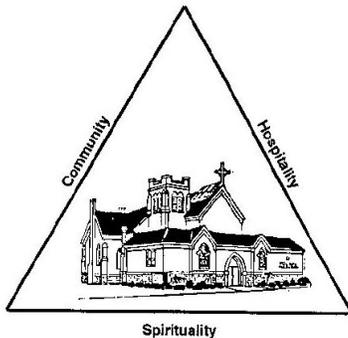


# St. Paul's Epistle

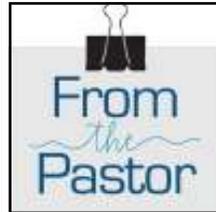
An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United  
 Methodist Church  
 105 E. Main St.  
 Elida, OH 45807  
 419-339-3801  
[officeespc@gmail.com](mailto:officeespc@gmail.com)  
 Rev. Paul Scannell  
 419/909-9419  
 Cell Phone: 734/660-1984  
[pastorespc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorespc@gmail.com)  
[4pastorpaul@gmail.com](mailto:4pastorpaul@gmail.com)



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Hello Everyone,

January is ending on a low note, and I hope everyone is staying warm and safe during the cold snap. In the words of my Great Grandmother Nellie, "this too shall pass," and it is on days like this that I look forward, with anticipation, to Spring and warmer weather. How many times in our lives have we been at points when we could not see the good days ahead, due to the disappointments of the moment we were living through? A Christian always knows that something better is coming our way, even if bad things pile up in this life, we are assured that the next life in Christ will be awesome. I also want to say to you that tomorrow gives us hope for something new, different, and better. We know Spring is coming, in the midst of the bitter cold, and it helps us to persevere. God is with us through everything, and we have the hope to persevere through the difficulty.

I want to spend some time here talking about camping ministry; over the last few years, there have been no United Methodist Church camps for our children. Last year, because of our association with the East Ohio Conference, camping was available, but it was a distance for our children to attend. I am pleased to announce the reopening of 'Camp Wesley' here in Bellefontaine, Ohio, for 2026. If you have kids or grandkids between the ages of 7 and 17, I want to encourage you to think about giving camp a try. You can find information on Facebook at Camp Wesley or online at <https://wesleycampandretreatcenter.org/>. We also have scholarship help for anyone wishing to attend camp, and I can also connect you with help through the conference. Send your kids to camp, it is a great place to continue growing in Love with God.

I will be spending a few weeks in the book of John, as we explore who Jesus is from the stories in the Bible. I am also beginning to look at a series for Lent, as we explore the unrest in our country, and what Jesus would be calling us to do and say if He were here with us today. I hope you will continue to join us on Sundays, in person or online, as we explore the gospel of John. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*

**Thought for the Month:**

There is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

—Mother Teresa

**February 1**  
**'Coins for Communion'**  
**to benefit Samaritan's Purse**



Save Your Coins

**February 15**  
*Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday*



**February 2**



**February 14**



*Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*



**Deadline:** the 20th  
of each month

**Christian Symbol**



**CORNERSTONE**

The cornerstone is a symbol for Christ. It has Old Testament roots in Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, Christ is called the cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. The IHC and XP on the stone's sides are abbreviations for "Jesus" and "Christ" in Greek.

<b>St. Paul's Epistle</b>	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker



### February 15 Food Pantry Sunday

items needed:  
Soup and soup fixings:  
Broth, crackers, noodles etc.

January Items taken to the  
Five Loaves food Pantry  
At The Church at Allentown



February 18  
Ash Wednesday Service  
at 7:00 PM.



February 19  
Presidents Day



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

### Photo & Social Media Notice:

Elida St. Paul's will be actively sharing photos and updates from church events and activities on our public Facebook business page. If you or your family prefer not to be included in any photos, please let Tahler Sdao know.

We will continue using our current private Facebook group for prayer requests, congregational accomplishments, internal updates, etc.



### Women's Bible Study:

Thursdays 2:00 PM  
classroom beside the office

January, studying  
"The Prayer of Jabez"

**NOT meeting in February!**

March, studying  
"The Book of John"

**Bible Study Open to All Ladies!**

## Bishops Message



### Let Us Embrace Humble Discipleship

#### *Walking Together into God's New Work*

As we begin the new year, my first word is gratitude.

I give thanks for the people of Ohio - pastors, lay leaders, congregations, and communities - who have walked faithfully through seasons of change. Across this State, I have witnessed quiet courage, generous service, and love that sought no recognition. These moments have stayed with me, strengthening my hope and deepening my trust in what God is doing among us.

With gratitude for the past and with expectancy for the year ahead, we pause to listen.

"See, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

God's word through Isaiah reminds us that the future does not begin with our plans, but with God's faithful action. The question before us is not whether God is at work, but whether we are attentive enough to notice it. This new year invites us to listen carefully for what God is already bringing into being.

The God who makes a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert (Isaiah 43:16-18) continues to lead us - often quietly, often unexpectedly - calling us to walk by faith rather than familiarity.

#### *The Way of Humble Discipleship*

At the heart of God's new work is humility.

The coming of Jesus Christ teaches us again that God chooses the way of self-giving love. "The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14) - not in power but in presence, and not in spectacle but in nearness.

Humility opens our hearts to see what fear and certainty often obscure. When we make room through self-emptying, we become attentive to God's presence in ordinary days. As Paul reminds us, Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7). This is not weakness, but the strength of love.

My hope for this year is simple: that following Jesus will feel less like a burden and more like a source of life - less like obligation and more like joy. May humble discipleship quietly renew and steady us for the journey ahead.

*Continue on pg. 5*

## Bishops Message continued

*Cont. from pg. 4*

### Let Us Embrace Humble Discipleship

#### *Turning Toward Our Neighbors*

Humble discipleship always turns us outward.

Again, and again, Scripture calls us to a life that is open and generous toward the neighbor. Jesus tells us plainly, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). In caring for our neighbors, we encounter Christ himself.

In a time when our society feels weary and divided, the Church is invited to embody openness - listening across differences, caring without conditions, and choosing compassion over fear. God's abundance is not discovered by holding tightly to ourselves, but by offering ourselves in love.

When the Church lives not for its own preservation, but for the sake of others, Christ is made visible again.

We hold our churches, our leaders, and our communities across Ohio before God, trusting that we do not walk into this new year alone. As we pray for one another, we lift our eyes to see the light God is revealing among us. In this season of Epiphany, we move forward together - guided not by fear, but by the light of Christ already shining across Ohio.

#### *An Epiphany Prayer*

God of light,  
in this season of Epiphany,  
we give you thanks for the light we have already seen  
in faithful people, quiet courage, and grace that has carried us this far.

Where our vision has grown dim,  
shine upon us again.  
Where our hearts have grown crowded,  
make room for your presence.

As the star once led the wise ones to Christ,  
lead us now into your new work.  
Teach us the way of humble discipleship:  
to follow Jesus with trust,  
to recognize his face in our neighbors,  
and to walk as children of your light.

May your light be made known  
in our lives, in our churches,  
and throughout Ohio,  
until your love is revealed for all to see.

Amen.



**Hee-Soo Jung, Resident Bishop**

Ohio Episcopal Area | West Ohio Conference

# Faith In Action

## FINANCIAL GIVING

### Worship Attendance:

January 4, 2026	80
January 11, 2026	71
January 18, 2026	74
January 25, 2026	6 (Snow Day)

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
January 4, 2026	\$9,943.59	\$238.00
January 11, 2026	\$5,733.21	\$83.25
January 18, 2026	\$4,240.42	\$86.00
January 25, 2026	\$2,044.40	\$12.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$21,961.62</b>	<b>\$419.25</b>

### Sunday School Attendance

January 4, 2026	14
January 11, 2026	15
January 18, 2026	16
January 25, 2026	0

### Unified Budget:

**Weekly Budget Needed = \$4,644.58**  
 January Total Need = **\$18,578.32**  
 January Total = **\$21,961.62**

### Hospitality Cart

February 1, 2026	OPEN
February 8, 2026	Clark Family
February 15, 2026	OPEN
February 22, 2026	Gloria Brunk & Margie Best

## Altar Flowers

February 1, 2026	OPEN
February 8, 2026	Paul & Marla Scannell
February 15, 2026	Jamie & Jan Wyant
February 22, 2026	Ron Steiner

### Communion Servers: February 1

**Station #1:**

&

**Station #2:**

&

# Daily Bible Readings

## Sunday 2/1

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84,  
Genesis 18:16-33  
Galatians 5:13-25, Mark 8:22-30

## Monday 2/2

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65,  
Genesis 19:1-29  
Hebrews 11:1-12, John 6:27-40

## Tuesday 2/3

Psalm 61, 62, 68, Genesis 21:1-21  
Hebrews 11:13-22, John 6:41-51

## Wednesday 2/4

Psalm 72, 119, 73-96,  
Genesis 22:1-18  
Hebrews 11:23-31, John 6:52-59

## Thursday 2/5

Psalm 71, 74, Genesis 23:1-20  
Hebrews 11: 32-12:2, John 6:60-71

## Friday 2/6

Psalm 69, 73, Genesis 24:1-27  
Hebrews 12:3-11, John 7:1-13

## Saturday 2/7

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76,  
Genesis 24:28-51  
Hebrews 12:12-29, John 7:14-36

## Sunday 2/8

Psalm 34, 93, 96,  
Genesis 24:50-67  
2 Timothy 2:14-21, Mark 10:13-22

## Monday 2/9

Psalm 77, 80, Genesis 25:19-34  
Hebrews 13:1-16, John 7:37-52

## Tuesday 2/10

Psalm 78, Genesis 26:1-33  
Hebrews 13:17-25, John 7:52-8:11

## Wednesday 2/11

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120,  
Genesis 27:1-29  
Romans 12:1-8, John 8:12-20

## Thursday 2/12

Psalm 85, 86, 146, 147,  
Genesis 27:30-45  
Romans 12:9-21, John 8:21-32

## Friday 2/13

Psalm 88, 91, 92,  
Genesis 27:46-28:4, 10-22  
Romans 13:1-14, John 8:33-47

## Saturday 2/14

Psalm 87, 90, 136  
Genesis 29:1-20  
Romans 14:1-23, John 8:47-59

## Sunday 2/15

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67  
Genesis 29:20-35  
1 Timothy 3:14-4:10  
Mark 10:23-31

## Monday 2/16

Psalm 89, Genesis 30:1-24  
1 John 1:1-10  
John 9:1-17

## Tuesday 2/17

Psalm 94, 97, 99  
Genesis 31:1-24  
1 John 2:1-11, John 9:18-41

## LENTEN READING PLAN:

### A Countdown of Hope

*Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday*

## February 18

The *Promise* of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*

## February 19

The *Promise* to Never Again Flood the Earth,  
*Genesis 9:13-15*

## February 20

The *Promise* to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*

## February 21

The *Promise* to Multiply Abraham's Offspring,  
*Genesis 22:17-18*

## February 22

The *Promise* of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*

## February 23

The *Promise* of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*

## February 24

The *Promise* of Blessing for Obedience,  
*Leviticus 26:3-12*

## February 25

The *Promise* to Raise up a Prophet,  
*Deuteronomy 18:15*

## February 26

The *Promise* of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*

## February 27

The *Promise* of an Everlasting Covenant,  
*2 Samuel 7:12-16*

## February 28

The *Promise* of a Shepherd, *Psalms 23*

## March 1

The *Promise* of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*

## March 2

The *Promise* of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*

## March 3

The *Promise* of Strength and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*

## March 4

The *Promise* of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*

## March 5

The *Promise* of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*

## March 6

The *Promise* of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

## March 7

The *Promise* of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*Continued in March Newsletter*

# Personnel Report 2026

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL / FINANCE

Administrative Council Chair:	Corinne Piper (27)
Administrative Council Secretary:	Austin Clark (27)
Finance Chair:	Art Holman
Financial Secretary:	Tahler Sdao
Treasurer:	Margie Best
PPR/Nominations:	Deb Hurd (26)
Trustees:	Alex McAdams (27)
Missions:	Tim Piper (26)
Nurture:	Jan Wyant & Virginia Hollar
Christian/Higher Education:	Jan Wyant
Lay Leader:	Dan Best
Lay Member to Annual Conf.:	Linda Craft
Member-at-large:	Norm Grigsby
Pastor:	Paul Scannell

## PPR /NOMINATIONS

Chairperson:	Deb Hurd (26)
Lay Leader:	Dan Best
Annual Conf. Rep.	Linda Craft
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Susan Nartker (27)	Virginia Hollar (28)
Connie Mault (28)	
Janna Thompson (28)	

