

St. Paul's Epistle

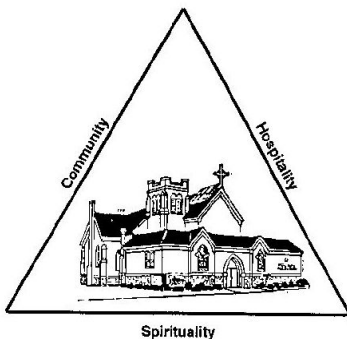
An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 47, Issue 12

December, 2024

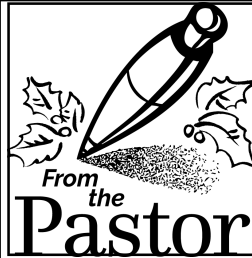
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December is here, another year almost gone, and the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child is to be enjoyed/endured/survived. I think from year to year all of these have applied in one way or another. It is important to remember that not everyone has the same holiday experience. If you really enjoy Christmas, and it gives you a lot of good memories, great, but be aware that not everyone has those good memories. If the Christmas season causes you to be anxious, or you have bad memories, try to be patient when people are so happy and excited. We all are in different places this Christmas, remembering the gift of God that frees us from sin will help us all not only survive Christmas, but to celebrate the greatest gift of all.

We are going to spend the Advent season looking at Angels and the role they have played throughout the Bible. Old and New Testament, as we look at Messengers of Hope, The Heavenly Host, Angels and Annunciations, Not Missing Your Angel, and somewhere in here, I believe, the children will be gracing us with a Christmas Play. Then, of course, we will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 9 pm, with communion and a wonderful evening of celebration. We will end the 5 Sunday month with an early look at Epiphany and why we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas after the 25th. January, will of course be a celebration of Women in the Bible. We will look at Eve (villain or heroine), Sarah, the mother of a nation, Ruth the original immigrant, and finally Mary, the mother of Jesus.

I want to finish up by saying what a great job you have all done in the last 12 months. Missions completed and ongoing, new people in the pews, and a renewed sense of stewardship have us all looking forward to 2025, but I will save that for next month's newsletter. Until then, I will see you in the mission field, and remember, God loves you!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

When Christ entered our world,
he didn't come to brighten
our Decembers but to
transform our lives.

—Rich Miller



December 1
Coins for Communion
to benefit LifeWise Academy
Acts Sunnydale House



Crafty Creatures Candy Sales
Pick up: Saturday, December 14
10-noon in the Fellowship Hall
 Thank you all for supporting the Crafty Creatures mission!

Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree.

Please bring in purchased or hand made hats, mittens and scarves and place them on the special tree. These items will help to keep those less fortunate stay warm this winter.


Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Deadline: the 22nd
 of each month

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker

Christian Symbol



ADVENT COLORS

One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child

December 21st
First Day of Winter



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.

December 22
Food pantry
Items Needed:
Canned goods, fruits and vegetables and other Non-perishable food items
Items taken to the 5 Loaves Food Pantry at The Church at Allentown.

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

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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 by December 15.

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service.



Advent

If you or your family is interested in doing a reading and lighting the Advent Candle during worship service. Please contact the office or Pastor Paul.

December 1
1st Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM
Worship Service



December 8
2nd Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM
Worship Service

December 15
3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM
Worship Service

December 22
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM
Worship Service

December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
9:00 PM

Children's Christmas Play

"The Birth of Jesus"
By Felicia Mollohan



The St. Paul's Christmas offering is designated for the following missions:

- 1/2 to UMCOR - U. S. Disaster Response and**
- 1/2 to UMCOR - International Disaster Response**

Hymn History

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

"Then Sings My Soul" Book 1, By Robert J. Morgan

1739

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people." Luke 2:10

Upon his conversion, Charles Wesley immediately began writing hymns, each one packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity, both beauty and theological brawn. He wrote constantly, and even at houses along the road and ran in asking for "pen and ink."

He wrote over 6,000 hymns during his life, and he didn't like people tinkering with the words. In one of his hymnal, he wrote: "I beg leave to mention a thought which has been long upon my mind, and which I should long ago have inserted in the public papers, had I not been unwilling to stir up a nest of hornets. Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they are really not able. None of them is able to mend either the sense or the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them or worse, or to add the true reading in the margin or at the bottom of the pages, that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense or for the doggerel of other men."

But one man did the church a great favor by polishing up one of Charles' best loved hymns. When Charles was 32, he wrote a Christmas hymn that began:

*Hark, how all the welkin rings,
"glory to the King of kings;
Peace on earth, mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the shies;
Universal nature say,
"Christ the Lord is born-to-day!"*

The word "welkin" was an old English term for "the vault of heaven." It was Charles' friend evangelist George Whitfield, who when he published this carol in his collection of hymns in 1753, changed the words to the now-beloved, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 3, 2024	70
November 10, 2024	76
November 17, 2024	73
November 24, 2024	74

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$4,187.00



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 3, 2024	\$5,620.11	\$700.00
November 10, 2024	\$2,638.22	\$1,395.00
November 17, 2024	\$2,297.00	\$230.00
November 24, 2024	\$1,802.17	\$355.00

Sunday School Attendance

November 3, 2024	11
November 10, 2024	13
November 17, 2024	14
November 24, 2024	15

Hospitality Cart

December 1, 2024	McAdams Family
December 8, 2024	McAdams Family
December 15, 2024	Vermillion Family
December 22, 2024	OPEN
December 29, 2024	OPEN

Flower Calendar

December 1, 2024	Larry & Gloria Brunk
December 8, 2024	Dan & Margie Best
December 15, 2024	Don & Maedene Holmes
December 22, 2024	Poinsettias
December 29, 2024	Poinsettias

2025 Altar Flowers

If you would like to sign up for Altar flowers for 2025 you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail, officeesp@gmail.com.

Or on Sunday mornings see Gail for the sign-up sheet.

Advent Readings



The
Season
of

Advent READING PLAN

Hope

- ◇ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◇ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◇ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◇ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◇ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◇ Day 6: Titus 2:11- 3:8

Joy

- ◇ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◇ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◇ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◇ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◇ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◇ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

- ◇ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◇ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◇ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◇ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◇ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

- ◇ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◇ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◇ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◇ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◇ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - 3:5
- ◇ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10

Farewell



Saying Thank You and Good-Bye to Don and Judy Chaffins

Written by Jan Wyant

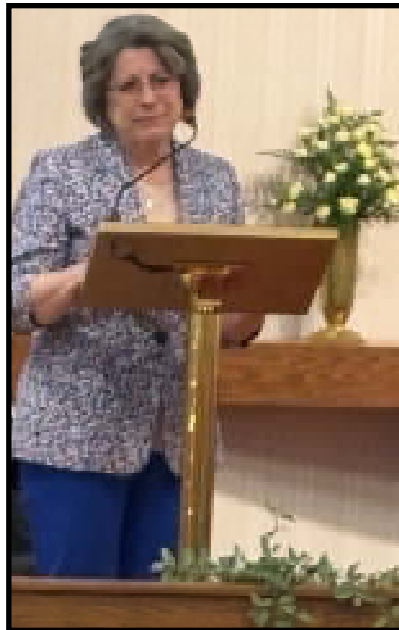
Don, shall I say, is definitely the quieter of the two. Before Agent Orange began to take its hold over his life and body, he served on the PPR and Finance committees. He attended Sunday school and Koinona class activities and helped where needed. He also golfed with several church members. Don is a dedicated Methodist, Army Veteran, father, and grandfather. Just a great guy.

Judy has led the senior choir and also the Children's Choir and directed two musicals; "Fat, Fat Jehoshaphat" and "Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs, and Fireflies." She remembers setting a very, very young Lindsey Reiff, wearing an angel costume, on top of the organ for the musical. She can't believe it was never questioned and is very grateful Lindsey just sat quietly. Judy's been on several committees, been instrumental in starting projects, programs, and new ideas. She's been an incredible asset, leader, and friend.

Don and Judy are moving to the Columbus area to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

A recognition was held for Don and Judy during the worship service on November 10, with a Dietsch's ice-cream reception held following the worship service.

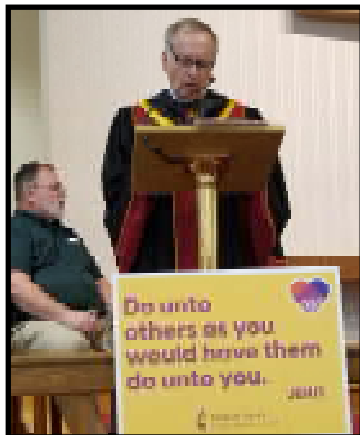
New Address:
3959 Kensingwood Dr.
Columbus, OH 43230



Sunday Services

November 3, 2024

During the Worship Service we remembered the many Saints that had passed with in this past year. The names of each Saint was read, and at the end of the service the families took their memorial ornament home. The candles on the altar were lit in memory of loved ones.



Thank you, Casey Rife for accepting the position of Choir Director.

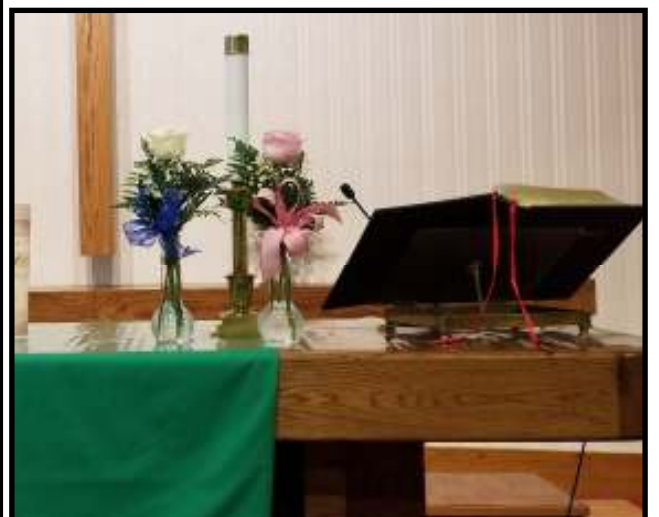


The Rose Buds On The Altar Are In Honor Of:

Miles Brent McAdams was born on October 21. His parents are Reggie and Stephanie. He was welcomed by his big brother, Greyson.

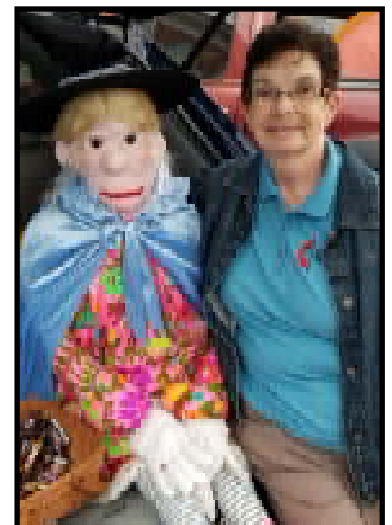
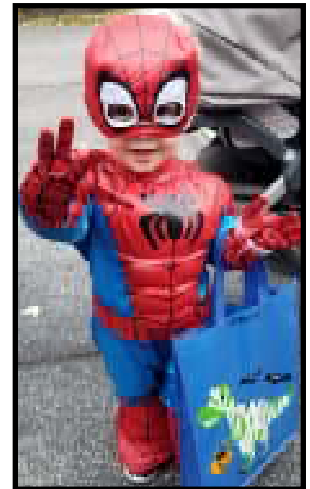
Gracie Shay Gerdeman was born on October 25. Her parents are Joe and Torie. She was welcomed by her big sister, Paisley.

Their grandparents are Brent and Vicki McAdams, great-grandmother is Myrna Metzger, and great-grandfather is Ron McAdams.



Missions

October 31
St. Paul's Neighborhood Mission
Hot Chocolate & Trunk or Treat.



Shoe Box Mission

Thank you St. Paul's congregation, and others in the community who packed boxes for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child. **164 Boxes total** (162 delivered and 2 on-line orders), are being sent around the world to touch the hearts and lives of many children and their families. Thank you Jamie Wyant for heading up this mission and Tim and Corinne Piper for delivering to WTLW channel 44.



Keeping track of where our St. Paul's boxes are being sent to around the world.



The People of St. Paul's

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Our sympathy to Steve, Tracy, and Tahler Sdao on the passing of Steve's mother, Sally Sdao, on November 1. A funeral mass was held on November 5 in Ottawa. Cards may reach the Sdao family at 1657 Robinhood Dr. Lima, OH 45805

Thank you all for your time, cards, words, and prayers. Tracy and I appreciate it very much.
Love,
Steve, Tracy, and Tahler

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital
Homebound Members
Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement
In the Military & Missions
Nathan Stewart



Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you very much for the prayer shawl! I use it every day. I appreciate the caring and prayers. I have received the best news! My recent PET scan showed NO cancer! What a wonderful blessing! God has held my right hand and led me through.
Love,
Ginny Doseck

The Heart of Christmas

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,
The chorus of voices, the claspings of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born!
With glad jubiliations
Bring hope to the nations!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun:
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one! ...

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;
East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease.
Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good-will to man!
Hark! joining in chorus
The heavens bend o'er us!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!

—John Greenleaf Whittier

Meetings

December 2, 2024
PPR/Nomination ..7:00
 PM

December 3, 2024
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 4, 2024
Worship Mtg...
4:30 PM

December 9, 2024
**Ad Council/
 Finance...7:00 PM**

No Missions

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

DECEMBER

2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Lena Whetstone A. J. White	2 Michael Craft Lavonne Segovia	3	4	5 David Segovia Shirley Adams	6 Teresa Grigsby Sue Theodore Lisa Wurster	7
8	9	10	11 Ron McAdams John Segovia	12	13	14
15 Taryn Piper	16	17 Audrey Fox	18 Cavanaugh Clark Pamela Moser	19	20	21
22 Wren Harmon Kara Woeller	23	24 Linda Craft	25 Denny Grapner	26	27 Deb Hurd Megan Wyant	28
29 Tiffany Emmons Tammy Segovia	30 Tristin Gaghan Cameron Emmons	31 Jack White				



Roger & Jackie Henderson
 December 4; 53 yrs.

