

CROSS



WORDS

Volume 11, Number 7

A newsletter published by
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

July 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

Let us make a difference together!

As American Christians we have been conditioned by our cultural surroundings in many ways, and none is more prominent than our shift from communal thinking to individual thinking. We love inspirational and motivational content that revolves around *me*, *myself*, and *I*. That's why they sell so many books about how *I* can be successful, how *I* can get rich, and how *I* can be a better master of my own universe.

The Bible, on the other hand, speaks far more of *we* than of *I*. Two thousand years ago, Jesus gathered some ordinary misfits into a little community called the church. He trained them as his disciples, died for their sins, rose again and breathed life into them by sending his Holy Spirit. He commissioned them to go forth into every nation and share the gospel.

We usually interpret that commission individualistically. That's why we have so many books and courses on how *I* can witness and share my faith. We think of evangelism as an individual enterprise and the church as merely an afterthought.

The fact is, while God indeed chooses, uses, and blesses *people* in the fruitful telling of the gospel of Jesus, he does so when those individuals are in healthy community. There is no place in the *body* of Christ for an unattached part, or in the family of God for an estranged sibling.

Are there exceptions? Only in that God give some an apostolic, pioneering gift mix and sends them into the completely uncharted waters of the mission field, but historically these individuals have usually had a supportive church back home rooting and praying for them from a distance.

I think people want to hear about how significant their individual contributions to the world can be, but God calls us to carry out his assignments in groups, in communities called churches. In other words, ***YOU can make a difference in the world as WE make a difference in the world TOGETHER.***

If you're still waiting to become the rockstar at the top of your evangelical bubble, there are two things you need to know.

1. You can't do this ***by yourself.***
2. You shouldn't do this ***for yourself.***

It's never been about you, or about me. It's about **him** using **us** together to reach as many of **them** as we can before **he** comes back.

This isn't so much a word of correction as it is a word of encouragement. Have you ever felt helpless as to what to do for a hurting friend? What to say to a lost soul? How to serve an unfortunate person you meet? Here's a plan: **bring them to the community!** The whole family can help!

We often miss out on the beauty of the church because we see the church as a place to show up, or an event to attend, or an institution that needs our allegiance and our money. But what if we really valued the church as a community of people on mission *together* to tell the good news of the cross and resurrection of Christ to the rest of the world?

On a practical level, this sometimes means inviting someone to the weekend worship gathering to observe what your faith is all about. When they do come, they see a body of people, witnessing *together* to the truth about God in Christ.

It may mean involving them in a small group in a home or a coffee shop. And when that happens, you'll be involving them in an extension of the life of the local body of believers to which you belong.

It could even mean asking them to serve, in the trenches, alongside you and your church as you serve the community. There is a kinship found when we meet the needs of others together, and people who don't yet know Jesus need to see our love-in-action.

You don't have to do this alone. And you shouldn't try. The church, with all of its faults and imperfections, is God's chosen institution for telling the redemptive story of Jesus and drawing people into life in his Kingdom. We get to do this together, and we're *always* better together!

Love to all! Pastor Troy and Mindy

A special thank you to Jane, Stacia, Alivia, Julie, Jessica, Brandon, Connie, Linda, Cindy, Brianne, Terry, Justin, and Sarah, for offering their time to help with Sunday school and refresh Wednesday nights. Having volunteers has certainly helped our lessons run smoother.

YOUTH DIRECTOR
TAKARRA MYERS



WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE

WNL: EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 6PM
PRE-K ~ 5TH GRADES



You BELONG Here!

202 East 2nd St, Warren
260-375-2102

FOUR:12 YOUTH
MEET ONCE A MONTH
6TH ~ 12TH GRADES



Scripture Power

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rules of darkness in this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:11-13

Wearing the armor of God.

