

# CROSS



# WORDS

Volume 11, Number 11

A newsletter published by  
United Church of Christ, Warren IN

November 1, 2023



IT'S ONE  
THING TO PRAY.  
IT'S ANOTHER THING  
TO HAVE FAITH.  
BUT TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE  
THAT MATTERS PUT  
YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION!

## Looking Up

WITH PASTOR TROY

## RECLAIMING GRATITUDE

By the time this newsletter is released we will have 23 days till Thanksgiving! Lots of tasks to complete before the big day. I'm sure the day you are celebrating with family and friends has already been established. Everyone's favorites planned for; grocery list compiled. It's a foodie's paradise.

If this describes you then the best of luck to you. It totally describes the Drayer household this time of year. I do love fall and especially Thanksgiving. But there was a time that I got lost in the holiday without realizing what it was all about. So, I guess that's what this article is all about.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 states: In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Gratitude is about being thankful for what you do have rather than being upset about what you don't have. Gratitude is an essential ingredient on the journey to living the abundant life Jesus promises. And finally, gratitude is most beautifully seen in our response to the free gift of God, His Son Jesus.



Practicing gratitude, receiving, and expressing God's grace is the foundation for building a life of significance. Gratitude is a fluid virtue, and other virtues, such as love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, thankfulness, and self-control (The fruits of the Spirit, Gal 5) piggyback upon intentionally giving and receiving God's grace-the practice of gratitude. Most, if not all, virtues are built upon living out a state of gratitude.

Our desire to express, receive and give grace is what makes life significant. When we ask ourselves what is most important, we must assess within the realm of grace. For, if practicing gratitude is the virtue that surpasses all other virtues, then anything of importance would have to be built upon living out God's grace and expressing God's grace-gratitude.

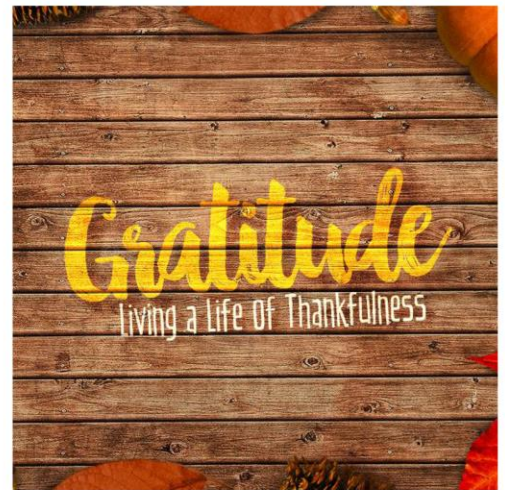
If possible, over the next couple of months take time to realize the gratitude that you have for what God has blessed you with. From where you are sitting or standing, there are gifts from God all around, enjoy!

Oh, and just and FYI, 54 days till Christmas! 😊

Let's make November a great month for God and ourselves!

Blessings,  
Pastor Troy and Mindy Drayer

Sermon Series "Gratitude"  
November 5th, 12th, & 26th



**WAMA**  
Warren Area Ministerial Association  
**Thanksgiving Service**

Location: Knight Bergman Center  
When: Sunday, November 19th, 10am

Soup dinner following service.  
Free will donation.

(No service held at WUCC)

**T H A N K F U L**

Give  
*thanks*  
to the **LORD**  
for He is good  
*His love endures*  
f o r e v e r  
1 CHRONICLES 16:34

Thank you to Suellen, Julie, Justin, Terry, and Jane for helping with Junior church and Wednesday night live. I am so grateful for your help!

YOUTH DIRECTOR  
TAKARRA MYERS



*You* BELONG *Here!*

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

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

YOUTH

Scripture  
Power

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12.2

NEWS

The Youth raised \$218 at our youth fundraiser selling popcorn and cotton candy. We had so much fun at the Scarecrow Festival playing ring toss and handing out candy to all the kids. WNL is for Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grades and meets every Wednesday evening at 6pm. FOUR:12, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth, mark your calendars for our next gathering on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there!

SUPER!

Lennon is growing up! She loves her new preschool teacher, and she is learning so much. She is adjusting to all the change well which, is probably the most difficult part of preschool. She loves to make new friends and her favorite color is yellow. Great job Lennon! You are such a sweetie!

# Peer Pressure

It's just a party, we don't have to drink. No one will even know that we were there. Are you really going to make me come to this party alone? That is so lame. All of us have experienced peer pressure at some time in our lives. It can be difficult to say no when everyone else is going along with the group. Sometimes our "friends" can put pressure on us to go along with how they see things. Some "friends" can even use manipulation to get us to do what they want us to do by making us feel bad about ourselves. When we feel pressured into situations that are bad for us, we can turn to the bible.

Firstly, we should be choosing our friends wisely. If someone is constantly making you feel bad when you are around them then that is probably a good indicator, they just aren't a friend that you should keep around you. We all deserve the best. We should be around people that make us feel amazing. People that build us up and bring us closer to God. The bible explains it like this, "Walk with the wise and becomes wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." (Proverbs 13.20) It can be so hard to turn down friends especially when it is a friend that we really like having around. If we are choosing our friends wisely then we should be able to talk to them directly and honestly about how we are feeling. Our friends love us, and they should be able to respect you and the way that you see things. This can be difficult so I will leave you with more solutions.

Make up a creative excuse. If you are feeling pressured and put on the spot, make up an excuse. You can tell your friends you're sick or that you must babysit your sibling and can't hang out. If you suddenly find yourself in an uncomfortable situation with your friends, you can pretend your mom is calling and that you must leave right away.

Another solution might be to simply avoid situations that lead to peer pressure or an unwanted situation. "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty." (Proverbs 27.12) You can avoid parties where people do bad things. You can avoid private meetings with your boyfriend or girlfriend and go on group dates instead. Or you could keep a friend around you that also feels uncomfortable with what is going on so that you feel less pressured.

If your "friends" are still pressuring you to do things that make you uncomfortable, then the best solution is simply to tell those friends goodbye. It might be sad to leave close friends behind, but it might also be necessary if you want to keep yourself off a sinful path. "You must not follow the crowd in doing wrong." (Exodus 23.2)

Remember these tips when you're feeling pressured to do bad things. Choose your friends wisely. Avoid situations where you might feel more pressured. Talk to your parents or a trusted adult to help navigate you through these tough situations.

Takarra



# Historic Warren's Holiday Walk & Festival of Trees

Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm

Mark your calendars to come downtown on Friday evening the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 a youth tree 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! You don't want to miss Ruth's Christmas Village set up this year. I hear it may have gotten bigger!!! There will also be a free will donation soup dinner at the KBC to support Historic Warren projects.

## FUN FOR ALL AGES!

*Historic Warren Main Street*  
*Holiday Walk & Festival of Trees*

# Soup Supper

Friday, November 17, 2023  
5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

Knight Bergman Center  
132 N Nancy Street  
Warren, IN 46792

Served by  
Sigma Phi Gamma



Free Will Donation  
Proceeds for  
downtown projects



Scan QR Code to  
donate to Historic  
Warren Main Street



Location Sponsored By:  
**PARKVIEW HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL**



## ANGEL TREE

Thank you for helping us meet our goal for the green bean collection! Next up is our Angel Tree and Crossroads Tree. We are sponsoring the Remnant House for this years Angel Tree. We will soon be adding tags on the tree for clothing items for the children of the women currently at Remnant House.



## Bell Ringing Salvation Army

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
10am-4pm  
Location: Dollar General

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO RING THE BELL AT 2PM AND 3PM. PLEASE LET SARAH KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP!



**JOY CLASS PARTY**  
NOVEMBER 11, 2023  
MEET AT 5:30PM  
EL PARADERO  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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@citiznet.com](mailto:wucc@citiznet.com)

*veterans*

**Lord, we thank you for  
all who have served and  
sacrificed for freedom.**

JOHN 15:13

★ **THANK YOU** ★

# November 2023

Church Operating Cost \$3,550 weekly  
 Offering Totals  
 10/1 - \$3,014  
 10/8 - \$1,946  
 10/15 - \$1,930  
 10/22 - \$2,535

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			1 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	2	3	4  Treva Schmidt
5 Service 9:30am Communion	6 DeWayne & Kelly Jones	7	8 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	9	10 FOUR:12 Youth 5:30pm	11  Jerry & Peggy Wilson
12 Service 9:30am	13 Mary Clark	14 Kevin & Shelbia Deakyne	15 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Landon Green	16 Don Williams	17 Holiday Walk 5-8pm	18
19 Community Service KBC 10am	20	21 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm Nancy Smyth	22 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	23 	24	25
26 Service 9:30am	27	28	29 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Danielle Shape	30 Colleen Oden		

Sunday, November 5th  
 CHURCH  
**BUSINESS**  
 MEETING  
 Following service, please plan to attend.

We will be voting on the nominations for positions within the church. Thank you to those who volunteer to serve the church! Please plan to attend the meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> following worship service.

**Take a night off in the kitchen!**  
 Join us Wednesdays at 5:45pm for a meal before the start of our evening activities.

Warren United Church of Christ  
**REFRESH**  
 Every Wednesday Evening, 6pm