

CROSS



WORDS

Volume 11, Number 2

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United Church of Christ, Warren IN

February 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 Fellowship Acts 2:42-47

Years ago, Leslie Flynn penned a book called, Great Church Fights. In it he chronicled the way people in different churches would go after each other – all in the name of Jesus Christ. A young father heard a commotion out in his backyard; he looked outside and saw his daughter and several playmates in a heated quarrel. When he intervened, his daughter called back, “Dad, we’re just playing church!”

OUCH!!

Fellowship helps you face life's problems by providing the support and encouragement of other Christians. The church is meant to be a place where we experience in depth relationships and lifelong friendships are developed.

The purpose of this article is to challenge you to develop deeper relationships within the church and in effect enhance your own personal relationship with God. These relationships don't just end here on earth when they are in Christ they are eternal. How many times in the Bible does it tell us to do things alone as Christians? None! The Bible is full of love and other commands.

God created family so we could have relationships that become intimate so we could enjoy one another's company and companionship. Have you ever noticed in the wild how they have swarms of bees, flocks of birds and herds of buffalos? In Dallas they have High Occupancy Vehicles lanes that get you there faster because you're not slowed down by individual vehicles driven by individual people. On the Highway to heaven God wants you to travel in a High Occupancy Vehicle. When traveling in the HOV lane you pass up most of the jams you would have gotten into alone. The same is true when you're a part of a healthy fellowship.

There are many analogies for a Christian disconnected from a church: a football player without a team; a soldier without a platoon; a tuba player without an orchestra; a sheep without a flock. But the most understandable (and biblical) picture is that of a child without a family. Today we have a record number of single adults in America. Vance Packard calls America "a nation of strangers. As a result, we're experiencing an epidemic of loneliness in society. One Gallup poll reported that four in ten Americans admit to frequent feelings of "intense loneliness." Americans are, in fact, the loneliest people in the world.

Illustration: Claria Knall a young mother from Oklahoma writes it was one of the worst days of my life. The washing machine broke down, the telephone wouldn't stop ringing my head ached and the mailman brought a bill I had no money to pay. Almost at the breaking point I lifted my one year old into the high chair, leaned my head against the tray and began to cry. Without a word my son took his pacifier out of his mouth and stuck it into mine.

From the time were born we know people need love and need to be cared for and the church ought to be a place where the deepest love and the deepest caring for each other is real. So, ask yourself: "How can I help us to be closer as a congregation?" Start with prayer. Come to church, often! Be a part of our activities. There are amazing and wonderful people here at WUCC. Let's take time to get know or reacquainted with them.

Love and Blessings to you all,
Pastor Troy and Mindy.

Widow's Care & Share
SMALL GROUP

A new group will be starting on Tues, Feb 7th @2PM

At the Solid Rock UM Church. (This is an organizational meeting)

For more information, please call, text or email

Billie Horrell @260-366-7533; rwhorrell@citiznet.com



YOUTH NEWS

with Takarra

Hello church family! I have been teaching on the Old Testament. Our class just finished learning about Noah's Ark. We also have been learning about character building topics such as obedience, kindness, bullying, and lying. When we have extra time we have been playing games like Bible freeze tag, and musical chairs with Christian music. It has been fun getting to know all the kids and parents! In the future I would like to plan opportunities for community involvement. I also would like to teach life skills including but not limited to sewing, gardening, cooking, and money management. Everyone is always welcome to come up and join us or see what we are up to. If anyone has any special connections for field trips, or community involvement for the kids I'd love to hear from you. You can email me at poor.takarra@gmail.com.

What is gossip?

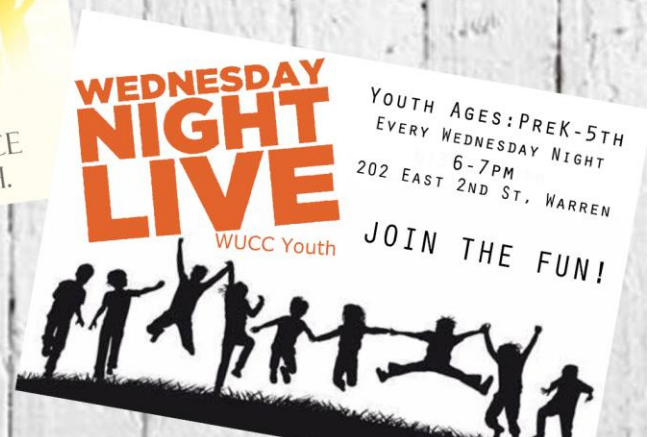
Gossip is saying anything about anyone that depicts the targeted person in a negative light. This can also include rumors and facts that have not even been confirmed to be true. Gossiping could also be sharing the shameful stories of others.

Why we shouldn't gossip?

When we talk negatively about people to others we isolate the person being gossiped about. When we bring people to our side and speak negatively or falsely about others we hurt others. While it might be "fun" to talk about others, there is nothing honorable or uplifting about doing so. When we gossip we open ourselves up to be seen as hurtful, untrustworthy, or even meddlesome. As followers of Christ, we should always strive to uplift ourselves and others.

What should we do instead of gossiping?

Instead of talking about the shameful stories of others we can offer our help to the person being gossiped about. Instead of gossiping we can share ways to improve bad situations. If we cannot come up with ways to help then we can choose to not spread gossip and choose to talk about more productive things that can uplift others.



VALENTINE'S DAY

Tuesday, February 14, 5:30pm

Ready for Valentines Day?

Invite your special someone
to join us for a romantic
Valentines Day dinner at
Warren United Church of Christ.

Enjoy your meal with
entertainment provided by

Sonny & Cher!