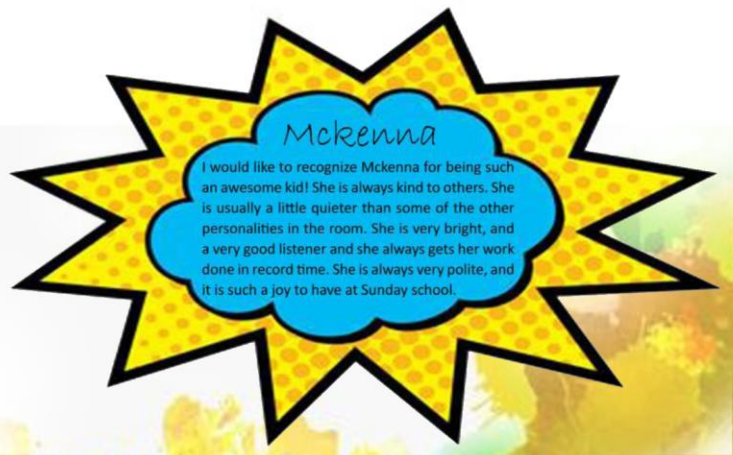
If we are to fight against the devil, we must be sure that we are true believers in Christ. To be on the winning side means we live the gospel and we put our faith in Christ Jesus when we are shaken. The armor of God would be rendered useless to us if we were not born again in Christ Jesus.

What is the armor of God?

In medieval times kings had brave warriors knighted to their servitude. These individuals, commonly known as knights, wore metal suits of armor to protect against enemies. Apostle Paul depicts the armor of God as seven pieces of armor we can use to defend ourselves in our spiritual battle against Satan. Firstly, there is the belt of truth. The chest is defended by the Breastplate of Righteousness. The feet are to be fitted with the gospel of peace. We must hold up the Shield of Faith. We ought to crown ourselves with the Helmet of Salvation. Lastly, we need to tightly grasp the sword of the spirit.

How to wear the armor of God.

The king of lies fights with deceit and distortion, to counter him we must dwell only in truth. This is the exact reason why God left us his word! There is powerful truth in God's word. When we need help finding truth we need to pray and read his word. Additionally, we must live our lives free of any dishonesty or hidden sin. Once we are clothed in truth, we must be wrapped in righteousness but not our own righteousness, God's righteousness. We must aspire to be like Christ to be Christlike in everything we do. After our breastplate is stamped with God's seal of righteousness we can strap on the sandals of the gospel of peace. When Christ dwelled among us the soldiers around were known to wear leather sandals with spikes on the bottom. The spikes helped them stand firmly and stopped them from losing their footing. The foundation we stand on is our relationship with Christ. Our peace is found in knowing that Christ secured the victory for us by conquering our sin. We should be at peace knowing we belong to God. We are his prized and beloved children. When we align ourselves to Christ we are at peace. When we are not aligned with Christ, we can become worried or anxious about our lives. Satan can make us doubt our positions with Christ. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancestors were commended for." Hebrews 11:1 Holding up the shield of faith is a metaphor for what it means to truly believe. We must trust God even though we cannot explicitly prove his methods, his teachings, and his reasoning to be true all the time. You might agree from a logical standpoint with certain facts and happenings in the bible but that is not the same as relying on the facts to be true. When we trust God, we rely on the fact that he is the way, the truth and the light. Many might agree that a chair is sturdy enough to hold your weight, but it takes true faith to sit in that chair. It is important that we have the faith to surrender our lives to God. Roman soldiers carried with them convex leather shields dipped in water to extinguish flaming arrows. As Christians we must dip our shields into the word of God to keep them effective against Satan's schemes. The last piece of armor to be addressed is the Sword of the Spirit. The sword of the spirit is the word of God. A good soldier uses his sword as an offence and defensive weapon. To use the sword of the spirit we must know the word of God. We must study and pray over the words to understand. Many people are known to take quotes in the bible out of context and misinterpreting the messages left in the bible. Knowing the word of God stops you from being misled. It pierces through deception. It helps you lead others to Christ in an offence manner. When we apply all these teachings, we put on the full armor of God. A piece of armor is not as effective as a suit of armor; you must wear a full suit to be effective.



FUNDRAISERS

School Supply Drive
for Crossroads Childrens Home



Drop off donated items to the church
by July 9th! Thank You!

Items needed:

Backpacks, Folders, Notebooks,
Pencil, Crayons, Colored Pencils,
Erasers, Pencil Pouches, Notecards,
Highlighters, Loose Leaf Paper



THE ORIGINAL SWAYZEE, INDIANA
HAND BREADED TENDERLOIN
POP-UP FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY AUGUST 26TH
9 AM – 11 AM

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
202 E 2ND STREET – WARREN



Swayzee tenderloins are
hand-cut, hand breaded, and
always delicious. Available
in regular or spicy breading.

Frozen pack of 10 tenderloins

\$27.00 per pack



SHOW UP EARLY AS THEY WILL SELL OUT FAST!!



STAY INFORMED

www.warrenucc.net

We are on
Facebook & Instagram



New Life COMMUNITY
MEAL MINISTRY Est. 2007



Meals are
served 365
days a year

(Including Holidays)

Meals cooked
and served by

300+
volunteers

Over 280,000
Meals Served



Supported By
People
Churches
Foundations
Local Businesses

**Engaging with
People Through**

Love
Care
Service



Hours of Operation

Mon.-Fri. 6:00-7:00pm
Sat.-Sun. 5:00-6:00pm

WWW.NEWLIFEMINISTRIES-INDIANA.COM/MEAL-MINISTRY/



Warren United Church of Christ
Missions Committee

[Volunteers Needed](#)

Who: We need you! (6 volunteers each month)

What: Serving meals at New Life Meal Ministry

When: 3rd Saturday every month, 4:30-6:30pm

Where: 323 N Jefferson St, Huntington

Why: It's fun and rewarding!

Contact a member of WUCC Missions Committee or the
church office if you would like to volunteer to serve.

New Life Meal Ministry provides free meals for families and individuals
in need. No registration or sign-up is required, just show up when the
doors are open. The cooking, serving, and cleaning are carried out by
a wide network of volunteers, churches, and organizations who serve
one another by meeting a practical need and sharing supper.

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



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



2023 CHURCH PICNIC

July 2023



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

					SSF June 30- July 2 Parade June 30 7pm	1
2 Community Worship 10am Riverside Park Fireworks at dusk	3	4	5 Reaghan Bennett	6 Mason Jones Cammy Ackley	7	8 Don Smith
9 Sunday Service 9:30am	10	11 Jessica Stucky	12	13	14 Anikah Eckert	15 Meal Ministry 4:30-6:30pm
16 Sunday Service 9:30am Denny Stroud Craig Mounsey	17	18 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm	19 Becky Souder Sam Jones	20 John & Janet Sneed	21	22 Kelly Jones Diane Brooks Nicki Eckert
23 Sunday Service 9:30am	24 Denny & Marcia Stroud	25	26 Staccia Grover Grace Dimond	27	28	29 Kevin & Carolyn Rittenhouse Mark Stucky Joe Shape
30 Sunday Service 9:30am	31 Margaret Knight Alison Knight					

Snacks! **Festival Fun!** CRAFTS

Stop and see Takarra in front of the church for crafts, drinks, snacks, and win prizes at the duck fishing game.

Friday, June 30th, 6-7pm
Saturday, July 1st, 9-10am

Join Us!

WARREN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
202 E SECOND ST, WARREN

**Salamonie Summer Festival
Community Worship Service**

July 2nd @ 10am
Riverside Park
Sponsored By WAMA

Speaker: Mickey Strong – WCC
Worship: Warren Church of Christ

There will be no Refresh Service or Youth Group on Wednesday's through July.



VBS Coming Soon!

Location: Solid Rock, 485 Bennett Dr., Warren
July 9-13, 6-8pm

