

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 44, Issue 12

December, 2021

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

officeespc@gmail.com

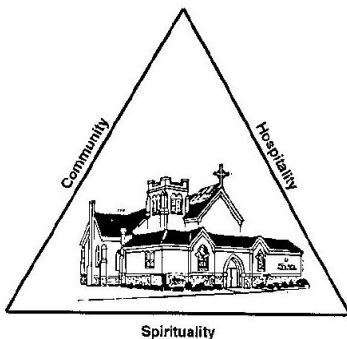
Rev. Paul Scannell

419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

pastorespc@gmail.com

4pastorpaul@gmail.com



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Thanksgiving is in the rearview mirror, and Christmas will quickly be upon us. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Shopping, decorations, parties, and everything else, that can keep us from focusing on the real gift of Christmas. Christ should always be our focus no matter what time of the year but especially at Christmas. We celebrate His birth and the redemption from sin it gives us all.

"God with Us" is the sermon series we will be using this Advent Season. I will be trying something a little outside the box, from what we usually use at Christmas. The incarnation of God is what Christmas is about, God as fully man, born among us, living as one of us, fully human and fully divine, all at the same time. We will look at what that means for us, and to us. We will spend seven weeks fleshing out what God with Us looks like: Christ the King; Christ the Savior; Immanuel; The Word Made Flesh; The Light of the World (Christmas Eve); The Good Shepherd; and finishing the Christmas Season with Christ the Lord, on Epiphany Sunday (the 12th Day of Christmas).

I hope you will join me as we journey through Advent and celebrate "God with Us" throughout the Christmas Holiday. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate with us this Christmas by sharing the real reason Christmas is the biggest deal of all.

Until then, I'll see you in the mission field.

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.

— David Jeremiah

Christmas Eve Special Music

If you are interested in providing music for the Christmas Eve Service, please contact a member of the Worship Committee or Pastor Paul.

December 5

**Coins for Communion
to benefit the Lima Salvation Army.**

**December 12
Food Pantry**

Bring non-perishable food items
for the 5 Loaves food pantry.



**December 21
Winter begins**

**December 31
New Year's Eve**



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
deadline:
the **20th**
of each month

Christian Symbol

EVERGREEN

These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.

St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's
United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

December 5
2nd Sunday of
Advent



December 12
3rd Sunday of
Advent

December 19
4th Sunday of
Advent

December 24
Christmas Eve
Gathering Music
9:30 PM
Candlelight Service
10:00 PM



Special Christmas Offering

Designated for the following missions:

1/2 to "Light the way", West Ohio Conference Campaign

1/2 to UMCOR, U. S. Disaster Response



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Thank you, to those who packed a box for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child. **108** Boxes from St. Paul's are being sent around the world to touch the hearts of many children and their families.



Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree.

St. Paul's special Christmas tree for hats, mittens and scarves will help to keep those less fortunate stay warm this winter. Consider buying Children's, men's and women's sized gloves for the tree to compliment the many knitted scarves and hats that are donated.



Hymn History

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Then Sings My Soul" Book 2, By Robert J. Morgan

1851

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)

The origins of this plaintive carol date to medieval times. In the 800s, a series of Latin hymns were sung each day during Christmas Vespers from December 17 to 23. Each of these hymns began with the word "O," and were called the "Great" or "O" Antiphons (the word *antiphon* meaning psalm or anthem). These hymns were apparently restructured into verse form in the 1100s, and finally published in Latin in 1710. In the mid-1800s, they were discovered by an English minister named John Mason Neale, who wove together segments of them to produce the first draft of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," which was published in 1851. Neale's original version said, "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel."

Neale is a man worth knowing. He was born in London on January 24, 1818, the son of an evangelical Anglican clergyman. He attended Cambridge University and proved to be a brilliant student and prize-winning poet. While there, Neale was influenced by the Oxford Movement and became attracted to Roman Catholicism. In 1841, he was ordained into the Anglican ministry; but his poor health and Catholic leanings prevented him from gaining a parish ministry.

He was appointed instead as the director of Sackville College, a home for old men. (Sackville College, started by Robert Sackville, Earl of Dorset, in the early 1600s as a home for the elderly, is still going strong today in East Grinstead, Sussex.) This was the perfect job for Neale, for he was a compassionate man with a great heart for the needy, but he was also a scholar needing time for research and writing.

