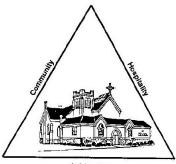
St. Paul's Epistle An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 47, Issue 2 February, 2023

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Spirituality

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Common time, the time between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, is where we find ourselves this month. Ash Wednesday lands on the 22nd, but until then, we are in common time. Last month we looked at women

of faith, and for the first three weeks of February, I am going to focus on only one verse. I have not done anything like this before, and I hope I will be able to make it work. Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Such a simple question and answer but so much to unpack, and at times, God lets me know I am headed in the right direction.

Bishop Palmer tries to encourage us, as leaders of the church. Just last week I received one of these encouraging letters. The bishop doesn't just say to us "you're doing a good job" but he at times, challenges us to pray, look, and act in exceptional ways. Here are two sentences from the letter that challenges me to challenge you. "If we understand violence to fall way short of God's dream for us, much less God's glory, then peace making is a mandatory way of life, and pursuing rational public policy is not optional. You have shown us that we must do justice, love mercy, and live humbly." I look forward to unpacking Micah 6:8 as we look at kindness/mercy, humility, and justice.

Finally, I hope to see you on the 12th as we gather together to fellowship with one another. We are definitely celebrating love and St. Valentine. There may even be some soup and a bowl, you might even call it a Souper Bowl. We promise to get you out in plenty of time to catch the big game. If you can't join us in person, I hope you will join us online for worship. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.

—Sally Koch

February 5
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit Samaritans Purse



#### Food Pantry Sunday February 12

Paper products and cleaning supplies

Are needed

#### February 14



#### **Valentine Luncheon**

Sunday, February 12 Following the worship service

#### Menu:

Soup, sandwiches, side dishes, and Valentine's desserts.

There is a sign-up sheet to bring items, contact Judy Chaffins or Jan Wyant.



# Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

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

## Christian Symbol

#### **ECCE AGNUS DEI**

Latin for "Behold, the Lamb of God," this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus' Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



#### **February 14**



**Presidents Day** February 15





BOOK Club Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 AM

"The Nightengale"

By: Kristin Hannah

available in the library for \$4.00

All Are Welcome!

# Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Ash Wednesday February 22 Worship Service 7:00 PM





February 26



# **Prayer**

#### A Prayer For Lenten Grace

Loving God,

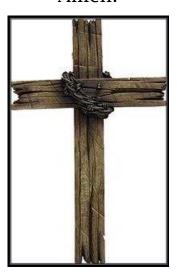
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.



#### A Daily Prayer

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may now fully live
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.

 $- Angelus \; Silesius \\$ 



# **Hymn History**

#### Rescue the Perishing

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

#### 1869

But other save with fear, pulling them out of the fire..... Jude 23

While visiting her friend, Howard Doane, in Cincinnati, Fanny Crosby, the blind hymnist, was asked to speak to a group of blue collar workers. Near the end of her address, she had an overwhelming sense that "some mother's boy" before her "must be rescued that night or not at all." She mentioned this to the crowd, pleading, "if there is a dear boy here tonight who has perchance wandered away from his mother's home and his mother's teaching, would you please come to me at the close of the service?"

Afterward a young man of about eighteen approached her. "Did you mean me?" he asked. "I promised my mother to meet her in heaven, but the way I have been living, I don't think that will be possible now." Fanny had the joy of leading him to Christ.

Returning to her home that night, all she could think about was the theme "rescue the perishing," and when she retired that night she had written the complete hymn. The next day, Howard Doane wrote the music, and it was published the following year in his *Songs of Devotion*.

Many years later, Fanny was speaking at the YMCA in Lynn, Massachusetts, and she recorded the story behind "Rescue the Perishing." After the service, a man approached her, his voice quivering. "Miss Crosby," he said, "I was that boy who told you more that thirty-five years ago that I had wondered from my mother's God. That evening you spoke, I sought and found peace, and I have tried to live a consistent Christian life ever since. If we never meet again on earth, we will meet up yonder." He turned and left, unable to say another word. But Fanny later described it as one of the most gratifying experiences of her life.

~

This song served as a prelude to Fanny Crosby's second carer. About age sixty, she began working in downtown rescue missions, spending several days a week in lower Manhattan, witnessing to the down-and-out. Despite her fame as a hymnwriter, she chose to live in poverty in New York's ghettos, for she felt a calling to minister to the needy. Just a few blocks from her little tenement apartment was a Bowery, a haunt for alcoholics and where every kind of vice flourished. There Fanny would go day after day to rescue the perishing.



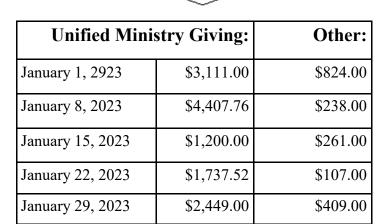
## **Faith In Action**



| January 1, 2023  | 51 |
|------------------|----|
| January 8, 2023  | 83 |
| January 15, 2023 | 68 |
| January 22, 2023 | 62 |
| January 29, 2023 | 70 |

#### **Financial Giving**

Weekly Need for Unified Ministry Budget \$4,187.00



| Sunday School Attendance |    |  |
|--------------------------|----|--|
| January 1, 2023          | 6  |  |
| January 8, 2023          | 16 |  |
| January 15, 2023         | 11 |  |
| January 22, 2023         | 11 |  |
| January 29, 2023         | 11 |  |

| Hospitality Cart  |                 |  |  |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| February 5, 2023  | Rife Family     |  |  |
| February 12, 2023 | OPEN            |  |  |
| February 19, 2023 | Virginia Hollar |  |  |
| February 26, 2023 | OPEN            |  |  |

| Flower ************************************ | Calendar (************************************ |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| February 5, 2023                            | Alex & Stacy McAdams                           |
| February 12, 2023                           | Jamie & Jan Wyant                              |
| February 19, 2023                           | Ron & Mary Steiner                             |
| February 26, 2023                           | Larry & Shirley Moser                          |



# **Daily Bible Readings**

#### Wednesday 2/1

Psalm 72, 119:3-96 Isaiah 54:1-17 Galatians 4:21-31, Mark 8:11-26

#### Thursday 2/2

Psalm 70, Isaiah 55:1-13 Galatians 5:1-15, Mark 8:27-9:1

#### Friday 2/3

Psalm 69, 73, Isaiah 56:1-8 Galatians 5:16-24, Mark 9:2-13

#### Saturday 2/4

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76 Isaiah 57:3-13 Galatians 5:25-6:10 Mark 9:14-29

#### Sunday 2/5

Psalm 34, 93, 96 Isaiah 57:14-21 Hebrews 12:1-6, John 7:37-46

#### Monday 2/6

Psalm 79, Isaiah 58:1-12 Galatians 6:11-18, Mark 9:30-41

#### Tuesday 2/7

Psalm 78, Isaiah 59:1-15a 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Mark 9:42-50

#### Wednesday 2/8

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120 Isaiah 59:15b-21 2 Timothy 1:15-2:13 Mark 10:1-16

#### Thursday 2/9

Psalm 83, 85, 86 Isaiah 60:1-17 2 Timothy 2:14-26 Mark 10:17-31

#### Friday 2/10

Psalm 88, 91, 92, Isaiah 61:1-9 2 Timothy 3:1-17 Mark 10:32-45

#### Saturday 2/11

Psalm 87, 90, 136 Isaiah 61:10-62:5 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 10:46-52

#### Sunday 2/12

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67 Isaiah 62:6-12 1 John 2:3-11, John 8:12-19

#### Monday 2/13

Psalm89, Isaiah 63:1-6 1 Timothy 1:1-17, Mark 11:1-11

#### Tuesday 2/14

Psalm 95, 100, Isaiah 63:7-14 1 Timothy 1:18-2:8 Mark 11:12-26

#### Wednesday 2/15

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144 Isaiah 63:15-64:9 1 Timothy 3:1-16 Mark 11:27-12:12

#### Thursday 2/16

Psalm 105, Isaiah 65:1-12 1 Timothy 4:1-16, Mark 12:13-27

#### Friday 2/17

Psalm 102, 107:1-32 Isaiah 65:17-25 1 Timothy 5:17-22(23-25) Mark 12:28-34

#### Saturday 2/18

Psalm 33, 107:33-34 Isaiah 66:1-6 1 Timothy 6:6-21 Mark 12:35-44

#### Sunday 2/19

Psalm 118, 145, Isaiah 66:7-14 1 John 3:4-10John 10:7-16

#### Monday 2/20

Psalm 106, Ruth 1:1-14 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 Matthew 5:1-12

