

# East Columbus United Methodist Church

*A Church for Everyone!*

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

G O D  
IS  
LOVE



Gas, how often do we stop and get gas, we don't even think about it is automatic when we get close to empty we stop and get gas. Perhaps it is because of those indicators we have in our cars that warn us, first a gauge that points to empty, then a gauge with bright red lines that indicate danger, then a yellow light that comes on the dash board, then a gauge with a light that dings.

Now my father-in-law's car has a gauge that does all those things but also has an information cluster that blinks and flashes "low gas" with a piercing warning sound. It is as if we can't understand that we need to refuel on our own without some car manufacture giving big neon warnings to us drivers.

But perhaps they know human nature only too well. A friend was telling me about a time when his family got their first gas powered lawn mower. It had the rope that you had to wind and pull, and then wind and pull, and wind and pull until it started, you must then quickly adjust the choke or it would die, and you would have to start all over wrapping the rope and pulling, wrapping the rope and pulling, till you got the stubborn thing running. Well he had done all that and got it running and then it died, he went through the wrapping the rope and pulling, wrapping the rope and pulling, till his back was sore and his arm was wore out, he then resorted to kicking the stupid mower, that's when dad showed up; "What are you doing kicking my mower?" "IT WON'T START!!!" he replied. Did you check the gas? It turned out it was out of gas and all that pulling and sweat and kicking was for nothing. After a quick trip to the station and a refill of the tank; with one pull and it roared to life.

So many Christians are running on empty. Our lives seems hard and unproductive, we are winding and pulling, and winding and pulling and nothing. We find ourselves kicking and fussing and fuming trying to get something done, anything done but it seems it just won't start.

Unfortunately there is no gauge that says you are out of gas, no warning bells or light that signal when our spirits are running low. Paul tells us in Colossians 4:2 "*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*" To be watchful, we must often check our spiritual condition to see that we are staying close to the source of all power, Jesus our Lord. There will be no clanging bells of warning when you miss your quiet times, no flashing lights when prayer is forsaken, no gauge to signal an almost empty tank when you miss Church and Sunday worship. You will simply find living as a Christian to be almost impossible and following Jesus to be very frustrating. You will also find temptation very hard to resist and sin becoming a destroyer in your life. Like my friend kicking the mower because he didn't know to watch the tank, so many Christians try to do the work of a disciple under their own power. We simply cannot do it without the power that Christ alone supplies. To accomplish the work Christ has for you: *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

*Pastor Charlie*



*A Note  
from  
Terry Snyder*

As I am typing this, I woke up this morning to find out that someone won the lottery this morning. I have heard so much about that recently (well, that and the State of the Union Address) One Facebook friend even put a status asking what people would do if they won. She said that if they won, she would give 4 million dollars to a friend who she would pick from among the ones who shared what they would do. Many shared their plans, and several had lofty plans for how they could help each other. It reminds me of something I saw recently:

*"Fred, if you had two houses, would you give me one?"*

*"Sure, John. You're like my own brother. If I had two houses, I'd give you one."*

*"Well, if you had two tractors, would you give me one?"*

*"Yes, John. You are my closest friend. If I had two tractors, yes, I'd give you one."*

*"Well Fred, what if you had two hogs? Would you give me one of them?"*

*"Now John, that ain't fair. You know I got two hogs."*

Well, that is amusing, but I am sure there is a lot of truth to it. We think of all of the things we would do if we "had the money," "had the time," or "had the talent." But many of us don't do what we can with what we have and don't do it at all if given an opportunity to put walk to our talk or our money where our mouth is (even in much lesser ways than we say we would do). In the parable of the talents, those with the talents in the Bible weren't judged by what they couldn't do, or what they didn't have, but by what they did with their capabilities and what they did have. But not only do we think this way with eternal things or things that help others, we can do this with how someone lives their lives, how they do their jobs, or how they manage their own lives. We look at other people and think how we would do things differently if we were them. Those who look at others' lives and think they would do things differently or could do things better, don't really know. It is easy to say or think that when we aren't walking in their shoes and often there are details we are missing when making such a claim. We don't know the scars or obstacles they may have, and we might be missing pieces of the puzzle as far as why they are a certain way, why things are the way they are, or why something isn't or can't be done. If it is a matter of sin or misfortune in their lives we should think "there but for the grace of God go I." Instead, we often judge and there are times while doing that we feel superior all the while missing the sin or areas in our lives that need improvement. I guess it is easier to tend to someone else's garden than dealing with our own.

There was a song I heard in the eighties called "Tell It To a Few Close Friends." A person in the song says they would share the gospel if they just had talent and a place to begin. Later another singer in the same song says they would if they could travel, had a lot of money to spend, and was a natural leader. Each person was supposedly willing to do so if circumstances were right. It is hard to say if they really would if these circumstances were right, or if they were convenient excuses, or if they at least believed they would do so. Now, I realize how much easier it is to do things with the right tools or circumstances. But, the big question is, are we doing what we can? That reminds me of the story about the starfish which is how I will end this article.

*"Once upon a time there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning as he began his work day. Early one morning as he was walking down the beach along the shore, he found a vast amount of starfish on the sand, as far as he could see. The old man saw a figure from a distance moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he noticed the figure was a young man. But he was not dancing at all. He was picking up starfish and throwing them into the ocean. The old man went up to him and he asked, "Young man, why are you throwing these starfish into the ocean? What difference could that make?" The young man replied, "Well if I don't throw these starfish into the ocean they're going to die." The old man, still puzzled by what he was saying, said, "Young man, there's miles and miles of shore and there's thousands of starfish. What difference can you make?" The young man bent over and picked up another starfish. He threw it into the ocean. He said, "I made a difference in that one."*



by Paula Turnbow

## FEBRUARY BIBLE VERSE

*“Worship and serve (God) with a clean heart and a willing mind.”*

1 Chronicles 28:9

Are you eager to serve the Lord in any way He wants?  
He looks in your heart and sees when you serve Him  
with a happy and willing heart.



## Jesus Loves Me Tea Party

**February 14, 2016**  
**During Children’s Church**



Logan Skinner

As the holidays have past and our lives have gotten back to the everyday swing of things, February reminds us that the love of Christ and our families doesn’t have to be a part-time thing. The focus of this month will be on love. The love that God has for us, the love that we are to have for God, and the love that we are to have for others. As we are moving quickly into the new year, we are looking into some outings coming into the spring and summer. So come join us, bring your friends, and find out more about our God and his love for us.

# FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 9am-UMW Service Group  6:30pm-Bible Study	<b>2</b> 1pm-Bible Study 6pm- Nominations Comm. Meeting 7pm-Miriam Circle	<b>3</b> 5:15pm-Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	<b>4</b> 5:30pm-Trustee Meeting 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Communion</b> Boy Scout Sunday	<b>8</b> 9am-UMW Service Group  6:30pm-Bible Study	<b>9</b> 1pm-Bible Study	<b>10 Ash Wednesday</b> 5:15pm-Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm-Ash Wednesday Service-Sanctuary	<b>11</b> 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 6:30-9pm-Family Game Night Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Valentines Day</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> Regular Services	<b>15</b> 9am-UMW Service Group  6:30pm-Bible Study	<b>16</b> 1pm-Bible Study	<b>17</b> 5:15pm-Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm-Emmaus Community Gathering-Ogilville Christian Church	<b>20</b> 8am-Men's Breakfast
<b>21 2nd Sunday of Lent</b> Regular Services  <u>NO ALL4ONE</u>	<b>22</b> 9am-UMW Service Group  6:30pm-Bible Study	<b>23</b> 1pm-Bible Study 7pm-Ecum. Assembly Board Mtg.-Love Chapel	<b>24</b> 5:15pm-Handbell Reh. 6pm-Chancel Choir Reh. 7pm-Bible Study 7:15pm-Praise Team Reh.	<b>25</b> 6:30pm-Boy Scouts	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 3rd Sunday of Lent</b> Regular Services	<b>29</b> 9am-UMW Service Group  6:30pm-Bible Study					



## HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL TROOP 549

Troop Calendar:

February 7—Scout Sunday

February 27—Merit Badge Day

February 6<sup>th</sup> we will be spending a night in the Youth Center to prepare for Scout Sunday.

February 7<sup>th</sup> we will be joining you for Scout Sunday.

February 27<sup>th</sup> is the district Merit Badge Day in Seymour.

As always if any member of the church is interested in Scouting, be it a boy or adult we will be glad for your visit and interest. Stop by and visit! Boys need to be 11 years old to join and less than 18.

Meeting time is Thursday at 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Youth Center.

Roger Schaefer

Scoutmaster

812-342-3583 H

812-350-9707 C

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5.... Lillian Hammond  
Sabrina Herron  
Savannah Herron

6.... Michael Reeves

7.... Debra Davis

8.... Mike Mattern

10.... Betty Schaefer  
Connie Barker

11.... Tammi Wood  
Robert Brown

12.... Linda Bundick

13.... Robert Johnson

14.... Gerald Walker

15... Angela Fields

16.... Brent Harris  
Teresa James

17.... Greg Walker

18.... Robert Murphy

21.... Kathy Henry  
Luke Barringer  
Katy Bray

23.... Deb Lilly

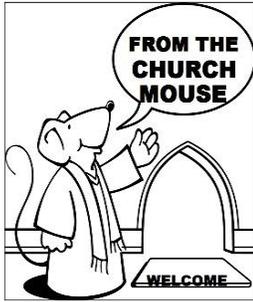
24.... Karen Miller

25.... Floyd Wood

27.... Vera Brummet

28.... Bob Fear  
Amanda Jo (AJ) Henry





## *Happy Valentine's Day!!*

Every year it rolls around again...that special day when the greeting card companies print loads of cards with beautiful verses..the florists arrange the sweet smelling flowers...and the cheese companies make such

wonderful cheese for us to give to that special someone.

What? You'd rather have chocolate? Well, to each their own, I guess!

This little mouse is no poet...no lovely verse to share during this month of "amore"...but here are some verses that are very special to me that I'd like to share with you...

"I call on the Lord in my distress and He answers me." Psalm 120:1

"...The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you." Jeremiah 29:11

"...I am with you always..." Matthew 28:20

"All Your words are true." Psalm 119:160

These are just a few verses that show me just how much I am loved. For our Lord is always with us...to help when we are in turmoil, when we're afraid, when the uncertainty of the future causes us to lose sleep, when the world causes us to doubt. This month, ponder your own special verses and know that you are loved!

Till next month..... *Timothy*

---

## **MISSION ROOM REPORT**

Since 2014 the following has been sent:

30-40 Lap robes to local Nursing Homes  
20+ baby blankets and preemie hats to Pregnancy Care  
4 large boxes cut stamps to Marion Storehouse for postage to Africa

Other Collected Products

Used eye glasses, cotton fabric, rubber bands, first aide supplies, sewing notions, shoes, 3 large boxes of bandages, several boxes of miscellaneous items to be sold in Red Bird General Store, Campbell labels, Box tops for education.

Thank you for your donations. Keep it up.

The Marion Mission Storehouse send the following items to the Missionaries at the Kafakumba Pastors School.  
Infant, children, teen and adult clothing.

Shoes, all sizes

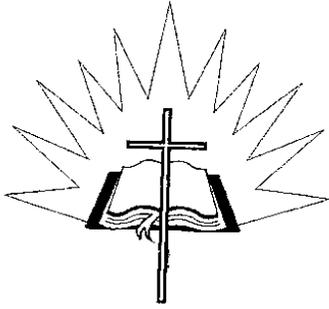
Bandages

Material and sewing items

Bedding and linens

Trimmed or untrimmed stamps

From the stamp program it goes directly to the costs of container shipping and purchase of containers.



# Applying Bible Principles

One of the most familiar of all Bible passages is 1 Corinthians 13, which is known by many as the “Love Chapter.” Many people—Christians and non-Christians alike—have committed part or all of these thirteen wonderful verses to memory. But most people probably do not realize that one of the greatest truths concerning giving is taught in this passage.

