

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

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Methodist Church
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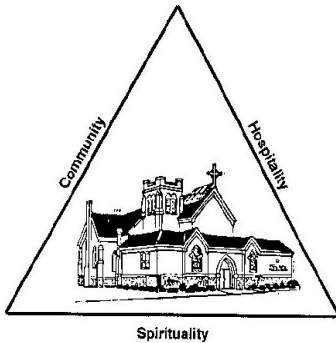
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Life is always changing, and for the first time in over 20 years, I will not be attending a dance recital. Let me assure you, I am not disappointed, but I have forgotten what to do on a normal Mother's Day. Three cities, twenty-two years, and three dance schools, and all of them had their recitals on Mother's Day every year. I asked my wife what she would like to do, because every smart man knows, when in doubt just ask if you want the right answer. So, on Mother's Day weekend, I am not doing something with the kids, instead, I am doing something for Marla's mother. We are headed to the cemetery to clean headstones (Mom is next to Grandma), place flowers, and have a quiet day together. Memorial Day isn't until the end of the month, but we have decided to remember a few days early. I know some of you find this different/odd, but in our family, we deal with death, funerals, and cemeteries on a regular basis, and my family taught me from a young age to care for those who have gone before. I remember going with my grandmother Scannell, to the cemetery in my hometown to make sure everything was being taken care of properly. Washing headstones, trimming bushes, pulling weeds, and making sure flowers looked good. All that to say, I still don't know how to celebrate Mother's Day correctly, but my wife will be happy, and that is what matters. However you celebrate Mother's Day or Memorial Day (we place flags with veterans), remembering is sometimes the best we can do.

We will finish up the "God and Tech" series of sermons on Mother's Day, we will wrap up the series with a look at what God's iPhone would look like if we got a glimpse. How would God use it, what would Jesus say, and what Apps would the Holy Spirit have loaded? My use of technology is limited, so my ability to understand this topic is limited, but we have to try and do our best with what we have to do what we can for God's Kingdom. Those who are better can help those of us who are not to learn so we can use new ways to witness the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus. I am sure I will be getting more information out in the Weekly Word, but until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:

You shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.

—Maya Angelou

SPECIAL SUNDAY'S

May 4



May 7
Coins for Communion to benefit United Methodist Church Camps
 (Camp Wesley, Camp Otterbein, and Camp Widewater)




May 14



May 28
 Pentecost
Wear Red

May 21




Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

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



TONGUES OF FIRE

Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.

May 1
May Day



May 20
Armed Forces Day
Recognizes all those who are currently serving in the Military.



May 29

BOOK Club
Saturday, May 6 at 9:00 AM
"The Book Club on Waverly Lane"
By: Rachel Hannah
All Are Welcome!



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Tea Time



Ladies and Girls Tea
Saturday, May 20
St. Paul's will have a tea party for ladies and girls, from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall, Tea Room. There is no cost, but there will be a basket for donations to help offset the costs. Fancy dress (hats, gloves, jewelry. Etc.) are not required, but will add to the fun of the event.



Congratulations Graduates

2023 College Graduates



Megan Emmons

Megan has completed her student teaching and will be graduating from The Ohio State University, Lima with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She will attend the graduation ceremony in Columbus on May 7. Megan plans to stay in the Lima area and will begin to share her resume with local schools as she searches for a teaching job. Following her graduation, she will be getting married on June 10. We wish her the very best as she celebrates these two exciting occasions and that God will continue to bless her. Cards may be sent to Megan at 1443 Latham Ave., Lima, OH 45805

Congratulations!



Isaac McAdams

Isaac will be finishing his Bachelor's Degree in History at the end of July with two minors; one in Marketing Communications, and the other, in Political Science. He is currently interning at Legends Marketing. It is a company that works with The Ohio State and other universities, sports industries, and business hospitality/event planning firms across the country helping them with marketing and sales. He hopes to get a full-time position at Legends Marketing after graduation. Legends Marketing is opening an office in Chicago working with the Chicago Bulls and Bears in the near future. Isaac is more than willing to relocate to this new office when it opens. We hope Isaac's hopes and dreams become reality for him and that God will bless him continually. Cards may reach Isaac at 7300 Ridge Rd, Elida, OH 45807

**Graduates Sunday
May 7**

Hymn History

Hymn of Promise - "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

By C. Michael Hawn

1985

"In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see".

