East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

DECEMBER 2026





Jesus, the Prince of Peace

May the peace of God always be with you.

December, the final month of 2026, has already arrived. As we come to the end of another year, we once again wait for the coming of baby Jesus and prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas.

Jesus came into this world as the Prince of Peace. He came because there was no true peace in this world. Wars continue between nations, and conflicts fill our relationships with one another. There is often no peace in our own hearts, either. We struggle with anxiety and fear, and we worry about the future. There was also no peace between God and humanity. Our relationship with God was broken and separated by sin.

Into this world, filled with brokenness, suffering, worries, pain, wars, famine, and sin, Jesus Christ came. He came to bring us peace. Yet even today, wars, famine, and conflicts continue. Anxiety still fills our hearts, and our sinful human nature continues to influence our lives.

But as Christians, we are called to trust in Jesus Christ and welcome Him into our hearts. When we truly believe that Jesus lives within us and is always with us, our anxiety begins to fade, and we can find true peace.

I, too, am still learning and practicing this faith and trust in my own life. From time to time, anxiety about the future and worries about life come into my heart. When I focus only on my problems instead of looking to Jesus Christ, my heart gradually becomes filled with anxiety, and I experience overwhelming stress. But when we turn our eyes away from our problems and fix them on Jesus, peace begins to fill our hearts.

The Apostle Paul reminds us:
"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV)

If you are feeling trapped by today's worries and anxieties, I want to remind you:
"Stop worrying. God's got you!"

Baby Jesus is coming. The One who knows each of our circumstances is coming. He comes as the Light who drives away the darkness within us and shines brightly into our lives. Let us wait for Him and welcome Him into our hearts.

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

In the grace of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin

MUSIC MINISTRY



A Note From Terry Snyder

Christmas will be here before we know it. Even those of us who are Christians aren't necessarily exempt from some of the more secular aspects of Christmas. One of those is gift-giving. Of course, I am talking about Christmas presents, but I am going to talk about gifts from God (beyond salvation, life, provision, protection, etc.). God gives each of us at least one gift that we should use to serve Him. Sometimes the way we use those gifts changes as we age (or at other points in our lives, such as going from being single to having children, or becoming an empty nester). We may also develop new gifts as we experience life.

Our choir involves people with many different gifts: voice, reading, a good ear, setting an example, serving their neighbor, low notes, high notes, volume, blending, diligence, following, leading, harmonizing, flexibility, experience, willingness to learn, and I am sure many more that are escaping me this early in the day as I type this. Although some gifts overlap, each person is unique. Some may be stronger in one area and weaker in another. I smile thinking about Jim Bozell and Mike Mattern years ago. Jim was an excellent note-reader. If he didn't get every note correct the first time he saw a song, he almost always did the second time. But Jim was weaker on rhythms which seemed strange since he was a math teacher. He would get basic rhythms fine, but trip up on some more complicated ones (syncopated ones, etc.). Mike, on the other hand, wasn't quite as strong at note reading (but certainly got them with practice). However, he was a wizard at rhythms (in part because he had been in band). I believe they used to joke that between the two of them, they made a pretty good bass.

1 Corinthians 12:12–27 addresses this type of thought by using the parts of the body as an illustration. Some parts seem more important than others, but all have a purpose. That is also true in a church, society, etc. A CEO may or may not appreciate the cafeteria workers or custodians (for instance). Some may not consider them at all; others may look at them as subhuman or worthless. But wait until someone undercooks their meal and they get sick, or those workers aren't there to fix a meal to begin with. What about emptying trash? Let's take that further to the city. What happens if no one picked up the trash for a week? We'd either have to take it to the dump ourselves if we have the right vehicle (and possibly have to pay), or be overrun with it. Even if we took that garbage to the dump, we would be inconvenienced, and dealing with it may take us away from something important to us (an important duty or something like spending time with loved ones). The trash collectors may wish they could be a CEO and may not realize how valuable their contributions are, but I know differently. Look at ambulance drivers. While doctors may help save a person's life, that person has to be taken to them first. Sometimes the EMTs may directly save a life or stabilize someone until the person gets to the hospital. These examples show that even those in positions that may be seen as less important not only contribute but may also make it possible for others to fulfill their roles. To me, that makes them part of a team and gives them a role in the final result. I get frustrated at those who look down on people they feel are in lesser positions or places in society. Some may think plumbers, for instance, are beneath them, but wait until their toilets are plugged up or leaking, or their water heater stops working. Sometimes the seemingly small gifts have great importance, but all are valuable.

Churches are the same way. Some people may be more visible in how they serve and contribute. It may be singing in the choir or the praise team, preaching, ushering, being a liturgist, leading a children's moment or teaching children's church, leading the service, teaching Sunday school, etc. Some may work more behind the scenes, and you don't notice them until something hasn't been done or a mistake has been made. (There is a joke about a sound guy being invisible until there is a problem. Then people are aware of them.) There may be some roles that are a mixture of seen and unseen, such as running the camera or slides. The people operating them are seen by those in the balcony, but may go unnoticed by those who are not. Others may be less visible to some, like administrative work, getting the place clean and looking nice, decorating, financial backing, committees (leading or contributing), having a vision for the church, leadership of the church, managing the finances, stocking the food pantry and blessing box, repairing, unlocking or locking doors, making coffee, setting up refreshments, attending our services, and fixing meals at Grace's Table. Prayer is another very important contribution, but one that may be largely unknown to anyone else.

DO NOT underestimate the importance of prayer. Maybe some people are not able to help physically or even be present in person, but they can contribute in other ways. Prayer is one of those ways. So many battles are fought spiritually, and prayer is a means of defense or even an offensive weapon against satan and his plans. Others can call or visit the sick or homebound, prepare meals for funerals and the like, send cards, encourage, teach, and set the example by living Godly lives or testifying.

Forgive me if I have failed to mention ways you have served or are serving. Even though I have been up for hours, I am still not fully awake, and my fingers wouldn't keep up with my brain even if I were. So, one way may come to mind, but I may not get it typed down before I'm already typing about another one. I can assure you it isn't from a lack of appreciation.

We as a church benefit not only from the many who serve today, but also from those who contributed before us. The whole body hurts if one part doesn't do its part. It is important to note that the way we serve often changes with our age, health, and current place in life. That doesn't mean we can no longer serve, or that we don't still have things of value to contribute. I heard it once said that you will know that God isn't through with you if you are still breathing. Some may feel they have nothing to contribute, but God and others disagree.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL
Troop 549



In November we had a great trip to Ray's Mountain bike park in Cleveland, Ohio. We had some of the out of state scouts come up and go to Rays with us. We even had a scout that used to be in our troop go with us. We had a great time.

November 14 was a merit badge day. We had 3 scouts that earned a couple of Eagle Scout required merit badges.

December 11-13
This is our annual Winter Cabin at Camp Louis Ernst campout. We have invited the cub scouts that want to join us. There will be a lot of fun games and good memories to be made. We look forward to it each year. This is by far the scouts second favorite event. Summer camp is first.

December 17th
This is the yearly Christmas party during our scout meeting. We will invite the cub pack to participate in our Bingo games to win prizes. There is a gift exchange for the scouts that want to participate. We always have a lot of fun this night.

If you know any girls or 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. Ages need to be 5 years old for Cub Scouts and 11 years old to join and less than 18. Meeting time is Thursday at 6:30 – 8:00 at the Youth Center.

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





Christmas is coming … are YOU ready??

Before you groan and get stressed over all the prep needed and lynch me here … give me a moment to explain.

What do you do to prep for the traditional Christmas holiday?

Maybe …

Decorate inside and out? Bake, cook, clean, buy gifts which you wrap in brightly colored paper maybe with beautiful ribbons and bows.

Send the traditional Christmas letter of all the happenings of the year or maybe just Christmas cards to people with whom you rarely see or speak.

So … the big day comes and goes … what's left?

Maybe …

A mess of torn paper, ribbons and bows

Christmas cards barely appreciated or read

Gifts that you didn't really need and have no place to store

Leftover food and baked goods that will take a month to consume … providing there is sufficient room in the fridge for it all!

Sounds like a lot of work to me!

What's missing from the celebration(s)?

Hmmm … where was Jesus? I didn't see Him during the planning phase and I didn't see Him during the celebration phase. What did you do to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth?

Beyond all the prep and the celebrations, did you take a moment to clear your heart of worldly things … things that seems oh so important … did they fill your life and your heart leaving no room for Jesus?

At the Inn, they shoved Him to a small, cold stable. Have you moved Jesus from the center of the celebration to a small corner of your heart and mind? Or is He front and center of everything that Christmas is really all about?

This year … I'm going to do my best to put Jesus first … and if the house isn't clean or the gifts wrapped spectacularly, who cares??

Who's with me … Let's bring Jesus from the corner and put Him at the center of Christmas this year!!

Merry Christmas …. Timothy

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am - Prayer Hr	**2** 6pm- Choir	**3** 6pm-Cantata Rehearsal 6:30pm-Scouts	**4**	**5**
6 **Communion** **2nd Sun. Advent** 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sun. School **5pm-Soup Supper & Caroling to Shut-ins**	**7**	**8** 10am - Prayer Hr	**9** 6pm- Choir	**10** 6pm-Cantata Re-hearsal 6:30pm-Scouts	**11**	**12**
13 **3rd Sun Advent** 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sun. School **5pm-Grace's Table**	**14**	**15** 10am - Prayer Hr	**16** 6pm-Choir	**17** 6pm-Cantata Rehearsal 6:30pm-Scouts	**18**	**19**
20 **4th Sun Advent** **9am-Christmas Cantata** 10:10am- Sun. School	**21**	**22** 10am - Prayer Hr	**23** 6pm-Choir	**24** **5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**		**26**
	BCSC Winter Break December 21—January 5					
27 9am10-Worship 10:am-Sun. School	**28**	**29** 10am-Prayer Hr	**30** 6pm-Choir	**31** ***Office Open Until Noon*** **NO Scouts**		
		BCSC Winter Break				



December 5...Bryan Reed

14…..Tom Schuyler

15…..Leslie Hollis

20…..Patsy Cox

28…..Kathy Warner

Mary Gorman

30…..Katie Niespodziani

News

From the Mail Box…

How far to Christmas?

How far is it to Christmas Day?
The journey's just as long
as taking time to listen
to a joyful angel song.
It's just as far as one can go
in doing a loving deed
that helps someone feel better
or that meets their special need.
For Christmas is a journey
that the heart makes every year.
It starts right with your family
and those you hold so dear.
It travels on to strangers
'round the world to everyone
with the message that God loves us
and that's why he's sent his Son!

-Peggy Ferrell

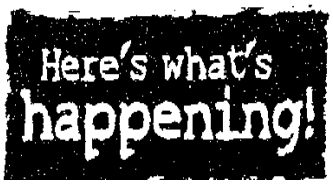
What's on your list?

A little smile, a word of cheer,
A bit of love from someone near,
A little gift from one held dear,
Best wishes for the coming year…
These make a Merry Christmas!



-John Greenleaf Whittier





Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, December 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 Doors.



Sunday, Dec. 6, Soup Supper will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm. Immediately after supper, we will travel to several shut-ins to bless them with Christmas Carols. A sign up sheet is located in the Information Area for items needed for the supper.



On December 20 the choir will present the Cantata, Majesty of Heaven.

There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5pm in the Sanctuary.

ECUMC participated again this year in the packing of shoe boxes for children around the world. ECUMC collected 24 shoe boxes.

Love Chapel Christmas Basket collection total this year was $1020.



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.