As a high church traditionalist, Neale disliked the hymns of Isaac Watts and longed to return Christianity to the liturgical dignity of church history. He was an outspoken advocate of returning church buildings to their former glory. He campaigned, for example, against certain types of stove that spoiled the tastefulness and charm of English churches. He also worked hard to translate ancient Greek and Latin hymns into English.

In today's hymnals, we find Neale and Watts side-by-side, the differences having been forgotten. We owe a debt of gratitude to John Mason Neale every time we sing one of his Christmas carols: "Good King Wenceslas," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Good Christian Men, Rejoice," and his Palm Sunday hymn, "All Glory, Laud and Honor."



Prayer

Stay The Course

By Corinne Piper

Through this year I have shared my ideas and thoughts on intercessory prayer from *Intimate Intercession* by Tricia McCray Rhodes. I have reflected on her thoughts about standing in the gap between people with needs and God, partnering with God in Creation, being the branches of God's vine, staying focused during prayer, and being bold and strong in the face of unbelief. Writing these articles has helped me keep my focus on being an intercessor for those on our prayer list. They have given me things to DO.

Now comes the hard part for me: Stay the course and rest in God.

I am a person who feels the need to DO SOMETHING, fix a thing or person, make a casserole. Well, not really, a casserole. I am not a good cook, but you get the point. Just waiting for an outcome is much harder than doing something, anything!

I may pray for an outcome in some small request, but God sees the big picture. I need to wait for God. Praying isn't about results, but about resting in God's power, believing He is in control. Instead of always doing, working, and thinking that when we are God's hands, we are actually God, we must trust and rest at His feet in peace, like our children and pets, rest in peace with us.

As we celebrate the beginning of the church year, I pray we find rest in the old, old story and listen for what God is telling us yet again—"I love you".

To close out Rhodes' thoughts on intercessory prayer: "[prayer]... is a wonder beyond our grasp. It is one more way God enables us to know His heart, to grow in intimate knowledge of His ways, and be used by Him for glorious purposes." (p. 156)

Shalom.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

October 31, 2021	58
November 7, 2021	62
November 14, 2021	61
November 21, 2021	51

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
October 31, 2021	\$2,201.00	\$132.00
November 7, 2021	\$5,198.00	\$1,132.00
November 14, 2021	\$3,618.00	\$630.00
November 21, 2021	\$2,993.00	\$70.00

Sunday School Attendance

October 31, 2021	3
November 7, 2021	6
November 14, 2021	0
November 21, 2021	4

Greeters

December 5, 2021	OPEN
December 12, 2021	OPEN
December 19, 2021	OPEN
December 26, 2021	OPEN

Altar Flowers

December 5, 2021	Dan & Margie Best
December 12, 2021	Jack & Cindy Swihart
December 19, 2021	POINSETTIAS
December 26, 2021	POINSETTIAS

2022 Altar Flowers

If you would like to sign up for Altar flowers for 2022 you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail, officeespc@gmail.com.
Sunday mornings see Gail for sign-up sheet.

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 12/1

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Amos 3:12-4:5
2 Peter 3:1-10, Matthew 21:23-32

Thursday 12/2

Psalm 18, Amos 4:6-13
2 Peter 3:11-18, Matthew 21:33-46

Friday 12/3

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Amos 5:1-17
Jude 1-16, Matthew 22:1-14

Saturday 12/4

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Amos 5:18-27
Jude 17-25, Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday 12/5

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Amos 6:1-14
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 1:57-68

Monday 12/6

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Amos 7:1-9
Revelation 1:1-8
Matthew 22:23-33

Tuesday 12/7

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Amos 7:10-17, 24-25
Revelation 1:9-16
Matthew 22:34-46

Wednesday 12/8

Psalm 38, 119:25-48, Amos 8:1-14
Revelation 1:17-2:7
Matthew 23:1-12

Thursday 12/9

Psalm 37, Amos 9:1-10
Revelation 2:8-17
Matthew 23:13-26

Friday 12/10

Psalm 31, 35, Haggai 1:1-15
Revelation 2:18-29
Matthew 23:27-39

Saturday 12/11

Psalm 30, 32, 43, Haggai 2:1-19
Revelation 3:1-6
Matthew 24:1-14

Sunday 12/12

Psalm 63, 98, 103, Amos 9:11-15
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 13-17
John 5:30-47

Monday 12/13

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Zechariah 1:7-17
Revelation 3:7-13
Matthew 24:15-31

Tuesday 12/14

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Zechariah 2:1-13
Revelation 3:14-22
Matthew 24:32-44

Wednesday 12/15

Psalm 49, 119:49-72
Zechariah 3:1-10
Revelation 4:1-8
Matthew 24:45-51

Thursday 12/16

Psalm 23, 50, Zechariah 4:1-14
Revelation 4:9-5:5
Matthew 25:1-13

Friday 12/17

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Zechariah 7:8-8:8
Revelation 5:6-14
Matthew 25:14-30

Saturday 12/18

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Zechariah 8:9-17
Revelation 6:1-17
Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday 12/19

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Genesis 3:15-18
Revelation 12:1-10, John 3:16-21

Monday 12/20

Psalm 61, 62, 112, 115
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Titus 1:1-16, Luke 1:1-25

Tuesday 12/21

Psalm 66, 67, 116, 117
1 Samuel 2:1b-10
Titus 2:1-10, Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday 12/22

Psalm 72, 111, 113
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Titus 2:11-3:8a
Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56)

Thursday 12/23

Psalm 80, 146, 147
2 Samuel 7:18-29
Galatians 3:18-29, Luke 1:57-66

Friday 12/24 - Christmas Eve

Psalm 89:1-29, Isaiah 59:15b-21
Philippians 2:5-11

Saturday 12/25 - Christmas Day

Psalm 2, 85, 110, 132
Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4
1 John 4:7-16, John 3:31-26

Sunday 12/26

Psalm 34, 93, 96
1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 1:18-25

Monday 12/27

Psalm 18, 2 Samuel 23:13-17b
Revelations 1:1-8, John 7:37-52

Tuesday 12/28

Psalm 20, 21, 23, 27
1 Kings 17:17-24
Revelations 1:9-20
John 7:52-8:11

Wednesday 12/29

Psalm 46, 48, 1 Kings 3:5-14
2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
John 8:12-19

Thursday 12/30

Psalm 93, 96, 148, 150
Galatians 3:15-22
Luke 1:67-80 or Matthew 1:1-17

Friday 12/31 - New Years Eve

Psalm 45, 46
Galatians 3:23-4:7
Matthew 1:18-25



Poem

The Veteran

By Dillon W. Staas Jr.

Have you ever watched a veteran as the flag goes by?
With his hand on his heart and a tear in his eye?
Now bent by the years, still he's handsome and proud,
With his wife by his side, they stand out in the crowd.

Have you ever watched a veteran as the men march on.
He remains at attention 'till the last one's gone.
With great admiration and respect, he'll stand,
While the troops keep cadence with the high school band.

So at the next parade you may happen to see
Take a look around the crowd and there well may be
Some gray haired veterans with hearts so true
And give a little thought to what they've done for you.

For somewhere in their past, many, many years ago
Our country was in need and they were called to go
To a land filled with terror where death lurked so near;
Where thought turned to home and life seemed so dear.

Now try to imagine how they face that past;
How they long for the time those thoughts are gone at last.
Then say a little prayer that soon these men may find
A place where those memories are all left behind.



Gene Craft and his wife, Linda, visited the Vietnam Memorial during an Honor Flight. Craft had one cruise to Vietnam in 1967.

Elida man joined Navy to learn a skilled trade

My name is Gene Craft and I was in the US Navy aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt from October 1963 to July 1967.

I joined the service to get a skilled trade. When I joined I wanted to be a draftsman but once in the service I found out they had no requirements for draftsmen for the past 20 years. The training officer said they needed electricians and I had sold electrical supplies at Rinks Bargain Center in Lima so I thought that would be a skill I knew something about. I studied electrical skills at Great Lakes and became a second class petty officer over the next three years. I had one cruise to Vietnam in 1967.

After the service I went to The Ohio State University and got my Electrical Engineering degree. My experience in the service and my education served me well my whole working career.

*The Lima News, November 11, 2021
Lifestyle section*

Military Recognition



Military Recognition November 7, 2021

Thank you to all those who have served,
or are currently serving in the Military.

A special thanks to the Crafty Creatures for
the quilts and to Larry and Shirley Moser
who delivered the remainder of quilts to
those not present.

Trick-or-Treat Mission



St. Paul's hot chocolate mission and trunk-or-treat mission on Halloween, was a success! Thanks to everyone who worked for these missions and for everyone who donated their trunks and their candy!

Connecting with...

