

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 43, Issue 8

August, 2020

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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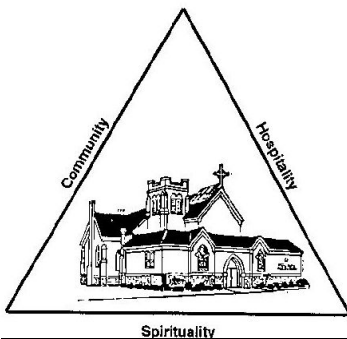
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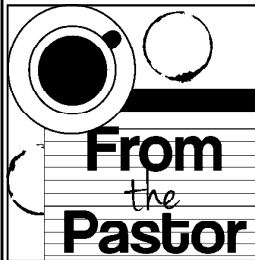
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I am not as patient a person as I could be. I wonder sometime if it is the culture we live in or if it is just my personality. I am ready for all of this to be over, but we continue as though we have not even hit the half way mark. Numbers continue to increase across the globe, but here in Allen County as I write we are flirting with purple/level 4 which means something which I don't quite understand, but we have to learn. Did I say I want this to be over? I wear a mask except when I forget and then I feel embarrassed. I try very hard to not shake a hand or offer my hand to shake. Did I say I want this to be over? I try to stay six feet away from people and when I wash my hands I scrub them until they are white with foam. I miss visiting people without worrying about exposing myself or them. I go to meetings over the internet which make it hard to concentrate. Did I say I want this to be over?

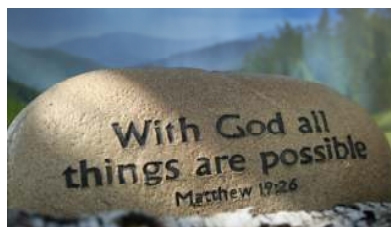
In Romans 12, Paul writes to the church telling us "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." ¹³Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Here we are stuck where we do not want to be, being told what to do and where to go. Much like the Apostle Paul throughout his ministry, but yet he worshiped where he was (even in jail), told the stories of Jesus, and encouraged us all to be the best Christians we can be. That has been and will continue to be our job throughout everything that happens during this time. Hope, patience, prayer and hospitality are very good goals to practice.

Here are just a few ways you can make a difference. School and Health kit time is upon us and if you do not want to shop, we have someone who is willing to do all the shopping for you. Send \$17 for each kit to the church with your regular offering and mark the money for either health or school kits and we (Bev) will do the rest. Look for a neighbor or family member that needs your help or just wants to talk. Find a way to maintain that six feet of space and just listen. Remember, if you or someone you know needs help, please contact the church. We are available to help.

Be praying for the church: those who are governing us and for all the kids and teachers who are getting ready to head back to school. Your prayers matter and make a difference. I hope to see you in church soon and I will try to have patience.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

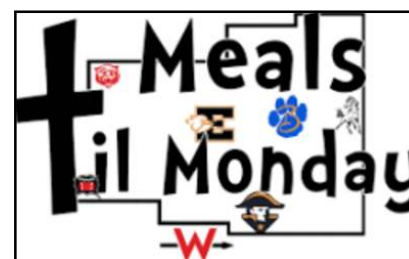


Thought for the Month:

Breathe the sweetness
that hovers in August.

—Denise Levertov

August 2
Coins for Communion
To benefit Meals 'til Monday



Thank You



Dear St. Paul's United Methodist Church:

On behalf of all the children who receive weekend food through Meals 'til Monday, thank you for your recent donation. Because you give, over 400 local elementary students are having their hunger need addressed. The partnerships of community members are critical in this program continuing. Your gift and the love you show for these kids is of great value to us. It is this kind of giving that has allowed Meals 'til Monday to expand with confidence whenever the opportunity has presented itself.

Sincerely,

The Meals 'til Monday Board of Directors

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

**No Dish-it-Out Café
 until further notice**

St. Paul's Epistle

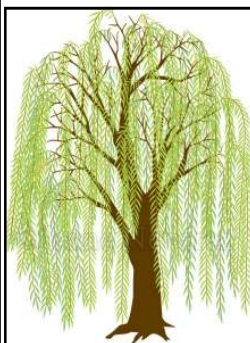
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Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

Christian Symbol

WILLOW



The billowing branches of the "weeping willow" symbolize mourning, especially of the Israelites as they endured captivity. The willow, which grows well in marshy areas, is associated in the Bible with fruitful, well-watered land (see Ezekiel 17:5). In descriptions of Old Testament festivals of praise, God's people were told "to take branches from luxuriant trees — from palms, willows and other leafy trees — and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days" (Leviticus 23:40, NIV).



Thank you to Shirley and Larry Moser, and Julie, Anika and Terry Bok for filling and delivering candy bags to the children of St. Paul's, to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers during these unusual and possibly stressful times.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Precision-Crafted By the Master

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

"For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

"She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

"Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

"Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature." Praise God!

Worship Guidelines

Guidelines

Our leadership has put together the policy below to help keep us safe as we gather for worship. These guidelines will evolve as our response to the pandemic changes.

- If you feel ill or have a fever, please do not come to church.
- If you have COVID- 19, please inform the church, as we will be closing for at least 14 days after someone tests positive, for congregational safety.
- Masks are encouraged, but NOT required.
- Hand sanitizer and masks will be available at each entrance.
- Please use social distancing in the sanctuary. We are not closing rows, but are asking that you maintain a 6 feet distance between families.
- There will be no greeters, ushers or hospitality cart.
- Offering plates will be available at each entrance. Please place your offering in the plate.
- The nursery will be open for your use, but will not have an attendant.
- There will be no Sunday School (for now).
- We will have a Hymn Leader singing, but the congregation will not sing.
- There will be no responsive reading or opening prayer by the congregation.
- We will have communion with prepackaged single serve wafer and juice the first Sunday of each month.
- Disinfectant wipes will be available in the north bathrooms.
- Bulletins will not be used, but a weekly prayer list will be available in the pews.
- We will not have Children's Moments.
- We are asking that all socializing before and after church occur outside and that you maintain a safe social distance.
- If there is a surge in cases in Allen County, the Ad Council may temporarily cancel worship until it is determined to be safe to return to church.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

June 28, 2020	64
July 5, 2020	43
July 12, 2020	50
July 19, 2020 <i>No in-person Worship</i>	
July 26, 2020 <i>No in-person Worship</i>	

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
June 28, 2020	\$4,193.00	\$314.00
July 5, 2020	\$3,386.00	\$501.35
July 12, 2020	\$2,035.00	\$80.00
July 19, 2020	\$3,770.00	\$265.00

There will be **NO** Greeters and **NO** Hospitality Cart.
We will reevaluate on a regular basis
as the restrictions of this pandemic changes.
Continue to keep up to date with our weekly status
e-mail, or for those without e-mail, snail mail.

Altar Flowers

August 2, 2020	Steve & Tracy Sdao
August 9, 2020	Jamie & Jan Wyant
August 16, 2020	Tim & Corinne Piper
August 23, 2020	Gary & Deb Hurd
August 30, 2020	Denny & Janna Thompson



Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 8/1

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
2 Samuel 5:22-6:11
Acts 17:16-34, Mark 8:1-10

Sunday 8/2

Psalm 34, 93, 96
2 Samuel 6:12-23
Romans 4:7-12, John 1:43-51

Monday 8/3

Psalm 77, 79, 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Acts 18:1-11, Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday 8/4

Psalm 78, 2 Samuel 7:18-29
Acts 18:12-28, Mark 8:22-33

Wednesday 8/5

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
2 Samuel 9:1-10
Acts 19:1-10, Mark 8:34-9:1

Thursday 8/6

Psalm 83, 85, 86
2 Samuel 11:1-27
Acts 19:2-13, Mark 9:2-13

Friday 8/7

Psalm 88, 91, 92
2 Samuel 12:1-14
Acts 19:21-41, Mark 9:14-29

Saturday 8/8

Psalm 87, 90, 136
2 Samuel 12:15-31
Acts 20:1-16, Mark 9:30-41

Sunday 8/9

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
2 Samuel 13:1-22
Romans 15:1-13, John 3:22-36

Monday 8/10

Psalm 89, 2 Samuel 13:23-39
Acts 20:17-38, Mark 9:42-50

Tuesday 8/11

Psalm 95, 100, 2 Samuel 14:1-20
Acts 21:1-14, Mark 10:1-16

Wednesday 8/12

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
2 Samuel 14:21-33
Acts 21:15-26, Mark 10:17-31

Thursday 8/13

Psalm 105, 2 Samuel 15:1-18
Acts 21:27-36, Mark 10:32-45

Friday 8/14

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
2 Samuel 15:19-37
Acts 21:37-22:16, Mark 10:46-52

Saturday 8/15

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
2 Samuel 16:1-23
Acts 22:17-29, Mark 1:1-11

