



CROSS WORDS

A newsletter published by First Christian Church of Warren

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April 1, 2024

PUTTING OUR FAITH
INTO ACTION

Monthly Matters with Pastor Troy

The Mission Mindset

It's no secret, people long for a life of meaning, a life that matters for something more than their own personal comfort and temporary success. Yet, as J.D. Greer has put it, there are few lies that cripple the mission of the church more than the belief that only a select few are called to ministry.

As you journey together through the teaching of Scripture, there is no doubt that your community will grow in their understanding of what it means to surrender their lives to the radical calling of Jesus Christ, who whispers to every heart, *"Follow me."* With an examination of the calling of Matthew—the socially outcast tax collector who wasn't on anybody's A-list—we begin to realize that God isn't looking for all-stars, just ordinary people who are willing to join Him in an extraordinary mission to change the world through the message of the gospel. Together, let's discover the powerful message of God's grace and what it means to share this message throughout every aspect of our lives, wherever God has placed us.

One thing that Scripture will make crystal clear to your community is that that no matter where you are in life, whatever career path you have chosen, whatever gifts you think you have (or don't have), God has made each of us unique and He has called us to follow Him.

Read John 13:16-17

"Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Notice He doesn't say serve and sacrifice for others so that God will give you spiritual brownie points. Instead, He says, "You'll be **BLESSED** if you do them." Meaning, you're the fortunate one.

I think there are two main reasons he says we will be blessed.

- 1) The more you serve and sacrifice out of an overflowing cup, the more you are **Like Christ**.
- 2) The more you serve and sacrifice the more you are **with Christ**. The deeper you go down the more you get immersed in God's love. Its only here that you truly learn that Jesus is enough. If you have Him, you have all that you need.

As we live on mission it's huge that our "**Why** is secure." It's simply that our identity is found in Jesus. That we don't have to seek approval in our work, money, accomplishments, abs, biceps, boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife, kids or parents. We are fully approved by God. You're God's kid! From this identity He now calls us to serve others. We're called to humbly and happily put others' needs before our own. Jesus set the standard pretty high. He was God and he washed grimy feet and told us to follow his example. So, what has God put on your heart to do in your family, church and community. Remember that God doesn't call the qualified but qualifies the called.

**Blessings to all,
Troy and Mindy Drayer**



Christians believe that because Adam & Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, all people are born with original sin. This sin needs to be removed before people can truly live their lives as Christians. We will be planning a Believers Baptism soon and invite anyone who feels called to do so to join us. This type of baptism is when you are fully submerged in water symbolizing going down into death and coming back up into new life. This is the sort of baptism that Jesus received from John the Baptist in the River Jordon. If you are interested in more information on becoming baptized, please contact Pastor Troy.

Special thank you to Terry Lee, Treva, Keagan, Jessica, Brandon, and Justin for helping with the kids. Your support and ideas are appreciated.



YOUTH DIRECTOR
TAKARRA MYERS

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE

Trust in God's Power
to light up your path.

PreK - 5th grades
Every Wednesday Night
Join us at 6pm

Youth

Scripture
Power

I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. (John 12:46)

NEWS

All youth! Come help Rose at the civic center April 20th at 3pm. We will be making hygiene bags for Rose to give out.



Shayleen! Shayleen, always participates in our discussions and her voice in the classroom is leading others closer to Christ! She is a leader and a team player, which is a very powerful combination! Great Job Shayleen!

MINDFUL CONSUMPTION

When we willingly turn away from God's ways we step into darkness. It takes a wise person to understand what is really being offered. Anything good comes from God and anything bad comes from well, the devil. We are a people that seeks real things. Real fulfillment, real love, real life, real purpose, and real joy these things are meant for us. The devil knows this and tries to mimic it. We must be able to know the difference and have the self-discipline to choose God to receive what we really desire.

To be mindful of our consumption we must first know what is good and what is bad. But how do we do this? We read our bible, we pray, and we ask God. The bible holds a lot of answers on what God wants for us and what is right and what is wrong. The Ten Commandments are a great example of this. The bible also describes the character of God. And the more that we understand his character the easier it gets to discern the good from the bad. See God he convicts but the devil he condemns. The bible can help us recognize the voice of God when we hear it. Lastly God blessed us with the gift of discernment we should always pray and ask God about it too.

Once we understand right and wrong we must choose right! Understand that anything that takes you away from God is taking you away from what you are after, the real things in life. God tells us exactly what to do when we are tempted. He says to completely walk away. Do not entertain the Devil or sin. You simply cannot do it. You cannot serve two masters. We are either honoring God or choosing Satan. You may think that those little choices are harmless, but they are holding you back from God and the real things that he wants for you. When we entertain darkness it holds power over us and it becomes more difficult to resist. We need to make a firm decision to follow Jesus to be with God. We all choose wrong sometimes and we just need to repent and turn to God again. May God be with you through the trials!

Takarra

FOOD PANTRY



DONATE YOUR TIME TO THE FOOD PANTRY!

Wednesday, April 10th
2-4pm



April Collection
Cans of Spaghetti O's
and Ravioli

Volunteering at the Bread of Life Food Pantry is a rewarding way to give back to the Warren Community. All local churches participate in a rotation of working at the pantry. FCCW's day is April 10th! Just stop in if you would like to help!



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

**SATURDAY APRIL 20TH
9 AM – 11 AM**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WARREN
Location: Warren Service and Supply Parking Lot
Corner of Wayne and 1st Street



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

Frozen pack of 10 tenderloins

\$28.00 per pack



SHOW UP EARLY AS THEY WILL SELL OUT FAST!!

Cash or Credit Card Only



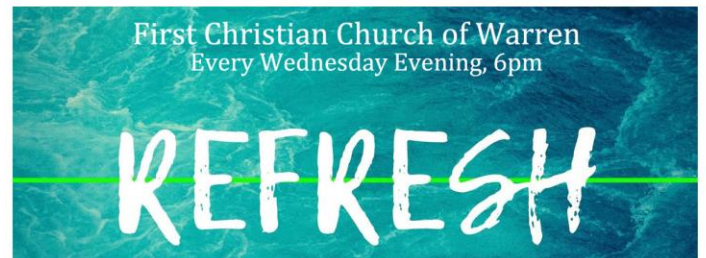
Youth Service Day

Meet at Bread of Life Food Pantry
Knight-Bergman Center, Warren

Saturday, April 20, 2024

3-4 pm

All ages of Youth join us!!



Need a mid-week refresh? Our Wednesday evening "Refresh" bible study may be just what you are looking for. The evening starts at 5:45pm with a meal followed by a bible study and great fellowship time. Not sure what to do with the little ones? We have got you covered! Our youth group is at the same time!

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First Christian Church of Warren

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

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Warren will open its doors to Huntington County and surrounding counties' residents for Total Eclipse of Warren, an all-day event filled with community engagement and the total solar eclipse, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, with the total solar eclipse occurring at 3:08 p.m. when day turns into night. FCCW will open their Fellowship Hall to the public and offer refreshments and bathroom facilities. We look forward to joining you in this once in a lifetime event!



April 2024



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Guy Jackson	4	5	6
7 Sunday Service Communion 9:30am	8	9	10 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Food Pantry Work Day 2-4pm Greg Stucky Jo Spade	11	12	13 Carrie Miller
14 Sunday Service 9:30am Kevin & Sarah Thiele Dan Norris	15 Craig & Connie Mounsey	16 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm	17 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	18 Don & Kristi Williams	19	20 Pop-up Tenderloin Fundraiser Sarah Thiele Ruth Booher
21 Sunday Service 9:30am	22 Max Tyner Chris Brubaker	23	24 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Jeff & Becky Souder	25 Kristi Williams John Sneed	26	27
28 Sunday Service 9:30am Melissa Jones	29 Janet Smith	30 Troy & Mindy Drayer				

Church Operating Cost
\$3550 Weekly

Offering Totals

- 3/3 - \$2815
- 3/10 - \$1616
- 3/17 - \$2316
- 3/24 - \$1227
- 3/31 - \$3543



Spring is here!!
We have new shirts
in our webstore.
Check them out, I
think you will
find something
you will like.

