

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

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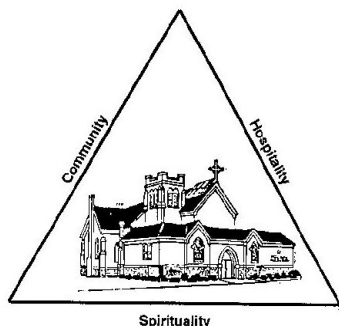
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Hello Everyone,

It seems like there is always something going on in everyone's lives. Some of you are dealing with health concerns, kid's events, graduation celebrations, new grandkids, finding a new job, moving to a new home, or any other event in our lives. It keeps us going in a million different directions, and it sometimes feels like God is the last thing we have time for. That is usually when we need God the most. Making time for prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time in worship, are all essential for our spiritual wellbeing. When I have those times when things overwhelm me, it is exactly the time when I need to carve out more time with God. Because when I include God in my life, it always seems to get better. The problems do not go away, but my heart is lightened as I rededicate myself to God. I'll continue to pray for you, and I hope you will continue to pray for me. Enjoy the summer and keep trusting God to help you through.

We will begin a new series on the 31<sup>st</sup> as we spend 4 weeks looking at 'unlocking', some of the "Parables of Jesus". It will be a time of looking at some of Jesus' parables from a new perspective and digging deeper into their meaning for our lives. I hope to see you this summer between the busy times, and remember, if you can't get here in person, you can always spend an hour or so watching service online, to get recharged to face the week to come. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*



**Thought for the Month:**

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

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**Summer Hymn Sing  
starts May 31**

The Hymn Sing is a time to choose your favorite hymn during the Worship Service. If you are watching the service remotely you may contact Pastor Paul or the office with your favorite hymn suggestion.

**June 14**



**JUNE 7**  
Coins for Communion  
to benefit UMCOR  
U. S. Disaster Relief

**June 19**  
**JUNE TEENTH**

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



**Deadline: the 22nd  
of each month**

### **Christian Symbol**



#### **SAND DOLLAR**

These delicate shells, found in shades of white, tan and soft purple, come from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. Their unique markings have long been associated with the story of Christ's birth and death. The faint images resemble a poinsettia and a lily, symbols often connected to Christmas and Easter. Five small openings are said to represent the four nails and the spear used at the crucifixion. Inside the shell are tiny shapes that look like doves, a reminder of the Holy Spirit.

<b>St. Paul's Epistle</b>	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker

### Food Pantry Sunday June 21

**Items:** Sandwich and salad supplies; Mayo, catsup, mustard, peanut butter, almond butter, jam & jelly, canned meats, salad dressing, etc...

Items may be placed in the collection boxes at the East Door, and the Main Entrance as you come up the stairs to the sanctuary.

Items are taken to the Five Loaves Food Pantry at The Church at Allentown

Thank you for contributions!



June 21



### First Day of Summer June 21



**BOOK Club**  
Saturday, July 18  
at 10:00 AM

*"Change of Heart"*  
By Jodi Picoult

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



### Preschool Class

The Preschool class lead by Shirley Moser will continue to meet weekly, during the summer!

### Elementary Class

To encourage our children to stay connected during summer break, we will be offering 'Children's Vacation Bible School' once a month for elementary age and up. Fun activities are planned in the basement during the Sunday morning Church service, after Children's Moments. The dates of Children's VBS are June 7th, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and August 16th. Older children and adults are also welcome as helpers.

Contact Kerry Fremont if you're interested in helping.



## Poem

# A Father's Hands

Father's hands, worn and strong,  
Building a world where I belong.  
Each line a story, each scar a lesson,  
Crafting a life with every session.

You built my dreams with every nail,  
Your steady hands, they never fail.  
Through storms and sun, through joy and pain,  
You stood unwavering, a constant main.

Your hands, the first to hold me tight,  
Guiding me through the darkest night.  
In your grasp, I learn and grow,  
In the warmth of love, a constant glow.

Here's to the hands that have held my own,  
Here's to the love that has always shown.  
Father, my gratitude knows no bounds,  
In your love, my life is found.

# Hymns as Therapy

## In Private: Hymns as Therapy Why We Must Draw Strength from Song

*Then Sings My Soul Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan*

### PRAY THE HYMNS

There's something even better than *playing* the hymns, and that's *praying* the hymns. In recent years, a number of books have taught us how to "pray the Scriptures." What a powerful practice! In the same way, we can pray the hymns. Think of how many of our great hymns are written as prayers.

