

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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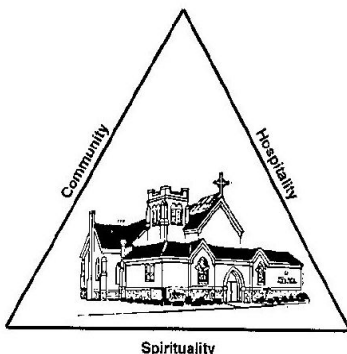
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Hello Everyone,

I want to talk to you this month about being United Methodist. It has been one of the greatest joys in my life to have been raised in a church that followed the teachings of Jesus Christ and John Wesley. John and Charles Wesley established a method for believers to experience the Love of God and to belong to a group that helps you, to grow in your faith. United Methodism has always been a group of believers with diversified beliefs, and we allow people to question and logically study scripture, faith, and the church. Those differences mean we are welcoming to a whole host of people, not just the people who believe what we rigidly believe. I do not agree with everything in Methodism, and yet, I am still United Methodist, because there is a latitude allowed for varied forms of Christianity. I also have learned over time that I don't know the complete will of God (by a long way), and therefore, can not judge you and your beliefs. I hope that comes across in how I preach and teach. We need to remember that, as we gather to celebrate the first day of the early church.

Pentecost Service will once again be a collaborative service here in Lima, just as many varied people were gathered to hear the gospel as it was preached by the disciples in Jerusalem. We will be meeting at the 'Pangle Pavilion', downtown, on May 24th at 10:30 AM, with a community picnic to follow. Methodists from many different congregations, here in Allen County, are joining together to celebrate the Holy Spirit. You will need to bring a chair to sit in and a heart for worship. Our District Superintendent, Don Wilson, will be preaching, and we will again be taking a special offering for 'Church United Pantry' (CUP), and the Freedom School at the Bradfield Center. I hope you will join us, as we once again ask the Holy Spirit to lead all of us, as we are the church. Spreading the good news and witnessing to the world that different people from varying points of view can gather together to worship and break bread together, as the church.

We will be having a picnic following worship; the main entrée will be provided. You are invited to bring your own drinks and a side or dessert to share. Our responsibility, as the Elida/Westside charge, is to bring the plates, napkins, and flatware for everyone. There are a few of us getting those items, so come, and remember the church's beginning; visit with your neighbors, enjoy a meal, and be the United Methodist Church of Allen County. If you are in town, I hope you will join us on the 24th of May, at 10:30 AM, at the Pangle Pavilion.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:

A real friend is one who walks in,
when the rest of the world walks out.

—Walter Winchell

BOOK Club
Saturday, May 2
at 10:00 AM
 (Note Time Change)
 "On Mystic Lake"
 By Kristin Hannah



May 16
Armed Forces Day
 Thank you to all those who are currently serving in our military.

May 3
 Coins for Communion to benefit United Methodist Church Camps

FACEBOOK CHANGES

**** NOTICE ****

Effective **May 17, 2026**, Facebook Live videos will be posted on our new Facebook page. Search Facebook for: Elida St Pauls United Methodist Church, and follow us. Be sure to turn on notifications so you don't miss our Facebook Live videos.



May 7
National Day of Prayer

May 10 *HAPPY Mother's Day*


Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol



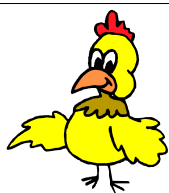
Deadline: the 22nd
 of each month

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



CEDAR TREE

A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.



Chicken Barbeque

May 16

4:30 to 6:30 PM

Tickets are \$12.00 pre sale

(Accepting payments by cash, check, or Venmo using the QR code on the tickets.)

Menu:

1/2 Chicken
green beans, au gratin
potatoes, Roll, and cookie

dine-in, or carry-out

Tickets are available
after the church service or
church office (419) 339-3801

May 24 Food Pantry

Items Needed:

*Cleaning supplies and tools
(Cleaning cloths, dust cloths etc..)*

5 Loaves Food Pantry
at the Church at Allentown

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.*

Our Biblical Purpose Statement:

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

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Pentecost Sunday

May 24
10:30 AM
Pangle Pavilion



May 31
Trinity Sunday

Pentecost 2026

We will be having a combined Pentecost service with St. Paul's, Shawnee, Trinity, Forest Park, and Westside United Methodist Churches on May 24, at 10:30 am, at the Pangle Pavilion, in Lima. There will be about 30 minutes of praise music before the service. Bring a chair to sit on, and a side dish for the picnic following the service. There will be a special children's time during the service. Hope to see you all there on the 24th!

WEAR RED!!



Poem

In My Mother's Arms

*Love that has no measure,
Shelter from the harms
I could live forever
In my Mother's arms.*

*Ever understanding,
Sharing all her charms
I know my safe haven
Is in my Mother's arms.*

*If I could say what she means to me
I'm sure it would take an eternity
She showed me how to be all that I can be
And weather all the storms.*

*She's always there, she's my best friend
Taught me how to stand and when to bend
I could stay forever,
In my Mother's arms.*

*Her gentle caring eases my pain
Mysteries of life she can explain
Gave me wisdom to come in out of the rain
How my heart she warms.*

*And I'll be grateful eternally
For the life and breath she gave to me
I will forever be in my Mother's Arms.*



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

PLAY THE HYMNS

We have two ways of playing the hymns. Some people can play them on musical instruments; the rest of us have to play them on the radio or it's modern electronic equivalent. The good news is that hymns have never been more accessible than now. Before we wring our hands too much about the loss of hymns, remember that no generation has enjoyed greater, quicker, more complete and instant access to hymns than ours. You're as close to a beloved hymn as your portable electronic gizmo. Virtually all the hymns are somewhere on the internet or can be found through an online music provider. We've gone from records to tapes to disc to instant downloads. It's never been easier to listen to your favorite hymn ancient or modern.

We've also got buttons on our radio dials that connect us with Christian stations. Not long ago, I dropped off a rental car and met the lady who tidies the car for the next customer. She told me that as a believer she had found a simple way to witness. "Every time I process a returned car," she said, "I make sure the buttons are preset to Christian stations and that my favorite Christian station is selected first whenever the customer turns on the radio. Who knows when someone will hear a song or sermon and be saved."

I suggest you have Christian music playing as your children come into the kitchen for breakfast in the morning. Listen to Christian music traveling in the car or van. Consider the great hymns as one of the ways of fulfilling Deuteronomy 6:7, which tells us to talk with our children about the scriptures as we sit at home and we walk along the way, when we rise up and when we go to bed.

When appropriate, play the great hymns of the faith in sick rooms and hospitals. I recall Ruth Bell Graham telling us that during the final illness of her mother, Virginia Bell, nothing soothed the frail old woman like hearing her favorite hymns. Ruth collected those hymns, playing them often, and later a record producer developed an album based on the selections.



Daily Bible Readings

Friday 5/1

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Exodus 34:18-35
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Matthew 5:27-37

Saturday 5/2

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Exodus 40:18-38
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Matthew 5:38-48

Sunday 5/3

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36
Hebrews 12:1-14, Luke 4:16-30

Monday 5/4

Psalm 58, 64, 65
Leviticus 16:1-19
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 6:1-18

Tuesday 5/5

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Leviticus 16:20-34
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday 5/6

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Leviticus 19:1-18
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Matthew 6:19-24

Thursday 5/7

Psalm 70, Leviticus 19:26-37
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
Matthew 6:25-34

Friday 5/8

Psalm 106, Leviticus 23:1-22
2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
Matthew 7:1-12

Saturday 5/9

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Leviticus 23:33-44
2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Matthew 7:13-21

