

# St. Paul's Epistle

Volume 47, Issue I

January, 2024

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church

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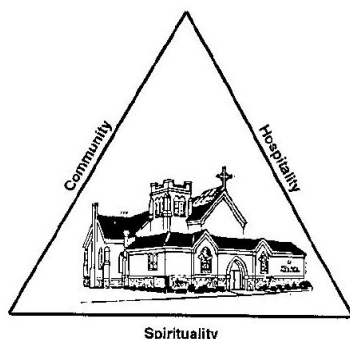
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## Pastor's Page

"Happy New Year" is the word that will be used when you see people for the first time in 2024. A declaration, a prayer, or a question, all three are optional ways to say the phrase. Declaring, I am happy for the new year, and wishing you and yours a happy new year too. Or, I pray you will have a happy new year, and I hope you will pray the same for me. Or, I know it has been a hard year for you and I ask you today, will it be a happy new year for us? No matter how it is said, know, when I wish you a Happy New Year, all of those apply.

Thank you to everyone who sent us gifts this year. I sampled all your treats and food even though I probably shouldn't have, and your other gifts will be put to good use. My family and I are always grateful for how much you love us, and show that love through your actions. St Paul's is a wonderful church, and I always brag about you to my colleagues and friends. Thank you again for all you do for us.

I had a complete miss on what it is I am supposed to be doing at the beginning of the year for sermons. I even set a reminder on my phone, but I was too far ahead, or the reminder was set too late, I still haven't decided. I just added it to my calendar for the middle of October in 2024, I hope it is early enough. Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you what I am talking about. January is the *Women of Faith Sermon Series*, and I am on the hunt for the women of faith in our world because last year, we used women of the Bible. I am always excited to journey into a world I don't always understand, but I am always ready to learn about it. In the past, we have looked at Katie Luther, Susanna Wesley, Mother Teresa, Corrie Ten Boom, Perpetua, Monica, Amy Carmicheal, and The Catherines, I hope you will join me as we begin "Women of Faith" on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, when I say Happy New Year, it is so much more than a greeting with no meaning, and I encourage you to pray that we will all have a blessed new year. I hope to see you on Sundays in person or online, but until then, I will keep my eyes open for you in the mission field.

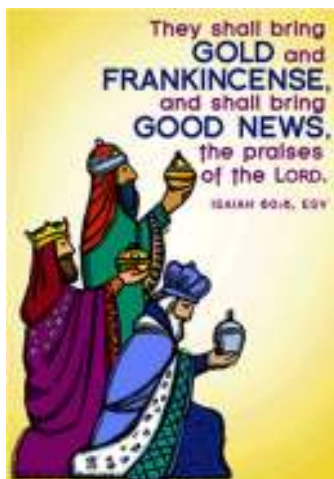
Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*



**January 7**  
**Coins For Communion to**  
**benefit Heartbeat of Lima.**

**Epiphany Sunday**  
**January 7**



**Food Pantry Sunday**  
**January 14**  
**Items needed:**  
**Complete meal boxes; pizza**  
**mixes with everything in pkg.**  
**Spaghetti meals etc.**  
**Items are taken to the**  
**5 Loaves Food Pantry,**  
**at the Church at Allentown.**

**January 15**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**January**  
**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

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

### **Christian Symbol**

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

#### **St. Paul's Epistle**

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



#### **LATIN CROSS**

The Latin cross is the simplest and most common form of the Christian cross, possibly dating from the second or third century. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians typically display a crucifix — an image of Jesus hanging on the cross — to remember his death for the sake of the world. Protestant churches often favor the empty cross, commemorating Jesus' resurrection.

## Our Source Of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:  
Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!  
—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"  
[see 2 Corinthians 4:6].  
—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City



## Children's Church



# Faith In Action

## Worship Attendance:

December 3, 2023	79
December 10, 2023	52
December 17, 2023	83
December 24, 2023	104
December 24, 2023 900 PM	72

## Financial Giving

Weekly Need for  
Unified Ministry Budget  
\$4,187.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
December 3, 2023	\$4,101.40	\$396.52
December 10, 2023	\$7,916.49	\$155.00
December 17, 2023	\$4,345.00	\$1,228.50
December 24, 2023	\$6,756.13	\$901.50

## Sunday School Attendance

December 3, 2023	15
December 10, 2023	7
December 17, 2023	17
December 24, 2023	13

## Hospitality Cart

January 7, 2024	OPEN
January 14, 2024	OPEN
January 21, 2024	OPEN
January 28, 2024	OPEN

## Altar Flowers

January 7, 2024	Lavonne Segovia
January 14, 2024	Dominic & Kelly DeRose
January 21, 2024	Scott & Beth Warris
January 28, 2024	Cody & Briana Warris

## 2024 Altar Flowers

If you would like to signup for Altar flowers for 2024, the flower calendar is on bulletin board in hallway , or you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801 or e-mail: [officeespc@gmail.com](mailto:officeespc@gmail.com).

# Daily Bible Readings

## Monday 1/1

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

## Tuesday 1/2

Psalm 33, 34, 1 Kings 19:1-8  
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:1-14

## Wednesday 1/3

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

## Thursday 1/4

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

## Friday 1/5

Psalm 2, 110, Jonah 2:2-9  
Ephesians 6:10-20, John 11:17-44

## Saturday 1/6

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

## Friday 1/12

Psalm 91, 92, 14, 150  
Isaiah 55:3-9  
Colossians 3:1-17, John 14:6-14

## Saturday 1/13

Psalm 98, 99, 100  
Genesis 49:1-12  
Colossians 3:18-4:6, John 15:10-16

## Sunday 1/14

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

## Monday 1/15

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

## Tuesday 1/16

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

## Wednesday 1/17

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

## Thursday 1/18

Psalm 18:1-50, Genesis 4:17-26  
Hebrews 3:1-11, John 1:43-51

## Friday 1/19

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

## Saturday 1/20

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

## Sunday 1/21

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

## Monday 1/22

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

## Tuesday 1/23

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

## Wednesday 1/24

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

## Thursday 1/25

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

## Friday 1/26

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

## Saturday 1/27

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

## Sunday 1/28

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

## Monday 1/29

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

## Tuesday 1/30

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

## Wednesday 1/31

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



## December Worship



Thank You to the McAdams Family  
and to Myrna Metzger for the  
beautifully decorated sanctuary!



**Thank You!!**  
Lois Cook—Pianist.  
Judy Chaffins—Choir director  
Choir members  
for the beautiful songs of Christmas



**Thank you!!**  
Liturgist—Corinne Piper  
Acolyte— Jackson Rife,  
and Lena Whetstone



**Special Music**  
Lena Whetstone - Piano  
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - C. Wesley

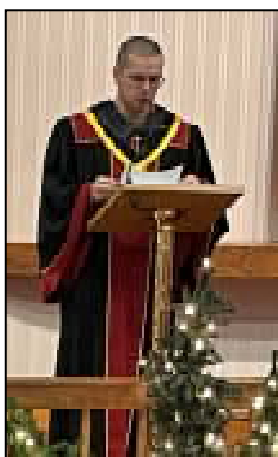


# Advent Candle

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



Second Sunday of Advent  
The Scannell Family  
lighting the Advent Candle of Joy.



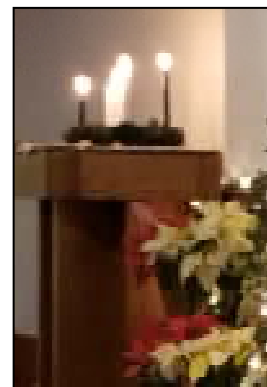
Third Sunday of Advent  
Steve and Tracy Sdao  
lighting the Advent Candle of Peace.



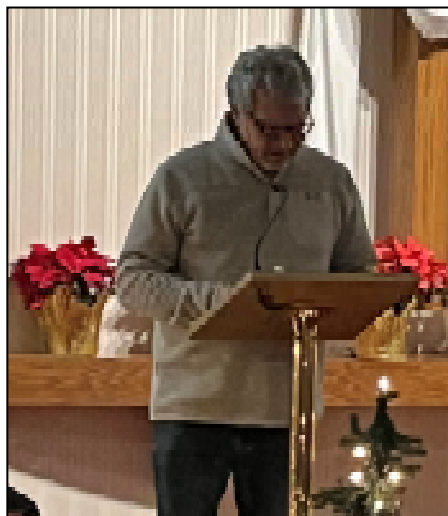
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
The Cook Family  
lighting the Advent Candle of Love.



Christmas Eve  
The McAdams Family  
lighting the Christ Candle



# Christmas Eve



Brittany Scannell - Flute  
Lois Cook- Piano accompaniment  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "The First Noel"



## Connecting With ...



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Lauren and Austin Clark on the birth of their son, Cavanaugh Charles Clark, who arrived Monday, December 18 at 8:55 am, weighing 7 lbs 2 oz. and 19" long, with a full head of hair! Mommy and baby are both doing great and big brother Calloway is very proud of the new family addition. Cards may be sent to the Clark family at 4765 N. Wapak Rd., Elida, OH 45807.

A rosebud was on the altar Sunday, December 24 in honor of Cavanaugh.



*Dear Crafty Creatures,  
Thank you for the Comfort blanket,  
you touched our hearts.*

*Brad Mault &  
Theresa Mault*

 PRAYER  
SHAWL MINISTRY

*Thank you!*

*Crafty Creatures,  
Thank you for the lovely quilt.*

*Patty Hunlock,  
at Burton Ridge Nursing Home*



### Home Electronic Organ

Instruction manuals and music included. Now that Tim's mother has passed, her electronic organ needs a new home to share its music. It has been serviced and is in working order. Free to anyone who can move it.

Contact Corinne Piper, 419-235-2320 with questions or requests.

