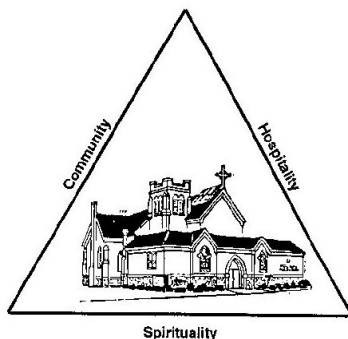


St. Paul's Epistle

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Happy New Year, 2021 is here and I hope it is much improved over the 2020 model. By this time next year, I would like to stand within 6 feet of another human and maybe go to the store without anxiety and a mask. I guess only time will tell what 2021 looks like, but until then we will need to keep on, keeping on. Before I get too far into this newsletter, I want to say a special thank you to everyone who sent gifts and treats to the Scannell house. Your love and support are very evident in your thoughtfulness and generosity, making Christmas a special time of year at our house.

Over the next four weeks, we will be looking at some women of faith throughout church history. I know I have preached about women of the Bible and their impact on our understanding of faith, but this will be the first time I have put together a series about women outside the Bible. These women not only had an impact on their community and the church, but all of them had a hand in changing how the world sees the church. I will be preaching about Katie Luther, Susanne Wesley, Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu (aka Mother Teresa), and Corrie Ten Boom. All strong, charismatic, and Holy Spirit-filled women of Faith who influenced the world in a positive way for God.

Finally, I want to encourage you to continue to find ways to connect with one another safely. This month I will have the privilege to deliver Sunshine Bags for the fourth time since we started this ministry. It has been wonderful to see you all, even for a brief visit, and I think something as simple as a bag of goodies keeps us connected. I know some of you will not return until we are back to "normal" which is understandable for many different reasons. So we have to continue to stay connected by whatever means works for you. We are the church with or without gathering together because our community of faith has connected us no matter how far apart we might be and for no matter how long we stay apart. Jesus tells us to lift each other in prayer daily, I will continue to pray for you, and I hope you will lift each other in prayer throughout the weeks and months ahead, stay safe.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Happy New Year
2021

January 1, 2021
Happy New Year's



Epiphany January 6, 2021

If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit.

—St. John Chrysostom

January 3, 2021
Coins for Communion
will benefit Heartbeat of Lima



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
deadline:
the **16th**
of each month

Christian Symbol

WHEEL

A rotating wheel symbolizes God's divine force. Wheels with flames shooting out often portray God's throne, based on Ezekiel's vision (see 1:1-18). Some artists also show a burning wheel when God sends Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.



St. Paul's Epistle

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Pianist:	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian:	Dave Decker

**January 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

**January 18, 2021
Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Five Loaves Food Pantry
at The Church at Allentown
Food Pantry Sunday
January 17, 2021**

**January Sunshine Bags
Date to be determined**



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

A Word For The Year

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. In deed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

—Janna Firestone

Prayer

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

By Corinne Piper

In our lives, we are often asked to pray for someone else. We post on social media that we give "our thoughts and prayers". We've said it so often in the past year that it has become a trite response by many people.

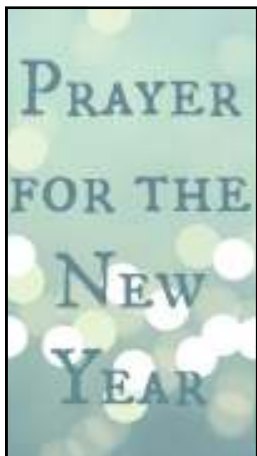
We know in our heads that prayers work (or maybe some days, we DON'T know) but we may not know in our hearts that our 'personal' prayers reach above the ceiling. Some people seem to soar in their prayers, but others feel it's a lesson in futility.

I have been there time and again. Sometimes I would forget that I told someone I would pray. Sometimes I said the right words but certainly didn't have the right feeling. I would set aside prayer time and then fill it with something else. I would wonder how and what to pray for people and situations and then didn't pray for anything, because it seemed useless.

