



East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

OCTOBER 2026

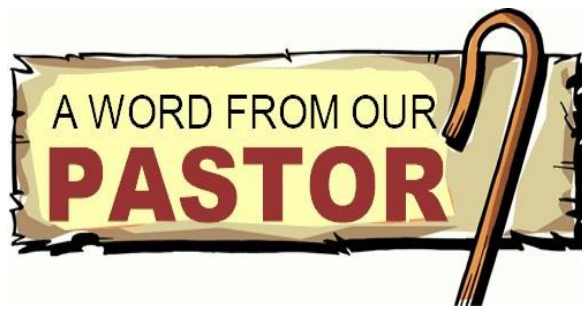
Therefore we do not lose heart.

Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being

RENEWED

day by day.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16, NIV



A Season of Letting Go

May the peace of God always be with you.

As autumn arrives, the leaves begin to change their colors and slowly fall from the trees. Autumn seems to teach us about change, and about how to move through the past, the present, and the future. We learn how to receive new things and gather the harvest, but we also learn how to let go and leave some things behind.

What are the things we need to let go of?

We hold on to painful memories from the past. We also hold on to worries about the future. And when God leads us down a different path from the one we wanted, our hearts can become filled with disappointment, regret, and resentment.

But faith teaches us how to let go. Sometimes, we realize that in order to hold on to God's hand, we must first let go of what we are holding in our own hands.

Letting go is not easy.

Often, what we must release is something precious to us, something we have treasured, or something we have held on to very tightly. That is why letting go requires faith. "I let this go. I now place everything in God's hands."

This confession of faith is what it means to let go.

A tree is not afraid of losing its leaves, because another season will come. We need to learn from this as well. Even in the moment when I let go of what I have been holding so tightly, God is still at work in my life, and He will hold my hand.

Ecclesiastes tells us that there is "a time to keep, and a time to throw away" (Ecclesiastes 3:6).

This autumn, I hope we can ask ourselves these questions:

"What am I still holding on to?"

"What worries do I need to entrust to God?"

"What wounds do I need to lay down before God so that I may receive His healing?"

As we honestly ask ourselves these questions, we can look deeply within, lay down our wounds, and receive the warm touch of God's grace. We let go of what is in our hands and, with empty hands, take hold of the hand of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us hold on to God's hand. Let us lay down the old wounds, regrets, and resentments that have made us sick within, and may we receive the new fruits of harvest that God will give us. Above all, let us trust God. Our good Lord will take care of your life and mine.

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

In the grace of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



I have bought the Equate brand of rubbing alcohol for several years. They changed the label design at least 2 times since. I admit that each change is probably an improvement visually (likely more appealing to consumers who may not have noticed the old), but the product itself is apparently the same on the inside, which is what matters the most.

I am sure several of you remember the attempt to replace Coca-Cola with the new formulation in 1985. They were losing market share and wanted to do something about it. The company apparently did studies that found that more people preferred the sweeter taste of Pepsi to Coca-Cola's formula. So they made the traditional Coke into a sweeter cola touted as new and improved.

Many traditional Coke fans revolted. Perhaps they found the new version "revolting" (pun intended). Some people looked all over, and snapped up what was left of the original Coke on the shelves, fearing it was all that would ever be available. Seeing the uproar, Coke re-released the earlier formula as Coke Classic within three months. But, either out of stubbornness, trying to save face, being convinced they were still right, or some other reason, kept New Coke around as well. It must have appealed to some (perhaps Pepsi drinkers) because it apparently lasted until 2002.

Let's make some parallels to churches and God's Word. I think of the alcohol label change in two ways. The label change may or may not have been necessary or helped their bottom line, but isn't inherently wrong. You get the same product inside. I think of this as churches who want to do things a new way. They keep God's Word and theology, simply making the packaging or presentation more modern or appealing to some. There is nothing wrong with that per se. It is a matter of taste. Some may prefer the traditional way, and they are free to still do things that way.

Sometimes things aren't broken, but churches want to change who they are to appeal to members they may never get (while offending those who they do have.) Other times, churches may hang on to things unimportant overall and refuse to change to something better simply because they have always done it that way. Imagine if churches refused to sing any songs since 1700, refused electricity, the internet, air conditioning, etc. They are certainly free to do so, but I am glad we don't. Making a change for the worse just because it is new is not really wise, but neither is ignoring a better way simply out of stubborn refusal or tradition.

Granted, not every change works for every church or situation, so it is best to do what works best for each rather than changing simply because someone else is or because it is a newer idea.

In music, I don't judge songs by their birthdays. I am open to old and new. Some are better suited for listening than congregational singing, but even songs good for congregational singing may not fit us, while being great for others.

Now, let's look at the Coke situation. One could also say Coke was a matter of taste and liken it to different styles of churches (or even denominations). One could liken the choice between Coke Classic and New Coke in this way, but I also want to look at it deeper. In the Coke situation, the product was changed a lot. While it wasn't done secretly, acting like it was still Coke, it was done to appeal to folks. Some people, and sadly some churches, go beyond matters of taste, where there is usually probably no real eternal difference. Instead, they change God's Word (or at least avoid parts) to appeal to the world. It is saying God really didn't mean such and such, that it is in the Old Testament and therefore irrelevant, etc. There are many churches who tickle the ears or will not take biblical stances so as not to offend, or to be more appealing to the world, perhaps hoping to increase their numbers. In contrast to how Coke turned out, on face value these churches (to the world at least) may seem successful when looking at numbers. They may be seen as Godlike because they think of God as strictly love and make Him in their image, never thinking He has a holy and just side that has rules, standards, etc. and Who will face them on Judgment Day.

Don't get me wrong, God loved us enough to send His Son so that our records can be expunged. But He also is repulsed by evil and sin, and doesn't wink at it when we commit sin. He is forgiving AND just. He forgets our sins as far as the east is from the west, but he also told the woman committing adultery to go sin no more. God and the Bible are to be taken as a whole, not just the parts that go along with our own desires or beliefs. It may not always sit well with the world who wants a version of Jesus. It may not be as popular, but it is far more important to obey God than man regardless of how the world receives it or reacts to it.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



Oct 9th-10

This is our fall camporee that is being held at camp Louis Ernst. The theme is board games and other fun activities.

Oct 17th-19th

This is the annual Cub Scout Shoot-O-Ree. We always have fun at this event. This is a month later than normal, hopefully the weather will cooperate.

We had a cub scout join night recently. We have a new cub scout pack 549 that is meeting from 6:30 to 7:30pm on Thursdays the same night as the troop for now. We have over 12 new cub scouts that are having a lot of fun at the meetings. This will be our pack that will help scouts go from cub scouts into boy scouts. It is about a 50% mix of boys and girls.

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



Join Our Troop



Thank you, Lord ...

God, I couldn't have made it this far this year without You.

Thank you, Lord, for everything You've helped me to do.

**Thank you for the times You put Your hand across my mouth as You
put Your arm around my shoulders.**

Thank you for the peace when my world was in turmoil.

**Thank you for being in the same place that I left You when I wandered
away ... and for welcoming me home again.**

**As the year is quickly coming to a close, Lord, thank you for reminding
me that You've got this and I can rest easy.**

Thank you, Lord, when I forget to say thanks for all you've done!

Thank you Timothy



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm-Scouts	2	3
4 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	5	6 10am-Prayer Hr 5pm-Hot Meal @ Memorial Baptist Philathea Class	7 6pm- Choir	8 6:30pm-Scouts	9 BCSC Fall Break	10
11 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm - Grace's Table	12	13 10am-Prayer Hr 5pm-Hot Meal @ Memorial Baptist Fidelis Class	14 6pm-Choir	15 NO Scouts	16	17
		BCSC Fall Break	October 9-16			
18 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	19	20 10am-Prayer Hr 5pm-Hot Meal @ Memorial Baptist Round Table Class	21 6pm-Choir	22 6:30pm-Scouts	23	24
25 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	26	27 10am-Prayer Hr	28 6-7:30pm Hosting Charge Confer- ence @ ECUMC	29 6pm-Choir 6:30pm-Scouts	30	31 Halloween Trunk or Treat 5-7 pm



Oct. 6...Joyce Winters

" 10...Roger Warner

" 12...Wayne Jessup

" 14...Bev Grimm

" 23...Helen Conley

" 27...Dorothy Christophel

" 29...Dorothy Briner

News



From the Mail Box...

Love Chapel

Once again we are partnering with Love Chapel and collecting monetary donations for Love Chapel to purchase all the necessary items for the Christmas Food Baskets that are given to local families in need. The baskets will be distributed from November 30th to December 23rd. Families will receive their Christmas Basket when they visit the pantry. Love Chapel has the availability to purchase items at a much lower bulk rate cost. The baskets will be similar to last year's and will include a ham from Mariah, eggs from Rose Acres, soups, French fried onions, syrup, oil, pancake mix, brownie/cookie mixes, cranberry sauce, yams and more. The most costly part of each basket is the ham and eggs each family receives. The baskets are estimated at a cost of \$80 each.

We will be collecting monetary donations during the month of October, our goal is \$320 to sponsor 4 baskets.

Please make all checks payable to Love Chapel.



Here's what's
happening!

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, Oct. 11, 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

Sunday School Classes will be serving Hot Meals on Oct. 6, 13 and 20th at the Memorial Baptist Church.

ECUMC will be hosting Charge Conference on Wednesday, October 28 - 6-7:30 pm.



Trunk or Treat - Oct. 31, 5-7pm (inside the Youth Center).

Come and pass out candy to the children in our neighborhood. If you can't participate, but would like to donate bags of candy, please put them in the box under the coat rack.



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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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.