

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

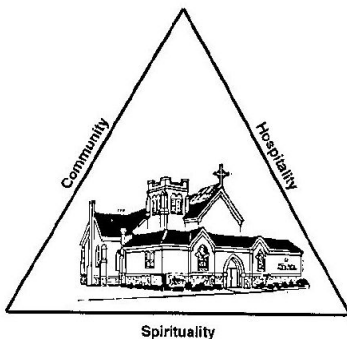
Volume 46, Issue 12

December, 2023

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Pastor's Page

The last newsletter of 2023, and I hardly remember what happened in the last 12 months. We are entering the Advent season or the time of preparing for Christmas, celebrating the coming of Christ to Earth. We will follow a liturgy that is old and steady, but I want to try something different for Advent. I used Disney movies a few weeks ago for sermons, and I saw someone had used Christmas movies to express all the subjects of Advent. We are going back to the Movies for Advent; we will use "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" to look at Hope, "It's a Wonderful Life" for the Way, "Elf" for Joy, "Miracle on 34th Street" for Peace, and finish up with "A Christmas Carol" at Candle Light Christmas Eve Service as we celebrate, God with Us. I hope you will join us, as we celebrate the Christ Child and learn how we can share God's love with those who are close to us in person and online, all through Advent.

A special offering will be taken at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service for UMCOR disaster funds, ½ will stay in the U.S., and ½ will be used Internationally. Some examples of how your donation helps; in Ukraine, \$19.5 million has been approved and has already helped 446,000 people, and UMCOR is committed to helping refugees and people in Ukraine. Around the world, typical emergency response efforts include the distribution of food, hygiene supplies and facilities, non-food items, psychosocial support, and shelter. Once the immediate danger has passed, higher-level recovery activities may include projects to increase livelihoods, food security, education, and other areas of recovery. In the U.S., UMCOR has responded to Hurricane Idalia, wildfires in Hawaii, tornados in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, and flooding and landslides in California, all during 2022. Some of the key activities for Conference Emergency Response Teams and other response teams are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter, and help with mucking out and cleaning up. UMCOR offers emergency financial assistance in the aftermath of a disaster to support local relief work. I hope you will consider giving during our special offering on Christmas Eve.

Well, I have to get ready for Sunday, repair the outside Christmas decorations, and do some Christmas shopping. I'll be looking for you in church or out in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



December 3
 Coins for Communion
 to benefit Acts Sunnydale House.

**Crafty Creatures
 Candy Sales**
Pick up: Saturday, December 16
 10-noon in the Fellowship Hall
 Thank you all for supporting the Crafty Creatures mission!

December 10
5 Loaves Food Pantry
 Canned goods needed:
 Fruits and Vegetables

December 21
 Winter begins

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


December 31
 New Year's Eve

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol



ROSE

 This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

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

Thought for the Month:
 It is Christmas in the heart
 that puts Christmas in the air.
 —W.T. Elli



Thank you St. Paul's congregation, and others in the community who packed boxes for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. **204 Boxes** (181 delivered and 23 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.



Family Promise Mission

Thank you to those who helped prepare a meal on November 17 for the residents at Family Promise. There were 6 families who greatly appreciated the home cooked meal.

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 18.

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 3
1st Sunday of
Advent



December 10
2nd Sunday of
Advent

December 17
3rd Sunday of
Advent
Children Singing

December 24
4th Sunday of
Advent
10:00 AM
Worship Service
With Kids Bells
All Children
Welcome!
No rehearsal
needed.

December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service
9:00 PM

Special Christmas Offering
Designated for the following missions:
1/2 to UMCOR, International Disaster Response
1/2 to UMCOR, U. S. Disaster Response

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

Hymn History

What Child Is This?

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

1865

...When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem... Luke 2:15 (NKJV)

Feelings of sadness come over me whenever I hear this deeply moving carol. It is, after all, set in the key of E minor, the "saddest of all keys." Yet triumphant joy dispels the sadness as we exclaim: "This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing."

