

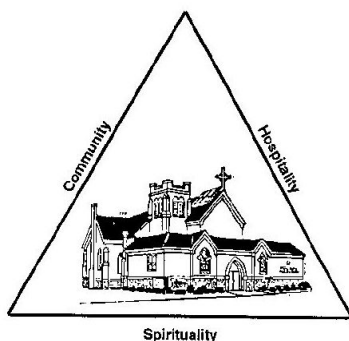
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 46, Issue 7

July, 2023

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July is here, and by the time you read this, I'll be back from moving one child and on my way to pick another one up from walking in the woods. Some of you have asked me how we can let Cody go walking in the woods alone for 2 weeks, and that is a very good question. I have mentioned before that I come from a long line of weird people, and I believe that has something to do with it, but more importantly, I come from a long line of faithful people. Our job as parents is to teach our children to be independent, and that is what our goal has been for each of our children. It started with David in 2012, asking us to summit the highest mountain in Colorado, when we were on vacation. I told him if he had a plan I could see, I would let him, thinking he would never put the plan together. Needless to say, one morning of our vacation, I dropped David off at the bottom of Mt. Elbert and later that day received a picture on my cell phone of David summiting and a message telling me when to pick him up. I have a daughter moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, to pursue her lifelong ambition and another daughter who has exceeded all my expectations. That is not to say, that something bad could happen to any of us at any moment, but Marla and I fully trust God to be present with our children, and should the worst happen, we know they were doing exactly what they wanted to do. We are also 100% sure they will always be in the arms of Jesus. I still worry about my kids, don't get me wrong, I just know God is with them, and God's plan is bigger than mine. Faith is a word, but more importantly, it is an action, *teach them in the way they should go, even when they are old, they will not depart from it*, Proverbs 22:6. Keep the faith, and remember, God is with you.

We have a few things coming up in the next thirty days: The 15th and final Brad Joseph Memorial Golf outing will take place on July 15. We have all the help we need, thank you. National Night Out is August 1st and we are going to need people to help with the children's blowup bounce activity we are going to sponsor, It is an opportunity for us to be present in our community. Kids will be playing, parents will be talking, and I hope Elida will see we are here for the community. There will be a sign-up sheet in a couple of weeks for volunteers to represent Elida St Paul's. I hope we will have enough people to make the shifts 1 hour. Thanks in advance for helping out. Stay safe, and as always, I'll see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

P.S. While I wrote this article I received a video from the wilderness, a bear in the woods!! The phone call, and I quote, "It wasn't bothering me, so I didn't bother it" was a relief. Faith, is always an action word!

July 2
 'Coins for Communion'
 to benefit the
Brad Joseph Memorial Fund



July 16
**Five Loaves Food Pantry
 At The Church at Allentown**

Suggested Items:
 Drink mixes and shelf-stable milk
 and dry milk

BOOK CLUB
Saturday, July 8
at 9:00 AM

"Hiking Through"
 By: *Paul Stutzman*

All Are Welcome!

Thought for the Month:

Instructions for living a life.
 Pay attention. Be astonished.
 Tell about it.

—Mary Oliver

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

DOLPHIN

Because dolphins often swim alongside ships, they've been used to symbolize Christ's presence, guiding people through earthly life and into eternal life. Although they're mammals, dolphins have been depicted as the fish that swallowed Jonah. Jesus compared his three days inside the tomb to Jonah's three days inside the fish, so dolphins also came to symbolize resurrection

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Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
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MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING



Saturday, July 15
 Tee Time: 9:00 AM
 Colonial Golfers Club
 10985 Harding Hwy.
 Harrod, OH 45850
 419-649-3350

- Activity Highlights:**
- Award luncheon and ceremony
 - Team prizes
 - 18 holes of golf, with cart
 - Shotgun start
 - 4 person scramble

**This is the Final
 Brad Joseph Golf Outing**


Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

National Night Out
August 1, 2023
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 Elida Field House Parking lot

National Night Out is observed annually on the 1st Tuesday in August.


It is a community first responders awareness-raising event throughout the United States.

St. Paul's, once again, will have a booth. Volunteers are needed.



