

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

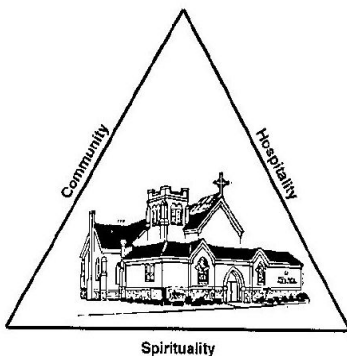
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May is here, and they say there will be flowers, but at times it feels as though everything in the world is changing, and upside down. We are in the middle of *Stories That Changed the World*, a series about the stories Jesus told. I hope you will join us for the rest of the series as we look at the Meaning of Love and Missing the Point. I would like to use the space here in May to talk to you all about the United Methodist Church.

General Conference is currently in session, and you may hear about some changes coming to the United Methodist Church on the world stage. Or you might hear about some changes that are happening here in Ohio as we move forward. I am going to talk about Ohio first; in September we will be getting a new Bishop here in West Ohio, but for the first time, we will be sharing our bishop with our brothers and sisters of East Ohio. I expressed the goal I have heard from people in the conference, which is that eventually there will not be a West and East Ohio Conference, but the goal will be to combine into a single conference with one staff, one office, and one bishop. I have been a part of this type of event before and I am here to tell you, it will be alright. I grew up in the Detroit Conference of the UMC and we shared a bishop with the Michigan Conference. Eventually, it became a single conference, although it took about 16-20 years. I believe the goal is to make the transition a little quicker here in Ohio, but only time will tell. You will continue to be Elida St. Paul's Church, and you will continue ministry here in Allen County, Ohio.

The second major event in our church life will be the regionalization of the UMC on a global scale. That means each region of the world will be allowed to govern itself instead of trying to come to a consensus across the globe. That, at the best of times, is difficult, and at the worst of times, nearly impossible. What will this new church look like in the future? I don't think anyone really knows the answer to that question. I also believe it will take many years to grow into who we will become as United Methodists. But I do know you will continue to be Elida St. Paul's Church, and you will continue ministry here in Allen County, Ohio.

The result is the same, no matter what happens with both of these transitions, and I want to encourage you to use caution as you hear about what is happening in the church. Rumors will abound about a new Ohio Conference and a new regional organization of United Methodists. I hope if any of the stories you hear cause you concern, you will come and talk to me so we can see if they are true and what they will mean for Elida St. Paul's. But until then, I hope you will join me in focusing on being the best Elida St. Paul's we can be. So, get out there in the mission field, and be about showing the Love of God to everyone you meet. Remember, I'll see you there.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

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May 2
National Day of Prayer

May 9
Ascension Day



BOOK Club
Saturday, May 4
at 9:00 AM
"Emma's Journal"
By Ed Rowell
All Are Welcome!

May 12
Mother's Day
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 5
Coins for Communion
to benefit
East Ohio Camps

May 12
Food Pantry
Items Needed:
Cleaning supplies and tools
(Cleaning cloths, dust cloths etc..)
5 Loaves Food Pantry
at the Church at Allentown

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Deadline: the 22nd
of each month

Christian Symbol

GREEN



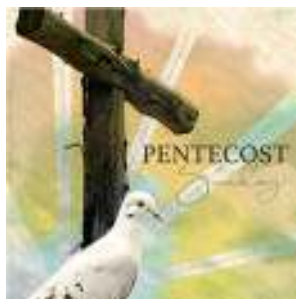
Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

May 18
Armed Forces Day
 Thank you to all those who are currently serving in our military.



Memorial Day
May 27, 2024



May 19
Pentecost
Wear Red

Save the Date:
Women's and Girls Tea
Saturday, June 8, 2:00 P.M.
In the Fellowship Hall



May 26
Trinity Sunday

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



AED Training

The AED device that was gifted to the church, has been checked, updated, and ready for use if the need arises. It is mounted on the wall at the North entrance to the Sanctuary. We are asking for some volunteers to come to a one-day training to become AED/CPR certified. Some of you may already be trained for work and that is great, as long as you maintain your certification. Please let us know if you are already certified or if you are interested in the training. We would like to have several people trained so on any given Sunday a trained person is present for worship service.

