

East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

JANUARY 2023





When you are reading this, we will either be starting a new year, or about to. The last few have especially had challenges as we have dealt with Covid-19, the economy, and other things in addition to the normal things that hit us at some point (the loss of a loved one, sickness etc.)

One evening at home prior to bed, I saw an article about the Charlie Brown Christmas special. I hadn't seen that as a child (most likely), and honestly can't remember much about it. But, as a kid, it was a fun thing to watch (back in the days with a lot less TV stations and shows at least).

In reading the article, it states that getting the show produced took a lot of time and they were down to the wire in getting everything done. I found myself identifying with that. It says that the director and producer watched the completed version of it, and both thought it wasn't good at all. One person said if it hadn't been advertised, and so little time left (It was completed 10 days before airing), that it may have never been aired. The audience of studio executives didn't like it. They found something wrong with the pacing, voices, etc. But, it was, and not only was loved by many back then, but has become a standard for decades.

One of them had been asked if they could do a Charlie Brown animated special and had agreed. He called the creator, Charles Schulz, and he agreed providing if he could talk about the true meaning of Christmas. Schulz said that he and the other two guys had the perfect working relationship. He said that each contributed something, but never trod on each other's territory.

That reminded me of something I read years ago. It talked about people getting promoted, but sometimes failing because they couldn't let go of their previous job. They would often fail at the promotion because of it.

That lead to another thought, how much do we drag with us? Hurt from the past, sin, habits, places or things God has moved us away from. The list goes on and on. I then though about Lot's wife looking back and turning into a pillar of salt. I thought about the Israelites in the wilderness. They started missing the slavery they had left when things got a little tough and they got hungry and thirsty.

How many times do we go back to sin? I know someone who had been put in jail and gotten past the hard part of not having alcohol or cigarettes, and the first thing they did when they got out was start both again. An out of state friend's aunt has been in jail many times in life due to drugs, and I believe alcohol. Much of her life has been spent either in jail, treatment, or substance abuse. From the sound of it, this could possibly be her last chance to beat it in that if she doesn't succeed in rehab this time, she will be in jail for many years. She has wreaked havoc in her daughter's life as well as other relatives. Sometimes the things we look back on may even be good things, but still belong in the past such as another out of state friend who longs for better times (probably romanticizing them), and hasn't at times enjoyed the blessings she still has.

Looking back can be fun in reminiscing, learning about history, and it can be useful to learn from past things. But, we have a new year ahead of us, and maybe we should start anew in the new year leaving the previous stuff behind and going into 2023 fresh.



"All is well"

When I was preparing for Christmas, the lyrics of one song I practiced remained in my heart for a long time. It was like God spoke to my heart through this song. And I think God wants to tell you this too.

"All is well."

It seems that this has several meanings. "All was well; all is well; all will be well."

God comforts us that we are okay. Why can we be okay? Paul said, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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)

The reason why we are good is that God is with us. We are often anxious and worried. But the Bible's answer to that is simple. Prayer, petition, and thanksgiving. Then the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds.

I pray that God will guide us to be okay with our conditions, situations, and all external factors. But above all, God will guard our hearts and minds.

People react first to what they see. Therefore, the mind is shaken according to the surrounding environment. But when we turn our eyes to God and look at Him, peace will come.

If David had looked at Goliath's large body and big sword, he would not be able to move forward because of his anxiety. However, David's eyes were not on Goliath but on God. So, he was able to step forward to his battlefield.

When anxiety and worry arise in our hearts, we just need prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then, the peace of God will come to our hearts instead of anxiety. Please remember the PPT (Prayer, Petition, Thanksgiving)

A new year has begun. Everything will be fine because God is with us all the time. Our Father, God, who was with us, who is with us, who will be forever with us; he will take care of and guide every huge and small part of our lives.

"My beloved brothers and sisters, All is well with God!"

Love in Christ,

Pastor Jongmin

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



December 9th-11th Camp Louis Ernst Winter Cabin
December 31st New Years Eve campout in Youth Center
January 7th Order of the Arrow Winter Fest
January 20th-22nd Winter Rendezvous at Maumee Scout Reservation

The Camp Louis Ernst winter cabin campout was December 9th. This was our last campout of the year. We had a fun time reflecting on the year. We had a lot of great food. No one went hungry during the weekend. We went for a hike with the leaders that attended Camp Louis Ernst as boys and leaders when it was an active summer camp. We went to the campsite that my father planted pine trees as a boy scout, where I camped under when I was a scout. There were a lot of great stories that were told.

This year we will be having a New Year's Eve party at the Youth Center. We are planning on a trip to Urban Air in Franklin, In. This is an indoor trampoline park. The boys and leaders always have a fun day. We will come back to the youth center to play games and watch movies. We also will be working on our winter sled to prepare for the Winter Rendezvous coming up in January.

