



CROSS WORDS

A newsletter published by First Christian Church of Warren





Volume 12, Number 6

June 1, 2024

PUTTING OUR FAITH
INTO ACTION

Monthly Matters with Pastor Troy

Parable of the Sower
Heart Types

 Blind Heart	 Rocky Heart	 Rebellious Heart	 Remaining Heart
Heart's disposition blinds hearer from grasping God's Message.	Enthusiastic at first to God's Word, Rocky Heart shallow & lacks will to strengthen initial gift.	Heart partially commits to Christ, leaving disastrous vulnerability to worldly desires & concerns.	Heart fully dedicated to Jesus is firmly established, reaping fruit of righteousness plentifully.

SOMETIMES GOD DOESN'T CHANGE YOUR SITUATION BECAUSE HE'S TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR HEART.

Who is the gardener of your heart?

In the Parable of the Sower Jesus says.

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seeds fell among the thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seeds fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:3-9)

Eight verses later in Matthew, Jesus explains the meaning of the parable to the disciples.

“Listen then to what the parable of the Sower means: When anyone hears the message about the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the one who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.”

Jesus gives us 4 different scenarios of seed being spread in this parable. He explains that the seed is the Word, the good news shared with others. The soil is the heart of a person, where the seed of the good news can take root. Jesus makes clear that the problems in the parable don't occur with the seed, but the problems arise depending on what kind of soil the seed falls onto.

What kind of soil describes your heart today?

Are you indifferent to the good news of Jesus Christ? Are you needing to spend some time on the condition of your heart so that the seed of the gospel can grow deep and healthy roots? Are you distracted? Are there too many things in your life clamoring for your attention and care?

If you've ever had an earthly garden, you know the effort it takes to grow and sustain life in the garden. It's no different with the eternal garden of your heart where the divine seeds of the gospel and the kingdom are trying to grow. They need healthy soil and consistent care.

What can you do to strengthen the soil of your heart?

- Dedicated time in prayer.
- Removal of distractions, no TV, no sleeping in too late, no social media.
- Dedicated time every morning in the Word.
- Meet with a pastor or church leader to discuss past hurts that are presently hindering your growth.

Make a conscious choice to adjust your lifestyle, by the help of the Holy Spirit in your life, to create the kind of environment where your relationship with God can grow.



**Blessings,
Troy & Mindy Drayer**

**I would like to thank
Connie, Julie, Jill, and
Wendy for teaching
with me.**

**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 praise you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made. Wonderful are your
works; my soul knows it very well."**

(Psalm 139:14)

NEWS

**August 10th at 4 pm we will be having a
Tie Dye-BBQ party at my house! We also
have a small swing set to play on!**



**Aria! Aria says the cutest little prayer at home. She
always reminds mommy and daddy to pray. Her prayers
usually sound a little like this, Thank you mommy,
daddy, Mia, Red, Dee Dee, babies, and Molly, she in
heaven, amen!**

SUPER!

Taking Care of Ourselves

As Christians we often talk about taking care of others, but we also need to learn to care for ourselves! It is easy to get so lost in our work and in service that we forget to take care of ourselves. I'm still learning how to take care of myself, and I've been on this planet for 31 years! Part of caring for ourselves is speaking God's truth to ourselves. "Indeed, the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Luke 12:7) This scripture is a testament to how precious we are to God. So, remember it, believe it, and speak kindly to yourself every day!

Something else that I've learned is that I must take an active role in creating my own happiness or it simply won't happen! If I fail to make time for me, it can lead to burnout, or frustration with others. Also, my work suffers because I don't give my best when I am already exhausted. Think about when you ride on a plane, the flight attendant always says that you should put your mask on before you help anyone else with theirs. You don't have to do anything crazy just make time to do something that you love to do every day. It could be as simple as taking a bubble bath or fixing yourself something special to eat. Maybe you love to read? Whatever it is that you love to do, make time for yourself as often as you can, preferably every day! Please make extra time for yourself if you are struggling to keep a positive mind. So, treat yourself and don't feel guilty about it!

Takarra



FCCW Back-To-School Bash

It's a BBQ & Tie Dye Party!

When: Saturday, August 10, 4-7pm
Where: Takarra's House
776E 1000S, Warren

We invite all community youth and families to join us for a fun evening!

Questions call FCCW: 260-375-2102



SHINE!

VBS

COMING SOON

Dates: July 8-12
Time: 6-8pm
Location: 727 N. Wayne St. Warren
Contact: Warren FBC
(260) 375-2811
Ages: K-5th grade
Register at the Door

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



FCCW is sponsoring a T-ball team this summer! Come on out to the ball-park, wear your church shirts and cheer them on.

June 4, 6pm
June 10, 7pm
June 17, 6pm
June 18, 6pm
June 25, 6pm

FOOD
PANTRY



pudding cups
for June!

What's Up,



Pudding Cup?

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Congrats

CLASS OF 2024



Sophia Tolen

Sophia graduated from Huntington North High School on May 26, 2024. Sophia was in the Top 25 of her class all 4 years of high school and graduated with a GPA of 4.3 on a 4.0 scale. Sophia plans to earn her Bachelor's Degree studying business management at Ball State University.

After graduation from college, Sophia plans to earn her cosmetology license. Her dream is to one day open her own hair salon and boutique.



Sierra Tolen

Sierra graduated with her degree in elementary education from Ball State University. Sierra graduated with honors and was on the Dean's List all 4 years of college. Last summer, Sierra enrolled in classes, requiring her to create

lesson plans for an educational development camp. She then implemented her lesson plans at a camp, teaching science to 3rd grade students needing extra support in their studies. Sierra earned enough credit hours during this process to graduate early and graduated after her 1st semester of her senior year on December 16, 2023. Sierra spent the past semester participating in the Disney College Program in Orlando, Florida and was very excited that she was stationed mainly in the Star Wars area of Disney's Hollywood Studios. Sierra is in the process of moving back home to Indiana where she will take the teacher's certification test and spend the next year teaching.



Amanda Tolen

Amanda graduated with her doctorate in audiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on May 11, 2024. Amanda graduated with honors and received awards from the

American Academy of Audiology and the American Speech-Language Hearing Foundation. Amanda spent the past year in Miami, Florida, where she completed her externship for audiology with the University of Miami. This summer, Amanda will be starting her first job as a clinical audiologist at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children in Honolulu, where she will serve primarily pediatric patients.



Grace Dimond

Grace graduated from Ball State University with her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education. She graduated with academic honors. She will continue her love for education this fall in her own classroom.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH of WARREN
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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!

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NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINNING JUNE 2ND!



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. 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. This six-week series is designed to unlock the amazing truth that every child of God was Made for Mission. One thing this series will make crystal clear 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.

June

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Graduation Sunday Communion 9:30am Barry Hammel	3	4 Ron Wartzok	5 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	6	7	8 Zachary Tolen
9 Sunday Service 9:30am James Green	10	11	12 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	13	14	15 Justin Myers
16 Sunday Service 9:30am Father's Day James Koberlein	17 Carolyn Rittenhouse Meggan Rittenhouse	18 AB Board Meeting Jackson Johnson	19 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	20	21	22 Madelyn Clark
23 Church Picnic	24 Dewayne Jones Amiah Easthom	25 Joanie Paxson	26 Refresh & WNL 5:45pm	27	28 Barabara Jones	29
30 Sunday Service 9:30am			3 - Mark & Shayna Stucky 16 - Terry & Carrie Miller 17 - Joe & Danielle Shape	10 - James & Kari Green 22 - Greg & Kathy Stucky		

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE

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

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



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!

You are a
Child of God.
You are wonderfully made,
dearly loved, and precious
in His sight.
Before God made you,
He knew you...
there is no one else like
you!
Psalm 139



Faith Autumn Bontrager
Daughter of Trevor & Keagan Bontrager
Dedicated on May 26, 2024