Thought for the Month:

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

—Anne Bradstreet

Wanted

Wanted

Wedding or Bridesmaid dresses

All sizes, colors, & styles

*To be used for display at
Women and Girls Tea*

On June 8, 2024, at 2:00 P.M.



Please contact:

the church office, 419-339-3801

Judy Chaffins, 419-230-3134

Jan Wyant, 419-233-2216

WANTED - ALL ECLIPSE GLASSES!!!

Did you see the eclipse on Monday, April 8th? It was a spectacular view and another chance for all of us to see God's hand in our universe. Only HE could make things happen like this. It was indeed a sight to behold.

St. Paul's UMC is always looking for ways to serve others in the mission field. We were blessed to be able to see the eclipse, so why not help others to experience the same awesome feeling. If you still have your eclipse glasses or know someone who has theirs, please give them to Deb Hurd or drop them off in the office. Deb has offered to send these to a place in Utah where they will be shipped to Chile & Argentina for school-aged children to be able to view the eclipse on October 2, 2024 in their area of the world.

The deadline to turn them in to us is July 1, 2024! Let's help others experience God's wonderous works.



Hymn History

Blades of Grass and Pure White Stone

*The story behind the song which belongs to Senator Orrin Hatch.
Complements The Jacksonville News, Sherry Kughn July 4, 2014*

Hatch, the 80-year-old longtime senator from Utah, was the 11-year-old brother of Jesse who was 19 years old when he headed off to fight in World War II. He was a nose gunner on a B-24 bomber and was shot down and killed while destroying Adolf Hitler's oil fields in Germany. The Hatch family members were distraught over the news of his death, and none more so than Orrin. Jesse was Orrin's only living brother, and when he heard the bad news, he went off alone and was sick. Few days later, according to his sister, a lock of hair above his forehead turned white and stayed that way throughout his life.

Hatch has not only become a long-time and hard-working senator in the United States Congress, but also he is a prolific songwriter of many patriotic, religious, and popular songs. In addition to honoring his brother with "Blades of Grass," Hatch has also written two other songs dedicated to him, "Someday I'll Fly" and "Morning Breaks on Arlington."

I was able to contact one of Hatch's co-writers, Lowell Alexander, to learn more about "Blades of Grass." Alexander, who has more than 500 songs to his credit, lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Here is how he first learned about the song Hatch had written.

"Senator Hatch sent me a lyric for 'Blades of Grass' with the first verse complete," said Alexander. He and another writing partner, Grammy winner Phil Nash, finished the song.

Here are the lyrics, "Blades of grass and pure white stones/cover those who left their homes/to rest in fields here side by side/ lest we forget their sacrifice. Buried here in dignity/Endless rows for all to see/ Freedoms seeds in sorrow sown/ These blades of grass and pure white stones. Just below the emerald sod/ Are boys who've reached the arms of God."

The song is repeated and often is played with video photographs shown in the background of Arlington Cemetery. The song, sung by many, including the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the United States Band, is performed each year at the annual fundraiser for the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who are living. Alexander said he attended one of those events and was touched to sit across from soldiers who had sacrificed so much for their country. As "Blades of Grass" was performed at the event, the heroes had tears in their eyes. "It puts them back to where they were," said Alexander.

Alexander said the song, like others he has written, feels like one of his children. "Anytime people can enjoy it and have emotion connected to, it pleases me," he said. "People relate to it on a broad level, even if they do not have a brother or other relative killed in war. This song honors those who are the reason we have freedom in this country. They sacrifice and keep oppression away. It is good to be a part of that."

Alexander is also happy about his 20-year songwriting partnership with Hatch, who is one of the finest people Alexander said he has ever met. He is extraordinarily honest and trustworthy," he said.

Hatch is known for his strong work ethic in the Senate and his outstanding leadership role in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, traits that some say he also exhibits for himself and his beloved brother. "Blades of Grass," is more than a patriotic song. It also shows brotherly love, which is important in both family and a country.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:		
		* RV
March 28, 2024 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	35	66
March 31, 2024 <i>Easter –Early</i>	33	49
March 31, 2024 <i>Easter 10 AM</i>	98	76
April 7, 2024	61	70
April 14, 2024	64	51
April 21, 2024	76	49
April 28, 2024	73	X

***RV - Remote Viewing**
(online viewing)

We are now recording the attendance for those watching online. This attendance is taken a week behind so we are sure to record those who have viewed the service throughout the week.

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

Sunday School Attendance	
March 31, 2024	6
April 7, 2024	8
April 14, 2024	10
April 21, 2024	11
April 28, 2024	11

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
March 31, 2024	\$1,806.00	\$1,467.00
April 7, 2024	\$3,771.40	\$154.48
April 14, 2024	\$2,630.49	\$110.00
April 21, 2024	\$956.13	\$43.00
April 28, 2024	\$4,212.24	\$415.00

Flower Calendar	
May 5, 2024	Nancy & Bruce Kizer
May 12, 2024	Virginia Hollar
May 19, 2024	Gary & Deb Hurd
May 26, 2024	Dan & Margie Best

Hospitality Cart	
May 5, 2024	Sharla Murphy
May 12, 2024	OPEN
May 19, 2024	Jackson Rife
May 26, 2024	Virginia Hollar

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 5/1

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

Thursday 5/2

Psalm 70, 71, Leviticus 19:26-37
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
Matthew 6:25-34

Friday 5/3

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

Saturday 5/4

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

Sunday 5/5

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

Monday 5/6

Psalm 77, 79, Leviticus 25:35-55
Colossians 1:9-14
Matthew 13:1-16

Tuesday 5/7

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

Wednesday 5/8

Psalm 119:97-120
Leviticus 26:27-42
Ephesians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:41-46

Thursday 5/9

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

Friday 5/10

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

Saturday 5/11

Psalm 78, 90, 136
Numbers 11:16-29
Ephesians 2:11-22
Matthew 7:28-8:4

Sunday 5/12

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

Monday 5/13

Psalm 89, Joshua 1:1-9
Ephesians 3:1-13
Matthew 8:5-17

Tuesday 5/14

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

Wednesday 5/15

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

Thursday 5/16

Psalm 105, Zechariah 4:1-14
Ephesians 4:17-32
Matthew 9:1-8

Friday 5/17

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Jeremiah 31:27-34
Ephesians 5:1-20
Matthew 9:1-8

Saturday 5/18

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

Sunday 5/19

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

Monday 5/20

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

Tuesday 5/21

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

Wednesday 5/22

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

Thursday 5/23

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

Friday 5/24

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Ezekiel 39:21-29
1 John 3:1-10, Matthew 10:24-33

Saturday 5/25

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Ezekiel 47:1-12
1 John 3:11-18
Matthew 10:34-42

Sunday 5/26

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

Monday 5/27

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Proverbs 3:11-20
1 John 3:18-4:6, Matthew 11:1-6

Tuesday 5/28

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Proverbs 4:1-27
1 John 4:7-21, Matthew 11:7-15

Wednesday 5/29

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Proverbs 6:1-19
1 John 5:1-12, Matthew 11:16-24

Thursday 5/30

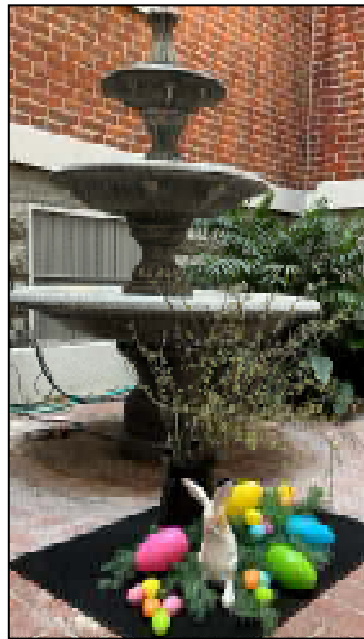
Psalm 18, Proverbs 7:1-27
1 John 5:13-21, Matthew 11:25-30

Friday 5/31

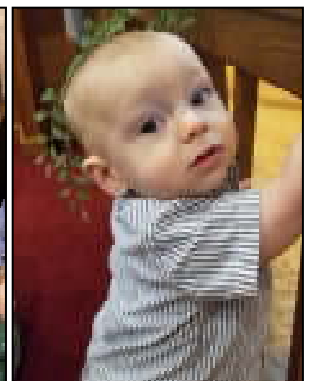
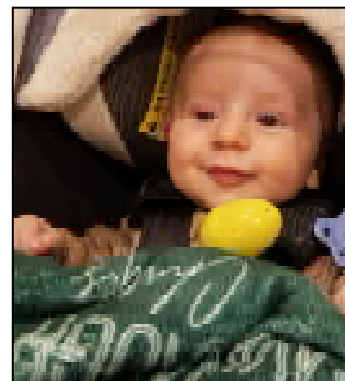
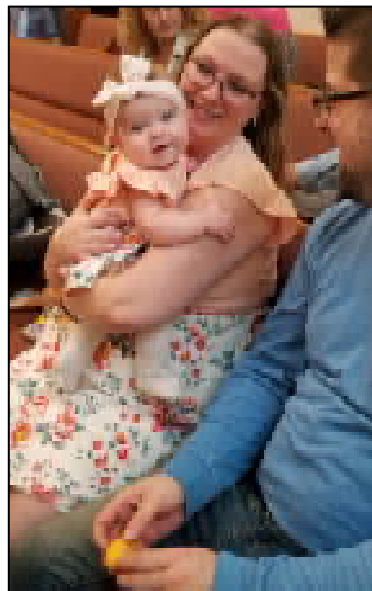
Psalm 16, 17, 22
Proverbs 8:1-21
2 John 1-13, Matthew 12:1-14

Easter

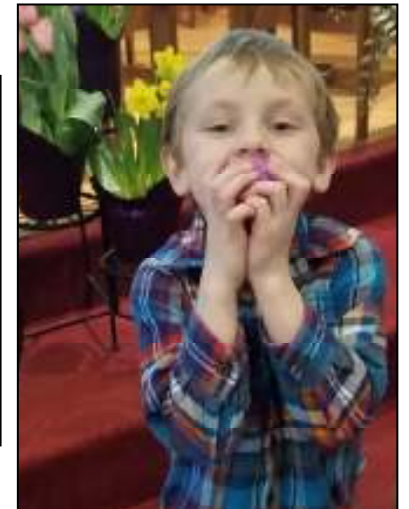
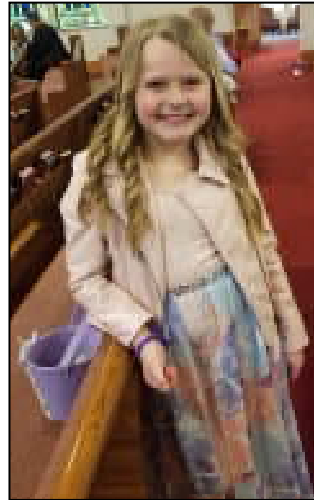
Thank you to Susan Nartker for heading up the Easter breakfast again this year, and to her helpers and great cooks that contributed to the breakfast!



Lena Whetstone enjoying her last Easter egg hunt, and ready to train our youngest egg hunters!



Easter



Clean up Day



Clean up day was held on Saturday, April 12.



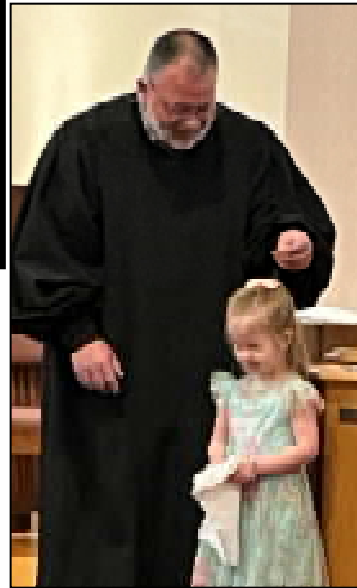
Thank you to everyone who took time out of your busy schedules to help beautify the outside of the church!



Connecting with...

Holy Baptism
April 21

Audrey Jo Cook - November 19, 2019
Nellie June Cook - August 23, 2023
Daughters of Jonathan and Chelsey Cook
and granddaughters of Lois Cook



Congratulations to Zac and Jenni (Theodore) Jankovsky on the birth of their daughter, Alice Violet, born on April 21st weighing 6 lb. 12 oz. and 19 in. long. She will be welcomed home by big sister, Juniper. Proud grandparents are Tim and Sue Theodore.



Thank you!
To those who prepared food for the Family Promise Mission on Friday, April 26th. The families greatly appreciate a home cooked meal. The next date will be July 26.

The People of St. Paul's

Our sympathy to Stacy and Alex McAdams and family on the passing of Stacy's father, Roy Alexander, on March 27. A memorial service was officiated by Pastor Paul on April 5th. Cards may reach the family at 13939 State Rd. Delphos, Ohio 45833.

*With Deepest
Sympathy*



St. Paul's UMC Family,
I want to thank everyone for their prayers during my surgery and recovery. Also, for the beautiful vase of flowers.

God Bless you all!
Carol Stemen

Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital

Carol Stemen

Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement

Don Chaffins
Ted and Jan Sodders

In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart



A prayer For Roots

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do, until he comes again. Amen.



**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

May 1, 2024
Worship Mtg..10:00 AM

May 6, 2024
PPR Mtg...6:00 PM

May 7, 2024
Trustees Mtg..7:00 PM

No Ad Council / Finance Mtg.

No Missions Mtg.

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

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

MAY

2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Happy Anniversary



Ross & Jessie Harmon
 My 16

Gary & Deb Hurd
 May 19; 40 yrs.

Joe & Torie Gerdeman
 May 22

Dan & Margie Best
 May 28

			1 Lily Bice	2	3	4
5	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	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

Sausage and Mushroom Breakfast Casserole

*From Casey Rife
Served at Easter Breakfast*

Ingredients		Instructions
12 slices	Bread, cut into cubes	Grease a 9 x 13 pan. Cut bread into cubes and layer with cheese and sausage. Beat eggs and mix in milk and seasonings. Pour over bread and refrigerate overnight. Before baking combine mushroom soup, milk and mushrooms and spread over the top of the casserole. Place in oven while preheating to 350 degrees. Bake 1 1/2 hours.
1 lb.	Cheddar cheese, grated	
1 lb.	Sausage, browned , drained, & cooled	
10	Eggs	
2 1/2 cups	Milk	
3/4 tsp.	Dry mustard	
To taste	Salt & pepper	
Topping:		
1 can	Cream of mushroom soup	
1/2 cup	Milk	
1 can or 6-8 oz.	Mushrooms or Fresh Baby bella mushrooms , sliced	



Strawberry Topping for Ice Cream

From Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	Water, cold	Boil cold water and Sure-Jell for 1 minute and stir into remaining ingredients. Crush strawberries or chop in blender. Mix with sugar until sugar is well dissolved. Add to Sure-Jell mixture. Keeps well in refrigerator. Also good in milk shakes.
1 box	Sure-Jell	
4 cups	Strawberries, fresh crushed	
5 cups	Sugar	

KIDZ KORNER

a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



PUZZLE



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf

—○—

pink, red, yellow, blue

—○—

mother, sister, brother, aunt

—○—

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

—○—

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

—○—

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

—○—

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

—○—

my, our, she, your

—○—

faith, family, love, hope

—○—

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

—○—

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

—○—

silver, white, gold, bronze

—○—

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a g _____ and qu _____ p _____, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, necklace, diamond, orange, my, faith, sunny, cookie, silver

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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45807
Permit No. 71

*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

A Flame With Faith



In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was "strangely warmed" during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, "A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue."