St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

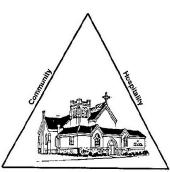
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Spirituality

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Hello Everyone,

A couple of things this month: it is nearly summer time, which means camping season is upon us. Did you know that the United Methodist Churches has many camping

opportunities for people of all ages? Children's camps from 3-6 days in length, family camps, Spiritual retreats, women's retreats, Bible study weekends. Go to eocumc.com/camps to find out what is available. We have scholarships available to help with the cost of camp. I want to encourage you to check it out, and the scholarship can be used at any of these events. Contact me if you have any questions.

We will be having a combined Pentecost service with St. Paul's, Shawnee, Trinity, Forest Park, and Westside United Methodist Churches on June 8th, at 10:30 am, at the Faurot Park Pavilion. There will be about 30 minutes of praise music before and after the service. Our District Superintendent will be preaching that Sunday, and it will be an opportunity to celebrate how the Holy Spirit is working here in Allen County, Ohio in the United Methodist Churches. Bring a chair to sit on, we will have shuttles running from the parking lot, there will be coffee, donuts, stuff for kids, and a special children's time during the service. It will be a great time to see other United Methodists from around Lima and a good time of worship and fellowship together. Of course, we will be wearing red to show our unity in celebrating the Holy Spirit working here in Allen County. I'll be there, and I hope you will be too.

I want to finish up by asking for your continued prayers and support as we prepare to enter into a new time of ministry. As I work with Lima Westside Church beginning in June, be patient as we grow into a new office schedule and some differences on Sunday mornings. I hope, if there is a problem, you will come to me or someone on the Ad. Board, with your concern. Communicating with each other, is how we will keep the small problems from becoming big ones. We will be in the mission field together. I'll see you there soon.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

There are always flowers for those who want to see them.

—Henry Matisse



May 1

May 4

Coins for Communion to benefit United Methodist Church Camps May 26



May 11





May 17

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



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Deadline: the **20th** 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

Christian Symbol

ALPHA MU OMEGA

The Greek letters that begin the words yesterday, today and forever remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!



Pentecost Sunday

June 8 10:30 AM Faurot Park Pavilion





Pentecost 2025

We will be having a combined Pentecost service with St. Paul's, Shawnee, Trinity, Forest Park, and Westside United Methodist Churches on June 8th, at 10:30 am, at the Faurot Park Pavilion. There will be about 30 minutes of praise music before and after the service. Bring a chair to sit on, we will have shuttles running from the parking lot, there will be coffee, donuts, stuff for kids, and a special children's time during the service. There will be more info in the weeks to come, and I hope to see you all there on the 8th!

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

2025 College Graduate



Makayla Bok

As a little update on my life—I'm set to graduate with my Bachelor's of Science in biology this May, and I've decided to go back to school to earn my BSN through Mercy College. I recently started working as an STNA at St. Vincent's in Toledo, and they're offering to pay for the degree in full. Ultimately, though, I decided to become an RN because I love caring for people in the "little" moments that truly impact their day-to-day experience in the hospital. Alongside that, I've learned so much from my patients over the years, and I wouldn't be the person I am today without them. I couldn't imagine not continuing in this line of work and look forward to starting as an RN sometime in 2026 or 2027.



With the end drawing near, I want to thank everyone for their support throughout my time at BGSU. It's nice seeing the newsletters each month, and I've enjoyed watching the Sunday School numbers grow. The cards are also always a lovely surprise.

Makayla Bok

Soul Food



Scars Can be Transformed for Healing

Every one of you is probably all too well acquainted with scars. So am I.

I've been with families who have lost a parent, with those who have experienced a tragic accident, with those whose lives have been torn apart by fire or storm.

I've been with too many parents who lost a child. I've been with victims of the violence of war.

I've seen boyhood playmates blown to bits as we stood by the seashore, which turned out to be a bomb.