I rediscovered a book on my shelves that I read and forgot. The title is Intimate Intercession by Tricia McCary Rhodes. It has been a Thought-provoking, yet down-to-earth, way to look at Intercessory Prayer or praying for others. I thought I would share some of those thoughts over the next few months and invite you to join Tim and I as we pray for those on our prayer list on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. beginning in January. We meet in the Prayer Chapel (the former Bride's Room).

You will not be asked to pray alone, just to join us as we pray short prayers for general needs and then read the names of those on our list to these prayers apply.

Intercessory prayer isn't so scary after all and it really does make a difference.



New Year Prayer

*Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.*

Methodist History

Susanna Wesley

In 1697, the rectory of Epworth was conferred upon Samuel, her husband. This confirmation came directly from the Crown, and was to be their home for the next 40 years. The house, in comparison with the one at South Ormsby, was a palace. Life would have been comfortable, indeed, had the financial stress been a little lighter.

Poverty alone was not the only cross she had to bear. Samuel Wesley was a pronounced Tory. He was not too popular, at best. He was often robbed, insulted, and arrested. Twice he suffered from the incendiary mobs that surrounded the house and made nights hideous. The climax came when their house was burned to the ground and the family barely escaped with their lives.

This fire at Epworth is to every Methodist the pillar of fire, which speaks to a special providence for his church. For John Wesley, then a young child, was left for lost in the building. His father, kneeling in prayer, commended to God the soul of the lad, whom he thought was doomed. Kindly neighbors formed a human pyramid, which was the means of his rescue. To John, that prayer always seemed to be the divine seal on a peculiar and exalted mission for which he was miraculously preserved. He ordered to be inscribed on his tombstone. "A brand plucked out of the burning." In the rescue, Susanna saw an equal miracle. She encouraged John's belief in his great destiny and fostered his high hopes.

Susanna then asked herself. "What shall I render unto the Lord for His mercies? I would offer thee myself and all that Thou hast given me and give me grace to do it. The residue of my life shall all be devoted to Thy service. And I do intend to be more particular and careful of the soul of this child, that thou has so mercifully provided for. Lord, give me grace to do it sincerely and prudently." The answer to this prayer was Methodism.

Sixteen Rules of Susanna Wesley

1. Eating between meals is not allowed.
2. Children are to be in bed by 8 p.m.
3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
4. Subdue self-will in a child, and work together with God to save the child's soul.
5. Teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.
7. Give them nothing that they cry for, and only that when asked for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented of.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Teach children to fear the rod.
11. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
12. Comment on and reward good behavior.
13. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed, should be commended.
14. Preserve property rights, even in the smallest matters.
15. Strictly observe all promises.
16. Require no daughter to work before she can read well

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 29, 2020	38
December 6, 2020	47
December 13, 2020	40
December 20, 2020	40
December 24, 2020 10:00 PM	52
December 27, 2020	36

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 29, 2020	\$8,997.00	\$3,125.00
December 6, 2020	\$6,016.00	\$120.00
December 13, 2020	\$5,535.00	\$218.00
December 20, 2020	\$3,073.00	\$750.00
December 27, 2020	\$2,463.00	\$1,835.00

We are continuing to sending out the weekly letter, "St. Paul's Weekly Word". You may receive this update either by e-mail, or for those without e-mail, snail mail. If you are not receiving this please contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail to officeespc@gmail.com

Altar Flowers

January 3, 2021	OPEN
January 10, 2021	Dottie Jennell
January 17, 2021	OPEN
January 24, 2021	OPEN
January 31, 2021	OPEN

2021 Altar Flower Calendar

If you would like to sign-up for Altar flowers for 2021, the flower chart is on the hallway bulletin board or call the office at 419-339-3801, or e-mail the office at officeespc@gmail.com.

Please specify if the flowers are in honor of, or in memory of someone, or a special occasion.

Daily Bible Readings

Friday 1/1

Psalm 90, Isaiah 65:15b-25
Revelation 21:1-6

Saturday 1/2

Psalm 33, 34, Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12, John 6:35-51

Sunday 1/3

Psalm 66, 67, 145
1 John 2:12-17, John 6:41-47

Monday 1/4

Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29
Exodus 3:1-12
Hebrews 11:23-31, John 14:6-14

Tuesday 1/5

Psalm 2, 110, Joshua 1:1-9
Hebrews 11:32-12:2
John 15:1-16

Wednesday 1/6

Psalm 46, 96, 97, 100
Isaiah 52:7-10
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21

Thursday 1/7

Psalm 103, 114, 115
Isaiah 52:3-6
Revelation 2:1-7, John 2:1-11

Friday 1/8

Psalm 112, 113, 117, 118
Isaiah 59:15-21
Revelation 2:8-17, John 4:46-54

Saturday 1/9

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 131, 132
Isaiah 63:1-5
Revelation 2:18-29, John 5:1-15

Sunday 1/10

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Isaiah 40:1-11
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34

Monday 1/11

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Isaiah 40:12-23
Ephesians 1:1-14, Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday 1/12

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Isaiah 40:25-31
Ephesians 1:15-23, Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday 1/13

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Isaiah 41:1-16
Ephesians 2:1-10, Mark 1:29-45

Thursday 1/14

Psalm 18, Isaiah 41:17-29
Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 2:1-12

Friday 1/15

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Isaiah 42:1-17
Ephesians 3:1-13, Mark 2:13-22

Saturday 1/16

Psalm 20, 221, 110, 116, 117
Isaiah 43:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21, Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday 1/17

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Isaiah 43:14-44:5
Hebrews 6:17-7:10, John 4:27-42

Monday 1/18

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Isaiah 44:6-8, 21-23
Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday 1/19

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Isaiah 44:9-20
Ephesians 4:17-32, Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday 1/20

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Isaiah 44:24-45:7
Ephesians 5:1-14, Mark 4:1-20

Thursday 1/21

Psalm 37, Isaiah 45:5-17
Ephesians 5:15-33, Mark 4:21-34

Friday 1/22

Psalm 31, 35, Isaiah 45:18-25
Ephesians 6:1-9, Mark 4:35-41

Saturday 1/23

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Isaiah 46:1-13
Ephesians 6:10-24, Mark 5:1-20

Sunday 1/24

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Isaiah 47:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-31, John 5:2-18

Monday 1/25

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Isaiah 48:1-11
Galatians 1:1-17, Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday 1/26

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Isaiah 48:12-21
Galatians 1:18-2:10
Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday 1/27

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Isaiah 49:1-12
Galatians 2:11-21, Mark 6:13-29

Thursday 1/28

Psalm 50, 59, 60, Isaiah 49:13-23
Galatians 3:1-14, Mark 6:30-46

Friday 1/29

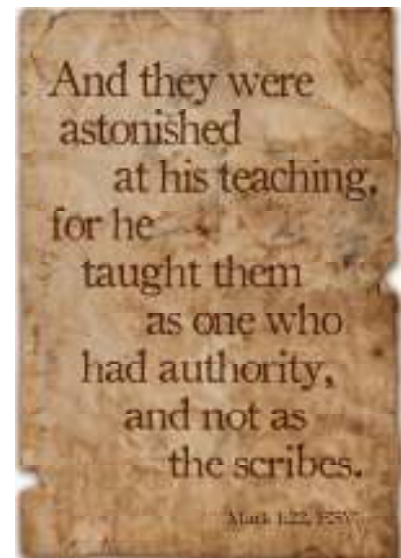
Psalm 40, 51, 54, Isaiah 50:1-11
Galatians 3:15-22, Mark 6:47-56

Saturday 1/30

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Isaiah 51:1-8
Galatians 3:23-29, Mark 7:1-23

Sunday 1/31

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Isaiah 51:9-16
Hebrews 11:8-16, John 7:14-31



Connecting With...



Congratulations to Reggie McAdams and Stephanie Olman, who were united in marriage on November 7. Reggie is the son of Brent and Vicki McAdams. Cards of congratulations may reach them at 2025 Greendale Ave., Findlay, OH 45840.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Adrianna Ellinger, a Sixth grader at Elida Middle School, for being chosen as Student of the Month for December. Adrianna is the daughter of Mike and Becky Ellinger.



Congratulations to Makayla Bok, a Senior at Elida High School, for being chosen as Student of the month for December. Makayla is the daughter of Travis and Julie Bok.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you, to those who packed a box for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child. 55 Boxes from St. Paul's are being sent around the world to touch the hearts of many children and their families.



The Girl Scouts and a few choir members made a recording to send to Elm Croft Senior Living.



Sunshine Bags



Advent Candle

1st Sunday of Advent
Tim & Sue Theodore



Special Music, Flute Duet:
Brittany Scannell & Linda Holman



2nd Sunday of Advent
Dan & Margie Best



3rd Sunday of Advent
Steve, Tracy & Tahler Sdao



4th Sunday of Advent
Brittany ,Cody & Pastor Paul Scannell



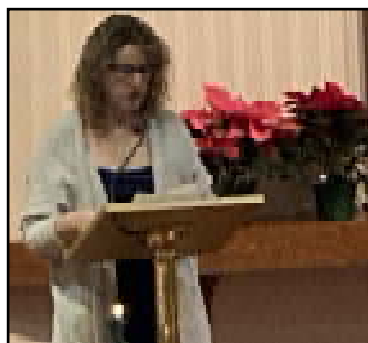
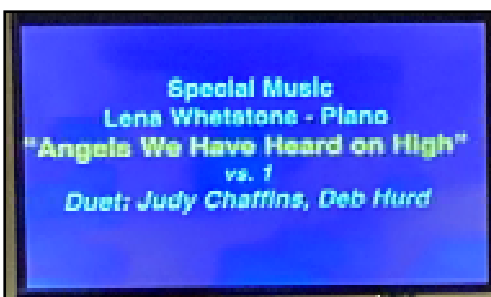
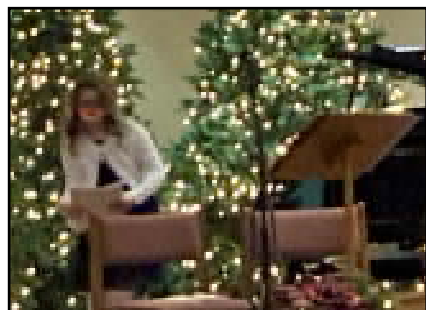
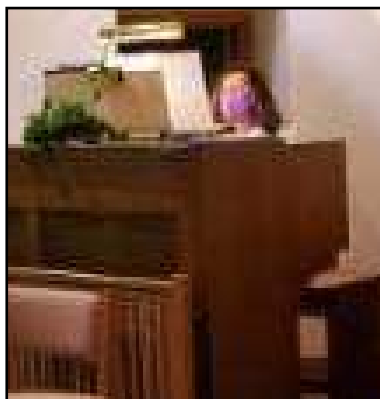
Christ Candle
Jamie & Jan Wyant



Christmas Eve

*Thank
You!*

The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season by Myrna Metzger and the McAdams Family. **THANK YOU!!**
Thank you, to our musicians, Linda Holman, Organ and Lois Cook, Piano.



The People of St. Paul's

Thank You

*St. Paul's UMC,
Thank you so much for the
Sunshine and baby bag! We
feel so blessed to be a part of
such a special church family!
We look forward to
introducing baby boy Clark
to the church and church
family! Thank you again
from the bottom of our
hearts!*

*Merry Christmas!
Austin and Lauren Clark*

*Thank you all so much for
the sunshine bags! We all
were very excited and had a
lot of fun seeing all of the
thoughtful gifts. What a
great way to spread joy
during these difficult times
and to shine light on the
Christmas season.
Merry Christmas to you all!*

*Thanks again!
Troy Selover Family*

*Pastor Paul,
Thank you for the bag of
sunshine. It brought joy to
our hearts and a smile to our
faces during a rough time
dealing with Covid. To all
involved, know that you are
loved and appreciated.*

The Fox Family

*Thank you to the church for
the beautiful flowers since my
surgery. Thank you for the
prayers and concerns from
my church family.*

*Blessings to all!
Don Irvin*

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the wind
chimes sent in Sue's
memory. It is comforting to
know you all are thinking of
us and praying for us.*

*With Love to you all,
Don & Maedene Holmes*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Jim Hines
Don Irvin
Mary Steiner

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jim Hines
Don Irvin
Mary Steiner

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Our deepest sympathy to the
Scannell family on the death of
Pastor Paul's brother, Perry
Scannell.

