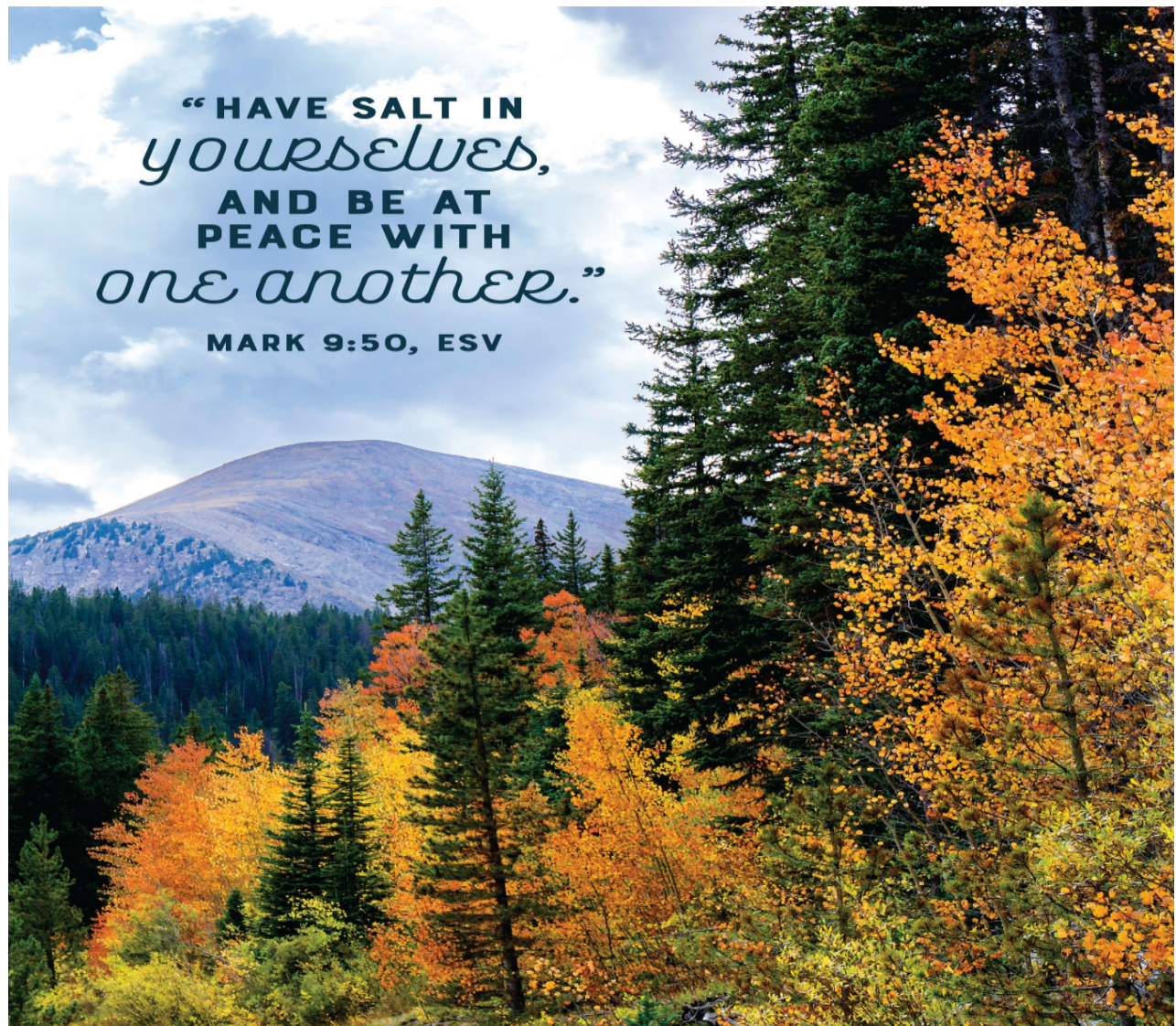




East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

SEPTEMBER 2026





We Are God's Instruments

May the peace of God always be with you.

While I was praying and reflecting at church, the Lord placed this thought on my heart: "We are God's instruments."

