

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

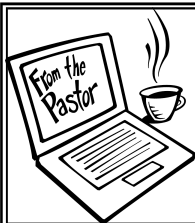
officeespc@gmail.com

Rev. Paul Scannell
419/909-9419

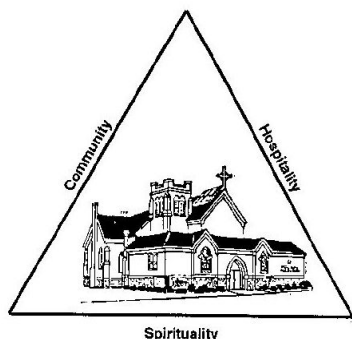
Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

pastorespc@gmail.com

4pastor paul@gmail.com



What to do, what to do? The garden boxes I have out back have rotted away over the years and needed to be removed and replaced this year. I had made the previous boxes with wood, it was simple construction with pine boards, not expensive at the time. To replace them was not within the Scannell budget, especially if they were only going to last 5 years, so I decided to make some from corrugated metal and wooden frames. I priced used metal and was floored by the price, so now, we have downsized the boxes. I wanted to have all this finished by the middle of May, and now the last boxes will be delivered the first or second week of June. Planting is late, some would scrap the season and move on, but there are short-length things I can grow in the garden, so plants and seeds will go in the ground. I have hope there will be a harvest.



God at times, doesn't answer our prayers in a timely way, sometimes God delays our timetable, and sometimes God asks us to change our plans to fit a heavenly timeline. We are in the middle of the "What if Jesus Was Serious" series. We have been looking at what Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. In the weeks ahead we will look at Worries, and I will explore the question "What do You Want?" I hope you will hear God's voice speaking to you through these sermons, your Bible study time, and your conversations (prayer) with God.

Be on the lookout for information about the final Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing in July, National Night Out in August, and serving water to the thirsty during the LifeWise Academy (a.k.a. Sunnysdale House) 5K run on Labor Day.

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Missions	4
Hymn History	5
Faith in Action	6
Weekly Bible Readings	7
Ladies & Girls Tea	8
Tea Party	9-10
Connecting With...	11
People of St. Paul's	12
June Calendar recipes	13 14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16

I wanted to make sure you know you are invited to join us on Sundays for church, in person, or on Facebook Live online. I know sometimes plans get in the way of joining us live, but all our complete services can be found on Facebook, and all the sermons can be found on YouTube. You don't have to miss a single thing, join us as we continue to explore Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, as it is told to us in the Gospel of Matthew.

Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



June 1-3
United Methodist Church
Annual Conference
In Dayton

Food Pantry Sunday
June 11
Sandwich and Salad items needed:
 Sandwich and Salad supplies:
 ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, relish, peanut butter, almond butter, canned meat, jam & jelly; salad dressings, croutons.
Donations are taken to
The Church at Allentown

JUNE 4
Coins for Communion to benefit
U.M.C.O.R
U. S. Disaster Relief Fund
 You may also combine with your regular offering, just mark on the offering envelope the amount designated to Coins for Communion



Save Your Coins

June 14



June 18
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

EYE OF GOD



This symbol represents our "all-seeing" God, who is present everywhere and is always watching over us. ("The eyes of the Lord are in every place," Proverbs 15:3, NRSV.) The eye is inside an equilateral triangle, which is associated with the Holy Trinity.

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

June 19
Juneteenth



First Day of Summer
June 21



Summer Solace

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

Thought for the Month:

Rest is not idle, is not wasteful. Sometimes rest is the most productive thing you can do for body and soul.

—Erica Layne

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Just Like Dad

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

“I didn’t think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange,” Steen recalls. “He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants.” Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. “I want to be dusty like you, Dad!” his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. “I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father,” he says, “a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything.” What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

Missions



Family Promise Mission

A big 'thank you' to everyone who provided food for the five families at Family Promise on April 26! These families continue to get jobs and housing so our help with meals for them at Family Promise is being "paid forward" as they get back on their feet! Our next Family Promise night is July 28.



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



If interested in being on a team, sponsoring a hole, or helping with the golf outing, contact Tim Piper.

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

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

Hymn History

Faith of Our Fathers

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

1849

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. Hebrews 11:1, 2 (NKJV)

Frederick William Faber was raised in an Anglican parsonage in Calverley, Yorkshire, England; but both his parents died when he was young. When he moved to Oxford University as a young man, he came under the influence of the great Roman Catholic, John Henry Newman, author of “Lead, Kindly Light.” Following graduation Faber entered the Anglican ministry, but his soul was troubled. He was drawn to the historic, reverent liturgy of the Catholic faith. On Sunday night, November 16, 1845, he announced to his congregation that he intended to leave the Church of England and be ordained as a Roman Catholic.

For the remainder of his short life-Faber died at fifty-nine-he endeavored to provide a body of hymns of English Catholics to sing. Perhaps his most enduring is “Faith of Our Fathers.”

What most protestants don't know is that Faber wrote this song to remind the Catholic Church of it's martyrs during the days of the Protestant King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I. “Good Queen Bess,” for example, used fines, gallows, gibbets, racks, and whips against those who said Mass, honored the pope, or harbored a priest. Often in the middle of the night, thugs would burst into Catholic homes and drag them away to be scourged, fined, or seared with glowing irons. The dungeons were choked with victims.

Nicholas Owen was such a victim. Probably a builder by trade, Owen designed countless hiding places for endangered Catholics. He hid them in secret rooms, between the walls and under floors. He hid them in stone fences and in underground passages. He designed nooks and crannies that looked like anything but hiding places.

When Nicholas was at last betrayed, he was dragged to the Tower of London and his arms were fixed to iron rings. There he hung for hours, his body dangling. Weights added to his feet increased the suffering. The tortures continued until March 2, 1606, when he passed to his reward.

It was for these Catholic heroes, martyred at the hands of so-called “Protestant” monarchs that “Faith of Our Fathers” was originally written. Now, of course, this great hymn reminds us all of the noble sacrifices made by those in every branch of the Christian family who have passed on their faith to us “...in spite of dungeon fire and sword.”



Faith In Action

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

Worship Attendance:

April 30, 2023	66
May 7, 2023	60
May 14, 2023	69
May 21, 2023	66
May 28, 2023	55

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
April 30, 2023	\$2,435.00	\$410.00
May 7, 2023	\$8,597.89	\$100.00
May 14, 2023	\$2,790.00	\$115.00
May 21, 2023	\$2,942.76	\$100.00
May 28, 2023	\$2,145.00	\$401.00

Sunday School Attendance

April 23, 2023	9
May 7, 2023	8
May 14, 2023	12
May 21, 2023	8
May 28, 2023	6

Hospitality Cart

June 4, 2023	Ginny Doseck
June 11, 2023	OPEN
June 18, 2023	OPEN
June 25, 2023	OPEN

Flower Calendar

June 4, 2023	Ginny Doseck
June 11, 2023	Greg & Barb Schade
June 18, 2023	Art & Linda Holman
June 25, 2023	Don & Judy Chaffins

Summer Special Music:

If you or someone you know, would like to volunteer their talent in providing special music for the Worship service during the summer months, please let Judy Chaffins or the office know.

