

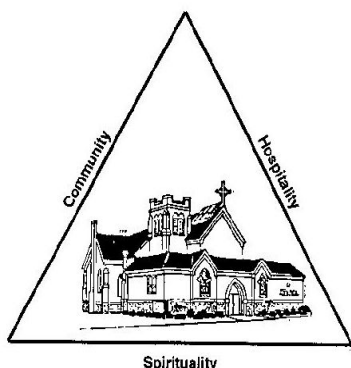
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

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April is here, which means we are already a quarter of the way through 2025. I have some exciting news; We have a chance to spend a Sunday with other United Methodists in Allen County. June 8th, I want to invite you to join me in worship at Fautrot Park, we will meet at the concert pavilion. We will be joined by Shawnee UMC, Trinity UMC, Lima Westside UMC, Cairo UMC, Forest Park UMC, and Cridersville UMC as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday together as United Methodists. Rev. Jim Wilson, our District Superintendent, will be preaching. There will be more information over the next few weeks, including the possibility of a mass choir, children's projects, special offering, (50% Church United Pantry and 50% Freedom School at the Bradfield Center), and hospitality area. You could even bring a picnic and enjoy the park following worship. Worried about the weather, we even have a rain plan, we will worship at the Bradfield Center. So, put it on your calendar for June 8th, and I will see you as we celebrate in the park!



Yes, there is also the other big news. The PPR committee met with Jim Wilson, our District Superintendent, on March 23rd to discuss who would be the pastor at St. Paul's in July. It was decided, that we would become a two-point charge with Lima Westside UMC. That means, 2 churches with one pastor, I have been appointed to this new charge. Yes, I will be staying here at St. Paul's, but I will also be serving ¼ time at Lima Westside. It is an opportunity for you to be blessed, to be a blessing. Westside has struggled for years and is in need of some revitalization, and Rev. Wilson hopes that my years of experience and maturity (lol) will allow them to become the church he believes they can be.

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What does this mean to you? Depending on when they change their service time to, you will either have to deal with me leaving service and not being around to greet you after service or have me skating in after the service has already started or being patient until I show up. It won't cost St. Paul's a penny; in fact, Westside will be giving you a little bit of money to help with my financial package. You will have to share a little time with Westside as I will be in their office one day a week, but we could meet there, and maybe sometime people from Westside might meet with me here at St. Paul's.

I look forward to what this new ministry/mission looks like for St. Paul's, and I hope, like me, you are excited as we continue to grow our ministry here in Elida. Who knows what God will accomplish through us, but until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,
 Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:
 Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.
—Frederick Buechner

April 6
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Coins for Communion
April 6

Will benefit
The 5 Loaves Food Pantry
at The Church at Allentown

Food Pantry Sunday
April 20

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

Family Promise Mission
April 25

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



Book Club
Saturday, April 26
9:00 AM

"The Record Keeper"
By, Charles Martin

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Deadline: the 20th
of each month

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

Christian Symbol

PALM BRANCH



When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.

April 27



Fun and Laughter

“Here cometh April again,” said poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834). “And as far as I can see, the world hath more fools than ever.”

That second observation may or may not be true, but April does indeed begin on a lighter note. April Fools’ Day, which is filled with practical jokes, can also be a reminder to thank God for laughter, joy, funny stories, children’s antics and other things that make us smile.

Then one week after Easter, on what’s known as Holy Humor Sunday, some churches celebrate that God played the supreme joke on death. Jesus’ resurrection is cause for joy, smiles and, yes, laughter. Even the Almighty joins in: “He who sits in the heavens laughs” (Psalm 2:4)

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

They are **\$12.00 each.**

Please fill out this order form and place it in the offering plate, Drop it off, or mail with the payment, to the church office by April 13

Name: _____

Number of flowers: _____

In Honor of (or) In Memory of: *(circle one)*

Phone: _____

Please pick up your flowers following the Easter Service.

Holy Week

April 13
Palm Sunday
Worship 10:00 AM



April 17
Holy Thursday
7:00 PM Service

April 20
Happy Easter!
Early Service 8:00 AM

Easter Breakfast
To follow 8:00 AM Service

Easter
10:00 AM Worship Service



Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Easter morning Following breakfast.
The children are to meet in the classroom
between 9:00 AM. and 9:10 AM.
The Children will go in groups according to age.