The melancholic melody is a famous old British tune called "Greensleeves," originally about a ballad about a man pining for his lost love, the fair lady Greensleeves. Tradition says it was composed by King Henry the VIII for Anne Boleyn. That's unlikely, but we do know that Henry's daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, danced to the tune.

Shakespeare referred to it twice in his play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. In act V, for example, Falstaff said, "Let the sky rain potatoes; let it thunder to the tun of 'Green sleeves.'"

It was licensed to two different printers in 1850, and soon thereafter was being used with religious texts. Its first association to Christmas came in 1642, in a book titled *New Christmas Carols*, in which it was used to the poem "The Old Year Now Away Has Fled." The last verse says: *Come, give's more liquor when I doe call, / I'll drink to each one in this hall... And God sends us a happy new yeare!*

For nearly 150 years, however, "Greensleeves" has most been identified with "What Child Is This?" The words of this carol are taken from a longer poem written by an insurance agent named William Chatterton Dix, born in Bristol, England, in 1837. His father was a surgeon who wanted his son to follow in his footsteps. But having no interest in medicine, William left Bristol Grammar School, moved to Glasgow, and sold insurance.

His greatest love was his prose and poetry for Christ. He wrote two devotional books, a book for children, and scores of hymns, two which remain popular Christmas carols: "What Child Is This?" and "As with Gladness Men of Old."

All of Dix's hymns should be more widely sung today, for they are masterpieces of poetry, filled with rich scriptural truth. Here's the way he begins his exultant hymn "Alleluia!"

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His scepter, His throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.*



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
November 5, 2023	75
November 12, 2023	81
November 19, 2023	88
November 26, 2023	48

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

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
November 5, 2023	\$2,555.00	\$325.00
November 12, 2023	\$2,557.13	\$65.00
November 19, 2023	\$2,961.82	\$50.00
November 26, 2023	\$6,380.00	\$450.00

Sunday School Attendance	
November 5, 2023	8
November 12, 2023	11
November 19, 2023	16
November 26, 2023	4

Hospitality Cart	
December 3, 2023	Judy Chaffins
December 10, 2023	OPEN
December 17, 2023	OPEN
December 24, 2023	OPEN
December 31, 2023	OPEN

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Altar Flowers</h2>	
December 3, 2023	Dan & Margie Best
December 10, 2023	Don & Maedene Holmes
December 17, 2023	Cindy Swihart
December 24, 2023	Poinsettias
December 31, 2023	Poinsettias

2024 Altar Flowers

If you would like to signup for Altar flowers for 2023 you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail, officespc@gmail.com.

Sunday mornings see Gail for sign-up sheet

Daily Bible Readings

Friday 12/1

Psalm 88, 91, 92
Revelation 19:11-16
Matthew 16:13-20

Saturday 12/2

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Revelation 20:1-6, Mark 16:21-28

Sunday 12/3

Psalm 111, 112, 112, 146, 147
Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luk 21:5-19

Monday 12/4

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Amos 2:6-16
2 Peter 1:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11

Tuesday 12/5

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Amos 3:1-11
2 Peter 1:12-21
Matthew 21:12-22

Wednesday 12/6

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

Thursday 12/7

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

Friday 12/8

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

Saturday 12/9

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 1117
Amos 5:18-27
Jude 17-25, Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday 12/10

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

Monday 12/11

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

Tuesday 12/12

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

Wednesday 12/13

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

Thursday 12/14

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

Friday 12/15

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

Saturday 12/16

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Haggai 2:1-19
Revelation 3:1-6
Matthew 24:1-14

Sunday 12/17

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

Monday 12/18

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

Tuesday 12/19

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

Wednesday 12/20

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

Thursday 12/21

Psalm 50, 33, Zechariah 4:1-14
Revelation 4:9-5:5
Matthew 25:1-13

Friday 12/22

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

Saturday 12/23

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

Sunday 12/24 - Christmas Eve

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

Monday 12/25 - Christmas Day

Psalm 2, 85, 110, 132
Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4
1 John 4:7-16, John 3:31-36

Tuesday 12/26

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

Wednesday 12/27

Psalm 72, 111, 113
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Titus 2:11-3:8a
Luke 1:39-48a(49b-56)

Thursday 12/28

Psalm 80, 146, 147
2 Samuel 7:18-29
Galatians 3:1-14, Luke 1:57-66

Friday 12/29

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

Saturday 12/30

Psalm 20, 21, 23, 27
1 Kings 17:17-24
Revelations 1:9-20
John 7:53-8:11

Sunday 12/31 - New Years Eve

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

November Worship



All Saints Sunday, November 5
 Memorial ornaments were placed on the tree and names were read, by Dan Best, for those saints that passed this year. The White candles that were placed on the altar in memory of loved ones were lit by Pastor Paul.



The Choir Anthem:
“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”
arr. M. Hayes
 Directed by Judy Chaffins.
 Piano accompaniment by Lois cook.



November 12
 A rose bud was on the altar in honor of **Nellie June Cook**, born August 23. Her parents are Jon and Chelsey cook, sisters Holly and Audrey, and grandmother, Lois Cook.



November 19
 A Bible was presented to 3rd grader, **Demi DeRose** by Jan Wyant.



November 12
 24 quilts were blessed and taken to Family promise.

Thanksgiving Meal

A very delicious Thanksgiving meal was served and enjoyed by many following the worship service on Sunday, November 19. Thank you to Judy Chaffins and Jan Wyant for organizing this meal and, thank you to the many volunteers to make this a success.



Preparing



Celebrate The Light

Peggy Ferrell

Bursting through December nights
that could be long and cold,
our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy
with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,
and from trees both small and tall,
the lights cry out, "We have good news!
We want to shout to all."

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,
the sorrow, war and fear;
but God has sent his Son for all,
to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.
Christ's with us day by day,
illuminating paths so we
can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.
Make your world shine clear and bright.
God's love surrounds and blesses us.
Come, celebrate God's Light!

Connecting with...

A patriotic quilt was given to Macy Chambers, Granddaughter of Dan and Margie Best, in honor of her completion of basic training and continuation of her service in the Air National Guard.



Please continue pray for all those who are currently serving in our Armed Forces and their families.

Thank you all for your service and sacrifice!

Thank you!



A patriotic quilt was presented to Roger Fessler in recognition of his Honor Flight trip he took on November 7. Roger is a Navy Veteran. Roger was welcomed home by his Grandson, Oliver Fessler, a Marine Corps Veteran.



Thank you for all your cards and support. You made my Honor Flight even more special. The quilt was beautiful!

Thank you so much St. Paul's!!
Roger Fessler

The People of St. Paul's

St. Paul's Vision Statement:

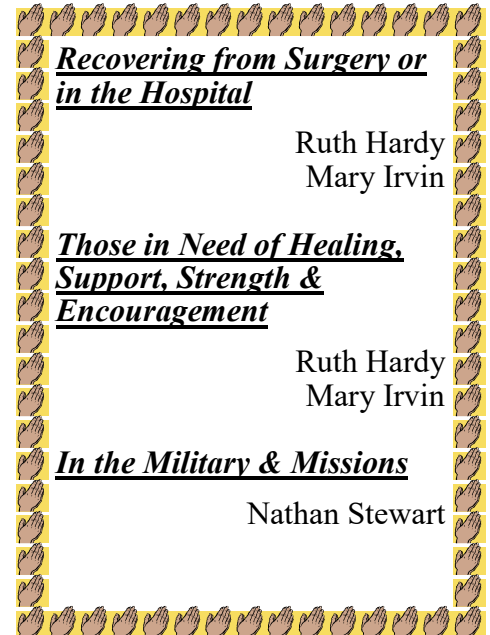
Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.

