

St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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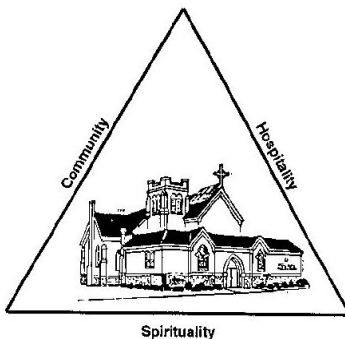
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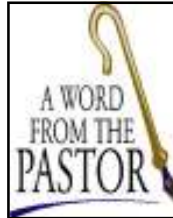
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I want to take a moment for a personal privilege. My family and I want to thank you for the many Christmas tidings we received last month. The cookies, candies, snacks, gifts, and cards, always amaze us of the love you have for us here at Elida St. Paul's. Each of us has our favorite item that comes to us and I enjoy each card, letter, and note and the messages they convey.

Happy New Year! It has been a very long year for most of us. We move forward with hope in our hearts because of the freedom Christ gives us over death. Sometimes in the midst of the darkness that surrounds us, at times, it can be difficult to have that hope. Most all of us have been touched by the tragedy known as COVID, but still, we move forward. My prayer as we continue the course is that this will end, but it does not stop me from trying to be a dim reflection of the light and love of Jesus to our world. We have countless opportunities to love God's children with our time, talent, and finances. My hope for you this New Year is to have the chance to show God's love as a friend and corporately as a church, helping those in need.

2022 appears to be starting as another difficult year for ministry, so we must all be looking for every opportunity to be about the work of the church. I have no doubt the Holy Spirit will help each of us find a place where we can make a difference for Christ. Together, we will have unique places and times to work in ministry. I hope you will join us as we are the church, working as the body of Christ loving the world. Please share your ideas and dreams for ministry, because we never know when God is working through us to change the world.

Until next Sunday, I'll see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul





January 2
Coins For Communion to
benefit Heartbeat of Lima.

Food Pantry Sunday
January 16

Non-perishable food items and
cleaning supplies are taken to
the 5 Loaves Food Pantry,
at the Church at Allentown.

January 17
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 9



January 18 to 25
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

HAND OF GOD



This symbolizes God the Father, as well as his ownership and care of all creation. During the Christian church's first 800 years, the hand was about the only symbol used for God. Many Bible verses speak of God's loving, protective hand (Psalm 138:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Peter 5:6). In heaven, Jesus sits at God's right hand (Mark 16:19).

St. Paul's Epistle

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United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

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

A Prayer For Epiphany

O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice. Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name. Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries. Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts. Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

—Wilhelm Loeh (adapted)

Epiphany Sunday
January 2, 2022



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Santa Sacks:

A new activity for children of St. Paul's and the community was held on Christmas Eve, 2:00 to 3:30. 15 kids and 25 sacks were given out. There were also activities and snacks. Thank you to Judy Chaffins and her helpers for making this first Christmas Community event a success.



Prayer

CSSTP and How to Cope

By Corinne Piper


Do you suffer from CSSTP? CSSTP isn't another variant of the current virus. It stands for Can't Sit Still to Pray. There are many people who suffer from this handicap. Some have ADD, some are children who aren't designed to sit quietly for long periods of time (or ANY periods of time), some are parents of those children who can't sit still, some are just people with busy lives. There are many reasons why people have CSSTP. The problem is, we still need to spend time with God to have a relationship. What would our relationship with our family be like if we spent the same amount of time with them as we spend with God? Ouch—not very good!

This year I will be offering ways to pray that doesn't require sitting still. There are actually many ways of doing that, but there is no magic solution. The movement, sensory involvement, writing, drawing, walking, are ways for you to involve your body enough to free your mind to focus and listen. After writing about each one, I will add needed items to our Prayer Room to enable you to try a new prayer experience.

I encourage you to try a new way to engage with God or use a method that is tried and true for you. Build your relationship with God just as you build your relationships with other loved ones.

The St. Paul's Prayer Ministry continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room to pray over those on our prayer list. This only takes about ten minutes, so it is good for those who are coping with CSSTP. Come join us!

Shalom.