Sunday 5/10

Psalm 34, 93, 96
Leviticus 25:1-17
James 1:2-18, Luke 12:13-21

Monday 5/11

Psalm 79, Leviticus 25:35-55
Colossians 1:9-14
Matthew 13:1-16

Tuesday 5/12

Psalm 78, Leviticus 26:1-20
1 Timothy 2:1-6
Matthew 13:18-23

Wednesday 5/13

Psalm 119:97-120
Leviticus 26:27-42
Ephesians 1:1-10

Thursday 5/14

Psalm 8, 24, 47, 96, Daniel 7:9-14
Hebrews 2:5-18
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 5/15

Psalm 85, 86, 91, 92
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Ephesians 2:1-10
Matthew 7:22-27

Saturday 5/16

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29
Ephesians 2:11-22
Matthew 7:28:-8:4

Sunday 5/17

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Exodus 3:1-12
Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 10:17-24

Monday 5/18

Psalm 98, Joshua 1:1-9
Ephesians 3:1-13, Matthew 8:5-17

Tuesday 5/19

Psalm 95, 100
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21
Matthew 8:18-27

Wednesday 5/20

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Isaiah 4:2-6
Ephesians 4:1-16
Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday 5/21

Psalm 105, Zechariah 4:1-14
Ephesians 4:17-32
Matthew 9:18-26

Friday 5/22

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Jeremiah 31:27-34
Ephesians 5:-20, Matthew 9:9-17

Saturday 5/23

Psalm 107:33-43, 108
Ezekiel 36:22-27
Ephesians 6:10-24
Matthew 9:18-26

Sunday 5/24

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Job 38:1-11, 42:1-5
Revelation 19:4-16, John 1:29-34

Monday 5/25

Psalm 106, Ezekiel 33:1-11
1 John 1:1-10, Matthew 9:27-34

Tuesday 5/26

Psalm 120, 127, Ezekiel 33:21-33
1 John 2:1-11, Matthew 9:35-10:4

Wednesday 5/27

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Ezekiel 34:1-16
1 John 2:12-17, Matthew 10:5-15

Thursday 5/28

Psalm 133, 134, 135
Ezekiel 37:21b-28
1 John 2:18-29, Matthew 10:16-23

Friday 5/29

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Ezekiel 39:21-29
1 John 3:1-10
Matthew 10:34-42

Saturday 5/30

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Ezekiel 47:1-12
1 John 3:11-18
Matthew 10:16-23

Sunday 5/31

Psalm 118, 145
Deuteronomy 16:9-12
Acts 4:18-33, John 4:19-26

Daily
Bible Reading

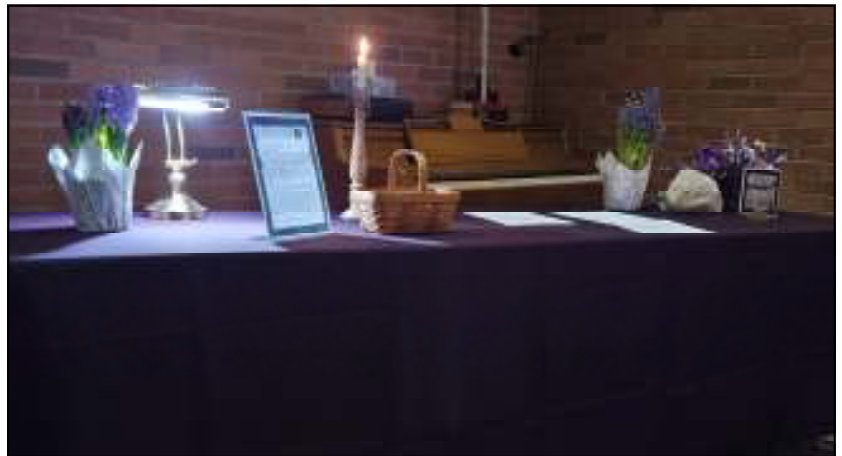


Holy Week/Easter



Above: Palm Sunday
 Bell Choir performed and palms were waved each time 'Hosanna' was said.

Right: Good Friday
 Stations of the Cross at Shawnee UMC. St. Paul's helped at a table.



Easter Sunday
 Early Service; Easter Breakfast;
 Egg hunt for the children;
 10 AM worship service.