Sunday 8/16

Psalm 118, 145
2 Samuel 17:1-23
Galatians 3:6-14, John 5:30-47

Monday 8/17

Psalm 106, 2 Samuel 17:24-18:8
Acts 22:30-23:11, Mark 11:12-26

Tuesday 8/18

Psalm 120, 127
2 Samuel 18:9-18
Acts 23:12-24, Mark 11:27-12:12

Wednesday 8/19

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
2 Samuel 18:19-23
Acts 23:23-35, Mark 12:13-27

Thursday 8/20

Psalm 133, 134, 135
2 Samuel 19:1-23
Acts 22:4:1-23, Mark 12:28-34

Friday 8/21

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
2 Samuel 19:24-43
Acts 24:24-25:12, Mark 12:35-44

Saturday 8/22

Psalm 104, 137, 144
2 Samuel 23:1-17
Acts 25:13-27, Mark 13:1-13

Sunday 8/23

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
2 Samuel 24:1-2, 10-25
Galatians 3:23-4:7
John 8:12-20

Monday 8/24

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 1 Kings 1:5-31
Acts 26:1-23, Mark 13:14-27

Tuesday 8/25

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
1 Kings 1:38-2:4
Acts 26:24-27:8, Mark 13:28-37

Wednesday 8/26

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
1 Kings 3:1-15
Acts 27:9-26, Mark 14:1-11

Thursday 8/27

Psalm 18, 1 Kings 3:16-28
Acts 27:27-44, Mark 14:12-26

Friday 8/28

Psalm 16, 17, 22
1 Kings 5:1-6:1-7
Acts 28:1-16, Mark 14:27-42

Saturday 8/29

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
1 Kings 7:51-8:21
Acts 28:17-31, Mark 14:43-52

Sunday 8/30

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
1 Kings 8:22-40
1 Timothy 4:7-16, John 8:47-59

Monday 8/31

Psalm 9, 15, 25
2 Chronicles 6:32-7:7
James 2:1-13, Mark 14:53-65



Remember When...



August, 1997
Setting up chairs for
concert at Allen County Fair

August, 2000
Allen County Fair Chairs
Bill McKinney
straightening a chair



August, 2003
Michele Theodore and Norm
Grigsby taking a break
from setting up chairs

Methodist History

Early Methodist Meetinghouses In Ohio

The Methodist people of Ohio began their worship in a very humble manner. The log cabins, barns, and sheltering woods were common sanctuaries. The first Methodist meetinghouse was built on Scioto Brush Creek, in 1800. The year previous, Rev. Henry Smith had come to Ohio and preached in several settlements on the Scioto and Miami Rivers. On October 1, 1799, he says, "I rode to Joseph Moore's, Scioto Brush Creek. Here I found a considerable society already organized by Brother Moore. Here I had some success and the society increased so that on the 6th of August, 1800, we proposed building a meetinghouse, for no private house would hold our week-day congregation. We succeeded in building a small log house, large enough for the neighborhood, the first Methodist meetinghouse on the circuit, and perhaps the first in the Northwest Territory."

The church was dedicated to the worship of God on August 29, 1801. It stood nine miles back from Rome, in Adams County, one mile and a quarter from Brush Creek, on Wintersteen's Run. The building was a 24 feet square, with a very small door and window on either side, and was built of scored logs. It was surrounded by a burying ground, where a number of early settlers sleep. It was used for worship for about twenty years, and then gave place to a better structure.

In 1803, the Holmes log meetinghouse was erected on Indian Short Creek. "In the immediate neighborhood of which," says Rev. John Meek, the pastor at the time, "there followed one of the most powerful revivals of the work of God, of the awakening and conversion of sinners, that I recollect ever to have witnessed."



Missions

BRAD JOSEPH MEMORIAL FUND

I hope everyone is doing well at St Paul's UMC. My family and I are doing well up here in Michigan. I know that St Paul's UMC have started services again, but I will not make it down to give the Congregation my normal annual update this year, so I thought I would send it down.

I have previously announced that the golf outing has been cancelled this year. I thought and prayed on whether to have it or not and decided for the safety of everyone not to have it.

We awarded three scholarships this year before the Pandemic hit. The winners were:

Courtney – Ohio Northern University – Pharmacy – Dominican Republic

Jesse – Michigan State University – Biology, Pre-Med – Haiti

Madison – Ohio Northern University – Pharmacy – Dominican Republic

I have not heard if any of the winners were able to go on their mission trips or not.

The value of the Memorial Fund continues to grow and we have now over \$58,000 in the Fund. The 2019 Golf Outing raised \$3,909. \$3,409 was added to the Fund from last year's proceeds and \$500 was added to St Paul's Scholarship Fund.

The 2019 Golf Outing was another wonderful Outing with great weather and a lot of great people. Once again St Paul's UMC had a team, provided a lot of volunteers and donated a lot of money.

Next year's Outing is scheduled for Saturday, July 10, and here's hoping and praying that our World and our Health Concerns will be in much better shape at that time.

John Fleming

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN!!!!



BY GEORGE! Campaign

Thank you so much for your wonderful response to the By George Campaign. This campaign has now come to an end. The final amount collected from everyone's wonderful donations had come to a total of \$37,907.71.

Again, Thank you for your support!!

School Kits and Health kits:

(See supplies list on page 11)

Sunday, August 30 last collection day for kits.

Cost per kit is \$17.00, this includes the \$2.00 shipping fee.

If you do not want to go out and purchase kit supplies, you may send in a check and Bev Nesbitt will do the shopping for you.



Missions

SCHOOL KITS

Starting a new school year is exciting...but for children who don't have school supplies, it can also be terrifying. That's where these kits - and your compassion - come in! Plus, the fabric bag you pack each kit in provides a long-lasting gift that kids can carry to and from school!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ♦ One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only).
- ♦ Three 70-count bound notebooks.
- ♦ One 30-centimeter, 12" ruler.
- ♦ One hand-held pencil sharpener (removed from package).
- ♦ One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers).
- ♦ Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (removed from the package).
- ♦ One box of 24 crayons.
- ♦ \$2.00 for tote bag.
- ♦ \$2.00 for processing and shipping kits.

Pack kit in a **2 gallon size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.



Last collection day is August 30, 2020

HEALTH KITS

When people are forced to abruptly leave their homes because of emergencies, they may not have time to pack the things they use on a daily basis like toothbrushes or soap. But after a few days without these items, they definitely miss them. Your hygiene kits offer a refreshing daily boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ♦ One hand towel measuring @ 15" x 28" to 16" x 32 (no micro-fiber).
- ♦ One washcloth.
- ♦ One wide-tooth comb (removed from package).
(if you want to purchase comb from Bev Nesbitt include \$1.00 in your kit).
- ♦ One fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from package).
- ♦ One bath size bar of soap in original package.
- ♦ One toothbrush in original package.
- ♦ Ten standard size Band-Aids.
- ♦ \$2.00 for processing and shipping kits.

Seal kit in a **gallon size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.



The People of St. Paul's

Thank you so much for the beautiful windchimes sent by the church in memory of my brother, Jack Laeufer. It was greatly appreciated.

*Thank you again,
Bill and Joyce Nichols*


THANK YOU


*St. Paul's Church Family,
We want to say thank you for all you have done. All the prayers that have went up, the calls, text's, and cards we have received.
Thank you for the flowers from the church, the gift baskets from the choir with fresh peaches, and coffee cake, the cheer baskets with so many items in it, and all who were involved with them, and the beautiful lap afghans from the sewing ladies.*

Thank you doesn't begin to let you know how much this has all meant to us during this challenging time.

Jennie and Carl Miller

*To my church family,
Thank you for the wind chimes in remembrance of my sister, Barbara Young. Her death was sudden and unexpected. Tuesday afternoon she called Mary, she was laughing and happy, to thank her for the birthday card that brought laughter and happiness to her. Still laughing she said "You make me happy". Early Wednesday morning she was gone.*

*Thank you for your prayers and concerns,
Maedene Holmes.*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Chris Bowsher

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jan Soddors

In the Military

Nathan Stewart

Our condolences to Bill and Joyce Nichols on the passing of Joyce's brother, Jack Laeufer, on June 19. Cards will reach Bill and Joyce at 5129 Willow Dr., Elida, Ohio 45807



Our Condolences to Carl Miller on the passing of his sister, Jennie Miller, on July 18. A service was held on Tuesday, July 21. Cards may reach Carl at 1007 Ft. Jennings Rd., Delphos, OH 45833

Meetings

August 3, 2020
PPR...7:00 PM

August 4, 2020
Trustees...7:00 PM

August 5, 2020
Worship Mtg..10:00 AM

August 10, 2020
Ad Council / Finance
7:00 PM

TBA
Missions Mtg.

Sundays
Worship...10:00 AM

Happy
Anniversary

Scott & Beth Warris
August 1

AJ & Tara Strauch
August 2

Ron & Mary Steiner
August 3; 51 yrs.

