



East Columbus United Methodist Church

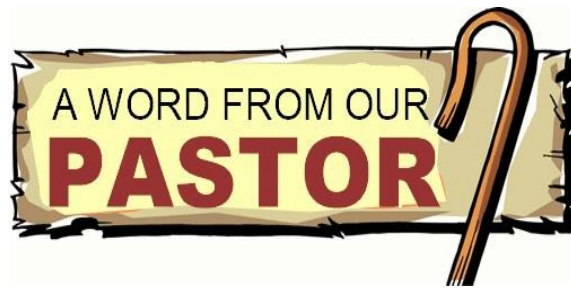
A Church for Everyone!

January 2024

Worship
the LORD
in all
his holy
splendor.

Psalm 96:9, NLT





The grace of God will continue in 2024

May the peace of God be with you always.

As I reflect on the past year, I am thankful to God for His protection and guidance over the church. And that grace of God will continue in our lives, homes, and within the church in 2024.

Last week, my grandmother passed away at the age of 95, having lived a blessed life and journeyed to heaven. I couldn't attend the funeral as it happened just before Christmas, which saddened my heart. However, I prayed here and wrote a letter remembering my grandmother, sending it to Korea.

She was a loving person who helped her neighbors and showered her children and grandchildren with love. Whenever I visited her house, she always put vitamin C in my mouth, gave me yogurt, and gave pocket money to her grandson who was over 40 years old. She lived her entire life in the grace of God, and I believe she is now enjoying happy times in heaven.

The grace of God continues, whether in life or after death. Some depart from this world, and others are born into it. While grass withers and flowers fade, the grace of God will stand forever.

In 2024, I hope that our church can be a place to convey the grace of God to more souls. We must focus, pray, and strive in the work of saving souls. When our lives are dedicated to the goal and purpose of soul salvation, they will turn towards a holy direction.

I am very grateful for the past year. In 2024, let us continue to hold onto the hand of the Lord and fly with Jesus together!

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor **Jongmin**



*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

I initially wrote this article several months ago (and have since then, seen Jimmy Swaggart memes on Facebook that as memory serves were along these lines.). The new year seemed a good month to publish this article

I have thought for a while that we sometimes put people in a box. “She’s the pretty one”, “he’s the black sheep”, “She’s a dumb blonde”, “He’s the nerd”, “she’s the promiscuous one”, “he is the homeless guy who stands in front of Walmart”, “she’s a drunk” etc. I have been guilty of that too: “He’s the one who worked on my Charger”, “he’s the gospel singer who cheated on his wife and wrecked his ministry”, “he’s the former comedian and baritone of the Gaither Vocal band who wrote the lyrics for ‘Mary Did You Know’”. Those descriptions can help identify a person to someone who knows that part of the person, but are not all inclusive as far as the totality of who they are, or what God sees in them (a valuable human being that He died for).

For instance, the last one (Mark Lowry) is often known for his maybe sometimes overboard humor, but there is more to him than that. J.D. Sumner once said that he hadn’t liked Mark Lowry because of the way he acted with his humor, but later discovered how deeply spiritual Mark was when he got to know him). They became great friends after J.D. lost his wife. J.D. also mentioned Gloria Gaither and said he hated the poems she did and would think “here we go again” when she did them. But one time, she was asked to pray, and he said to himself that he had better listen to the prayer. He said she prayed the sweetest prayer he had ever heard in his life. He said she is profound and the reason there is a Bill Gaither was because of her (she wrote the lyrics to most of their songs). He grew to see beyond the poems and narrations, and said he didn’t know of a lady he loved more than her. Sometimes getting to really know a person can surprise us and be a blessing.

Bryan Hutson talked about being warned years ago about a particular singer his group was about to work with, and said he tried avoiding that person on because of what he had been told. But the man was nice to him and over the course of working days together, Bryan never saw anything but nice from him. Did the person who warned him, lie to Bryan? I can’t say. Did the other person behave in the past like told to Bryan (however that was because Bryan never posted details)? I don’t know. If so, was it a bad day or something that happened a long time ago? I have no idea. Sometimes we judge people on who they were a long time ago, what we have heard (which could be false, or based on an opinion which is not the same as we might have if we were there), one aspect of them while missing a lot of other things, lies, or an assessment from someone that may or may not have been accurate, or was then, but not now.

Here’s a test. What’s the first thing you first think of when you hear the name Jimmy Swaggart? Sadly, for me, I still probably think of the scandal from around 35 years ago. Not the good that he did before, or has apparently done since. I feel a degree of shame to still associate that as the main thing about him, but it’s still probably normally the first thing that comes to mind. I am not saying humans can put sins in the sea of forgetfulness like God does. I am not saying we even **should** forget some things (for instance I think it is reckless to leave someone once convicted of sex crimes alone with those who might become victims of that person, even if we believe they have repented and are forgiven.) We can be cautiously optimistic about how they seem to have changed, without putting them in a situation that is risky for others, or maybe even a temptation to them. From what I know, Jimmy has had a successful ministry for a long time since that time 35 years ago, and I sort of know people who know him, speak highly of him. (One I believe being a pastor himself). If he has changed (and I hope he has) then praise God! I think about Paul. He did horrible things, but God transformed and used him. But as a human, I can understand people being wary about him and afraid he was going to kill them or betray them. On the plus side, there are people I know in real life that I don’t define (or even usually even think of) things from their pasts. I haven’t entirely forgotten, but those things are in their long distant past, and there has been enough time that I believe they will not happen again.

