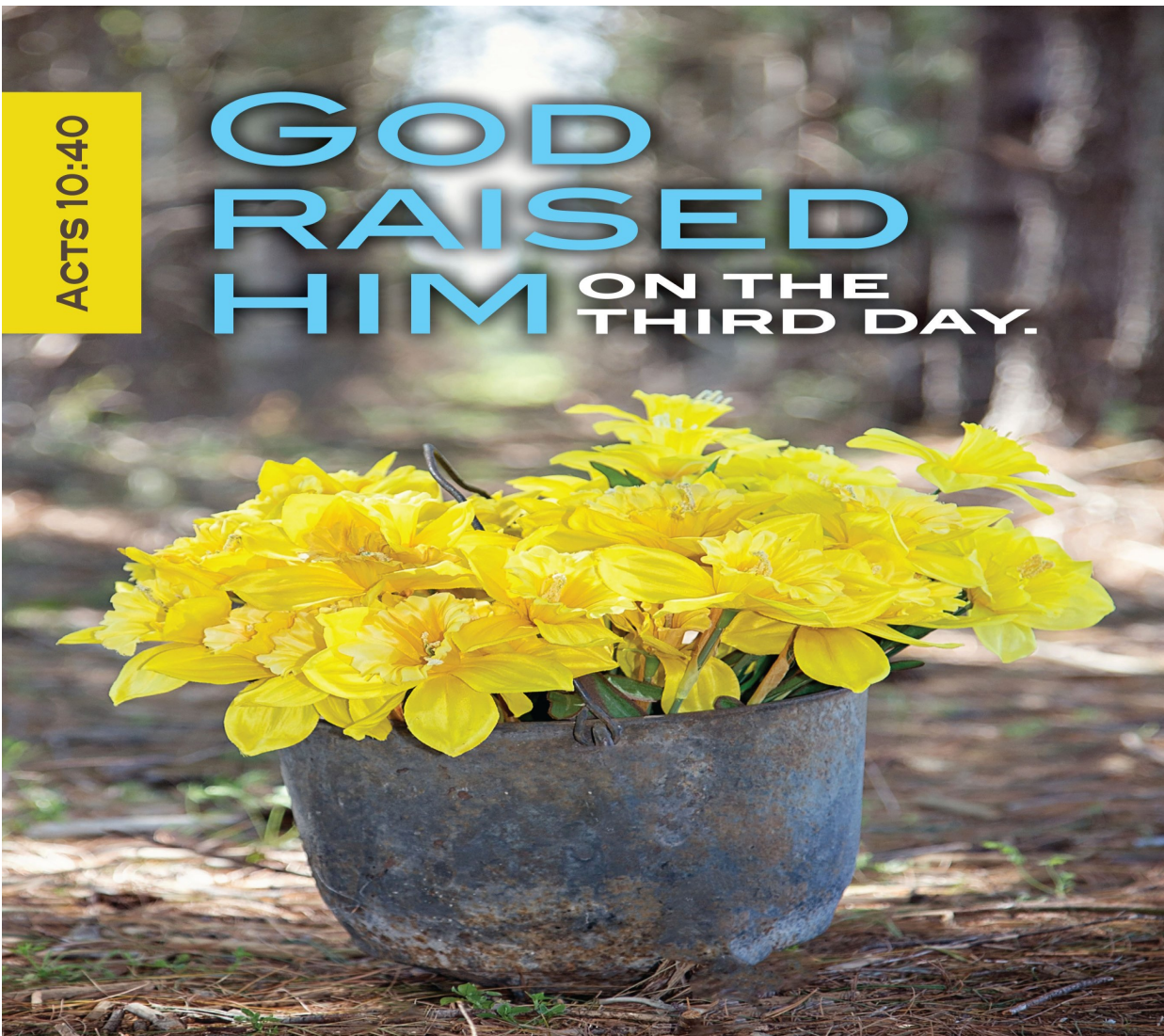




East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

MARCH 2024





40 Days Journey and the Lord of the Resurrection

May the peace of God be with you always.

March is special this year. After the forty days of Lent comes the final 31st, Easter Sunday. In the words of the psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." (Psalm 51:10-12/ NRSV)

Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a period during which we walk alongside Jesus in His journey toward Calvary. It is a time to pause, examine our lives, and draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of love and service. How has your forty-day journey been? Are you walking with God? Are you drifting away? Or have you forgotten? If you're reading this, take a moment to put down the paper and pray for just one minute. "Jesus, please be with me now. I love you, Lord. My soul longs for you. Please help me with your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen."



Sometimes, we experience unrequited love from God. There are times when it seems like only God loves us, and we do not love God. Do you love God? Is God only expressing love to you? As we reflect on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross, I feel something profound. Despite the excruciating pain of dying, Jesus forgave people until the end. It's because the salvation of souls was more important than the agony of the cross. That love is the love of Jesus towards us. Believing in Jesus is like having someone completely on my side. Who else would come to seek me, abandoning the agony of the cross? May we meditate more on Jesus and love more during this Lenten journey so that when we meet the Lord of Resurrection, we can say that we love each other, not just Jesus loving us.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

I remember someone here talking about Corrie ten Boom when I was a child. I am sure most of you know who she is, and some possibly more about her than I. She was a Dutch watchmaker who ended up being used (along with her family) by God **to help many Jews escape the Nazis during the holocaust in World War II.** She hid them in her home. What makes this even more amazing is that their home was only a half block away from the police headquarters. It eventually became more elaborate, with a secret room being built in their home, with a buzzer set up to warn the refugees to go hide in the room during security sweeps in the neighborhood. The room was in Corrie's bedroom, and even had a ventilation system.

At one point, **Corrie was asked how many ration cards she needed for food and started to say "five" when "one hundred" instead came out of her mouth. She was given one hundred, and gave some to every Jew she met.** It is estimated that approximately 800 Jews were saved by the family's efforts. A Dutch informant ended up telling about the family's efforts, and they were all arrested. Some police who secretly helped the cause, helped six people who were hidden in the room to escape. Corrie was eventually "accidentally" released after apprehension due to a "clerical error", and that all other women in her age group were sent to the gas chamber around a week later. That is the world's way of explaining away God's hand, or at the very least, the means by which God did it.

The reason I bring her up, is not to give a history lesson (I am not a person to do that, nor was I really into history in school). But something that happened later which is the part I remember that had been shared here at church. The family was stripped of everything, persecuted (some died), and Corrie and her sister were eventually sent to a concentration camp. **The place had fleas. Corrie was near despair, but these fleas ended up being a blessing.** It allowed the ten Booms freedom to roam around talking with each other, holding Bible studies, witnessing etc. because the guards avoided coming in to check on them, abusing them, and harassing them, due to fear of being bitten. Corrie ended up praising God for the fleas.

Sometimes in life, things happen that make no sense. They seem dire and maybe even punishments. **It sure is a lot easier to praise God when things are going well, we're healthy, our needs are met, we are loved and treated well, and so forth. Praising God during the hard times is contrary to what the flesh wants, and the world expects.** Yet, we are supposed to praise God in all things.

Romans 8:28 promises that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord. We have to shut out what seems natural, look beyond present circumstances, and see what lies ahead. We may not understand, or even know why until Heaven (if then), but that is where faith and trust come in. God doesn't always send the proverbial fleas, and sometimes He doesn't get rid of them, but uses them in a way that benefits us.

My mind goes to something else that seems contrary to our logic and sense, or what eyes saw. A baby sent to a virgin, whose life was different from others in many ways. One who could have stopped what was going to happen to Him, but accepted it out of love for us and the Father. I think about Good Friday and how bleak things looked. It seemed evil had won, hope could not be found, and the devil had succeeded by killing a man who had helped many. But, many may not have realized that this was all in God's plan, and that Sunday was coming. Christ arose from the grave, destroying the devil's plan giving the opportunity of salvation to an imperfect people (including us gentiles). Oh, how I would have loved to have seen the devil's reaction to the empty tomb.

The devil's defeat doesn't end there, however. He loses in the end too. We can look at the world and see the evil here. Sometimes it seems the devil has won, but to quote a **song "I've read the back of the book, and we win!"**

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



February 24 was the annual Merit Badge Day. This was a great opportunity for the boys to earn some Eagle required merit badges and some fun ones too. Almost every boy took the Chess merit badge. We have a lot of chess matches on campouts. I better brush up on my chess playing. This was just a day event for the troop.

March 23 is our second trip to Mammoth cave. This trip will be a lot of fun. Most of the troop have never been there before. I hope the weather is a little nicer than 2 years ago when we had to drive through a snowstorm that ended up with 6 inches of snow. Most were not prepared to sleep in the snow. We had one adult sleep on the floor of the heated restroom area. That is what makes camping trips memorable though. It always seems like the campouts where there was a problem or a challenge are the ones you always look back as the years go by and smile and laugh about what happened. It's like the saying, Time plus Tragedy equals Humor.

If you know any boys that are 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 6:30–8pm in the Youth Center.

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



Whodunnit?

I'm sure many of us have either read a good "Whodunnit" mystery or watched one on TV. Shows like NCIS or CSI or Murder, She Wrote ... there's always a body (typically a lifeless one) and someone guilty of causing that lifelessness.

Now ... think back to a morning many years ago. Some women were approaching the place the body of our Lord was supposed to be laid. After the crucifixion, His body had been placed in this tomb and sealed with a huge rock.

But as they approached, the rock was rolled away! And, as they peered into the tomb His body was gone!

WHODUNNIT???

Let's call in the CSI team to search for footprints, fingerprints and other evidence because they are the best at solving such mysteries!

But wait! There are no footprints and the fingerprints on the outside of the rock don't match any they've ever seen! Who could have whisked the Lord's body away?

To the unbeliever, this is a great "story" ... a mystery to be solved. But to the Christian, we have read the back of the book and we know all the answers, right?

The fingerprints on the stone belong to God who is like none other. And the lack of footprints is because Jesus arose ... and in my mind His feet might not have even touched the ground as He left the tomb that day!

What men tried to kill could not be destroyed for He is the Son of God, our Savior! He freely became human, suffered as we humans suffer, died for our sins and on the third day arose again to glory! Such a great ending to a whodunnit mystery, don't you think?

May the joy of the risen Savior fill your life every day!!

Happy Easter Timothy



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 9am Worship 10:10 Sunday School	4	5 10-11am Prayer Hour	6 11am-Worship Meeting 6pm-Choir	7 6:30pm-Scouts	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9am Worship 10:10 - Sunday School 5pm - Grace's Table	11	12 10-11am Prayer Hour	13 6pm- Choir	14 NO-Scouts	15	16
		BCSC Spring Break March 11-15				
17 St. Patrick's Day  Guest Speaker Sharon Johnson	18	19 First Day of Spring 10-11am Prayer Hour	20 6pm-Choir	21 6:30pm-Scouts	22	23
24 Palm Sunday  9am - Worship 10:10 - Sunday School	25	26 10-11am Prayer Hour	27 6pm-Choir	28 NO-Scouts	29 Good Friday 6pm-Good Friday Service NO BCSC School	30

31 
7:30am - Sunrise Srvc
8am - Breakfast
9am - Easter Service
No Sunday School



March BIRTHDAYS

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



Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24
Procession of the Palms



Good Friday

Friday, March 29
Good Friday Service – 6pm



Sunday, March 31
7:30am—Sunrise Service
8am—Easter Breakfast
9am—Easter Service

(Sunday School will not meet on Easter Sunday)

JUST FOR KIDS



1-12yrs

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held during Children's Church for children 1-12 years old.

Kids be sure to bring along a basket or bag to put your eggs in!



News

 From the Mail Box...

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

—Gini Jessup

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

—From the Family of Alfreda Zigler Walker

Here's what's happening!

Tuesday Hour of Prayer Time, 10-11am in the Sanctuary. Join us for an hour of quiet prayer time. Please enter through the Elevator Door or the Glass Doors near the office.

Worship Committee Meeting, Wed., March 6 at 11am.

Grace's Table Free Meal, Sunday, March 10, at 5pm in the Youth Center.

Guest Speaker, Sharon Johnson, Sun., March 17. Sharon's message is "Billygoat Christianity" from the book of Jonah. A love offering will be collected.



Daylight Savings begins on March 10
Set your clocks ahead one hour!!!



With Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences to Gerald Walker and family on the passing of Alfreda Walker.

Peace
BE WITH YOU!

In the early years of the U.S. space program, a small but powerful rocket was supported by a metal framework. This "escape tower" was bolted to the capsule in which astronauts awaited takeoff. If disaster

occurred, the escape tower was to carry the capsule up and away from the main rocket. A parachute would then float the astronauts safely to earth. Jesus' resurrection is more than a great escape. If he had merely eluded death, that would be akin to resuscitation. By God's power, Jesus didn't merely survive death but conquered it, once and for all. On Easter, Jesus returns to life not for his own sake but for the sake of all humanity. He reassures the disciples — and us — "Peace be with you."

—adapted from *Homiletics*



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

9:00 am - Worship Service

10:10am - Sunday School

OUR CHURCH MISSION

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