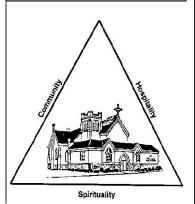
St. Paul's Epistle An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
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Elida, OH 45807
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officeespc@gmail.com
Rev. Paul Scannell
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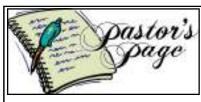
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We are already in the Lenten Season, and if you are not doing anything this year for Lent, I want to invite you to start a new discipline or give up something for Lent. If you give something up for

Lent, I want to encourage you to donate the money you save to help those in need and to spend the extra time you gain to pray with God. You could also start a new discipline for Lent, pray when most of your time is spent listening. Also, starting a new devotional or time spent every day reading the Bible. Whatever you decide, I hope you will join me this year as we grow closer to God every day of Lent.

The other thing I want to discuss is something people keep asking me about and hear rumors or stories from other people churches. Disaffiliation or churches leaving United and Methodism, the main issue that is causing churches to leave the denomination is the compatibility of the churches theology with the homosexual lifestyle. The churches that are leaving are saying that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings. The leadership here at Elida St. Paul's has decided to not do anything at this time, because we are waiting to see what will happen at General Conference in 2024, when we believe there will be a clearer understanding of what United Methodists will adopt concerning homosexuality and church doctrine and leadership. When the denomination has adopted a sure path for Methodism, we can then reevaluate where we are and what action, if any, we want to take. I have written this several times and I still don't know if I have explained it well, but know if you have any questions or need more information I will try my best to answer your questions, just ask. I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday, but until then, I will, as always, see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

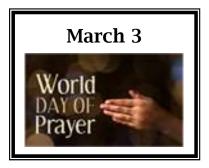
Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

Still round the corner there may wait / A new road or a secret gate.

-J.R.R. Tolkien



BOOK Club Saturday, March 4 at 9:00 AM

"The Nightengale" *By: Kristin Hannah*All Are Welcome!

March 5

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

Mission: To serve and be a friend to everyone who enters our doors by providing a safe place, a good meal, and a hope for the future thru our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Vision: To eliminate physical and spiritual hunger in the Lima/Allen County area.



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

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



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			

Christian Symbol

SHAMROCK

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity



Family Promise Diaper Donation

They are supplied with new born size, but are in need of the other sizes, also pull-ups of all sizes.

Items may be placed in the food Pantry collection containers.

Last collection day is March 12.





REMINDER:

March 12

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

March 20 First Day of Spring



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



CONGRATULATIONS! GARY HURD

Gary retired from Lima Memorial Health Systems on February 8, 2023 after working there for over 34 years. He graduated from Lima Technical College in 1976 with dual Associate degrees in Data Processing and Accounting. Upon graduation, he started working for U.S. Fiber in Delphos as a Computer Operator. In 1978, he went to work for the Metropolitan Bank as a Computer Operator and was there for just under ten years. On August 22, 1988, he accepted a job at Lima

Memorial Health System also as a Computer Operator. During his time at LMHS, he worked in several different capacities over the years as they moved him around. He not only worked as a Computer Operator, but then as a Computer Programmer, the Help Desk for MIS (Management Information Systems), a PC Tech, Communications (Switchboard), and then finally as a Help Desk Analyst for the IT Department. He has had the fortunate opportunity to work from home for the last 2 ½ years. Working as the Help Desk Analyst, gave him the chance to speak to most everyone at LMHS, including Administration. Due to this fact, he was known everywhere throughout the hospital and surrounding county LMHS walk-ins. He will be missed by all. (He has already been asked to come back!)

Plans for retirement? Deb has a long 'honey-do' list which he will start tackling when he wants to. He & Deb hope to do some traveling, but not a lot. They are looking forward to this new chapter in Their lives.

etihemer

Lent

March 5Second Sunday in Lent

March 12 Third Sunday in Lent



March 19Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26 Fifth Sunday in Lent



April 2 Palm Sunday

April 6Holy Thursday
7:00 PM Service

April 9 Happy Easter Early Service 8:00 AM



To follow 8:00 AM Service

Food donations needed



Easter 10:00AM Worship Service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt Following breakfast More details closer to Easter

The special Easter offering is designated for UMCOR International Disaster response.

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 April 2.

Name:
Number of lilies:
In Honor of (or) In Memory of: <i>(circle one)</i>
Phone:

Please pick up your Lilies following the Easter Service.

Hymn History

Be Thou My Vision

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

Eighth Century

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

Only one missionary is honored with a global holiday, and only one is known by his own distinct color—St. Patrick, of course, missionary to Ireland.

Patrick was born in A.D. 373, along the banks of the River Clyde in what is now called Scotland. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather a priest. When Patrick was abut 16, raiders descended on his little town and torched his home. When one of the pirates spotted him in the bushes, he was seized, hauled aboard ship, and taken to Ireland as a slave. There he gave his life to the Lord Jesus.

"The Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief," he later wrote, "in order that I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God."

Patrick eventually escaped and returned home. His overjoyed family begged him to never leave again. But one night, in a dream reminiscent of Paul's vision of the Macedonian man in Acts 16, Patrick saw an Irishman pleading with him to come evangelize Ireland.

It wasn't an easy decision, but Patrick, about 30, returned to his former captors with only one book, the Latin Bible, in his hand. As he evangelized the countryside, multitudes came to listen. The superstitious Druids opposed him and sought his death. But his preaching was powerful, and Patrick became one of the most fruitful evangelists of all time, planting about 200 churches and baptizing 100,000 converts.

His work endured, and several centuries later, the Irish church was still producing hymns, prayers, sermons, and songs of worship. In the eighth century, an unknown poet wrote a prayer asking God to be his Vision, his Wisdom and his Best Thought by day or night.

In 1905, Mary Elizabeth Byrne, a scholar in Dublin, Ireland, translated this ancient Irish poem into English. Another scholar, Eleanor Hull of Manchester, England, took Byrne's translation and crafted it into verses with rhyme and meter. Shortly thereafter It was set to a traditional Irish folk song, "Slane," named for an area in Ireland where Patrick reportedly challenged local Druids with the gospel.

It is one of our oldest and most moving hymns:

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, Naught be all else to me save that Thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Faith In Action



Worship Attendance:				
February 5, 2023	70			
February 12, 2023	65			
February 19, 2023	67			
February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday	28			

Financial Giving

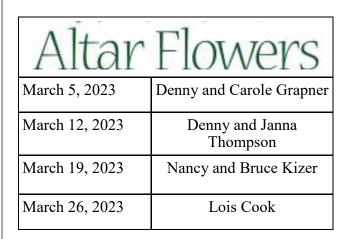
Weekly Need for Unified Ministry Budget \$4,187.00



Unified Minis	Other:	
February 5, 2023	\$4,583.39	\$149.00
February 12, 2023	\$3,500.00	\$185.00
February 19, 2023	\$1,445.00	\$255.00

Sunday School Attendance			
February 5, 2023	11		
February 12, 2023	12		
February 19, 2023	11		

Hospitality Cart			
March 5, 2023	OPEN		
March 12, 2023	OPEN		
March19, 2023	OPEN		
March 26, 2023	OPEN		





Hospitality Host:

Bring in small simple assortment of finger snacks and juice to be placed at the hospitality cart. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall near the cart.

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 3/1

Psalm 49, 119:49-72 Deuteronomy 9:13-21 Hebrews 3:12-19 John 2:23-3:15

Thursday 3/2

Psalm 50, 59, 60 Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5 Hebrews 4:1-10, John 3:16-21

Friday 3/3

Psalm 40, 54, 51 Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Hebrews 4:11-16, John 3:22-36

Saturday 3/4

Psalm 55, 138, 139 Deuteronomy 11:18-28 Hebrews 5:1-10, John 4:1-26

Sunday 3/5

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84 Jeremiah 1:1-10 1 Corinthians 3:11-23 Mark 3:31-4:9

Monday 3/6

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65 Jeremiah 1:11-19 Romans 1:1-15, John 4:27-42

Tuesday 3/7

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

Wednesday 3/8

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

Thursday 3/9

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

Friday 3/10

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

Saturday 3/11

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

Sunday 3/12

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

Monday 3/13

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

Tuesday 3/14

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

Wednesday 3/15

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

Thursday 3/16

Psalm 42, 43, 83 Jeremiah 10:11-24 Romans 5:12-21, John 8:21-32

Friday 3/17

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

Saturday 3/18

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

Sunday 3/19

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67 Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22 Galatians 4:21-51, Mark 8:11-21

Monday 3/20

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

Tuesday 3/21

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

Wednesday 3/22

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

Thursday 3/23

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

Friday 3/24

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

Saturday 3/25

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

Sunday 3/26

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

Monday 3/27

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

Tuesday 3/28

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 1124, 125, 126, Jeremiah 25:8-17 Romans 10:1-13, John 9:18-41

Wednesday 3/29

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

Thursday 3/30

Psalm 131, 132, 140, 142 Jeremiah 26:1-16 Romans 11:1-12, John10:19-42

Friday 3/31

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



Personnel Report

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL / FINANCE

Administrative Council Chair: Administrative Council Secretary: Finance Chair: Financial Secretary: Treasurer: **PPR/Nominations: Trustees:** Missions: **Nurture:** Christian/Higher Education:

Lay Member to Annual Conf.: Members-at-large:

Pastor:

Lav Leader:

Scott Fessler Corinne Piper Art Holman Carole Grapner Margie Best Sue Theodore Alex McAdams Tim Piper Judy Chaffin

Jan Wyant Dan Best Linda Craft Norm Grigsby Paul Scannell

NURTURE

Co-Chair: **Judy Chaffins** Co-Chair: Jan Wyant Paul Scannell Pastor:

MISSIONS

Chairperson: Tim Piper Paul Scannell Pastor: **Secretary:** Corinne Piper Austin Clark Norm Grigsby

Jamie Wyant

CHRISTIAN / HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairperson: Jan Wyant Paul Scannell Pastor:

WORSHIP TEAM

Paul Scannell Pastor: **Choir Director: Judy Chaffins** Musician: Lois Cook Musician: Linda Holman Altar Guild: Vicki McAdams **Liturgical Arts:** Myrna Metzger **Communion Stewards:** Steve & Tracy Sdao Head Usher: Larry Moser

THANK YOU

PPR / NOMINATIONS

Chairperson: Sue Theodore Lay Leader: Dan Best Pastor: Paul Scannell Deb Hurd Myrna Metzger Susan Nartker Janna Thompson

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Alex McAdams Pastor: Paul Scannell Lois Cook Vicki McAdams Larry Moser Slone Whetstone

Jaime Wyant

OFFERING COUNTERS

Finance Chair: Art Holman Dan Best Gene Craft Scott Fessler **Brent McAdams**

Jamie Wyant

TECH TEAM

VISUALS Judy Chaffins Tim Piper Jamie Wyant

FACEBOOK LIVE

Scott Fessler

Alex McAdams Steve Sdao Jamie Wyant

SOUND

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to share their time and talents by serving on a committee! There will be opportunities throughout the year where other volunteers will be needed to help with a committee.

Valentine's Luncheon

A Valentines luncheon was held on February 12. Thank you to Judy Chaffins and Jan Wyant and all their helpers for organizing this time of fellowship. Along with the Delicious food, a table was set up to decorate and fill a Valentines sack with all sorts of goodies. You could make 2,one to give away and one to keep.



















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Elida Athletics Hall of Fame



Congratulations to this year's Elida Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

Denny Thompson, Aaron Thompson & Tommy Thomas. A banquet was held Saturday, February 4th, in the afternoon with an induction ceremony held that evening between the JV & Varsity boys basketball game in the Fieldhouse.

Denny Thompson is a 1974 Elida High School graduate and a 1978 Bluffton College graduate. While in high school, Denny participated in basketball, track, cross country, and tennis, earning five varsity letters. He went to Bluffton College and majored in Mathematics. At Bluffton, he played four years of varsity basketball and two years of varsity golf.

During Denny's high school years of basketball, he was named First Team All-Western Buckeye League and First Team All-City. Although he was a guard, Denny was known for his rebounding. His career high for one game was 25 rebounds. During his senior season, Denny had 272 rebounds and averaged 14.4 per game.

Denny was inducted into the Bluffton College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. They described him as "one of the most versatile performers to ever step onto the basketball court at Bluffton." He is listed in almost every statistical category in the record book and at or near the top of several. For his senior season, he scored 536 points for an average of 22.3 points per game, sixth best all-time at Bluffton. On defense, he recorded 82 steals for an average of 3.4 per game and still holds the school record. He was named First Team All-Hoosier-Buckeye Conference and NAIA District 22 selection.

Thompson is one of nine Bluffton players to collect at least 1,000 points and 500 career rebounds. His career rebounds of 654 rank him ninth all-time at the college. He ended his college career with 1,296 points, ranking him 11th of all time. Denny was named Converse Small College Honorable Mention All-American in 1978.

After college, Denny began his teaching and coaching career in 1978 at Montpelier and then Bath Schools. He came to Elida High School in 1984 and taught math for a total of 33 years. Coach Thompson coached high school athletics in six different decades. He was the head golf coach for 39 years. He was the head basketball coach for 15 years after being the assistant for 20 years. During Coach Thompson's career, he had the honor and privilege of coaching many tremendous athletes which helped lead Elida to seven Western Buckeye League titles in golf and three Western Buckeye League titles in basketball. He was named Western Buckeye League Coach of the Year seven times in golf and three times in basketball. His basketball post-season record is 35-15. In his 15 years, his team garnered nine sectional titles, three district titles, one regional runner-up, one regional title. In 2012, he led Elida to a state runner-up in its only state appearance. In golf, Coach Thompson's teams had 23 district appearances, three teams went to the state tournament, and three individuals went to state.

Denny Thompson has devoted the majority of his life as a student, athlete, and coach to the Elida School District. For that, Elida is thankful and appreciative. Coach Thompson can still be found coaching basketball. He has returned the past two seasons as an assistant at Bluffton University, giving back to his college alma mater.

Denny and his wife Janna reside in Elida and continue to be supportive of Elida students and athletic programs.

Elida Athletics Hall of Fame



Aaron Thompson, a 2006 graduate, was a four-year varsity basketball player and four-year varsity golfer. During Aaron's senior year, he was named Western Buckeye League Player of the Year for basketball. He also was named District 8 All-District First Team, Northwest Ohio First Team, All-State Special Mention, Lima News Dream Team, and played in the District 8 North/South All-Star game. Aaron was one of the 2006 Valedictorians with a 4.0 GPA.

After high school, Aaron went to college at Washington University in St. Louis and continued his basketball career. During his college career, Aaron earned many accolades and accomplishments. Career Highlights: Second in school history in

three-pointers (285), third in scoring (1,558 career points), fourth in steals (161), sixth in assists (335), Seventh in three-point field goal percentage (.425), and 10th in field goals made (537); Led WU to 2008 and 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship; 2008 and 2009 Final Four All-Tournament Team; 2007 UAA Rookie of the Year; 2007 Division III Freshman All-American Team; 2009 First Team Division III All-American; 2009 UAA Player of the Year; 2010 Division III Preseason National Player of the Year; 2010 Third Team Division III All-American; Three-time Academic All-UAA honoree; 103-16 career record; 119 games played is the most all-time at WU.

Aaron graduated in 2010 from Washington University with a degree in Finance. He currently lives in Arvada, Colorado with his wife, Angie. Aaron is an information and projections analyst for Huddle Technology.



Tommy Thomas is a 1996 graduate of Elida High School, where he excelled in soccer. He was a four-year varsity soccer athlete and a two-year varsity baseball player. Soccer was Tom's passion which lead him to a soccer career at the college level and a present soccer coaching position at Elida.

Tom had many soccer accomplishments in his four years at Elida: Four Western Buckeye League Championships (1992 through 1995); Career points leader (207); Career goals leader (88); Career assists leader (31); Most goals in a single season (28); Three-time Western Buckeye League First Team (1993, 1994, 1995); Two-time Western Buckeye League Player of the Year (1994 and 1995); Two-time All-District 1st Team

(1994 and 1995); Two-time All-District Player of the Year (1994 and 1995); All-District Second Team (1993); All-State (1995); Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award (1995).

After high school, Tom went on to attend Bowling Green State University and earned his Bachelor of Science in Technology and Construction Management. While attending BGSU, he played on the men's soccer team from 1996 through 2001. While playing for Bowling Green, Tom and his team won a MAC regular season championship. He played in four MAC Tournament Championship games and won two of them. Tom played in two Sweet 16s in the NCAA Tournament as well. He was the 2001 team captain. He started in the final 66 matches of his career.

After college, Tom returned to his hometown and has had the opportunity to share his love of the sport with the youth of Elida. His head coaching career began in 2004 and continues through the present. The past four years he had the pleasure of coaching his son, Ethan. His current record as a coach is 193-118-42.

Coach Thomas earned Western Buckeye League Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2017 and District Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2015. He has the most coaching wins in program history. Elida boys' soccer has won two Western Buckeye League Championships, four District Championships, and has two Regional Final Runners-up with Coach Thomas. Tom started the Elida Soccer Association for the youth in 2005. The time and energy that he has invested in the soccer program is indescribable and very appreciated.

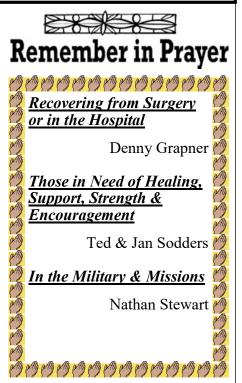
The People of St. Paul's

Our Sympathy to Doug and Ginger Fox Family on the passing of their son, Christopher, on February 14. A celebration of life was held on February 20, 2023



Congratulations to Reggie and Stephanie McAdams on the birth of their son, Greyson Kent McAdams, born February 20, weighing 7lb. 1 oz. and 21 inches long. Grandparents are Brent and Vicki McAdams. Great grand parents are Myrna Metzger and Ron and Kay McAdams. Several Aunt, Uncles and cousins. Cards may reach them at 2025 Greendale Ave., Findlay, OH 45840

tsa



THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU!!!!

A huge thank you goes to my St. Paul's church family for all of the good wishes for my recent retirement. I appreciate those who were able to attend my retirement party that Deb had for me here at the church. The support from all of you was amazing!!! We are now entering this new phase of our lives and looking forward to it. We are so blessed to be a part of such an awesome church.

Thanks again! Gary Hurd

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.

Meetings

March 1, 2023 Worship Mtg.. 10:00 AM

March 6, 2023 PPR..7:00 PM

TBA Trustees..7:00 PM

> No Ad Council / **Finance**

MARCH 2023

Tue Wed Thu Mon Fri Sun Sat

No Missions Mtg Sundays Hospitality9:30 AM Worship10:00 AM Wednesday				1 Scott Grapner	2	3 Chelsey Cook Ella Nartker Wesley Nartker	4 Janna Thompson
March anniversaries	5 Scott Fessler	6	7 Tim Theodore	8	9	10	11
Jeff & Shelly Reiff March 12; 40 yrs.	12 Linda Holman Ethan Lewis	13	14 Jason Murphy	15	16	17	18
Tony & Shirley Shoup March 20; 41 yrs. Brent & Vicki McAdams March 21 Bruce & Nancy Kizer	19	20 Tara Strauch	21	22 Nancy Gesler	23	24 Joyce Nichols Kathy Waldick	25
March 23; 55 yrs. Jordan & Amy Wyant March 28	26 Luke Selover	27 Julie Bok Karla May	28	29	30 Julia Thomas Tahler Sdao	31 Mitchell Furry Tom Thomas	

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Philly Cheese Steak Casserole

		By Tahler Sdao		
Ingredients		Instructions		
8 oz.	Small shell pasta	Preheat oven to 350 degrees.		
2 Tbl.	Butter	Cook shells according to package directions. *reserve 1/2 cup liquid for later*		
2 cloves	Garlic or minced equivalent	Melt butter, cook garlic for 30 seconds, then add green Peppers and onion—cook until tender (about 5 minutes).		
1 lb.	Ground beef	Add ground beef, season with salt & pepper, and cook		
8 oz.	Cream Cheese	thoroughly.		
1	Green pepper	Stir in Cream Cheese until melted. Stir in reserved cooking liquid, shells, and mozzarella		
1/2	Yellow onion	cheese.		
1 cup	Mozzarella cheese, shredded	Top with provolone slices and bake for 20-25 minutes or until the cheese is completely melted.		
	Provolone cheese, sliced			
1/2 cup	Cooking liquid, reserved from shells	The Theory of the Park		



KIDZ KORNER

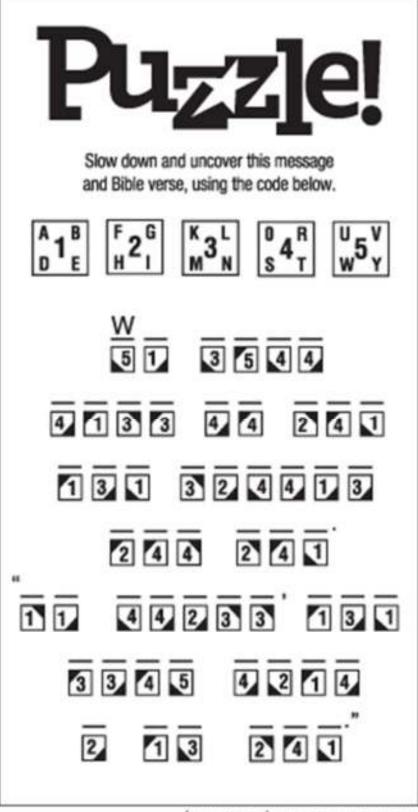


What you do:

· Adult help

74444

- Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
- Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
- Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
- 4. Add the tomato as a head.
- Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
- Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!



Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address: www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account @ESPCHURCH

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Living Our Faith

A God With Scars

If anyone has ever asked you why a loving God allows suffering, you've probably developed a theodicy. That's a fancy word for defending belief in divine goodness despite evil's existence. Theologians who tackle this profound mystery note that God himself wasn't spared from pain. Despite his sinlessness as true God, Jesus endured crucifixion as true man. As proof of that sacrifice, his body was scarred.

Those marks feature in a poem by English pastor Edward Shillito. Seeing wounded combatants return from World War I, he wondered how the Gospel could seem like good news to them. When Shillito realized that Christianity alone features a God who suffered, he wrote "Jesus of the Scars" to offer comfort and hope. The poem concludes:

The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak; They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne; But to our wounds only God's wounds speak; And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.