

CROSS



WORDS

Volume 11, Number 3

A newsletter published by
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

March 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

Unstoppable Love

Think back to all the things that tried to stop Him. The devil tried to stop Him. The religious leaders who turned Him in tried to stop Him. The soldiers who crucified Him tried to stop Him. The crowds tried to stop Him. Even the nails in His hands and feet on the cross tried to stop Him. But they could not stop Him. Because upon His resurrection, Jesus had overcome death itself!

In the words of the apostle Paul, *"Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?"*
- 1 Corinthians 15:55

Chances are, there is something in your life right now that, if you allow it to, will attempt to stop you from following Jesus. Maybe it is something that has, for some time now, acted as a distraction. Maybe it is some repetitive sin, or as one Bible verse calls it, *"the little foxes that come to spoil the vine."* (Song of Songs 2:14)

Either way, distractions are normal for all of us. The world is full of them. But we must keep our eyes focused on the cross. And although numerous things may have acted as temporary setbacks, the truth is that nothing can negate God's love for us.

Read Romans 8:38-39

What a passage! Paul says that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from God's love for us. This should allow us to live a free life, not having to worry or stress about how we will pay the high price for our sin to once again be reconciled to God. Instead, He has already paid that price for us. So, now what?

God's desire is that we experience abundant life now through the powerful sacrifice, the unstoppable and perfect love of His Son Jesus. In stark contrast to this stands the devil, who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy our lives. If God gives the most gracious gifts, then the enemy of our souls is the most heinous scrooge and thief who's ever existed.

In my life, I have witnessed what Jesus Christ can do with someone that was very far away from Him. I wanted to do things my way. I wanted to call the shots in my life, and I wanted nothing to get in my way. But here's the good news: even amidst all the things I tried to put in God's way, He still found me and loves me.

His love is unstoppable, unconquerable, and unyielding.

And our story is just one of the hundreds of stories in our faith community of the goodness of our God. Take some time this Lenten season and reflect on your story. Remember what God has done and is doing in your life.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons,
neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

DailyVerses.net

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

Volunteer Help Needed

March 29th is our church's turn to work at the Food Pantry. If you would like to help from 2-4 that day, please let Sarah know in the church office. Thanks!



STAY INFORMED

www.warrenucc.net

We are on
Facebook & Instagram



WUCC YOUTH

We are continuing our reading through Genesis. We learned about Noah and the ark which taught us obedience to God's word and how God always has our best interest at heart. We learned about God's promise never to flood the earth again with a spin wheel craft. Next, we discussed the tower of babble through scripture and games. We played blocks to see who could build the tallest tower and played Jinga. We talked about good pride and bad pride and how bad pride leads to destruction. We discussed how God confused the language of the people building the tower to destroy the bad pride.

Nearing Valentine's Day we read about how God called Abraham and Sara. They had to move to a new place and hand over their lives to God in faith that he had the best plan for them. To demonstrate faith, I blindfolded the kids and pretended to be God and had them follow my instructions to get to their Valentine's Day treats. Sara and Abraham taught us about patience as they had to wait patiently for their son Isaac to be born. To demonstrate patience, we made bread and had to wait patiently for the dough to rise and the bread to bake. Sara and Abraham also taught us how God can do anything even give Abraham and Sara a baby in their old age. I gave the kids easy, hard, and impossible challenges to reenforce Gods ability to do anything. After our lessons I let the kids decide what games we should play. We play games and talk about anything that they want to talk about.

I am currently working on putting together a fundraiser to raise money so that I can organize a skating party for the kids. I would also love to fundraise to hold a cookout for all the families living in the area with games and activities planned. This would help raise awareness about our church and our youth program. I am thinking ahead to order Easter crafts, and I am putting together Easter baskets to give our kids. I am networking with other youth directors in our area so that I can learn from them and focus on creating a youth program that is effective but very original. I'd love to hear your ideas on how to create an exciting program! If you have any special connections or opportunities for our children, please email me at poor.takarra@gmail.com! You can also text me or call me at 317-532-7135!

BLESSINGS, TAKARRA



**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE**



You
BELONG
Here!



BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON

Bible
Study

FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF AND COURAGEOUS

WAR ROOM

Location: WUCC
202 East 2nd St.

Warren United Church of Christ

5 Week Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, March 1st

6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

*If you missed the movie viewing last month,
please contact the church office to borrow the DVD.*

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.



WUCC Merchandise

If you haven't checked out our web store, be sure to take a look! We have new designs available. We have extended our \$5 off one item until **March 7th** so don't miss out. Use code 5off at check out. You can find the store link on our website, warrenucc.net.



