



East Columbus
United
Methodist Church

A Church for Everyone!

DECEMBER 2024



Message from the Pastor



Cherishing the Precious Time We Have Now

May the peace of God be with you all.

As 2024 is coming to an end, we are reminded that no one—whether a ruler, the richest person, or even a scientist—can stop time from passing. However, we know this truth: God is the one who rules over all time. He guides the moments of our lives and cares for us in His love. “God is love.” (1 John 4:8b) This verse beautifully tells us who God is.

My family is having a wonderful time because my parents are visiting us. Our children are receiving twice the love from their grandparents, which they missed while living far apart. I can’t describe the joy on their faces as they opened the toys and gifts brought from Korea. This year, we are especially thankful to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas together with my parents here in the U.S. for the first time. Truly, this is God’s mercy and grace.

One day, my father and I went fishing by the lake. He caught six bass, and I caught five in a single day! It became a new personal record for both of us. How thankful we are for the bass that allowed themselves to be caught —especially since we are just amateurs.

In Ecclesiastes 3, the wise man says:

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot... He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2, 11a)

There is a time for everything. That’s why we must be thankful for the time we have now and cherish it. The things we take for granted today may become what we deeply miss later. God wants us to long for Him and to treasure each day He gives us.

As Thanksgiving and Christmas draw near, I pray that joy and peace overflow in your homes and lives. The year 2024 will not return again. Let us cherish this moment, care for those around us, and spend meaningful time with our loved ones. The Lord will be with you in every moment and every encounter.

I love and bless you all!

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Jongmin



*A Note
from
Terry Snyder*

NOTE: I wrote this prior to last month's article, and decided to write the other one for November, and lead into this one.

I went to pick up lunch on a Sunday in May (I think). The lady at the window was one I had never encountered (to my knowledge). She was perky and upbeat. These days in particular we often see a lack of help, or even employees that the companies simply would not have hired pre-Covid. Often, they come across as not wanting to be at the job, but this employee was the opposite. So, I decided to call the restaurant and compliment her to the manager there. I have seen the lady a few times since then, and she has always been the same bubbly person I describe above.

I recently watched part of a concert video. The owner of the group spoke to the audience at this multi-artist event where his group was singing. He told them that the group owners of a group he had previously sung with (one of my favorites) had taught him to leave a place better than you found it. So, practicing that, he urged the audience to donate to the children's medical center at the town of the event, and as he had just done, put the name of the event they were at in the memo. Not his group name, and not their name, but the event name as a witness to the town (I think it was evident or known to the town that the event was a Christian one). If not that (or in addition to that), find one or more other ways to leave things better than when they had arrived.

I once heard that a person makes your day brighter by coming, or by going. I suppose there are some who may have no effect at all, but I get the point. What if we as Christians kept these in mind, and left places we went, people we met, etc. each better than they were before we had come? I have read before, that the test of someone's character was if they took their empty cart back to the corral (or inside), or left it haphazardly in the parking lot. While decent people can do less than perfect things, and there may be situations where returning it for a person can be tough, I see the point. I am sure it also meant if the person were able. I also want to add that in the grand scheme of things putting a cart back falls below many other things. but, the point I think was those faithful and decent in the little things were also in the larger things.

It also came to mind recently how sometimes (not always) the way people are in traffic may be a reflection of them in other ways. A person who loses patience in traffic constantly, honks the horn, drives considerably over the speed limit, and are aggressive drivers (riding close behind the person in get them to drive faster), may well have the same personalities in other things. Those who drive the speed limit and are considerate of the other drivers may be the same in other areas too.

I want to say that occasionally going there is probably not the same. We all may be late to an appointment, slept poorly and had one of those days and get impatient, but not typically that way. I certainly have times like that, but am not that way regularly. I don't get to the extremes described here, but there are times I get a little irritated at times with drivers poking along below the speed limit, for example, when I am in a hurry. I also need to add that people may be struggling with other things, and have those bleed over into other areas for a season.

I read someone's Facebook post recently where they talked about taking an extra second on a green light to look both ways before they entered the intersection. While they technically had the "right" to go, and the others were supposed to stop, they were well aware that people run lights. Anyhow, they mentioned someone behind them laying on the horn the split second the light turned green, and thought the person should be a little more patient, even if they didn't understand what she was doing was to protect her and them both.

This is the month of Thanksgiving, and Christmas season is starting soon. People are often rushed, stressed, frustrated, and yet, it is also the time of year where people are supposed to be extra thankful, and spread "Christmas cheer". What if we started now (in the Name of Christ), and left the places we went, and people we met, better than we found them? It can be a smile as we walk by, a "The Lord has blessed us with a beautiful day today", a sincere "you look especially nice today", or something else good we see. It can be holding the door for someone, or a hug. There are all sorts of things. I think it is important that it also be sincere. The world has enough fake, and some can see it a mile away.

I recently saw a Facebook post from a middle-aged out of state friend who has carried four babies (and a fifth for a short time). She said she was minding her business, when a girl in the gym she admires came up to her, told her she has beautiful legs, and asked her what her secret is. My friend went on to say that she hoped that she can make someone else feel as happy as that other woman's kind words made her feel that day. I am certainly not telling us all to go out and tell someone they have nice legs J, but the point is the same. A smile or kind word or deed can make a difference in someone's day. It's even better if we can include the Lord in it so they know what the difference is. It shouldn't just be November or December, we can be a light every day.

HOOSIER TRAILS COUNCIL Troop 549



December 5th is our Troops Court of Honor.

December 13th-15th is our yearly campout at Camp Ernst Winter Cabin. This is the scout's favorite campout of the year. The adult leaders cook and clean for the scouts. This is probably why they like it so much. We play games and take hikes around the property.

December 19th is our annual Christmas party during our weekly scout meeting. We play games and have snacks. It is a fun evening with the scouts.

December 31 is our annual New Years Eve Party. We watch a lot of movies and have fun just hanging out at the youth center.

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



Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item from this list to a box and on Christmas Eve donate the box to “Feed the Flock” sponsored by Columbus Baptist Church on US 31. They provide a meal on the 4th Friday of each month to whomever shows up and sends home a bag of groceries ... like the list below with each family. They are not funded through the church or any organization ... they rely on God to provide and help them to meet the needs of those less fortunate.

- Dec. 1 - 1 can of Spaghetti O's
- Dec. 2 - 1 jar of Peanut Butter
- Dec. 3 - 1 tube of toothpaste
- Dec. 4 - 1 box of potatoes
- Dec. 5 - 1 box of Mac & Cheese
- Dec. 6 - 1 can of fruit
- Dec. 7 - 1 can of tomatoes
- Dec. 8 - 1 can of tuna
- Dec. 9 - 1 toothbrush (single only)
- Dec. 10 - 1 jar of applesauce
- Dec. 11 - 1 can of Spam
- Dec. 12 - 1 bar of soap
- Dec. 13 - 1 can of beans (chili or soup)
- Dec. 14 - 1 can of Ravioli
- Dec. 15 - 1 box of rice
- Dec. 16 - 1 can Dinty Moore
- Dec. 17 - 1 box of pasta
- Dec. 18 - 1 jar or can of spaghetti sauce
- Dec. 19 - 1 can soup
- Dec. 20 - 1 jar or bottle of jelly
- Dec. 21 - 1 pkg of Ramen Soup
- Dec. 22 - 1 deodorant
- Dec. 23 - 1 pkg toilet paper
- Dec. 24 - 1 can of chicken

Share the love of Christ with those less fortunate this Christmas!

Merry Christmas... Timothy

News



From the Mail Box...

Dorothy Christophel thanks everyone for the birthday wishes on her 96th birthday. May God bless each and everyone.

Larry Skinner thanks everyone for all the prayers and cards sent for him.



Poinsettia orders due by December 9.

Love Chapel Christmas Basket collection total this year was \$1,145.

ECUMC participated again this year in the packing of shoe boxes for children around the world. ECUMC collected 33 shoe boxes

Gift-giving Solutions

Trying to find gifts for certain people—or letting others know what you want—can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything.

Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these insights from author Charles Swindoll:

“Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone ‘I love you.’ Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy.”

Here's what's happening!

Grace's Table Free Meal, Sunday, December 8 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.





On December 22 the choir will present the Cantata “Good News from Home.”

There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5pm in the Sanctuary.





DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1 st Sunday of Advent 9am Worship 10:10am -Sunday School	2	3 10am Prayer Hour	4 6pm-Choir	5 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts	6	7
8 Communion 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9am Worship 10:10am -Sunday School 5pm-Grace's Table	9	10 10am Prayer Hour	11 6pm-Choir	12 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts	13	14
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9am Worship 10:10 - Sunday School	16	17 10am Prayer Hour	18 6pm- Choir	19 6pm-Cantata Practice 6:30pm-Scouts	20	21
22 4 th Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata Good News from Home 10:10 - Sunday School	23	24 5pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  CHRISTMAS EVE	 Christmas DAY	26 NO Scouts	27	28
29 9am - Worship 10:10 - Sunday School	30	31 10am Prayer Hour <i>Office opened until noon</i>				

BCSC Winter Break December 23 — January 6



Dec 5...Bryan Reed

Dec 14...Tom Schuyler

Dec 15...Roger Neptune

Dec 20...Patsy Cox

Dec 28...Kathy Warner

Mary Gorman

Dec. 30...Katie Niespodziani



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

9:00 am - Worship Service
10:10am - Sunday School

OUR CHURCH MISSION

Growing the Family of God by Making
Loving Disciples of Jesus Christ.