

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United  
 Methodist Church  
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April is within view, and I am excited for Spring to be sprung. I know I talk about this every year, but I love to see the first flowers of the season and to hear the spring peeper frogs. I won't be changing anytime soon, therefore, be prepared to hear every spring how beautiful I think my wife's flowers are. The joy of more daylight, the sound of rebirth in the noise of mother nature, and the yellow of daffodils uplift my soul. It also means Easter is upon us and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, who frees us from sin if we only believe he is the Son of God who gives us life everlasting.

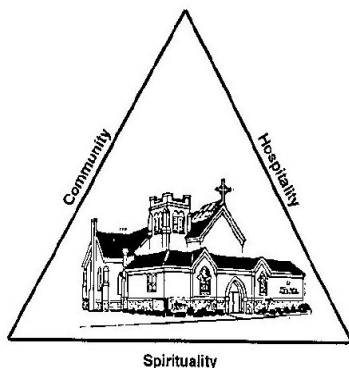
Many of you have noticed an increase in the number of people at church on Sunday, as well as an increase in the number of children in church. We have also been keeping track of the number of people who are viewing our church service online. I don't know how we compare our online viewing to the numbers from last year because we have only started keeping track of those numbers since January. I do know one thing, we are reaching a group of people we have never reached before, and it has helped those who can not make it to church to attend virtually. We have members who, for various reasons, are able to attend and see their church family every week, and that is a very good thing. The question is being asked how can we be the church to these different groups more effectively, what needs do they have, and how do we minister to them in a way that is genuine?

Our Pastor Parrish Committee works very hard every year to create goals for myself and the church, we recently gathered to discuss these goals. I look forward to the next 12 months to implement some of the goals and discuss with all of you how we can move forward in the areas of emphasis. Two of those areas are mentioned in the above paragraph, online community and families with children. How to connect them to the church, grow their numbers, meet their needs, and encourage them to be active in the mission God has given them. Connecting to our online viewers, online giving, online bible studies, more community involvement, more PR for the church, and making sure we all have answers to what is going on within the United Methodist Church, as well as having a conversation about where we fit, in the bigger church. These are just a few of the goals I hope we will reach, as well as our goal of making disciples for Jesus Christ in the world and in our families.

Make sure you join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, don't be afraid to follow God's leading, and I hope you will be a part of what is happening this year at St Paul's Church. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*



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**April 2**  
*Palm Sunday*  
 Worship 10:00 AM

**April 6**  
*Holy Thursday*  
 7:00 PM Service

**The special Easter offering:**  
 Designated for UMCOR International Disaster response.



**April 9**  
*Happy Easter!*  
 Early Service 8:00 AM

**Easter Breakfast**  
 To follow 8:00 AM Service

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Easter morning Following breakfast

The children are to meet in the classroom no later than 9:20 AM.

**Volunteers needed!**  
 Anyone interested in hiding Easter eggs for the children, meet in the sanctuary at 8:45 AM

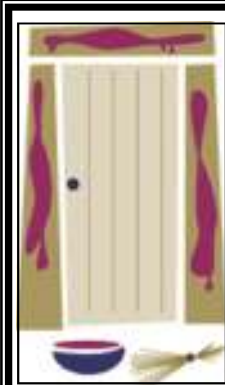


**Easter**  
 10:00AM Worship Service

# Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

**Thought for the Month:**  
 Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with our resurrection.  
 —Watchman Nee

## Christian Symbol



### DOORPOSTS

The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should “pass over” those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker



**Coins for Communion**  
 April 2  
 Will benefit the 5 Loaves Food Pantry  
 at The Church at Allentown

**Family Promise Mission**  
 April 28  
 Meals are provided to those  
 families being housed through  
 Family Promise Mission.  
 Contact Tim Piper for more  
 information.

**Food Pantry Sunday**  
 April 16  
 All proceeds go to the  
 5 Loaves Food Pantry  
 at the Church At Allentown

**Dry Goods Needed:**  
 Rice, Oats, Sugar, Flour,  
 Powdered Milk, Coffee Creamer,  
 And Pasta



Food Pantry  
 Donations Needed

**BOOK Club**  
 Saturday, May 6 at 9:00 AM  
 "The Book Club on Waverly Lane"  
 By: Rachel Hannah  
 Books are in the library for \$6.00  
 All Are Welcome!

## *Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*

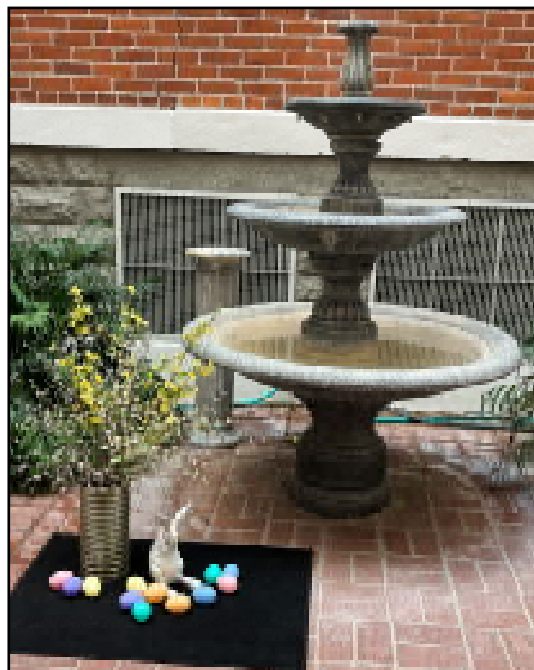
### **Sharing The Load**

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

# Lent



Acolytes:  
Anika Bok and Jackson Rife



Children's Moments: Stump The Pastor  
Yes, occasionally he gets stumped!





# Holy Week

## Palm Sunday

On this day of great rejoicing,  
 Lord Jesus Christ, when we welcome  
 You as our King and Savior,  
 We also walk in the shadow of Your cross.

**Hosanna!** We cry.

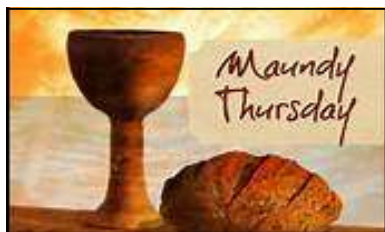
Blessed are you who come  
 In God's name to save us.

**Hosanna!**

Strengthen our faith on this palm Sunday  
 So that when the time comes  
 To carry the cross we might still  
 Call out to you with heartfelt praise.  
 Give us the grace and courage  
 To follow you this Holy Week  
 from death to resurrection,  
 From darkness to the fullness of light.

We need You,  
 Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Hosanna!**



## DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

And having taken bread, he gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, *"This is my body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of me."* In like manner he took also the cup after the supper, saying, *"This cup is the covenant in my blood, which shall be shed for you."* (Luke 22:19-20)

# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
February 26, 2023	73
March 5, 2023	63
March 12, 2023	68
March 19, 2023	54
March 26, 2023	65

**Financial Giving**  
 Weekly Need for  
 Unified Ministry Budget  
 \$4,187.00

<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>		<b>Other:</b>
February 26, 2023	\$2,257.98	\$275.00
March 5, 2023	\$4,827.76	\$1,050.00
March 12, 2023	\$890.00	\$75.00
March 19, 2023	\$3,147.76	\$262.00
March 26, 2023	\$2,195.00	\$500.00

<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
February 26, 2023	11
March 5, 2023	14
March 12, 2023	6
March 19, 2023	9
March 26, 2023	12

<b>Hospitality Cart</b>	
April 2, 2023	Jan Wyant
April 9, 2023	OPEN
April 16, 2023	OPEN
April 23, 2023	OPEN
April 30, 2023	Corinne Piper

<i>Altar Flowers</i>	
April 2, 2023	Scott & Gail Fessler
April 9, 2023	Easter Lilies
April 16, 2023	Virginia Hollar
April 23, 2023	Don & Maedene Holmes
April 30, 2023	OPEN