There are prayers of aspiration like, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy praise." There are prayers of reassurance, such as "Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God Our Father." There are hymns of Thanksgiving like "Now Thank We All Our God." Or consider this little-known hymn of thanksgiving by the ailing nineteenth-century English hymnist Jane Fox Crewdson.

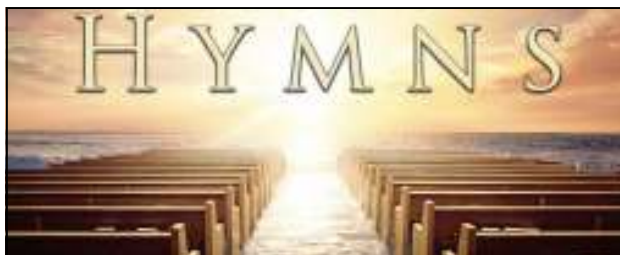
*O Thou, Whose bounty fills my cup  
With every blessing meet!  
I give thee thanks for every drop—  
The bitter and the sweet.*

*I praise Thee for the desert road,  
And for the riverside;  
For all thy goodness hath bestowed.  
And all Thy grace denied.*

Using hymns, we can sing prayers of praise: "All glory, laud, and honor, to Thee Redeemer King..." We can rededicate ourselves to Him by singing, "Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way." We can face the future with Philip Doddridge's great hymn that says, "Tomorrow, Lord, is Thine / Lodged in Thy sovereign hand."

We can also turn the hymns into prayers for others by tweaking them a little, especially in the use of pronouns. Years ago when I was worried about someone I loved, I took the hymn "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord." I changed it to say, "Teach him Your Way, O Lord, teach him Your Way./Your guiding grace afford, teach him Your way./ Help Him to walk aright, more by faith less by sight./Lead him with heavenly light. Teach him Your way."

It takes very little effort to turn your hymnbook in to a prayerbook. It's made for that.



# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
May 3, 2026	75
May 10, 2026	78
May 17, 2026	74
May 24, 2026 <i>Pentecost Comm. Serv.</i>	17
May 24, 2026 Total: <i>Pentecost Comm. Serv.</i>	160

## FINANCIAL GIVING

<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>		<b>Other:</b>
May 3, 2026	\$3,263.15	\$672.00
May 10, 2026	\$6,258.41	\$215.00
May 17, 2026	\$1,573.00	\$65.00
May 24, 2026 <i>Pentecost Comm. Serv.</i>	Pentecost	Community Service
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$11,094.56</b>	<b>\$952.00</b>

<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
May 3, 2026	14
May 10, 2026	19
May 17, 2026	16
May 24, 2026 <i>Pentecost Comm. Serv.</i>	0

**Unified Budget:**

Weekly Budget Needed = \$4,644.58  
 Unable to have an accurate total due to Pentecost Community Service on 24th.  
 No count for our regular offering for 24th.

<b>Flower Calendar</b>	
June 7, 2026	Lavonne Segovia
June 14, 2026	Art Holman
June 21, 2026	Greg & Barb Schade
June 28, 2026	Scott & Gail Fessler

<b>Hospitality Cart</b>	
June 7, 2026	OPEN
June 14, 2026	OPEN
June 21, 2026	OPEN
June 28, 2026	OPEN



# Daily Bible Readings

## Monday 6/1

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7  
Proverbs 3:11-20  
1 John 3:18-4:6, Matthew 11:1-6

## Tuesday 6/2

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11  
Proverbs 4:1-27  
1 John 4:7-21, Matthew 11:7-15

## Wednesday 6/3

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
Proverbs 6:1-19  
1 John 5:1-12, Matthew 11:16-24

## Thursday 6/4

Psalm 18, Proverbs 7:1-27  
1 John 5:13-21, Matthew 1:25-30

## Friday 6/5

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Proverbs 8:1-21  
2 John 1-13, Matthew 12:1-14

## Saturday 6/6

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117  
Proverbs 8:22-36  
Matthew 12:15-21

## Sunday 6/7

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150  
Proverbs 9:1-12  
Acts 8:14-25, Luke 10:25-42

## Monday 6/8

Psalm 9, 15, 25  
Proverbs 10:1-12  
1 Timothy 1:1-17  
Matthew 12:22-32

## Tuesday 6/9

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39  
Proverbs 15:16-33  
1 Timothy 1:18-2:8  
Matthew 12:33-42

## Wednesday 6/10

Psalm 38, 119:25-48  
Proverbs 17:1-20  
1 Timothy 3:1-16  
Matthew 12:43-50

## Thursday 6/11

Psalm 37, Proverbs 21:30-22:6  
1 Timothy 4:1-16  
Matthew 13:24-30

## Friday 6/12

Psalm 3, 35,  
Proverbs 23:19-21  
1 Timothy 5:17-25  
Matthew 13:31-35

## Saturday 6/13

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43  
Proverbs 25:15-28  
1 Timothy 6:6-21  
Matthew 13:36-43

## Sunday 6/14

Psalm 63, 98, 103  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11  
Acts 8:26-40  
Luke 11:1-13

## Monday 6/15

Psalm 41, 44, 52  
Ecclesiastes 2:1-15  
Galatians 1:1-17  
Matthew 13:44-52

## Tuesday 6/16

Psalm 45, 47, 48  
Ecclesiastes 2:16-26  
Galatians 1:18-2:10  
Matthew 13:53-58

## Wednesday 6/17

Psalm 53, 119:49-72  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15  
Galatians 2:11-21  
Matthew 14:1-12

## Thursday 6/18

Psalm 8, 59, 60, 84  
Ecclesiastes 3:16-43  
Galatians 3:1-14  
Matthew 14:13-21

## Friday 6/19

Psalm 40, 51, 54  
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7  
Galatians 3:15-22  
Matthew 14:22-36

## Saturday 6/20

Psalm 55, 138, 139  
Ecclesiastes 5:8-20  
Galatians 3:23-4:11  
Matthew 15:1-20

## Sunday 6/21

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84  
Ecclesiastes 6:1-12  
Acts 10:9-23, Luke 12:32-40

## Monday 6/22

Psalm 58, 64, 65  
Ecclesiastes 7:1-14  
Galatians 4:12-20  
Matthew 15:21-28

## Tuesday 6/23

Psalm 61, 62, 68  
Ecclesiastes 8:14-9:10  
Galatians 4:21-31  
Matthew 15:29-39

## Wednesday 6/24

Psalm 72, 119:73-96  
Ecclesiastes 9:11-18  
Galatians 5:1-15  
Matthew 16:1-12

## Thursday 6/25

Psalm 70, 74  
Ecclesiastes 11:1-8  
Galatians 5:16-24  
Matthew 16:13-20

## Friday 6/26

Psalm 69, 73  
Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14  
Galatians 5:25-6:10  
Matthew 16:21-28

## Saturday 6/27

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76  
Numbers 3:1-13  
Galatians 6:11-18  
Matthew 17:1-13

## Sunday 6/28

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Numbers 6:22-27  
Acts 13:1-12, Lukes 12:41-48

## Monday 6/29

Psalm 79, 80, Numbers 9:15-10:36  
Romans 1:1-15, Matthew 17:22-27

## Tuesday 6/30

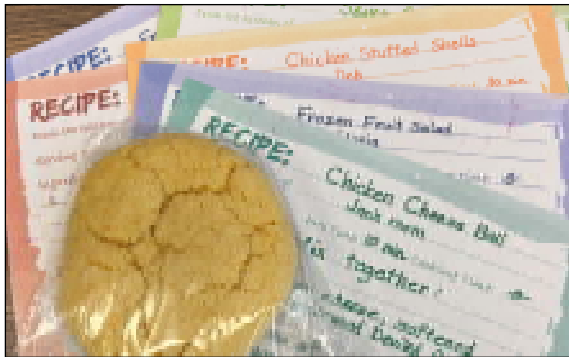
Psalm 78, Numbers 11:1-23  
Romans 1:16-25  
Matthew 17:22-27

# May Happenings

## Mother's Day May 10th

Hospitality was provided by Sharla Murphy with 'Special kisses for Mom's'.

The children passed out a goodie bag with a cookie and recipes. Thank you Nurture Committee!



May 17, During Children's Moments a quilt was prayed over that will bring comfort to one of the students that was going to have a procedure to improve her hearing.



## CHOIR

Choir Director: Casey Rife  
Pianist: Lois Cook

### Thank You!

Casey, Lois and the dedicated choir members for your beautiful songs during the worship services.



Summer Hymn Sing Starts May 31st



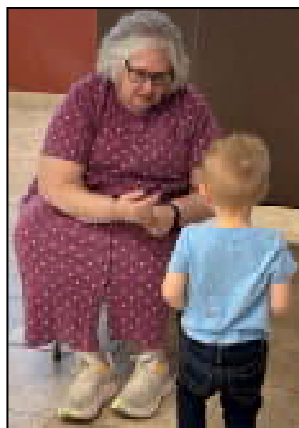
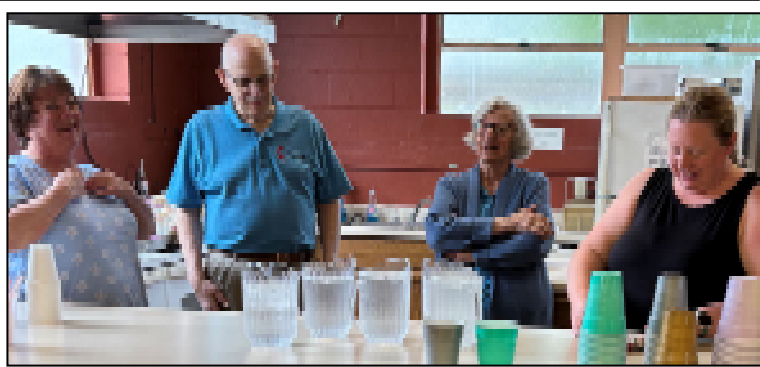
# Chicken BBQ

Our Chicken BBQ was a tremendous success and a great way to bring back an event that had not been held since COVID. We originally hoped to sell around 150 dinners, but thanks to the hard work and support of our church family, we sold an incredible 240 dinners! What a great opportunity for fellowship with our congregation and a good outreach project for the community.

Many people asked where the meals were prepared, and the dinners were catered by Ted's Market in Pandora. The chicken received many compliments throughout the day.

A special congratulations goes to Deb Hurd for having the highest ticket sales this year (over 60). Thank you, Deb! We would also like to thank Jessie Harmon with The Cookie Jar for donating five dozen cookies, along with everyone else who baked desserts and volunteered their time to help the day run smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and supported the event, and to Dan Best, Austin Clark, and Tahler Sdao for helping lead and organize the BBQ. What started as a brief idea during an Ad Council meeting quickly came back to life in a big way, and we are already looking forward to next year. Volunteers for next year are more than welcome!



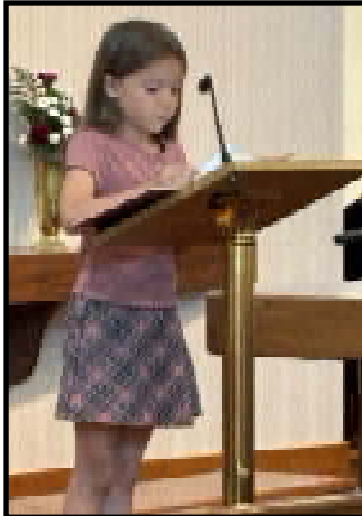
# Children's Sunday

**May 17  
Worship Service**  
Students served  
as liturgist

**Call to Worship:**  
Jackson Rife and Rylan McAdams

**Scripture Reading:**  
Holly Cook

**Announcements:**  
Wren Harmon



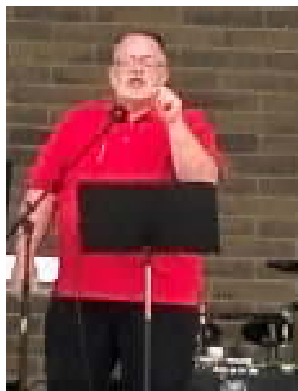
**Children's Choir:**  
Guitar accompaniment by Lena Whetstone  
Piano accompaniment by Lois Cook



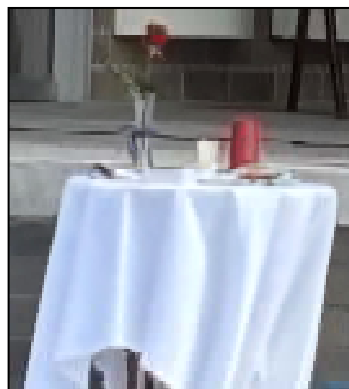
# Pentecost

Sunday, May 24 we had 'Pentecost at the Pavilion' with 4 other United Methodist Churches in Allen County. Over 160 people gathered to celebrate together, United in the Spirit. It was a wonderful event where we can celebrate together and make a difference in Allen County. The offering was equally divided between Church United Pantry and the Freedom School at the Bradfield Center. The offering collected at the Pavilion totaled \$954.40. Which means each organization will received \$477.20 to support their ministries here in Lima. Thank you for supporting this event, and I hope to see you out next year for Pentecost Sunday.

Rev. Don Wilson  
Western Lakes District  
Superintendent



Military Memorial  
Table



# The People of St. Paul's

## Thank You

*Dear St. Paul's Family,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers  
and all of the prayers and cards I have  
received over the last few months. They  
meant more than you will ever realize. We  
have the best church family ever!*

*Deb Hurd*

## Remember in Prayer

*Recovering from Surgery or  
in the Hospital*

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

*In the Military & Missions*

Nathan Stewart

## It's a girl Congratulations

Adeline Eileen Noell Cullison was born on may 12, at Lima memorial Hospital. Proud parents are Ayva Brickner Wyant and Byron Cullison. Grandparents are Jordan and Amy Wyant and Great grandparents are Jamie and Jan Wyant. Cards may reach Great grandparents at 220 E. Main St. Elida, Oh 45807

### I Am The Bible

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library.  
 I am always — and above all — the truth.  
 To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.  
 To those who sit in darkness, I am glorious light.  
 To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.  
 To those who have lost their way, I am a safe guide.  
 To those who are sick in sin, I offer healing, strength and forgiveness.  
 To the discouraged, I bring a glad message of hope.  
 To those distressed and tossed by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.  
 To all who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.

I am the Bible.

**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.*



# St. Paul's Featured Recipes

## Sweet/Salty Churro Toffee Nip

*From Shirley Moser*

Ingredients		Instructions
5 cups 1-9 oz. pkg	Oyster crackers	<p>Preheat oven to 350 degrees.</p> <p>Line a baking sheet with foil. Spread the crackers evenly on the baking sheet and set aside.</p> <p>In a medium sauce pan, combine the butter and brown sugar, bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in cinnamon and vanilla. Pour mixture immediately over crackers. Using a rubber spatula, stir and coat the crackers evenly with the mixture. Bake 10 minutes until bubbly.</p> <p><b>Topping:</b></p> <p>While crackers are baking, combine the topping ingredients in a small bowl and set aside.</p> <p>When crackers are done, remove from oven and gently stir to recoat them with sugar mixture.</p> <p>Sprinkle immediately with topping mixture, evenly.</p> <p>Let crackers cool, then break into pieces. Serve immediately or store in airtight container.</p>
1 cup	Butter	
1 cup	Light brown sugar	
1 1/2 tsp.	Cinnamon	
1 tsp.	Vanilla	
	<b>Topping:</b>	
3 Tbl.	Granulated sugar	
1 1/2 tsp.	Cinnamon	
1 1/4 tsp.	Salt	

## Puppy Chow

*From Sue Theodore*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	Chocolate chips, melted	<p>Mix the first three ingredients.</p> <p>Add to the Chex, mixing thoroughly.</p> <p>Pour powdered sugar into plastic baggie. Add the Chex mixture and shake to coat.</p>
1/2 cup	Peanut butter, smooth	
1 stick	Butter or margarine, melted	
8 cups	Rice Chex	
2 cups	Powdered Sugar	



# KIDZ KORNER

## WORDS THAT HONOR DAD!

Create this artwork to show your love and appreciation for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.



**What you need:**

- A white painting canvas, foam-core board or poster board
- Letter stickers or letter stamps

**What you do:**

1. Using the letters, spell out words that describe your dad's character (loving, honest, godly, etc.) and/or his roles (protector, provider, mentor, etc.).
2. Arrange the words in a crossword-style design, placing them both horizontally and vertically.
3. Once you're happy with the layout, stick the words onto the canvas or board.
4. Decorate the canvas as you like, then present it as a meaningful reminder of your love and appreciation for who he is



## REMEMBERING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Father's Day is a time to thank our father and father-figures who work hard to keep our families safe and loved. Let us also remember God, our heavenly Father, who gives life to us all.

Use the grid to fill out the blanks below. To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot, and then go to the left to the letter. Write the letter on the appropriate blank.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A						.														
B								.												
C										.										
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16 1 6 3 10 5 17 6 3 14 15 2 17 3 1 17 8 6 3  
 1 17 5 1 6 20 14 6 2 13 20 1 17 7 15 18 4 20  
 3 1 6 3 16 17 20 1 15 4 14 7 9 17  
 11 1 13 14 17 7 11 1 13 14 7 5 17 18 15 8 10 15 7

1 John 3:1, NIV

Answer: What great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

**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 Pauls United Methodist Church**



## Living Our Faith

### Called Friends by Christ

According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15-16, ESV).

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13-14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."