202 East 2nd St., Warren

Please call 260-375-2102
to make a reservation

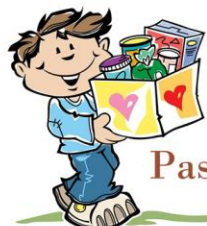
We are updating the

CHURCH DIRECTORY



*It's time to update the directory again.
If you have information that needs
updated or would like to update your
family picture, please contact the
church office. We also have an app
available for your phone for our online
directory. Watch for emails with
directions for setting this up.*

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



Pasta Sides!



Mark your calendars for
our next Food Pantry
work day on Feb. 15!

**NEW
MERCHANDISE
IN OUR ONLINE
STORE!**

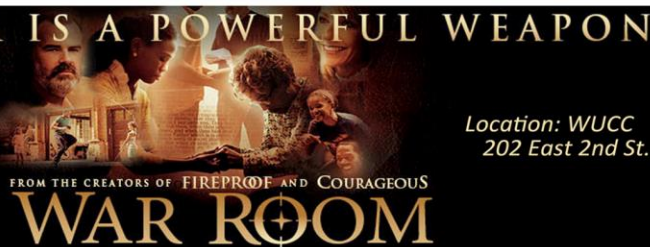


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(Or find the link on our website, warrenucc.net)

BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON

Bible
Study



Location: WUCC
202 East 2nd St.

Warren United Church of Christ
Come watch the movie "War Room"
Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 6pm, 1st half
Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6pm, 2nd half

5 Week Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, March 1st
6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

From the award-winning creators of *Fireproof* and *Courageous* comes *War Room*, a compelling drama with humor and heart that explores the power prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of our lives.

**\$5
OFF**

COUPON OFFER

Use Code: 50FF
At Checkout!

EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2023


One Coupon Code allowed per order.
This offer can not be redeemed for cash or combined with any other offer.




WARREN
United Church of Christ



LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK.



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



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 2nd – Palm Sunday
Service begins at 9:30am

Thursday, April 5th – Maundy Thursday
Service will be held at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Communion will be served.

Saturday, April 8th – Station of the Cross
The sanctuary and will be open for all who want to come and pray.
This is a devotional exercise of visiting and praying in front of each of the stations and meditating on the events of the Jesus' Passion and death on the cross.

Sunday, April 9th – 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.

WHAT IS SHROVE TUESDAY?

Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day) is the last day before Lent. It is traditional on this day to eat pancakes. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent. The name Shrove comes from the old word "Shrive" which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During Ash Wednesday Service the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshippers. Historically, ashes signified purification of sorrow for sins.

CHECK OUT THE NEW WAYS TO GIVE!

EASILY GIVE FROM OUR WEBSITE

1. Click the **Online Giving** option on our website. (warrenucc.net)
 2. Enter your gift amount
 3. Give to the fund preselected for you or choose a different fund from the drop-down menu.
 4. Select a frequency.
 5. Enter email address.
 6. Click continue.
 7. Choose your account type.
~Credit/Debit Card
~Checking Account
 8. Enter your payment information.
 9. Click Give to complete your donation.
- You'll receive email confirmation of your gift.

TEXT GIVING

To give via text, send **wucc \$75** or any amount to the phone number 73256. You'll receive a text message in response with your next steps. After you give one time, your payment method is saved, so you can quickly give again from your phone.



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

Join Us

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, February 12
Immediately following service.

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

Help us to Gather & Grow!

We have had a great start in 2023 with our focus on Gathering to Grow. Our community outreach is already increasing, our youth program is developing, and plans are being made for more bible studies and small group gatherings. We would love to see everyone become involved in all these exciting new adventures for WUCC. We are a family here at WUCC and families love to get together. They love to share ideas. But how do you help if you don't know what we need? Our leadership team is going to ask! We are going to work hard to keep you informed! 2023 at WUCC is going to be an awesome year! We invite you to participate in all our gatherings, bible studies, and fundraisers. The War Room Bible Study is starting soon, we have many special gatherings during Lent and Holy week. We also have a new Missions Fundraisers started! As always, our youth need you! Please contact Takarra or Julie to find out how you can help. We are excited to Gather & Grow with you!



MISSIONS FUNDRAISER

You just need you to eat! Pick up a coupon at church and have dinner at Wagon Wheel Café. 10% of your meal total will be donated by Wagon Wheel to our Missions Committee for local outreach. (1/30 – 2/13)

February 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--------------------|
| | | | 1 Refresh & WNL 6pm Bill & Carol Byrd Austin Stucky | 2 | 3 | 4 Jackie Norris |
| 5 Sunday Service Communion 9:30am Lorie Fiock | 6 | 7 | 8 Refresh & WNL 6pm Linda Hammel | 9 | 10 Bill Shuttleworth | 11 |
| 12 Sunday Service 9:30am Business Meeting | 13 Jorden Bennett Tim Fitch | 14 Valentine's Dinner 5:30pm | 15 Refresh & WNL 6pm Food Pantry Work Day 2-4pm | 16 Don & Janet Smith Carly Brubaker Kayla Villanueva | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Sunday Service 9:30am Janice Brubaker | 20 Kathy Stucky | 21 Shrove Tuesday 5-7pm Takarra Myers | 22 Refresh & WNL 6pm | 23 Macy Rittenhouse Alex Tolen Les Ackley Jerry Brooks | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Sunday Service 9:30am FOUR:12 Youth 4pm | 27 Martha Stucky | 28 | | | February AB Board Meeting to be announced. | |

I GOT YOU
BABE



VALENTINE'S DINNER
Make your reservation by
February 7th, 260-375-2102



Stay Informed!
warrenucc.net