Shara & Dennis Bowsher
 December 19; 44 yrs.

Larry & Gloria Brunk
 December 21; 56 yrs.

John & Val Kuenzli
 December 27

Denny & Janna Thompson
 December 29; 46 yrs.



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Baked Meatball Spaghetti

By Susan Nartker

		Instructions
8 oz.	Cream Cheese, softened	<p>Combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, Italian seasoning and pepper. Stir into cooked spaghetti. Place into a 9 x 13 baking dish and top with 1 cup mozzarella cheese.</p> <p>Place 16 to 20 meatballs on top cover with spaghetti sauce.</p> <p>Top with remaining mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle with granulated garlic and grated parmesan cheese.</p> <p>Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until heated through.</p>
1/2 cup	Mayonnaise	
1 tsp.	Italian seasoning	
1/4 tsp.	Pepper	
8 to 10 oz.	spaghetti	
2 cup	Mozzarella Cheese, divided	
16 oz. pkg.	Meatballs, frozen	
2-9.75 oz. jars	Prego Spaghetti sauce	
	Granulated garlic	
	Parmesan cheese , grated	



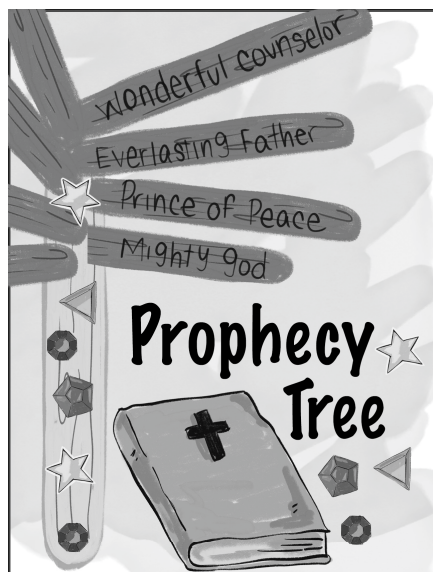
Hot Chocolate Dry Mix

By Mary Holmes

Ingredients		Instructions
1 box	Carnation powdered Milk (1 lb 9 oz.)	<p>Mix all ingredients together well.</p> <p>Store in air tight container</p> <p>Add 2 to 3 teaspoons to a cup of hot water.</p>
1 lb.	Nestles Quick	
1 (11 oz.)	Coffeemate or Cremora	
1/2 cup	Powdered sugar, rounded	



KIDZ KORNER



Prophecy Tree

Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

PUZZLE

CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*			-	?	>	<	:	:	

For to us a _____ is _____, to us a _____

3 8 9 # 4 2 ^ (%) ^ %

is _____, and the government will be on his shoulders.

7 9 > 5 %

And he will be called Wonderful _____

3 ^ ? % | 5 # ^ |

_____ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

5 9 7 8 - ;

greatness of his government and _____ there will be no _____

& 5 1 3 5 5 % 4

He will reign on David's _____ and over his _____

- 8 { ^ % 5 @ 9 % 7 4 ^ 5

establishing and upholding it with _____ and righteousness

| 7 } - 9 3 5

from that time on and _____ . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

6 ^ | 5 > 5 |

Answers: child, born, given, son, throne, kingdom, justice, forever, end, peace, Mighty, Counselor, Wonderful, government, will, be, on, his, shoulders, and, the, greatness, of, his, government, and, there, will, be, no, He, will, reign, on, David's, and, over, his, establishing, and, upholding, it, with, and, righteousness, from, that, time, on, and, Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH

December

Living Our Faith

A Hobby Turned Ministry

The internet has transformed shopping, whether for Christmas, major purchases or even groceries. I've spent hours scrolling Facebook Marketplace for just the right new-to-me items. Hunting for a great deal or a unique piece is part of the appeal.

But after reading Philippians 2:4, I also began paying attention to the people I encountered along the way. "Don't look out only for your own interests," that verse says, "but take an interest in others, too" (NLT).

A retired couple all but invited me to dinner when I bought a lamp from them. I remember the woman's delight as she described her recipe. A young man with developmental challenges who sold me a video game communicated its quality much better than anyone I've encountered.

When a mom purchased some chairs from us, she shared her excitement while loading her van. Her family now had a "real home" after living in an RV during a tough time. Once I bought furniture from a woman who was visibly stressed, exhausted from helping her mother-in-law move out of state.

As my transactions turned into interactions, my heart was changing — for the better. My hobby became more enjoyable and meaningful as I took time to listen and care.

—Janna Firestone