COUPON OFFER

**Use Code: 5OFF
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

Valentine's Dinner

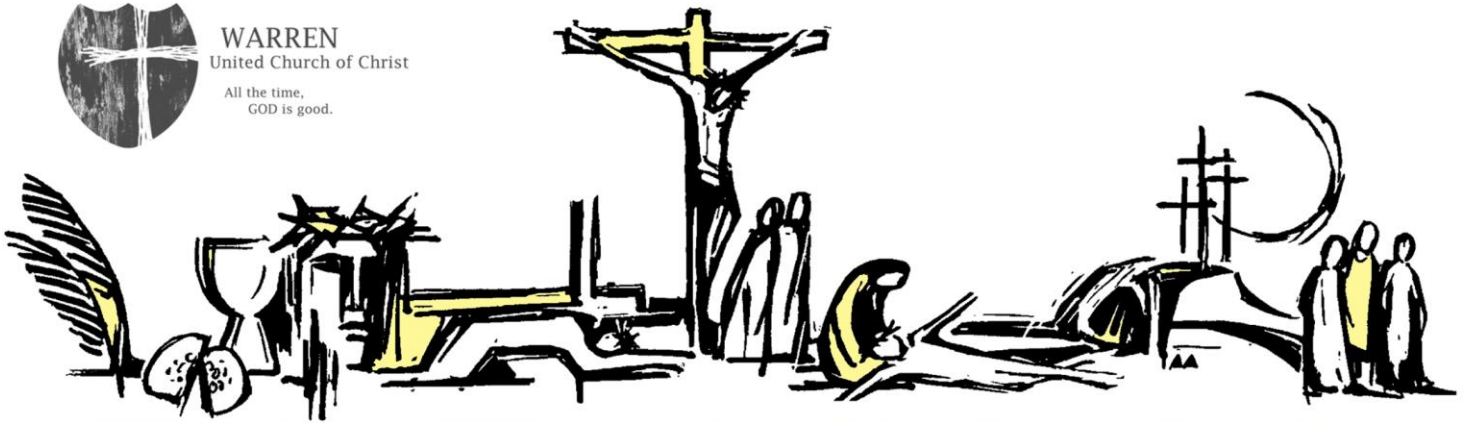


Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Valentine's Dinner. Cammy and Julie did a great job as always! If you missed it, I heard there is a video of Sunny & Cher floating around!!





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 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 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.



Sunday, March 19

We have invited the youth
and families from our
KBC sponsored Basketball
team to church on March 19
to be recognized during
service. Please plan to attend
and show your support!



March Food Pantry Collection

Microwave Popcorn!!



MISSIONS FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone for eating at the Wagon Wheel Café for our Mission's Fundraiser. Thank you to the Wagon Wheel for their final donation of \$320! Next up, East of Chicago!! We will let you know dates coming up soon.



Warren United Church of Christ
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Warren United Church of Christ
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BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HUNTINGTON NEW FACILITY OPENING IN WARREN!



doing this, as well as providing high yield activities, targeted programs, and encouraging regular attendance, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington County give members the tools, guidance, and opportunities to achieve academic success, to be instilled with good character and citizenship, and to maintain healthy lifestyles.

There will be a new site opening soon in Warren in the building down by the ball diamonds. **Our WUCC Missions Committee will be taking donations to help with the purchase of some of these items.** The Missions Committee will be in contact with the Boys & Girls Club to make sure your donations are put to the best use possible! Thank you for your support. The Boys and Girls club have also provided us a link to an Amazon wish list for the Warren site, to give the community a better idea/understanding of all the different items needed!

<https://a.co/1sGaZHY> You can also purchase items directly from this link for the Warren site.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

			1 Refresh WNL 6-7pm Clair Eckert Gary Yount	2 Jayden Rittenhouse	3 McKenna Stucky Nick Stucky	4
5 Sunday Service 9:30am Communion	6	7 Cindy Fitch	8 Refresh WNL 6-7pm	9	10	11 Caden Brubaker
12 Sunday Service 9:30am Ava Green	13 Roselyn Poulson	14 Karen Johnson	15 Refresh WNL 6-7pm	16 Mercedes Stucky	17	18
19 Sunday Service 9:30am Marsha Walton Troy Drayer	20	21 AB Bard Meeting 6:30pm	22 Refresh WNL 6-7pm	23	24 Sharon Gebhart Linda Shuttleworth	25
26 Sunday Service 9:30am Holly Villanueva	27	28 Four:12 Youth More information to come.	29 Refresh WNL 6-7pm	30 Robert Jones	31	
						