The good news is our past can be forgiven, we aren’t destined to be just one thing or to be what we currently are forever (God can change us). It is my hope that we get better at not judging a book by its cover, and try to get to know people (even if they are different than us, or have a “past”). May we all see with eyes of grace and love and try to see them as God sees them.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL Troop 549



December 30th Rays Indoor Bike Park

December 31st-January 1st

December 8th-10th was our annual Camp Louis Ernst Winter Cabin campout. The cabin having electricity was wonderful. You could hear the outdoors. It rained most of the weekend. We still went on a couple of hikes and enjoyed the property. We ate well, we had chili for lunch and pork chops for supper. The boys played games and just had a fun time being together.

December 30th the troop took another trip to Cleveland Ohio to Ray's Indoor Bike Park. We had such a good time last year and we wanted to go again this year. Hopefully, some of the boys that did not get to go last time got to go this time. Our scout from Florida got to be here this time with the troop.

December 31st-January 1st is our second annual New Years Eve party at the youth center. This is always a fun time. We watch movies, play games outside and clean out our cook boxes and restock them to get them ready for next year's campouts.

The scouts will be making out the list of places they want to go to and where they want to camp for the next year.

Some of the places the troop will be going to this year are Winter Rendezvous, Mammoth Cave, backpacking trip, Patoka Lake, 2 Boundary Waters Trips to Minnesota, Rascals and Lazer tag are just some of the things the troop will be doing this year.

The Hoosier Trails Council contacted me to see if we would like to start a cub scout pack. This would be a wonderful addition to our troop. It would bring the church into the view of new families. It would support the Rockcreek School Area and the Clifty School area. More will be communicated on this in the future hopefully.

If you know anyone that is 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



New and Improved!

Before we get too far into this, let me assure you this isn't an editorial or commentary without purpose. Be patient and read on!

I recently saw a commercial for a new and improved toilet paper. Was it softer? No! Was it stronger? No!

What made it better then? It tore easier and cleaner ... meaning not as much "dust" as a result of the tearing off the roll. Now for all of you suffering with OCD, please forgive me but don't quit reading yet.

We live in a world that wants everything to be "easy" ... and quick ... we can't forget quick! But as Christians we were never promised either easy or quick. In fact we were promised a life of hardship. But we were also promised that we wouldn't suffer through those hardships alone ... God is with us ALWAYS!

This year would you try something? Don't take the easy road ... take the upward path ... but as you travel, walk hand in hand with Jesus. Sometimes I think when life is easy we neglect to take His hand and ask for His help. So this year whatever the challenge face it head on with Jesus!

Yes, 2024 might not be a walk in the park, but I can assure you that Jesus won't let you fall as long as you hold onto Him!

Walk with Jesus every day of 2024!

Welcome to 2024 Timothy

january



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		2 10-11am Prayer Time	3 6pm-Choir	4 5:30pm-Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm-Scouts	5	6
7 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10 Sunday School	8	9 10-11am Prayer Time	10 6pm-Choir	11 6:30pm-Scouts	12	13
14 5pm-Grace's Table 9am-Worship 10:10 Sunday School	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO School BCSC	16 10-11am Prayer Time	17 6pm- Choir	18 6:30pm-Scouts	19	20
21 9am-Worship 10:10 Sunday School	22	23 10-11am Prayer Time	24 6pm-Choir	25 6:30pm-Scouts	26	27
28 9am-Worship 10:30am Sunday School	29	30 10-11am Prayer Time	31 6pm-Choir			



Jan. 4...Ed Bridgewater
Jan. 8...Mark Parks
Jan. 10...Terry Snyder
Jan. 22...Chuck Conley
Jan. 29...Jonathan Lee
Jan. 30...Stephanie Tetrick

News



From the Mail Box...

Thank you to the anonymous donor for the new digital piano and speakers. I have already used some of the sounds in morning worship and it has the ability to save and change groups of instruments for service use. The speakers have already been used for the Christmas community party, and I believe are going to be used for Grace's Table. I also have some plans for events in the Fellowship Hall through the year. Terry

Thank you to the anonymous person who left a Christmas present, as well as those who gave in person. Terry

Thank you to all who helped with the community Christmas party. There were many people who contributed spending a great deal of time and work to make it happen. It seemed to be well received, and we hope to do even better next year.

Terry

Thanks to Terry and the choir for the beautiful Christmas Cantata, "The Love of God at Christmas"



Grace's Table Dinner Church, Sunday, January 14, at 5:00 pm in the Youth Center.

Every Tuesday from 10am to 11am the Sanctuary will be open for anyone to come in for prayer time. The Elevator Door and both Glass Doors near the office will be unlocked during those times.

Community Christmas Party

2023 Summary

Our 1st Community Christmas Party was held December 16, 2023. Fun was held by all. The atmosphere was festive with homemade cookies, fudge, and apple cider. The first thing every person walking through our doors was to receive a gift card for a free frosty. Children participated in games, crafts and including decorating their own cookies. Favorite Christmas songs were sung, and we watched an animated video describing the events around the birth of Jesus. Of course, Santa was a big hit for the young and young at heart.

Thanks to all who volunteered and made this party a big success. A raffle drawing was held at the close of our party. Thanks to the restaurants for donating free food certificates. Thirty (30) gift certificates were drawn and given as prizes to the children. The gift certificates were donated by the following: McAlister's, Panda Express, IHOP, Marco's Pizza, Qdoba, and Wendy's.

Lots of books were given away to the children at the Party. We are collecting new or gently used books to give away at next years party.





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.