At times, we try hard to prove ourselves in life. Ministry is no different. We may look at Peter, through whose preaching about three thousand people came to the Lord in a single day, or at great evangelists who baptized countless people, and find ourselves longing for that kind of accomplishment so that we, too, can prove ourselves. But when that happens, "God" can easily be pushed aside, while our "own ego" takes center stage.

God teaches us to remember this: We are God's instruments. God uses us where He desires and in the ways that best fit His purpose. If I am carrying out a particular calling right now, then that is the ministry God has allowed and entrusted to me. At times, we are also afraid of failure. But think about this. If something goes wrong while a tool is being used, the problem is not with the tool itself. The responsibility belongs to the one using it.

But then think again: Can God make a mistake? God never makes mistakes. Whether it is a screwdriver or an impact driver, God chooses the perfect tool for the work He intends to accomplish. We are God's instruments. Some of us may be like Phillips screwdrivers, while others may be like wrenches. Some may be like frying pans, and others like simple kitchen sponges. What is certain is that God knows the purpose He has for each of us, and He uses us where we are needed.

So I encourage you to continue faithfully in the ministry you are doing now, with confidence and courage. There is no such thing as a calling that is too small or insignificant. Even picking up a small piece of trash lying around the church can be a precious act of service to God.

The Scripture says:

"Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work." (2 Timothy 2:21)

We can become God's hands. We can become God's feet. At times, we can even become God's voice. Let us lay down our own egos. A tool does not seek recognition; it simply rests in the hands of its master and serves its purpose. Imagine that there is someone in your neighborhood whom God wants to visit with a warm and gracious word, or perhaps someone whose hand God wants to gently hold. Who will become God's voice for that person? Who will become God's hands? We will. We are the ones through whom God extends His love and carries out His work in the world.

I invite you to think about the places where God's touch may be needed, in your home, your workplace, your neighborhood, and your community. I pray that we would become God's hands in those places and carry His love to those around us.

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

In the grace of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



I recently vacuumed, and the cleaner didn't seem to be picking up. I detached the main hose, and there was good suction there, but the short hose near the wheels was a different story. There were several clogs, or perhaps one huge one. I pulled out probably three clumps to get it clear, at least to the eye.

The vacuum still didn't audibly sound like the suction was as strong as it should be. It did pick up, though. My sister had last used it and vacuumed while I was at work, finding a clog somewhere and clearing it. I suspect that was in the larger main hose. It made me wonder where the clog started and how long it had been accumulating.

I thought about sin. Sometimes one, or even multiple, "small" things will enter our lives. Maybe it is a compromise here, or a "that's no big deal," or "I am not murdering anyone or stealing." Maybe we think we can go up to the proverbial line and won't cross it. These compromises, or things not addressed, can grow over time. Before we know it, they have become a much bigger problem. The gradual buildup may make us not notice how far it has grown until it becomes a huge thing that finally has to be dealt with.

I think about things in the Bible like the love of money being the root of all evil. We have seen some people gamble and lose everything, or make money the main focus of their lives to the point that they neglect their families or even God in order to accumulate more wealth. They may take advantage of workers or put profits ahead of treating people the way they should.

Then there is the one about looking at a woman with lust being the same as adultery in the heart. I don't think there are very many of us men who haven't failed that one. God says it; discussion over.

While I am not arguing with God about it being wrong, that didn't make much sense to me earlier in life. To me, actually doing it seemed more harmful than the feeling or even thoughts. Beyond the intent of the heart, I also think the mere thoughts are in danger of becoming deeds. I think of King David. He saw Bathsheba bathing, and the thoughts from that moment of compromise took root. Before he knew it, he had gotten her pregnant, seen to it that her innocent and faultless husband was killed, and taken Bathsheba for himself. He still didn't even realize the depths of his actions when Nathan told him the story in the form of a parable. It wasn't until Nathan rebuked him and told him, "You are the man," that David realized what he had done. To his credit, he did "wake up" once confronted and realized his error. Contrast that with Joseph, who made tracks when presented with temptation by Potiphar's wife. He didn't pray for God to give him strength while he stayed where the temptation was; he left.

