

East Columbus  
United  
Methodist Church

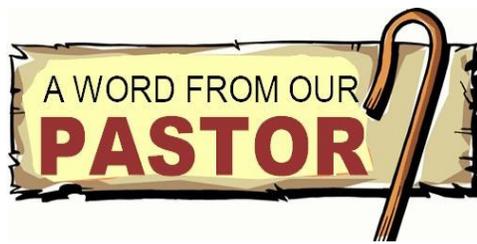
*A Church for Everyone!*

FEBRUARY 2026

GOD



LOVE



## The First Story of the Church in Philippi

May the peace of God always be with you.

The church in Philippi began quietly through small meetings and unexpected events. While the Apostle Paul was on his second missionary journey, he experienced his plans being blocked again and again. One night, Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia came to him and pleaded, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Paul realized that this was God’s calling. So he crossed the sea and traveled to the land of Europe. The city he arrived at was Philippi.

In Philippi, Paul met a woman named Lydia. She was a dealer in purple cloth and a woman who feared God. When Paul shared the gospel with her, she opened her heart and accepted the message. After receiving baptism, Lydia said, “If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.” Her home soon became a place of worship and the first meeting place of the church in Philippi.

Soon, however, a crisis came to Paul. Because they preached the gospel, Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and put into prison. Late at night, in the cold prison, they did not complain. Instead, they prayed and praised God. Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook the prison. The doors opened, and the chains were loosened. When the jailer saw that the prison doors were open,

he was in despair. But Paul and Silas were still there.

The jailer was amazed and said, “What must I do to be saved?”

That night, the jailer and his whole family believed in Jesus Christ and were baptized. That place of despair became the starting point of a new community. In this way, the church in Philippi was formed as people, one by one, experienced the gospel and came together as a community in Jesus Christ. Later, when Paul was again imprisoned in Rome, he remembered this church and wrote them a letter. That letter is the Book of Philippians.

Over the four weeks, we will study the Book of Philippians together. Like Paul’s encouragement, I sincerely pray that we may live lives worthy of the gospel, discover joy even in suffering, and clearly confess that we live together with Christ.

I love and bless you all in Christ!

In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Jongmin

**Image Not  
Available  
Online**

*The Church in Philippi*



Valentine's Day is this month. It really doesn't matter to me, per se, but it may to some of you. It may matter to some of you men even more should you forget about it or fail to prioritize it. In addition to the romantic love that is the bread and butter of Valentine's sales, I also think about how the world defines other types of love.

One common mistaken idea is that if you disagree with someone, you hate them. The world often thinks that love means going along with people in sin, not calling it sin, and remaining in a constant state of peace and agreement. I have said before that this is a lie. If we truly believe someone is going to hell (according to the Bible), is it love to ignore it and let them believe they are fine? That is all I will say on that subject here, as I have discussed it in more depth before.

The world may not be the only place where people think love is some sort of peaceful bliss. But we aren't in Heaven yet, and we will likely have disagreements from time to time until we get there.

I have read different books and social media posts by and about gospel singers in which people were honest about relationships. No matter how much you love someone, being cooped up on a bus tends to make things more difficult than for those of us who can get some space—but that isn't the only place they have problems. David Phelps once joked to the effect that since the Bible says not to go to bed angry, he guessed he and his wife wouldn't be sleeping that night.

I have also read something to the effect that the Happy Goodman family had argued shortly before going on stage. If I recall correctly, Vestal said something like, "You don't think we get into arguments? You put four strong-willed and opinionated people together—of course we do." She mentioned that some of the arguments were pretty serious, if memory serves. They aren't a group I have followed very closely, but I know enough to know that Howard and Vestal were on one side and Rusty and Sam on another over a particular issue, and the group was largely separated for around a decade. Howard and Vestal did duet work, while Rusty and Sam formed a group. My understanding is that part of the disagreement may have involved musical style (which is preference), but the bigger issue was Rusty and Sam wanting someone in the group who wasn't living right, and Howard and Vestal refusing to do so until that person got right. Sadly, Rusty got cancer, and they had little time to do anything together until he passed. They cut one album, and have added a live appearance together to one special appearance they had done at a multi-group event a few years prior.

I have also read about Bill and Gloria Gaither having some arguments on the bus that became quite heated. However, one person who shared about it said the way they handled it was inspirational and a great witness. They never stopped loving each other and found ways to move forward despite their disagreements.

Sometimes we put those in ministry on pedestals, thinking they should never have arguments. Often, as Christians, we may not hold ourselves to the same standard. Then again, some of us may try to hold ourselves to that same standard of perfection—while likely failing at it at times. People in the Bible had disagreements but still carried on God's work. Does this mean God's perfect plan includes us arguing? Of course not. But as humans, such moments will likely come until we get home.

The Bible says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Many of us fall far short of this. Yet an even greater love is the love Christ demonstrated, as He laid down His life not only for friends, but also for enemies. Beyond those examples, I believe the best description of love is one we have heard for a long time but still often miss: 1 Corinthians 13:4–8. It is frequently used in weddings, even though the divorce rate in the church is reportedly not much different from that of the world. But this passage is not a measuring stick for couples only—it is for all of us. We may keep failing, but we should keep trying.

# HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

## Troop 549



The weekend of the Winter Rendezvous was turned into a day only event for the troop. It was cold and dry with a stiff northwest wind that made it feel even colder. The boys had a great time. They participated in most of the events with the Klondike Sled race being their favorite event. Other stations they participated in were, archery shooting, fire building (which was a challenge in the wind), match animal foot tracks in the snow to the animal, storytelling comfort station that served hot chocolate, and our obstacle course. Our obstacle course had the scouts carry a canoe between two poles that simulated tree that the only way the canoe would fit was on its side. Then two backpacks had to be carried and then loaded into the canoes. Then they carried the canoes and back packs around and over sticks and logs and through corner and other tight places, across a picnic table all to end up cutting a slab of wood off a log with an old fashion two man crosscut saw to finish out their time. It was a lot of fun. The wild game feast on Saturday night was good. There was not much for wild game, but the food was good.

### February 8th

This is Scout Sunday. The boys are looking forward to participating in the service.

We usually have a day event on Saturday and stay the night in the youth center. This year we have a special event that is happening on Saturday that will prevent the troop from staying the night. Kordell and his wife Kristine Prescott are having a baby shower in Peru where they live on Saturday February 7th. Their baby girl Pruitt is expected around the middle of March. It is an exciting time for Kordell and his family. We are so happy for both of them. Belinda and I will be attending the baby shower.

### February 28th

This is the annual merit badge day we attend in Madison every year. This year the troop is taking First Aid merit badge together. This should be a fun class. Afterwards we are going to go snow tubing at Perfect North Slopes to sled after dark under the lights. This is something I have wanted to do for years with the troop. We will come back to the youth center to spend the night and attend church in the morning. This should be a great weekend of fun and scouting.

If you know any boys that are interested in scouting the door is always open for their visit on our scout nights. Please feel free to pass my contact information to anyone interested in visiting or joining our troop. Boys ages need to be 11 years old to join and less than 18. Meeting time Thursday is at 6:30 – 8:00 at the Youth Center.

Bruce McIntosh, Scoutmaster  
812-374-9009  
brucemcintoshbsa@yahoo.com



## ***7 Undeniable Truths I Stand On ...***

1. God never makes mistakes.
2. Jesus is the only way to heaven.
3. The Word of God never changes.
4. Grace is a gift ... it can't be earned.
5. Prayer can still move a mountain or calm the sea.
6. Heaven is real ... Hell is as well.
7. Time is short ... Eternity is forever.

No matter what you might be going through today, tomorrow or what you endured yesterday ... God is eternal. God doesn't move ... if you feel separated from God, turn around and reach for Him because He's reaching out for you.

Humans make mistakes ... if God can forgive, shouldn't we?

God's love will never abandon you; never abandon Him.

Love looks different to everyone but God showed us how much He loves us through a cross, 3 nails and a perfect sacrifice.

Happy Valentine's Day .... Timothy

# february

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Communion</b> 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am -Prayer Hour	<b>4</b> 6pm-Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30pm-Scouts	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm-Grace's Table	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10am -Prayer Hour	<b>11</b> 6pm- Choir	<b>12</b> 6:30pm-Scouts	<b>13</b>	
<b>15</b> 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10am -Prayer Hour	<b>18</b> <b>ASH Wed.</b> <b>5pm-Service</b> 6pm-Choir	<b>19</b> 6:30pm-Scouts	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10am -Prayer Hour	<b>25</b> 6pm-Choir	<b>26</b> 6:30pm-Scouts	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>



Feb. 8.. Mike Mattern

“ 11....Robert Brown

“ 14...Gerald Walker

“ 21...Kathy Henry

“ 24... Karen Miller

“ 28... Bob Fear

Amanda Jo (AJ) Henry

# News



From the Mail Box...

Here's what's  
happening!

## 10 Biblical Ways to Love

1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening—that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13)
2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19)
3. Give without selfishness. "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. "(Love) always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12)

## An Important Lesson

May we never let the things we don't have, or shouldn't have, spoil our enjoyment of the things we do have. As we value our happiness, let us not forget it, for one of the greatest lessons in life is learning to be happy without the things we cannot or should not have.

*-Richard C Evans*

**Grace's Table Free Meal** Sunday, February 8 at 5pm in the Youth Center. All are welcome!

**Weekly Prayer Hour.** every Tuesday a prayer time is held from 10am to 11am in the sanctuary. Come and pray for a few minutes or the entire hour. Please enter through the Elevator Door.

## Ash Wednesday Prayer

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.



## Blessing Food Box Donations

Donations are always needed and can be put under the coat rack. A List of food suggestions can be found in the information area.



**East Columbus United Methodist Church**  
**2439 Indiana Avenue, Columbus IN 47201**

**Return Service Requested**

**Jongmin Lee, Senior Minister**  
**Terry Snyder, Music Director**  
**Angie Sherfick, Adm. Assistant**

**Church Office: 812.376.7418**

**Church Office Email: [office@eastcolumbusumc.org](mailto:office@eastcolumbusumc.org)**

**Pastor Email: [jongmin.lee@inumc.org](mailto:jongmin.lee@inumc.org)**

**Worship Director Email: [music@eastcolumbusumc.org](mailto:music@eastcolumbusumc.org)**

**Church Website: [www.eastcolumbusumc.org](http://www.eastcolumbusumc.org)**

**9:00 am - Worship Service**

**10:10am - Sunday School**

**OUR CHURCH MISSION**

**Growing the Family of God by Making**

**Loving Disciples of Jesus Christ.**