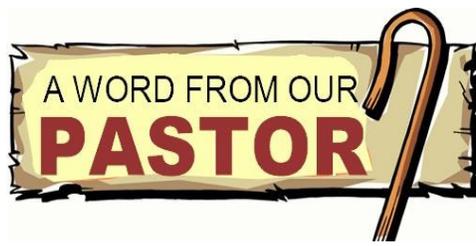


East Columbus
United
Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

MARCH 2026

The
Road
to the
CROSS



The Journey of Lent

May the peace of God always be with you.

With the month of March, the season of Lent has begun. Lent is a quiet but deep season in the church year. It is like early spring. Before new plants rise above the ground, they first grow deep roots. In the same way, Lent is a time for us to grow deeper roots in God.

The sixth-century monk Benedict wrote in his book "Rule of St Benedict":

"The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent."

"But since few have the virtue for that, we urge that during these days of Lent they keep their manner of life most pure and wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times."

"This will be done worthily if we abstain from all vices and devote ourselves to prayer with tears, to reading, to compunction of heart and to abstinence."

"Let each one deny himself some food, drink, sleep, needless talking and idle jesting, and look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing."

He did not teach extreme self-denial. Instead, he encouraged believers to pray a little more, to practice a little more self-control, and to give their hearts more fully to God. It was not about making big promises. It was about small acts of daily obedience.

I hope our church will keep Lent in this way:

- Spend at least five quiet minutes each day with God.
- Read one chapter of the Bible each day and reflect on it.
- Pray for one person each day.

Each of us has our own rhythm of life. What matters is whether there is a place for the Lord in that rhythm. When we pray, read God's Word, and remember Him in our daily lives, our souls become stronger and healthier.

As we follow Jesus on His way to the cross during this Lenten season, I pray that we will rediscover the rhythm of grace.

I love you all and pray God's blessings upon you.

In the Grace of Christ,

Pastor Jongmin





A friend recently sent a video he called gut-wrenching. A gospel singer said people had been saying mean things about her 31-year-old daughter. The woman the daughter replaced in the group, her grandmother, had been beloved, classy, and dignified. When the grandmother's cancer returned 12 years ago, she asked her granddaughter to fill in. The granddaughter had not planned on being a singer, but she did it to honor her. When her grandparents' health later kept them from traveling, she felt called to continue in her grandmother's place, making the group today a trio of father, mother, and daughter.

Some expect her to be the same as her grandmother. They forget the grandmother had decades of experience, and much of the rest is a difference in personality and generation. When told she is not as good as her grandmother, she replies, "You're absolutely right." But, negative comments have been happening for years. The mother wanted to intervene, but the father advised letting it go, the daughter did not want her to step in, so they stayed quiet. A few weeks ago, while the group was on back-to-back cruises, the remarks grew especially ugly and were many. One sleepless night she went online and saw the comments. Her quirkiness and animated movement on stage struck at least one commenter as distracting. That was probably the least offensive comment, but added to the others, and maybe who made it, still hurt her.

In reality, she struggles with restless leg syndrome, which affects more than her legs and can cause her arms to flail. She had brought too little medication and spent much of the second cruise without it, pacing at night, sleeping very little, and even doing jumping jacks offstage to try to calm her body before stepping onstage.

One "good Christian" essentially called her a cheap prostitute, though she dresses modestly. Others claimed she had Botox or facial work, which is not true. What hurt most were accusations that she was motivated by money or fame, even though gospel music offers little of either. She told her mother she didn't know if she wanted to live anymore.

With her daughter's near last second permission (not wanting it shared until then), the mother told that the young woman had been raped at 18 during her first year of college. She kept it secret for a year until she broke down one night, left the stage during an altar call, ran to the bus, curled in the fetal position, and finally told her mom. Now others with similar experiences are reaching out after hearing her story, so God is making good come from it.

A Facebook friend who is a pastor recently posted a photo of him and his family with a woman celebrating her 90th birthday. He explained how she had taken in a boy she saw living in a chaotic home he described as a war zone, sometimes below the poverty level, into her own home whenever she could, loved him loudly, modeled faith, encouraged him, fed and clothed him, prayed for him, and became a second mom. The boy, he said, was him. She was his aunt, but she did not have to step in. She chose to. I told him I believe she is a partner in the good he has done because of her investment in his life. He agreed and said her influence is probably the main reason he has invested in so many young people himself.

1. We do not live on islands. Our actions or inactions (good or bad) can affect generations that follow.

2. We rarely know what someone else is carrying. Asking if they need to talk, listening, offering help, or other kindness can make a difference to someone barely hanging on. If we slow down and pay attention, we may see chances to be Christ's light. It might be someone we know who seems different than they normally are, or a stranger having a bad day.

I think of a man a songwriter once shared had taken his own life after posting what was essentially an apology for letting people down, and a goodbye. Some people responded to the post hours later, but it was too late. Maybe no one saw it in time. Maybe some did not recognize it for what it was. Maybe some assumed he wouldn't follow through. I don't know.

I wonder whether anyone ignored the post, then later thought, "I would have talked with him if I had known he would commit suicide." They may have had an opportunity, and now it is gone. He had been putting his affairs in order for days, maybe longer, so it was planned. I cannot say if things would have been different if anyone had noticed anything different with him in those last days, and had reached out. Either way, it was too late. Who knows what difference we can make if we invest in someone, and what that might change for generations to come.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



February 28th was the annual merit badge day we attend in Madison every year. This year the troop took the First Aid merit badge together. This was a fun class. Afterwards we got to go snow tubing at Perfect North Slopes and sled after dark under the lights. This is something we have wanted to do for years with the troop. We came back to the youth center to spend the night and attend church in the morning. This was a great weekend of fun and scouting.

March 13,15th

The scouts that are going on a Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness canoe trip this year will be going with Belinda and me to Madison Wis. this weekend. The event is called Canoecopia. It is a paddle sport tradeshow and seminar weekend. There will be many vendors selling canoes, kayak, paddle board, camping, hiking and other forms of outdoor equipment there. They also have seminars for canoeing, camping, hiking and music. Our canoe trip is scheduled for July 10th through July 19th. We will be on the border Lake Saganaga which borders US and Canada. The boys will get to paddle canoes in Canada but we cannot get out on land.

March 28

This Saturday is our annual Columbus Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest. The scouts help out with setting up tables and serving food and helping tear down afterwards. It is always a great time with lots of things to see and do. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio can attend. It is at North High Schools Cafeteria. The entry fee is \$5. The hours are from 8am-12 pm.

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



Everyone needs to laugh ... sometimes ...

I love to collect church signs ... there are some really funny Christians out there!

I hope you enjoy these as much as I did ...

Frog parking only ... all others will be Toad ...

If your car is running ... I'm voting for it!

I wanted to grow my own food ... but I can't find bacon seeds ...

This is my step ladder ... I never knew my real ladder ...

I checked into the Hokey Pokey Clinic and I turned myself around!

Is there ever a day that mattresses are NOT on sale??

I know what happens if you get scared half to death ... what happens if you get scared half to death **twice**?

Which cheese is considered most sacred? Swiss ... because it's holy

Remember ... smile ... Jesus loves you!!

Happy Spring Timothy





march



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	2	3 10am -Prayer Hour	4 6pm-Choir	5 5:30pm-Trustee Mtg. 6pm.-Cantata Reh. 6:30pm-Scouts	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm-Grace's Table	9	10 10am -Prayer Hour 6pm-Church Council Mtg.	11 6pm- Choir	12 6:30pm-Scouts 6pm.-Cantata Reh.	13	14
15 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 10am -Prayer Hour	18 6pm-Choir	19 6pm-Cantata Reh. NO-Scouts	20 1st Day of Spring	21
BCSC Spring Break—March 16—20						
22 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	23	24 10am -Prayer Hour	25 6pm-Choir	26 6pm-Cantata Reh. 6:30pm-Scouts	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	30	31 10am -Prayer Hour				



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|--|
| Mar. 4...Gunnar Lawrence |
| “ 6...Bruce McIntosh |
| “ 9...Dorothy Lane |
| “ 12...Joan Dudley |
| “ 14...Cheri Reeves |
| “ 24...Karen Lambert
Belinda McIntosh |
| “ 29...Garry Taylor |

News



From the Mail Box...

Here's what's happening!



Daylight Savings time begins March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks forward.

Spring Ahead

Dear Members of East Columbus United Methodist Church

On February 14, the Columbus Korean Association gathered at your Youth Center to celebrate a traditional Korean holiday with 27 people in attendance. We sincerely thank you for your kindness and generosity in allowing us to use your building. The private, spacious, and comfortable space made it possible for us to enjoy a joyful and meaningful time together in a warm atmosphere. This was our third time gathering in your facilities, and each experience has been wonderful. We are truly grateful for your gracious hospitality and generosity toward the Korean community.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Columbus Korean Association

Ronnie Newsome thanks everyone for their prayers during his recent illness.

Rosalie Pfister thanks the Caring Ministries for the cookies and treats and thank you to Helen Conley and Mary Gorman for all your prayers and cards.



Terry and the choir will be bringing us a special Cantata (One Holy Lamb) on Easter Sunday.

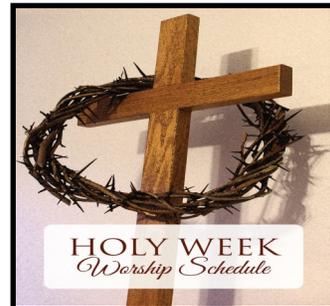
Trustee Meeting Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30pm.

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, March 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.

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30pm.

Upcoming April Events



April 3—Good Friday

The Crucifixion
6pm-Good Friday Service

April 5—Easter Sunday

Jesus is Risen
7:30am-Sunrise Service
8:00am-Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
9:00am-Easter Service
NO Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt after Service (Ages 0-12)



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

Pastor Email: jongmin.lee@inumc.org

Worship Director Email: music@eastcolumbusumc.org

Church Website: 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.