I liken this to an alcoholic. The smart ones don't even keep alcohol in the house or go places where it is served. It is much easier to combat temptation if it takes much more effort to participate in the sin. Sin is too available at our fingertips today. Folks can gamble, look at nudity or pornography, meet people online to cheat with, and God knows what else, all from home.

I am old enough to remember witnessing people buy adult magazines from stores. The covers were concealed behind the counter, and I suspect some sort of safeguards were in place in some stores to keep them from being seen by bystanders as they were purchased. I suspect some of the purchasers also tried to be discreet when getting them. I also remember seeing a curtained-off, as I recall, area in the old Video Pro store. I didn't really realize what it was then, but read in a local Facebook group a while back about it being an area where porn was kept.

Fast-forward to today, and there is so much available at our fingertips. There is no longer the stigma or the extra effort involved in doing some of those sins. There are advantages to the technology we have today, too, but we must be even more aware of the devil and his devices and put up safeguards to shut them down immediately. For that matter, I need to look more closely at the vacuum to ensure the clog has totally been removed, lest it become a bigger problem again. I suspect my sister's unclogging hadn't solved the entire issue. Not addressing the remaining sin in our lives can have the same results.

The simple children's song **"Oh Be Careful, Little Eyes"** spells it out. I don't have the space to put the lyrics in here, but it mentions being careful what our eyes see, our ears hear, our tongues say, our hands do, and our feet go.

That sounds like great advice to me.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



The troop went to Wright Patterson Air Museum. We had a great time. We saw a lot of cool early airplanes and engines. There were rockets and missiles. Even the space shuttle replica was on display.

September 3rd

Thursday, September 3rd is our Cub Scout Join Night for our scout troop. Any boy or girl can join the cub scouts and learn basic scouting skills, pine wood derby races, campouts and field trips. If you know any kids from 5 years old to 10 years old, they should show up with their parents at the youth center to see what cub scouts can offer.



Join Our Troop

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 is Thursday, 6:30–8pm in the Youth Center.

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

Come and Join the Fun!





Ever shopped for a new pillow?

I really dislike shopping for a new pillow. But when the current one was losing more stuffing than it was holding in, I had to give up and make that slow trek to at least a dozen different stores searching for just that right pillow.

But in my search I got thinking about all of the Bible characters that we have learned about and their sleeping situations.

Here's a few I thought of ... you might think of more ...

Jacob laid his head on a stone and as he slept he saw the angels descending and ascending to heaven on the ladder the songs call "Jacob's Ladder".

Peter slept in prison ... and he didn't have a pillow or even a stone on which to lay his head!

James and John slept in a garden ... they were supposed to be praying, however. But no mention of a pillow for either of them.

And Jesus, well, He slept on a boat in the middle of a storm! And I don't think he had a pillow with Him either.

The moral of the story ... ?

If the Lord is with you and protecting you, you'll be able to sleep just about anywhere, anytime!

So ... I think it's time to take a nap!!

Wishing you peaceful sleep Timothy



september



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



Sept 6..Susan Warner-Conway

“ 7..Darla Bozell

Roland Barringer

“ 8..Becky Mayfield

“ 9..Pete Grimm

“ 16..Charlotte Hadley

“ 28..Morris Percifield

News



From the Mail Box...

Here's what's
happening!

Office Closed Sept 7 in observance of Labor day.

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, Sept. 13, 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

Thursday, Sept 3 Trustee Meeting at 5:30pm.

Tuesday, Sept 15 Church Council Meeting at 6pm.

Divine Forgetfulness

For humans, forgetfulness can be frustrating and worrisome. Yet it can be a blessing to be able to forget certain things.

Author Gerhard E. Frost noted that "forgiveness is a beautiful form of forgetfulness" - a heaven-sent absent-mindedness.

For what is failure to forgive but the refusal to release a memory of someone's hurtful actions? Only by releasing old grudges and choosing to forget past wrongs can we find peace. For help, we can look to God as the ultimate example of "forgetting" sins.

Do Something

God wants our work to be meaningful and satisfying. No matter what we do, it should provide a reason to get up each day and use the talents God has given us. As Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who achieves makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing."

"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

Church Roof Update



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 \$29,650. 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.





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

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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.