

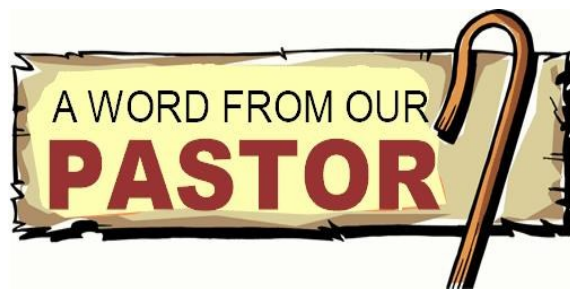


# East Columbus United Methodist Church

*A Church for Everyone!*

**NOVEMBER 2024**





## Waiting for God During Spiritual Dryness

May the peace of God be with you all.

During the Spiritual Retreat, I attended at the Retreat Center, I had the chance to read the book "A Short Method of Prayer." by Madame Jeanne Guyon. I would like to share some insights from it with you. One of the chapters in the book is titled "On Spiritual Dryness."

"He often hides Himself in order to arouse it, and compel it to seek Him with love and fidelity. But how does He reward the faithfulness of His beloved! And how are His apparent flights followed by loving caresses!

The soul imagines that it is a proof of its fidelity and of its increased love that it seeks God with an effort, or that at least such seeking will soon lead to His return.

But no! This is not the way in this degree. With a loving impatience, with deep humility and abasement, with an affection deep and yet restful, with a respectful silence, you must await the return of your Beloved.

You will thus show Him that it is Himself alone that you love, and His good pleasure, and not the pleasure that you find in loving Him.

Be patient in prayer, even though you should do nothing all your life but wait in patience, with a heart humbled, abandoned, resigned, and content for the return of your Beloved. Oh, excellent prayer! How it moves the heart of God, and obliges Him to return more than anything else!"

When we reflect on our spiritual lives, there are times when we offer active prayers, prayers centered on ourselves. When we are in need and have a request, we must pray and ask God for help. And God does indeed answer those prayers.

But sometimes, for our spiritual growth, God asks us to offer passive prayers—prayers that are centered on Him. During those times, we may feel as though the answers are delayed, and we might experience a sense of spiritual dryness, not feeling God's presence. In such times, we should not become impatient but rather wait for God.

Think about the times when you waited for someone you truly loved. Even if they were late, we waited because we loved them and longed to see them. In the same way, because we love God, we wait for Him.

My beloved, do not be discouraged when answers seem delayed or when you feel spiritually dry. If you wait with love, you will meet the Lord. He is coming to you.

In the Love of Christ,  
Pastor Jongmin



*A Note  
from  
Terry Snyder*

There is a song that would fit especially well at Thanksgiving time that has the line *“the more that God kept blessing them, the more they would complain”*. It starts out talking about the Israelites wandering for 40 years in the wilderness. It goes on to say how undeserving WE are, and eventually say *“We ought to thank Him, love and praise Him a little more today, and a whole lot more tomorrow”*.

Most here are probably familiar with the children’s story, Goldilocks and the three bears. Goldilocks found one bowl of porridge too hot, chair too hard, and bed too high. She found another bowl of porridge too cold, the chair too soft, and bed too low. The third of each was *“just right”*.

There have been times where one person up front here tells me the music is too loud, and another needs it louder to hear (at almost the exact same time). Other times it is that the temperature is too hot or too cold. (Again, at nearly the same time). I hate to say, but I don’t always respond to those times well, because I feel like the rope used in a tug of war and there is no perfect answer that is going to fit everyone, which frustrates me. I certainly take into consideration their needs or wants (and even want to know problems that need fixed or tweaked), but often compromises are necessary for the good of others. How much easier it would be if one setting on either was perfect for everyone. But, I guess we will have to wait until Heaven.

I am certainly not dismissing preferences, (and using Goldilocks as the example) that we have no right to seek out the better of the three that fits our preferences or needs. But, I think about the Israelites grumbling after leaving Egypt and the slavery and oppression there, and before long at all, started complaining. They even started longing to go back to the situation in which they had escaped. They got hungry, and complained. God provided them with Manna and of course they ended up complaining about that, and got quail. Their complaining and lack of gratitude and contentment cost them. I wonder if our grumbling and lack of gratitude keeps us in need and in bad situations (or delay blessings) until we learn, as well.

I often think of lyrics of songs in relation to things. One came to mind where the lyrics say:

*“Well, I’ve been told that I have a tendency to look at things on the dark side; that glass has always been half empty to me. But, since You’ve been around it’s gettin’ harder for me to keep my spirits down; this wakin’ up with a smile is sure new to me!”*

Sometimes grumblers can cause people to want to avoid them altogether. Sometimes everyone can be in a good, positive mood, and even one grumbler brings everyone down with them, which may keep us from, (or delay) blessings from above. This is not to say we can’t point out things we need, would like improved, or items for prayer; nor does it mean to ignore possible problems (while sticking our heads in the sand). It just means we let those times be far rarer than being grateful for the good things. I read recently something to the effect that we can focus on the problem, or focus on God (the solution to the problem). One could even argue that we are making the problem more powerful than God (and maybe even an idol) if we focus more on it. I can’t recall how much of that was in what I read, and how much was what I made of it. I am pretty sure I took a screenshot or something, but don’t want to take the time to find it.

So, my challenge to everyone this month (myself included) is to find the good things and dwell on those blessings far more than the negatives.