# Daily Bible Readings

**Saturday 4/1**  
 Psalm 42, 43, 137, 144  
 Jeremiah 31:27-34  
 Romans 11:28-44 or 12:37-50

**Sunday 4/2 Palm Sunday**  
 Psalm 24, 29, 103  
 Zechariah 9:9-12  
 1 Timothy 6:12-16  
 Matthew 21:12-17

**Monday 4/3**  
 Psalm 51, 69:1-23  
 Jeremiah 12:1-16  
 Philemon 3:1-14, John 12:9-19

**Tuesday 4/4**  
 Psalm 6, 12, 94  
 Jeremiah 15:10-21  
 Philemon 3:15-21, John 12:20-26

**Wednesday 4/5**  
 Psalm 55, 74  
 Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-17  
 Philemon 4:1-13, John 12:27-36

**Thursday 4/6 Maundy Thursday**  
 Psalm 102, 142, 143  
 Jeremiah 20:7-11  
 1 Corinthians 10:14-17, 11:27-32  
 John 17:1-11

**Friday 4/7**  
 Psalm 22, 40, 54, 1 Peter 1:10-20  
 John 13:36-38

**Saturday 4/8**  
 Psalm 27, 88, Job 19:21-27  
 Hebrews 4:1-16, Romans 8:1-11

**Sunday 4/9 Easter**  
 Psalm 148, 149, 150, 113, 114  
 Exodus 12:1-14  
 John 1:1-18, John 20:19-23

**Monday 4/10**  
 Psalm 66, 93, 98, Jonah 2:1-9  
 Acts 2:14-32, John 14:1-14

**Tuesday 4/11**  
 Psalm 103, 111, 114  
 Isaiah 30:18-21  
 Acts 2:26-47, John 14:15-31

**Wednesday 4/12**  
 Psalm 97, 99, 115, Micah 7:7-15  
 Acts 3:1-10, John 15:1-11

**Thursday 4/13**  
 Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149  
 Ezekiel 37:1-14  
 Acts 3:11-26, John 15:12-27

**Friday 4/14**  
 Psalm 118, 136, Daniel 12:1-13  
 Acts 4:1-12, John 16:1-15

**Saturday 4/15**  
 Psalm 104, 145, Isaiah 25:1-9  
 Acts 4:13-31, John 16:16-33

**Sunday 4/16**  
 Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147  
 Isaiah 43:8-13  
 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-7

**Monday 4/17**  
 Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Daniel 1:1-21  
 1 John 1:1-10, John 17:1-11

**Tuesday 4/18**  
 Psalm 5, 6, 10,, Daniel 2:1-16  
 1 John 2:1-11, John 17:12-19

**Wednesday 4/19**  
 Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
 Daniel 2:17-30  
 1 John 2:12-17, John 17:20-26

**Thursday 4/20**  
 Psalm 18, Daniel 2:31-49  
 1 John 2:18-29, Luke 3:1-14

**Friday 4/21**  
 Psalm 16, 17, 134, 135  
 Daniel 3:1-18  
 1 John 3:1-10, Luke 3:15-22

**Saturday 4/22**  
 Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117  
 Daniel 3:19-30  
 1 John 3:11-18, Luke 4:1-13

**Sunday 4/23**  
 Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150  
 Daniel 4:1-18  
 1 Peter 4:7-11, John 21:15-25

**Monday 4/24**  
 Psalm 9, 15, 25, Daniel 4:19-27  
 1 John 3:19-4:6, Luke 4:14-30

**Tuesday 4/25**  
 Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39  
 Daniel 4:28-37  
 1 John 4:7-21, Luke 4:31-37

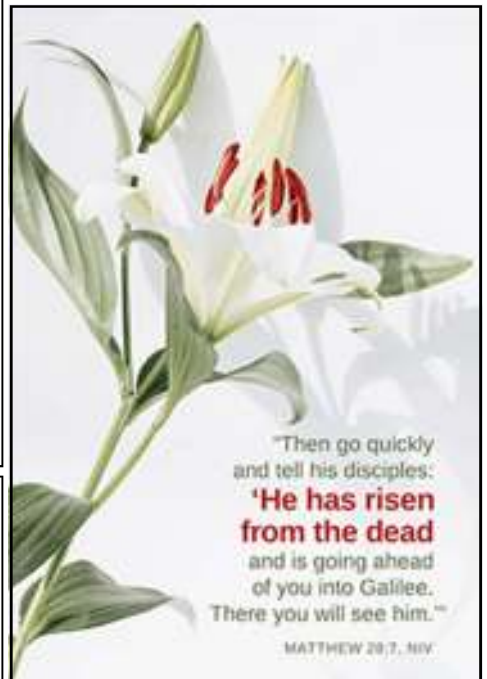
**Wednesday 4/26**  
 Psalm 38, 119:25-48  
 Daniel 5:1-12  
 1 John 5:1-12, Luke 4:38-44

