

East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



*Pray
for the
New Year*

New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

On the same day I ran across two separate articles in different places on the news web pages I frequent. One was about a pastor in Northern Ireland being prosecuted for preaching about Islam. Here is the article in part.

The trial of an evangelical preacher accused of making “grossly offensive” remarks about Islam has begun.

Pastor James McConnell denies two charges relating to a sermon he gave in a Belfast church last year.

Belfast Magistrates’ Court heard that Pastor McConnell called Islam “satanic” and “heathen.” His remarks were made at the Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle in north Belfast in May 2014 and were streamed online.

Pastor McConnell, 78, of Shore Road in Newtownabbey, County Antrim, is charged with improper use of a public electronic communications network and causing a grossly offensive message to be sent by means of a public electronic communications network.

The prosecution against Pastor McConnell centers on his remarks about not trusting Muslims. In a sermon criticizing Islam in May last year, the pastor said: “I don’t trust them (Muslims).” A prosecution barrister told the court this meant the pastor was saying he did not trust a single Muslim.

Then there was this article:

An Iraqi based group is declaring that more than thirty-eight cases of infants with congenital deformities and Down Syndrome have reportedly been killed by ISIS after a Fatwa was issued by an Islamic State judge.

Mosul Eye, a news agency operating out of the region, declared that most of the children with disabilities threatened by the Islamic State are those of “foreign fighters who married Iraqi, Syrian and Asian women.”

The Iraqi based news outlet is reporting that there has been more than 38 confirmed cases of killing babies between one week and three months who had congenital deformities and Down Syndrome.

The reports, which originated from a single source, have not been confirmed by independent or government agencies.

The infants were reportedly killed by either lethal injection or suffocation in Syria and Mosul.

The Fatwa was issued by one of ISIL’s Sharia judges, a Saudi named Abu Said Aljazrawi, according to Mosul Eye.

I believe the second report proves the pastor was preaching the absolute truth but what does that matter to a world lost in darkness. Please pray for Pastor McConnell.

Pastor Charlie



*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

The beginning of the year is seen as a time of a new start or "an empty slate." People will start off with the best of intentions, and have probably usually failed by the end of the month. But, we will often get back on the proverbial horse after falling off (although it might be the beginning of the next year).

Starting over can be great when we have failed. Who among us have not needed a fresh start? As we have all likely heard multiple times, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." That is the whole reason Christ came to earth and died for our sins. But, starting over and getting forgiven for sins doesn't negate the consequences of our sins at times. Sometimes those consequences are ones we continue to pay for, sometimes someone else, or sometimes both.

I have occasionally heard of people forgiving people who have murdered or killed loved ones. Sometimes this can be accidental (car failure), sometimes unintentional even if neglect or wrongdoing was done on their part (not keeping the car maintained, texting, drinking, speeding, reckless driving etc.) or other times intentional (murder). I personally think that the first of these would be the easiest and each one up would be harder as we can see the person's role of lack of intent, omission or commission and what their intent was.

Looking at it from the "offender's" side, forgiveness from the victim's side could sure take a weight off. Forgiveness from God would take it up another level as He is the one who holds our fate in His hands. That type of a fresh start would be a blessing. But, we should not forget the victim's side. That person is still suffering a loss, and even if they do forgive as they are supposed to, are still affected over that loss (unless God supernaturally intervenes in either bringing that person back to life or removes all pain from the survivor) which I think is rare. Although God can certainly help those people cope, I think there is still usually residual pain at times from the loss (until they get to Heaven). While, not everything is that extreme, there are sins that we do whose effects are felt by others. It can be a couple getting divorce, rumors/gossip, destroying irreplaceable sentimental property, careless words, and the list goes on. I wonder sometimes if we fail to take that in account when we are given a "fresh start." Of course it is best if we take that in account and not do the sin to begin with, but we are human and are bound to fail at times. I also wonder if we ever give thought to that sin again, and go on with our lives never giving the injured party another thought. Now, it is a fine line because God wants to free us from the burden of that sin. He doesn't want us moping around or carrying that burden after He has forgiven us, yet I think it is good to know what our sin has done and attempt to make things right and whole as best we can. I also think it can help us not want to do it again.

I have heard an analogy before of God being a judge in a court of law, finding us guilty, but then stepping down and taking the punishment we deserve. That is a great analogy on the eternal side, but I think sometimes we still get the punishment down here. As stated earlier, sometimes we pay the consequences of our sins (not eternally, but here in this life). An alcoholic who gets delivered might still have liver damage (although God can heal that if He chooses). Relationships can be shattered even if the victim forgives, trust is often gone. We might still have to even go to (or stay in) jail even if the victim forgives us for a crime. Make no mistake, I do not mean to imply that God doesn't forgive or that we are doomed after failing, but I am stating what sin can do. The devil knows it, and loves to destroy. In fact, I can look to Adam and Eve's initial sin. Although it is my belief that Adam and Eve went to Heaven (presuming they were saved), they still paid the penalty on this earth for their sin. In fact, we are paying for that wrong decision from them to this day. It is far easier to fight sin like Joseph did (by making tracks and removing the temptation) than the stay and hope for strength. It is far better to not sin, than to do so and then get forgiveness. But it is great to know that God is faithful and just to offer that forgiveness when we do fail.



by Paula Turnbow

Memory Bible Verse:
“Remember how the Lord
your God led you all the way.”

Deuteronomy 8:2

Inventory Time!

As you look back over the past year, do you see things God would be happy about that you did? Ask Him to help you do those things again. Do you maybe see some poor choices? Ask Him to help you to not repeat those in 2016.



Logan Skinner

Christ is born! He is born indeed and has come to make all things new! Come and join us in the new year as we begin our study of Christ and his many titles. In addition to our new study, we will be incorporating worship into the mix and making sure that our focus is renewed on Christ and his plan for our lives. So, come find out what it means for Christ to be called the Word, the Light, and many other names in the coming weeks. Bring your Bible, a quiet heart, and a friend to share in what God has to show us this coming season. God Bless you all and Happy New Year!

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 Christmas Circus Pizza/ Movie Party for Christmas Cir- cus families— 4-8 pm- Fellow- ship Hall
3 Communion Regular Services	4 9am-UMW Service Group	5 1pm-Bible Study 7pm-Miriam Circle	6 5:15pm- Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	7 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	8 6:30-9pm-Family Game Night Fellowship Hall	9
10 Regular Services FCJ Step 3 vote at the conclusion of 10:40 am service.	11 9am-UMW Service Group	12 1pm-Bible Study	13 5:15pm- Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	14 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	15	16 8am-Men's Breakfast
17 Regular Services	18 9am-UMW Service Group	19 1pm-Bible Study	20 5:15pm- Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Reh. 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	21 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	22	23
24 Regular Services	25 9am-UMW Service Group	26 1pm-Bible Study 6:30pm-Church Council Mtg. 7pm-Ecum. Assg. Mtg.	27 5:15pm- Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Reh. 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	28 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	29	30
31 Regular Services	↓					



HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL TROOP 549

Troop Calendar:

December 11-13: Campout at Camp Louis Ernst

January 3: Snow Tubing

February 7: Scout Sunday

December's campout was very warm for this time of year. We had 6 boys and 2 adults. We also invited Troop 585 to join us and they brought 5 boys and 2 adults. A great time with fire building and compass course and other games.

January 3 will be our tubing time. A great way to close out being out of school for two weeks.

February 7 we will be joining you for Scout Sunday.

As always if any member of the church that is interested in Scouting, be it a boy or adult we will be glad for your visit and interest.

Boys age need to be 11 years old to join and less than 18.

Meeting time is Thursday's at 6:30 – 8:00 at the Youth Center.

Roger Schaefer
Scoutmaster
812-342-3583 H
812-350-9707 C

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1.... Sean Staples

4.... Ed Bridgewater
Kevin Bozell

8.... Mark Parks
Yeri Batres Wright

10.... Marjorie Tully

11.... Steven Bloomer
Wyatt Miller

13.... Drew Helton

14.... Nellie Rager
Samantha Whittington

16.... Jacob Bense
River Steele

19.... Samantha Walker

20.... Julie Varvel

21.... Sharon Taylor

22.... Chuck Conley

23.... Ruth Crossland

25.... Walter Thomas

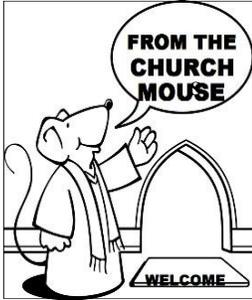
26.... Tommy Bray
John Tully

28.... Phyllis Byrnes
Colton Jordan

30.... Claire Perry
Stephanie Tetrick

31.... Wilma Growe
Kimberly Wright





Happy New Year!!

“The facts are unimportant! It’s what they are perceived to be that determines the course of events.”
– R. Earl Hadady

This little mouse saw this quote and thought immediately of our country’s politicians! No matter which side you’re on...they want you to believe that their interpretation of the “facts” are better, more accurate, less damning than the other side which is why you need to vote for them and not that other guy.

But politics aside ... the fact is ... if you don’t know Jesus, you’re going to lose!

Don’t know about you ... but this little mouse likes to win!

So I’m inviting you ... right this minute ... wherever you are reading this ... to join the winning team ... accept Jesus into your life and let Him take control! I’m not going to promise you that the road will be smooth without any bumps or dips. I’m not going to promise you there’ll be no valleys of uncertainty or no mountains to cross. But I will promise you that for every step you take, He’ll be right beside you ... to guide your steps, to pick you up when you stumble, to hold your hand through the valleys and to rejoice with you on the mountaintop!

And if you already walk with Jesus ... take just a moment to praise Him for all He’s done for you.

Let’s start 2016 off with a bang ... join the Jesus team!

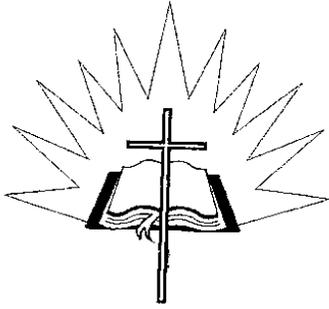
Till next month.....*Timothy*

My Morning Prayer

What guidance is God giving
For my living of this day?
Will I help someone who’s needy?
Will I have kind words to say?

Will outrageous acts of kindness
Be the gifts that I can share?
Let YOUR will, God, be mine today,
Help me to love and Care!

Peggy Ferrell, Poems, Prayers & Hymns



Applying Bible Principles

As we saw recently, our giving is to be done in secret. That kind of giving causes our Heavenly Father, who sees in secret, to reward us openly. If we draw attention to ourselves and to our giving, we will receive the praise of other people, but unfortunately, that praise then becomes all the reward we will receive.

But the Apostle Paul describes generous giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6-14 as something that will cause other people to praise God for our generosity. They will thank Him for our obedience that causes us to give in such a manner that the gospel is shared with them.

What a difference. On the one hand, if we attract attention to ourselves and our giving, people will praise us, and that's the end of it. On the other, if we live quietly and generously, any attention that action gains will cause people to praise God for us!

The Lord Jesus described a situation like that. Mary anointed Him with a costly perfume. Some criticized her because it seemed like a waste. After all, the perfume could have been sold and the money used for the poor. Was Mary crazy or what?

One writer summed up her actions this way:

Generous giving to the Lord may be labeled fanatical by others. But Jesus labeled it "love." In fact, He was so moved by the woman's giving that he vowed "wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

So today, centuries later, just as Jesus said, we still remember Mary's devotion and generous giving.

What will people remember you for? Will it be for your accomplishments in life? Will it be for your talents and abilities? Will it be for your work with the poor and needy? Will it be for the ministry you have had for Christ here at East Columbus United Methodist Church? Will it be for your efforts to share the gospel with people along life's way? Will it be for your generous giving?

Or stated another way, what do you *want* people to remember you for? You see, your answer to that question to a significant degree becomes a "self-fulfilling prophecy." Do you *want* to be remembered for your generous giving? Then start now where you are...

News



From the Mail Box...

Thank you for all the love and care you gave to our Aunt during her lifetime. The Peace lily you gave was beautiful. Her Church family meant everything to her.

-The family of Zola Miller

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement for Helen Reed's funeral. Thank you also for the wonderful dinner after the funeral and to the ladies who helped prepare it. It was very much appreciated. It is so wonderful to have so many friends in the Church family.

-The family of Jane Reed

Thank you Caring Ministries and Tom & Mary Gorman for the beautiful Poinsettias.

-Angie

Word has been received that Pastor McKinney former pastor of ECUMC passed away November 24.

Thank you to our Church Family for keeping us in your thoughts, prayers, for all the cards and the lovely Peace Lily during the passing of our mother, Lola Waltz. A special thank you to Pastor Charlie for all the visits and the ladies who provided the wonderful dinner.

-With love, Lois and Butch Mires & Phyllis and Ron Byrnes.

Thank you for your donation of 13 beautiful baby blankets & God bless all of you. - Pregnancy Care Center

Thank you for the wonderful and much needed donation of socks, pillows, and blankets. -Turning Point

Love Chapel thanks ECUMC members for the contributions of produce and other food items last summer.

Thank you to Sharon Brown for helping with the food and having it ready for all those who went caroling to our shut-ins.

Thank you to the Fidelis Class for providing the cookies on Christmas Sunday.

Arielle Raine Aigner was baptized at ECUMC on Sunday, December 27, 2015. Daughter of Tom & Allison Aigner and Granddaughter of Pastor Charlie & Judy.

WELCOME
New Members

Jan & Oran Foley transferred membership to East Columbus United Methodist from Russell Springs United Methodist Church, KY, December 27, 2015.

Here's what's
happening!

Office will be closed Friday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

Christmas Circus Pizza/Movie sponsored by the Evangelism Committee will be held at the Church on Saturday, January 2, 2016, 4 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas Circus families.

Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the home of Beverly Greenwood.

Family Game Night is Friday, January 8, 2016 6:30-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

*Bring Favorite Game

*Bring A Friend

*Bring Finger Food Snack to share.

FCJ Step 3 Vote: On Sunday, January 10 at the conclusion of the 10:40 a.m. service members may vote at that time on the decision of Step 3. Vote will be taken by paper ballot and simply majority wins.

United Methodist Men's monthly breakfast is Saturday, January 16, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to attend.

Church Council Meeting will meet Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Ecumenical Assembly Board Meeting will meet Tuesday, January 26, 7 p.m. at Second Baptist Church, 1325 10th Street, Columbus.

WELCOME
New Members

December 6, 2015

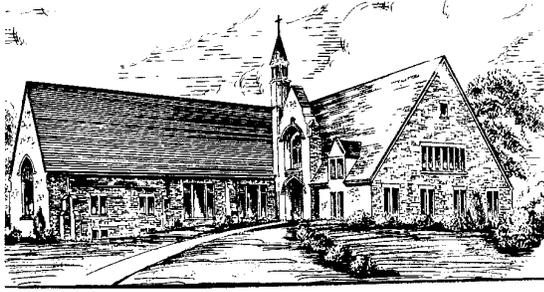
Donita Barringer transferred from St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Samantha Smith transferred from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Seymour.

With Sympathy

In Memory of
Lola Waltz
who went home to her
Heavenly Father
December 3, 2015

-Our sympathy to the family of Lola Waltz at the passing of their loved one.



East Columbus United Methodist Church
2439 Indiana Avenue, Columbus, IN 47201-7022

Return Service Requested

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

8:30 & 10:40 a.m. Blended Worship
9:40-10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6 p.m.—Casual-Informal Praise Service

Phone: 812.376.7418 — FAX 812.376.7699
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web site: www.eastcolumbusumc.org

Charles Aigner, Senior Minister
Angie Sherfick, Adm. Assistant
Terry Snyder, Music Director
Logan Skinner, Youth Director
Bob Fear, Custodian

2439 Indiana Avenue
Columbus, IN 47201

OUR CHURCH MISSION
Growing the Family of God by Making
Loving Disciples of Jesus Christ.