

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

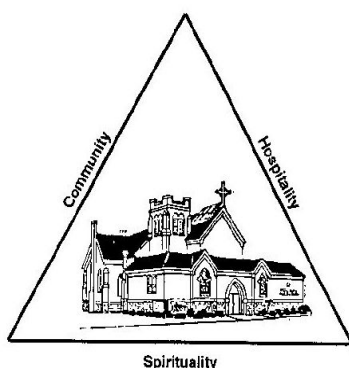
Rev. Paul Scannell

419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

pastorespc@gmail.com

4pastorpaul@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Prayer	4
Methodist History	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Hymn History	8
Lent	9
Sunshine bags	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
March Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16

I was looking out the window at the wonderful blanket of snow and all of a sudden, it hit me. Three more weeks and it will officially be Spring, and that means getting outside in the garden. I do enjoy my time in the garden, but this is the time of the year I can only dream about it and be patient. Soon I will be starting plants inside, then preparing garden beds for planting, but not until the calendar reaches the magic number will I even allow myself to think about planting. After that is weeding, waiting, watering, and worrying, but no matter what I do, I can not change the weather and what kind of growing year it brings. Sort of the way things are going with Covid-19, we hurry up and wait, but only time will get us beyond this event, and the more we hurry things along, the slower it goes.

God tells us in scripture that there is a time for every season, and we must endure and wonder at what God has done. Yes, there are bad things that happen every day, and if we allow ourselves to dwell on how bad things are, we will go mad or be depressed all the time. Like a gardener in Springtime, we have to be patient and wait until the time is right, start slowly, and work our way into the full swing of things. The scripture in Ecclesiastes 3:5 says "a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing," how odd that scripture might speak clearly to us about such a strange time, and who knew Biblical Social Distancing was a thing. I have stopped trying to put a date on the "END" of this virus and have begun to wait patiently, but while I wait 6 feet from everyone, I plan on getting ready to plant that garden. Lord give me patience and good weather for the garden and my life.

Thank you to everyone who has donated toward the video and sound, maybe by next month's newsletter, new equipment will be installed. I appreciate your patients as we learn how to use new equipment and software. I know last week there was a problem with the link to the Livestream. We will get all the bugs worked out and have a much clearer Livestream of the church service soon.

I'll see you in the mission field,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

No pain, no palm; no thorns,
no throne; no gall, no glory;
no cross, no crown.

—William Penn

March 5



REMINDER:

March 14

**Daylight Savings Time Begins,
set your clocks ahead 1 hour.**

March 7

**'Coins for Communion' to benefit
Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen**

**Food Pantry
March 14**

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



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

CROSS OF TRIUMPH

Also known as the Cross of Victory, this cross symbolizes Christ's final triumph and his reign throughout the earth. The Cross of Triumph is often depicted atop Jesus' scepter when he's shown in his kingly office.



St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's
United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

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

March 20
First Day of Spring



SPRING

By Melissa Russell

*Spring has sprung
The sun has begun
To shine upon the world.*

*Spring has sprung
The lambs have begun
To run about the fields.*

*Spring has Sprung
The blossoms have begun
To brighten up the trees.*

*Spring has sprung
The daffodils have begun
To dance joyfully in the breeze.*

*Spring has sprung
The children have begun
To run gleefully in the sun.*

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

*Thank
You!*

Dear Shirley and the ladies who beautifully and delicately make those lovely lap quilts!

Thank you again for such a generous act of kindness! All the time and love that you invest in this project is so much appreciated! As we distribute these quilts, I will send you pictures.

Thank you again!
Cheri Benroth,
Activities director of Liberty Retirement



Prayer

What? Me An Intercessor?

I am continuing with thoughts from Intimate Intercession, by Tricia McCary Rhodes.

I (Corinne) have often attempted to set aside a time for prayer on a deliberate basis. I have usually failed after one day. I read how I am supposed to have discipline and pray every day and I read of people who spend hours in prayer, who stay up all night in prayer, who are the “prayer warriors” and I feel like a failure at prayer.

Rhodes makes a statement that wakes me up: “If you are a Christian, you are, by your very nature, an intercessor. When God saved you, He filled you with the life of Christ, who is always interceding.” So we are all prayer warriors-some of us might just be a little braver than others.

But how do we spend the hours doing this? How do we stay disciplined? How do we find the right words? The answer: JUST BE YOURSELF! God created each of us differently. “how we intercede, when we intercede, the words we use, the tone we adopt, how long we intercede-all these things that come from the core of who we already are in Christ.” (Rhodes, p.15) We will all “Stand in the Gap” with God in different ways. In the wise words of Nike-Just do it!

If I don't feel like I get anywhere with my prayers, that's ok. God uses my weakness to demonstrate His strength. **God** will transform our humility by doing what we cannot do alone.

Come and join Tim and I as we pray for those on our prayer list. We meet Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Prayer Chapel. No one is asked to pray alone, just to join us as we name those on our list. Bring your gifts and weaknesses. God will hear us.

A Breath Of Fresh Prayer

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most.”

Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”



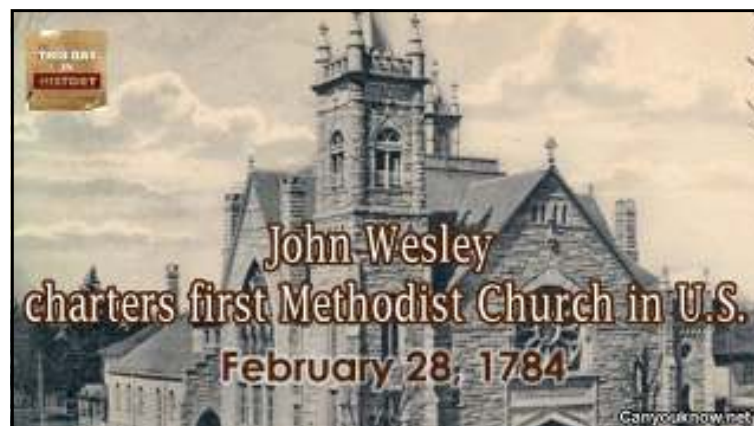
Methodist History

John Wesley And The Methodist Society

Samuel, John's older brother, was already a teacher in Westminster School, London, when it came time, at the age of ten, for John to leave home for his advanced education. There was not enough money for him to enter his brother's school, but he did receive a scholarship for Charter House School. He was a hard worker— a quiet, orderly student. He soon attracted other students to him who also were eager to learn, even though it meant giving up their play time to listen to John's story-telling. He thought first of being a teacher, but since he had grown up in a family where one thought first of religion, he felt that he should go into the ministry. At the age of seventeen, he entered Oxford University, again on a scholarship. He was so thin and small (being five feet four inches tall), that few noticed him. But it was not long before he was accepted for his skill in answering questions on religion and scholarly subjects. He grew more and more determined to help people. He regulated his time carefully. He adopted his mother's philosophy of "every duty has a time." He was on time for every duty.

John's younger brother, Charles, was a student at Lincoln College, Oxford, when John, already a priest in the Church of England, went there to teach. Charles had organized a club for study on a regular basis. John became its recognized head. This club was so methodically organized that other students called them Methodists. John was training his mind well and was becoming a man of action. He wanted to practice what he preached. He saw around him so much dirt, poverty and ignorance. Few persons, regardless of their economic level, cared little for goodness and mercy or spiritual growth. This serious-minded group of young men soon became involved in doing what they could to relieve the plight of those less fortunate than they.

John was often tired, for he drove himself from early morning til late at night. He accounted for every minute. He once said to his brother Charles, "leisure and I have taken leave of one another and I propose to be busy as long as I live." He rose at 4 A.M. to keep his diaries and journals, read while walking or on horse back, denied himself ever luxury, even letting his hair grow long to save money to give to the poor. When developed a cough which would not leave, he realized that he would not have the physical strength to do all he wanted. He found a book on health and long life which advocated eating sparingly, drinking nothing but water, and spending much time outdoors. When the advanced symptoms of tuberculosis appeared, this regimen of living cured him.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

January 31, 2021	15
February 7, 2021	36
February 14, 2021	28
February 17, 2021 <i>Ashe Wednesday</i>	16
February 21, 2021	38

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
January 31, 2021	\$6,747.46	\$1,232.00
February 7, 2021 <i>combined</i>		
February 14, 2021	\$7,783.00	\$4760.00
February 21, 2021	\$2,518.00	\$983.00



Pledge Results:

Pledge cards were collected in February.
If you would still like to make a pledge
contact the church office.

Unified Budget:

27 pledges for
\$100,356 Annually

Other Funds:

11 pledges for
\$10,830 Annually

Altar Flowers

March 7, 2021	Troy & Heather Selover
March 14, 2021	OPEN
March 21, 2021	Lois Cook
March 28, 2021	Denny & Carole Grapner



**If you would like to order Easter Lilies
for the Easter service, please fill out
the form on pg. 9 and drop off, mail,
or place in offering plates with
payment by March 29.**

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 3/1

Psalm 58, 64, 65
Jeremiah 1:11-19
Romans 1:1-15, John 4:27-42

Tuesday 3/2

Psalm 61, 62, 68, Jeremiah 2:1-13
Romans 1:16-25, John 4:43-54

Wednesday 3/3

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Jeremiah 3:6-18
Romans 1:28-2:11, John 5:1-18

Thursday 3/4

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28
Romans 2:12-24, John 5:19-29

Friday 3/5

Psalm 69, 73, 95, Jeremiah 5:1-9
Romans 2:25-3:18, John 5:30-47

Saturday 3/6

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Jeremiah 5:20-31
Romans 3:19-31, John 7:1-13

Sunday 3/7

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Jeremiah 6:9-15
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Mark 5:1-20

Monday 3/8

Psalm 79, 80, Jeremiah 7:1-15
Romans 4:1-12, John 7:14-36

Tuesday 3/9

Psalm 78, Jeremiah 7:21-34
Romans 4:13-25, John 7:37-52

Wednesday 3/10

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Jeremiah 8:18-9:6
Romans 5:1-11, John 8:12-20

Thursday 3/11

Psalm 83, 85, 86
Jeremiah 10:11-24
Romans 5:12-21, John 8:21-32

Friday 3/12

Psalm 88, 91, 92
Jeremiah 11:1-8, 14-20
Romans 6:1-11, John 8:33-47

Saturday 3/13

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Jeremiah 13:1-11
Romans 6:12-23, John 8:47-59

Sunday 3/14

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22
Galatians 4:21-5:1, Mark 8:11-21

Monday 3/15

Psalm 89, Jeremiah 16:10-21
Romans 7:1-12, John 6:1-15

Tuesday 3/16

Psalm 95, 100, Jeremiah 17:19-27
Romans 7:13-25, John 6:16-27

Wednesday 3/17

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Romans 8-11, John 6:27-40

Thursday 3/18

Psalm 69, 73, Jeremiah 22:13-23
Romans 8:12-27, John 6:41-51

Friday 3/19

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Romans 8:28-39, John 6:52-59

Saturday 3/20

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
Jeremiah 23:9-15
Romans 9:1-8, John 6:60-71

Sunday 3/21

Psalm 118, 145, Jeremiah 23:16-32
1 Corinthians 9:19-27
Mark 9:8:31-9:1

Monday 3/22

Psalm 31, 35, Jeremiah 24:1-10
Romans 9:19-33, John 9:1-17

Tuesday 3/23

Psalm 120, 127, Jeremiah 25:8-17
Romans 10:1-13, John 9:18-41

Wednesday 3/24

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Jeremiah 25:30-38
Romans 10:14-21, John 10:1-18

Thursday 3/25

Psalm 133, 140, 142
Jeremiah 26:1-16
Romans 11:1-12, John 10:19-42

Friday 3/26

Psalm 22, 141, 143
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13
Romans 11:13-24
John 11:1-27 or 12:1-10

Saturday 3/27

Psalm 42, 43, 137, 144
Jeremiah 31:27-34
Romans 11:25-36
John 11:28-44 or 12:37-50

Sunday 3/28 Palm Sunday

Psalm 24, 29, 103
Zechariah 9:9-12
1 Timothy 6:12-16
Matthew 21:12-17

Monday 3/29

Psalm 51, 69:1-23
Jeremiah 12:1-16
Philippians 3:1-14, John 12:9-19

Tuesday 3/30

Psalm 6, 12, 94
Jeremiah 15:10-21
Philippians 3:15-21
John 12:27-36

Wednesday 3/31

Psalm 55, 74,
Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-17
Philippians 4:1-13
John 12:27-36



Hymn History

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

"Then Sings My Soul" Book 1, By Robert J. Morgan

1707

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Galatians 6:14

After his graduation from college, Isaac Watts returned to Southampton, England, and spent two years writing hymns for Above Bar Congregational Church. He then moved to London to tutor children in a wealthy family of dissenters. While there he joined Mark Lane Independent Chapel. Soon he was asked to be a teacher in the church, and in 1698, he was hired as associate pastor. There, on his twenty-fourth birthday, he preached his first sermon. In 1702, he became senior pastor of the church, a position he retained the rest of his life. He was a brilliant Bible student, and his sermons brought the church to life.

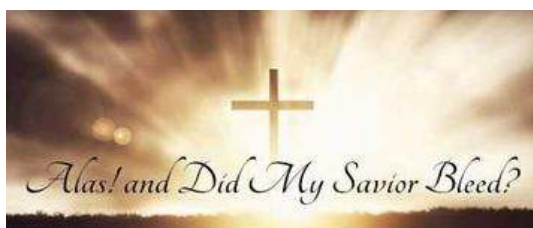
In 1707, his *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* was published. Isaac had written most of these hymns in Southampton while in late teens and early twenties. Included was a hymn now considered the finest hymn ever written in the English language. It was based on Galatians 6:14: "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Originally the first stanza said: *When I survey the wondrous cross / Where the young Prince of Glory died...* In an enlarged 1709 edition, Watts rewrote the lines to say:

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

Also included in the 1707 hymnbook was "Heavenly Joy on Earth," better known today as "Come, We That Love the Lord," or "We're Marching to Zion."

Another hymn was "Godly Sorrow Arising from the Suffering of Christ," better known as "Alas! And Did My savior Bleed." This hymn later played a major roll in the conversion of a great American hymnist. In 1851, Fanny Crosby, 31, attended a revival service at John Street Methodist Church in New York. "After a prayer was offered," she recalled, "they began to sing the grand old consecration hymn, 'Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed' and when they reached the third line of the fifth stanza, 'Here Lord, I give myself away,' my very soul was flooded with celestial light."

How right that Watts should, long after his death, play a part in winning to Christ the author of a new generation of hymns and gospel songs!



Lent

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

Orders for Easter Lilies are being taken.

They are **\$10.00 each**.

Please fill out this order form and place in the offering plate, drop off, or mail with payment, to the church office by March 29.

Name: _____

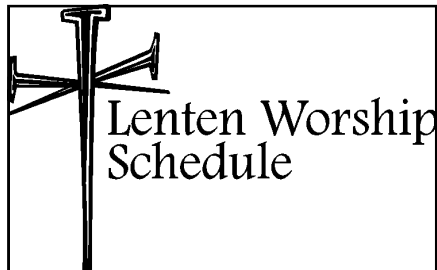
Number of lilies: _____

In Honor of (or) In Memory of: *(circle one)*

Phone: _____

Please pick up your Lilies following the Easter Service
or the week of April 4.

March 7
Third Sunday in Lent



April 1
Holy Thursday

March 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent

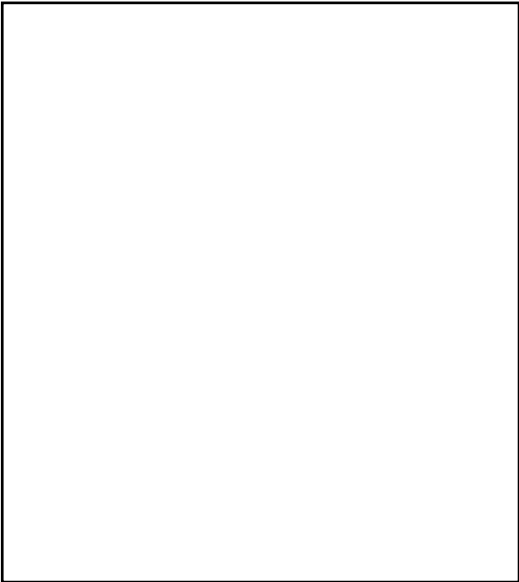
March 28
Palm Sunday

April 4
Happy Easter

March 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Sunshine Bags



FEBRUARY, SUNSHINE BAGS



Connecting With ...



St. Paul's Honor Roll Students:

Elida High School:

Honor Roll I

Grade 12: Makayla Bok

Grade 9: Savannah Emmons

Apollo Joint Vocational School:

Honor Roll II

Grade 11: Brittany Scannell

Elida Middle School:

Honor Roll II

Grade 7: Cameron Emmons

Congratulations to coach Denny Thompson on his 200th coaching career win for the Elida boys varsity basketball team. Denny started coaching at the Varsity level in 2007.



The People of St. Paul's

*Dear St. Paul's Family,
Thank you so much for the
beautiful flowers you sent
me during my recent
hospitalization. I am feeling
better and hope to be able to
return to church soon.
I really appreciate your
kindness.*

Jan Soddors

*St. Paul's Family,
Thank you to the Crafty
Creature for the beautiful,
Thoughtful lap quilt that was
sent to Jim last fall It has been
used so much.*

*St. Paul's has been in our
lives (I started going there at
age 8 and Jim became a
member when we started
dating in 1968), for a long
time and consider it our house
of worship. We so enjoy the
virtual services every Sunday
Morning.*

*Thank you again,
Jim and Sharon Phillips*

*Sunshine Crew!
Thank you for the Sunshine
bag from St. Paul's...
What a Joy!! All the
surprises and goodies. It
made my day, and for Pastor
Paul delivering it.*

*Thank you,
Carl Miller*

*Thanks to Pastor Paul, Gail,
Judy, Virginia, Martha, Lois,
and UMC for dropping off a
"Sunshine Sack"...It was a
wonderful surprise, and truly
appreciated.
Thank you for thinking of us!*

Scott and Beth Warris

*Sunshine Crew,
Thank you so much for
the Sunshine Sack. It was
such a nice surprise and
the treats were yummy.*

Judy Strayer



*With Deepest
Sympathy*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Jan Soddors
Cindy Swihart

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jan Soddors
Jack & Cindy Swihart

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Our sympathy to the family
of Mary Kaye Pease who
passed away on February, 16.
Mary Kaye had served
St. Paul's as choir director.