*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer...
with thanksgiving present your
requests to God.*

Philippians 4:6

Hymn History

We Three Kings of Orient Are

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

1857

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,
behold, wisemen from the East came to Jerusalem... Matthew 2:1 (NKJV)*

Strange but true: A visit from St. Nicholas paved the way for "We Three Kings." It happened like this. After the war of 1812, Anglicans in America decided to establish their own seminary for training Episcopalian ministers. The proposal was first made in 1814; and in 1817, the Episcopalian General Convention voted to locate the school in New York City. But where in New York?

Clement Clark Moore, son of New York's Episcopalian Bishop, was an up-and-coming land developer. He had recently become well-known because of a poem he had written, which began:

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse...*

The popularity of this poem (reportedly written following a sleigh ride home from Greenwich Village) made his name a household word. The fame and increased income made him more generous and sought-after layman.

Moore owned a large estate in the undeveloped northern regions of Manhattan. He referred to it as "a quiet, rural retreat on the picturesque banks of the Hudson." Hearing that the Episcopalians needed land for their seminary, he offered a portion of his estate, and thus was born General Theological Seminary. Moore, also a linguist and Hebrew scholar, became one of General's first professors, teaching biblical languages.

Some years later, a reporter named John H. Hopkins, Jr., enrolled in this seminary. Born in Pittsburgh, Hopkins had matriculated at the University of Vermont before moving to New York to pursue legal studies. But fell in love with the Lord's work, enrolled in General, and graduated from the seminary in 1850. In 1855, he was hired as the school's first instructor of church music.

Hopkins wrote "We Three Kings" as part of a Christmas pageant produced by General Theological Seminary in 1857. In 1863 it was published in his *Carols, Hymns, and Songs*. This hymnal went through three editions by 1882, establishing Hopkins as a leader in Episcopalian hymnody. He wrote hymns, but most have fallen into obscurity. "We Three Kings" was his crowning achievement, made possible, in a way, through the generosity of another poet whose most famous work ends:

*But I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 28, 2021	57
December 5, 2021	53
December 12, 2021	67
December 19, 2021	60
December 24, 2022 10:00 PM	81
December 26, 2021	50

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 28, 2021	\$1,841.00	\$400.00
December 5, 2021	\$4,490.00	\$2,729.76
December 12, 2021	\$5,518.00	\$385.00
December 19, 2021	\$8,488.00	\$1,565.00
December 26, 2021	\$1,808.00	\$3,178.00

Sunday School Attendance

November 28, 2021	9
December 5, 2021	3
December 12, 2021	4
December 19, 2021	6
December 26, 2021	5

GREETERS:

It has been discussed and agreed upon to add greeters back into our worship setting, if you would like to serve in this capacity, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Altar Flowers

January 2, 2022	Virginia Hollar
January 9, 2022	Larry & Shirley Moser
January 16, 2022	Paul and Marla Scannell
January 23, 2022	OPEN
January 30, 2022	OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS:

*To sign-up for altar flowers for 2022
The flower chart is on the bulletin board in the hallway,
or you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801
or e-mail, officeespc@gmail.com.*

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 1/1

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

Sunday 1/2

Psalm 66, 67, 145
Colossians 3:12-17, John 6:41-47

Monday 1/3

Psalm 68, 72, 1 Kings 19:9-18
Ephesians 4:17-32, John 6:15-27

Tuesday 1/4

Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29
Joshua 3:14-4:7
Ephesians 5:1-20
John 9:1-12, 35-38

Wednesday 1/5

Psalm 29, 98, Isaiah 66:18-23
Romans 15:7-13

Thursday 1/6

Psalm 46, 96, 97, 100
Isaiah 49:1-7
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21

Friday 1/7

Psalm 103, 114, 115
Deuteronomy 8:1-3
Colossians 1:1-14
John 6:30-33, 48-51

Saturday 1/8

Psalm 112, 113, 117, 118
Exodus 17:1-7
Colossians 1:15-23
John 7:37-52

Sunday 1/9

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Genesis 1:1-2:3
Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:29-34

Monday 1/10

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Genesis 2:4-25
Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 1/11

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Genesis 3:1-24
Hebrews 2:1-10, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 1/12

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 2:11-18, John 1:29-42

Thursday 1/13

Psalm 18, Genesis 4:17-26
Hebrews 3:1-11, John 1:43-51

Friday 1/14

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Genesis 6:1-8
Hebrews 3:12-19, John 2:1-12

Saturday 1/15

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Genesis 6:9-22
Hebrews 4:1-13, John 2:13-22

Sunday 1/16

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Genesis 7:1-23
Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19

Monday 1/17

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Genesis 8:6-22
Hebrews 4:14-5:6, John 2:23-3:15

Tuesday 1/18

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Genesis 9:1-17
Hebrews 5:7-14, John 3:16-21

Wednesday 1/19

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Genesis 9:18-29
Hebrews 6:1-12, John 3:22-36

Thursday 1/20

Psalm 37, Genesis 11:1-9
Hebrews 6:13-20, John 4:1-15

Friday 1/21

Psalm 31, 35, Genesis 11:27-12:8
Hebrews 7:1-17, John 4:16-26

Saturday 1/22

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Genesis 12:9-13:1
Hebrews 7:18-28, John 4:27-42

Sunday 1/23

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Genesis 13:2-18
Galatians 2:1-10, Mark 7:31-37

Monday 1/24

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Genesis 14:1-24
Hebrews 8:1-13, John 4:43-54

Tuesday 1/25

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21
Hebrews 9:1-14, John 5:1-18

Wednesday 1/26

Psalm 49, 119:49-72
Genesis 16:1-14
Hebrews 9:15-28, John 5:19-29

Thursday 1/27

Psalm 50, 118
Genesis 16:15-17:14
Hebrews 10:1-10, John 5:30-47

Friday 1/28

Psalm 40, 51, 54, Genesis 17:15-27
Hebrews 10:11-25, John 6:1-15

Saturday 1/29

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Genesis 18:1-16
Hebrews 10:26-39, John 6:16-27

Sunday 1/30

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

Monday 1/31

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



Advent Candle

First Sunday of Advent
The Bok Family
lighting the Advent Candle of Hope.



Third Sunday of Advent
The White Family
lighting the Advent Candle of Peace.

Second Sunday of Advent
Alex and Rylan McAdams
lighting the Advent Candle of Joy.



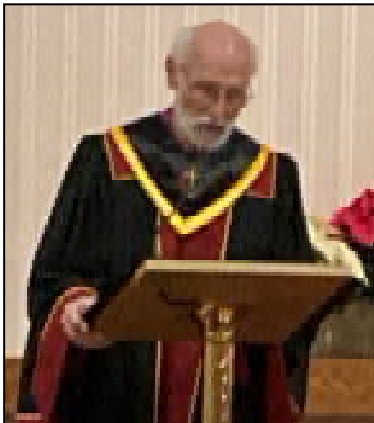
Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Cook Family
lighting the Advent Candle of Love.



Christmas Eve
Steve and Tahler Sdao
lighting the Christ Candle



Christmas



Missions



You are caring and compassionate. Thank you for sharing your love with our neighbors through the Festival of Sharing (health and school kits donated). Your heart for helping others is inspiring.

Thank you!
Your friends at Festival of Sharing

Thank You!

Thank you to those who help build the ramp on Brice Ave. in Lima.



Thank you to Jamie Wyant for heading up this very important outreach mission. You may get involved with this mission by volunteering your carpentry skills, or by making a monetary donation to the Ramp Fund.

Connecting With ...

Congratulations!

Adrianna Ellinger received the Special Interests County award for Allen County 4-H.



Thank you to Corinne Piper for standing out in the cold representing the Lima Host Lions Club, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive.



Brittany Scannell Playing in her final Christmas concert with the Elida Symphonic band.



Dear Shirley,

I want to thank you so much for the beautiful lap robe you sent me on Veterans Day. You do a beautiful job. And I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Sincerely,
Ted Sodders*

Thank you!

Dear Crafty Creatures,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl you made for my mom. It is beautiful and I'm sure as the weather gets colder she will reach for it to provide warmth. I explained to her how you gals all pray over the shawl and what a wonderful outreach ministry your shawls and quilts are. Thank you for your prayers and support as we try and figure out what is the best care for mom.

Love, Kathy

 **PRAYER
SHAWL MINISTRY** 

The People of St. Paul's



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Bill Nichols
Jack Swihart

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jack Swihart

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart



Dear Church Family,

My sister and I offer sincere thanks for the beautiful candle lanterns you sent to us in memory of Gene Lee, our brother. Thank you also for your loving support with prayers, cards, and words. We will treasure this gift and remember the comfort that our church family brings. We so appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*With love,
Nancy Gesler,
Gene and Linda Craft*

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers, and flowers following my recent surgery. I have a long recovery process ahead and it makes it so much easier with prayer warriors like all of you on my side.

We want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

*God Bless,
Deb Hurd*

Dear Church Family,

I appreciate all the caring messages and support during this difficult time.

Thank you so much for those who contributed to the service and the meal that followed.

I am Blessed with you, my church family,

Lavonne Segovia

*With Deepest
Sympathy*

Our sympathy to the family of Rudy Segovia who passed away on November 28 at the age of 95. Lavonne and Rudy we married nearly 66 years. A memorial service was held on December 16th. Our hearts and prayers also to Lavonne on the passing of their son, Bruce Segovia, on December 10. Condolences to Bruce's wife, Tammy and sons David and John Segovia families. A celebration of life will be held at a later date for Bruce. Cards may reach Lavonne at 925 N. Fraunfelter Rd. Elida, OH 45807. Cards may be sent to Tammy Segovia at 1450 Ivy Dr., Elida, OH 45807.

Meetings

January 3, 2022

PPR...7:00 PM

January 4, 2022

Trustees...7:00 PM

January 5, 2022

Worship Mtg..10 AM

January 10, 2022

Ad Council /Finance
Mtg...7:00PM

TBA

Missions Mtg.

Sundays

Prayer..9:30 AM




Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays

Choir...7:00PM

January 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						
						1 Tim Piper Ron Stewart
2	3 Dakota DeRose Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Calloway Clark Lois Cook	6 Adia Slemmons	7	8 Cynthia Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith
9 Larkin Wyant	10	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13 Carolyn Michael	14 Roger Henderson	15
						
						
<i>Paul & Marla Scannell January 8</i>						
<i>Gerald & Wanda Strayer January 13; 68 yrs.</i>						
<i>Andrew & Michele Lufin January 16</i>						
<i>Bill & Bev Nesbitt January 16</i>						
<i>Don & Maedene Holmes January 25; 63yrs.</i>						
16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup	22
23 Joanne Brag	24	25	26 Ginger Fox	27 Jackie Henderson	28	29
30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31 Judy strayer					

St. Paul's Featured Recipes

Snowman Soup Gift:

Snowman Soup

By Carole Grapner

Ingredients		Instructions
1 package	Hot Chocolate mix	Place all ingredients in a mug (one decorated with a snowman , would be cute). Wrap mug with plastic wrap and attach the poem to the mug handle.
3	Hershey Kisses	
15 or more	Mini Marshmallows, may place in small baggie	
1	Candy Cane	

Snowman Soup

When the weather outside is frightful,
Snowman soup can be delightful.
May it warm your heart,
your spirit and your soul,
Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

When you feel a chill or "burr",
Use the peppermint stick to stir.
Add hot water and sip it slow.
Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!



Snowman Soup

Was told you've been real good this year,
Always glad to hear it!
With freezing weather drawing near,
You'll need to warm the spirit.

So, here's a little Snowman Soup
Complete with stirring stick.
Now add hot water, sip it slow
It's sure to do the trick!



KIDZ KORNER

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.

PUZZLE



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but love your neig_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus_____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to love me _____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

—	father_____
—	pe_____
—	_____venge
—	_____od
—	_____rcy
—	op_____
—	_____hbor
—	humb_____
—	cas_____
—	_____lice

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them d _____ to you, for this s _____ms up the _____w and the Proph _____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, law, Prophets

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105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

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Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH

JANUARY 2022

Living Our Faith

Lighting the Way For Others

When Ida Nelson, head tribal clerk of a remote Alaskan village, heard an airplane flying low after dark, she knew something was wrong. Igiugig (Igggy-yaw-gigg), population 70, isn't normally a nighttime destination. Indeed, the medevac flight was coming to pick up a sick child.

Because the local airstrip's lights had been vandalized, the plane was having trouble landing. Nelson began alerting neighbors, and within minutes, villagers lined the runway with their vehicles, headlights blazing. The pilot was able to land and then safely deliver the sick child to an Anchorage hospital. The airlift service praised the residents' determination, but Nelson describes their effort as "normal" and "ordinary."

What everyday actions can you use to provide light amid darkness? How can you shine Jesus' light in a world that needs him?

Biblical Resolutions

Hold firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Petition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Notice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yearn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
Exercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols (adapted)