Then after doing so roughly 30 days in November, take it into December. That will hopefully help out with my challenge next month in the article I have already written because it was originally going to be this month’s article, but I got inspired to do this one leading up to that one, and this one certainly fits Thanksgiving, and could be considered step one.

# HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL

## Troop 549



I would like to keep everyone in our prayers in North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia that has been affected by the floods and winds from Hurricane Helene. The devastation is like a war zone. There have been many lives lost and people that only have their lives left. They are starting over from scratch. It is through God's love for each other that the people in that region are helping each other to rebuild and find some type of normalcy through this terrible event. I am sure there are scout troops that are volunteering, I personally have not read any stories about them helping but I know that the values that scouting teaches, there are scouts that are helping without getting recognition on tv and videos. Belinda and I used to go over to the Ashville/ Brevard North Carolina area almost yearly for a week's vacation to ride our bikes. I am not sure we will ever get to do that again with all the devastation to the area we love so much.

October 25-27th

This campout was our fun campout at one of the scout's grandmothers property. The location has woods, creeks, and fields to run around and have fun. It was a fun time for the leaders to have a relaxing campout without time constraints of a camporee schedule.

November 1st-3rd

We are going to Ray's Indoor Mountain Bike Park in Cleveland, Ohio to ride an indoor bike park. This makes our second year of going to ride. Last year the scouts had so much fun that we ended up going 3 different times. We only have it on the schedule one time but have a request to go after Thanksgiving since our scout from Florida want's to go to Ray's while he is here visiting family for the holidays. I have been asked to think about going on a New Years Day trip to Ray's also. So there may be another 3 trips this year.

November 29th-30th

Ray's Indoor Mountain Bike Park. This is our second trip of the year.

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



## ***Happy Thanks Giving!!***



Notice the picture? Happy ... kinda small ... Thanks with a capital “T” and Giving with a capital “G”, right? Significance ... two separate words ...

I searched through a great many free clips till I found this one because it says what we should be doing ... Giving Thanks!

We should be giving thanks for so many things ... I’m not even going to start to name them off ... except for one ... ok, maybe two.

First ... let’s give thanks to God for loving us so much that next month we celebrate the birth of His Son ... His one and only Son ... whom He loved more than words can even justify. But He loved us so much that He sent His only Son to earth as a tiny baby for us ... yes, YOU AND ME!!

Second ... let’s give thanks to Jesus for not only leaving the glory of heaven, following the will of His Father, to be born, live in this smelly, sometimes miserable world and then to die on a horrible cross for us ... yes, YOU AND ME!!!

Everything else ... well ... it’s all important and we should all be grateful for so much but Jesus and His love for us ... living and dying for us ... that sorta tops the cake, don’t you think?

So this year as the day of Thanks arrives ... remember to be grateful for all you have but most of all be sure to say ...

*Thank you, Jesus, for all you’ve done for us!!*

*Till next month .... Timothy*

# News



From the Mail Box...



## November 3

Daylight Saving Time ends November 3. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday.

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Thanks to Brad Helton for the beautiful landscaping around the sign.

Thinking of you and miss everyone. With love & prayers. Jan Foley



## Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner will be held November 17. Everyone bring a side dish and dessert to share. Turkey/ham, dressing, drinks, and rolls will be provided.

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### Thanksgiving Beatitudes

- \*Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- \*Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.
- \*Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.
- \*Be thankful for your limitations, because it will build your strength and character.
- \*Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
- \*Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference,

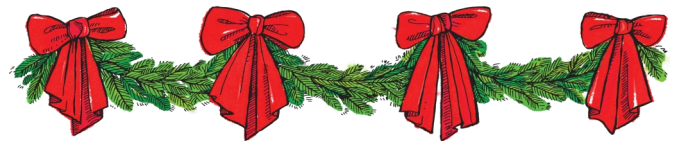
Here's what's happening!

Grace's Table Free Meal, Sunday, November 10, 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.



ECUMC is participating again this year in the packing of shoe boxes for children around the world. Shoe boxes will be collected and dedicated Sunday, November 17.



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### Hangin' of the Greens and Lunch

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Lunch will be provided immediately after Sunday School. Then we will decorate the church.



# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 Communion</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b> 9am Worship 10:10am -Sunday School	4	<b>5</b> <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	<b>6</b> 6pm-Choir	<b>7</b> <b>5:30pm -Trustee Mtg.</b> 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts	8	9
<b>10</b> 9am Worship 10:10 - Sunday School 5pm-Grace's Table	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	<b>13</b> 6pm- Choir	<b>14</b> 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts-Scouts	15	16
<b>17</b> 9am - Worship 10:10 - Sunday School <b>Thanksgiving Dinner</b>	18	<b>19</b> <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	<b>20</b> 6pm-Choir	<b>21</b> 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts	22	23
<b>24</b> 9am - Worship 10:10 - Sunday School <b>Hanging of the Greens &amp; Luncheon following Sunday School</b>	25	<b>26</b> <b>10am Prayer Hour</b>	<b>27</b> NO Choir	<b>28</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	30
<b>BCSC Thanksgiving Break Nov. 27—29</b>						



Nov. 1 ....Angie Sherfick  
 Nov. 6 ... Lilli Sanford  
 Nov. 13... Rosalie Pfister  
 Nov. 18 ... Larry Skinner  
 Nov. 19... Shirley Murphy  
 Nov. 21... Carol McIntosh  
 Bertha Winn



**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](mailto:office@eastcolumbusumc.org)**

**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.**