# The People of St. Paul's

*Dear St. Paul's Church Family,  
Thank you for the many cards and  
newsletters that you send to Ray.  
We always share them with him  
and he enjoys seeing pictures of  
his friends in the newsletter.*

*Many Blessings,  
Ray and Amy Trigg*

*Thank You!*

*To Our Church Family,  
You are a blessing to Don  
and I during my recovery  
from surgery. I have about  
8 more weeks to go.  
Thank you to Pastor Paul  
for his phone calls, also  
thank you for all the cards,  
phone calls, flowers, and  
food. God Bless you all!*

*Love In Christ,  
Mary Irvin*



## Remember in Prayer

*Recovering from Surgery  
or in the Hospital*

*Martha Vazquez*

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

*Martha Vazquez*

*In the Military & Missions*

*Nathan Stewart*

## Two Ships

The year like a ship in the distance  
comes over life's mystical sea.  
We know not what change of existence  
'tis bringing to you or to me.  
But we wave out the ship that is leaving  
and we welcome the ship coming in,  
although it be loaded with grieving,  
with trouble, or losses, or sin. ...

The new ship comes nearer and nearer,  
we know not what freight she may hold.  
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;  
our hearts are courageous and bold.  
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.  
Sail in with new banners unfurled.  
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.  
Sail in with new tasks for the world.

—from "New Year," Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## Meetings

January 2, 2024  
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 3, 2024  
Worship Mtg..10 AM

January 8, 2024  
PPR...7:00 PM

NO  
Ad Council /Finance  
Mtg

January 18, 2024  
Missions Mtg.. 7:00  
PM

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

Wednesdays  
Choir...7:00PM

# JANUARY 2024

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 Brian Nartker
14 Roger Henderson	15	16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby	18	19	20
21 Adrianna Ellinger	22	23 Joanne Bragg	24	25	26 Ginger Fox	27 Jacalyn Henderson
28	29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31 Austin Clark	JANUARY Birthdays		

JANUARY  
Anniversaries

Paul & Marla  
Scannell  
January 8

Gerald & Wanda  
Strayer  
January 13; 70 yrs.

Andrew & Michele  
Luhin  
January 16

Don & Maedene  
Holmes  
January 25; 65yrs.

NEW YEAR  
NEW BEGINNINGS

# St. Paul's Featured Recipes

## Old World Italian Beef Roll

*By Mary Grigsby*

Ingredients		Instructions
2 slices	Salami or pepperoni, Cut in 1 inch slices	<p>Preheat oven to 350 degrees.</p> <p>Have a meat cutter run the steak through the tenderizer at the grocery store so that it is about 1/2 inch thick.</p> <p>In small bowl, combine the first eight ingredients. Spread over the steak.</p> <p>Roll up jelly roll style, starting with the long side, tie with string.</p> <p>In a heavy skillet, heat oil. Brown meat on all sides.</p> <p>Add water. Cover, and bake for 50 to 60 minutes.</p> <p>Let stand 5 minutes. Remove string.</p> <p>Cut steak into 1/2 inch slices.</p> <p>Serve with spaghetti sauce and pasta.</p>
1/2 cup	Bread crumbs, seasoned	
1/4 cup	Parmesan cheese	
1/2 tsp.	Garlic salt	
1 tsp.	Parsley, fresh	
1/4 tsp.	Pepper	
1	Egg, slightly beaten	
2 Tbl.	Hot water	
1	Round steak, 1 1/2 lb.	
2 Tbl.	Cooking oil	
3/4 cup	Water	



Submit  
Your  
Recipes



Recipes may be turned into  
the church office.

e-mailed to the church,  
officeespc@gmail.com

Or mailed to;  
St. Paul's UMC  
105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

### Thought for the Month:

Carry out a random act  
of kindness, with no  
expectation of reward.

—Princess Diana

# KIDZ KORNER

New  
INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



PUZZLE



## HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The last Monday \_ \_

The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

One day before the 20th \_ \_

The day before the first Friday \_ \_

The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The day after the 20th \_ \_

The day after 18th \_ \_

The first day of the second weekend \_

The last Sunday \_ \_ \_

The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



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

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

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**Our Web Address:**  
**[www.elidastpaulschurch.org](http://www.elidastpaulschurch.org)**

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

**Twitter Account**  
**@ESPCHURCH**



## Living Our Faith

### Making The most Of Ordinary Time

In liturgical churches, more than half of the church-year calendar is labeled as Ordinary Time. Although that merely means the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers (*First Sunday after the Epiphany*, etc.), people may assume that “ordinary” means not special, or not a church holiday.

Ordinary gets a bad rap, but it represents the bulk of daily life. Not all days contain mountaintop experiences that warrant Facebook posts. Yet “simple, consistent, sometimes boring faithfulness” can lead to out-of-the-ordinary results, according to blogger Karl Vaters. “When you’re following God’s will for your life and you string a bunch of ordinary but necessary actions together, extraordinary things can happen,” he writes at ChristianityToday.com.

Likewise, although Christians may strive to be radical, out-of-the-ordinary followers of Jesus, everyday discipleship leaves a powerful legacy. In *The Ordinary Christian Life*, pastor Michael Horton extols the value of “the regular preaching of Christ from all of the Scriptures, baptism, the Supper, the prayers of confession and praise, and all of the other aspects of ordinary Christian fellowship.” He says the result of participating in “the ordinary life of the covenant community” is quite extraordinary: “steady maturation in Christ.”

—adapted from *The Wired Word*