

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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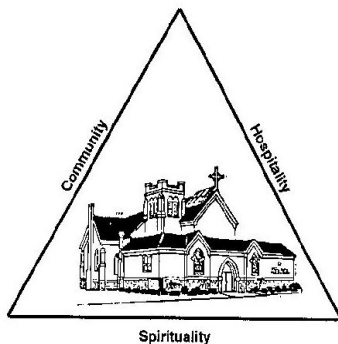
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Happy May! If the saying is to be believed, then we shall soon have flowers. There is something to be found in the consistency of the changing seasons, and even when it snows late in April we are assured Spring is indeed here and Summer is coming. Christianity has those same consistencies if we look for them. The Month of May is going to be a time for us to look at the main theme of Christianity, making disciples. Outreach has been the consistent story that has driven Christianity, and the model has changed. What we did in the past will not work as it did, but we have always been resilient people, and we will adapt to a changing landscape. I want to encourage you to help with one of those changes, with the making of disciples, by supporting the Sunnydale House Project. Please pray, encourage people to sign their kids up for the program, volunteer for construction, volunteer for next year to help with kids, and if able to give financially, please do.

We will also talk about other ways you can be a witness for Christ in our community and around the world. Making disciples is a full-time job for all Christians, and we need to look at ministry differently. Sound and video upgrades are complete. Now we just need to learn how to make it all work together for our broadcast. Did you ever imagine we would be broadcasting every Sunday to the internet? I know, I never thought I would be part of something like this. We used to hand out tapes or CD's of our service to people who were shut-ins, and now we try to go live every Sunday. There is even talk of learning how to rebroadcast in local nursing homes every week.

You are making disciples every day through your witness and support of local, national, and international ministry. Keep thinking outside the box when it comes to making disciples, and I will keep encouraging you to follow God, where ever God leads us.

I'll see you in the mission field.

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

The art of mothering is to teach
the art of living to children.

—Elaine Heffner

SPECIAL SUNDAY'S**May 2**

Coins for Communion
to benefit United Methodist Church Camps
 (Camp Wesley, Camp Otterbein,
 and Camp Widewater)

**May 6****National Day of Prayer****May 9****May 13****May 23****Pentecost***Wear Red***May 30****Trinity Sunday**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

THREE INTERWOVEN CIRCLES

Each circle in this symbol represents one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The circles, having no beginning and no end, signify the Trinity's eternal nature. The circles' interlacing symbolizes unity. In the center is a triangle, an ancient symbol of the Trinity



St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's
 United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

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

May 1

May Day



May 15

Armed Forces Day
Recognizes all those who
are currently serving in
the Military.



May 31

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

10 Ways to Celebrate May Day "Bring in the May"

Why not celebrate May Day? Here are some joyful May Day traditions marking the return of spring and the renewed gift of life.

1. Among the many superstitions associated with May Day was the belief that washing the face with dew (or snow!) on the morning of May 1, would beautify the skin and bring good luck.
2. On May 1, people of Britain welcome spring by "Brining in the May," or gathering cuttings of flowering trees for their homes.
3. Make a May Day basket of flowers.
4. May 1 in Hawaii is called "Lei Day," and people make pretty homemade leis. Leis are garlands or wreaths that are often made with Hawaiian flowers and leaves.
5. Whatever the age walk barefoot in the morning dew.
6. In parts of Ireland, people would make a May bush, which typically was a thorn bush or branch decorated with flowers and ribbons.
7. Beekeepers traditionally moved bees on May 1.
8. Fisherman expect to catch fish on May Day.
9. Traditionally, farmers planted turnips on this day.
10. The Kentucky Derby starts off the month of May (the first Saturday of the month).

History of May Day continued on page 10.

Congratulations Graduates

2021 High School Graduate



Makayla Bok

Makayla will be graduating as the **Valedictorian** of the class of 2021 at Elida High School on May 7. While maintaining her grades, she also was a member of the Tennis team, Quiz Bowl, The National Honor Society and the Latin Club. She won 2nd place for the Midwest Electric scholarship essay. This fall she will be attending BGSU while majoring in Microbiology in the Pre-Professional Medical Program. Makayla aspires to be a Cytopathologist after attending medical school. Makayla is the daughter of Travis and Julie Bok. Cards may be sent to Makayla at 2475 N. Kemp Rd., Elida, Ohio 45807



Graduation Party:

May 29, 2021

@ 3pm

Church basement
All are welcome!!

