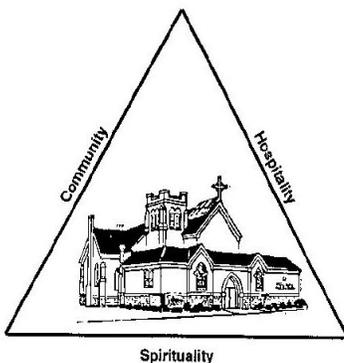


St. Paul's Epistle

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
 Cell Phone:
 734-660-1984
4pastorpaul@gmail.com



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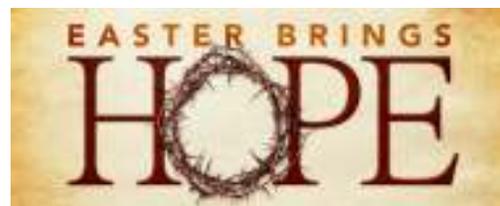


Hello Everyone,

I want to use the first part of the article to talk about something we see every week, but may not pay attention to. There is a cow in the hallway, between the sanctuary and the office, made of plywood, with a small area at the top to hold donations. It was built and put in place to collect money from children, each week, for the Heifer Project. The Sunday school kids don't use it as much, but there are others who place money in the cow, which is collected and placed into a special fund for the Heifer Project. Heifer International is an organization that gives livestock to people in need and educates them on how to make their gifts sustainable for those individuals and their communities. The Missions Team has decided what animals the funds will be used to purchase through Heifer International. Normally, we pick out one large item and then several cheaper items to completely spend down the collected funds. But for 2025, it was suggested and adopted to give partial gifts, in many different areas, and to fund completely, one very important project. The money you placed in 'Bessy' the cow was used to send a girl to school for one year. We also purchased partial or complete gifts in the following areas: a heifer (of course), a water buffalo (who knew), a sheep, a goat, a pig, a flock of ducks, a flock of chickens, and honey bees. I hope I remembered everything, but all of this is to remind you to give to 'Bessy', the cow in the hallway, because your gifts make a difference in the lives of those who have less.

We will be spending some time looking at a subject that has been in the news lately and seeing what the Bible has to say about it. I want to warn you, it is going to be controversial, but I also want you to know the complexity of the issue leads me to believe there is no easy answer/solution. But, I do know there are human beings (God's children) who are affected by the problem. How does God speak about these people, and what are we called to do about it? I am speaking about foreigners/immigrants. I hope you will come to the conversation with an open heart, because I will be spending the next 6 weeks, as we slowly and methodically look at immigration in America. I also want to say, as you discuss this topic among yourselves, please give all sides respect. It is all right to have different opinions; debating issues openly is one of the greatest things we have as Americans. I hope to see you in church as we go through Lent, and until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul



March 1
Coins for Communion will benefit Our
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen



March 6

REMINDER:
March 8
Daylight Savings Time Begins
Set your clocks ahead 1 hour.



The bell choir is going to begin practices again starting **Sunday, March 8th, at 1:00** in the choir room. The practices will continue each Sunday in March at 1:00, then we are planning to **perform on Palm Sunday, March 29th**. If you would like to join us for the first time, we would love to have you (a musical background is *not* necessary!) Please contact Kerry Fremont (call or text) 419-203-3020 if you are interested.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol



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

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



ROOSTER

The rooster reminds us of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus' words about being alert for his return: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn" (Mark 13:35, NIV).

Women's Bible Study:

Will begin meeting again on
Thursday, March 12
At 2:00 PM

In classroom beside the office

March, study
"The Book of John"

Bible Study Open to All Ladies!



Thought for the Month:

You are as young as your faith,
as old as your doubt;
as young as your self-confidence,
as old as your fear;
as young as your hope,
as old as your despair.

—Samuel Ullman

You are invited to join in an
all-Church CARRY-IN luncheon!

After Church services
on Sunday, March 15th.

Please bring whatever you want to
share! No sign-up sheet required.

Hot sandwiches, beverages,
and tableware will be provided.

Let's come together to enjoy
some food, fun and fellowship!



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**March 20
SPRING BEGINS!!**

**March 22
Food Pantry**

Items needed are Diapers, both
Children & Adult. to be taken to the
Five Loaves Food Pantry at The
Church At Allentown.

**DONATIONS
— ACCEPTED —**

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

To follow Easter breakfast

If you would like to donate wrapped
candy or prizes that will fit in the eggs
for the Easter egg hunt, it will be greatly
appreciated. The children in our church
are precious and this is one way to put
big smiles on their faces. Donations can
be left in the church office or give to
Larry or Shirley Moser.



Lent



March 1
Second Sunday in Lent

March 8
Third Sunday in Lent

March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent



April 2
Maundy Thursday
 7:00 PM Service

April 3
Good Friday
Stations of the Cross
Shawnee UMC
 4:30PM-7:30PM

Easter Breakfast
To follow 8:00 AM
Service
Food donations needed

April 5
Happy Easter
Shawnee cemetery
Sunrise service 6:45 AM

April 5
Happy Easter
St. Paul's UMC
Early Service 8:00 AM

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
 Following breakfast

The special Easter offering is designated to West Ohio church camp, Camp Wesley in Bellefontaine.

Easter
10:00AM Worship Service
"Raised 3rd Day"

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Orders for Easter flowers are being taken.

They are **\$14.00 each.**

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

Name: _____

Number of flowers: _____

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

Phone: _____

Please pick up your flowers following the Easter Service.

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

READ THE HYMNS

You don't always have to even sing the hymns. Simply reading them is dipping into the richest sacred poetry of the ages. So keep a hymnal at your desk or bedside. It may be a little harder to find hymnals now, since most churches project the words of their songs onto screens. But publishers are still publishing hymnbooks (we've included lots of hymns in the *Then Sings My Soul* series of books). You can also find multiple shelves of old hymn books in used bookstore and antique malls. Assemble a small collection and use them during your devotions. I keep a hymnal at my desk and even if a hymn is unfamiliar to me, I enjoy reading it's words. Sometimes I try singing them by picking out the notes (I'm not a musician) or I make up my own tunes (hoping no one is listening) or find another hymn tune that fits the meter.

Many hymns have been written for the close of day, and they can serve as a veritable benediction as you fall asleep. I'm inordinately fond of Sabine Barrington-Gould's nocturnal hymn "Now the Day Is Over." I've never been able to get my church in Nashville to appreciate it, so I just occasionally sing it myself at the close of a hard day. (And yes, there are still sailors tossing in the deep blue sea.)

*Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening steal across the sky.*

*Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose;
With thy tenderest blessing may mine eyelids close.*

*Grant to little children visions bright of thee;
Guard the sailors tossing on the deep, blue sea.*

*Through the long night watches may Thine angels spread
Their white wings above me, watching round my bed.*

*When the morning wakens, then may I arise
Pure, and fresh, and sinless in Thy holy eyes.*

Not all the selections in the hymnbook are equally meaningful to me. Some hymns are inferior in quality or antiquated in language. But ferreting out the good ones is a spiritual discipline worth pursuing, and having a hymnbook close at hand is akin to having a Bible nearby.



Daily Bible Readings

LENTEN READING PLAN: A Countdown of Hope

March 1

The *Promise* of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*

March 2

The *Promise* of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*

March 3

The *Promise* of Strength and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*

March 4

The *Promise* of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*

March 5

The *Promise* of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*

March 6

The *Promise* of a New Covenant,
Jeremiah 31:31-34

March 7

The *Promise* of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

March 8

The *Promise* of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*

March 9

The *Promise* of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*

March 10

The *Promise* of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*

March 11

The *Promise* of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*

March 12

The *Promise* of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*

March 13

The *Promise* of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*

March 14

The *Promise* of Peace, *John 14:27*

March 15

The *Promise* of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*

March 16

The *Promise* of Guidance, *John 16:13*

March 17

The *Promise* of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*

March 18

The *Promise* of Grace, *Romans 6:14*

March 19

The *Promise* of Freedom from Condemnation,
Romans 8:1-4

March 20

The *Promise* of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*

March 21

The *Promise* of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*

March 22

The *Promise* of Victory Over Death,
1 Corinthians 15:54-57

March 23

The *Promise* of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

March 24

The *Promise* of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*

March 25

The *Promise* of God's Faithfulness,
2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

March 26

The *Promise* of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*

March 27

The *Promise* of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*

March 28

The *Promise* of a New Heaven and a New Earth,
Revelation 21:1-4

HOLY WEEK READING PLAN: Palm Sunday to Easter

March 29 Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry, *Matthew 21:1-11*

March 30 Monday

Cleansing the Temple, *Mark 11:15-18*

March 31 Tuesday

Speaking in Parables, *Matthew 22:1-14*

April 1 Wednesday

Silent Wednesday, *Psalm 46*

April 2 Holy Thursday

The Last Supper, *John 13:1-20*

April 3 Good Friday

The Crucifixion, *Isaiah 53*

April 4 Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation, *Luke 23:50-56*

April 5 Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!, *John 20:1-18*

2025 Missions Giving Summary

<u>COINS AT COMMUNION GIVING:</u>	<u>2025 AMOUNT GIVEN</u>
Heartbeat of Lima (January)	\$ 89.57
Samaritan's Purse (February)	\$ 94.12
Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen (March)	\$ 78.91
5 Loaves Food Pantry-Allentown (April)	\$ 61.40
WOC United Methodist Church Camps (May)	\$ 106.29
UMCOR—U. S. Disaster Relief (June)	\$ 70.80
Crossroads Crisis Center (July)	\$ 72.87
Meals 'til Monday (August)	\$ 59.66
Samaritans House (September)	\$ 40.27
Family Promise (October)	\$ 101.34
Lima Rescue Mission (November)	\$ 119.97
ACTS Sunnysdale House (December)	\$ 133.32
TOTAL:	\$1,028.52

<u>UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPECIAL SUNDAY'S GIVING:</u>	
Human Relations Day (January)	\$ 0.00
Ash Wednesday (Special Needs Fund) (February)	\$ 126.00
UMCOR Sunday (March)	\$ 85.00
Native American Awareness Day (May)	\$ 55.00
Peace with Justice Sunday (June)	\$ 35.00
World Communion Sunday (October)	\$ 45.00
Student Day (November)	\$ 65.00

<u>OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS:</u>	
Heifer International (\$'s collected for Heifer International)	\$ 508.00
Meals 'till Monday - donation from Missions Fund	\$ 500.00
TOTALS FOR SPECIAL SUNDAY'S/SPECIAL OFFERINGS:	\$ 1,419.00

<u>SPECIAL SERVICES GIVING (Designated use of \$'s):</u>	
Easter (UMCOR U. S. and International Disaster Relief)	\$1,055.00
Pentecost Sunday Offering to Churches United Pantry (UMC Community Service)	\$3,461.41
Pentecost Sunday Offering to Trinity UMC Freedom School (UMC Community Svc.)	\$3,461.40
Christmas Offering (1/3 to Samaritan's House)	\$ 612.67
Christmas Offering (1/3 to Meals 'till Monday)	\$ 612.67
Christmas Offering (1/3 to Family Promise)	\$ 612.67
TOTAL:	\$9,203.14

<u>SPECIAL MISSIONS / DESIGNATED GIVING:</u>	
Donations or reimbursement to ramp fund for ramp projects	\$ 3,330.00
Health Kits, School Kits, & Period Packs (contents value = 107 kits x\$12 ea.)	\$ 1,284.00
Donations to General Missions Fund	\$ 420.60
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (208 boxes x \$45 + \$12 ship. per box)	\$11,856.00
Hats, Gloves, Scarves (110 items x \$12 per item average)	\$ 1,320.00
TOTAL:	\$18,210.60

(Donations for Family Promise meals, X-mas gifts and Food for Allentown Food Pantry - not quantified)

GRAND TOTAL MISSIONS GIVING—2025:	\$29,861.26
--	--------------------

2025 Mission Giving as a % of 2025 Church Budget (\$228,085) = 13.1%

Missions Activities Year-End Report

CONGREGATION AND MISSIONS COMMITTEE EFFORTS DURING THE YEAR OF 2025:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY TIM PIPER, MISSIONS CHAIRPERSON

- Donations of food for the **Allentown Five Loaves Food Pantry** continued to be strong in 2025 with St. Paul's individuals faithfully filling the food bins every month. Thank you to all who donated food to feed Elida families;
- St. Paul's has monetarily supported the **Meals 'til Monday** mission which provides weekend meals to children from various elementary schools in and around Allen County, including Elida Elementary;
- Janna Thompson and her helpers processed **53 school kits, 34 health kits and 20 period packs** donated by numerous members of our congregation as part of this UMC annual mission and Pastor Paul delivered the kits;
- The small group, **Crafty Creatures** continues to bless our congregation and our community with their mission of **prayer shawls, blankets, and quilts**. They also made significant contributions to our **Christmas Tree of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves** which were donated to **Crossroads Crisis Center** and **Lima Rescue Mission**.
- Our members gave a total of \$1,028 during **Coins-at-Communion** on the first Sunday of each month. Recipients of these funds included **many local missions, LifeWise Academy, UMC Camps** as well as **UMCOR**. Our members also gave \$1,419 to **United Methodist Special Sundays** such as **UMCOR Sunday, Native American Awareness Day and Meals 'til Monday**;
- Our members built several **wheel-chair ramps (4 in December)** in 2025 for people with special needs to gain access to their houses. This continues to be a unique mission, funded and constructed by St. Paul's members;
- Up to 6 families were housed weekly at **Family Promise of Lima**. St. Paul's members partnered with local Elida churches to **provide hot meals** for four designated weeks out of the year. Our parishioners also provided gifts at Christmastime for the children and their parents staying at Family Promise;
- On October 30th members of St. Paul's Church handed out coffee, hot chocolate and pencils to parents and their children for our **Trick-or-Treat Night Mission**. Over 300 cups of hot beverages were served. Members of St. Paul's Church also participated by donating candy and tending their car trunks for **Trunk-or-Treat** that same evening. Our members enjoyed this memorable evening while greeting our Elida neighbors;
- St. Paul's members donated the Easter offering to both **UMCOR's International Disaster Relief and U.S. Relief**;
- Our congregation members dispensed water for **LifeWise Academy/Sunnydale House's 5K Run** and some of our members also ran in the 5K run; **LifeWise Academy** teaches elementary students life skills and about the Bible;

Continued on page 10

Missions

Continued from pg. 9

- Our youth and adults donated \$508 which was left on our “hallway heifer” to send to **Heifer International** to purchase farm animals for families around the world. Thank-you to everyone for your donations;
- St. Paul's Church again participated in a worldwide mission by **Samaritan's Purse** called **Operation Christmas Child**. The 208 shoeboxes collected were filled with gifts for boys and girls, and given to Samaritan's Purse to distribute worldwide. Thank you to all who filled boxes with gifts and to Jamie Wyant for heading up this mission;

The people of St. Paul's United Methodist Church donated to special missions, coins-for-communion, United Methodist Special Sundays, other special Sundays and other missions and ministries of our church. Thank-you to all who donated money or participated in these missions. As we go forward into 2026 we are looking for new ways to impact our community and the world to show people the love of **Jesus Christ!**

Thank
you ❤️

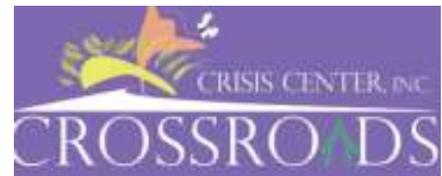
Dear Corinne,

Thank you for your generous donation full of winter accessories! We always try to stay stocked up on things like hats and gloves, so that we have plenty for survivors to choose from! It's essential for staying warm especially with how cold it has been recently!

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of survivors!

Sincerely,

*The Staff and Board of Directors
Crossroads Crisis Center.*



On February 2, Shirley Moser, on behalf of the Crafty Creatures, delivered 40 Quilts to Family Promise for the men, women, and children who are residing there at Westside UMC. The Quilts were blessed during worship on, February 1st.



Connecting With ...



Joyce Nichols will turn 100 on Tuesday, March 24
 Shower her with birthday wishes!
 Cards may be sent to:
 Kessler Estates of Lima
 2075 Eastown Rd.
 Lima, Ohio 45807

welcome
 New members

Welcome! LaDonna Kindle
 Was taken into membership on Sunday, February 22nd through transfer from another United Methodist Church.

Student Participation Sunday—February 8

Acolytes:
 Jonathan Perry, Hudson Rife



Call to Worship:
 Holly Cook, Rylan McAdams



Liturgist: Jackson Rife



Scripture Reading: Ashton Rife, Wren Harmon,



The People of St. Paul's

Our sympathy to the family of Ray Trig Sr. on his passing on February, 11; Ray Trigg Jr. and wife Amy and their 2 daughters and to Cynthia Guess, Doug and Joshua Guess. Ray enjoyed attending his children and grandchildren's activities. Ray also worked with the Children that participated in the E.A.S.Y program at St. Paul's. Cards may be sent to Ray and Amy Trigg Family: 157 Harvest Ridge Rd., Ottawa, Ohio 45875. To Cynthia Guess Family; 622 W. Vine St. Apt. A, Lima, Ohio 45804

Our sympathy to the Family of Nancy Gesler who passed on February 13th, following a double lung transplant. Nancy was the sister and sister-in-law of Linda and Gene Craft. Nancy was active in the choir and played solos on the French Horn. A Memorial Service was held on February 20, with Pastor Paul officiating. Cards may be sent to: 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, Ohio 45807



Our sympathy to Joy and John Fletcher, and daughters, Jenessa and Jason Peters, and Jacinda and Jordan Fried on the passing of Joy's brother, Jim Edwards on February 21st. Cards may reach the Fletcher Family at 103 Weger Ave., Elida, Ohio 45807



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Linda Craft

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

Thank you!

A friendly smile, a casual touch, these are the things that mean so much. To know you are with us in our time of sorrow, sharing our prayers today and tomorrow. God gives us comfort in the form of family and friends. May His peace be with you. His love never ends!

The Family of Lois Rabley

Thank you so much for the beautiful chimes you sent at my mother's passing. She loved the outdoors, so having the chimes will remind me of her. We were also overwhelmed with the cards, prayers, and love shown by our church family.

The Family of Donna McCreight

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

NO PPR...

March 3, 2026
Trustees..7:00 PM

March 4, 2026
Worship Mtg...
2:15 PM

No Ad Council/
Finance

No Missions

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

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir....
7:00 PM

MARCH 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Happy Anniversary

- Jeff & Shelly Reiff
March 12; 43 yrs*
- Tony & Shirley Shoup
March 20; 44 yrs.*
- Brent & Vicki McAdams
March 21*
- Bruce & Nancy Kizer
March 23; 58 yrs.*
- Jordan & Amy Wyant
March 28*



1 Scott Grapner	2	3 Chelsey Cook Ella Nartker Wesley Nartker	4 Janna Thompson	5 Scott Fessler	6	7 Tim Theodore
8	9	10	11	12 Ethan Lewis	13	14 Jason Murphy
15 Baylor McAdams	16	17	18	19	20 Tara Strauch	21
22	23	24 Joyce Nichols Kathy Waldick	25	26 Luke Selover	27 Julie Bok Karla May	28
29	30 Tahler Sdao	31 Mitchell Furry				

St. Paul's Featured Recipes

Blueberry Sour Cream Coffee Cake

By Virginia Hollar

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	Granulated sugar	<p>Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 9 in. springform pan with baking spray with flour.</p> <p>In medium bowl, whisk together sugar, melted butter, eggs, and vanilla.</p> <p>In separate medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt.</p> <p>Whisk flour mixture into butter mixture. Add sour cream and milk. Whisk just until combined.</p> <p>Fold 1/2 cup blueberries into batter. Pour into prepared pan, smoothing top with spatula. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup blueberries followed by Almond Streusel.</p> <p>Bake for 30 minutes, then loosely tent with foil. Bake an additional 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool in pan for 15 minutes. Remove from pan, and drizzle with Sour Cream Glaze. Serve warm or at room temperature.</p> <p>Almond Streusel: In medium bowl, stir together flour, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Stir in almonds. Add melted butter, stirring until mixture is crumbly. Crumble with your fingertips until desired consistency is reached. <i>Makes about 1 cup.</i></p> <p>Sour Cream Glaze: In a small bowl, whisk together all ingredients until smooth. <i>Makes about 1/2 cup.</i></p>
1/2 cup	Butter, unsalted, melted	
2	Eggs, large	
2 tsp.	Vanilla extract	
1 1/2 cups	All-purpose flour	
1 1/2 tsp	Baking powder	
1/2 tsp.	Salt	
1/2 cup	Sour cream	
1/4 cup	Whole milk	
1 cup	Blueberries, fresh, divided	
	Almond Streusel:	
1/2 cup	All-purpose flour	
1/4 cup	Granulated sugar	
1/2 tsp.	Ground cinnamon	
1/4 tsp.	Salt	
1/2 cup	Almonds, sliced	
3 Tbl.	Butter, unsalted, melted	
	Sour Cream Glaze:	
1 cup	Confectioners' Sugar	
2 Tbl.	Sour Cream	
1 Tbl.	Whole milk	
1/2 tsp.	Vanilla extract	



KIDZ KORNER



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:
 "Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord!"
 —Matthew 21:9 (NIV)



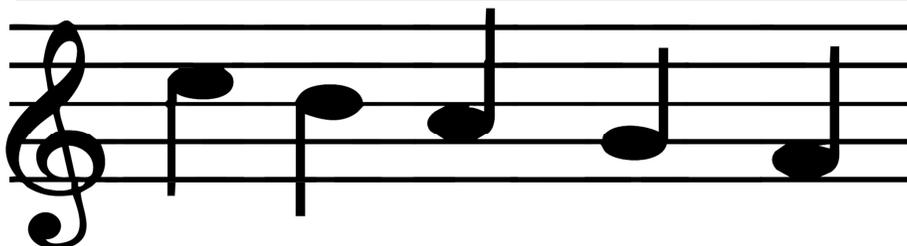
It's time to tune up your Bible brain!
 Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

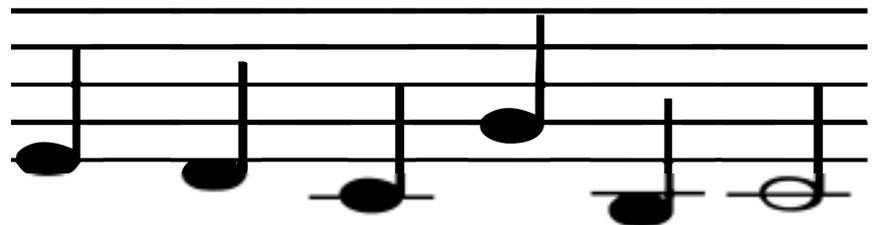
CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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www.elidastpaulschurch.org

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Twitter Account
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Living Our Faith

Faith That Blooms Anew

“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, *“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”* (Matthew 6:28-29, NIV)

Jesus' words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter's gray. God's reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:

*God does not send strange flowers every year,
When the Spring wind blows o'er the pleasant places,
The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.