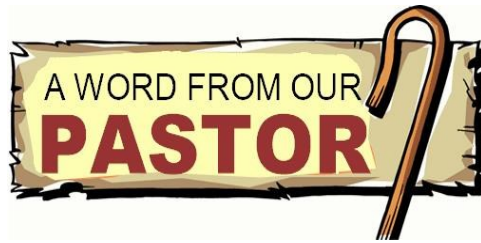


East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

APRIL 2026





The Risen Lord Is With Us

May the peace of God always be with you.

April is a special month for us as we celebrate Easter, which is at the center of our faith. We walk through the season of Lent, pass through the cross, and finally come to the joy of the resurrection.

Recently, I read a story like this.

A person enjoyed putting puzzles together. No matter how difficult the puzzle was, there was one key to completing it. He said, "Every puzzle has one key piece. When you find that piece, the rest comes together naturally." In fact, no matter how hard you try, if that one piece is missing, the puzzle can never be finished.

Easter tells us the same truth. We try to live faithfully and fix what is wrong, but sometimes we still feel that something is missing. We may feel that our lives are not complete. That is because one most important piece is missing. And that piece is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says,

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Without the resurrection, our faith, our hope, and the meaning of our lives cannot be complete. But thanks be to God, the resurrection is not just a story from the past. It is a present reality. It is the key piece that completes our lives. God leads our lives within His great and eternal plan. Even the things we do not understand are part of His work, bringing everything toward completion.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us place this key piece of the resurrection into our lives and live with the resurrection at the center. When that piece is in place, our lives will become a beautiful picture in God's hands.

This April, during this season of resurrection, I pray that you will enjoy the beautiful life that God is shaping for you.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."
(John 11:25)

I love you all and pray God's blessings upon you.

In the Grace of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



Empathy is a word thrown around, and sometimes seen as an equivalent for sympathy. But in my opinion, sympathy is feeling sorry for someone and their circumstances, but empathy is supposed to be a step further and actually understanding and probably even **feeling the pain ourselves**. It is to an extent putting ourselves in their shoes.

Charlie Kirk was misquoted many times often by taking things out of context (which some also do with the Bible). I am not comparing Charlie to the Bible, just that folks misquote both for their own agendas. I had already heard the entire clip of his comments about empathy, and while he said he didn't care for empathy, it was because he believed that we **can't truly feel what another person is going through** (and probably their unique circumstances). It wasn't that he didn't feel bad or didn't care. He preferred the word sympathy thinking it was more accurate.

I personally think that people who have gone through similar things CAN empathize and understand **to an extent** (each person has different weaknesses and personalities, and their situation has different.) What may be the end of the world to some may be just another day for another person. I also think that some people can more naturally put themselves in someone else's shoes and feel pain for them. But, I also think that we **aren't going to feel the same exact thing they are feeling**. There are too many variables.

In my opinion and observations over the years: The **bullies** or those spared from bullying **cannot understand the bullied person**. The people with **good health cannot understand the sickly**. The person with a **nice climate-controlled home and bed cannot really understand the plight of the homeless**. The people with **many friends and family cannot understand the lonely**, excluded, and overlooked. The person with a **fat bank account cannot understand the person living paycheck to paycheck**, or those who come up short. The respected person cannot understand those who are disrespected, unappreciated, or looked down on. The person with a spouse can't fully understand the single person (even though they once were single), and the person with children cannot understand the childless person who desperately wants children. We **men can't understand the pain of childbirth** (can I get an "amen" on that, ladies?) The **well-fed person cannot understand the starving**. The strong person can't understand the old and feeble, and the **pain-free person can't understand the one who may live with constant pain**. **We Christians in the United States** who are (mostly) spared from danger, persecution, or being murdered for our faith, **cannot understand our Christian brothers and sisters being murdered in other countries**. Those of us with freedom to go to church can't understand those who risk their lives, freedom, or possessions to go to church. Those in a **free country, can't understand those who live under tyranny**.

While I believe God can help us to feel for those people, **we can't really know entirely how they feel** even if we care, show it and help. We can't know because **we aren't walking the same road** (even if we have had similar experiences). Sometimes those who say "I know how you feel" may not mean it in a bad way. They may mean "I have been through this so I understand where you are coming from" and want to let the person know they are not alone. But sometimes it comes across (and sometimes maybe even is) a way for the person to look superior, or to dismiss the problem or severity of that person's problem. Even if we try to empathize, we can't feel exactly what they are feeling or dealing with.

Easter is almost here. **Christ came to earth in human form**. It might be easy for folks to see God as someone far away who hasn't walked the same roads we have and can't understand grief, hunger, struggles etc. Yet, Christ came to the earth. He was betrayed by loved ones, he was unappreciated, doubted, lied about, felt grief from the (temporary) loss of Lazarus and probably the pain Lazarus' sisters were feeling. **He felt more pain than we could ever know**, and He walked among us. **That is someone who can feel empathy and identify with our lives!**

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



Saturday, March 28 was our annual Columbus Amateur Radio Club's Hamfest. The scouts helped out with setting up tables and serving food and helped tear down afterwards. It is always a great time with lots of things to see and do. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio can attend. It was held at the North High School Cafeteria.

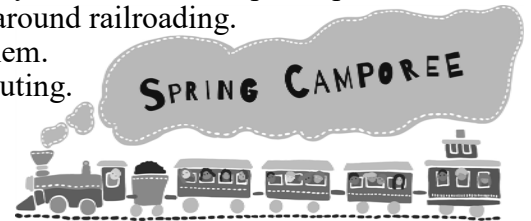
April 24-26th

Our Spring Camporee is a train theme this year. It is a special opportunity for the scouts to participate in how trains work, haul things, change directions and many other things around railroading.

The scouts will be able to use a handcart. That will be a lot of fun for them.

The event takes place in Connersville, Indiana. This should be a great outing.

Please pray for nice weather.



Our local scout camp Maumee Scout Reservation is having their long time Ranger retire, Ranger Ed. He has been the ranger at the camp for over 5 years. The scouts all love him. He will be greatly missed. Our friendship I hope will continue after his departure. Please pray for his replacement who is a young man that knew and grew up with Ranger Ed being at camp. He will need the wisdom and guidance that prayer can help with. I am on the facilities committee for Maumee Scout Reservation, I participate with 5 others including Kordell, our assistant scoutmaster, to decide the future direction and the improvements for the camp. We work towards implementing the improvement and applying for grants to help fund the projects at the camp. I could use some personal prayers as the Council has come to me and offered a paid position to help track and facilitate the implementation of the improvements coming in the future for the camp. I will be working with the contractors to make sure things are done in a timely manner and up to our specifications. With my past work experience they wanted someone who could help the new ranger in those duties. I am still waiting on the final proposal for the position. It is a big decision for Belinda and I to take on this responsibility with everything else that we have going on with the troop and our lives. It will be an exciting time to be involved with scouting in the next few years in our local council.

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 at 6:30 – 8:00 at the Youth Center.

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



The black dot ...

One day a teacher surprised his class with a pop quiz. As he distributed the quiz, face down, to every student, he didn't provide any instructions about the quiz. Then he asked the students to turn over the page and much to their confusion, the page was blank ... except for a single black dot in the middle of the page.

The teacher gave these instructions ... "Write about what you see on the page ... go."

Near the end of class the teacher called time and collected all the papers from the students. He reviewed them briefly and then spoke to the class.

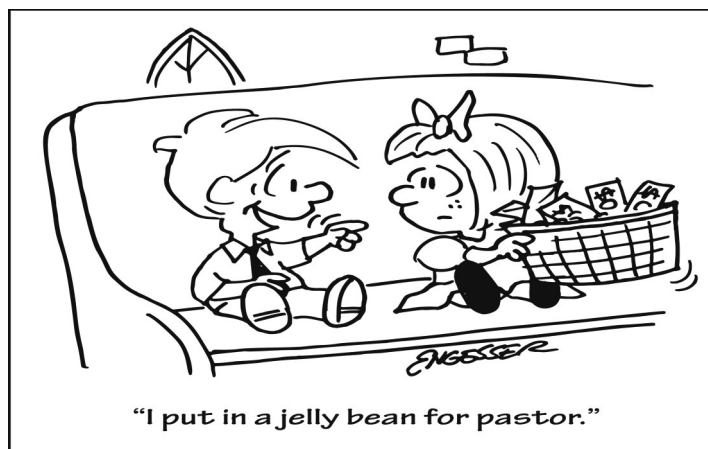
"Obviously, this quiz won't impact your grade." Audible sighs were heard throughout the room. ☹️

As the teacher began to read the "answers" aloud, the theme of each was concerning the black dot. They described it's place on the sheet, its size, color, shape. But none of the students wrote about the white space around the dot.

We're like those students from time to time. We focus entirely on the black sin in our life and forget entirely about the amount of forgiveness that has been given to us through the blood of Jesus. Don't misunderstand, sin is damming and without that forgiveness we are doomed to spend eternity apart from God. But this Easter as we rejoice in the resurrection, let's rejoice in the forgiveness which was given yesterday and is readily available to each of us today ... **if you will only ask.**

Won't you seek God's forgiveness and thank Him for His grace today?

Rejoicing in the resurrected Savior Timothy



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm-Choir	2 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts	3 Good Friday Service 6 p.m.	4
5 EASTER 7:30-Sunrise Service 8:00-Breakfast 9:00-Easter Service (NO Sunday School)	6	7 10am - Prayer Hour	8 6pm- Choir	9 6:30pm-Scouts	10	11
12 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm-Grace's Table	13	14 10am - Prayer Hour	15 6pm-Choir	16 6:30pm-Scouts	17	18
19 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	20	21 10am - Prayer Hour	22 6pm-Choir	23 6:30pm-Scouts	24	25
26 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	27	28 10am - Prayer Hour	29 6pm-Choir	30 6:30pm-Scouts		



Apr. 2...Sharon Brown
Sharon Elkins
11.. Barry Turnbow
12...Jim Kamp
18...Glenda Henry
20...Esther Kim-Lee

Apr. 22...Mary Alice Lanham
Collis Mayfield
27...Joel Mattern
29...Carolyn Harris
Pastor Jongmin Lee

News



From the Mail Box...

Dorothy Briner thanks everyone for all the prayers, cards and calls.

Tom & Mary Gorman thanks everyone for all the acts of kindness that has been bestowed upon them during this time. We are so blessed to be a part of the family of God.

Here's what's happening!



Truth

Easter is Eternal

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crusted to earth shall rise again.

Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn

-DonaldH. Tipper

April 3—Good Friday

The Crucifixion

6pm-Good Friday Service

April 5—Easter Sunday

Jesus is Risen

7:30am-Sunrise Service

8:00am-Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

9:00am-Easter Service

NO Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt after Service (Ages 1-12)

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, April 12 at 5pm in the Youth Center. All are welcome!

Weekly Prayer Hour, every Tuesday a prayer time is held from 10am to 11am in the sanctuary. Come and pray for a few minutes or the entire hour. Please enter through the Elevator Door.



In Memory of
Shirley Murphy
Who went home to her
Heavenly Father
March 16, 2026





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

Return Service Requested

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

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

9:00 am - Worship Service

10:10am - Sunday School

OUR CHURCH MISSION

Growing the Family of God by Making

Loving Disciples of Jesus Christ.