Sunnydale House Project
5K Run
September 4, at 9:00 AM
(Labor Day)

Volunteers needed at watering stations for the runners, in front of the church on Main St., and at the fieldhouse parking lot. If you would like to help, there will be a sign-up sheet at the media desk closer to the date.



2023 Annual Conference

Annual Conference Summary

Linda Craft, Lay Delegate

Pastor Paul drove us to The Dayton Convention Hall each day for the 54th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference, which was the first in-person annual conference since 2019. Bishop Gregory Palmer presided over the conference using the theme, "Committed, Connected, Community" based on Hebrews 10:23-25.

Thursday morning began with Clergy and Laity Sessions. Following this, we engaged in a teaching lesson led by Reba Collins, Community Engagement Coordinator for West Ohio Justice ministry, All in Community. She led us in interactive activities to help us understand ways, to have a better-connected community and church. We shared experiences, with each other, on how we feel connected or disconnected from a community. A thoughtful idea to consider is that it takes 90 seconds to connect and only 4 seconds to disconnect. Judgment is an obstacle that keeps us from connection and community. Self-judgment drives the judgment of others, and judgment causes division.

Sprinkled throughout the conference time, many reports, celebrations, awards, offerings, services, recommendations, and Fixing of Appointments occurred. You may view these at westohioumc.org/ac/2023.

During the legislative time, nine recommendations were presented to vote upon. All recommendations passed, except for number 4 which concerned our three camps. The Board of Trustees withdrew this recommendation to allow more time to study potential options for the disposition of the camps and retreat properties. This recommendation will be presented again, at the special October conference. It was also announced that adequate staffing could not be met this year; therefore, no camping programs will be operational.

During the Episcopal Address, Bishop Palmer stated that our calling is to serve this present age during this storm, and one of our storms is disaffiliation. We have given much attention to disaffiliation, but we were reminded that this challenge is not Jesus' mission nor the mission of The United Methodist Church. Our one mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In other business of the conference, we were told, 172 churches requested disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. This was supported by conference members. North Star churches are prepared to welcome United Methodists, whose home churches have disaffiliated. Bishop Palmer concluded, saying, "Our focus will continue to be on a vibrant future for the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, and its more than 700 churches and the communities in which they serve."



Family Promise Mission

What does volunteering look like for you? How can we—together—make a difference in a Family's life? This is such a fine time to be apart of all the exciting opportunities of having Family Promise as a new static site!

We are BLESSED and extremely GRATEFUL to each of you!!

Helpful Dinner Host Hints:

- Parking is in the backside of the building, , and the entrance to the Host Kitchen is the 1st door on the left. (sign will be posted on the door)
- Please call ahead to let the staff know when you arrive and we can greet you and/or help carry items. 419-879-4600
- Tables will be set up in the gym upon your arrival—the exception is on Tuesdays. All meals and activities will need to be held in the upper Family Day Center and Kitchen. This is due to a pre-scheduled basketball league practice held in the gym.
- The Dinner Host is scheduled between 5:00 PM—7:00 PM. However, if you have an activity or craft, a game, or the conversation is flowing, that time can be adjusted a bit, as needed.
- Meals and drinks will be your choice, simple is usually better. You could bring the dinner ready-to-serve, or we could arrange for you to come early and prepare it with the families. We do suggest the meals be served between 5:00-5:30 PM so the families can plan ahead for their children.
- Enjoy the meal with them! Have the families assist with clean-up, too.
- The Meal Train website will be updated with any specific allergies, ages, and family totals. Please understand we do our very best to update any changes immediately, however, as with any family gathering, there are times the unexpected can occur.
- Ask about more ways you can volunteer to come back!

**Thank you so much for partnering with us here at Family Promise.
We couldn't do what we do...without YOU!!**

Because EVERY Child Deserves a Home!



Family Promise Mission Friday, July 28

Meals are provided to those families being housed through Family Promise Mission.

