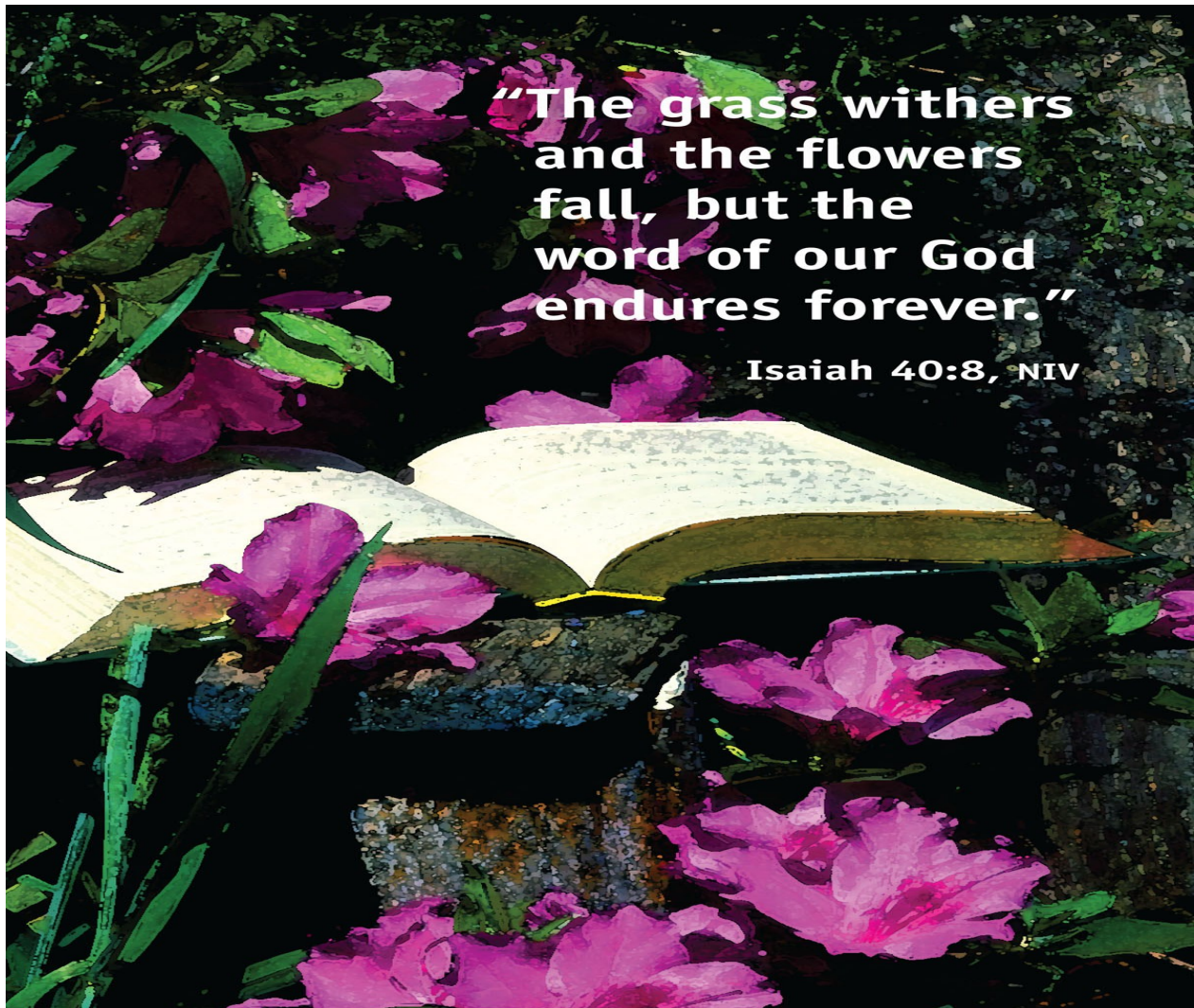




East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

MARCH 2023





*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

The cross: People have worn it as jewelry for decades, it has hung in churches much longer. Some view it as an emblem, some romanticize it, some think it nothing more than decoration you wear around your neck, in your ears etc. Others realize what the symbol represents. Sadly, many churches in modern times find the reminder of it offensive. They don't want to make people uncomfortable wanting only to give a feel-good message (or a motivational speech, if you will).

I gave pastor Jongmin a brief summary of the above when telling of my plans for the Easter cantata, and then I shared a little during church. A couple of you heard a whole sermon from me about it (or at least a mini sermon ha) this morning before church.

I have memories of going to see the movie "the Passion of the Christ" with some of you back in 2004. I remembered the timeframe Bev Pitcher (wife of Pastor Tom Pitcher) went with us. Tom's last year was my first year officially on staff (2003-2004) before pastor Charlie came. Anyhow, I was one who was sort of numb and didn't know what to say after such a heavy movie. There were others who seemed the same. But, I can still remember Chuck Dilsizian having tears running down his face over what our Lord had endured for us. I am getting teary-eyed typing this.

We've sung about the cross, and had an idea of what the end result has done for us. We had some general idea of the pain, but to see a visual representation of how much, and the damage done in such detail was likely a new experience for us all. Movies or TV shows had sort of glossed over that part, or didn't really show it nearly as much,

There is a song, written by the great Dottie Rambo, that says "I Will Glory in the Cross". My favorite version is sung by Larnelle Harris. How powerful it is! Part of it says "unworthy to eat from the table of life 'til love made provision for me." The chorus says: "I will glory in the cross, in the cross, lest His suffering all be in vain. I will weep no more for the cross that He bore, I will glory in the cross." I guess it depends on which side of the cross we look at, the price paid, or the glorious results that his resurrection make available to us. I think both can be appropriate.

The songs I have planned for Easter are a great set of songs talking about the cross. I believe that sometimes God does things in different ways. He healed people of blindness different ways in the Bible. I think sometimes He works through plans, sometimes through inspiration, sometimes in a still small voice, and sometimes redirecting our steps to show us the way, etc. I believe He has done the latter in this. I was filing music and whatnot one day in September last year, and a song on YouTube came up ("God Saw a Cross") I had not heard it for well over a decade. It started the journey towards creating this cantata. I wanted to run after hearing the song again. What a message! Years back I heard a song, "The Power of the Cross", and even downloaded the tracks, but never did it as it would mean me putting it on paper (like I am having to do with all but one in this cantata), and other things took precedence. There is another song I have wanted to do for years called "The Cross Has Won Again", but it never seemed to be feasible. I at one point had a couple of other songs planned for this cantata, but got redirected. One day I was, I believe listening to one of these three songs above as I was getting dressed for work. After that, a song new to me played called "It's About the Cross". That song seemed too perfect for this cantata, so one song got removed from my list. Then last night after I thought I had it all planned, was listening to a song before going to bed that I hope to do in a quartet. YouTube went to another song that I had even played here before in pre-service ("The Cross") that I hadn't heard for years. Again, another of two wonderful songs I had planned on being part of this cantata, was removed to make room for this one that fits oh so well. So we have five songs all talking about the cross.

It is my deep prayer that these songs aren't just pretty, powerful, inspiring, and so forth, but they help people to see (or remember) the importance of the cross, and minister to them.



Time of Self-Denial

March is the month of Lent. Jesus said to us, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
(Matthew 16:24 / NIV)

I suggest that we spend a "time of self-denial" during this season of Lent. Self-Denial means putting down my desires, hopes, and wishes and obeying only the will of God.

The shadow of sin left in us often lead us to the place of sin rather than to God. So, we have to stop from time to time and reflect on where we are going.

If water does not flow and remains in one place, that water will rot. Self-Denial is to examine whether my soul is stagnant and rotting, and to empty and shed the wrong desires within me. And it is to fill the lake of that empty heart with God`s love.

When Jesus walked the Way of the cross, he was constantly fighting against human nature. Every step of the way, he threw away one by one; a desire to live, a pride to avoid humiliation and the natural instinct to avoid pain. He denied himself them one by one and He accomplished complete self-denial on the cross.

I pray that this Lent season will be a time for us to walk together on the path Jesus walked. Because we love Jesus, I hope that we walk with Him, feel His pain, feel His heart, and walk with Him day by day.

Jesus loves you more than anything!

Love in Christ,
Pastor **Jongmin**

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



March 11th Trail Workday
March 24th-26th Maumee Campout

The boys had a great time participating in Scout Sunday. This was the last time that Kevin Alvarez was able to participate as a scout in the service as a scout. Kevin will turn 18 in May of this year. This meant a lot to him. I want to thank everyone in the congregation for their continued support of our troop. Without your support it would be a lot harder to have a successful troop.

March will be a busy month. I have several work days (Saturdays) planned to work on the mountain bike trails. I have been building trails at Maumee Scout Reservation for the last 3 years. Ranger Ed Laehle asked me 4 years ago what I thought the older scouts would like to do. I like to Mountain bike and I see a lot of your boys and girls that are really enjoying mountain biking, I thought this would be a great addition to the camp. My Wood badge tickets (Advanced Scout Adult Leadership Training) were to start a 5-to-7-year plan to add multiuse trails to the camp. These can be used for mountain biking and hiking. In the past the Hoosier National Forest permit charge prevented mountain biking from being a viable option at the camp. Having the trails within the camp forgoes this charge. I have around 13 miles planned, and I have close to 6 miles completed. This month we have a few Saturday workdays that the scouts can help earn service time hours and exercise by clearing limbs and digging in the dirt to build the trails.

March 24th-26th is our spring campout at Maumee Scout Reservation where we will backpack into the remote part of the trail and camp primitively. They will be carrying the tools needed to work on building of the trails. This will also help prepare the boys in the troop to learn about wilderness camping.

The last week of July 22nd – 30th the troop will be going to the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness area for a 5-day canoe trip to northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. There is a great deal of planning that is taking place to have a successful trip. Some of the skills the boys will need to learn is how to navigate a canoe with a map and compass to find the portage hiking trails that lead from one lake to the next lake. They will use their scout skills to start fires with what is available in the woods, prepare meals from dehydrated foods and fresh foods, hanging our food in the air so bears cannot get to our food packs. (Yes, there are black bears there). They will catch fish and hopefully clean them for dinner. They will do all this and not realize they will be earning camping, fishing, Fish and wildlife management, orienteering, photography, and cooking merit badges. We are looking for ways the boys can earn an income to help pay for their trip. If anyone has any ideas or projects please reach out to me. I am hoping to make this a yearly event for the troop.

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 is Thursday from 6:30 – 8:00 in the Youth Center.

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



A Mayonnaise Jar and Two Cups of Coffee, A Bit of Wisdom

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember this story about a mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else, you know -- the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important."

So, pay attention to the things that are most important. Take care of your health -- cook with your kids -- spend time with those you love. There's always time to clean the house -- it's a never ending job anyway Remember, God will take care of the golf balls, the things that really matter. Set your priorities ... put God first and the rest is just sand.

Wondering what the coffee represents? No matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple cups of coffee with a friend -- or a soda if you're like me and don't drink coffee!!

Wishing you a wonderful, stress-free Spring ...

Timothy

News



From the Mail Box...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Thanks for your prayers and many acts of kindness bestowed upon us during Tom's surgery. In Christ love. Tom & Mary

Family Fellowship Coordinator Needed—A volunteer or group of volunteers are needed to plan and organize church dinners (Spring Dinner, Thanksgiving Dinner, Hanging of the Greens Luncheon). If you are interested please contact Pastor Jongmin or the church office.

Decorating Coordinator Needed-A Volunteer or group of volunteers are needed to plan and organize decorating the church building during holidays (Easter, Christmas, etc.) If you are interested please contact Pastor Jongmin or the church office.



Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

9am-Worship

10:10 Sunday School

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

5-8pm-Open Communion

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

6pm-Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

8:30am-Easter Breakfast

9:30am-Sunday School

10:30am-Easter Service

Here's what's
happening!

Trustee Meeting will be held Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 pm in the Chapel.

Grace's Table Dinner Church Sunday, March 12 at 5:00 pm in the Youth Center.



March 12, 2023

Set your clocks ahead one hour!!!!

A New Spring

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves. Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, thou we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances. -Jane Truax

All-encompassing Savior

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

-Hymn attributed to St. Patrick



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm-Choir	2 5:30pm-Trustee Meeting 6:30pm-Scouts	3	4
5 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	6	7	8 6pm-Choir	9 6:30pm-Scouts	10	11
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sun. School 5pm-Grace's Table	13	17	15 6pm-Choir	16 St. Patrick's Day NO-Scouts	17	18
B S C S S P R I N G B R E A K M A R C H 13—17						
19 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	20 First Day of Spring	21	22 6pm-Choir	23 6:30pm- Scouts	24	25
26 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	27	28	29 6pm-Choir	30 6:30pm-Scouts	31	



- Mar. 4... Gunnar Lawrence
- Mar. 6... Bruce McIntosh
- Mar. 9 ... Dorothy Lane
- Mar. 11... Dorothy Brown
- Mar. 12... Joan Dudley
- Mar. 14... Cheri Reeves
- Mar. 24... Karen Lambert
Belinda McIntosh
- Mar. 27... Vivian Thayer
- Mar. 29... Garry Taylor



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

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

9:00am-Worship Service

10:10am- Sunday School

OUR CHURCH MISSION

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