From time to time, a choral anthem inspires a hymn. "Hymn of Promise" was first conceived as an anthem in 1985, performed at the Pasadena Community Church, St. Petersburg, Florida, during a festival concert on Natalie Sleeth's music. Long known as a composer of anthems, especially for children, Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992) contributed one of the favorite new hymns to *The United Methodist Hymnal*.

Sleeth was a native of Evanston, Illinois. She began piano study at the age of four and gained much of her musical experience by singing in choral ensembles during her earlier years. Studying music theory, piano, and organ at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she received her B. A. in 1952.

Married to Ronald E. Sleeth, a United Methodist clergyman and professor of homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, she served as music secretary at Highland Park United Methodist Church 1969-1976. During this time, she studied music theory with Jane Marshall and audited a course in choral arranging taught by Lloyd Pfausch at SMU. Choristers Guild published her first anthem, "*Canon of Praise*," in 1969, the highest selling anthem in the history of this publisher. Her choral works for all ages number more than 200.

Sleeth received honorary doctorates from West Virginia Wesleyan College (1989), and Nebraska Wesleyan College (1990). Some of her compositions are described in her devotional book, *Adventures for the Soul* (1987).

Sleeth had the ability to compose both texts and music. Though "Hymn of Promise" has become a favorite hymn for funerals, it was written at a time when the author states that she was "Pondering the ideas of life, death, spring and winter, Good Friday and Easter, and the whole reawakening of the world that happens every spring." Inspired by a T. S. Eliot Line, the germ of the hymn grew from the idea "in the end is our beginning," the phrase that begins the third stanza of the hymn.

While it carries the promise of spring and the hope of Easter in its beautiful metaphors, it is a very appropriate hymn for funeral and memorial services. Shortly after its composition, the composer's husband was diagnosed with what turned out to be a terminal malignancy. Ronald Sleeth requested "Hymn of Promise" be sung at his funeral service.

A wonderful child-like simplicity permeates "Hymn of Promise." Natalie Sleeth had a gift for composing texts on complex theological ideas that were still accessible to children. Her melodies seemed totally natural and therefore effortless for people to learn. "Hymn of Promise" is one of the most memorable hymns written by an American United Methodist in the last part of the twentieth century, and it promises to be sung for many years to come.

Composer R. G. Huff, who attended her funeral in Denver, Colorado, describes her impact on him in *Worship Matrix*, an online hymnal companion for the hymnal *Celebrating Grace* (2010). "In March 1992, I attended the memorial service of Natalie Sleeth at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, across the street from the church I served there. I had been a pen-pal of sorts with her for several years and wanted to be there for the celebration of her contribution to church music, especially the music of children.

"For a full hour before the funeral, the church's choir, soloist and organist performed her songs, hymns and anthems. It was a great tribute to her writing legacy. Of course, this was one of the songs we heard that day...

"Like the theologian she was, Natalie Sleeth moved on to worship: songs rising from silence, words seeking melodies, darkness becoming light, hope becoming evident in future days."

"Finally—and this relates to the afternoon in March 1992—she expressed how life moves into death, death gives way to eternity, and ultimate victory come for those whose doubt has evolved into belief."

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
April 2, 2023	78
April 6, 2023 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	33
April 9, 2021 <i>Easter Sunday -Early</i>	45
April 9, 2023 <i>Easter Sunday-10AM</i>	98
April 16, 2023	71
April 23, 2023	78

Financial Giving
Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$4,187.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
April 2, 2023	\$2,467.76	\$225.00
April 9, 2023	\$11,080.00	\$2,025.00
April 16, 2023	\$1,932.76	\$81.00
April 23, 2023	\$1,180.00	\$2171.00

Sunday School Attendance	
April 2, 2023	14
April 9, 2023	18
April 16, 2023	11
April 23, 2023	14

Hospitality Cart	
May 7, 2023	OPEN
May 14, 2023	OPEN
May 21, 2023	OPEN
May 28, 2023	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
May 7, 2023	Tahler Sdao
May 14, 2023	Sharla Murphy
May 21, 2023	Gary & Deb Hurd
May 28, 2023	Dan & Margie Best



Daily Bible Readings

Monday 5/1

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

Tuesday 5/2

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Colossians 1:15-23, Luke 6:12-26

Wednesday 5/3

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Colossians 1:24-2:7
Luke 6:27-38

Thursday 5/4

Psalm 59, 60, 114, 115
Colossians 2:8-23
Luke 6:39-49

Friday 5/5

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 7:1-17

Saturday 5/6

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

Sunday 5/7

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

Monday 5/8

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

Tuesday 5/9

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

Wednesday 5/10

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

Thursday 5/11

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

Friday 5/12

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

Saturday 5/13

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

Sunday 5/14 *Mother's Day*

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

Monday 5/15

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

Tuesday 5/16

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

Wednesday 5/17

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

Thursday 5/18

Psalm 68:1-20, Ezekiel 1:1-28
Hebrews 1:1-28
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 5/19

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

Saturday 5/20

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

Sunday 5/21

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

Monday 5/22

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

Tuesday 5/23

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

Wednesday 5/24

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

Thursday 5/25

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

Friday 5/26

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Ezekiel 34:17-31
Hebrews 8:1-13, Luke 10:38-42

Saturday 5/27

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

Sunday 5/28 *Pentecost*

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

Monday 5/29

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

Tuesday 5/30

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

Wednesday 5/31

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



Holy week

**Palm Sunday
"Hosanna"**



**Maundy Thursday
The Altar is stripped**



Easter Morning "He Lives"



**Thank you, Lena Whetstone for accompanying
The congregation singing "Jacobs Ladder".**



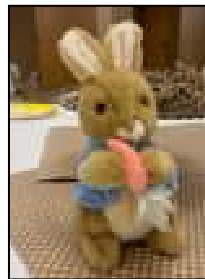
**"A Never-Ending Alleluia"
- J. P. Williams**



Easter

Easter morning was very special. The celebration of a Lord that has risen, the early-rise service, children hunting for eggs, the regular church service, special music, Jacob's ladders, smiling faces, and lots of happiness to name a few. The Easter breakfast was no exception. It was a mix of food, happy noise, family, and friends. Tables, chairs, plates, and silverware were continually added so everyone could be included. What we thought would be 40-45 people turned into almost 70! A huge thank you to Sue Nartker for the success of the breakfast. Sue contacted people for food donations, checked on supplies, and arrived early to make sure everything was just perfect. A big thank you to Steve, Tracy, and Tahler Sdao and Cody Scannell for helping in the kitchen before and after the meal. Thank you also to those that helped following the meal and those that provided the food and drinks. It was VERY much appreciated.