#### Tuesday 2/21

Psalm 120, 127, Ruth 1:15-22 2 Corinthians 1:12-22 Matthew 5:13-20

#### Wednesday 2/22 Ash Wednesday Psalm 32, 102, 130 Jonah 3:1-4:11 Hebrews 12:1-14, Luke 18:9-14

#### Thursday 2/23

Psalm 37, Deuteronomy 7:6-11 Titus 1:1-16, John 1:29-34

#### Friday 2/24

Psalm 31, 35 Deuteronomy 7:12-16 Titus 2:1-15, John 1:35-42

#### Saturday 2/25

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43 Deuteronomy 7:17-26 Titus 3:1-15. John 1:43-51

#### Sunday 2/26

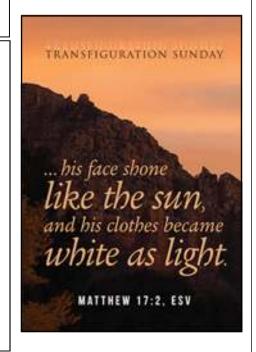
Psalm 63, 98, 103 Deuteronomy 8:1-10 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 Mark 2:18-22

#### Monday 2/27

Psalm 41, 44, 52 Deuteronomy 8:11-20 Hebrews 2:11-18, John 2:1-12

#### Tuesday 2/28

Psalm 45, 47, 48 Deuteronomy 9:4-12 Hebrews 3:1-11 John 2:13-22



# **2022 Missions Giving Summary**

| COINS AT COMMUNION GIVING:                        |                                   | 2022 AMOUNT GIVEN      |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Heartbeat of Lima                                 | (January)                         | \$ 33.44               |
| Samaritan's Purse                                 | (February)                        | \$ 84.36               |
| Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen                      | (March)                           | \$ 98.70               |
| 5 Loaves Food Pantry-Allentown                    | (April)                           | \$ 130.27              |
| WOC United Methodist Church Camps                 | (May)                             | \$ 202.87              |
| UMCOR—U. S. Disaster Relief                       | ` • /                             | \$ 202.87              |
|                                                   | (June)                            | \$ 147.32<br>\$ 191.55 |
| Brad Joseph Memorial Fund                         | (July)                            |                        |
| Meals 'til Monday                                 | (August)                          | ·                      |
| Samaritans House                                  | (September)                       | \$ 109.02              |
| Family Promise                                    | (October)                         | \$ 78.74               |
| Lima Rescue Mission                               | (November)                        | \$ 117.16              |
| ACTS Sunnydale House                              | (December)                        | \$ 171.70<br>©1 470.00 |
| TOTAL:                                            |                                   | \$1,478.06             |
| UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPEC                      | IAL SUNDAY'S GIVING:              |                        |
| Human Relations Day                               | (January)                         | \$ 20.00               |
| UMCOR Sunday                                      | (March)                           | \$ 260.00              |
| Native American Awareness Day                     | (May)                             | \$ 30.00               |
| Peace with Justice Sunday                         | (June)                            | \$ 75.00               |
| Health & School Kits Shipping donations           | (September)                       | \$ 316.00              |
| World Communion Sunday - no service               | (October)                         | \$ 65.00               |
| United Methodist Student Day                      | (November)                        | \$ 25.00               |
| OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS /GIVIN                    | GS:                               |                        |
| Donations in offerings to Sunnydale House         | <u></u>                           | \$ 25.00               |
| Heifer International (\$'s left in heifer in hall | \$ 270.00                         |                        |
| West Ohio Conference Special Offering (Uk         | \$ 500.00                         |                        |
| Donation from Missions Fund to Crafty Crea        | \$ 500.00                         |                        |
| Donations from Missions Fund to Samaritan         | \$ 500.00                         |                        |
| TOTALS FOR SPECIAL SUNDAY'S/SP                    |                                   | \$2,586.00             |
| SPECIAL SERVICES GIVING (Designat                 | ed use of \$'s):                  |                        |
| Easter (UMCOR US Disaster Relief)                 | <u>σα ασε στ φ σγ.</u>            | \$ 565.00              |
| Easter (Kamina Children's Hospital, North k       | Cantanga LIMC)                    | \$ 565.00              |
| Christmas Offering (UMCOR U. S. Disaster          |                                   | \$ 305.00              |
| Christmas Offering (LifeWise Academy/AC           | TS Sunnydale House)               | \$ 305.00              |
| TOTAL:                                            | 15 Sumiyaare House)               | \$1,740.00             |
|                                                   |                                   | \$1,7 TO.00            |
| SPECIAL MISSIONS / DESIGNATED G                   |                                   | фо. <b>22</b> 0. С1    |
| Donations or reimbursement to ramp fund for       | \$8,328.61                        |                        |
| Brad Joseph Golf Outing hole sponsorship          | \$ 100.00                         |                        |
| Health & School Kits (contents value=86Health     |                                   |                        |
| Donations to General Missions Fund (not in        |                                   | \$1,837.40             |
| Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (1771         |                                   | \$9,558.00             |
| Hats, Gloves, Scarves (87 items x \$9 per ite     | m average)                        | \$ 783.00              |
| TOTAL:                                            |                                   | \$22,431.01            |
| (Donated items for Family Promise mea             | ls and the Food Pantry — were not | quantified)            |

(Donated items for Family Promise meals and the Food Pantry — were not quantified)

GRAND TOTAL MISSIONS GIVING -2022:

\$ 28,235.07

2022 Mission Giving as a % of 2022 Church Budget (\$206,739) = 13.7%

# **Mission Activities Report 2022**

- ◆ Donations of food for the <u>Allentown Five Loaves Food Pantry</u> continued to be strong in 2022 with St. Paul's individuals faithfully filling the food bins every month. Thank you to all who donated food to feed those families who are in need in our Elida community;
- ◆ St. Paul's has monetarily supported the <u>Meals 'til Monday</u> mission which provides weekend meals to children from various elementary schools in and around Allen County, including Elida Elementary;
- Bev Nesbitt and her helpers processed <u>72 school kits and 86 health kits</u> donated by numerous members of our congregation as part of this UMC annual mission effort. Pastor Paul delivered the kits. Bev has moved from our area so we wish her well and are looking for someone to head up this particular mission in 2023;
- The small group, <u>Crafty Creatures</u> continues to bless our congregation and our community with their mission of <u>prayer shawls</u>, <u>blankets</u>, <u>and quilts</u>. They also made significant contributions to our <u>Christmas Tree of hats</u>, <u>gloves</u>, <u>mittens</u>, <u>and scarves</u> donated to <u>Crossroads Crisis Center</u>, <u>Lima Rescue Mission</u> and <u>Our Daily Bread</u>.
- Our members gave a total of \$1,478 during <u>Coins-at-Communion</u> on the first Sunday of each month. Recipients of these funds included <u>many local missions</u>, <u>ACTS Sunnydale House</u> as well as <u>UMCOR</u>. Our members also gave \$791 to <u>United Methodist Special Sundays</u> such as <u>UMCOR Sunday</u>, and <u>Student Day</u>;
- St. Paul's was a \$100 hole sponsor for the **Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing**. We had volunteers help with the outing as well as a four-person golf team who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in golf. The **Brad Joseph Memorial Fund** has given out scholarships for medical mission trips to Kenya, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico & Uganda in the past thirteen years; 2023 will be the last year for the Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing so plan on attending this year!
- Our members built several <u>wheel-chair ramps</u> in 2022 for people with special needs to gain access to their houses. This continues to be a unique mission both partially funded and constructed by St. Paul's members:
- Families were housed at <u>Family Promise of Lima</u> for five separate weeks during 2022. St. Paul's members <u>provided hot meals</u> for one evening during those weeks and sometimes stayed to talk with the families;
- On October 27<sup>th</sup> members of St. Paul's Church handed out coffee, hot chocolate and pencils to parents and their children at the church for our <u>Trick-or-Treat Night Mission</u>. Over 300 cups of hot beverages were distributed along with pencils. Members of St. Paul's Church also participated by donating candy and tending the trunks for <u>Trunk-or-Treat</u> that same evening. Our members enjoyed this memorable evening while greeting our neighbors;
- ◆ St. Paul's members gave their Easter offering one-half to <u>UMCOR US Disaster Relief</u> and one-half to <u>Kamina Children's Hospital</u> in North Kantanga, the Congo. We also designated ½ of our Christmas offering to <u>UMCOR US Disaster Relief</u> and the other ½ to <u>LifeWise Academy/Sunnydale House</u> and dispensed water at their 5K run;
- Our youth and adults anonymously left \$270 on "the heifer" in the hallway to send to <u>Heifer International</u> to purchase farm animals for families around the world. Thank-you to our congregation for your donations;
- St. Paul's Church again participated in a worldwide mission by <u>Samaritan's Purse</u> called <u>Operation Christmas Child</u>. The 177 shoeboxes collected were filled with gifts for boys or girls, and given to <u>Samaritan's Purse</u> to distribute worldwide. Thank-you to all who filled boxes with gifts and to Jamie Wyant for heading this mission;

The people of St. Paul's United Methodist Church donated to special missions, coins-for-communion, United Methodist Special Sundays, other special Sundays and other missions and ministries of our church. Thank-you to all who donated money or participated in these missions. As we go forward into 2023 we are looking for new ways to impact our community and the world to show people the love of Jesus Christ!

#### **Missions**





#### **Heifer Project**

Thank you to everyone who placed a donation in the cow in the hallway. \$550 was collected for the Heifer Project mission. The Children's Sunday School class chose to designate the funds for a share of a Heifer, an Alpaca, goat, garden seeds, honey bees, and a flock of chickens. These funds, and the list chosen are sent on to Heifer International. This non-profit organization works to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities they serve. These programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up.

Thank You to all who have donated!

## MISSIONS THANK YOU!





Thank you to all who donated to the hat and mitten tree. Items were either made or purchased by our congregation. Items were delivered to Our Daily Bread, Lima Rescue Mission, and Crossroads Crisis Center. We had 39 hats, 36 pairs of gloves/mittens and 12 scarves.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to this mission!

Thank you to all who provided food to the Family Promise mission on Friday, January 27. The families greatly appreciate the hot meals and snacks. The next date to provide a meal is April 28th.



\$

'Coins For Communion' February 5 Will benefit Samaritans Purse

# **Connecting With...**



Our Condolences to Don and Maedene Holmes on the passing of their daughter, Mary Holmes, on January, 28. A memorial service was held on February 2, with Pastor Paul officiating. Cards of sympathy may reach them at 167 Brookview Ct., Lima, OH 45801.



#### YOU ARE INVITED

Gary Hurd is Retiring!
Please come and help him celebrate!

OPEN HOUSE Saturday, February 18, 2023 1:00—5:00 PM At St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

No gifts please! Your friendship is gift enough

Thank you to Jan Wyant for continuing her teaching skills by decorating our bulletin boards at the bottom and top of the east side stairs.





# The People of St. Paul's

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.



# Remember in Prayer

Greg Schade Shirley Moser

**Homebound Members** 

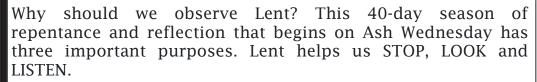
Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Greg Schade Shirley Moser Ted and Jan Sodders

In the Military

Nathan Stewart

#### **Lenten Signals**



We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile—and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to

LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

# **Meetings**

February 1, 2023 Worship Mtg... 10:00 AM

**NO PPR** 

February 7, 2023 Trustees...7:00 PM

February 13, 2023 Ad Council/Finance.. 7:00 PM

Hospita Wors

# **FEBRUARY 2023**

Tue Wed Thu Mon Sun Fri Sat

| February 16, 2023<br><b>Missions 7:00 PM</b>                     |                     |                   |                                   | 1                                | 2<br>Barb Schade    | 3<br>Braylon<br>Kimmet                   | 4<br>Cyndi Smith           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sundays<br>ospitality9:30 AM<br>Worship10:00 AM                  |                     |                   |                                   |                                  |                     | Killillet                                |                            |
| Wednesday<br>Choir7:00 PM                                        | 5                   | 6                 | 7                                 | 8                                | 9                   | 10                                       | 11                         |
| FEBRUARY                                                         | Don Irvin           |                   | Gary Hurd                         | Cari Metzger                     | Michelle<br>Grapner | Marla<br>Scannell<br>Caroline<br>Stengel |                            |
| Gary & Janet Grigg February 18 57 years.  Gene & Linda Craft     | 12                  | 13                | 14                                | 15<br>Tara Gaghen<br>Bill Weaver | 16                  | 17<br>Doug Fox                           | 18<br>Sherilyn<br>Ellinger |
| February 25 56 years  Larry & Shirley Moser February 28 52 years | 19                  | 20<br>Ron Steiner | 21                                | 22<br>Andrew Piper               | 23                  | 24<br>Heather<br>Selover                 | 25                         |
|                                                                  | 26 Addison Chaffins | 27 Anna Selover   | 28<br>Makayla Bok<br>Kate Stengel |                                  |                     |                                          |                            |



# **Easy Chicken Noodle Casserole**

By Deb Hurd

| Ingredients    |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1– 12 oz pkg.  | Egg noodles, cooked and drained |
| 2– 10 oz. cans | Chunk chicken breast, drained   |
| 2–10 oz. cans  | Cream of chicken soup           |
| 1 cup          | Mayonnaise                      |
| 1 cup          | Milk                            |
| 1/2            | Onion, finely diced             |
| 2 cups         | Cheddar cheese, shredded        |
| 1 1/2 cups     | Frozen, peas & carrots, thawed  |
| 1 cup          | Panko bread crumbs              |
| 1 stick        | Butter, melted                  |
|                |                                 |

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 baking pan.

In large bowl, combine chicken soup, mayo, milk, onion, cheese, peas and carrots. Stir until well combined.

Gently stir in cooked noodles and pour in baking dish.

Top with panko and pour melted butter on top.

Bake uncovered about 30 to 35 minutes.





#### **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



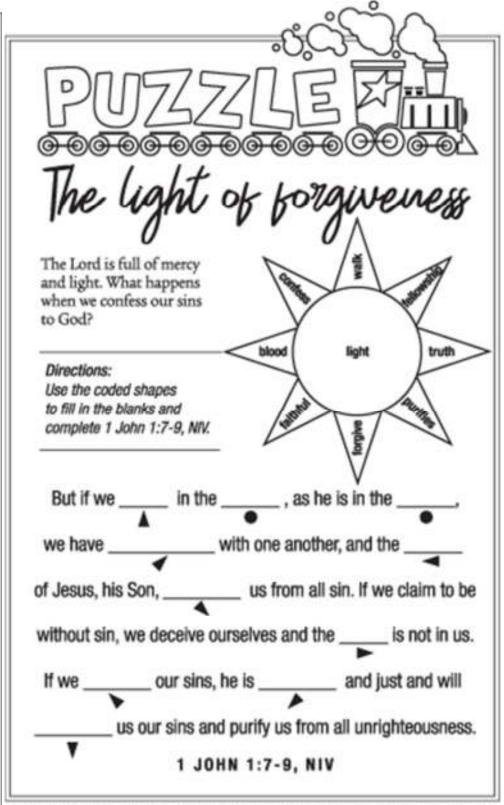
This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

#### What you need:

- · A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- · Black construction paper
- · White cardstock
- · Scissors

#### What you do:

- Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
- Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
- On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
- Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.



Answer: walk, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, faithful, forgive

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

105 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807

\*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address: www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account @ESPCHURCH



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# **Living Our Faith**

#### The River Of Life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and U-turns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.

#### From death to new life

After the inventor of the Frisbee died in 2002, family members honored his final wish: to have some of his ashes molded into a flying disk! The point, according to toy legend "Steady Ed" Headrick, was for his loved ones to have fun playing with him even after he had passed. "He lived for Frisbee," said his widow, and now he lives on in one.

Thankfully, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday aren't cremains. But they do have special significance. They're often made by burning branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration. By tying together seasons, the practice of receiving ashes reminds us of cycles: sin, repentance and forgiveness, plus life, death and resurrection — Jesus' as well as our own