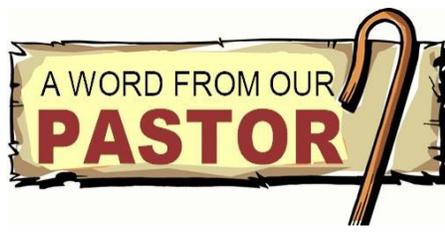


East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

SEPTEMBER 2025





Trust Beyond Understanding

May the peace of God be with you always.

We are continuing our Elijah sermon series. While looking for more information about Elijah, I found a story from Jewish book, Talmud, that I want to share with you. It's a parable about Rabbi Joshua ben Levi and the prophet Elijah from the Old Testament.

One day, Rabbi Joshua ben Levi prayed to God with all his heart: "Lord, please let me meet the prophet Elijah so I can understand Your ways better." God answered his prayer, and Elijah came to him. The rabbi said to Elijah: "Please let me travel with you when you go around the world. I want to see what you see." Elijah said: "Okay, but you must promise me one thing. Even if you see something you don't understand, you must not ask me questions or try to judge me. If you do, I will leave right away." The rabbi agreed.

Scene 1 - The Poor Couple's Cow

They began their journey together. On the first day, they stayed at a poor couple's house. The couple had almost nothing, but they welcomed Elijah and the rabbi with kindness and shared what they had. The next morning, Elijah prayed quietly. Right after that, the couple's only cow - their only way to make a living - died. The rabbi was very shocked and confused, but he remembered his promise and said nothing.

Scene 2 - The Rich Man's Wall

The next day, they stayed at a rich man's house. The man was rude. He barely let them in, gave no greeting, and no food. But the next morning, Elijah fixed the man's broken wall with his own hands. The rabbi was even more confused, but he still said nothing.

Scene 3 - Two Synagogues

Next, they visited two synagogues (Jewish worship places) in two towns. In the first town, the people were cold and didn't care about others. After the service, Elijah said to them: "I hope all of you become leaders."

In the second town, the people were kind and welcoming. They gave Elijah and the rabbi food and a place to stay. To them, Elijah said: "I hope only one of you becomes a leader."

At this point, the rabbi couldn't stay silent anymore. "Why did you say that?" he asked. "Everything you've done seems backwards. It doesn't make sense." Elijah answered quietly: "That night, the poor woman was supposed to die. I prayed to God to take the cow instead, and God said yes. So she lived. Under the rich man's wall, there was a hidden treasure. If he had fixed the wall himself, he would have found it. But I didn't want him to have it, so I fixed the wall for him. The first synagogue had selfish people. I said, 'Let everyone be a leader,' because when too many people try to lead, they will fight and not work together. The second synagogue had kind people. I said, 'Let only one be a leader,' because that will help them stay in peace." Then Elijah said: "Joshua, people cannot always see what God is doing. Even when things seem unfair, God is working quietly and making things right. So don't doubt Him - trust Him." After saying this, Elijah disappeared.

Beloved friends, sometimes we don't understand what God is doing. But God is always working - even when we can't see it. Even if life feels unfair or hard, let's hold on to our faith and keep walking with God, trusting that He knows what is best.

I love and bless you all in Christ!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jongmin



*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

There was a skunk trapped in one of our basement window wells here at church. The same thing happened a year or so ago—maybe even with the very same skunk who hadn't learned his lesson and repeated the same mistake. But really, who among us hasn't made the same mistake more than once?

I watched the skunk struggle to climb out, only to fall back down again. It turned out he had been stuck there for at least five days (someone had seen him the previous Friday), and maybe longer. I had walked near that well at least six times myself, and never noticed. Others had too. Finally, Jim Bozell happened to spot him while leaving choir rehearsal, and told me.

I texted Don, Sherri, and Pastor Jongmin to let them know. Sherri planned to clean in a few hours, and I didn't want her to be surprised or have any trouble while checking that doors. I called animal control, but they were closed until Friday—the skunk would have been stuck for at least a week by then. I utilized their after-hours paging, explained that it had been there at least five days, and I wasn't sure if it had eaten (or drunk for that matter) during that time.

Sherri thought about what I'd said about the food, and brought a piece of wood from home in case the animal control didn't arrive for a while. She lowered it into the well, hoping the skunk would climb out. But instead of using it, the skunk seemed afraid of it, and avoided it. The wood was meant for its good, but the skunk refused the help. Eventually, the animal control officer came. After some time and effort (the skunk kept dodging the net and eventually sprayed) she managed to get it out and set it free.

Most of you know that we have Dinner Church (“Grace’s Table”) on the second Sunday of each month. We’ve seen people come and go over the years. Some who were there early on are still with us, though maybe not every month. Others, I wonder about—where they are now, and what became of them.

I'm not saying that everyone who struggles is entirely innocent in their circumstances, or that all who ask for money are genuine. I personally know a family out of state who repeats unhealthy cycles, unwilling to make better choices or sacrifice non-essentials (at least temporarily) in order to improve their situation. They expect others to subsidize their poor decisions. But others face hardships that sometimes are beyond anything they do. An illness, a sudden setback, or something beyond their control may leave them trapped, like the skunk in the window well—trying to climb out, but unable to succeed with the skills, health, or resources they have.

Meanwhile, people may walk by without noticing. Others may see but keep going, like those in the parable of the Good Samaritan, too busy with their own responsibilities. Some might not want to be inconvenienced or put at risk. Others may look down on those in need, or simply not know how to help.

The issues of homelessness and poverty are complex, with countless stories—no two exactly the same. Some people need to change their ways; others simply need a hand up so that once they are out of the “window well,” they can stay out. Some may even reject help, like the skunk with the board—too afraid or too distrustful to accept it. Sometimes they may not want to do what it takes to get out, but that isn't every case, I am sure. And yes, some are scammers.

It's easy to judge how someone ended up where they are, or to criticize what looks like a lack of effort. Other times, the scale of the need feels overwhelming, and we think, I can't fix that. Or we wish we had more money, imagining how much we could do “if only.”

But God doesn't ask us to fix everything or to do what someone with more resources can do. He asks us to do what we can, right where we are. There's a song by Bill and Gloria Gaither, “Tell it to a Few Close Friends,” They heard people say: “If only I had a voice like Billy Graham, a big platform, could travel, or had money, I could really witness,” The Gaithers then heard a friend ask “why don't you tell it to a few close friends”. The gist is to do what you can where you are.

Like the boy in the starfish story who couldn't save them all, but could make a difference for some, we too are called to use whatever gifts we have—great or small—to further God's work.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



August 16th

This was a day event for the troop. We had 5 boys go to Rascals Fun Zone in Whiteland. We always enjoy racing each other in the go carts. The boys are actually pretty good racers. Very competitive and they are always laughing and smiling. Especially if they get around their buddy and beat him to the finish line.

September 12th-14th

This is the Cub Scout Shootoree. Our troop runs the BB Gun station. This is a lot of fun seeing little kids that can barely hold the weight of a BB gun get to shoot one for the first time. They get to keep the target and show all their siblings and family how well they did. It is usually very busy all day long. The boys really enjoy doing this every year.

September 23

This is our twice a year fundraiser for the Phi Beta Psi Breast Cancer fundraiser. The troop cooks and serves food to the attendees. There are always at least 450 attendees. It is a lot of work but the boys have a lot of fun. The attendees enjoy seeing the boys in their scout uniforms. It is a fun atmosphere.

Tucker Higham is our scout that was able to complete all the requirements for his Eagle Scout rank. The council is in the process of reviewing and getting its paperwork completed. His family will be in the process of planning his Eagle Scout Court of Honor soon. I will let everyone know when he has the ceremony scheduled.

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



Did you ever need a second chance?

This little mouse has needed lots of second chances ... and third chances ... and fourth chances!

I was thinking about some of the people in the Bible that needed a second chance ...

Jonah

Joseph's brothers

Saul

Thomas

Jonah disobeyed but God gave him another chance to take God's message to Nineveh.

Joseph's brothers needed a second chance after the evil they did to Joseph.

Saul persecuted Christians but God met him on Damascus Road changing him from Saul to Paul who was instrumental in sharing God's Word with everyone.

Thomas had faith issues ... but Jesus let him touch the wounds in His hands and side so he had a second chance to restore his faith.

And, of course, the entire human race needed a second chance ... which God granted through His Son, Jesus!

If you need a second chance, don't hesitate ... God will forgive!

Thanking God for the chances He provides to us daily!

Till next month Timothy

News



From the Mail Box...

Darla, Diana and Jane thank you for the visit. Diana thanks for reading the poems. You made my day. Love and Prayers.
—Rosalie Pfister

East Columbus Church... for everything you have done, for everything you have given, Thank You. You will never know how much ECUM means to me—Precious Memories! Thanks for sowing the seed!

—Sharon Johnson

Here's what's happening!

Grace's Table Free Meal, Sunday, September 14 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.

Office will be closed Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Trustee meeting will be held Thursday, September 4 at 6:30.

Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, September 23 at 6 pm.

Perfect Peace

Peace is Christ's distinctive gift—not money, not worldly ease, not temporal prosperity. These are at best very questionable possessions. They often do more harm than good to the soul. They act as clogs and weights to our spiritual life.

Inward peace of conscience, arising from a sense of pardoned sin and reconciliation with God, is a far greater blessing. This peace is the property of all believers, whether high or low, rich or poor.

—J.C. Ryle

Love Chapel

Altogether for good.

Once again we are partnering with Love Chapel and collecting monetary donations for Love Chapel to purchase all the necessary items for the **Christmas Feast Baskets** that are given to local families in need. The baskets will be distributed from December 1st to December 22nd. Families will receive the Christmas Baskets when they visit the pantry.

Love Chapel can purchase items at a much lower bulk rate cost. The baskets will be similar to last year's but will include a few new items like mushroom soup and yams.

The most costly part this year will be the ham and eggs each family receives. The baskets are estimated at a cost of \$80 each.

We will be collecting monetary donations during the month of September to be able to sponsor several baskets. Please use the designated "Love" envelope to make donations during the month of September.



Coming
In October...



**"Worship
in the Park"**

Sponsored by Love Chapel

Where: Donner Park Pavilion

When: Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 2pm

What: 2:00pm - 2:45pm, Worship

2:45pm - 4pm, Food, Fellowship, Fun
including a live band,
cookout and more!

Everyone Is Invited!

HELLO september

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day <i>Office Closed No School</i>	2 10am-Prayer Hour	3 6pm-Choir	4 5:30pm-Trustee Mtg 6:30pm-Scouts	5	6
7 Communion 9am - Worship 10:10am - Sunday School	8	9 10am - Prayer Hour	10 6pm-Choir	11 6:30pm-Scouts	12	13
14 9am - Worship 10:10am - Sunday School 5pm-Grace's Table	15	16 10am - Prayer Hour	17 6pm- Choir	18 6:30pm-Scouts	19	20
21 9am - Worship 10:10am - Sunday School	22	23 10am - Prayer Hour 6pm-Church Council Meeting	24 6pm-Choir	25 6:30pm- Scouts	26	27
28 9am - Worship 10:10am - Sunday School	29	30 10am-Prayer Hour				



Sept. 6 ... Kanynn Lawrence
Susan Warner-Conway

Sept. 7 ... Darla Bozell
Roland Barringer

Sept. 8 ... Becky Mayfield

Sept. 9 ... Pete Grimm

Sept. 16 ... Charlotte Hadley

Sept. 28 ... Morris Percifield



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.**