Thanks to all who helped with Easter breakfast:

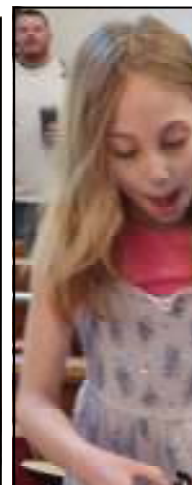
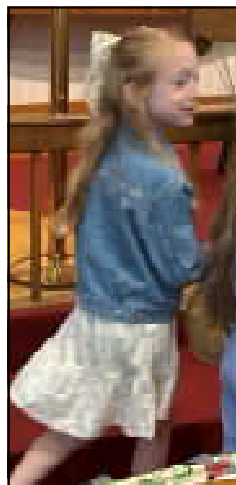
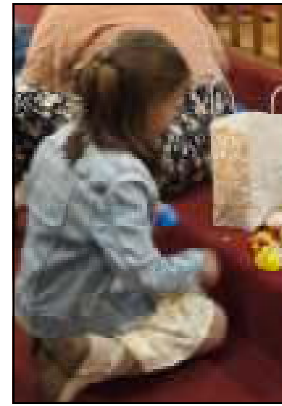
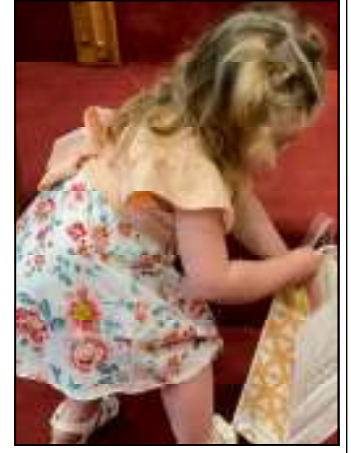
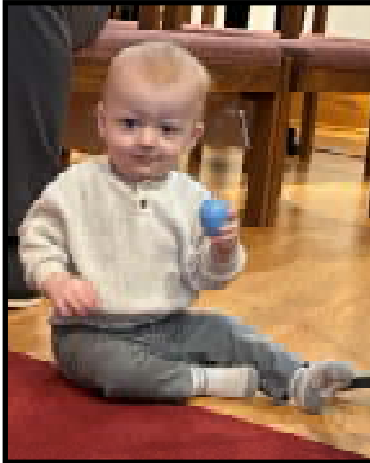
Everyone who set up tables, take down tables, brought food, ate food, and those who came early to get the food and drinks ready to serve.



Thank you to Shirley Moser for heading up the Children's Egg hunt.
 Thank you Larry Moser and all who helped to fill the eggs and to hide them, and to those who donated items for the eggs.



Easter Egg Hunt



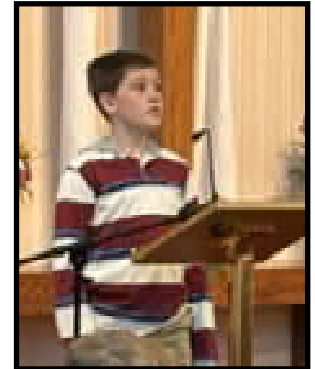
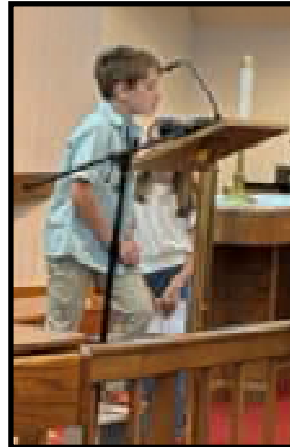
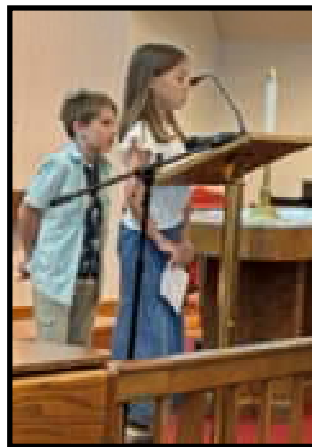
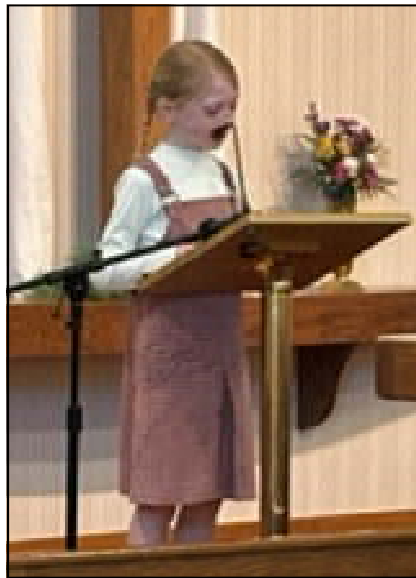
April Happenings

Bishop Jung Visit

The Bishop visited St. Paul's on April 6. Upon entering he and Pastor Paul prayed at the altar, he shook everyone's hand then asked, and answered questions.



April 19 Worship Service Students served as liturgist



Women's/Girl's Tea

A Women's/Girls Tea was held on Saturday, April 25. The Theme was 'Aprons'. Luann Everett did a presentation on the history of 'APRONS' including the different materials used, and the various style and the uses of an apron. Thank you, to the Nurture Committee ladies (Jan Wyant, Barb Schade, Virginia Hollar, Kerry Fremont, Gloria Brunk, Margie Best, and Connie Mault.) Jan Wyant and Virginia Hollar are the Chairladies of this committee. Thank you to the Men/Guys who served the tea & snacks.



The People of St. Paul's

With Deepest Sympathy

Our sympathy to Ross and Jessie, Wren, Andi and Tanner Harmon and Family on the passing of Ross's Father, Gary (Bear) Harmon on April 11th. A memorial service was held on April 15. Cards may reach the Harmon family at; 312 Baxter St., Elida, OH 45807.

We are very touched by our wonderful "St. Paul's Family" for the beautiful wind chimes! They will be a reminder of the caring love, support, and prayers for us on the passing of Shirley Johnson (Denny's sister). Thank you so much, and wishing God's Blessings on all of you!

*Love,
Denny, Carole, and Family*

*Dear St. Paul's Team,
Thank you so much for allowing me to host my baby shower in your basement hall. It was surely so amazing and made me so happy to celebrate my baby girl in such a welcoming and beautiful space, it made the day feel even more special. I also really appreciate letting me come in early to decorate. That extra time really made everything come together perfectly, it meant a lot to me. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. I'll always remember how special that day felt.*

*With Love,
Ayva Brickner and baby girl*

On April 1st, Virginia Hollar, Deb Hurd, Corinne Piper, and Jan Wyant, went to visit Joyce Nichols and sing a happy belated birthday to her and present her with a bag of goodies. We all talked, laughed, and listened for over 1 ½ hrs!!! Joyce is a very special person and one would never know that she is 100 years young. Keep on keeping on dear friend. You are an inspiration to us all! Your Elida St. Paul's friends love you!



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Norm Grigsby
Deb Hurd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Norm Grigsby
Deb Hurd

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

*Thank
you* 

Meetings

No PPR Mtg
 May 5, 2026
Trustees Mtg..7:00 PM
No Worship Mtg..
No Ad Council / Finance Mtg.
No Missions Mtg.
Sundays
Hospitality...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM
Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

MAY 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Happy Anniversary



Ross & Jessie Harmon
My 16

Gary & Deb Hurd
May 19; 42yrs.

Joe & Torie Gerdeman
May 22

Jack & LaDonna Kindle
May 22

Dan & Margie Best
May 28

					1 Lily Bice	2 Noah Vermillion
3	4	5 Shelly Reiff	6 Angie Nartker	7	8	9
10 Larry Brunk	11 Jackson Rife	12	13 Glenna Kohli	14	15 Logan Kinney	16 Mary Irvin Jennifer Morrison Luke Vermillion
17 Martha Vazquez	18	19 Aaron Thompson Marlene Weaver	20	21	22	23
24 Isaac McAdams	25 Carter Kuenzli	26 Torie Gerdeman	27 Scott Warris	28	29	30
31						

St. Paul's Featured Recipes

Tamale Pie

From Sussan Nartker

Ingredients		Instructions
2 lb.	Hamburger	In a 12 inch skillet, brown meat, peppers, and onions. Drain. Stir in soup, olives, and salsa. Bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Remove from heat.
2 med.	Peppers, green/red chopped	
1 med.	Onion, chopped	Prepare corn muffin mixes separately. Spread one mix into a 9x13 baking pan. Spoon hot meat mixture. Carefully spread remaining corn muffin mix batter over the meat mixture.
1 can (11 oz.)	Nacho Cheese soup, condensed	
2 cans (2 1/4 oz.)	Olives, pitted ripe, drained	Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown.
1 cup	Salsa, mild	
2 boxes	Jiffy corn muffin mix	Top with cheese and tomato. Cut into squares.
3/4 cup	Shredded cheese	
Optional:	Tomatoes, diced	



Easy Cream Cake

From Susan Nartker

Ingredients		Instructions
1 pkg.	White Cake mix	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 11x7 baking pan.
3 lg.	Egg whites	
1 1/3 cups	Half-and-half	Combine cake mix, egg whites, half-and-half, oil, coconut and pecans in a large bowl. Beat at low speed with electric mixer until moistened. Beat at medium speed 2 minutes. Pour into pan.
2 Tbl.	Vegetable oil	
1 cup	Coconut, flaked, finely chopped	Bake at 350 degrees 22 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool following package directions.
1/2 cup	Pecans, finely chopped	
1 tub	Cream cheese frosting	To Assemble: Divide the cake in half and place one cake layer on serving plate. Spread with 1/2 frosting. Place second cake layer on top. Spread remaining frosting on top of cake. Garnish with toasted coconut, if desired.

KIDZ KORNER

GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" _____₃ _____₁ m _____₂ r _____₃ m _____₃ nd _____₂ d _____₄ f

y _____₄ _____₅ r _____₃ s _____₃ nc _____₂ r _____₂ f _____₁ _____₃ th, wh _____₃ ch

f _____₃ rst l _____₃ v _____₂ d _____₃ n _____₄ _____₅ r _____₁ gr _____₁ ndm _____₄ th _____₂ r

L _____₄ _____₃ s _____₁ nd _____₃ n _____₄ _____₅ r _____₄ m _____₄ th _____₂ r

_____₂ _____₅ n _____₃ c _____₂ _____₁ nd, _____₃ _____₁ m _____₂ rs _____₅ _____₁ d _____₂ d,

n _____₄ w _____₃ l _____₃ v _____₂ s _____₃ n _____₄ _____₅ _____₁ ls _____₄."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

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 Pauls United Methodist Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH

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Living Our Faith

An Unusual Answer to a Mother's Prayer

Linda Jo Peters of Terre Haute, Indiana, felt her “worry button” get pushed when her daughter, Esther, called from college with an unexpected plan. Esther explained she wanted to go camping alone in a park in southern Illinois. She needed quiet time to think and asked her mother for Bible verses to read as she prayed about her future.

Linda knew Esther felt strongly about going, even if it made her uneasy. After the call ended, Linda dropped to her knees and began what she later called “a dialogue with God.” She closed her prayer with a simple surrender: “I guess you want me on my knees that weekend.”

And that is exactly where she stayed.

The morning after Esther's first night at camp, she called home. She was safe, she said, and no one had come near her tent. All night long, however, a skunk had wandered nearby, circling the campsite.

Later, Linda reflected on the moment with quiet confidence. “There was no way anyone with evil intent would have approached Esther's tent,” she wrote, “while the power of prayer, in the form of a black-and-white critter, was circling it.”