To all the church women of St. Paul's who participated in this project. My sincere thanks for the beautiful patriotic quilt. I have attended this church since 1937 or 38, and this is the best gift of appreciation ever.

Thank You all,
Don Holmes

Dear Shirley and Crafty Creatures,

Thank you so much for the handmade quilt, it was very kind of you to take the time. Last July I celebrated 60 years of joining the Army, I still recall all of it!

Warm regards,
Larry Brunk



Thank you for honoring our veterans and active service members. A special thank you to all of the members of the church that made the quilts. The quilt is truly a special gift, and we will display it proudly in our home.

Tim is currently in Kuwait and I am serving at Ft. Bragg NC. I have 16 years and Tim has 22 years, both in the Army.

With appreciation and thanks,
Dani and Tim

(Niece of Greg and Barb Schade)

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

They are \$10.00 each.

Please fill out this order form and with payment, place in the offering plate or turn into the office.

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service or pick up the week of December 26.



The People of St. Paul's

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Our Sympathy to Linda and Gene Craft, and to Nancy Gesler on the passing of Linda and Nancy's brother, Gene Lee, on November 17. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Cards may reach Gene and Linda at 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807. Nancy at 1044 Woodland Dr., Lima, OH 45805.

Thank
You!

Thank you to my friends at St. Paul U. M. church for the many cards I have received for my 102nd Birthday, and they are still coming! I am getting along very well, but slow on my walks. Thanks again to all of you and I'm now heading for 103!

Evelyn Sarber

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the beautiful wind chimes.
We greatly appreciate your kindness.

The Family of
Gene Whetstone,
Brad, Slone, and kids

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Chris Bowsher

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jan Sodders

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Thank you to all who
Volunteered with the Family
Promise Mission on Friday,
November 19.



Our Biblical Purpose Statement:

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

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.

Meetings

December 1, 2021
Worship Mtg...10:00
AM

No PPR

December 7, 2021
Trustees...7:00 PM

No Ad Council/
Finance Meeting

No Missions

Sundays
Prayer...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...
7:00 PM

December 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Lena Whetstone A.J. White	2 Micheal Craft Lavonne Segovia	3	4 Carl miller
5 Shirley Adams	6 Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7	8	9	10	11 Ron McAdams
12	13	14	15 Taryn Piper	16	17	18 Mary Holmes Pamela Moser
19	20 Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller	23	24 Linda craft	25 Denny Grapner
26	27 Deb Hurd Megan Wyant	28	29 Tiffany Emmons Tammy Segovia	30 Cameron Emmons Tristan Gaghen	31 Jack White	

Anniversaries

Roger & Jackie
Henderson
December 4; 50 yrs.

Derick & Ashley
Edwards
December 18

Dennis & Shara Bowsher
December 19; 41 yrs.

Larry & Gloria Brunk
December 21; 53 yrs.

John & Val Kuenzli
December 27

Denny & Janna
Thompson
December 29; 43 yrs

Ron & Karen Bible
December 30

Mike & Kim Crates
December 31

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

French Iced Coffee

*By Barb Schade
A family holiday favorite*

Ingredients		Instructions
3 cups	Coffee, strong	Dissolve sugar in hot coffee, stir to make sure sugar is dissolved. Then cool.
2 cups	Sugar	
1 pint	Cream or half & half	Add other ingredients; Cream, milk, vanilla. Pour into gallon milk container (rinsed out). Place in freezer.
1 qt.	Milk, whole	
2 tsp.	Vanilla	Remove from freezer 2 to 3 hours before serving. Use a sharp knife to cut off top of container and pour into a punch bowl or large bowl. Coffee will have a slushy texture. *Can use espresso or flavored coffee. *Can be made a few days ahead.



If you have a family holiday favorite recipe you would like to share, please e-mail it to the church office at
officeespc@gmail.com

KIDZ KORNER

SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

PUZZLE



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S

H
M
V
S
R
B
O
L
Y
Q
O
X
A
V
H
R
T

What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby.
Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll _ _ve b ir _ _
to _ s_n, and _ _u a_e to
gi_e _i_ the _ _me J _ _us,
b_c_u _ _ he _ill s _ _e his
_ _op_e f_o_ t _ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

A I N G F I P **H** S C I B E J H A

U
E
L
W
B
A
R
V
H
P
Q
E
F
L
S
R
Z
M

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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45807
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**Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church**

**Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org
Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH**



Living Our Faith

A Season of Waiting

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone