



East Columbus United Methodist Church

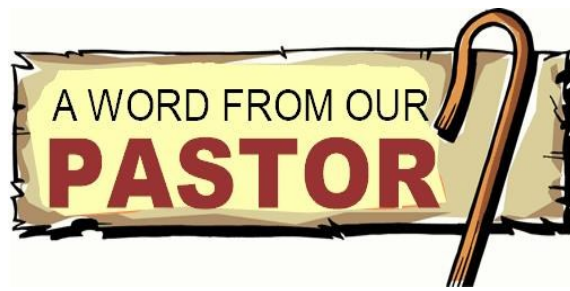
A Church for Everyone!

JUNE 2023



Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV



“One Year Of Gratitude”

It has been almost a year since I was appointed to this church. I came to the city of Columbus, Indiana, following God's calling last year. Looking back on the past year, I see many things to be thankful for.

First, I have met wonderful families of faith. I believe the church is a family community of faith, as we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Meeting and learning from faithful Christians like you is a great blessing. Moreover, I was able to meet you in not just one but two churches. I consider this a double blessing, so I am doubly grateful.

Secondly, I am grateful for the opportunity to share the Word of God together. God's Word faithfully and unchangingly guides us. Since we were created by God's Word, our souls respond to it. Therefore, when we read the Bible aloud together, I can feel God's Word's living and moving power.

Third, I am thankful for the opportunity to meet people who cannot attend church due to illness or mobility limitations through visitations. I was grateful when I met them and shared communion with them. Both of my grandmothers in Korea are also in poor health, receiving care in nursing homes and at home. It saddened me that I couldn't visit them frequently. So, I prayed to God, "Lord, as I visit and care for those who are ill here, please take care of my grandmothers in Korea instead of me!" Now, every time I do visitations, it feels familiar and comfortable, as if I am seeing my grandmothers. This is also my gratitude.

Fourth, I am grateful that my family is doing well. We are doing well at the parsonage. If something breaks or there is a problem at home, church members come and fix it, and taking care of us. I am also grateful for the opportunity to fellowship with good people and friends, and for the healthy growth of children and spiritual growth through the Children's Moment.

Fifth, I am thankful for experiencing God's grace. It is a blessing to proclaim the Word, even with my limited language skills, through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Someone once said that because I have an accent, they listen more attentively to my sermons to understand them better. Understanding and comprehending someone's story is only possible with grace. So, I am grateful.

Lastly, I pray for the fiery grace of the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon us. As I reflect on a year of ministry, I pray that the Holy Spirit, who has been with us in the past and is still alive, will fill us all with the burning grace of the Holy Spirit so that we will burn with the love of Christ. Thus, I pray that even through simple encounters and conversations with our neighbors, they may feel the warmth of God's passionate grace through us.

I love and bless you all, and thank you!

Love in Christ,
Pastor **Jongmin**



*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

I suppose one of the challenges we can face in the Christian faith is the balance between grace and justice (both attributes of God). Some think continual, repeated sin isn't an issue. Others have been concerned about going too soft on sin. We don't want to give the impression that God approves of, or is permissive of it.

Our relationship with Christ is often like a child's with a parent. Some earthly parents practically encourage sin, and others who are so strict and "just" that kids are frightened to come to them when they mess up or are in trouble. I believe God is in between. This is exemplified in a meme I recently shared. "**Religion:** 'I messed up. My Dad is gonna kill me.' **Gospel:** "I messed up. I need to call my Dad." The "kid" in both realized that they messed up. He or she wanted help from the dad, not scolded and ripped to shreds.

I recently re-watched a DVD I bought around two decades ago. It was history of the Blackwood Brothers and the Goodman Family. (Two separate documentaries on one DVD). I was struck on the Blackwood brothers' portion which got into problems two of the family members got into (individually). One son started drifting further and further away from how he was raised, and was eventually arrested for drugs. I am going to paraphrase what I remember, but the gist is correct. He stated that he was ashamed to tell his parents, so he called his brother for help in the wee hours of the morning. That brother, then turned around and called the parents. The parents went to the jail. The son recounted how the parents didn't say things such "What have you gotten yourself into", "you shouldn't have done this" or, "you should have done this". Although some discussion later may have been in order about choices, they simply said "we love you, son". He credited their love, faith, and many prayers in helping turn him around.

One of my all-time favorite vocalists got into sin in the middle nineties during unparalleled success of his career in Christian music. His music was taken out of stores, one magazine went as far as to remove his name from an article that was written, where the subject of the article listed him as an influence on his own singing. Of course his solo career was all but ruined, and he had already left the group he had been in BECAUSE of the success as a soloist. Not that this was the right choice, or that he didn't have a choice, he ended up straying far more for probably half of a decade. He felt he had no hope anyhow. During that time, most avoided him. A few tried ministering to him in different ways. One was J.D. Sumner who called him up to stage to sing with his (J.D.'s) group. My understanding is that J.D. also at one point gave up all or most of his and his own group's time at the quartet convention, and had this singer sing. I also heard another artist or two did similar things. These alone didn't immediately have the singer change, but these and a few others reaching out gave him slivers of hope until he was restored.

Speaking of J.D., the other Blackwood I mentioned got into trouble with the law as well. Anyhow, as I recall, he said when so many abandoned him, but that J.D. said he'd meet him and pick him up from the bus station upon release, and had a job for him. It was in the middle of the night too, but he said sure enough, J.D. was there waiting for him and the fact he had a job gave him hope to start rebuilding his life.

My heart has been encouraged in seeing churches in more recent times gather around expectant mothers with open arms. NOT condoning their having sex before marriage, but accepting that they made a wrong decision, and being grateful that they didn't compound that bad decision with another to terminate the pregnancy. It is a balancing act to not endorse sin, but also not to shun someone who made a bad decision.

All of us who have come to Christ have been some sort of prodigal as none of us met all of the standards. Seeing the Father running towards us and restoring us when we rebelliously left is a strong thing. I think we need to model Christ in this way while still not endorsing the sin.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



June 11th – 17th Maumee Scout Reservation Summer Camp

June 11th – 17th is our annual first week of Maumee Scout Reservation Summer Camp. We have a lot of scouts attending this year. We will have 10 from our own troop, one from a troop in Florida (The scout used to be in our troop and decided he would rather attend camp with us than his current Florida troop), 1 scout and 1 parent from Iowa that we do not know, and 2 other scouts from a troop around Mitchell that wanted to attend camp with our troop. One I had last year when I was the scoutmaster for the last week of camp for a provisional troop. This is when there are scouts from all different troops that only have one or two scouts that can come to camp, or they do not have a leader that can bring them to camp. This was a unique opportunity that I was able to do last year. I hope I can do it in the future.

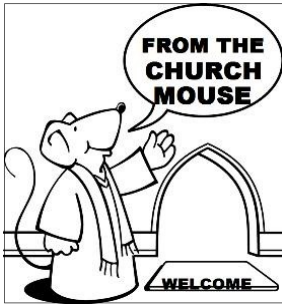
May 31st My grandson Carter Varvel and I report to camp to be on the staff this year. This will be a new experience for both of us. We have never worked at summer camp before. They say it is a life changing event. He will be staying in air-conditioned cabins all summer. I chose to stay in a tent all summer. I bet I will see more of a life changing event than he will if it is hot. Carter will be working in the dining hall cooking, cleaning, and setting up the dining area. He has an interest in cooking. He will have a chance to get a lot of merit badges this year with his free time between meal preparation.

I am leading a new area that they have tried to create in the past with little success. The new area is called Eagles Landing. I will need a lot of prayers since I have some ideas of what to do but most of it, I will be making it up as I go. I will be relying on the Holy Spirit to guide me in everything I do while teaching the scouts. My main goal is to teach them what careers there are available while we are doing high adventure type of things. This would include what does it mean to be an Eagle Scout to yourself, family, and your peers? What can be your opportunities and what doors can be opened for you since you attained the Eagle Scout rank, scouting's highest achievement vs other people that did not.

We are planning to do mountain bike riding, which will include Cycling merit badge. Working on building bike trails. Canoe trips down White River from Brownstown to Medora's covered bridge or canoe from Monroe backwaters to the causeway at 446 for an overnight trip. Using a forge to make things out of raw metal. Learn what amateur radio is and how it is used in real life scenarios today. I will be teaching Amateur Radio merit badge. Teach them how to use a sawmill to saw trees into lumber to build bridges. We will be hiking through the camp forest area where there are no trails and very few people get to visit, this will rely on compass use and how to read maps. I will be teaching advanced fishing techniques for different species of fish, then we can go to the lake to try out what they have learned. It should be a fun and enjoyable summer and we will all make a lot of new friends. I hope I can make an impact on the scouts' lives where they can always look back with fond memories, and the things they did the year they came to Maumee for summer camp.

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



Dads always get a bad rap!

Just last month we celebrated Mom ... don't get me wrong ... Moms are pretty special but so are Dads.

Have you ever considered what Dads give up for us? Maybe instead of going to work they wanted to go play golf or fish the day away. But he willingly goes to work so there is food on the table (it may be Brussel sprouts but its food ☐).

Our earthly Dad sacrifices a lot for us. Have you noticed your Dad's hands? Some are probably rough and calloused because of their line of work. Or maybe they sit behind a desk and their hands are covered with papercuts instead.

But our heavenly Father sacrificed even more ... He gave His one and only Son to save us. Remember the hands of Jesus? And His sacrifice ...



This Father's Day as we say thanks to Dad and shower him with gifts, don't forget to say thank you to God for His greatest sacrifice ... Jesus!

Till next month thanking God for Jesus and my dad ...

Timothy

**Thanks
Dad!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 Scouts	2	3
4 Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	5	6	7 6pm-Choir	8 6:30pm-Scouts	9	10
11 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School 5pm-Grace's Table	12	13	14 6pm- Choir	15 NO-Scouts	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	19	20	21 6pm-Choir	22 6:30pm- Scouts	23	24
25 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday School	26	27	28 6pm-Choir	29 6:30pm-Scouts	30	



June 5-Diana Fear
 June 6- Don Wilson
 Jane Kamp
 June 7-Tom Gorman
 June 9-Bob Hodler
 June 10-Brenda Hodler
 Brenda Wilson

June 17-Alice Sechrest
 June 19-Peggy Skinner
 June 21-Sherri Hanna
 June 22-Tom Hadley

News



From the Mail Box...

Thank you to all those who volunteered and prayed for the success of the Block Party.

-Tom Hadley

The Church family thanks Tom Hadley for all the hard work he did to make the Block Party a HUGH success.

For the Love Chapel Summer Food Drive the church donated \$935 and 32 lbs of food.



Grace's Table Dinner Church Sunday, June 11
at 5:00 pm in the Youth Center.

Blessings Bestowed

When author Gary Smalley asked 100 people to share how they knew they'd received their parents' blessing, they offered these memories of fatherly love.

*My father put his arm around me at church and let me lay my head on his shoulder.

*When my father faced a transfer at work, he purposely took another job so I could finish my senior year in high school.

*My father went with me to the store when I had to return a purchase I regretted.

*My father let me practice pitching to him for a long time after work.

*My father cried during my wedding because he was going to miss me being at home.

*When I wrecked my parents' car, my father's first reaction was to hug me and let me cry instead of yelling at me.

SAVE THE DATE



VBS



July 24—26

9 am—11:30 am

(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

For all kids K—5 Grade

More information in the July Newsletter.

**VBS NEEDS
VOLUNTEERS!**

Volunteers are needed to help with VBS. If you are interested contact Katie Niespondziani.



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.