Easter Offering
Designated to UMCOR:
½ to International Disaster Relief
½ to U. S. Disaster Relief



To make the Easter Egg Hunt for the wonderful children in our church a success, we will need donations of wrapped candy and toys that must fit into the eggs. Please give items to Larry or Shirley Moser, or place in the office. Volunteers are needed to hide the eggs shortly after the 8:00 AM service.

See You Easter Morning!

Hope For Holy Week



As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

—Peter Sulzle

Easter

My Easter Dove

Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1849-1916)

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter dove!
Above earth's storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life



Easter Insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name *Eostre*, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to *Eostre*, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to *Eostre*. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.

Holy Week Daily Guide



Palm Sunday
Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday
Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday
Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.



Wednesday
Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday
The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday
The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday
Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday
Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



Daily Bible Readings

BIBLE READING PLAN:
From Death to Life



Bible Readings For Lent
Continued from March newsletter



Hosannas for a King

- Psalm 24:7-10
- Jeremiah 23:5-6
- Matthew 21:1-11
- John 18:33-40
- John 19:1-16
- Hebrews 1:1-12
- Sunday: Revelation 7:9-17



Journey to the Cross

- John 2:13-22
- Mark 14:1-11
- John 13:1-17
- Matthew 26:26-30
- Luke 22:39-46
- Mark 14:27-31, 66-72
- Palm Sunday: Ephesians 1:18-23



Victory Through Christ

- Isaiah 53
- Matthew 26:47-56
- Mark 15:16-20
- John 6:47-58 [Maundy Thursday]
- Matthew 27:32-54 [Good Friday]
- Psalm 16:5-11 [Holy Saturday]
- Easter Sunday: Luke 24:1-8,
- 1 Corinthians 15:47-57

Monday 4/21

Psalm 66, 93, 98, Jonah 2:1-9
Acts 2:14-32, John 14:1-14

Tuesday 4/22

Psalm 103, 111, 114, Isaiah 30:18-21
Acts 2:26-47, John 14:15-31

Wednesday 4/23

Psalm 97, 99, 115, Micah 7:7-15
Acts 3:1-10, John 15:1-11

Thursday 4/24

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

Friday 4/25

Psalm 118, 136, Daniel 12:1-4, 13
Acts 4:1-12, John 16:1-15

Saturday 4/26

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

Sunday 4/27

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

Monday 4/28

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

Tuesday 4/29

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Daniel 2:1-16
1 John 2:1-11, John 17:12-19

Wednesday 4/30

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Daniel 2:17-30
1 John 2:12-17, John 17:20-26

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
March 2, 2025	69
March 5, 2025 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	29
March 9, 2025	75
March 16, 2025	70
March 23, 2025	76

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
\$4,386.25

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
March 2, 2025	\$4,131.13	\$1,035.00
March 9, 2025	\$6,782.45	\$648.00
March 16, 2025	\$2,955.97	\$100.00
March 23, 2025	\$3,302.40	\$100.25

Sunday School Attendance	
March 2, 2025	14
March 9, 2025	11
March 16, 2025	14
March 23, 2025	14

Hospitality Cart	
April 6, 2025	Nancy Kizer
April 13, 2025	Vicki McAdams
April 20, 2025	OPEN
April 27, 2025	Margie Best & Gloria Brunk

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Altar Flowers</h2>	
April 6, 2025	Virginia Hollar
April 13, 2025	Scott & Gail Fessler
April 20, 2025	Easter Flowers
April 27, 2025	Brent & Vicki McAdams

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.

Hymn History

In The Garden

“Then Sings My Soul”, By Robert J. Morgan

1912

.. She turned around and saw Jesus standing there. . . . John 20:14

The art of meditating on Scripture involves using one's imagination. Instead of simply reading a passage, we must read it, close our eyes, and visualize the scene, perhaps even putting ourselves in the picture. That's what the author of this hymn did.