Nurture chairs,
Judy Chaffins and Jan Wyant

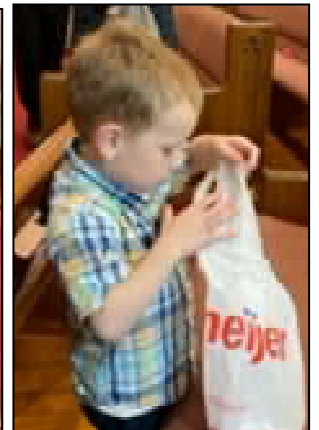
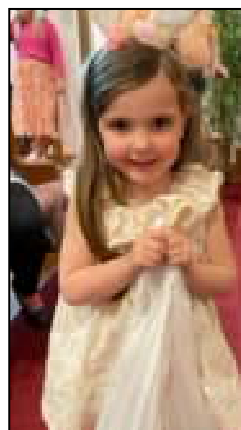
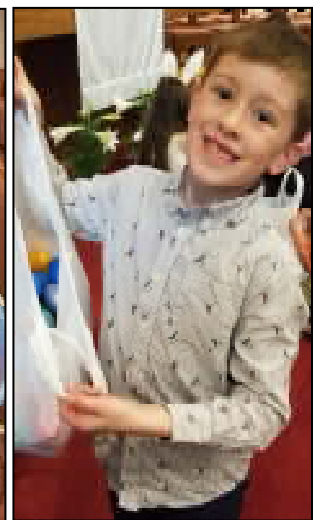
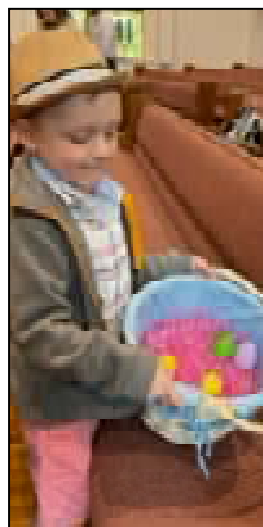
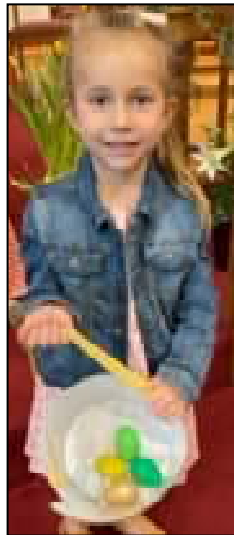
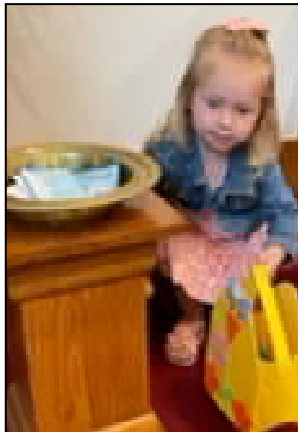
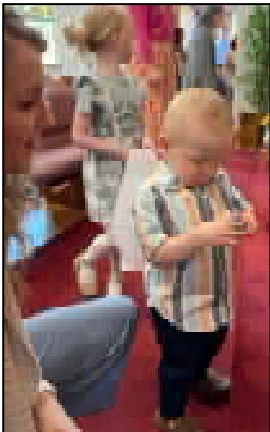


Easter Egg Hunt

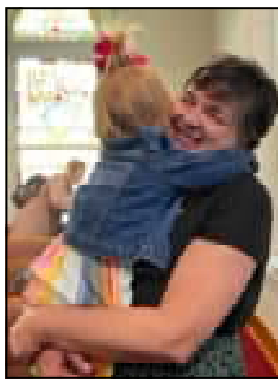
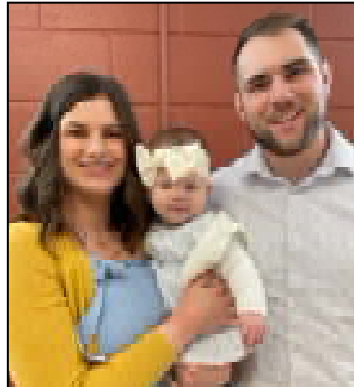


Seventeen children were able to enjoy the Easter egg hunt because our congregation's generosity in donating lots of candy and prizes. I put in a little work, but seeing the joy on the faces of our children and seeing the many smiles from the adults made it all worthwhile. Thank you to everyone that contributed, whether by donation or time in hiding eggs. Without each of you this couldn't have been possible.

Our church family is the greatest!
Shirley Moser



Easter People



The People of St. Paul's



Our condolences to the family of **Alberta Lee** who passed away on March 30, she was 89. Alberta was very active in the Allen County Community. A memorial service was held on April 11 with Pastor Paul officiating.

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Ted and Jan Soddors

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Nathan Stewart

In the Military & Missions

Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Jone Lane**. Jone was a member and very active at St. Paul's. Jone had been the organist for many years and served as the church secretary. She was active with Crafty Creatures Quilt group, the book club, and was the church Historian, to name a few. Jone retired from Bath Schools after 30 years of teaching. In her spare time she made and painted ceramics that she enjoyed giving away to family and friends. A memorial service was held on April 8 with Pastor Paul officiating.

Thank You so much!

Food Pantry Sunday
May 14
Items needed are
Cleaning supplies and tools
(cleaning cloths, dust cloths, etc.)
Thank you to all who donated
last month!!



St. Paul's,
Thank you for sending the chimes,
they are beautiful and we will
think of Jone every time they
chime.
Jim and Casey Lane

*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 Mtg
 May 2, 2023
Trustees...7:00 PM

May 3, 2023
Worship Mtg..
10:00 AM

May 8, 2023
Ad Council/
Finance..7:00 PM

May 18, 2023
Missions Mtg...
7:00 PM

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

Wednesday:
Choir..7:00 PM

MAY

2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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





Gary & Deb Hurd
 May 19

Joe & Torie Gerdeman
 May 22

Dan & Margie Best
 May 28

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Pumpkin Cheesecake Bars

By Mary Irvin

Ingredients		Instructions
CRUST:		<p>Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 9x13 baking pan with foil and lightly grease.</p> <p>Crust: Place graham crackers in a food processor bowl and process until they are fine crumbs (should have just over 2 cups).</p> <p>In separate bowl combine crumbs, sugar, and melted butter and stir until combined.. Press crust into bottom of prepared pan and press into an even layer.</p> <p>Bake crust 10 –15 minutes until it is just beginning to turn golden brown and fragrant. Place the crust on a wire rack to cool slightly while making the filling.</p> <p>Filling: In large bowl, whisk pumpkin puree, spices, and flour. Set aside.</p> <p>In a large bowl, using a mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth.</p> <p>Add vanilla, sour cream, and salt, beat until combined, scraping the sides of bowl as needed. Beat in the eggs, 1 at a time, scraping sides of he bowl as needed.</p> <p>Measure out 1-1/2 cups of cream cheese mixture and add it to reserved pumpkin mixture, stirring until combined.</p> <p>Alternate scoops of cream cheese filling and pumpkin filling all over the top of the crust. Use a sharp knife to drag/swirl the two mixtures together. Be careful NOT to drag knife into the crust.</p> <p>Bake in center of oven for 35-45 minutes, until the center still has a very slight jiggle, but the edges are set.</p> <p>Place on a wire rack to cool completely, then transfer to refrigerator to chill several hours. (at least 8 hours.)</p>
15-whole	Graham Crackers	
1/4 cup	Granulated sugar	
8 Tbl.	Butter, unsalted melted	
FILLING:		
1-1/4 cups	Pumpkin puree	
1-1/2 tsp.	Pumpkin pie spice	
1-1/2 tsp.	Cinnamon, ground	
1 Tbl.	Flour, all purpose	
3– 8 oz. pkg.	Cream cheese, full fat, at room temperature	
1-2/3 cup	Granulated sugar	
1-1/2 tsp.	Pure vanilla extract	
1/2 cup	Sour cream, full fat	
1/8 tsp.	Salt	
3-large	Eggs	

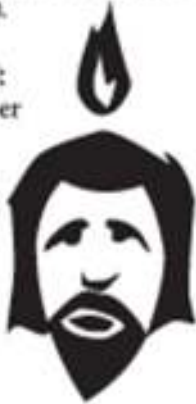
KIDZ KORNER

Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV	6. OGETHE
2. ABLE	7. ES
3. AY OF PENTECOS	8. ONGUE
4. ONGUE	9. A
5. PIRI	10. IND



"When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

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Living Our Faith

Honor Your Mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.

Come As You Are

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they'd have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he'd be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: "Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, 'Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.'"

We're all unworthy to receive Jesus' body and blood, but that's exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*