2023 Weekly Bible Readings (Weeks 27-52)

<p>WEEK 27: Freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exodus 14 ○ Isaiah 61:1 ○ John 8:31-36 ○ 2 Corinthians 3:17 ○ Galatians 5:1, 13 	<p>WEEK 34: Parables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke 15:11-32 ○ 2 Samuel 12:1-10 ○ Matthew 13:31-35 ○ Mark 4:26-29 ○ Luke 18:9-14 	<p>WEEK 41: Grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Psalm 103:1-12 ○ Romans 6:4 ○ John 1:16-17 ○ 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 ○ Ephesians 2:8-9 	<p>WEEK 48: Hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke 2:25-38 ○ Psalm 33:20-22 ○ Romans 15:13 ○ Ephesians 1:18=21 ○ Hebrews 6:13-20
<p>WEEK 28: Sabbath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exodus 31:12-17 ○ Isaiah 58:13-14 ○ Mark 2:23-28 ○ Luke 13:10-17 ○ Hebrews 4:9-11 	<p>WEEK 35: Money & Treasure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 Timothy 6:6-10 ○ 2 Chronicles 1:7-12 ○ Malachi 3:10 ○ Matthew 6:19-21 ○ Acts 20:35 	<p>WEEK 42: Saints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revelation 7:9-17 ○ Psalm 37:28-29 ○ Daniel 7:27 ○ 1 Corinthians 1st2-3 ○ Hebrews 12:1-3 	<p>WEEK 49: Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 Samuel 24 ○ Isaiah 26:3 ○ John 14:27 ○ Philippians 4:7 ○ James 3:17-18
<p>WEEK 29: Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Psalm 150 ○ 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 ○ Psalm 59:16-17 ○ Luke 1:46-55 ○ Ephesians 5:18-20 	<p>WEEK 36: Kindness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke 10:25-37 ○ Joshua 2:1-16 ○ Jeremiah 31:3 ○ Matthew 5:43-48 ○ Ephesians 4:32 	<p>WEEK 43: Redemption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Romans 5 ○ Job 19:25-27 ○ Isaiah 44:21-22 ○ Galatians 3:13-14 ○ 1 Peter 1:18-21 	<p>WEEK 50: Joy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Psalm 16 ○ Nehemiah 8:10 ○ Proverbs 17:22 ○ John 16:19-24 ○ Philippians 4:4
<p>WEEK 30: Good Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ James 2:14-26 ○ Psalm 1 ○ Matthew 7:17-20 ○ John 15:1-8 ○ Colossians 1:9-10 	<p>WEEK 37: Good Shepherd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John 10:1-18 ○ Psalm 23 ○ Luke 15:1-7 ○ Hebrews 13:20-21 ○ 1 Peter 2:25 	<p>WEEK 44: Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matthew 24:36-51 ○ Proverbs 6:6-8 ○ Matthew 25:1-13 ○ Romans 13:11-14 ○ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 	<p>WEEK 51: Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke 2:1-21 ○ Isaiah 9:6-7 ○ Micah 5:2-4 ○ Matthew 2:9-11 ○ Titus 2:13-14
<p>WEEK 31: Patience & Perseverance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 ○ Psalm 37:5-9 ○ Galatians 6:9-10 ○ James 1:12 ○ 2 Peter 3:8-9 	<p>WEEK 38: Lord's Supper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke 22:7-20 ○ Exodus 12:1-8 ○ John 6:52-58 ○ 1 Corinthians 10:14-17 ○ 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 	<p>WEEK 45: Endurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Job 1 ○ Matthew 24:9-14 ○ Romans 5:3-5 ○ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ○ James 1:2-4 	<p>WEEK 52: Heaven & Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revelation 21:1-7 ○ Isaiah 65:17-25 ○ John 14:1-4 ○ 2 Timothy 4:7-8 ○ Revelation 2:10
<p>WEEK 32: Unity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genesis 33 ○ Psalm 133 ○ 1 Corinthians 1:10 ○ Galatians 3:26-29 ○ Philippians 2:1-2 	<p>WEEK 39: Humility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Philippians 2:3-11 ○ Proverbs 11:2 ○ Matthew 20:26-28 ○ John 13:1-9 ○ James 4:10 	<p>WEEK 46: Light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matthew 17:1-13 ○ Isaiah 60:1-3 ○ Matthew 5:14-16 ○ John 8-12 ○ 1 John 1:5-7 	
<p>WEEK 33: Mercy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jonah 3 ○ Psalm 145:8-9 ○ Matthew 5:7 ○ Luke 6:36-38 ○ Titus 3:3-8 	<p>WEEK 40: Strength</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ephesians 6:10-20 ○ Isaiah 40:28-31 ○ Joshua 1:9 ○ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ○ Philippians 4:13 	<p>WEEK 47: Thanksgiving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke 17:11-19 ○ Joshua 4:19-24 ○ 1 Chronicles 16:34 ○ Colossians 3:15-17 ○ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 	

Ladies and Girls Tea Party

A few months ago, Jan Wyant and Judy Chaffins thought it would be fun to plan and execute a tea party for women and girls. We researched and discussed endless options. We had great ideas, but sometimes we couldn't find the materials to fulfill the ideas. Sometimes we found the materials, but the product was not what we pictured in our heads or too expensive. So first there was Plan A, then Plan B, and Plan C until finally, we lost track of the alphabet number of the plans.

We got excited, over and over again, thinking of all we could do and how fun it could be for everyone. We announced in church, not sure of what the reaction might be. Would we need to buy 40 place settings? Would people dress up or think that was silly in this day and age?

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, our planning ended and the executing began. We ended up with more than 80 reservations. Wow! How awesome! And was it worth it? Absolutely, totally, completely!!! There was beauty in the decorations and tables, good food, fun things to make, and pictures to be taken, but the most wonderful and blessed part was when Tammy Segovia's granddaughter entered the room as the first guest, dressed stunningly in red from head to toe, with Dorothy, of Wizard of Oz glittered slippers, a tiara, and red lipstick. She was "the look" and each guest that entered brought a special presence, whether in outfit or smile that was beyond our expectations. Jesus was there in that place for sure, and He was smiling.

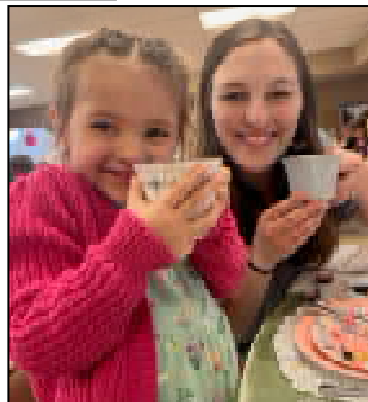
Maedene Holmes donated her daughter's "vintage" jewelry for all to select from, and Lena Whetstone played piano and touched us by singing the song, "Hallelujah," while accompanying herself. Jan had prepared stations to make hand cream, lip gloss, and headband "fascinators" to take home as gifts. Many donated their china teapots, cups and saucers, and similar items for decorating, so that each person there could use a real china tea cup.

Myrna Metzger spent hours hot gluing flowers, feathers, and other decorations to hats to make them very special for the photo booth. Ladies in hats, girls in feathered boas, gloves, and purses to get a picture taken with, and so much more. The pictures tell it best. Our photo booth was a hit, as there was a backdrop of an outdoor scene and props to play with while posing for pictures. Cell phones were in use all over the place!

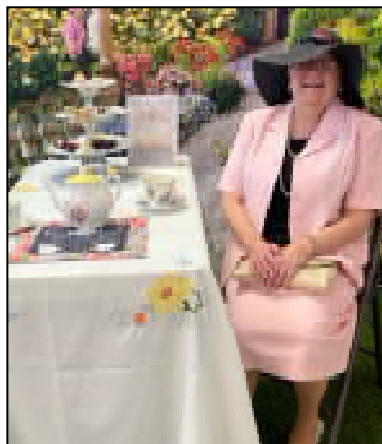
Several men (Jamie Wyant, Paul Scannell, Dan Best, and Zakk Henderson) volunteered to help serve, and we were blessed again by this gesture of good will. Deb Hurd spent hours making the homemade scones, and Slone Whetstone and Nancy Kizer made the delicious cream cheesecake bars on the dessert tray. Marla and Paul Scannell, and Corinne Piper helped wash and dry china afterward. So many others just dug in and helped clean up, and we were SO grateful for all the help. Teenagers with their abundance of energy made cleanup a breeze. Monetary donations were beyond our expectations too.

The smiles were our review and the comments were beyond belief. It WAS fun!!! And THANK YOU to all who helped, came, and encouraged. When two or three are gathered in His name, there is love. We witnessed and shared that on that Saturday in May. God bless St. Paul's, and the power to make good things happen - together!

Tea Party



Tea Party



Connecting With...

Blessing of Quilts

On Sunday, May 8, 45 quilts were blessed, 25 veteran and 15 regular quilts. On May 9 they were delivered to Otterbein of Cridersville, by Carole Grapner, Virginia Hollar, and Shirley Moser, of the 'Crafty Creatures' small group.



Tea Party

Thank You, Judy Chaffins and Jan Wyant for the Ladies and Girls Tea Party held on May, 20th. With their creative minds and together with some help from a few others, they came up with a VERY successful and enjoyable Tea Party. All the planning, time, and very hard work that went into this ladies event, was greatly appreciated!!



The People of St. Paul's

**Dear Church Family,
 Thank you for your prayers and support.
 We took the quilt to Columbus even though Barb
 couldn't take it into the hospital. She shared
 with her doctor (surgeon) what our church does.
 Her exact words were "that is special". Thank
 you again.
 The flowers and cards are beautiful, and help us
 remember how fortunate we are to be part of the
 St. Paul's family.**

Barb and Greg Schade

Thank You!

**I am deeply grateful for your kind words,
 prayers, and cards during my Aunt Patty's
 passing, which have been a great source of
 comfort for me, and I appreciate your
 caring and compassionate friendship.**

Dave Decker

**Dear friends of St. Paul's UMC,
 Thank you so much for the
 beautiful windchimes that we
 received. Your kind expression
 of sympathy touched our hearts
 during this difficult time.**

**Sincerely,
 Roger and Jackie Henderson**

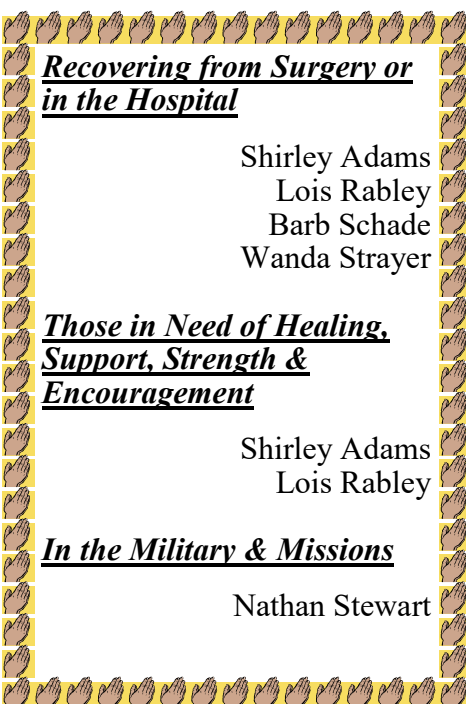
**Our sympathy to Roger and Jacalyn Henderson
 on the passing of Roger's sister, Gayla Metzger,
 on May 22, 2023. A Celebration of Life service
 will be held on June 4.
 Cards may be sent to 1200 S. Sunderland Rd.
 Spencerville, OH 45887**

**Our Biblical Purpose Statement:
 Elida St. Paul's United Methodist
 Church exists as God's people embracing
 His grace through humble service to all.**

**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.**



Remember in Prayer



**Recovering from Surgery or
 in the Hospital**

Shirley Adams
 Lois Rabley
 Barb Schade
 Wanda Strayer

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

Shirley Adams
 Lois Rabley

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

With Sympathy

Meetings

June 5, 2023
PPR Mtg..7:00 PM

June 6, 2023
Trustees...7:00 PM

June 7, 2023
**Worship Mtg..
 10:00 AM**

June 19, 2023
**Ad Council/
 Finance..7:00 PM**

No Missions Mtg

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

JUNE 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Anniversaries

*Dominic & Kelly DeRose
 June 1*

*Marty & Kathy White
 June 2; 44 yrs.*

*Brad & Slone Whetstone
 June 13*

*Art & Linda Holman
 June 17; 56 yrs.*

*Justin & Megan Wyant
 June 19*

*Caleb & Krista Slemmons
 June 21*

*Austin & Lauren Clark
 June 25*

*Don & Judy Chaffins
 June 29; 49 yrs.*

*Tom & Denise Thomas
 June 29*


*Zac & Jenni Jankovsky
 June 30*

				1 Rylan McAdams	2	3 Megan Emmons
4 Gary Adams Lois Rabley	5	6	7	8	9 David Nartker Jamie Wyant	10 Don Chaffins Caleb Kinney Susan Nartker
11	12	13	14 Evan Motzer	15 Brayden Warris	16 Judy Chaffins	17 Gwyneth Woeller
18	19 Roy Selover	20	21 Steve Moser Josh Motzer Katie White	22 Kim Metzger Greg Schade	23	24 Vicki McAdams Emma Motzer
25	26 Kinsleigh Emmons Art Holman	27	28	29	30	

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Chicken Salad

By Sue Theodore

Ingredients		Instructions
1 can	Brinkman's chicken, drained	Mix all ingredients together. Chill to blend flavors. <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>
1 1/2 cups	Miracle Whip	
1 cup	Apple, chopped	
1 cup	Walnuts or pecans, chopped	
1 cup	Grapes, halved	

Man Bars

By Gail Fessler

Ingredients		Instructions
1- 14 oz box	Graham crackers, crushed into crumbs	Combine graham cracker crumbs, chocolate chips, nuts, condensed milk, vanilla and salt in large bowl. Mix until well combined to make a batter. Batter will be thick and gooey.
1-12 oz. bag	*chocolate chips, semi-sweet	
1 cup	Walnuts or pecans, chopped, optional	Line a 13 x 9 baking pan with parchment paper. Spread batter into pans.
2- 14 oz cans	Sweetened condensed milk	Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until set.
1 1/2 tsp.	Vanilla extract	Cool completely in pan.
1/2 tsp.	salt	Add powdered sugar by either sprinkling over bars or by cutting into square and put in bowl of powdered sugar and fully coat.
2-3 cups	Powdered Sugar	Store in air-tight container.
		*May use butterscotch morsels along with chocolate chips.

KIDZ KORNER

A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.



JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

ANSWER: FOURTEEN

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elida, OH
45807
Permit No. 71

*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Divine Dance

Using the fancy word *perichoresis* (from Greek for “around” and “contain”) may win you admiring — or strange! — looks. But since the 7th century, people have used it as a beautiful image of the Persons of the Holy Trinity containing and permeating one another. A more familiar word, *choreography*, has led to recent understandings of perichoresis as the divine and eternal dance of love.

Picture three dancers’ synchronized yet independent movements. Weaving gracefully in and out, each seems to know what the others will do next. They may touch lightly but don’t constrain or impede one another. Though distinct individuals, they move so fluidly together that they are, in a sense, one entity.

Even more profound: Jesus invites us into the dance! “If you love me,” he says, “you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth. ... I will come to you. ... I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (John 14:15-20, ESV). As the actions of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit interweave in Scripture and in the world, may our lives too be drawn into the loving dance.