*With Deepest
Sympathy*

Our deepest sympathy to Don
and Maedene Holmes on the
passing of Sue Holmes, their
sister-in-law.

Meetings

January 4, 2021
PPR Mtg..7:00 PM

January 5, 2021
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 6, 2021
Worship Mtg..10:00 AM

January 11, 2021
Ad Council/Finance
7:00 PM

Missions ...TBA

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

JANUARY 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Tom piper	2
3 Dakota DeRose Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook	6 Adia Slemmons	7	8 Cynthis Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9 Jenessa Peters Larkin Wyant
10	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13 Carolyn Michael	14 Roger Henderson	15	16 Steve Sdao
17 Norm Grigsby	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup	22	23 Joanne Bragg
24 31 Judy Strayer	25	26 Ginger Fox Jeff Reiff	27 Jacalyn Henderson	28	29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White

Anniversaries

Rudy & Lavonne
Segovia
January 1; 65yrs.

Paul & Marla Scannell
January 8

Gerald & Wanda
Strayer
January 13; 67 yrs.

Andrew & Michele
Luhn
January 16

Bill & Beverly Nesbitt
January 16

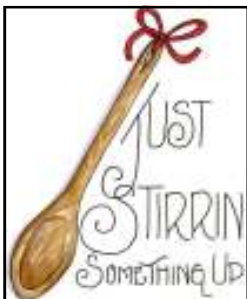
Don & Maedene
Holmes
January 25; 62 rs.

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

Golden Potato Soup

By Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
10 slices	Bacon, thinly chopped	<p>Cook bacon in soup pot until done. Add green onions; saute 3 minutes. Add potatoes; cook 3-5 minutes. Add Chicken stock. Cover and cook until potatoes are done. While soup is cooking, melt butter in saucepan. Add flour to make Roux. Cook for 3 minutes. Add roux to boiling soup and cook until the soup thickens. Add cream; then blend in grated cheese. Add water if needed. Serve with grated cheese, bacon bits and chopped green onion on top.</p>
1 bunch	Green onions, chopped, include green part	
2 lb.	Potatoes raw, peeled and diced	
1/2 cup	Butter	
1/2 cup	Flour	
1/2 cup	Heavy cream	
2 sm. cans	Chicken Broth	
1 cup	Grated Cheddar cheese	



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

A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

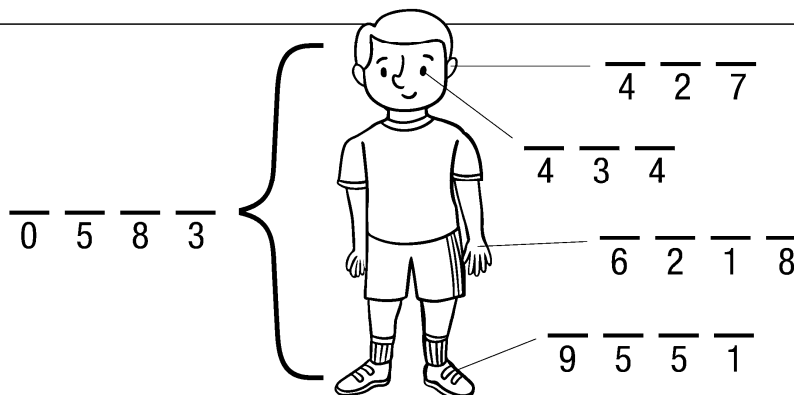
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the $\frac{20}{20}$ should say, "Because I am not a $\frac{17}{17}$, I do not belong to the $\frac{16}{16}$," ... And if the $\frac{13}{13}$ should say, "Because I am not an $\frac{11}{11}$, I do not belong to the $\frac{16}{16}$," it would not for that reason stop being part of the $\frac{16}{16}$. If the whole $\frac{16}{16}$ were an $\frac{11}{11}$, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole $\frac{16}{16}$ were an $\frac{13}{13}$, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one $\frac{16}{16}$.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 13, foot = 20

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

Live in the Light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

The Magi's Story — And Ours

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham, tvcresources.net