**Thursday 4/27**  
 Psalm 37, Daniel 5:13-30  
 1 John 5:13-20(21)  
 Luke 5:1-11

**Friday 4/28**  
 Psalm 105, Daniel 6:1-15  
 2 John 1-13, Luke 5:12-26

**Saturday 4/29**  
 Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43  
 Daniel 6:16-28  
 3 John 1-15, Luke 5:27-39

**Sunday 4/30**  
 Psalm 63, 98, 103  
 1 Peter 5:1-11, Matthew 7:15-29



## Poem

### EASTER JOY

*By Joanna Fuchs*

*Jesus came to earth,  
to show us how to live,  
how to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.*

*He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.*

*He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.*

*Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.*

*Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.*

*So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!*





# Hymn History

## Because He Lives

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

1971

*There is hope in your future, says the Lord. Jeremiah 31:17(NKJV)*

As I prepared this volume of hymn stories, Gloria Gaither graciously shared with me the background for this beloved song:

*When Bill and I started our family in the sixties, racial tensions were tearing the country apart. Civil rights activists had suffered and some had been killed. The Vietnam conflict was claiming thousands of lives, and tensions boiled over on university campuses. Many people were becoming disillusioned and "Dropping Out."*

*In this climate, Bill and I sought to write songs with lasting answers to the turmoil of the human spirit. But in the Fall of 1969, several things happened to test the reality of our own convictions. We realized we were expecting another baby. Though we intended to have another child, we weren't planning on a baby so soon. My body hadn't quite recovered from the last pregnancy. Making matters worse, Bill contracted mononucleosis, which left him exhausted and depressed.*

*This combination of national turmoil and personal trouble discouraged us, and we occasionally asked each other, "If the world is like this now, what will it be in fifteen or sixteen years for our baby? What will this child face?"*

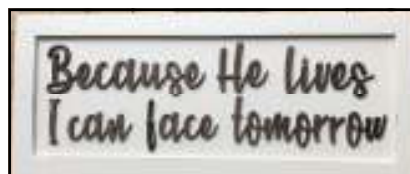
*While pondering and praying about these things, we came to realize anew that our courage doesn't come from a stable world, for the world has never been stable. Jesus himself was born in the cruelest of times. No, we have babies, raise families, and risk living because the Resurrection is true!*

*Our baby arrived safe and sound, and we named him Benjamin, which means "most beloved son." A few weeks later "Because He Lives" was born in our hearts and poured from our souls:*

*How sweet to hold our newborn baby  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still, the calm assurance-  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.*

*Over the years this song has reassured us that our Lord's Resurrection is the central truth of life. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow. Many times since, as our children grew, our business-life changed, our fortunes shifted, or our direction clouded, our family has found assurance in this very this song.*

*It's "our song," but we're grateful others have loved it, too.*



# Missions

Thank you for your generous support of LifeWise, Elida.

Acts Character Academy, LLC



Dear St. Paul's United Methodist,  
Thank you for your generous donation of winter hats and gloves!

Sincerely,  
Cross Roads Crisis Center, Inc.

As we enter into 2023, we at Heartbeat of Lima would like to thank you for your support throughout the year! We appreciate all that you do!

Heartbeat of Lima

# Thank You

Many Thanks for your Support. It is truly appreciated.

God Bless You!,  
Samaritan House Staff

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - Thank You! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love or our neighbors.

UMCOR US Disaster Response



I'm truly fortunate to witness everyday how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift! I hope you know how much we, and the families appreciate you all.

Heifer International gratefully recognizes Saint Paul's United Methodist Church for your contribution of healthy animals and training in their care to help struggling families overcome a life of hunger and poverty.

*"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1*

Thank you to all those who donated diapers for the Family Promise Diaper Mission in conjunction with Elida Immanuel Church.



# Connecting With....



*Thank You!*

## Happy 80th Birthday Linda Holman!

March 12th, Linda's family had a bouquet of flowers on the organ in honor of her special day. Their daughter's Kate Stengel and Kara Woeller and their families were in church to celebrate. Daughter Krista Slemmons and family are working abroad for 6 months.

My Dear Church Family and Friends,

My 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was the best ever because of you! All the cards and thoughtful messages touched my heart. Thank you for all the love and support you continue to show me.

Blessings, Linda Holman

*With Deepest  
Sympathy*

Our Sympathy to Brad Selover, Blake, and Troy and Heather Selover and families on the passing of Kim Selover on March 16th. A memorial service was held on March 21.



Congratulations to Alex and Stacy McAdams on the birth of their son, Baylor Allen McAdams, born on March 15 at 6:32 PM. Weighing 10 lbs. 9 ozs. And 23 inches long. Very proud Sisters, Rylan and Merah. Grandparents are Brent and Vicki McAdams, Great grandparents are Myrna Metzger and Ron and Kay McAdams. Several Aunt, Uncles and cousins. Cards may be sent to 13939 State Rd. Delphos, OH 45833

## The Rose Buds On The Altar Are In Honor Of:

**Greyson Kent McAdams**, born February 20, weighing 7 lbs 1 oz. and 21 inches long. Proud parents are Reggie and Stephanie McAdams.

**Baylor Allen McAdams**, born March 15, weighing 10 lbs. 9 ozs. 23 inches long. Proud parents are Alex and Stacy McAdams, and sisters Rylan and Merah

Their Grandparents are Brent and Vicki McAdams. Great grandparents are Myrna Metzger and Ron and Kay McAdams. Several Aunt, Uncles and cousins, to love and spoil them both.



# The People of St. Paul's

*Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the lovely sounding chimes given in  
memory of Mary.*

*Love to you all!  
Don and Maedene Holmes*



*Pastor Paul and Church,  
We are so humbled and overwhelmed with all of your  
support and words of encouragement. The service  
was wonderful, the dinner was a great celebration with  
awesome food. We love the chimes and they are on the  
front porch for all of us to hear. Thank you all for  
being the hands and feet of Christ and for being an  
example to us all of what unconditional love looks like.*

*Thank You!  
Doug and Ginger Fox*



## Remember in Prayer



*Recovering from Surgery or  
in the Hospital*

*Those in Need of Healing,  
Support, Strength &  
Encouragement*

Ted and Jan Soddors

*In the Military & Missions*

Nathan Stewart



*I want to thank all of you that sent  
cards and prayers after my surgery.  
Also, a special thank you to the  
members of the Crafty Creatures for  
everything. All of you helped keep  
my spirits up especially when I was  
housebound.*

*Shirley Moser*

*St. Paul's Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the flowers  
and especially for all your prayers  
for my recent surgery. I also  
appreciate my prayer blanket.*

*Thanks again!  
Denny Grapner*

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

*During a time like this we realize how  
much our friends and relatives really  
mean to us... Your expression of  
sympathy will always be remembered.  
Thank you so much for the beautiful  
flowers.*

*Love,  
The Selover Family*

**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**

**No PPR**

April 4, 2023  
Trustees...7:00 PM

April 5, 2023  
Worship Mtg.10:00 AM

April 10, 2023  
Ad Council/  
Finance Mtg...7:00 PM

**NO Missions**

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

**Wednesday**  
Choir...7:00 PM

# APRIL

# 2023

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

						1
2 Mike Crates	3 Demi DeRose David Scannell	4 Lynda Evans Madelyn Thomas	5 Peyton Przekora	6	7 Dan Best	8
9	10 Pam Lozano	11 Brittany Scannell	12	13	14 Anne White	15 Todd Chaffins
16 Denise Thomas	17 Doug Guess	18 Pastor Paul Scannell	19 Maedene Holmes Thad Strauch	20 Kelly DeRose Lori Motzer Aaron Piper	21 Krista Slemmons	22 Chloe Nartker
23 Hudson Rife	24	25	26	27	28	29 Lauren Clark Gerald Strayer
30						



*Carl & Lois Rabley*  
*April 4; 59 yrs.*  
*John & Joy Fletcher*  
*April 17; 41 yrs.*  
*Tony & Pam Lozano*  
*April 17*  
*Robert & Jacquie Bice*  
*April 19*

# Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

## Spinach Ricotta Bites (served at hospitality cart)

*By Deb Hurd*

Ingredients		Instructions
2 Tbl.	Butter	Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  Melt butter in a sauté pan over medium heat and cook onions until tender.  Add the garlic and cook an additional minute, set aside to cool.  Whisk eggs in a bowl and stir in ricotta, mozzarella, and parmesan cheeses.  Once combined, stir in spinach, salt, and cooled onion and garlic mixture.  Spoon the mixture into greased mini muffin cups.  Bake for 20-25 minutes until the filling is set, and golden brown on top. If necessary, use a sharp knife to cut around the sides of bites to release.  *Spinach - use hands to squeeze as much liquid as possible out of spinach.
1 small	Yellow onion, chopped	
1	Garlic clove, minced	
2 large	Eggs, beaten	
1 cup	Ricotta cheese (low or full fat will work)	
1/2 cup	Mozzarella cheese, shredded	
1/2 cup	Parmesan cheese, grated	
1-10 oz. pkg.	Spinach, frozen, chopped defrosted, *well drained	
1/4 tsp.	Salt, kosher	

## Roaster Shredded Chicken

*By Deb Hurd*

Ingredients		Instructions
2- 50 oz. cans	Chicken, pulled (can get at Gordon Foods)	Serves 40 to 50 people.  Mix all together in a roaster and cook at 250 degrees for 4 hours, stirring occasionally.  If it needs to be thicker (which often does), then crush 1/2 box more of the Chicken-in-Biscuit crackers to add.
1-50 oz. can	Cream of Chicken soup	
1-50 oz. can	Cream of Celery soup (can use 5 10 oz. cans)	
2 boxes family size	Chicken-in-a-Biscuit Crackers, (original flavor) crushed	

# KIDZ KORNER

## Good news flags

Use batik, a unique fabric-dyeing method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



### What you need:

- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

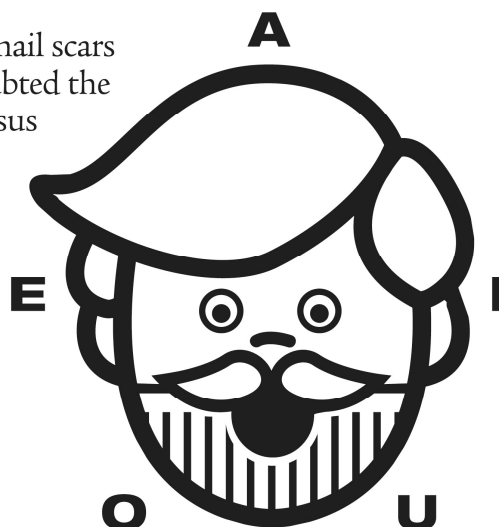
### What you do:

1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
5. Hang the flags and celebrate!



## SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?



**Directions:**  
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.

“B \_ c \_ \_ s \_ y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ s \_ \_ n m \_ ,  
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d ;  
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

bl \_ ss \_ d \_ r \_ th \_ s \_ wh \_ h \_ v \_ n \_ t  
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

s \_ \_ n \_ nd y \_ t h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d .”  
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

**JOHN 20:29, NIV**

Answer: “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:29, NIV

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

\*Return Service Requested

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Elida, OH  
45807  
Permit No. 71

**Our Web Address:**  
**[www.elidastpaulschurch.org](http://www.elidastpaulschurch.org)**

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

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## Living Our Faith

### Jesus Answers Our Uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

### Complete Trust, Even Amid Suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that "anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt."

But Christ's final words — committing himself into his Father's hands — "ring a different note," adds Gerson. "This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough."