



CROSS WORDS

A newsletter published by First Christian Church of Warren

Volume 12, Number 2

PUTTING OUR FAITH
INTO ACTION

February 1, 2024

Monthly Matters with Pastor Troy

Letting Go and Letting Lent!

Greetings Friends,

Now that you're reading this, we have made it to February, or at least a day or two away from it. We have had snow, ice, and even bitter cold but we have lots of winter left. But as of February 1st, we are 50 days from spring. Even closer is Ash Wednesday that is on February 14th this year. I find it ironic that Ash Wednesday shares Valentine's Day this year. But it does make sense I guess as Valentine's Day is the day, we are to show those we love how special they are to us, Ash Wednesday helps us to remember the absolute love that Christ showed us as we prepare for His death and resurrection. So, I guess February 14th has a double meaning for us, we are doubly blessed.

The season of Lent is a time for us to assess ourselves and make adjustments. It's a time for us to recalibrate to God's way of living and loving. The purpose of repentance and reflection is not to lay ourselves under condemnation, but to offer ourselves up for salvation. This is very important: "God did not send his Son to condemn the world but to save the world through him" (John 3:17). Jesus did not come to condemn us but to save us. He wants to set us free. In Christ, we can let go of the sin and shame that seek to enslave us.

I'll be starting a sermon series on this very thought on Sunday, February 11th at 9:30am. This series will take us through to Easter morning and will teach us that Jesus did not merely come to set us free from the consequences of our sins. But that He also came to set us free from the power of sin. It is my hope that we, as a community of believers, will have a more healthy, sustainable, and enjoyable experience of faith as a result of the words and Scripture shared. Let's come together during this time as we anticipate what the Lord has for us.

Blessed Lenten Season to all,
Troy and Mindy Drayer



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season known as Lent. Historically, Lent was a time when new Christians prepared themselves for baptism on Easter Sunday. Today, Lent more often is a time when Christians prepare themselves for Easter and are invited to deeper faith, stronger community, and a closer connection to God.

Lent is a season for changing your life, for turning things around, for getting back on the right path, repentance. It last for 40 days (not counting Sundays); reminding us of the flooding rains of Noah's time (Genesis 7:17-19), Israel wandering in the wilderness (Numbers 23:13), and of Jesus' temptation in the desert (Mark 1:12-13).

The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality. God created humankind from the dust of the earth, and it is to dust that we shall all return. Our time on this earth is short – are we living the life to which God has called us? Are we prepared to give an account for how we have spent our days?

Ash Wednesday isn't a cheerful celebration. But if we take it seriously, Ash Wednesday can be the beginning of a changed life. Are you ready for more? Deeper faith, stronger community, and a closer relationship with God?

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace

May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And you family and your children
And their children and their children
May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you



Thank you to Suellen, Julie, Jane, and Justin for helping me teach in the Month of December. Also Thank you to Mindy, Julie, Suellen, Sarah, and Justin for helping me put together our Christmas program with the kids.



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

The Lord is close to the heartbroken
and saves those who are crushed
in spirit. Psalm 34:18

NEWS

Our Skating party is coming up February 10th 4:30-6:30 at West Park Skate Center. There will be free pizza and great company! On Friday February 9th we will be meeting with our 4 twelve group at 5:30 in the youth hall for pizza and games. All youth are invited to a Valentine's Day party on Wednesday, February 14th, at 6:30pm. We will have pizza and crafts!



Evalyn! You are becoming such a beautiful young woman, and we are so proud of you! You take care of your cousins and your sister, and you set a good example for them to follow. God has gifted you with a great responsibility being the oldest! Keep up the great work!

Dealing with Heartbreak

Whether it's a friend, a family member, or a loved one we all have felt the pain of losing someone that was special to us. When this happens it is important that we remember that God knows what is best for us. I saw this post on Facebook that said Bison are the only animals that turn and move right into a snowstorm. Bison know that walking into the storm will get them through the bad weather quicker. Walking to God instead of away from him is the only REAL way through that pain you feel. I know how painful, and traumatic it can be sometimes. Those wounds on the inside are so much harder to heal because we can relive them in our minds again, and again. But friends only Jesus can give you the REAL healing that you need.

The devil tries to mimic everything that God does. Rest assured that he will try and offer you fake comfort. He will say things like aren't you so lonely you need addiction to numb the pain because you can't handle your feelings. You need that bad relationship because you're lonely and no one else will ever love you. Don't you want to feel loved? Go look for the wrong type of love, go back to those people that keep hurting you, numb your pain. You are not enough, and this is the best that you will ever get. Oh no don't you feel rejected, you're hurt, hurt them back! Look over there at what that person has. They have so many friends that love them, they have a mom and a dad, they have brothers and sisters. Maybe you feel sad when you see all that they have that you don't have. Maybe you even get envious. God why isn't that in my life plan? But that is not from God. And that Jealousy will lead to hate in your heart and bitterness. God created us to feel, the problem is when we let our emotions lead us and not God. We should give our bad feelings to God.

The bible tells us God is close to the brokenhearted. He sent us REAL comfort, a comforter, the holy spirit. The holy spirit is the spirit of truth in our lives. Listen to that voice because it was sent to guide you. Friends, the devil is a liar, and we need to step out of that darkness and take a step back into the light, into the storm, so that we can be healed. If we don't heal, we end up hurting ourselves and the people around us. There is healing in truth, so we need to be honest with God about our feelings, our struggles, and where we are. Also, always talk to your parents about your struggles because they love you and they can help you.

When we break away from God we break away from our purpose, we lose God's favor. We lose God's protection. We lose our blessings. When we put God above our relationships, he gives us the relationships that we need. God doesn't want us to feel lonely but sometimes he takes people away from us. Maybe God has a purpose for all that pain in your life. Maybe you need to practice self-control so that you can handle the right relationship. Maybe God needs you to work on your Christ like attributes so that he can bless you. Maybe God is waiting for exactly the right moment to pour out his blessing to you. God's timing is perfect. Maybe God gave us that pain so that we would help other people. We must trust that God has a purpose for our pain. And that he is working on all things for our good. There is no such thing as a painless lesson. We can't gain things without losing things first. Sacrifice the fake, the fake love, the fake comfort, the fake miracles, so that Jesus can give you the REAL healing that you need. I know that it is so much easier to run away from the storms in life. But the only REAL way out of the storm is to run right into it, straight to our father in heaven. Step into the light so that God can heal you.

Takarra

Sermon Series

Beginning Sunday, February 11
9:30am

Understand the importance of letting go of the sin and shame that seek to enslave us, and to experience the freedom of a life in Christ.



CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 2024
FOLLOWING SERVICE

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

FCCW Sponsored KBC Basketball Team Schedule for 2024

Bring your FCCW gear and join our cheer block at the game!

February 6,	7pm
February 12,	6pm
February 20,	6pm
February 27,	7pm
March 5,	6pm
March 11,	7pm
March 19,	6pm

Join us for our: FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE Peanut Butter!



Our team this year is coached by Jessica Stucky and Austin Stucky. Come to a game to cheer on James, Brooklyn, McKenna and their team!

Mark your calendars for our next Food Pantry work day on February 28, 2-4pm.

Happy Valentine's Day!

First Christian Church of Warren Youth Skating Party

When: Saturday, February 10, 4:30-6:30pm

(Leave from church at 4, return at 7)

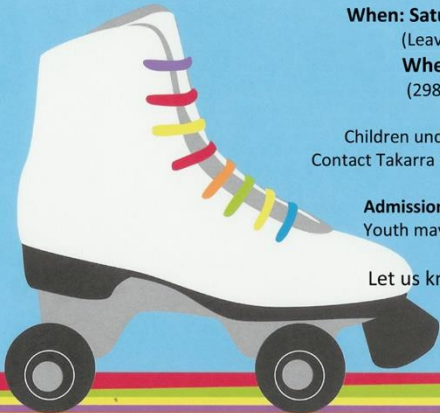
Where: West Park Skate Center
(2986 West Park Drive, Huntington)

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.
Contact Takarra if transportation is needed. (317)532-7135

Admission, skate rental, and dinner provided.
Youth may bring money for snacks and arcade.

Let us know if you can come!! 375-2102

Let's Roll!



Valentine's Day Youth Party!

PIZZA - CRAFTS - GAMES

Location: First Christian Church of Warren
202 East 2nd St.

When: Wednesday, February 14

Time: 6:30pm

Meet in the youth hall in basement.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH of WARREN
202 East Second Street
PO Box 344
Warren, IN 46792



First Christian Church of Warren

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: office@firstccw.net



Stay up to date on all of FCCW's news and activities!

PUTTING OUR FAITH
INTO ACTION



GOD'S ANSWERS
TO LIFE'S DIFFICULT
QUESTIONS



How Can I Cope with Stress?
How Can I Rebound from Failure?
How Can I Be Confident in Christ?
How Can I Live above Average?
How Can I Overcome Loneliness?
How Can I Ever Change?

Beginning February 7th / 202 East Second Street, Warren
Join us Wednesday nights at 6pm for our Refresh Bible Study!

This 6 weeks bible study can help you find the simple, straightforward answers in ancient Scripture that lead to purpose, peace and joy.

First Christian Church of Warren

REFRESH

Every Wednesday Evening, 6pm

Join us at 6pm on Wednesday evening for a meal followed by Bible Study & Youth Group.

February 2024



Church Operating Cost
\$3550 weekly

Offering Totals

1/7 - \$4,090
1/14 - \$1,375
1/21 - \$1,881
1/28 - \$3,637

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
Notes				1 Bill & Carol Byrd Austin Stucky	2	3 Noah Laymon
4 Sunday Service 9:30am Communion Jackie Norris Elijah Dimond	5 Lorie Fiock	6	7 Refresh & Youth 6pm	8 Linda Hammel	9 FOUR:12 Youth 5:30pm	10 Skating Party 4:30-6:30pm Bill Shuttleworth
11 Sunday Service 9:30am Annual Meeting Following Service	12	13 Jordan Bennett Tim Fitch	14 (No Refresh) Valentine's Youth Party 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16 Don & Janet Smith Carly Brubaker Kayla Villanueva	17 New Life Ministry Meal Mission 4:30-6:30pm
18 Sunday Service 9:30am	19 Janice Brubaker	20 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm Kathy Stucky	21 Refresh & Youth 6pm	22	23 Alex Tolen Les Ackley Jerry Brooks Takarra Myers	24
25 Sunday Service 9:30am	26	27 Martha Stucky	28 Refresh & Youth 6pm Food Pantry 2-4pm	29	<p><u>Volunteers Needed</u></p> <p>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!</p> <p>Contact a member of FCCW Missions Committee or the church office if you would like to volunteer to serve.</p>	