Jim & Christie Lewis
August 3

Brandon & Jaime
Chambers
August 4

Brady & Tiffany Emmons
August 4

Steve & Tracy Sdao
August 4

Dennis & Kim Metzger
August 5; 42 yrs.

Jamie & Jan Wyant
August 6; 43 yrs.

Scott & Michelle Grapner
August 11

David & Susan Nartker
August 16; 45 yrs.

Ron & Kay McAdams
August 19; 59 yrs.

AUGUST 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Mary Grigsby Tim White
2 Scott & Beth Warris August 1	3 AJ & Tara Strauch August 2	4 Joy Fletcher Cody Scannell	5	6 Anne Laman	7	8 Myrna Metzger
9 Sara Crawford Ruth Hardy	10	11 Nancy Kizer Michele Luhn Emma Scannell	12	13	14	15 Virginia Doseck Polly McPheron
16 Bev Nesbitt	17	18 Tracy Sdao	19 Jacquie Bice	20 Austin Lewis Dennis Metzger	21	22
23 Aric Thompson	24 Gail Fessler	25 Ira Slemmons	26	27	28 Julia White	29 Justin Wyant
30 Cole Lewis Esther McKinney	31					

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Cookies and Cream Goopy Cake

By Susan Nartker

Ingredients		Instructions
1 box	Dark Chocolate cake mix	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray bottom of 13x9 backing pan with cooking spray or line bottom with parchment paper and spray paper.
1/2 cup + 2 Tbl.	Butter, unsalted, melted, and divided	
4	Eggs, room temperature, divided	
2 cups + 2 Tbl	Powdered sugar, divided	In large bowl, whisk together cake mix, 1/2 cup melted butter and 2 eggs until well combined. Pat into bottom of prepared pan.
1 (8oz. pkg.)	Cream cheese, room temperature	Combine 2 cups powdered sugar, cream cheese, 2 eggs, cocoa and instant coffee in mixing bowl. Beat with electric mixer on low speed. When blended, turn mixer speed to high. Add 2 Tbl. melted butter, vanilla extract and salt and continue beating until well blended.
3 Tbl.	Cocoa powder, unsweetened	
1/4 tsp.	Coffee, instant	
2 tsp.	Vanilla extract	Pour batter onto cake mix layer and spread evenly. Bake 27 to 33 minutes (center should be gooey and look unbaked). Let cool to room temperature in pan.
pinch	Salt	
2 cups	Heavy cream (Can use 1 large Cool Whip)	
10 crumbled	Cream filled chocolate sandwich cookies	*May use large Cool Whip instead of this step: Place heavy cream and 2 Tbl. powdered sugar in chilled bowl, whip until soft peaks begin to form. Add half of the cookie crumbs and beat until stiff peaks form. Spread over top of cooled cake. Sprinkle remaining cookie crumbs on top.
10 cut in half	Cream filled Chocolate sandwich cookie	
		Cut cake into slices. Place 1/2 of cookie in center of each slice.



SEEKING RECIPES!!

We would love to pass your special recipes on to others by featuring them on this page of our newsletter.

Recipes may be e-mailed, snail mailed, or brought into the church office.

KIDZ KORNER

GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue

What you do:

Balloon Badminton: Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

Rhythmic Routines: Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

Champion Crown: Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!



Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztaejargiusonyccw

iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubtnyehapidmrfoe

FINISH

"Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run, but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in the _____ goes into strict _____. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a _____ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown

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

A Lachrymatory Lesson

To calm his crying children, Charles Ferrell used to say, "Wait until I get a jar! I want to catch and save your tears." While he pretended to search for a vessel, his kids usually quieted down.

Tear jars were actually common in biblical times. Called *lachrymatories*, they're still sold in Old Jerusalem. Bible characters had a variety of uses for these jars. The woman who cried at Jesus' feet may have felt such sorrow about her wayward lifestyle that she brought a jar of her tears and added to them. In Psalm 23:5 (KJV), the cup that "runneth over" may have referred to a lachrymatory filled with tears of joy due to God's goodness.

The Victor's Crown

In ancient Greece, a laurel wreath symbolized victory and honor. When Jesus was forced to wear a crown of thorns on Good Friday, the intent was mockery. Yet through his Easter victory, Jesus proves that he's not just a king but the King of Kings. And by defeating death, he offers us "the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Peter 5:4, NIV).

As we await that heavenly prize, we can contemplate these words from evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson: "We are all making a crown for Jesus out of these daily lives of ours — either a crown of golden, divine love, studded with gems of sacrifice and adoration, or a thorny crown, filled with the cruel briars of unbelief, or selfishness and sin."