



East Columbus  
United  
Methodist Church

*A Church for Everyone!*

**FEBRUARY 2025**

*Love  
never  
ends.*

1 Corinthians 13:8, NRSV



## Let's Trust God's Will!

May the peace of God be with you all.

Today, I want to share a story from *An Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales. There was a monk named Zephyro who, one day, found himself overwhelmed by a deep spiritual dryness. He lost all sense of comfort and felt as though he was trapped in darkness. He struggled with strong temptations and despair, thinking about the friends, family, and possessions he had left behind. Feeling utterly hopeless, he couldn't bring himself to do anything.

A friend approached him and asked, "Zephyro, what's wrong? You seem more troubled and sad than usual. Is something bothering you?" Zephyro sighed deeply and replied, "I feel like there's no joy left for me in life."

The friend, feeling great pity for him, shared this with their teacher, St. Bernard. Concerned about the danger Zephyro was in, the saint went into a roadside church to pray for him. Meanwhile, exhausted, Zephyro fell asleep, resting his head on a stone.

When St. Bernard finished praying and returned, a friend found Zephyro awake and smiling brightly. Surprised by the sudden change, the friend laughed and said, "Earlier, you told me you'd never feel joy again. Now it seems like you'll never feel sorrow again!"

Reflecting on this story, St. Francis offers the following advice:

1. When someone begins their journey of faith, God often allows them to taste the joy of heaven.
2. At times, in His divine wisdom, God may withhold comfort to test and strengthen our faith.
3. During spiritual dryness, temptations can rise like a fierce storm. In those moments, we must give our all to resist.
4. When we feel discouraged and hopeless, we must not conclude, like Zephyro, that there is no joy left for us. Even in the darkness, we must hope for the light. Avoid making bold claims about future joy or sorrow, and remain humble.
5. Confiding in a spiritual friend who can offer comfort is one of the good ways to find healing.

Ultimately, this story reminds us that God and the devil have very different purposes. God allows trials to purify our hearts, strip away selfishness, and help us fully trust and serve Him. If we endure patiently, God's comfort will surely come.

As I read this story, I, too, was reminded of these truths. At times, we may feel that God is distant or even absent. Yet, if we endure through the dryness, God will pour His sweet, living water upon us. So, let us not lose heart but trust in God's will and persevere!

In the Love of Christ,  
Pastor **Jongmin**



*A Note  
from  
Terry Snyder*

I am sure most of you have seen “The Brady Bunch at some point in your lives. I felt like Mike Brady earlier. There was an episode where Cindy was being teased about her lisp by Buddy Hinton, and then Peter got called chicken for not fighting when he tried to get Buddy to stop. Mike told Peter that “calm, cool reasoning” was the solution. Peter tried that the next day, and got a black eye. Mike then went to talk to the father, and Mr. Hinton was unsympathetic (in spite of Mike’s “calm, cool reasoning”). They almost got into a fight. Then Mike heard his own words in his head. He looked up in the air and replied “Shut up”.

I was working on slides one day, when Frank Cole called. He wanted to pick up the labels and instructions for the Samaritan’s Purse Christmas shoe boxes on his way back from work. I told him I was here, and would be happy to let him in. I asked what time he would be passing by, told him I would grab lunch, and be back before he got here. I already didn’t want to be away too long, and his coming made it more necessary to be quick. As I was driving, the light was green, but the lady just sat there apparently oblivious that she could go. I said out loud (towards her) “what are you doing?” and it hit me. I heard my own words (that I hope were inspired by God) from the newsletter article that hadn’t even been published at that point (though in my defense I had written it over a month before) that referred to impatience in traffic. At least I didn’t tell myself to shut up like Mike did.

As fate might have it, I was pulling into the bank a few minutes later, when someone started backing out in front of me. I am happy to report that my reaction was much better. I then pulled around the corner at the drive thru, and someone was just sitting there when there was a lane open for them. I again, reacted properly, in fact, I didn’t really react at all to either of the latter two other than my driving.

It is easy sometimes to give advice (even great advice), but not always easy to actually follow the advice (even if it is our own). To be fair, our words (accurate though they be) can lose a lot of power if we preach one thing, and do another. Someone like Jimmy Swaggart preaching against sexual sin and then being caught in it can result in folks calling them a hypocrite (at times joyfully so because they feel justified in their own sin, thinking the words aren’t true, or do not work). The fact is, we ALL fall short of the mark. I know of at least two of the four pastors I have worked under have shared in their sermons that they fell short too, and were preaching to themselves too. I am certainly not an exception.

I think the key is to let folks know that we are human and fail too (even when we are striving to grow and heed the words). I think the other thing is our spirit. Are we humble and loving in our delivery (and our normal manner) or foaming at the mouth and ranting and raving, quick to see the speck in someone else’s eye while ignoring the beam in ours?

Pastor Jongmin recently mentioned a particular sin in part of a message that I think many pastors are afraid to deliver in more modern times, as many in the world believe the opposite (sometimes militantly so) and get angry fast when challenged. But, Jongmin’s loving spirit and delivery was perfect. He also didn’t exclusively single out that one sin (that isn’t a remote temptation for us), and included other sins that could hit closer to home for some of us. Other pastors who speak against it with a different delivery are not necessarily unloving (though some may be), but their delivery could make the receiver less apt to see that love, and from heeding the message.

The world wants to dismiss Christianity, and sadly at times we Christians (or at least those who either claim to be, or who they know attend a church) are not the best representatives of our faith. Nonetheless, we should still preach the Word in love. While satan loves to see us fall on our faces and fail, he also wants to silence the Word (and discourage us from sharing to begin with because we know our own failures). Either way, he wins (albeit it temporarily). To me the answer is share the truth in love and acknowledge that we fail (though we are striving to do it right) instead of acting like, and maybe even believing, we are perfect. If the world sees this, they are a lot more likely to listen and heed what we say. The words are truth regardless, and they would be wise to heed them in spite of whether the messenger is the perfect or not. But at times the messenger does affect whether or not they listen.

I have seen repeatedly from people who believe that time is short. I have felt that way too. Regardless of how much time God waits until Christ’s return, we don’t know how long each person has before they die without knowing Christ. So, our work is cut out for us either way.



## *Julie, Julie, Julie, do you love me?*

Anyone know who recorded that song close to 50 years ago?? Google it ... this little

mouse isn't going to reveal my age!



So, Valentine's Day is not too far away, and we always think those lovey-dovey thoughts about this time of year, don't we?

How do you show those special people that you love them? Here's a few suggestions ...

1. Make sure there is toilet paper handy.
2. When it's snowing, shovel the sidewalk and the driveway ... even if the car is in the garage ... and if it's not, scrape the snow off so your loved one is safe as they travel.
3. Don't leave 2 drops of milk in the container ... and be sure to add it to the grocery list.
4. Every once in a while, you make the decision about what to have for supper or decide where you would like to go to eat.

And, finally, but by no means the least in the list ... introduce someone to Jesus by your words and actions.

Nothing says "I LOVE YOU" more than showing someone the love of Jesus! And not just those living in your home but all of those you meet in your daily walk.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Show someone you love them today!

Praising God for you .... Timothy

**HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL**  
**Troop 549**



Our December 13th-15th campout at Camp Ernst Winter Cabin was a great time.. The adult leaders cooked bacon and eggs for breakfast, chili and corn-bread for lunch, Chicken in a Dutch oven with potatoes & carrots. We played games and took a hike around the property looking at the new improvements to the camp.

December 19th was our annual Christmas party during our weekly scout meeting. We played games and ate snacks. We gave out presents and other grab bag gifts.

December 31 was our annual New Years Eve Party. We watched a couple of movies and had fun just hanging out at the youth center.

January 17th-19th Winter Rendezvous was a great time. We had snow on the ground and was able to use the sled this year without wheels. A couple boys were able to shoot a rifle for the first time during this event. Our obstacle course that Kordell and I ran was enjoyed by all the scouts.

Feb 2 is Scout Sunday. We will be going to Perfect North Slopes on Saturday. This is always a great time.

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

# News



From the Mail Box...

Here's what's  
happening!

Thank you for the luncheon for the Moody family. Everything was so delicious. From the fried chicken to all the sides and deserts. We loved and appreciated it all.

Gini & Wayne Jessup thanks everyone for prayers, thoughts and cards at the passing of our daughter-in-law Kelly.

Thank you to the Church Family for the Memorial Candle given at the passing of loved one, Kelly. I also want to thank you for providing the church for our meal.

Greg, Trevor and Travis Jessup

Thank you for your prayers, gifts, hugs, visits and love given to Mon and our family. Mom loved everyone of you dearly. Now she can be pain free and run in Heaven. She will be missed here but we know where to find her. Also, thanks for the delicious meal and many thanks to Pastor Lee and Ester for all you have done.

The Betty Schaefer family.



*Condolences to*

*To the Bridgewater family at the loss of father, Ed.*

*The Allman & Jessup families at the loss of Kelly.*

*To the Moody family at the passing of Bob.*

*To the Gorman family at the loss of sister-in-law, Margie.*

*To the Fear family at the passing of Mother, Betty.*

Scout Sunday is Sunday, February 2.

Grace's Table Free Meal, Sunday, February 9 at 5pm in the Youth Center.

Weekly Prayer Hour, 10am in the Sanctuary. Every Tuesday a prayer time is held from 10am to 11am for anyone to come and lift up their personal prayers. Come and pray for a few minutes or the whole hour. Please enter through the Elevator Door.

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## LOVE CONQUERS ALL

The love for equals is a human thing—of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing—the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, for failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich...The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy—love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world.

-Frederick Buechner,  
*The Magnificent Defeat*

# february

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Communion</b> <b>Scout Sunday</b> 9am Worship 10:10am -Sunday School	3	4 <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	5 6pm-Choir	6 6:30pm-Scouts	7	8
9 9am Worship 10:10 - Sunday School  <b>5pm-Grace's Table</b>	10	11 <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	12 6pm- Choir	13 6:30pm-Scouts	 <b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b>	15
16 9am Worship 10:10am -Sunday School	17	18 <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	19 6pm-Choir	20 6:30pm- Scouts	21	22
23 9am - Worship 10:10 - Sunday School	24	25 <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	26 6pm-Choir	27 6:30pm-Scouts	28	



Feb. 8...Mike Mattern

“ 11...Robert Brown

“ 14...Gerald Walker

“ 18...Robert Murphy

“ 21...Kathy Henry

“ 22...Karen Neptune

“ 24...Karen Miller

“ 28...Bob Fear

“ Amanda Jo ( AJ) Henry





**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](mailto:jongmin.lee@inumc.org)**

**Worship Director Email: [music@eastcolumbusumc.org](mailto:music@eastcolumbusumc.org)**

**Church Website: [www.eastcolumbusumc.org](http://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.**