO SERVE

Each of you should use
whatever gift you have
received to serve others, as
faithful stewards of God's
grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Looking Up WITH PASTOR TROY

Living/Working In Missions In Our Community

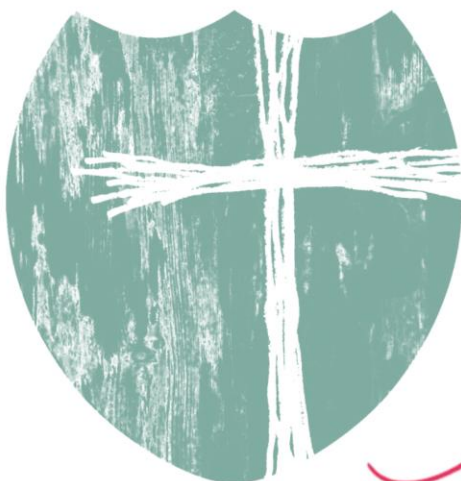
1 Peter 4:7-11 tells us that 'God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light with this purpose, to proclaim His excellencies. I will mention a couple of things about this phrase and then share with you the three things he tells us to do in response to this truth. First, this phrase, 'the end of all things is at hand' points to the time period we live in, the last days that was inaugurated with Christ's first coming and will be consummated when Christ returns. Peter tells us that in light of the time we live, live a practical, righteous life. It has been attributed to Martin Luther about the return of Christ, "'Even if I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would continue to plant my apple trees.'" Whatever you believe about the last things, the bible describes the last things to encourage us that God wins, and his people are to overcome or live righteously. Second, in the phrase 'all things,' Peter sees history as God's history; nothing is outside the influence of his Lordship, and he is bringing everything to the culmination of his ends. "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign overall, does not cry, "Mine!" — Abraham Kuyper. It is because God is absolutely sovereign over all things that we can have confidence that he is ruling over history and that he wins.

Keep a Clear Head/Keep Praying

Have you ever been so distressed or irrational that you could not think clearly or did not think to pray? Keep a clear head in the midst of suffering, difficulties, so that you can effectively pray to the Lord. The only appropriate response to suffering is to turn away from self toward the victorious Lord, who has defeated sin and Satan, and look to him for the resources to thrive and overcome in life. When you are down, do not look within but to him in prayer. Have you ever wondered why you don't pray? It is because we are intoxicated – with ourselves, with this life. With the end of all things, we are to keep a clear head; keep praying; and keep loving one another.

Keep Loving One Another

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” In the midst of difficulties do not withdraw from community. 'Above all' shows that loving God's family is central to discipleship and is even evidence of saving faith. Peter says to love earnestly because love covers a multitude of sins. Where love abounds offenses are minimal, even overlooked and gossip is stifled. He tells us to love one another by showing hospitality and serving. *Another way to show love is by serving one another.* “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies-- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” This is addressed to every one of us, 'as each has received a spiritual gift, use it to serve one another.' God gives gifts to each of us for the benefit of others. What if you don't know your spiritual gifts. There are tests you can take but the best way to determine your spiritual gifts is to find a need and meet it. Peter describes serving others with your spiritual gifts as being a good steward of God's grace. God sovereignly gives gifts as he chooses yet we are seeking for spiritual gifts and gifts are for building up the church, the body of Christ. How do you know if you are serving in the strength God supplies? I pray for strength and then serve with all I got. Am I serving in a way that draws attention to me or to God? In light of the end of all things we are to keep a clear head; keep praying; and keep loving one another – showing hospitality and serving others with our spiritual gifts.



YOUTH

NEWS

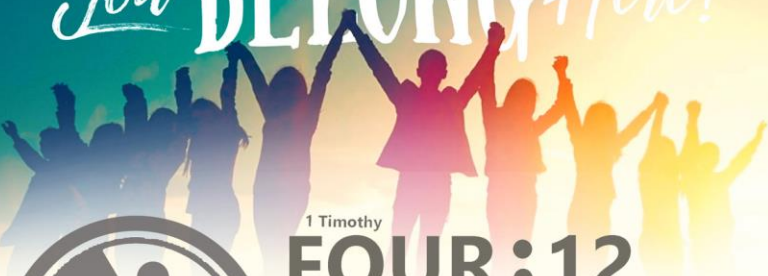
~WNL~

You belong here!


~FOUR:12~

Youth Group (6th-12th)

You **BELONG** *Here!*



1 Timothy
FOUR:12
'SET AN EXAMPLE'




Sunday, January 29th
4-5:30pm

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**
WUCC Youth

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

JOIN THE FUN!



Youth Christmas Program



On behalf of the WUCC Administration Board, we would like to welcome Takarra Myers as our Youth Director.



Hello, Warren United Church of Christ!

I wanted to introduce myself to you. I am the new youth director, Takarra Myers. I just moved here in June with my wonderful husband Justin and our two beautiful girls Mia and Aria. We love riding our bikes down to the park to watch our girls play. We also love catching crayfish in town by the bridge and swimming at the community Markle

pool. We are excited to share in the loving community everyone has built here. Warren truly is a special place and we cannot wait to meet you all!

WUCC Christmas 2022





Thank you to all of you who brought items for our Crossroads children. They were delivered before Christmas and the director was very grateful for the many items. She said this will brighten the children's Christmas. Thank you, Sisters in Faith, Suellen Jones



When it comes to our Angel Tree your generosity is overwhelming. We teamed up with the Food Pantry Toy Room this year to provide gifts for the children of the ladies at Remnant House. They were so grateful for the many, many gifts that were provided. They met on the 13th and wrapped all the presents. Thank you to all who purchased clothing for these children.



This year we again participated in the Toy Drive for the Warren Food Pantry. Thank you for all the toys brought in. Throughout December the ladies in the toy room set appointments for families to stop in and pick out Christmas gifts for their children. Your donations helped to provide Christmas for several families in the Warren area.



With all our other collections we didn't collect any Food Pantry items for December. So now we are ready to jump back in!! For January we are collecting toothpaste. Toothbrushes would also be appreciated. We also have a work day at the pantry coming up on Wednesday, January 4th, from 2-4pm. Please let Sarah know in the office if you are able to help.



Thank you to Julie and Shayna for their hard work for this years Coat Drive. 70+ coats were distributed here in Warren! Local donations along with support from the WUCC Missions committee is what makes this possible. We are already collecting again for next year so when you start to see coats go on sale, please consider purchasing a few. They can be dropped off in the church office anytime. Thanks!



Our church is blessed to have an active Missions Committee. With money collected throughout the year through donations and fundraising they have been able to help in many areas in Warren and surrounding areas. This year money given includes \$600 to Food Pantry, \$1200 to New Life Ministries, \$1200 to Remnant Ministries, \$500 to Place of Grace to repair a water line, \$250 for a hotel room for someone in need, \$250 for a washer and Dryer from Deweese, \$150 for a car battery for someone in need, and \$450 for coats for coat drive and Angel Tree gifts.

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

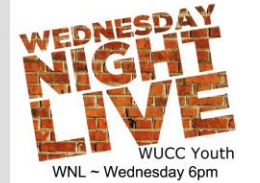


Warren United Church of Christ
202 East Second Street, PO Box 344, Warren, Indiana 46792
Church Telephone: 260-375-2102
Pastor Troy Drayer Cell Phone: 260-228-0064
Church Email: wucc@citznet.com





Save the Date!
February 14th
Valentine's
Date Night
5:30pm at
WUCC



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