Our Biblical Purpose Statement:

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



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Ruth Hardy
Mary Irvin

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Ruth Hardy
Mary Irvin

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Come Caroling

By, Dillon Staas Jr.

To all my friends on Christmas eve I sing this special song,
With hopes that each and every one will come and sing along.
We'll sing to cheer the lonely souls less fortunate than we,
And bring a touch of Christmas joy to everyone we see.

Come join with me this special time and celebrate His birth;
The one who came to save us all and bring us peace on earth.

To all His people every where he sends His perfect light,
That we may know and share His love on this most blessed night.



Meetings

No PPR

December 5, 2023
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 6, 2023
Worship Mtg...10:00 AM

December 11, 2023
Ad Council/Finance Mtg...7:00 PM

No Missions

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

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir... 7:00 PM

December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

Anniversaries

Roger & Jackie Henderson
December 4; 52 yrs.

Dennis & Shara Bowspher
December 19; 43 yrs.

Larry & Gloria Brunk
December 21; 55 yrs.

John & Val Kuenzli
December 27

Denny & Janna Thompson
December 29; 45 yrs



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

White Chili

By Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
1 48 oz.	Northern Beans (don't drain)	Add all ingredients together and cook until thick. ** For creamy chili, add 1 cup sour cream.
desired amount	Chicken, cooked & cut up	
1	Onion, chopped	
1 sm. can	Chicken broth	
1 can	Green chilies, chopped	
1 1/2 tsp.	Garlic powder	
1 tsp.	Salt	
1/2 tsp.	Pepper	
1 tsp.	Cumin	
1/4 tsp.	Cayenne pepper	
1 tsp.	Oregano	



KIDZ KORNER



LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.

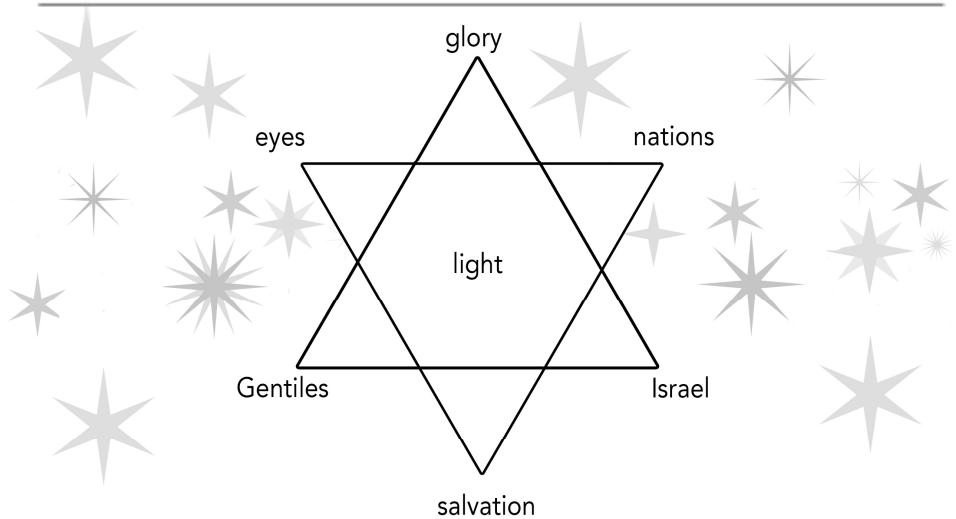
Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!




SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

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Elida St. Paul's Church**

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

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Living Our Faith

Don't Miss Out!

In his poem "The Inn That Missed Its Chance," Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the "fairly crazed" innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming "a hive at swarming-time." Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, "Could I know that they were so important?"

There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light
resplendent; but I had no time for stars.
And there were songs of angels in the air
out on the hills; but how was I to hear
amid the thousand clamors of an inn?

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus' true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — "as he will surely come" — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: "Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends."