

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

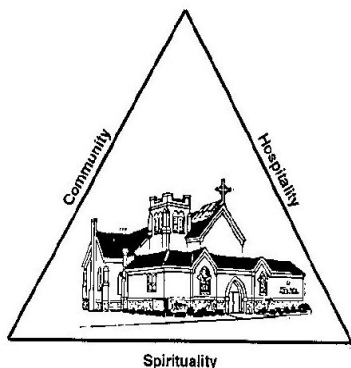
officeespc@gmail.com

Rev. Paul Scannell

Cell Phone:

734-660-1984

4pastorpaul@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Women's/Girls Tea	4
Hymns as Therapy	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Eye Glass Mission	8
Summer Camp	9
March Worship	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
April Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16



Hello Everyone,

This is the time of year that would dictate that I talk about Easter and the risen Lord, which I will, but I am going to begin with Bishop Jung; April 6th is the scheduled visit of the Ohio Area Conferences, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, to our

Elida St. Paul's and Lima Westside. I still don't have any details about the visit, but I do know we will be meeting at Elida St. Paul's, where Bishop Jung will tour the building, pray over the altar, and talk to the people of St. Paul's and Westside. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversation with Bishop Jung. He and I will leave St. Paul's and go to Westside, where he will tour the building and pray at the altar before I take him to his next church to visit. My hope is that as many people from both churches will be present, to meet with Bishop Jung. I look forward to the time we will have getting to know Bishop Jung, and I know you all will represent both churches well.

Easter is nearly here, and Like Spring, it is a time of renewal and rebirth. Every day, I try to go by the front of the house to enjoy the color of the flowers and watch as life comes back to the earth. I look forward to the same thing as we go through Lent toward Easter. It has always been a joy to witness the continual growth of people as they explore their faith. Testing, asking questions, and exploring God's call on their lives is always something to take great joy in. The church you are today is different from the church you were last year. Sometimes the change is obvious, and other times not so obvious, but always there is growth. Sometimes, there is pruning, which can be painful, but the regrowth in the spring can be spectacular. The same is true for faith that is tested, which can lead to a stronger faith in God. I hope this message will be a reminder to you that the tomb is still empty, and Jesus has overcome death and sin, so we can live as those who are assured eternity through Jesus' sacrifice for us. I always think of hymns, and the one running through my head at this moment says "He Lives, He Lives, salvation to impart," and for that, I give thanks and know Jesus is King.

We will be finishing our Lenten sermon series on 'Immigration', and celebrating Easter morning at 8 am and 10 am, here at Elida St. Paul's. There is also breakfast between both services in the fellowship hall, and an Easter Egg hunt in the sanctuary at about 9:30 am. I hope to see you in person, or online, as we celebrate Easter. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul





March 29
Palm Sunday

April 2
Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM Service

April 3
Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
Shawnee UMC
4:30PM-7:30PM

April 5
Happy Easter
Shawnee cemetery
Sunrise service 6:45 AM

April 5
Happy Easter
St. Paul's UMC
Early Service 8:00 AM

Easter Breakfast
To follow 8:00 AM
Service

April 5
Coins for Communion
to Benefit the 5 Loaves
Food Pantry
at The Church at
Allentown

Children's Egg Hunt
Following breakfast

Easter
10:00AM Worship Service
"Raised 3rd Day"

The special Easter offering is designated to West Ohio church camp, Camp Wesley in Bellefontaine.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Deadline: the 22nd
of each month

April 6
Bishop's visit to St. Paul's
The Ohio Area Conference, Bishop Jung, will come into the sanctuary to pray over the church and speak to those in attendance and answer questions.
All are welcome to come and meet the Bishop!
Time to be determined!!

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker

Thought for the Month:
The best mathematical equation ever given: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

April 19
Food Pantry Sunday
 Dry Goods:
 Rice, oatmeal, beans, dried potatoes, pasta etc..

Sunday, April 19th.
all-Church CARRY-IN luncheon!
After Church services
 Please bring whatever you want to share!
 Come together to enjoy food, fun & fellowship!

Family Promise
Friday, April 24
 St. Paul's will be providing the evening meal for those housed at Family Promise.
 There will be a sign-up sheet at the media desk closer to the date.

BOOK Club
Saturday, May 2
at 10:00 AM
 (Note Time Change)
 "On Mystic Lake"
 By Kristin Hannah
 All Are Welcome!

May 24
Pentecost Sunday
Community Service
Pangle Pavillion in Lima
 More details to follow!!

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol



PEACOCK

The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification.

Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing—atonement, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity.

Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.

Women's/Girls Tea

**I'm tied in the back to
protect the front.**

What Am I?

An Apron!!



**Saturday, April 25
At 2:00 P.M.,
In the Fellowship
Hall.**

**The Women's/Girls Tea
Is coming soon!**

**Luann Everett will be
Presenting APRONS.**

There will be light snacks and drinks.

**A free-will offering will be taken
to cover costs.**

**If you have a special or favorite apron,
please feel free to bring or wear it
for others to see.**

Hymns as Therapy

In Private: Hymns as Therapy Why We Must Draw Strength from Song

Then Sings My Soul Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan

MEMORIZE THE HYMNS

In my book *100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart*, I present a case for lifelong Scripture memory. Hymn memory is almost as great a blessing.

Hymns are often easier to memorize than Bible verses because they have built-in rhythm and rhyme. Still, it takes some effort. On a car trip to Illinois I recently asked my ten-year-old granddaughter, Christina, to help me memorize Josiah Conder's hymn "Day by Day the Manna Fell." Not knowing the tune, we memorized it as one would memorize a poem. She retained the words faster than I did, but I've had many occasions to quote it since. Best of all, I think Christina will remember it all her life. Two of my favorite stanzas say:

*Day by day the promise reads,
Daily strength for daily needs.
Cast foreboding fear away,
Take the Manna of today.
Oh to be exempt from care,
By the energy of prayer.
Strong in faith with mind subdued
And elate with gratitude.*

MEDITATE THE HYMNS

In his memoirs, President George W. Bush recounts what happened on September, 11, 2001. He was in a schoolroom in Florida when he learned the towers of the World Trade Center had been hit and that America was under attack. As the Secret Service was rushing him down Florida Route 41, he learned a third plane had struck the Pentagon. He sat back in his seat and absorbed the news. By the time he arrived at *Air Force One*, it was clear that the White House was on war footing. Agents carried assault rifles and surrounded the airplane. Bush entered the 747, stepped into the Presidential cabin, and asked to be alone. He thought of the fear that was seizing the nation. He could see the fear on the faces of the flight attendants on board the plane. He thought of those who had already been killed in the attacks and of their families.

There alone in that little office, getting ready for the takeoff, Bush prayed for guidance; then he thought of the lyrics of one of his favorites hymns, "God of Grace and God of Glory." The recurring refrain of the hymn says: "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour."

Sometimes we can't sing the hymn, but if we know the words we can let them roll over our minds like a gentle stream, refreshing and renewing our courage.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

March 1, 2026	73
March 8, 2026	56
March 15, 2026	78
March 22, 2026	63

FINANCIAL GIVING

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
March 1, 2026	\$4,208.69	\$1,578.23
March 8, 2026	\$8,583.81	\$131.00
March 15, 2026	\$3,782.09	\$99.00
March 22, 2026	\$4,207.43	\$142.00
TOTAL:	\$20,782.02	\$1,950.23

Sunday School Attendance

March 1, 2026	18
March 8, 2026	9
March 15, 2026	19
March 22, 2026	11

Unified Budget:

Weekly Budget Needed = \$4,644.58

March Total Need = **\$18,578.32**

March Total = **\$20,782.02**

Altar Flowers

April 5, 2026	Easter Flowers
April 12, 2026	Virginia Hollar
April 19, 2026	Dan & Margie Best
April 26, 2026	Don & Mary Irvin

Hospitality Cart

April 5, 2026	Easter Breakfast
April 12, 2026	OPEN
April 19, 2026	OPEN
April 26, 2026	OPEN

Communion Servers: April 5

Station #1:

_____ & _____

Station #2:

_____ & _____



Daily Bible Readings

Holy Week Reading Plan: Palm Sunday to Easter

March 29 Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry,
Matthew 21:1-11

March 30 Monday

Cleansing the Temple,
Mark 11:15-18

March 31 Tuesday

Speaking in Parables,
Matthew 22:1-14

April 1 Wednesday

Silent Wednesday, Psalm 46

April 2 Holy Thursday

The Last Supper, *John 13:1-20*

April 3 Good Friday

The Crucifixion, *Isaiah 53*

April 4 Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation,
Luke 23:50-56

April 5 Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!, *John 20:1-18*

Monday 4/6

Psalm 66, 93, 98
Exodus 12:14-27
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Tuesday 4/7

Psalm 103, 111, 114
Exodus 12:28-39
1 Corinthians 15:12-28
Mark 16:9-20

Wednesday 4/8

Psalm 97, 99, 115
Exodus 12:40-51
1 Corinthians 15:29-41
Matthew 28:1-16

Thursday 4/9

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149
Exodus 13:3-10
1 Corinthians 15:41-50
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 4/10

Psalm 118, 136, Exodus 13:1-16
1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Luke 24:1-12

Saturday 4/11

Psalm 104, 145
Exodus 13:17-14:4
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10
Mark 12:18-27

Sunday 4/12

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Exodus 14:5-22
1 John 1:1-7, John 14:1-7

Monday 4/13

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Exodus 14:21-31
1 Peter 1:1-12, John 14:1-17

Tuesday 4/14

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Exodus 15:1-21
1 Peter 1:13-25, John 14:18-31

Wednesday 4/15

Psalm 13, 14, 119:1-24
Exodus 15:22-16:10
1 Peter 2:1-10, John 15:1-11

Thursday 4/16

Psalm 18, Exodus 16:10-22
1 Peter 2:11-25, John 15:12-27

Friday 4/17

Psalm 16, 17, 134, 135
Exodus 16:23-36
1 Peter 3:13-4:6, John 16:1-15

Saturday 4/18

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Exodus 17:1-16
1 Peter 4:7-19, John 16:16-33

Sunday 4/19

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Exodus 18:1-12
1 John 2:1-17, Mark 16:9-20

Monday 4/20

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Exodus 18:13-27
1 Peter 5:1-14
Matthew 3:1-6

Tuesday 4/21

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Exodus 19:1-16
Colossians 1:1-14
Matthew 3:7-12

Wednesday 4/22

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Exodus 19:16-25
Colossians 1:15-23
Matthew 3:13-17

Thursday 4/23

Psalm 37, Exodus 20:1-21
Colossians 1:24-2:7
Matthew 4:1-11

Friday 4/24

Psalm 105, Exodus 24:1-18
Colossians 2:8-23
Matthew 4:12-17

Saturday 4/25

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Exodus 25:1-22
Colossians 3:1-17
Matthew 4:18-25

Sunday 4/26

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Exodus 28:1-38
1 John 2:18-29, Mark 6:30-44

Monday 4/27

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Exodus 32:1-20
Colossians 3:18-4:6-18
Matthew 5:1-10

Tuesday 4/28

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Exodus 32:21-34
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 5:11-16

Wednesday 4/29

Psalm 49, 119:49-72
Exodus 33:1-23
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:17-20

Thursday 4/30

Psalm 50, 114, 115
Exodus 34:1-17
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Matthew 5:21-26

Eye Glass Mission

Alabama/Mexico Eyeglass Mission to Colima, Mexico

Corinne Piper

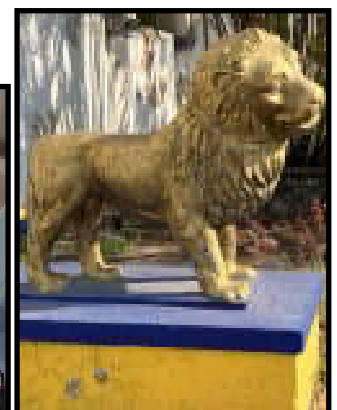
Thank you for the prayers!

On the Lenten Activities Calendar provided by St. Paul's/Westside churches, the task for March 1 was to pray for someone in the church. Well, you stepped up!

I was in Colima, Mexico from February 20-28 on an eyeglass mission sponsored by Alabama/Mexico Lions Club. Shortly after we arrived, there was violence between drug cartels in parts of Mexico. Fortunately, our team of 20 people were in an area that ended up not being directly affected. We did cancel the mission for one day but were able to continue the remainder of the week. During that time, we evaluated around 800 people and distributed glasses and sunglasses.

Those who serve others are blessed in return. There was a very specific blessing for one of our Lions. Two neurologists going through the mission noticed one of our team exhibiting some neurological symptoms. They saw her as a patient that very day and prescribed medication which made a significant difference immediately! God was active in the whole process: these doctors "happened" to come to the clinic; they "happened" to connect with that specific person out of the whole team; and they "happened" to have an appointment available that afternoon!

One of my gifts from God during this year's trip was all the many people who reached out in concern for me while I was there and traveling. I felt cared for by so many I know and those I don't know personally. You have all proven that the Church of God is not a building. It is the people of God loving one another. Thank you all for being part of this year's Mexico mission.



Summer Camp

Register Your Child for an Unforgettable Summer at Wesley Camp & Retreat Center

Unplug, unwind, and experience God—that's the opportunity for campers ages 7-17 at Wesley Camp & Retreat Center this summer. With our Summer 2026 relaunch, we are preparing to welcome campers into a safe, engaging environment that is both Christ-centered and inclusive.

Summer camp at Wesley offers an experience immersed in nature and community, far from screens and everyday distractions. Campers are guided by trained young adults who create a supportive atmosphere where they can explore, try new things, and experience God's presence in meaningful ways. Wesley provides a positive, nurturing environment that promotes personal growth, spiritual development, and genuine connection with others. Each day is intentionally designed to balance recreation, learning, and adventure, with faith formation woven throughout. Campers will be in a safe environment where they can discover their God-given gifts, build confidence, and develop friendships that last long after the week of camp ends.

This summer, join us for a phone-free, unforgettable week of adventure, faith, and fun! Each session will offer a mix of worship and devotions and provide opportunities for campers to experience all the creative and outdoor adventures Wesley has to offer. Each day, campers will dive into hands-on activities tailored to their age group—such as hiking, swimming, crafts, and games—alongside cabin time for reflection and connection. Through both worship and play, we journey together to find courage, joy, and God's guidance in today's world. Adventure Awaits! Whether making new friends, creating art under the trees, or singing around the campfire, we want you to join us as we grow in faith and community while having the time of our lives.

Full Week:

Adventure Awaits - Finding Our Way Together June 7-12 | June 14-19 | June 21-26

Taste of Adventure Awaits - Finding Our Way Together June 28-July 1 | July 5-8

To learn more or begin registration,
visit the new [Wesley Camp and Retreat Center website](https://www.wesleycampandretreatcenter.org).

Sign-Up to Join Us for a Volunteer Day:

Saturdays - 9 AM—2PM

April 11th

April 18th

May 9th

576 Township Rd. 37E
Bellefontaine, Oh 43311



www.wesleycampandretreatcenter.org

March Worship

4th Sunday of Lent, March 15
Students served as liturgist,
and a carry-in Luncheon.



Choir Anthem:
"What Wondrous
Love Is This?"
- arr. M. Hayes



Thank you to those who
organized the Carry-in
Luncheon!!



Connecting With...

Fellowship Hall New Windows:

The Trustees are beginning window replacement of the Fellowship Hall windows. The first was complete in March by; Dave Decker, Alex McAdams, Benjamin Rife, Pastor Paul, and coordinator, Jamie Wyant. The project will continue as funds are provided.

Thank You



St. Paul's Vision Statement:
Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.

Our Biblical Purpose Statement:
Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.

The People of St. Paul's

WITH DEEPEST Sympathy

Our sympathy to Denny and Carole Grapner and family on the passing of Denny's sister, Shirley Johnson, on March 14, 2026. Shirley was 89. Cards may be sent to; 2811 Wren Ave., Elida, OH 45807.



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Thank you to our St. Paul's Family for the beautiful wind chimes you sent upon my Brother Jim's passing. The chimes will be hung in my rock garden. Having them will remind me of the Brother's love for music.

Joy and John Fletcher

thank you



*Dear St. Paul's Church Family,
Thank you for the love and support shown to us through prayers, cards, and kind words at the visitation. We are grateful to Pastor Paul and to all who assisted with the music, sound, video, and taping for the beautiful celebration of life for Ray Trigg, Sr.
We greatly appreciated the delicious luncheon for our family. Thank you to all who prepared and served food for the meal. (The table decorations were sweet, too!)
Thank you for the beautiful wind chimes. What a sweet reminder to remember Ray's spirit through the sound of the chimes.
We are very appreciative of the many holiday and birthday cards sent to Ray over the years. We always read them to him and hung them up in his room.
Your love and kindness has helped bring us peace.
May God Bless You!*

*Love,
Ray and Amy Trigg & Family
Cindy Guess and Family*

St. Paul's Featured Recipes

Harvey Ham Sandwiches *(Served at March, Carry-in Luncheon)*

By Kerry Fremont

Ingredients		Instructions
1 - 6 lb.	Bone-in Ham	Place ham in large pot or slow cooker and fill with enough water to cover. Bring to boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer until fall-apart tender, 8 to 10 hours. Drain excess water, allow to cool enough to handle, then remove the bone and fat . Ham can be shredded in the pot or taken out. Pull ham apart into shreds and place in the slow cooker. Stir in brown sugar and mustard. Cover and cook on low until heated through, about 1 hour. ** This can be prepared a day or so in advance**
1 lb.	Brown sugar	
1 - 8oz. jar	Yellow Mustard	
24	Dinner rolls, split	



Spiced Pickled eggs and Beets

By Kerry Fremont

Ingredients		Instructions
1 dozen	Eggs, boiled & Peeled	Drain beets and reserve the juice. Place eggs and beets in glass container or mason jars. Heat in sauce pan reserved juice, vinegar, brown sugar, and spices. When sugar is dissolved, pour over eggs and beets. Let stand in refrigerator at least overnight or up to 3 days to color the egg whites closer to the yolks.
1 - 32 oz @1 qt.	Beets, canned	
1 cup	White Vinegar	
3/4 cup	Brown sugar	
3/4 tsp.	Whole cloves	
3 or 4	Cinnamon sticks	

KIDZ KORNER



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

PUZZLE

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition 5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners 5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart 5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our _____ on _____, the _____ and _____ of _____ For the _____ set before _____ he _____ the _____, _____ and sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____. Consider _____ who _____ such _____ from _____, so that you will not _____ and _____."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

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105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elida, OH
45807
Permit No. 71

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming.