

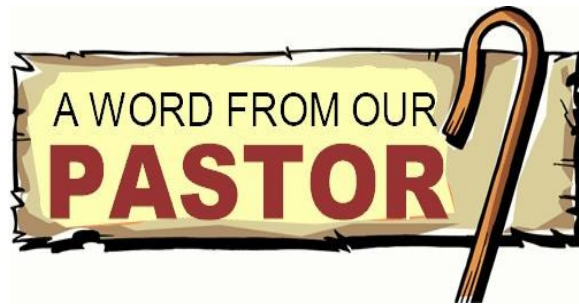


East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

AUGUST 2026





Caring for What God Has Entrusted to Us

May the peace of God always be with you.

In these days, we have been reflecting together on the story of the early church through the Book of Acts. As we look at the life of the early church, we learn how God forms and shapes a community of faith. The believers prayed and worshiped together, boldly proclaimed the gospel, and faithfully cared for one another.

Acts 4 tells us that the believers were “of one heart and soul.” They did not think only of their own needs. When needs arose within the community, they responded with love and generosity. Their devotion was not forced, nor was it offered in order to receive the praise of others. It was a joyful response to the grace they had received through Jesus Christ.

Through the example of the early church, we learn this important truth: the church is not merely a building. The church is people. It is a community, a community that God has entrusted to us. We are called to help one another, care for one another, and faithfully carry out the mission God has given to this church.

At this time, our church is facing a significant financial need as we prepare to repair the church roof. To meet this need, we are joining together through a special offering. Many of you are already praying for the church, giving generously, and faithfully supporting this effort. I pray that even more people will be moved by their love for the church to participate in this campaign. Regardless of the amount, every gift is an expression of love for the church and a sign of our desire to faithfully support the ministry God has entrusted to us.

We must also remember that we do all of this with gratitude. We give thanks for the grace God has shown us, for the blessing of living out our faith within a loving community, and for the many ways God protects and cares for us throughout our lives. My prayer is that our commitment to God may flow from hearts filled with gratitude for all these gifts.

Just as the early church overcame great challenges through faith, love, and unity, I pray that we too may continue building up this community with the same spirit. Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, prayers, and love for the church.

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

In the Grace of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



There have been two different extremes in churches in my lifetime neither of which reflects the heart of Christ. One condemns repentant sinners where they feel hopeless. The other affirms unrepentant sin as though repentance is not necessary.

A friend recently sent me a link to a video from a pastor she likes. The pastor shared some of the hurts he had experienced and recounted one in particular that happened many years ago. He shared how one of his sons made him a grandfather before the son was married. The child was conceived and born outside of marriage. He took the matter before the church and told them that his son had sinned. He didn't try to excuse his son's sin. Rather, he acknowledged that sin is sin and that it had happened. Although he had raised his son the best way he knew how and had tried to set a godly example, his son went through a rebellious period, and he and his girlfriend had a baby. It broke the pastor's and his wife's hearts. He felt like he was a failure. He said many people left the church because of it. They felt he wasn't fit to be a pastor. When he was broken and needed help the most, many refused to be there for him.

He stated that today the little girl who was born outside of marriage has both a mother and father, as his son married his girlfriend many years ago. The granddaughter is now preaching the gospel and was helping at a Christian festival. She spends time in her room learning Christian songs because she wants to be part of a worship team. Among what the pastor says he has learned is: "That God gives beauty for ashes, that God's grace is sufficient, that the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin."

The church, in general, has not always responded to sin correctly.. In past decades, people who sinned were often shunned and, in some cases, essentially excommunicated. Hopefully, those churches were trying to make it clear that the person had done wrong and that they did not want to appear to support the sin. Yet where was Christ's love shown to that person? The message may well have been perceived as, "You messed up. There is no hope for you anymore." I wonder how many people who stumbled left and never returned to any church.

The opposite extreme is often found today. Those churches support unrepentant sin, refusing even to call it sin and sometimes celebrating it along with the people involved. Those who are well-intentioned, or who don't want to hurt anyone's feelings (or experience the discomfort of doing so), or who are afraid of losing members, are wrong as well. That kind of love, I fear, will love people straight to hell.

I have also seen churches in recent decades get it right. A former classmate's daughter became pregnant outside of marriage, and the church showed her love and even threw her a baby shower. I presume that somewhere along the way she was told that, although she had made a mistake, she had at least chosen not to end the baby's life and was turning things around. Some in previous generations might have viewed that as too permissive, but to me that is the right way to handle it, provided the daughter understands that what she did was wrong (even if those conversations happened privately with her parents months later) and the rest of the congregation understands that it was not God's design. Teaching their own children about biblical standards is ultimately the responsibility of the other parents.

If the church ever reaches the point where sinners aren't allowed through the doors, or are kicked out whenever they mess up, then we have lost our mission. That isn't to say those living in unrepentant, continual, rebellious sin should be allowed to lead. But if perfection and sinlessness are prerequisites for serving, then Jesus will be doing it all alone.

I also feel for the pastor at the beginning of this story. From my understanding, he made sure to acknowledge that what happened was sin and did not try to excuse it simply because it involved his own son. Thankfully, he remained the pastor, even though many people left the church—people who may well have had beams in their own eyes. He and his wife suffered. His son, daughter-in-law, and perhaps even his granddaughter may have suffered as well. Yet God brought something good out of the situation anyway. I hope his son and daughter-in-law are still faithfully serving the Lord somewhere. It sounds like they may be.

God, help us to show the love of Christ while also remaining faithful to Your truth. And help us remind those who fall that, through repentance and faith in Christ, there is still hope.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



The boys had a wonderful time at summer camp this year. There were a lot of merit badges earned. We had five scouts attend Summer Camp at Maumee Scout Reservation. I worked all 6 weeks of camp this year. Boys received their Radio Merit badge, Multi Sport Merit badge (like a triathlon), and Cycling Merit badge. I lead a weekly 22-mile gravel road ride for about ten scouts and leaders on bicycles on the roads through the Hoosier National Forest. We even had them climb to the top of the Hickory Ridge

Lookout Tower. It is the only tower that is left standing in the Hoosier National Forest. We also stopped at the Hickory Grove Church. It is a neat log cabin church that is open to the public. We had all the scouts sign the visitor's book on each ride. We also had four scouts work as merit badge counselors this year. Tucker Higham worked in the Aquatic's area, Jonathon Hynes (who lives in Florida) helped me in my area at Eagle Landing this year. Julius Fox (JD) and Nathan Rupert worked as a counselor in training this year. Belinda, Roger, Kordell, and I are very proud of these young men to volunteer their time to give back to scouting. They will be able to help others learn what they have learned by participating in scouts.

Since our trip to Minnesota in the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe got cancelled this year, 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



Did you know ...

Anger weakens your liver

weakens your lungs

Worry weakens your stomach

Fear weakens your kidneys

Stress weakens your heart and brain

BUT ...

A relationship with God

Brings life, joy, peace, love and eternal life in heaven!

Joshua 24:15 ...

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. "

May the Lord continue to bless you Timothy



august

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	3	4 10am-Prayer Hr		6 6:30pm-Scouts	7	8
9 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm - Grace's Table	10	11 10am-Prayer Hr	12 6pm-Choir	13 6:30pm-Scouts	14	15
16 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	17	18 10am-Prayer Hr	19 6pm-Choir	20 6:30pm-Scouts	21	22
23 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	24	25 10am-Prayer Hr	26 6pm-Choir	27 6:30pm-Scouts	28	29
30 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	31					



Aug. 3....Wanda Bray

“ 4....Tim Horn

“ 5....Karen Snyder

“ 9....Gini Jessup

“ 27....Carl Miller

“ 30....Larry McIntosh

News



From the Mail Box...

Dear ECUM, You are so very special to me. Thank you for your love and support. Keep the faith and pray God will restore abundance to ECUM. Love you all, Sharon Johnson

Love Chapel

Love Chapel invites you to the Love Chapel Community Fair on Sunday, August 23, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Donner Park Pavilion.

This free community event is designed to bring people together for an afternoon of food, fun, fellowship, and connection.

Here's what you can look forward to:

- *free burgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and all the fixings
- *bounce houses and activities for children
- *Community organizations and vendors sharing local resources and information
- *vouchers for treats from Miss Rachel's Neat Treats and Snow Biz Snow Cones
- *love broadcasting throughout the event by the Bridge FM
- *an optional community worship service from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the shelter house

Church Roof Update



"Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" Luke 11:9

As we prayerfully continue to seek God's guidance and direction, blessings are pouring in to help meet the insurance deductible goal of \$53,146. We have currently received \$16,860. Thank you to all who have given above and beyond! We ask for your continued prayers for the needs of the church, church leadership and the safety of the workers.

Here's what's happening!

The first day of the 26-27 school year begins August 5.

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday,

August 9, 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.

A Month of Sundays

"August is like the Sunday of summer," an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week—a chance to sleep in, do "nothing," relax and play—then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the work-week is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed "August is like the Sunday of summer." God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

-Heidi Mann



East Columbus United Methodist Church
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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.