



1548 South Hart St Road Vincennes, IN 47591

812-882-2220

Sunday Worship 9:30am

Sunday School Classes 10:45am

Check out the [Church Calendar](#) on our website.



Public Wi-Fi: communitychurchofvincennes Public Wi-Fi password: CommunityChurch

Community Church
Family...

We Wish you a
very Merry
Christmas!!!

May Blessings
abound for each of
you during this
Holiday Season and
May you always
treasure the True
Reason for the
Season!



Pastor Darren &



by Pastor Darren

A weekly video devotional designed to challenge and encourage believers in their daily walk with the Lord.

Thanks for stopping in and may the Spirit of God be with you as you seek his face and grow in the Spirit.

Click [here](#) to watch this weeks Word.

GENTLE REMINDER...

THERE WILL BE
**NO DONUT FELLOWSHIP
AND NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON
DECEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 31.**

Services December 24:
Christmas Eve Morning Service 9:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 26.**

**OFFICE HOURS FOR DECEMBER 27:
10 AM TO 3 PM.**

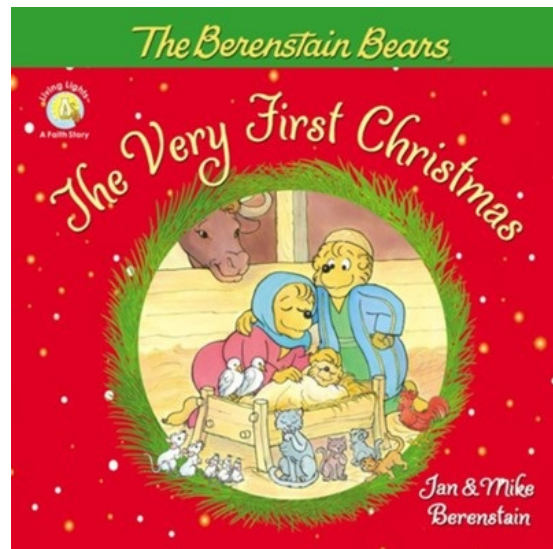
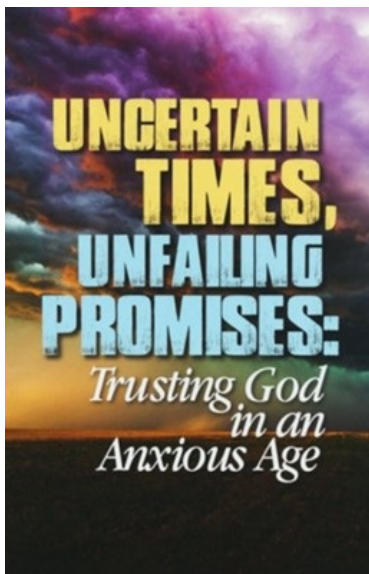
**THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 28.
ALL CALENDAR EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON
THE CHURCH CALENDAR
(SEE LINK ABOVE).**

**Shelly Bitner wants to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!
As CCoV's Music Director,
she has appreciated your support of not only her,
but all the musicians in the church.**

**As a thank-you, Shelly would like to invite the teens through adults to
pick up a copy of the little booklet "Uncertain Times, Unfailing
Promises," with devotional insights from Christian leaders such as
Charles Swindoll, Corrie Ten Boom, Billy Graham, Warren Wiersby,
Peter Marshall, Max Lucado, etc.
These will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**For the children, there is a Berenstain Bears
Christmas book--one book per child.**

**You can pick these up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. May God's
abundant grace, peace, and blessings be upon you all at Christmas and
for the coming new year!**





WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN HELPING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS
HANDING OUT BULLETINS,
A signup sheet is on the Welcome Center.**

**Any questions, please see
Tim Magruder or Ron Argenta.**



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY 21, 2024.

**WE WILL HAVE SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH. THIS IS A REFRESHER
MEETING SO IT WILL BE BRIEF BUT THERE ARE A FEW THINGS
WE HAVE NOT COVERED IN THE PAST THAT NEED TO BE
SHARED.**

THIS TRAINING IS FOR ANYONE/EVERYONE THAT WILL WORK WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN 2024. ADDITIONALLY, YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A BACKGROUND CHECK ON FILE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CANNOT ATTEND ON JANUARY 21ST, PLEASE SEE CHERYL WILLIAMS.



Advent Candle Participants

December 24(am): Julie & Brynna Sweeney

December 24 (pm): Pastor Darren & Cheryl

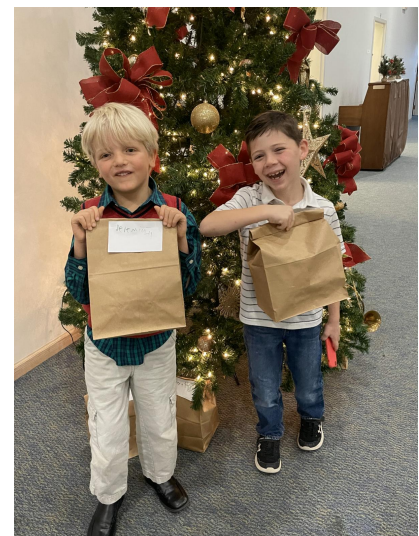
TIS THE SEASON...



left photo: 32 Youngsters
shopped and wrapped
gifts for adult care givers
in their home.

right photo: Jeremiah
and Roman are shown
taking their wrapped
gifts home!

Thank you Mary Marthas
for this wonderful
opportunity for our
youngsters!





Acolyte Volunteer Schedule

December 24(am): Daniel Mosher
December 24(pm): Sophia Magruder
December 31: Lee Emma Dellinger
January 7: Sophia Magruder & Maddux VanMeter

Prayer & Praise Volunteer Schedule



December 24: Marcy Hays
December 31: Alice Carrie & Alice Carrie
January 7: Val Goodman

Donut Ministry Volunteer Schedule

December 24: NO DONUT FELLOWSHIP
December 31: NO DONUT FELLOWSHIP
January 7: Bruce & Bonnie Brown



Church Bus Ministry

December 24: Driver: Bruce Brown; Chaperone: Bonnie Brown
December 31: Driver: Frank Hays; Chaperone: "little" Alice Carrie

If you would be willing to Drive the Bus or ride the Bus as a Chaperone on Sunday mornings, please contact Marcy Hays.



Volunteer Nursery Attendant Schedule

December 24: Christine Flaningam
December 31: Val Goodman
January 7: Delaney Benock

All Names on the
Angel Tree,
for Skilled Care
Facility Residents,
were taken the first
day they were
offered, and returned
for delivery this
week.

Thank you to all who
participated in this
loving mission.



Donation Drive:

DECEMBER



NEW Toys, Journals & Colorbooks

Drop spots:

Sunsational Tans all locations,
Community Church Vincennes, Dot's,
Wild Rose Boutique,
Zip n Sip/I♥Icecream, South Knox HS,
Living Gateway Church,
Nicole's Restaurant in Bicknell, Monroe City RV



PROFESSING OUR FAITH

James 4:7 – Spiritual Warfare Made Simple!

Often, I write and teach on the subject of spiritual warfare and am frequently requested to share on it at conferences and local churches. There is an abundance of information out there on the topic, some not as trustworthy as others. It seems some tribes are more versed in the subject than others. Many of my fellow Methodists and Wesleyans admit that they have had minimal teaching on spiritual warfare in their upbringing and training and are looking for something that is entry-level. While that does not describe everyone in our tribe, both novice and seasoned alike appreciate complex and cryptic subject matter such as spiritual warfare or demonology broken down and served up with simplicity, clarity, and concision.

In an attempt to be Wesleyan and offer “plain truth for plain people,” I believe I can sum up the whole of spiritual warfare in one verse, James 4:7: “Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Submit (to God) and resist (the devil)! Of course, the entirety of scripture is available to us to draw from as we study the matter of spiritual warfare. But if any one verse captures the warp and woof of spiritual warfare from identifying its combatants to its winning strategy and its effective execution, it is this verse in James. Simply put, Submit and Resist!

The greater context surrounding verse seven identifies the particular conflict that the Apostle James is addressing. He writes that there are quarrels between believers because there are quarrels within believers. Verse one reads, “What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?”

James identifies lust, jealousy, contentiousness, manipulation, wrong motives, and even murder rising up within unchecked hearts that wage war against one's soul and one's neighbor: In 4:2-3 he writes, "You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure." War raging on the inside of us eventually erupts into war against our neighbor.

External conflicts often reflect deeper, unresolved internal ones. Often, we find that if we do not win the inner battle against self and its desire to sit on the throne of our hearts, then we are led by the flesh and not the Spirit. Temptations to lust, deceive, judge, rage, and the like, if not resisted and crucified, will assail and overcome our will. Earthly, carnal drives will saturate our souls and leak out into our social interactions, infecting our relationships. As a result, we find ourselves saying and doing things that do not reflect our better spiritual selves. We are not walking in the Spirit and no longer reflect the character of Christ.

In verse four, the Apostle goes deeper in his analysis of the battle, characterizing such behavior as explicitly unfaithfulness to God. "You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God" (4:4). Our sin is always first against God and then second against others. During and after sin, our focus is on ourselves, our will, and our wants. Then afterwards, we may be consumed with our guilt, our shame, and our misery. Rarely, do we humbly gaze up and consider that above all our transgression is against our holy loving Father. In fact, the nature of sin is so oppositional, violent, and unruly, it sets us against the one who loves us. When we act on our own distorted passions, we decree our own autonomy. However, our decree is also a declaration of war against God and his righteousness. Unthinkably, we become "enemies of God," as scripture clearly claims.

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"(4:6). Battling against God, this is a war that we cannot win! Ask Satan! When we choose to walk in sin, our confrontation is actually against God. We are resisting his Spirit and his righteousness and are claiming our own will and its wants over those of the Lord's. When our pride resists the grace of God, we are fighting God, and he will fight back. He will oppose us. Ask the Israelites in the wilderness! Needless to say, that is not a good place to be. Banging our heads against the will of God is a no-win, hopeless situation. When in sin, long before we have a problem with Satan or even self, we have a problem with God. Sin is primarily against God, and then an issue with self and the devil.

God has a holy jealousy towards those whom he died for and loves. He wants us to be wholly devoted to him. “God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him”(4:5). But to our surprise, for our rebellion he returns grace. He exhorts us not to fight him any longer, not to resist his gift: “And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (4:6). The remedy James prescribes is in verse eight “to repent,” “purify our hearts,” and humbly “draw close to God.”

Repentance begins by decapitating our pride through humility (4:6). Humility is the chief virtue. St. Augustine in one of his letters expounded on the essence of the Christian life: “The way to Christ is first through humility, second through humility, third through humility” Every blessing we have comes from the grace of God—repentance, forgiveness, salvation, assurance, healing, sanctification, and every spiritual and material blessing. If grace holds such primacy in our lives being the wellspring of all blessings, then how vital is humility that God only gives grace to the humble but resists the prideful. God gives grace freely; such is the nature of grace. However, humility is the prerequisite to receiving grace. Without humility, we can receive nothing from God but find ourselves opposing him. But with humility, we receive all of the riches of grace upon grace and are able to overcome temptation and live victoriously. “He gives grace to the humble.”

Not only is humility to be our predominant posture towards the grace of our Lord, but it is also the antidote to neutralizing the venom of the Enemy. Humility deactivates Satanic pride in our life. Ironically, humility is the optimal response to both our Lord and the devil. Humility is both the proper response to God’s grace and to Satan’s temptation of pride. Humility is our prime virtue and weapon. Humility positions us to receive all that we need from God to live a holy life and overcome sin. His grace gives us power to resist the onslaught of the flesh, the devil, and the world. Verse seven exhorts, “Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Note, only once we are submitted to God in humility and full of his grace can we resist the devil. Otherwise, we are no match for Satan and his demons. Satan was cursed to crawl on the earth and consume the dust of our flesh. He will eat us for breakfast! He lives off of our uncrucified flesh. Only when we humbly yield to the grace and power of the Spirit of God can we combat Satan, because only then do we have access to God’s authority over the enemy. At that point, Satan is no longer fighting us. He is fighting God.

Remarkably then, in warfare, our preoccupation is not first with the devil but with God. And only when we are submitted humbly before him and indwelt by his grace are we able to face and oppose the enemy of our soul with triumphant victory. In a position of humility and grace, we do not battle on our own and in our own strength. It is no

longer I, but Christ who then battles for me and for you. We are clothed with his armor and authority and are able to resist or oppose the devil categorically and conclusively. Resistance means to hold the line, not to give in, but to push back with all of your resources. We have been given God's grace and power, but we need to choose to resist. It is a command. Grammatically, "resist" is an understood second-person singular command, meaning "(you) resist." When we resist, or say "no" to Satan, then we are promised that he will run from us (Christ in us). Jesus has already defeated Satan on the cross, but now his victory is ours. When you stand in Christ, Satan cannot stand before you. He must flee! At whatever level spiritual warfare may occur—personal, social, physical, mental, emotional, denominational, political etc.—the battle plan is the same: "Submit yourselves to God and resist the devil, then he will flee from you."

In summary, the Apostle instructs us that warfare begins in our hearts as we fight against sin, which prevents us from loving God and our neighbor. Sanctification needs to be our first line of defense in spiritual warfare. But if we succumb to sin, we find ourselves resisting the grace of God and opposing his will. At this point, it is imperative to repent. We begin by resisting our pride and humbling ourselves before God, so that we can receive more grace to overcome ourselves. In turn, once we submit to God, then we can resist the devil and his temptations, which are the lust of flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The summation of spiritual warfare made simple is Submit and Resist!

Peter J. Bellini - Professor of Church Renewal and Evangelization in the Heisel Chair at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

Rev. James F. Bitner
Pastoral Counselor

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email: jfbcounselor@yahoo.com

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1548 S. Hart Street Rd. Vincennes IN 47591



**For guides to help you in your
time of prayer**

[click here](#)

For online giving click the [Vanco link](#)

You are welcome to mail contributions to the church at:
1548 S Hart St Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591 Atten: Cindy

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE :

[December 17, 2023 Worship Service](#)

[December 10, 2023 Worship Service](#)

To view past Worship Services and Sermons, go to [Community Church web page.](#)

e-mail addresses and contact information

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Lori Graham: lmgraham91@gmail.com

Prayer Requests: prayer@communitychurchofvincennes.org