Contact Tim Piper for more information.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
June 4, 2023	55
June 11, 2023	56
June 18, 2023 <i>Father's Day</i>	71
June 25, 2023	57

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$4,187.00

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
June 4, 2023	\$5,655.00	\$391.10
June 11, 2023	\$2,635.00	\$95.00
June 18, 2023	\$2,549.92	\$670.00
June 25, 2023	\$1,610.00	\$2,735.00

Sunday School Attendance	
June 4, 2023	6
June 11, 2023	9
June 18, 2023	9
June 25, 2023	7

Hospitality Cart	
July 2, 2023	OPEN
July 9, 2023	Deb Hurd
July 16, 2023	OPEN
July 23, 2023	OPEN
July 30, 2023	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
July 2, 2023	Scott & Gail Fessler
July 9, 2023	OPEN
July 16, 2023	Tim & Corinne Piper
July 23, 2023	Lois Cook
July 30, 2023	OPEN



Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 7/1

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Luke 20:1-8

Sunday 7/2

Psalm 34, 93, 96
Revelation 15:1-8
Matthew 18:1-14

Monday 7/3

Psalm 79, 80, 1 Samuel 1:1-20
Acts 1:1-14, Luke 20:9-19

Tuesday 7/4

Psalm 78
1 Samuel 1:21-2:11
Acts 1:15-26, Luke 20:19-26

Wednesday 7/5

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
1 Samuel 2:12-26
Acts 2:1-21, Luke 20:27-40

Thursday 7/6

Psalm 83, 85, 86
1 Samuel 2:27-36
Acts 2:22-36, Luke 20:41-21:4

Friday 7/7

Psalm 88, 91, 92
1 Samuel 3:1-21
Acts 2:37-47, Luke 21:5-19

Saturday 7/8

Psalm 87, 90, 136
1 Samuel 4:1b-11
Acts 4:32-5:11, Luke 21:20-28

Sunday 7/9

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 667
1 Samuel 4:12-22
James 1:1-18
Matthew 19:23-30

Monday 7/10

Psalm 89, 1 Samuel 5:1-12
Acts 5:12-26, Luke 21:29-36

Tuesday 7/11

Psalm 95, 100, 1 Samuel 6:1-16
Acts 5:27-42
Luke 21:37-22:13

Wednesday 7/12

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
1 Samuel 7:2-17
Acts 6:1-15, Luke 22:14-23

Thursday 7/13

Psalm 105, 1 Samuel 8:1-22
Acts 6:15-7:16, Luke 22:14-23

Friday 7/14

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
1 Samuel 9:1-14
Acts 7:17-29, Luke 22:31-38

Saturday 7/15

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
1 Samuel 9:15-10:1
Acts 7:30-43, Luke 22:39-51

Sunday 7/16

Psalm 118, 145
1 Samuel 10:1-16
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 21:23-32

Monday 7/17

Psalm 106, 1 Samuel 10:17-27
Acts 7:44-8:1, Luke 22:52-62

Tuesday 7/18

Psalm 120, 127, 1 Samuel 11:1-15
Acts 8:1-13, Luke 22:63-71

Wednesday 7/19

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
1 Samuel 12:1-6, 16-25
Acts 8:14-25, Luke 23:1-12

Thursday 7/20

Psalm 133, 134, 135
1 Samuel 13:5-18
Acts 8:26-40, Luke 23:13-25

Friday 7/21

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143:1-11(12)
1 Samuel 13:19-14:15
Acta 9:1-9, Luke 23:26-31

Saturday 7/22

Psalm 104, 137, 144
1 Samuel 14:16-30
Acts 9:10-19a
Luke 23:32-43

Sunday 7/23

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
1 Samuel 14:36-45
Romans 5:1-11
Matthew 22:1-14

Monday 7/24

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-23
Acts 9:19b-31, Luke 23:44-56a

Tuesday 7/25

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
1 Samuel 15:24-35
Acts 9:32-43
Luke 23:56b-24:11

Wednesday 7/26

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Acts 10:1-16
Luke 24:12-35

Thursday 7/27

Psalm 18, 1 Samuel 16:14-27:11
Acts 10:17-33, Luke 24:36-53

Friday 7/28

Psalm 16, 17, 22
1 Samuel 17:17-30
Acts 10:34-48, Mark 1:1-13

Saturday 7/29

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
1 Samuel 17:31-49
Acts 11:1-18, Mark 1:14-28

Sunday 7/30

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
1 Samuel 17:50-18:4
Romans 10:4-17
Matthew 23:29-39

Monday 7/31

Psalm 9, 15, 25
1 Samuel 18:5-30
Acts 11:19-30, Mark 1:29-45



Nurture Committee

*Judy Chaffins and Jan Wyant.
Co-Chairs of Nurture Committee*

It has been a year. Sometimes most joyful, sometimes, most painful. But through it all, St. Paul's has been an instrument of Christ's love. We have grieved lost loved ones. We have celebrated births, holidays, and other fun times together. We have invited those outside our usual gatherings. We have renewed the bonds that tie us to each other.

Here are a few memories to reflect upon:

Funeral dinners or recognitions were made special for each, due to the nature of the souls involved. Each with sadness. But also joy, because as Christians, we know these loved ones are in a place with renewed bodies and experiencing indescribable joy and peace in heaven. Jesus assured us this would be so.

We celebrated new life: Paisley Gerdeman, Greyson McAdams, and Baylor McAdams, In the fall, we celebrated All Saint's Sunday with reflections and special ornaments for the tree, followed by a meal of Thanksgiving.

We honored long-time members moving away: Marty, Kathy, and AJ White, with a special luncheon after the worship service.

At Christmas time, the Crafty Creatures small group presold chocolates to help raise money to make those special quilts and prayer shawls that comfort and connect individuals receiving them to a tangible expression of thoughtfulness and caring.

We had a Valentine's Luncheon after church, and many made special "sacks" to keep and to share with others.

At Easter, Susan Nartker organized our traditional Easter Breakfast with great success. This time of fellowship was brought back after a few years of absence due to Covid.

In the spring, we provided a Ladies/Girls' Day Tea, for the first time. We were in awe as we saw new and old faces, witnessed so many smiles, and heard so many fun conversation. We served food to over 100 people, and Lena Whetstone blessed us by playing the piano and singing, that afternoon.

Virginia Hollar, agreed to be the chairperson for organizing funeral dinners. She has handled the job with precision and provides comfort to the families as they gather after saying goodbye to their loved ones.

The one constant through it all is the generosity of our membership and beyond. People donated money, food, time, and service. Some helped with setup. Many contributed by serving and/or helping to clean up. All are valued.

As we have reflected on this year, we feel the deepest gratitude and strong need to publicly thank all those who have helped us function in ways that bring forth good interactions and the love of Christ.

Continued on pg. 9

Nurture Committee cont.

Bless all of you who participated in whatever way you could. We experienced times when Dave Decker had set up or taken down tables before we could get to it. We watched all the various dishwashers: Corinne Piper, Lavone Segovia, Paul Scannell, and Marla Scannell, are a few that come to mind, yet many more took part. We had many helpers tear down tables and chairs over and over again! Jamie Wyant, Dan Best, Paul Scannell, and Zakk Henderson also served gallantly at the Ladies/Girls' Day Tea so the work would not fall solely on the women.

To all those who donated food. Oh my, what would we do without you??? Your cooking is just delicious. Here is a list, and many, many thanks to those who donated food or money to help buy needed items: Sue Theodore, Margie Best, Julie Bok, Lynda Evans, Tracy Sdao, Janna Thompson, Kathy Furry, Lois Cook, Linda Craft, Myrna Metzger, Jean and Karla May, Deb Hurd, Austin and Lauren Clark, Martha Vazquez, Ben and Casey Rife, Carole Grapner, Gail Fessler, Dottie Jennell, Barb Schade, Gloria Brunk, Chelsey Cook, Virginia Doseck, Nancy Gesler, Maedene Holmes, Mary Irvin, Nancy Kizer, Sharla Murphy, Slone Whetstone, Cari Metzger, Susan Narker, Tahler Sdao, Lavonne Segovia, Cindy Swihart, Anne Laman, Dave Decker, Jamie Wyant, Paul Scannell, Marla Scannell, Norm Grigsby, Shirley Moser, and Connie Mault. If we've inadvertently missed your name here, let us know. Our records and/or memories lack perfection on occasion.

It takes a church village. We came together to put Christ's love into action. We pray you will get the rest and recreation you need this summer to be able to come forth and work together again for God's goodness on earth.

With the most sincere and humble thanks to all of you.
Our hearts are so very, very grateful!!!



The Nurture committee is always seeking volunteers:

If there is an activity you would like to get involved with that the nurture committee is doing or you have ideas to share, contact Judy Chaffins or Jan Wyant.

If you would like to help with funeral dinners, and have not been contacted, whether fixing food or helping to serve the meal, please contact the church office or Virginia Hollar to be added to the contact list.

Legacy

The Legacy of Linda Holman

By Judy Chaffins

Our hearts were deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague, Linda Holman, on June 10, 2023. She had just passed her eightieth birthday on March 12th. Anyone involved in our church would know how many ways Linda interacted at St. Paul's. She was the organist, played the piano, performed many beautiful duets with Lois Cook for worship services, and added beautiful flute music for our Christmas services, as well as many other times, along with singing in the choir. She regularly volunteered to do duets, trios, and quartets. She invited us to attend the Hallelujah Saint's Band, the Lima Concert Band, Civic Chorus, and Lima Symphony and Chorus, as she played and supported all of those groups tirelessly. During our Covid years, she always provided beautiful music from the organ to broadcast to all who tuned in to our services.

She headed up the Senior Luncheons for many years. In these, she always had a theme and activity for seniors to not only receive a great meal but to have additional stimulation and socialization, to take away from the event.

Linda was a great cook, and added many a good dish to any dinner St. Paul's conducted. She was pivotal in the Koinonia Chicken Barbecue fundraisers as she typically organized the making of the delicious potato salad creation with a recipe her own mother had used at Bath Local Schools. She was highly praised for all the great cherry pies she made, and all looked forward to eating the delicious cherries she had handpicked from her many Michigan trips to Bear Lake, her home away from home.

She was always willing to host a Koinonia meeting at her home and provided a welcoming atmosphere to all who attended.

Linda had energy and a drive that surpassed most of us. She rarely used the word, "no," and always had a pleasant demeanor to interact with all she encountered. In previous times, she headed up Vacation Bible School, directed the choir, organized many funeral dinners, served as a lay delegate to larger church events, including General Conferences at Lakeside, and attended many administrative meetings, to help plan and organize countless numbers of worship services, Sunday School, and fundraising events, and many other avenues to promote St. Paul's, and put the message of Jesus' love forth for all to hear and experience.

Linda's legacy to St. Paul's United Methodist Church is one of service and humility. She did not ask for recognition, and many had no idea how much time and effort she put into our church. She was often willing to drive the six-hour trip from Bear Lake home in order to play for worship service or choir if needed. Her life and circumstances were unique. Sometimes we fail to recognize the totality of what others offer until they are gone. Linda leaves a large gap in our church and big shoes to fill. She will be sorely and deeply missed, but always remembered and cherished.

Father's Day




Special Music:
Casey Rife
Piano Prelude
"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"
 Arr. D. Nevue

Father's Day Tribute
Ladies of the Choir
"The Gift of Love"
 H. H. Hopson

Happy
 Father's
 Day



**Passing out
 mini doughnuts
 to all the Men
 in the
 Congregation!**




The People of St. Paul's

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.

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
 Jean Thomas

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement
 Lois Rabley
 Ted and Jan Sodders
 Wanda Strayer

In the Military & Missions
 Nathan Stewart

Keep Trying

In *The God Who Stays*, contemporary Christian musician Matthew West writes about the pandemic's fear-filled early days. After his concert tour was abruptly canceled in March 2020, he rode to an airport "feeling utterly hopeless about a world that was spinning out of control."

Then Arthur, his ride-share driver, began singing along to the radio — and the song happened to be West's "The God Who Stays." West joined in, jokingly asking how he sounded. "Not so good," Arthur replied, not knowing West's identity. "You keep trying."

The driver shared how those lyrics uplifted him during life's difficulties, and West later recalled that conversation during lockdown, while wondering where God was. The musician realized he had "settled for a socially distant relationship with the One who is nearer than I dare to believe, closer than the air I breathe." But West pictured "God running toward me with open arms like the prodigal's father," and he resolved to keep trying — and to grow closer to the God who always stays.



Meetings

No PPR
 No Trustee
 No Worship Mtg
 No Ad Council / Finance
 No Missions Mtg
 Sundays Hospitality...9:30 AM
 Worship...10:00 AM

JULY 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Ginger Fox
 July 6; 41 yrs.

Mitchell & Kathy Furry
 July 8; 45 yrs.

Travis & Julia Bok
 July 17

Tim & Corinne Piper
 July 17; 47 yrs.

Bill & Marlene Weaver
 July 18; 72 yrs.

Tim & Sue Theodore
 July 20

Denny & Carole Grapner
 July 26; 60 yrs.

						1 Anika Bok Lucy Chaffins Jenni Jankovsky Jean Thomas
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Don Holmes	11 Emma White	12	13	14 Gloria Brunk Brady Emmons Drew White	15
16 Kim Crates	17	18 Madeline Kuenzli Zachary Loose	19 Macy Chambers	20	21 Savannah Emmons	22 Travis Bok Carole Grapner
23 Bryan Craft	24	25 Ian House	26	27 Ella Motzer Gretchen Woeller	28 Juniper Jankovsky Katie white	29 Sharla Murphy
30 Jonathan Perry Ethan Thomas	31 Jan Wyant					

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Star-Spangled Lemon Icebox Pie

By Virginia Hollar

Ingredients		Instructions
15	Pecan shortbread cookies (Pecan sandies)	Preheat oven 350 degrees. Place cookies and sugar in a food processor until ground. Add melted butter and stir until combined.
1 Tbl.	Sugar	
3 Tbl.	Butter	Press mixture into the bottom and sides of 9-inch pie plate. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool on wire rack.
8 oz.	Cream Cheese, softened	
1/2 cup	Mascarpone cheese *(Italian Cream cheese)*	Using a hand or stand mixer with a large bowl, beat cheeses, lemon zest, and lemon juice until smooth. Gradually add milk.
1 Tbl.	Lemon zest, grated	
1/2 cup	Lemon juice	Spread mixture into crust. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours or until filling is set. Place strawberries around the edges of the pie and arrange blueberries into a star shape in the center.
1 can 14 oz	Sweetened condensed milk	
1 cup	Strawberries, sliced	Serves 8 ** If you can't find mascarpone cheese—typically found in the specialty cheese case—swap in an equal amount of full-fat Greek yogurt or sour cream.**
1 cup	Blueberries	



KIDZ KORNER

Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12.
How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

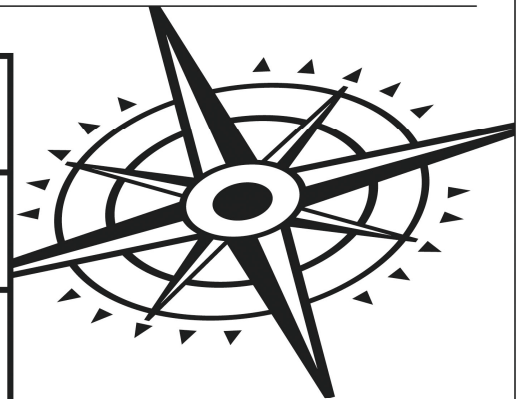


SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.
What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	as do far EAST	the THIS up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west

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

Turn Your Platform Into An Altar

Having a platform — or an avenue to communicate with lots of people — can be useful to share important messages, as long as we don't focus on our number of followers and pageviews. A platform also may tempt us to think we're the gift being offered; instead, I like to picture an altar. It's a place of offering and humility, where we give sacrificially through the reach God provides.

Use these reminders to view your platform as an altar:

- Strive to obey and trust God, who calls and strengthens you.
- Be a good steward of God's gifts and messages, caring for the people you're reaching.
- Avoid comparisons with others, looking to God alone for validation and approval

Through Abraham's willingness to surrender his only son, the Old Testament patriarch modeled how a platform can become an altar. So did Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, who became the ultimate sacrifice to pay our debt. As his New Testament followers, it's our privilege to invite others into this paradoxical kingdom, to give of ourselves as a living sacrifice.

—Monica Wilkinson