C. Austin Miles was a pharmacist who began writing gospel songs and eventually became an editor of hymnals and songbooks, as well as a popular music director at camp meetings, conventions and churches. His hobby was photography, and he found his darkroom perfect for developing, not just his photographs, but his devotional life. In its privacy and strange blue glow, Miles could read his Bible in total privacy.

One day in March, 1912, while waiting for some film to develop, he opened the Bible to his favorite chapter, John 20, the story of the first Easter. Miles later said: “As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. . . My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A women in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat as if to hold back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and hurried away. John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

“As they departed, Mary reappeared, leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb. She wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing; so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms out stretched and looking into his face, cried, ‘Rabboni!’

“I awakened in full light, gripping my Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words would be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music.”



In addition to “In the Garden,” Austin Miles is the author of several other gospel songs, including “A New Name in Glory,” “Dwelling in Beulah Land,” and “If Jesus Goes with Me I’ll Go Anywhere.”



Poem

Heaven's Grocery Store

*Poem from St. Paul's Cook Book published in 1987.
Author unknown.*

I was walking down life's highway,
A long time ago.
One day I saw the sign that read,
"Heaven's Grocery Store."

As I got a little closer
The door came open wide,
And when I came to myself,
I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels,
They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket, and said,
"My child, shop with care."

Everything a Christian needed
Was in that grocery store.
And all you couldn't carry,
You could come back the next day
for more.

First, I got some Patience,
Love was in the same row.
Further down was understanding,
You need that wherever you go.

I got a box or two of wisdom;
A bag or two of Faith.
I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost,
For it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some Strength
and Courage,
To help me run this race,
By then my basket was getting full,
But I remembered I needed some
Grace.

I didn't forget Salvation
For Salvation is free;
So I tried to get enough of that,
To save both you and me.

When I started to go up to the counter,
To pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had enough of everything,
To do my Master's will.

As I went up to the aisle, I saw prayer,
And I just had to put that in.
For I knew that when I stepped outside,
I would run into Sin.

Peace and Joy were plentiful,
They were on the last shelf,
Song and praises were hanging near,
So I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel,
"Now how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said,
"Just take them everywhere and go."

Again I smiled and said,
"How much do I really owe?"
He smiled and said,
"My child, Jesus paid your bill,
A long time ago."



Puzzle

Puzzle!



First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. Water that falls from the sky _{1 2 3 4}
2. Birds lay these in a nest _{5 6 7 8}
3. A newly hatched hen _{9 10 11 12 13}
4. These bloom in spring _{14 15 16 17 18 19 20}
5. A caterpillar transformed _{21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29}
6. Dirt mixed with water _{30 31 32}

Bible Quiz

From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"

Answer: A

(See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)

J _{5 8 31 20} _{8 2 3 32}... " I _{2 30}

 _{2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6 24 16 30 29}

F _{2 23 10 18 26} _{2 4 32 29 16 22 1}

F _{2 24 10 25 19} _{23 16 30 29} G _{16 32}

 _{2 4 32 29 16 31 1} G _{16 32}

John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has _____ !

Answers: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud; Jesus said "... I am ascending to my Father and my Father, to my God and your God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!

The People of St. Paul's

With *Sympathy*

Our sympathy to Steve, Tracy, and Tahler Sdao, and the Adams family, on the passing of Tracy's mother, Shirley Adams, on February 25. Shirley was 90 years old. Shirley and late husband, Gary, of 71 years had enjoyed dancing even in their later years. Cards may reach The Sdao Family at 1657 Robinhood Dr., Lima, Ohio 45805



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Thank you, Pastor Paul for your visit and for the wonderful service you did for us.

Thank you church family for the dinner, texts, calls, cards, and prayers. You made this difficult time more peaceful.

Steve, Tracy, Tahler, and the Adams Clan.

Thank you!

My Church Family- Thank you for the flowers, cards, and prayers during my recent hospital stay. Words cannot express how much they all mean to me. May God bless you all.

Greg Schade

Thanks to everyone at St. Paul's for your prayers and cards.

Gene and Linda Craft

Congratulations!



Denny and Janna Thompson's son Aaron and his wife welcomed Ayla Rose Thompson on February 24. She weighed 6 lbs. 11oz and was 20" long. Ayla and mom are doing great!

Meetings

April 1, 2025
Trustees...7:00 PM

April 7, 2025
PPR/Nominations

No Worship Mtg.

April 14 2025
**Ad Council/ Finance
 Mtg...7:00 PM**

April 15, 2025
Missions... 7:00 PM

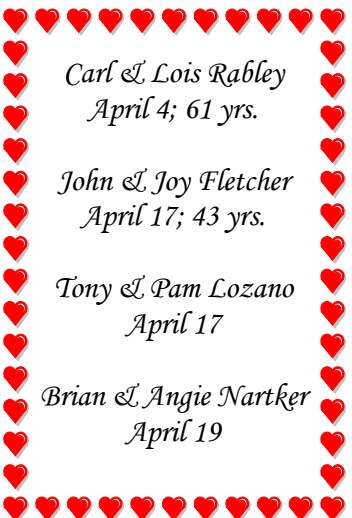
**Sundays
 Hospitality..9:30 AM
 Worship...10:00 AM**

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

APRIL 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat





Carl & Lois Rabley
April 4; 61 yrs.

John & Joy Fletcher
April 17; 43 yrs.

Tony & Pam Lozano
April 17

Brian & Angie Nartker
April 19



		1	2	3 Demi DeRose David Scannell	4 Lynda Evans	5 Peyton Przekora
6	7 Dan Best	8	9	10 Pam Lozano	11 Brittany Scannell	12
13	14 Anne White	15 Todd Chaffins	16	17 Doug Guess	18 Paul Scannell	19 Maedene Holmes Thadeous 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	30			

Featured Recipes

Scrambled Egg Muffins

By Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 lb. bulk	Pork sausage	Preheat oven to 350 degrees In skillet brown the sausage, drain. In a bowl beat the eggs; add onion, green pepper, salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Stir in sausage and cheese. Spoon by 1/3 cup full into greased muffin cups. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean. These can be made ahead and refrigerated, then heated in microwave.
12	Eggs	
1/2 cup	Onion, chopped (optional)	
1/2 cup	Green peppers (optional)	
1/2 tsp.	Salt	
1/4 tsp.	Pepper	
1/4 tsp.	Garlic powder	
1/2 cup	Cheddar cheese, shredded	

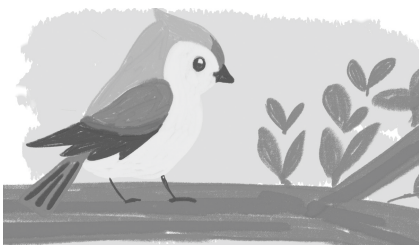
3-Ingredient Sausage Bites

By Jan Wyant

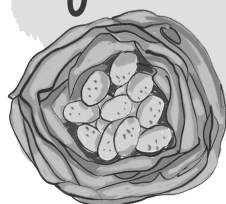
Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb.	Sausage, hot or mild (Pork or Turkey)	In pan, brown sausage; drain . Add dash salt and pepper. Blend in cream cheese until melted. Unroll 1-package of crescent rolls onto lightly greased baking sheet. Gently press seams together. Spread sausage mixture evenly over crescent roll dough. Leave a 1/2 inch Border along edges. Unroll remaining package of rolls and place on top of sausage mixture. Press edges together to seal. Gently press seams together. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, or until crescent roll dough is golden brown. Cut into small squares.
1-8 oz.	Cream Cheese	
2 pkgs.	Crescent Rolls	
dash	Salt & Pepper	



KIDZ KORNER



Springing to LIFE



New life defines the season of spring. Make this Easter craft that symbolizes rebirth.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ _____
2. H → ↑ → _____
3. V → ↑ ↓ _____
4. I ← ← ↑ _____
5. T ↑ ← ↑ _____
6. P ↑ → → ↓ _____
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ _____
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← _____



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Answer: new birth

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Clothed In Compassion

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we'll see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores than for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we'll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interaction might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and "mend" our attitude.

One more comparison: Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let's adapt the care we wear — making it "fit" better for today's generations.

—Janna Firestone