



CROSS WORDS

A newsletter published by First Christian Church of Warren

Volume 12, Number 5

May 1, 2024

PUTTING OUR FAITH
INTO ACTION

Monthly Matters with Pastor Troy

Living God's mission in our community.

1 Peter 4:7-11 tells us that 'God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light with this purpose, to proclaim His excellencies. I will mention a couple of things about this phrase and then share with you the three things he tells us to do in response to this truth. First, this phrase, 'the end of all things is at hand' points to the time period we live in, the last days that was inaugurated with Christ's first coming and will be consummated when Christ returns. Peter tells us that in light of the time we live, live a practical, righteous life. It has been attributed to Martin Luther about the return of Christ, "'Even if I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would continue to plant my apple trees.'" Whatever you believe about the last things, the bible describes the last things to encourage us that God wins, and his people are to overcome or live righteously. Second, in the phrase 'all things,' Peter sees history as God's history; nothing is outside the influence of his Lordship, and he is bringing everything to the culmination of his ends. "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign overall, does not cry, "Mine!" — Abraham Kuyper. It is because God is absolutely sovereign over all things that we can have confidence that he is ruling over history and that he wins.

Have you ever been so distressed or irrational that you could not think clearly or did not think to pray? Keep a clear head in the midst of suffering, difficulties, so that you can effectively pray to the Lord. The only appropriate response to suffering is to turn away from self toward the victorious Lord, who has defeated sin and Satan, and look to him for the resources to thrive and overcome in life. When you are down, do not look within but to him in prayer. Have you ever wondered why you don't pray? It is because we are intoxicated – with ourselves, with this life. With the end of all things, we are to keep a clear head; keep praying; and keep loving one another.

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” In the midst of difficulties do not withdraw from community. 'Above all' shows that loving God's family is central to discipleship and is even evidence of saving faith. Peter says to love earnestly because love covers a multitude of sins. Where love abounds offenses are minimal, even overlooked and gossip is stifled. He tells us to love one another by showing hospitality and serving.



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

Another way to show love is by serving one another. “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies-- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” This is addressed to every one of us, 'as each has received a spiritual gift, use it to serve one another.' God gives gifts to each of us for the benefit of others.

What if you don't know your spiritual gifts. There are tests you can take but the best way to determine your spiritual gifts is to find a need and meet it. Peter describes serving others with your spiritual gifts as being a good steward of God's grace. Gods sovereignly gives gifts as he chooses yet we are seeking for spiritual gifts and gifts are for building up the church, the body of Christ. How do you know if you are serving in the strength God supplies? I pray for strength and then serve with all I got. Am I serving in a way that draws attention to me or to God? In light of the end of all things we are to keep a clear head; keep praying; and keep loving one another – showing hospitality and serving others with our spiritual gifts.

Blessings!! Troy and Mindy Drayer

Missions in April

~ \$100 donated to Remnant Ministries

The money given by FCCW to Remnant Ministries is used to help provide tuition payments for the women entering the program. Last Christmas we also supported the families in the Remnant House with our Angel Tree Project.

~ \$50 donated to Bread of Life Food Pantry

The money donated from FCCW is used to help supply milk to families in our community. Rose gives out 28 gallons of milk every week!

~ \$100 donated to New Life Meal Ministries in Huntington

This meal ministry serves evening meals 365 days a year. Lunch is served every Monday -Friday. This is 800+ meals served every week! You can also volunteer to serve at the meal ministry. Contact a member of the Missions Committee for more information.



Sisters In Faith
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

Sisters In Faith thank all the ladies who helped set up the Bargain Basement for Spring and your annual support of this church project. We have great appreciation for all those who volunteered their time.



Special thank you to my teachers Brenda, Sophia, Wendy, Treva, and Terry.

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

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

(Isaiah 41:10)

NEWS

We packed 52 boxes of toilet paper to hand out at the pantry last month. I do plan on helping Rose out again, but we really need some more kids to come.



SUPER!

Jace is always ready for action! He is full of energy and always brings a smile to everyone. He brings excitement to the group, and I really enjoy seeing that.

DEALING WITH ANXIETY

I was never an anxious person until I had my two girls Mia and Aria. The sudden responsibility brought a lot of stress, anxiety and worry to me because I knew I'd be in charge of keeping them safe and raising them. As the girls are growing, I'm realizing that there is no possible way for me to be able to keep them safe from everything. There is also no way that I could show up to be the perfect mother that they needed me to be. I have never ever been a mother before. And Mia has never been four before we are both learning and growing every day. We live in a crazy world and there just aren't any guarantees that any of us will be safe all the time. I worry thinking about anyone else watching the girls and something terrible happening and I'm not there for them. Or just yesterday I had a nightmare that the girls opened their bedroom windows and fell out. Even though I try my very best to keep the girls safe there are always things that could happen that are out of my control, and it would be impossible to prepare for everything because of how crazy our world is. When I'm anxious the only things I can do is first calm down, second pray about it, third seek a logical solution.

If I'm not thinking right because I'm emotional the thing to do is to sit down take a moment to breath and pray and calm down. Once you've gathered yourself it's a good time to pray and ask God to help you with everything that you are worrying about. You can ask him for help and tell him everything that's bothering you. If you are like me then you probably don't make good decisions when you are emotional. When I'm stressed and anxious I like to think of my favorite things that I like doing like hiking and nature. After we have taken some time to pray and calm our minds then we are ready to seek out a logical solution.

If I'm worried about the girls falling out the window, I can buy child locks to prevent them from opening them. If I'm worried about other people watching the girls, then I can make sure that only people I really trust get to watch them like their grandparents. There's nothing more important than my girls so I don't have to worry about being polite and I can be as awkward and weird as I need to be to get my point across. This applies to you kids too. When there is real danger, or you just feel uncomfortable don't be afraid to be as weird and stern as you need to be to get yourself out of the uncomfortable situation.

Another thing that makes me feel anxious and stressed is managing my responsibilities. As a mom I am responsible for a lot. I have to take care of my kids, my pets, my house, and my job all at the same time. Sometimes I feel so overwhelmed. I've also learned that I can be so hard on myself when it feels like I'm not doing a good job at any of it. Sometimes I feel like a bad mom, a bad wife, and a bad employee because I just can't seem to manage it all. Your stress is probably different than mine, but life is difficult for all of us. You have never been your age before, and I've never been my age before. We all go through difficult things that bring stress and anxiety. It helps me to remember that God is with me and that I get to turn to him ask his help and that he has promised to help me. He might not show up in the way that I wish he would, but I know he is always there and that he loves me so much. Nothing surprises God and he can handle everything, so it is best to give it to him and let the fear go because it just doesn't serve us it hinders us. Lastly if you are having a difficult time always talk to your parents and trusted loved ones about it.

Takarra



We will be planning a Believers Baptism this summer and would like to 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.

CHURCH PICNIC
First Christian Church of Warren
Mounsey's House
5398S-600E, Markle

SUNDAY
 June
23
 Service begins at
10:30am

*Please join us for a Potluck Picnic!
 (meat and drinks provided)
 Just bring chairs
 and a covered dish to share.*

SWIMMING - FISHING - GAMES

Join us for our:
FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE

Can we collect over 50 boxes!?!?




Service Opportunities

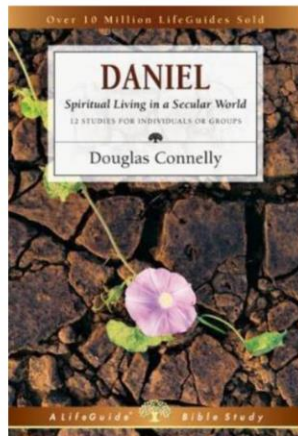
Let's make this a summer of service!
 Check the sign up sheet in the sanctuary
 and see where you would like to help!



First Christian Church of Warren
 Every Wednesday Evening, 6pm

REFRESH

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!



A permissive society, a power-hungry people, a nation without God. Daniel's situation in Babylon sounds quite a bit like our own. In the midst of such forces, how can we remain loyal to biblical values? How can we have a positive impact on those around us? Join us on Wednesday evening for this 12 week Bible Study, Daniel gives us practical and personal help with these questions.

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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!

PUTTING OUR FAITH
INTO ACTION



Wondering what is going on with FCCW's Missions Committee?

We now have a Mission's Board located in the lounge full of exciting information. From where money is distributed in the community to how you can help, it's all there. Stop in and take a look! We encourage you to help anyway you can. If you know of a need in the community or have any fundraising ideas, we welcome any suggestions.

FCCW MISSION



May 2024



Church Operating Cost

\$3550 weekly

4/7 - \$4461

4/14 - \$1276

4/21 - 1781

4/28 - \$1371

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Jerry & Diane Brooks | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Sunday Service Communion, 9:30 Owen Stucky Joey McCool | 6 | 7 | 8 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Kennedy Bennett | 9 | 10 | 11 Sierra Tolen |
| 12 Sunday Service 9:30am Mother's Day! | 13 Bob Jackson | 14 Blake Stucky | 15 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Sunday Service 9:30am | 20 | 21 AB Board Meeting 6:30pm | 22 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm Food Pantry Day Terry Lee Miller Kevin Thiele | 23 Julie Korporal | 24 | 25 Logan Stucky Sarah Jones |
| 26 Sunday Service 9:30am | 27 Julia Grover | 28 | 29 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm | 30 Richard Brubaker | 31 | |



Lend a hand at the Food Pantry this month on the 22nd from 2-4pm. Let Sarah know in the office if you would like to help.