The Apostle Paul, writing under the direct and divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, “If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.” In other words, according to this verse, our giving is to be motivated by love. If it is not, then it has absolutely no value to us.

The question here is not how much we give, or how frequently we give, or the manner in which we give, but **why** we give. And it is based on the principle taught so clearly in Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” When we were nothing but sinners, Christ died for us. When we had nothing but the refuse of sin in our lives, Christ died for us. When we were “strangers” to God’s promises, Christ died for us. Long before we could ever love Him, He provided convincing evidence of His love for us by dying for us on Calvary. And that’s why “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

One of the ways in which we demonstrate our love for God is through giving. If we give out of a sense of obligation or because “the church needs the money” or because we feel we have to give, we miss the point of 1 Corinthians 13:3. We also miss the blessing that comes from giving out of a heart motivated by our love for the Lord. When we give because of that motivation, our giving provides a tangible expression of our love for Him as we give in response to His love and grace.

As the offering plate passes by you next Sunday at church, you might want to pray this prayer of thanksgiving and commitment: “Lord, thank you for loving me before I could love you. Thank you for demonstrating your love by dying on Calvary for me. And thank you for the privilege of giving to you today as I worship you through this expression of my love for you.”

As you consider not only next Sunday’s offering, but equally important, your on-going financial support of the ministry at East Columbus United Methodist Church, what is your response to God’s love for you?

# News



From the Mail Box...

Thanks to the church for sending the beautiful angel. I have it setting on my kitchen counter right now so I can enjoy it all the time. I appreciate all you do and Pastor Charlie so much. Thanks for all your help.

-Love & Prayers—Nancy Menefee

Nancy and the Menefee Family would like to thank Pastor Charlie for his visits during John's illness and for doing such a wonderful job of singing and giving the message at John's Celebration of Life Service. Thanks to everyone who came to the calling and service, sent cards, brought food or helped with the funeral lunch. Thank you also for all the prayers and please continue. I love you all!!

Nancy Menefee would like to thank everyone who helped deliver poinsettias to the shut-ins at Christmas. They were much appreciated by everyone.

## Be a Love Bird

Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws. Many legends are also associated with Valentine's Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called "love birds." In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus' words in John 13:34: *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."*



## NEW MEMBER TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Kathryn Niespodziani was received into membership on January 24, 2016.



Our sympathy to Nancy Menefee and family at the loss of loved one, John Menefee.

-Our sympathy to Gerald and Georgia Dix and family at the passing of Billy Joe.

Here's what's happening!

Nominations Committee Meeting is Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the home of Betty Schaefer.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study will start a new study series on the "Gospel of Matthew."

Trustees will meet Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Boy Scout Sunday is February 7 and Troop 549 will participate in the 8:30 a.m. services.

Ash Wednesday is February 10 and an Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Family Game Night is Friday, February 12, 2016- 6:30-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

\*Bring Favorite Game

\*Bring A Friend

\*Bring Finger Food Snack to share.

First Sunday in Lent is February 14.

United Methodist Men's monthly breakfast is Saturday, February 20, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to attend.

Ecumenical Assembly Board Meeting will meet Tuesday, February 23, 7 p.m. at the Love Chapel.

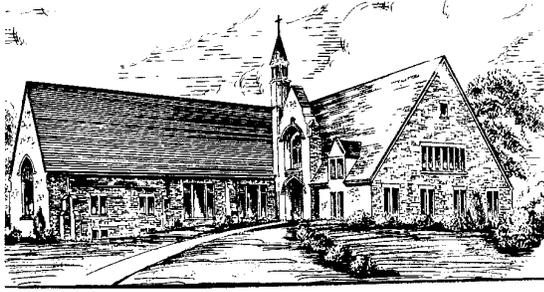
## The Significance of Lent

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.



**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  
Office email: [office@eastcolumbusumc.org](mailto:office@eastcolumbusumc.org)  
[music@eastcolumbusumc.org](mailto:music@eastcolumbusumc.org)  
[pastor@eastcolumbusumc.org](mailto:pastor@eastcolumbusumc.org)  
web site: [www.eastcolumbusumc.org](http://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.**