

East Columbus United Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

DECEMBER 2025





Loving Jesus Is Our Hope

May the peace of God always be with you.

The last month of 2025 has arrived. As we look back on the year, I hope this December will be a time to find reasons for gratitude and to hold on to waiting and hope for the new year.

Above all, our hope is to love Jesus. God desires that we live trusting in God's sovereignty and promises in our lives. Because our faith ultimately becomes evidence that we love Jesus. However, we make many mistakes and forget so easily. When something unpleasant happens, complaints come out before trusting God. I also had an embarrassing experience a few days ago.

On the day I went to exercise, I wore my workout pants. Those pants have zippers, so I thought I put my phone in one pocket and my wallet in the other and zipped them closed. But after finishing my exercise, I carried the pants over my bag and came home, and to my surprise, one zipper was open. And the wallet that should have been in that pocket was gone. I was very flustered and upset. Just thinking that I had to freeze or replace all the cards and my driver's license inside the wallet was terrifying. It was late at night, but I retraced the way I had come back home. It wasn't in the garage, nor in the bag, nor in the car. I drove back toward Nexus Park. While driving there, without realizing it, words of complaint toward God came out of my mouth. "God, why are You making my life so hard? Why does everything bring such stress to me?" I shouted, and complaints came out by themselves. Still angry, I arrived at the Nexus Park parking lot, got out of the car, and started walking back along the path I had taken. Then in one dark corner of the parking lot, I saw a small object lying on the ground. Hoping desperately that it would be my wallet, I hurried over, and there it was — my wallet placed neatly in an empty parking space with no one around. "God, Thank You! Thank You for saving me!"

I cannot explain how beautiful that wallet looked lying there just as it was. The voice that had been complaining against God only a minute ago turned into a voice of thanksgiving. "God, thank You! Thank You so much!" Gratitude and embarrassment came to me at the same time. How fragile human beings are. Even while loudly confessing that we believe and trust God, in moments of crisis we are quick to complain against Him.

There are things we learn through mistakes and discipline. God desires that through crises and difficult trials, we return to Him. What God desires is us. God is not very interested in the problems that arise in our lives or in the solutions to those problems. Through those problems, God earnestly desires that our souls return to Him. His concern is us, not problem-solving.

Advent has begun, and the season of waiting for the baby Jesus has started. If our interests and our gaze are still directed at something other than God, let us turn our eyes upon Jesus again. Let us not lose hope in dark circumstances and situations. Jesus is our true light and hope, and we know Him! We must realize how sufficient it is to know Jesus.

In December 2025, let us all give our entire hope to Jesus Christ!
I love and bless you all in Christ!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jongmin



There is a restaurant I have gotten food from numerous times in recent months. It is a little off my beaten path, in an area I seldom visit, and farther out than I may have ever gone as an adult—but worth it. I can pretty safely say it takes around fifteen minutes each way.

As time has gone on these past few months, I discovered an adjustment to the way I had previously arrived at the entrance that is a little easier and quicker (using a one-way street behind it). I then thought that exiting on that same street, instead of going through the parking lot (and farther away from where I was headed), might be a better idea. So I typed my intended destination from there into the maps on my phone to see if there was a quicker or at least more direct way using that one-way road. Sure enough, there was.

After doing that a few times, I decided on the spur of the moment yesterday to take another way back to work using that route after I saw that the road I was on intersected with a road that I believed intersected with another road that was a more direct route back. Sure enough, I was correct, and it worked out well. I had thought of going to an even farther road yesterday, thinking it also intersected, but decided to stick to the one in front of me that was the sure thing.

I went today to deposit my check into my account, and on the way out to the restaurant I did a quick search to see if the farther road I had considered trying yesterday did indeed intersect with the same road I had used the day before to get to the better route back. It said that it did.

I didn't use the GPS (thinking I had done enough). I hadn't typed in directions first the day before either, and it had worked out well. The problem was that I wasn't on the right road that I had confirmed intersected with the road I wanted to get back on. I needed to turn down the way I had discovered the day before, and drive for a while before intersecting with that particular road to get to the road I had in mind. There were trucks working out in that first road, and I mistakenly believed that road to be the one I had asked about in my search. So I went in that direction with that in mind.

It became obvious quickly that something was wrong. I can't say whether that road would have also eventually intersected with the road I wanted (I don't think so), but I finally found a place to pull over and typed in the church address as my destination. GPS eventually took me back to the road I had first used the first time I went back a different way than the way I had come. I ended up losing about fifteen minutes getting back to that road (I would have been back to church by that time), and still had nearly fifteen minutes before I would get there.

At that point, I continued the way I knew would work and eventually came to the intersection from the day before—the road I had thought I was on earlier when I realized it wasn't getting me where I intended. I decided not to take that chance again of attempting to get to that different road after wasting so much time, but I turned onto it going the way I went yesterday (in spite of what the GPS said). The GPS eventually adjusted to my route. I did, however, make one change from yesterday: instead of staying on that road as long as I had the previous day, I took another road at an intersection I knew would lead me to the one I had originally hoped to reach.

I really didn't want to take fifteen minutes longer to get back to church today. I can't say whether God took me that way to avoid an accident, charge my battery (it has shown signs of being a bit low lately), inspire this article, or whether He used it for one or more of those reasons knowing what would happen when I attempted the different way. Or maybe my simply going a different way than the clear path and not using the resources available to me (as people often do with God and the Bible) was the only result of going my own way. But I do know that life sometimes puts us in places that are not of our own choosing. These may happen because of our actions or inactions, the detours that come our way in life, or something else entirely.

Yet even when we fail or make poor decisions, God will get us back on the path—or use that lesser path to teach us—and if we love the Lord and are called according to His purpose, He will use those things (sometimes in spite of us) to bring about things for our good.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

Troop 549



We had our annual trip to Cleveland Ohio to Ray's Indoor Bike Park on November 15th . The boys rode their bikes on all the trails. They had a great time riding the indoor trails. There were a lot of tired boys at the end of the day. The troop really enjoyed the church service and luncheon on Sunday, November 16th .

December 12, 13 and 14th

We are looking forward to our annual campout at Camp Louis Ernst at the Winter cabin. This is the boys favorite campout of the year. I am not sure why unless it is because they do not have to cook or clean up. We normally go for a hike and play a lot of games.

December 18th

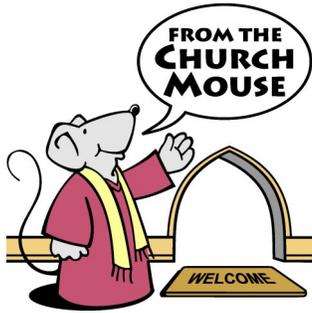
This is our annual Christmas party for the troop. We play bingo and have snacks. We have a gift exchange for the boys.

December 31st

We are having our annual new years eve party at the youth center. This is a fun evening for the scouts. We eat well and watch movies and play games.

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



Merry Christmas!!

I'm sure we all have things to do and you probably don't need any help from your Church Mouse ... but ... well ... I thought I'd share a Christmas To Do List with you anyway ...



Christmas To-Do List

- ~~Buy Presents~~ *Be*
- ~~Wrap Gifts~~ *Someone in a hug*
- ~~Send Gifts~~ *Peace*
- ~~Shop for Food~~ *Donate*
- ~~See the Lights~~ *Be*

Remember the reason for the season.

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas Timothy

News



From the Mail Box...

How Far to Christmas?

How far is it to Christmas Day?

The journey's just as long

as taking time to listen

to a joyful angel song.

It's just as far as one can go

in doing a loving deed

that helps someone feel better

or that meets their special need.

For Christmas is a journey

that the heart makes every year.

It starts right with your family

and those you hold so dear.

It travels on to strangers

'round the world to everyone

with the message that God loves us

and that's why he's sent his Son!

-Peggy Ferrell



It's time to order Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to order a poinsettia have your order in by December 7. Return your form to the main office with your payment of \$10. Please make checks payable to: East Columbus UMC with "Poinsettia" written on the memo line.

Here's what's happening!

Grace's Table Free Meal Sunday, December 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.



ECUMC participated again this year in the packing of shoe boxes for children around the world. ECUMC collected 25 shoe boxes.



SPECIAL MUSIC

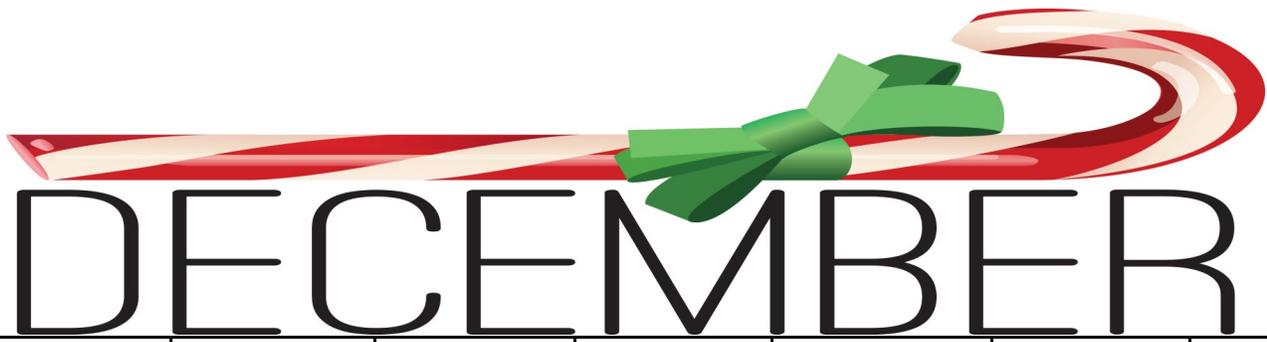
December 21 Terry and the choir will be bringing us the Christmas Cantata "Celebrate the Child."

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the celebration of our 130 Years of Service. It was a beautiful Service.



Christmas Eve we celebrate the light of the world together at our Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 5pm with a traditional candlelight service filled with carols, candles and the story of Christ's birth.

FAMILY & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10am -Prayer Hour	3 6pm-Choir	4 6pm-Cantata Rehearsal 6:30pm-Scouts	5	6
7 2nd Sun Advent Communion 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	8	9 10am -Prayer Hour	10 6pm-Choir	11 6pm-Cantata Rehearsal 6:30pm-Scouts	12	13
14 3rd Sun Advent 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch. 5pm-Grace's Table	15	16 10am -Prayer Hour	17 6pm- Choir	18 6pm-Cantata Rehearsal 6:30pm-Scouts	19	20
21 4th Sun Advent Cantata 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	22	23 10am -Prayer Hour	24 5pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser- vice Office Closed		26	27
28 9am-Worship 10:10am-Sunday Sch.	29	30 10am-Prayer Hour	31 Office Open until noon	BCSC Break Dec. 22—Jan. 6		

Dec. 5...Bryan Reed
14...Tom Schuyler
15...Leslie Hollis
20... Patsy Cox

Dec. 28...Kathy Warner
Mary Gorman
30...Katie Niespodziani





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.