2021 College Graduate

Torie McAdams

Congratulations to Torie McAdams. She will graduate as an Occupational Therapist on May 7th, from The University of Toledo. Torie developed a plan to implement occupational therapy for children as her Capstone Project. The plan adds occupational therapy to a non-profit organization in Findlay called *Grace Speaks*. To read more about her plan, visit Torie's Facebook page. She is the daughter of Brent and Vicki McAdams. Torie will also be getting married on May 22 to Joe Gerdeman. Kudos to Torie!



Graduates Sunday

May 9

Graduates will be recognized

Bibles will also be given out to Adrianna Ellinger, Sherilyn Ellinger,
and Lena Whetstone.

Mission



MAY IS 'SPREAD THE GOSPEL' MONTH

During the month of May, we will focus on ways of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who may not have heard it. It is estimated that 70% of the children at the Elida Elementary School have never been to church and so have never heard the Gospel! We have decided to donate money from Missions funds to an organization called the Lifewise Academy. In partnership with TV-44 and area churches, they are renovating a house on Sunnydale street, next to the new Elida Elementary School. The cost of renovations is around \$300,000. This interdenominational program is starting this fall. Elementary students will come voluntarily one day a week to the Sunnydale House, where they will learn the Bible and character development. It may be the first time students have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ! We are asking our congregation to consider donating during the month of May to this program. Mark your tithing envelopes "Sunnydale House" under "Special Gifts" and mark the amount you have enclosed as a donation. Please prayerfully consider a donation to this mission of our church and many churches in our area. The Lifewise Academy has been successful in introducing this program in Van Wert and other schools in northwest Ohio. Let's make Elida a success story too!



Food Pantry Sunday May 16

Thank you to all who donate food for the Five Loaves Food Pantry each month. A special thanks to the individual or family who left scores of bags of food for the food pantry in April! It is much appreciated.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

April 1, 2021 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	26
April 4, 2021 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	99
April 11, 2021	53
April 18, 2021	64
April 25, 2021	54

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
April 4, 2021	\$4,326.00	\$1,614.05
April 11, 2021	\$2,698.00	\$491.00
April 18, 2021	\$4,631.00	\$132.00
April 25, 2021	\$3,191.00	\$1,457.00

Thank You
so much!

Thank you so much to Corinne Piper and Myrna Metzger for graciously serving as Hymn Leaders, during the worship services, this past year of uncertainty. It has been a blessing to still have hymns as an integral part of our worship service.

Flower Calendar

May 2, 2021	Nichols Family
May 9, 2021	Larry & Shirley Moser
May 16, 2021	Gary & Deb Hurd
May 23, 2021	OPEN
May 30, 2021	Dan & Margie Best



There is an opening for altar flowers on **May 23**. If you would like to have flowers on this Sunday, contact the church office, or sign up on the flower chart in the hallway.

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 5/1

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 7:18-28 (29-30) 31-35

Sunday 5/2

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
Matthew 7:7-14

Monday 5/3

Psalm 58, 64, 65
Colossians 3:18-4:18
Luke 7:36-50

Tuesday 5/4

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Romans 12:1-21
Luke 8:1-15

Wednesday 5/5

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Romans 13:1-14
Luke 8:16-25

Thursday 5/6

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Romans 14:1-12, Luke 8:26-39

Friday 5/7

Psalm 106
Romans 14:13-23, Luke 8:40-56

Saturday 5/8

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Romans 15:1-13
Luke 9:1-17

Sunday 5/9

Psalm 34, 93, 96
1 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Matthew 13:24-34a

Monday 5/10

Psalm 79, 80
Deuteronomy 8:1-10
James 1:1-15, Luke 9:18-27

Tuesday 5/11

Psalm 78
Deuteronomy 8:11-20
James 1:16-27
Luke 11:1-13

Wednesday 5/12

Psalm 119:97-120
James 5:13-18, Luke 12:22-31

Thursday 5/13

Psalm 8, 24, 47, 96
Ezekiel 1:1-28
Hebrews 2:5-18
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 5/14

Psalm 85, 86, 91, 92
Ezekiel 1:28-3:3
Hebrews 4:14-5:6, Luke 9:28-36

Saturday 5/15

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Ezekiel 3:4-17
Hebrews 5:7-14, Luke 9:37-50

Sunday 5/16

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Ezekiel 3:16-27
Ephesians 2:1-10
Matthew 10:24-33, 40-42

Monday 5/17

Psalm 89, Ezekiel 4:1-17
Hebrews 6:1-12, Luke 9:51-62

Tuesday 5/18

Psalm 95, 100
Ezekiel 7:10-15, 23b-27
Hebrews 6:13-20, Luke 10:1-17

Wednesday 5/19

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Ezekiel 11:14-25
Hebrews 7:1-17, Luke 10:17-24

Thursday 5/20

Psalm 105, Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32
Hebrews 7:18-28, Luke 10:25-37

Friday 5/21

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Ezekiel 34:17-31
Hebrews 8:1-13, Luke 0:38-42

Saturday 5/22

Psalm 107:33-43, 108
Ezekiel 43:1-12
Hebrews 9:1-14, Luke 11:14-23

Sunday 5/23

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 1:1-18

Monday 5/24

Psalm 106, Isaiah 63:7-14
2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 11:24-36

Tuesday 5/25

Psalm 120, 127
Isaiah 63:15-64:9
2 Timothy 1:15-2:13
Luke 11:37-52

Wednesday 5/26

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Isaiah 65:1-22
2 Timothy 2:14-26
Luke 11:53-12:12

Thursday 5/27

Psalm 133, 134, 135
Isaiah 65:17-25
2 Timothy 3:1-17, Luke 12:13-31

Friday 5/28

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Isaiah 66:1-6
2 Timothy 4:1-8, Luke 12:32-48

Saturday 5/29

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Isaiah 66:7-14
2 Timothy 4:9-22, Luke 12:49-59

Sunday 5/30

Psalm 118, 145, Isaiah 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-13
John 14:21-29

Monday 5/31

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Ruth 1:1-18
1 Timothy 1:1-17, Luke 13:1-9



Prayer

Prayer Gifts Us With Creativity

By Corinne Piper

Last month, I talked about how praying allows us to partner with God for good. This month, take that a step farther and imagine working alongside God, like a child learning a skill from his or her parent. The image used by Tracy McCray Rhodes in the book, *Intimate Intercession*, uses the image of learning to paint as a child of the great artist, Rembrandt. Would we, as His children, have played at his feet and watched as he chose the best color and listened as he talked about lighting and hues. As we grew, we might have been asked to help mix paints and maybe, even to put a few dabs on his painting. Eventually, we might become artists ourselves and create our paintings in our own style. We are made in God's image and so our praying is reflecting our need to be creative.

Through prayer times, we are allowed to stand next to God and watch as he fulfills hopes and dreams, and we also learn from him. We learn, "how these hues combine to form the perfect color for this church's lack of vibrancy or why this texture is exactly what that young woman needs to bring out the graces that lie hidden..." Then one day, we begin to make our own prayers with support from His Spirit and a promise from His Word. We add some faith and desire and ask God to bless our attempt. God then takes our little prayers, and adds them to His work, and smiles down on us.

We so often think that we are not doing anything by praying, that nothing is accomplished, that nothing changes. But, WE are changed! We grow closer to God with each try. A wonderful line from Rhodes says, "...I have come to believe that it is the process of intercession that brings our greatest reward rather than the product."

Come join us in prayer, Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room, as we stand next to God and raise the names of those in need.



Methodist History

John Wesley And The Methodist Society

George Whitefield, who had in 1735 joined the Methodist Society at Oxford, became an evangelistic preacher. His first trip in America was to the Georgia Mission in which John Wesley had worked. His Calvinistic views especially on predestination caused him to break away in 1741 from Wesley Methodist Society. He became the leader of the Calvinistic Methodist in Wales, one of the forerunners of the Presbyterian Church of England and Ireland. But his friendship with John Wesley continued for the rest of his life. He introduced to John the value of preaching any place, any time there might be an audience, even if it were in the open air.

Charles Wesley, John's younger brother, began in earnest to write hymns to be a part of his preaching at great rival meetings. He is credited with the producing of about 6,500 hymns, (4,000 published during his lifetime and 2,500 in manuscript form). Methodism was "born in song." In spite of poverty in their childhood home there was always psalm singing for their father, Samuel, who loved poetry. Like David, the great psalmist of Israel, Charles is considered one of the world's noblest and most gifted writer of song.

The preaching and activities of these three (George Whitfield, the orator, Charles Wesley, the hymnist and preacher, and John Wesley, the central figure "who embodied in himself not this or that side of the vast movement, but the very movement itself) did not please the rectors of the Church of England. Their doctrines differed from theirs. Their language was too plain. Their zeal and fire was offensive. When the Lord bishop of Bristol told John, "You are not commissioned to preach in my diocese," John answered, "The world is my Parish."

The first Methodist building, New Room Chapel, was built by John Wesley and opened in Bristol, England, on May 12, 1739. Seven months later, The Foundry in London became the main chapel for early Methodism. This building, which had been used for the manufacturing of cannons, had been abandoned. John Wesley leased it for 99 years for \$575. About 1789, New Room Chapel, Bristol, passed into the hands of the Welch Calvinistic Methodist and Presbyterian Church. In 1929, it was returned to the Methodist Church and accurately restored. The Foundry was more than a place for preaching. It was the center for early Methodist social programs. There was an employment bureau, loan society, dispensary where the poor could secure free medicine and medical services, and a book room where Wesley's publications (400 books, tracts, and pamphlets) were sold. A section was used during the week for teaching of the neglected boys of London. The Widows and orphans were cared for at the expense of the membership. It was an institutional church. After 41 years, the foundry was no longer used. The New City Road Chapel was opened by Rev. Wesley on August 9, 1779, and continued to be his church and home. His last sermon was preached there on February 22, 1791, thirteen days prior to his death on March 2, 1791. He was laid to rest in the burial ground behind the chapel. Today this "Mother Church of Methodism" is beautifully restored using contributions from Methodist Church members all over the World. It was rededicated on November 1, 1978.

May Day

What Is May Day?

*2021 Old Farmers Almanac
By the Editors*

May Day (May 1) is a holiday rich in history and folklore, celebrating the return of Spring! As a child, we remember our grandparents leaving delightful little May Day baskets, as well as the fun tradition of dancing around a maypole at school.

Origins of May Day

May Day has its roots in astronomy. We're about halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstices! It's one of the Celtic cross-quarter days, which celebrated the midway points between all solstices and equinoxes of the year.

As with many early holidays, May Day was rooted in agriculture. Springtime celebrations filled with dance and song hailed the sown fields starting to sprout. Cattle were driven to pasture, special bonfires were lit, and both doors of houses and livestock were decorated with yellow May flowers.

The Maypole Dance

Wrapping a Maypole with colorful ribbons might be the most known tradition that still exists in some schools and towns.

Originally, the Maypole was a living tree brought in from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for good crops and fertility. For young people, there was the possibility of courtship. If paired by sundown, the courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and married 6 weeks later on June's Midsummer's Day. This is how the "June Wedding" became a tradition.

Making a May Basket

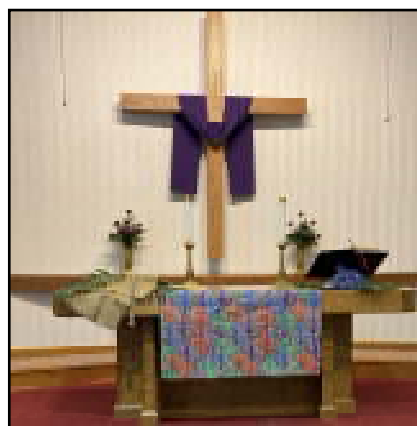
Ever heard of the May baskets? People would leave a paper basket or cone with spring flowers and sweets on each other's doorsteps, usually anonymously. This tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, especially with children or sweethearts. The custom was to knock on the door, yell "May basket!", and then run. If the recipient caught the giver, he or she was entitled to a kiss.

Louisa May Alcott wrote about May Basket Day in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, some bold schoolchildren hung a May basket on the White House door for First Lady Grace Coolidge. The May Day basket is still a cherished tradition for some Americans though it's less known today.



Easter 2021

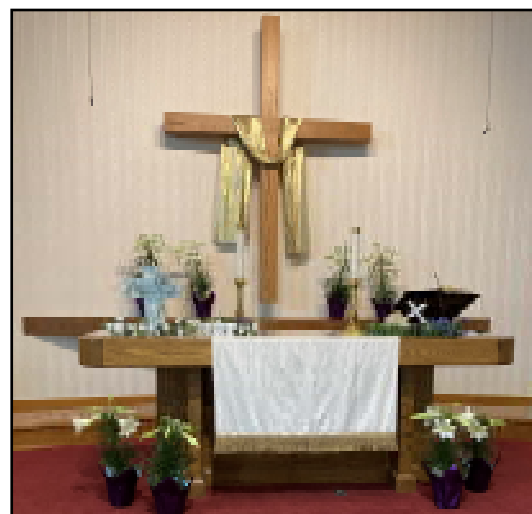
Palm Sunday
March 28



Holy Thursday
April 1
Flute /Piano Duet
Linda Holman and Lois Cook



Easter Sunday
April 4



The People of St. Paul's

Thank you very much
for the beautiful
flowers you sent for
my wife Kay, while
she was at St. Rita's
medical center. They
were very much
appreciated.

Ron McAdams

THANKS
— from the —
HEART

Dear St. Paul's family,
Thanks for the lovely
flowers you sent
while I was in the
hospital. They surely
brightened my day.

Mary Grigsby

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Mary Grigsby
Tony Matlock

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Tony Matlock

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart

A MOTHER
IS SHE WHO CAN
TAKE THE PLACE
OF ALL THE OTHERS
BUT WHOSE PLACE
NO ONE ELSE
CAN TAKE.

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A Mother When you are a child
she walks before you.. To set an example.
When you're a teenager she walks behind
you.. To be there should you need her.
When you're an adult she walks beside
you.. So that as two friends you can
enjoy life together.

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.*

Meetings

May 3, 2021
PPR Mtg....7:00 PM

May 4, 2021
Trustees...7:00 PM

May 5, 2021
Worship Mtg..
10:00 AM

May 10, 2021
Ad Council/
Finance..7:00 PM

May 12, 2021
Missions Mtg...
7:00 PM

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

MAY 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


						1 Lily Bice
2 Bill Nichols	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Larry Brunk	11	12	13 Glenna Kohli	14	15 Logan Kinney
16 Mary Irvin Jennifer Morrison	17 Martha vazquez	18	19 Aaron Thompson Marlene Weaver	20 Karen Bible	21	22
23	24 Isaac McAdams	25 Carter Kuenzli	26 Torie McAdams	27 Scott Warris	28	29
30	31					



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Tomato Soup Spice cake

By Deb Hurd

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 cup	Vegetable shortening or lard	In a large bowl, combine the sugar and vegetable shortening. Add the cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and condensed tomato soup to the mixing bowl and stir until all the ingredients are fully combined.
1 cup	Sugar	
1 can (10 3/4 oz)	Tomato soup, condensed	
1 tsp.	Baking soda	Slowly add the flour to the mixing bowl in half cup increments, stirring well after each additional to ensure all of the flour is fully combined. Add baking powder, baking soda, the walnuts, and raisins to the mixing bowl. Continue stirring until all ingredients are fully incorporated into the batter.
2 cups	Flour	
2 tsp.	Baking powder	
1 tsp.	Cinnamon	Pour the cake batter into greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour or until the toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes before removing from pan. Cool completely.
1/2 tsp.	Cloves	
1 tsp.	Nutmeg	
1 cup	Walnuts, chopped (optional)	 <p><i>I was going through some of my Mom's recipes and found this one that had been my Grandma's. I looked it up, and it was a cake created in the late 1920's or early 1930's and was known as a depression era cake because it is made with no eggs or butter.</i></p> <p><i>Try it, it is delicious!!</i></p>
1 cup	Raisins or dried cranberries	
	Cream Cheese Frosting:	
4 oz.	Cream cheese	
1 1/2 tsp	Vanilla	
1 1/2 cups	Powdered Sugar	
1 tsp.	Cinnamon	

KIDZ KORNER



Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our "circles."

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house, my city, my state, my country, the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in  _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in  _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in  _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in  _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in  _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer power

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an "EGR." I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they're the most in *need* of love because they're hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much" (Matthew 5:46, NLT).

Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts.

At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend *to* us and then *through* us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God's grace and love with people who need it.

—Janna Firestone

Keep moving!

As they proudly processed across the stage to receive their diplomas, each graduate heard two messages from the principal: "Congratulations!" (in a loud voice) and "Keep moving" (in a whisper). Although the administrator was merely trying to facilitate the flow, she was actually offering sound advice to the young adults: Don't stop or stagnate! Proceed from here and continue learning. This is the beginning, not the end, of a journey. Keep moving!

JUST KEEP
moving