January 7th is our Order of the Arrow Winter Fest dinner. This is the first dinner the new Order of the Arrow members of our troop will attend. They are in for a treat.

January 20th-22nd is our winter campout for the Winter Rendezvous at Maumee Scout Reservation. Our troop leaders are running the obstacle course. We have some fun and exciting things in store for the outing. It involves blow-up alligators, blow-up snakes, and blow-up monkeys.

This year the troop would like to go on a weeklong late summer or fall canoe trip to Minnesota at the Boundary Waters Recreation Wilderness Area. We need fundraising ideas to earn money for the trip. If anyone knows of yard projects, painting, cleaning up fence rows, or just donations, please let me know. We want the scouts to work toward this goal.

If you know anyone that is interested in scouting or needs to be involved with 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



Happy New Year!!

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing. If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, always trusting that she will not lead him stray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see.

Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours. In 2023, let's remember to thank God for friends both near and far; close or casual; for you may never know when you'll need to listen for their bell.

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle".

Wishing you all the joy of friendship

Timothy



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	2	3	4 6pm-Choir	5 5:30pm-Trustee 6:30pm-Scouts	6	7
8 Communion 9:00am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School 5pm-Grace's Table	9	BCSC WIN	TER BREAK 11 6pm-Choir	12 6:30pm-Scouts	13	14
15 9:00am-Worship 10:10am Sunday School	16	17	18 6pm- Choir	19 6:30pm-Scouts	20	21
22 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	23	24	25 6pm-Choir	26 6:30pm- Scouts	27	28
9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	30	31				



Jan. 1....Sean Staples

Jan. 4....Ed Bridgewater

Jan. 8....Mark Parks

Jan. 22...Chuck Conley

Jan. 29...Jonathan Lee

Jan. 30...Stephanie Tetrick



Thank you so much for the Angel gift from the church family and the Angel from the Come Alive group. The dinner was just delicious, thank you to Kathy and the ladies who prepared it. We felt God's presence carrying all of us during this time and continue to be comforted.

-Joe & Floyd Wood

Thank you for the Angel and cards at the passing of dad, Nolan Spencer.

-Leslie Hollis

Thank you for all the prayers, visits, calls, cards and flowers during my surgery and recovery.

-Bev Greenwood

Betty Schaefer thanks everyone for all the gifts, visits, and Christmas Cards and Pastor Lees visit.

Thanks to Terry and the Choir for the beautiful Christmas Cantata.

Prayer for a New Beginning

Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I've caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christlike and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name, Amen.



Our condolences to Morris Percifield on the passing of brother, Wayne.

Our condolences to Leslie Hollis on the passing of father, Nolan Spencer.

Our condolences to Ashley Hollis on the passing of grandfather, Larry Hollis.

Our condolences to Joe & Floyd Wood on the passing of their father, Oscar Wood.

Our condolences to Roger McFadyen on the passing of wife, Candace.



<u>Trustee Meeting</u> will be held Thursday, January 5, at 5:30pm.

<u>Grace's Table Dinner Church</u> at 5:00 pm, Sunday, January 8 in the Youth Center.

The office will be closed January 2 in observance of the New Year.

Evangelism Report

December 2022 Tom Hadley

Library Box

In partnership with the Bartholomew County Library and East Columbus United Methodist Church our Library Box (established August 28, 2022) has given away 158 books FREE to children in our community in the first three (3) months of its existence.

Word has spread about our library box. In December without solicitation the Columbus East High School Key Club donated a significant number of books to the Library Box.

In addition to the above books, 128 books have been donated by our congregation. From the ECUMC donation 48 books were given away to children at our SING -A-LONG event Sunday, 12/11/2022. New or gently used books donation are always welcome as this will be a going project.

Grace's Table

Grace's Table is our ministry to serve a hot meal once per month to the needy and/or homeless in our community. Brighter Days is a shelter for the homeless. Flyers are hand delivered there inviting the guests to come and join us at Grace's Table. On November 13 we served a hot meal to 34 of our guests. This was our largest group ever. On December 11 we surpassed this number by serving 39 hot meals. Thank you volunteers, people making monetary donations, and our prayer warriors. Also, at the December 11 Grace's Table our guests received a special surprise. FREE Christmas cards were provided for them to give to someone special to them. They are all appreciative of Grace's Table. I have heard a few say, "Grace's Table is my church now."



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

Return Service Requested

Jongmin Lee, Senior Minister Angie Sherfick, Adm. Assistant Terry Snyder, Music Director

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Pastor Email: jongmin.lee@inumc.org

Worship Director Email: music@eastcolumbusumc.org

Church Website: www.eastcolumbusumc.org

9:00am-Worship Service

10:10am-Sunday School

OUR CHURCH MISSION

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