## TREASURER

Margie Best  
Nelson Bear of Arrow Services

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Tahler Sdao

## WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Choir Director:	Casey Rife
Musician:	Lois Cook
Altar Guild & Liturgical Arts	Vicki McAdams
Communion Stewards:	Steve & Tracy Sdao
Head Usher:	Larry Moser

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson:	Alex McAdams (27)
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Finance Chair:	Art Holman
Vicki McAdams (26)	Larry Moser (26)
Ron Steiner (27)	Lois Cook (28)
Benjamin Rife (28)	Jamie Wyant (28)

## CHRISTIAN / HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairperson:	Jan Wyant
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Pre-School:	Shirley Moser
Early Elementary:	Marla Scannell & Slone Whetstone
Helpers:	Corinne Piper Barb Schade

## MISSIONS

Chairperson:	Tim Piper (26)
Secretary:	Corinne Piper (26)
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Norm Grigsby (27)	Sharla Murphy (27)
Eric Stern (28)	Jamie Wyant (28)

## TECH TEAM

<u>VISUALS:</u> Benjamin Rife Tahler Sdao Jamie Wyant	<u>FACEBOOK LIVE:</u> Scott Fessler	<u>SOUND:</u> Ross Harmon Alex McAdams Jamie Wyant
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## NURTURE

Co-Chairperson:	Jan Wyant
Co-Chairperson:	Virginia Hollar
Pastor:	Paul Scannell

## OFFERING COUNTERS

Finance Chair:	Art Holman
Dan Best	Gene Craft
Tim Theodore	Jamie Wyant

*Thank You!*

**Thank you to everyone serving on Committees.  
Your time, talents, and dedication to keeping  
St. Paul's running smoothly is greatly appreciated!**

# Hymns as Therapy

## In Private: Hymns as Therapy—Why We Must Draw Strength from Song

*Then Sings My Soul Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan*

### The Story of Our Songs: Drawing Strength from the Great Hymns of Our Faith

In 1965, the Fourth of July fell on a Sunday and the official holiday was observed on Monday. Diane Young, a college student, had planned a long weekend with her boyfriend to spend the day at the lake with her parents, but the plans fell apart when her folks delayed their departure for the lake. Diane and her boyfriend had to get back to campus for Tuesday classes.

Her parents took off for the lake without them, but the afternoon trip ended horrifically. A terrible car wreck instantly took the life of Diane's mother, age 46. Diane's sister-in-law died in the emergency room. Her father, 49, passed away the next morning. And Diane's 12 year old brother was unconscious and given little hope for survival. An older brother was also seriously injured and hospitalized.

"At age 18," Diane told me, "I was the only family member not in the accident. I ended up planning my parent's funerals, picking out the caskets and grave sites. During the next few roller-coaster days, I faced trials so extreme I could hardly bear them.

"But I grew up among Evangelical Mennonites, and I learned the great hymns of Christianity while a child. In those darkest days and in the difficult years since, I've found great strength in singing, "When peace like a river attendth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well with my soul.""

Diane's younger brother did survive and her older brother also recovered. Her boyfriend became her husband; and the two of them are now serving the Lord in full-time ministry with the Gideons. Her testimony is: "Through many family trials and sorrows like sea billows that have rolled on for years, and through times when I myself could have died, God has ministered to my soul through this great hymn, 'It Is Well.' It remains one of my favorites today. Because of Jesus, my sins have been nailed to the cross and some day the trumpet will sound. I can say with firm assurance, 'Praise the Lord, It is well with my soul.'"

Hymns are self-medicating therapies good for whatever ails us. From infancy to old age, they're internal medicines that strengthen, heal, and uplift us. They're vitamins for the soul and excellent antidotes against emotional disease and distress. From birth till death, hymns accompany us along life's road. I once received a treasured letter from a woman who read the first volume of *Then Sings my Soul*. She told me of being a hymn lover all her life. And she came by it naturally, she said. Her mother had sung through the entire Lutheran hymnal while nursing her.

On the other end of Life's spectrum, I had a wonderful letter from Vonette Bright who told me that when her husband, legendary Christian leader Bill Bright, was dying, they turned to hymns in *Then Sings My Soul*, read the stories, and sang one song of praise after another. Dr. Bright ascended to heaven in a cloud of worship. From birth to death, we derive spiritual stamina from the great hymns of faith.

In 2 Kings 3, three distraught kings visited the prophet Elisha, seeking help. Elisha was none too pleased to see them. To him they were "small potatoes and few in the hill" - but he heard them out, then said, "Bring me a harpist." The Bible says, "While the harpist is playing, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and he said, 'This is what the Lord says...'

Elisha provided the message and the miracle they needed, but he did so against the backdrop of a song. According to the old commentator Matthew Henry, Elisha realized that hearing God's praises sweetly sung, as David had appointed, would cheer his spirits, settle his mind, and put him into a right frame of mind for both speaking to the Lord and listening to Him. "Those who desire communion with God must keep their spirits quiet and serene," said Henry. "Elisha being refreshed and having the tumult of his spirits (lessened) by his divine music, the hand of the Lord came upon him."

"I wonder if you feel as I do," missionary Amy Carmichael once wrote a friend, "about the heavenliness of song. I believe truly that Satan cannot endure it, and so slips out of the room—more or less!—when there is true song. It leads to a sort of sweetness too... Prayer rises more easily, more spontaneously, after one has let those wings, words of music, carry one out of oneself into the upper air."

# Missions



**Mitten Tree Report:**

Thank you to everyone who either made or bought items for the hat and mitten tree at Christmastime. Items included 38 hats, 15 pairs of socks, 56 pairs of gloves and mittens and one scarf. A special thank-you to Mary Jo Gniewkowski, Joella Stern's mother, who made and donated 21 pairs of the mittens. The items were distributed to Lima Rescue Mission and Crossroads Crisis Center to be used by individuals being served by those organizations. Thank-you to our congregation for your generosity to provide warmth to individuals in need.



Dear Friends,  
 Thank you for your gift of \$60.60 to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.  
 Sincerely,  
 Franklin Graham, President

Dear Friends,  
 Thank you so much for your gift of \$119.97. We are able to reach others everyday because of your support. At both the Mission and Camp Rogers, we are sharing a message of hope through Jesus Christ. Thank you for your role in the ministry of Lima Rescue Mission!  
 God Bless,  
 Chuck Furguson, Executive Director

*Thank you!*

Dear St. Paul's UMC Friends,  
 On behalf of the East Ohio Conference United Methodist Church Camps, thank you for your gift of camperships that benefits hundreds of children, youth, and adults each summer. Camps Aldergate, Asbury, and Wanake depend greatly on the generosity and support of those who value Christian outdoor education.  
 Continued blessings.

**A Taste of Loving-Kindness**

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?"  
 A young boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness."

# Missions



Thank you to everyone who have placed a donation in the cow in the hallway. The money (\$508) will be used to purchase a share of the following animals: a heifer, a fish, a water buffalo, a goat, a sheep, a pig, garden seeds and honeybees and a flock of chicks. The money will also be used to send a girl to school. The money was sent to Heifer International, a non-profit organization that 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!



St. Paul's people provided chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, rolls, ham, fruit salad, cookies and beverages on January 23<sup>rd</sup> for the four families (13 persons) staying at Family Promise. We wish to thank everyone who helped provide food for this important mission in our area. If you would like to help with this mission, our next date to provide a meal is April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Crafty Creatures

40 quilts were blessed during worship, February 1 to provide comfort to the families at Family Promise.



# The People of St. Paul's

## Thank You

*To My Church Family,  
Your thoughtfulness means so much  
more than words can say. Thank you all  
for the beautiful candle.*

*With my love,  
Maedene Holmes*

Our sympathy to Don and Maedene Holmes on the Passing of their nephew, Chris Holmes, on December 23, 2025. He was 58. A Celebration of Life was held on January 17th. Cards may reach Don and Maedene at 167 Brookview Ct., Lima, OH 45801

## With Sympathy

Our condolences to Carl (Butch) Rabley and family on the passing of Lois Rabley, on January, 19th in Florida, where she enjoyed the winter months. They were married almost 62 years. A memorial service was held in Lima on January 31st, with Pastor Paul Scannell officiating. Cards may reach Carl at 4055 Brookshore Dr., Lima, OH 45801

**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**

Nancy Gesler

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

Linda Craft  
Nancy Gesler

**In the Military & Missions**

Nathan Stewart

Our Sympathy to Deb and Gary Hurd on the passing of Deb's mother, Donna McCreight, on January 21st with Deb holding her hand. Donna was 89. A celebration of life was held on Tuesday, January 27th in Columbus, Cards may be sent to 2242 Reinell Ave., Lima, OH 45805

**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.*



# St. Paul's Featured Recipes

## Jalapeno Popper Chicken Casserole

*By Susan Nartker*

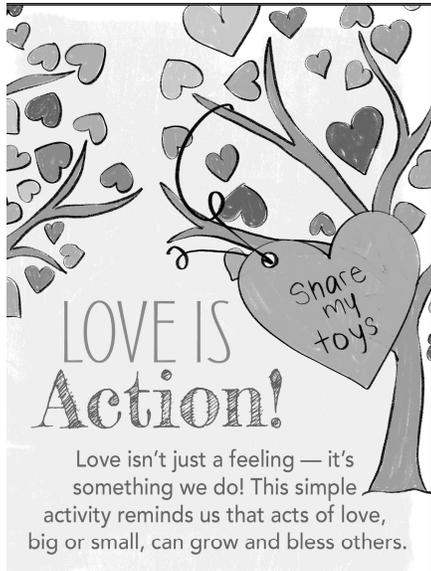
Ingredients		Instructions
1pkg. 32 oz.	Frozen Tater Tots	Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Arrange Tater Tots in an ungreased 13x 9 in. baking dish. Bake uncovered, for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, jalapeno peppers, garlic salt and pepper. Stir in half each of the chicken, Mexican cheese blend, green onions and bacon. Arrange remaining chicken over Tater Tots. Top with cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle with remaining Mexican cheese blend, green onions and bacon. Cover and bake until heated through, 20 to 25 minutes. If desired, top with additional sour cream and jalapeno slices.
2 pkg. 8 oz.	Cream Cheese, softened	
1 cup	Sour Cream	
6	Jalapeno Peppers, seeded & finely chopped	
1 1/2 tsp.	Garlic salt	
1/2 tsp.	Pepper	
4 cups	Rotisserie Chicken, shredded	
2 cups	Mexican Cheese blend, shredded	
6	Green onions, chopped	
1 lb.	Bacon strips, cooked & crumbled	

## Turtle Cake

*By Tracy Sdao*

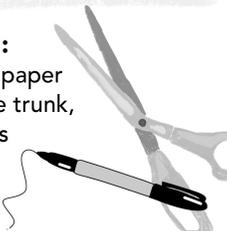
Ingredients		Instructions
1 pkg.	German chocolate cake mix	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix German chocolate cake mix according to directions on package. Pour 1/2 of batter into 13x9 baking dish. Bake for 15 minutes Melt together caramels, milk, and butter. Stir and pour over top of baked cake. Top cake with rest of the batter and sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until well done.
1 (14 oz.)	Caramels	
1 can	Eagle Brand milk	
1 stick	Butter	
1 (12 oz.)	Chocolate chips	

# KIDZ KORNER



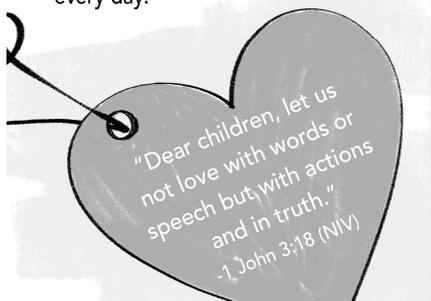
**What you need:**

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



**What you do:**

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!



## LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

<b>Change:</b>	C's to L	Z's to H	P's to R
	J's to A	Q's to T	X's to E
	K's to O		

(The other letters stay the same.)

" L  
 C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P  
 G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P  
 Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C  
 Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z  
 J C C Y K U P M I N D J N D  
 W I Q Z J C C Y K U P  
 S Q P X N G Q Z "

**Mark 12:30**

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength."

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

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

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[www.elidastpaulschurch.org](http://www.elidastpaulschurch.org)

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

**Twitter Account**  
 @ESPCHURCH



## Living Our Faith

### Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.