Our Sympathy to Gary and Deb
Hurd on the passing of their Uncle,
Walter Hurd, (who was Wilbur's
identical twin brother.) Cards may
be sent to: 2242 Reinell Ave.,
Lima, OH 45805

Our Sympathy to Sharon Phillips and family on the passing of her husband Jim. On February 11. Jim and Sharon are long time members of St. Paul's, even though they moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, they have considered this their church and when they came back to visit family, they attended worship. They enjoyed watching the Sunday morning worship services together on Facebook live. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Card may reach Sharon at; 6203 Millwright Ct., Greensboro, NC 27410.

Meetings

March 1, 2021
PPR..7:00 PM

March 2, 2021
Trustees..7:00 PM

March 3, 2021
Worship Mtg..
10:00 AM

March 8, 2021
Ad Council /
Finance..7:00 PM

March 10, 2021
Missions Mtg..7:00 PM

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



MARCH 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Scott Grapner	2	3 Chelsey Cook	4 Janna Thompson	5 Scott Fessler	6
7 Tim Theodore	8	9	10	11	12 Linda Holman Ethan Lewis	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Tara Strauch
21	22 Nancy Gesler	23	24 Joyce Nichols Kathy Waldick	25	26 Luke Selover	27 Julie Bok
28	29 Casey Lane	30 Tahler Sdao Julia Thomas	31 Mitchell Furry Tom Thomas			

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Sauteed Sweet Potato Risotto

By Susan Nartker

Ingredients		Instructions
4 tsp.	Olive oil, classic, divided	In large skillet heat 2 tsp. oil over medium heat 1 minute or until hot. Add onion; cook 3 to 5 minutes or until softened. Add sweet potatoes and thyme. Cook 8 to 10 minutes or until tender. Remove from skillet and set aside.
1/2 cup	Onion, yellow, finely chopped	
2 medium	Sweet potatoes, peeled & diced	In saucepan heat broth over medium heat; reduce heat to medium-low; simmer.
3/4 tsp.	Dried thyme	
3 cups	Chicken broth	Add remaining oil to skillet; stir in rice and 1/2 cup of broth. Cook, stirring, until broth is absorbed. Stir in broth 1/2 cup at a time; cook and stir until each addition of broth is absorbed. Continue to cook and stir just until rice is creamy.
1 cup	Arborio rice	
1/4 cup	Parmesan, grated	Add sweet potato mixture to skillet; stir cook over medium heat 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through. Spoon into bowls, sprinkle with Parmesan, and serve.

Chocolate Crunch Bars

By Mary Holmes

Ingredients		Instructions
6 cups	Cocoa crisp rice cereal	Place rice cereal in large bowl; set aside.
1 1/2 Tbl.	Margarine	Combine margarine, peanut butter and marshmallows in a medium saucepan; cook, stirring constantly over low heat until marshmallows are melted and mixture is smooth.
1 1/2 Tbl.	Peanut butter	
16 oz. pkg.	Marshmallows, large	Pour mixture over cereal, stirring until cereal is well coated. Stir in chocolate chips.
1/2 cup	Chocolate chips, semi sweet	Coat 13x9 baking pan with cooking spray. Press in mixture. Let cool completely, and cut into bars.



KIDZ KORNER

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VIDEO

— — — — (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

— — — (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

— — — — (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

— — — — (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

— — — — —

"Are not five — — — — — sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many — — — — —."

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, sparrow, crow

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

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

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Setting Captives Free

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises."

When God Giggles

Before dinner, our family was preparing to pray, which we do by holding hands. Upon discovering that one child hadn't washed his hands, my husband struck a contorted pose to avoid physical contact. The mealtime blessing quickly dissolved into laughter as we each peeked at him.

Afterward, as we passed around the food, I asked, "What do you imagine God thought about us laughing during prayer?" One child quickly replied, "I think he was laughing right along with us."

Yes! Although prayer is reverent, God invites us to converse with words, emotions — and even giggles!

—Janna Fireston