



East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

JULY 2026

*I*N HIM AND
THROUGH FAITH IN HIM
WE MAY APPROACH GOD
WITH FREEDOM
AND CONFIDENCE.

EPHESIANS 3:12, NIV





Giving Thanks to God

May the peace of God always be with you.

In the midst of this hot summer, as I look at the blue sky and the trees full of deep green leaves, I quietly whisper a prayer: “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...”

Suddenly, I wanted to write about my heart of gratitude toward God. By the time you read this, I will probably be spending summer vacation with my family. My parents-in-law are visiting, and it is a blessing that our family can travel together.

As I get older, one thought comes to my mind more and more: we truly do not know how much time we have left. If we do not cherish the time we have now, there may not be a next time. When I thought about that, I became thankful that, through the church’s kindness and understanding, my family is able to take this trip together. I was also thankful for the fact that God has allowed me to be part of such a good community.

If God had not blessed us, how could we travel, drive, enjoy beautiful scenery, and have conversations with the people we love? Our lives are the fruit of God’s blessings. When I realized this, I felt my heart suddenly filled with gratitude. We forget gratitude far too often. In the routine of daily life, or when we live without much lack, or even in the midst of very difficult circumstances, we lose our gratitude.

The daily bread given to us, the tomatoes growing in the garden, a walking path where I can walk, a lake where I can fish, living with health, and being able to gather at church and worship together. Each and every one of these is a reason for gratitude and a reason to count our blessings.

As I share my gratitude with you, I hope that you also may find things to be thankful for in your own present moment. Blessed are those who can discover the blessings God has given them and give thanks for them. God loves you.

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

In the Grace of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



Not only are we celebrating Independence Day in July, but also the 250th anniversary of this nation.

We are given many freedoms in this country, including deciding to do wrong though repentance and forgiveness do not always remove the earthly consequences of our choices. God Himself gives us free will. We would be robots if we didn't have a choice. Some believe that God chooses, before we are even created, who will go to Heaven or hell (predestination / Calvinism). Although God knows what we will choose, we still choose. We don't choose what punishment or bad results (even here on earth) come from those decisions. Sometimes the sum of many small decisions results in a very high cost.

Sometimes, we may be presented with choosing between good and better rather than good or bad. There is usually something gained in one option and something sacrificed, while another option offers different gains and different losses. Even deciding to follow Jesus (the best decision we can make) requires us taking up a cross (sometimes paying for it temporarily). Even Christ's submission to His Father's will at Calvary cost Him greatly, but became our gain.

The decisions between good and better can be tougher, and some may get paralyzed because one choice isn't better in every way than another. At times not making a decision is making a decision by default or having it decided for us. For instance, not deciding whether to turn right at an intersection before it is too late may typically mean we continue on straight (or turning left if we can't go straight.) Stopping at the intersection and figuratively "spinning out" in indecision is sort of making one too, but isn't probably going to end well. Sometimes we just have to pick one and pray that God honors our seeking to make the right one, or reorients us if we make the wrong one.

God promises in Romans 8:28 that He works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. That does not necessarily mean every option is equally good, but it does mean God can accomplish His purposes even through our mistakes. I suppose one could look at a life wasted for years. God can make those mistakes into good for His Glory, but how many more good things would have been accomplished had those bad years not been wasted?

To have the freedom to pick one of several good options (even if we end up ultimately having not picked the best one) is still a blessing. Some people are under tyranny without the freedom to even make minor choices we take for granted. I have heard of some who lived here, but under control of an abuser (or maybe a cult). Some only knew that life and when freed found such joy out of even choosing what clothes to wear or what to eat. Others (especially those who never knew differently) might get overwhelmed and maybe even wanted to go back to the lives and oppression they escaped because choosing was so difficult.

But, we can look at society, and see where BAD and maybe even lesser choices have netted us. Even some churches choose the broad and easy (for a season) path. It may make them and others feel better at the moment, and maybe even gets their attendance numbers up, but ultimately will be the path of destruction (even eternally if not righted in time).

Freedom gives us opportunity, but also responsibility. Adam and Eve's decision to disobey God is something we still experience the consequences of today. The fruit of knowledge looked appealing, but they knew God said not to eat it. King David at the very least chose to keep looking at Bathsheba (once he saw her bathing) and the choices that followed. Each choice together netted a much worse outcome than choosing once, repenting, and not doing so again. God called David a man after His own heart, but one has to wonder how much more good may have happened had David not chosen poorly at times. But, it also gives us hope when we have chosen poorly that there is a way out, and we can still be used greatly by God.

I have heard it said that one's life is the sum of all of our choices. As we think of the freedoms we are given by our forefathers, our military, and God Himself, let us remember the costs involved, the responsibility that comes with freedom, and the importance of doing what is right rather than merely what is appealing. And when we fail, may we remember that God forgives the repentant and continues to use imperfect people for His glory.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



The boys had a wonderful time at summer camp. There were a lot of merit badges earned. The boys that are working at the camp are having a lot of fun. There has been some dodging of thunderstorms that have made it interesting.

July

We had a canoe trip scheduled to Minnesota in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe area this year. With everything that has transpired in Kordell and our life, along with some of the boys, we decided that this year was going to be too much of a challenge to go. We will start planning for a trip next year.

This fall our troop will be getting a cub scout pack which will help feed boys to our troop. If there are any young boys and girls that are between the ages 5 and 11 please reach out to me or Belinda so we can share information when our join night will be. Right now, there has not been a date set.



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



As our country celebrates its 250th birthday, let's pray in earnest for it.

This prayer was written for a human existence but I think it can be applied to our country as well ...

The pain in your body, the ache in your heart – others may not see it, but God sees it clearly. If He allows sickness to come, He also has the power to carry you through it. He is not leading you to despair, but drawing you closer to Himself.

When God becomes your only hope, you are no longer defined by illness, but upheld by His grace.

Lord, our country is sick ... diseased ... only You can heal us and make us great again. We ask that you heal us, as individuals, as a church, as a community, as a state, as a nation ... **as a world**.

Jeremiah 30:17 –

“For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord.”

As you celebrate July 4th, be safe and thankful for the country in which we live and worship as well as all of those who fought to give us that freedom.

Happy Independence Day.... Timothy



July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm- Choir	2 6:30pm-Scouts	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	
5 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	6	7 10am-Prayer Hr	8 6pm- Choir	9 6:30pm-Scouts	10	11
12 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm - Grace's Table	13	14 10am-Prayer Hr	15 6pm-Choir	16 6:30pm-Scouts	17	18
19 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	20	21 10am-Prayer Hr	22 6pm-Choir	23 6:30pm-Scouts	24	25
26 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	27	28 10am-Prayer Hr	29 6pm-Choir	30 6:30pm-Scouts	31	



July-7...Becky Schuyler

“ 10...Ron Briner

“ 15...Erin Mattern

“ 17...Keith Reeves

“ 24...Janet Foley

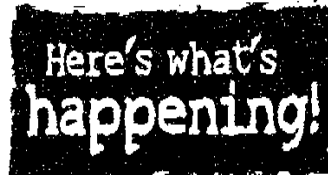
“ 29...Jim Bozell

“ 31...Jane Reed

News



From the Mail Box...



Dear Church Family:

Thank you so much for the peace lily, thoughts and prayers in the passing of our mother, Marsha Stuckey. Thank you for the support during her illness and passing.

Many blessings, The Stuckey Family

Independence Overrated

It might have been humorous, if it hadn't hurt so much. One moment I was on my front porch. The next I was lying flat on my side, wedged between a bush and the house. In a split second, my 13-pound puppy had taken off after a bird, yanking me off my feet.

All it took was one ill-timed moment of distraction to transform me from a strong, reasonably healthy adult to a helpless, badly bruised victim of misfortune. Unable to move, I was pondering my dilemma when a strong hand reached down. My neighbor had rushed to my aid. Embarrassed but grateful, I accepted his help.

I'm not as independent or self-sufficient as I'd like to think I am. We were created to need and be needed. That isn't a bad thing. -Kari Myers

Office will be closed July 3 in observance of Independence day.

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, July 12 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.

Patriotic Trivia

As we celebrate America's birthday, it's interesting to note that clergymen wrote both the Pledge of Allegiance and the hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee." Rev. Francis Bellamy wrote the pledge in 1892. Rev. Samuel Francis Smith wrote the hymn in 1831. Both men were Baptist ministers.

The pledge was first used in public schools in 1892 during Columbus Day observances. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" was used as a national song before "The Star-Spangled Banner" was named America's national anthem in 1931.

Why Grandma Gave

One Sunday as she was getting ready for church, a grandmother received a call from her daughter. "Can you watch the kids while we're out of town next week?" the daughter asked.

Grandma was so thrilled she put an extra \$5 into the offering plate that morning.

The next Sunday, after her three young grandchildren had returned home, she put in an extra \$20.





East Columbus United Methodist Church
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Return Service Requested

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

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Pastor Email: jongmin.lee@inumc.org

Worship Director Email: music@eastcolumbusumc.org

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9:00 am - Worship Service

10:10am - Sunday School

OUR CHURCH MISSION

Growing the Family of God by Making

Loving Disciples of Jesus Christ.