I live under brutal military dictatorship. I've heard the outcry of families separated by the Cold War, through violence and because of an unjust social system and its treatment.

In the sorrow, through the pain, behind the locked doors of our loneliness, we are fearful, unaware of the sacred presence and then God breaks in with a greeting of peace. When we look up and recognize God's presence, we see Jesus, a living reality even in death, and the scars speak. They say, "God knows."

In the loss or grievous harm of a loved one - a parent, a child, a friend - Jesus comes to us with scars that say, "God knows." God is not afraid, God does not pull back, and God does not grow distant from the scars. Praise God that Christ is raised with scars and wounds!

Most of us protest, "I don't want this pain" or "I don't need this scar." We want a God who takes away pain and sorrow and scars. We sit in nursing homes or hospitals or living rooms, locked in fear and in our sorrow. We wonder what is next. We wonder if we can bear the pain and, if so, live with the scars that remain.

God uses the scars! I thank God. In my quiet moments I can let God in, and let God see my scars.

When I was a boy, my family was impoverished. My father was sick and disabled. Neither was socially acceptable. I was angry and the scars were deep.

When I was locked in fear, Jesus met me and said, "I can use these wounds for your promising future—to heal and restore and proclaim hope to others— so your suffering, and theirs, is not wasted." The wounded Christ came into my wounded life, and I found a new wholeness in my life not in spite of but because of my scars.

That's what the Lord is doing with scars!

The gospel proclaims God is at work precisely in transforming and giving meaning to our wounds. God does God's best stuff in the scars! God knows what it means to suffer. God suffers with us and for us, the power of resurrection, the transformation of the cosmos, all in the scars!

Grace and peace, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung





West Ohio Conference

We are covering you and your congregation in prayer. If we can assist you in any way, let us know. May God continue to bless you in your work of being the hands and feet of Jesus in your community.

Peace, Connectional Ministries of West Ohio

Hymn History

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

By; John Carl Ylvisaker

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold."

"Borning Cry" is one of the most popular songs in recent hymnals. The ballad style of the music lends itself to a feeling of a love song. A love song it is—between God and the singer.

Many hymns address God from the human perspective, but few address humanity from God's point of view. The spirit of "Borning Cry" is one of a God who loved us from the beginning of time and continues to love us throughout the seasons of our life.

The author and composer is John Carl Ylvisaker (b.1937), a native of Fargo, N.D. He studied at Concordia College in Minnesota, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1959.

Following further studies at Luther Northwestern Seminary (now Luther Seminary) in St. Paul, the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State College, he worked as a voice teacher from 1971-75 in Buffalo Minn. From 1973-86, Mr. Ylvisaker served as the music director for the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in St. Louis Park, Minn.

During this time the composer also worked in the communication division of the American Lutheran Church in American Lutheran Church (ALC), the predecessor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Since 1988, Mr. Ylvisaker has been president of New Generation Publishers, a platform from which his compositions have appeared in hundreds of worship resources.

An early work of note was his *Mass for a Secular City (1967)* followed by 11 recordings of his work between 1967 and 1998. Much of his original music has been composed for the Lutheran Vespers radio broadcast and videos for ELCA.

He also produced SCAN, a weekly radio broadcast for the ELCA, and has received five Gabriel Awards for his broadcasting endeavors. Mr. Ylvisaker's copyright covers more than 1.000 songs, and he is in high demand for performance and as a worship leader.

The composition of "Borning Cry" began in 1985, when Mr. Ylvisaker was asked to prepare a series on baptism called "Reflections" for the ALC. His Web site states: "John began work on the song before any footage for the video had been shot. When the media team met to put the music with the video for the first time, it became obvious that the dance—like beat and fast rhythm of the music did not match the gentle scenes being depicted on the screen. The Lyrics were on target, but not the music. As he left the studio that day, John received the suggestions to 'take it home and personalize it."

As a result, the composer adapted a completed work into a new form—the result of which was one of the most popular hymns written in the late 20th century.

The ballad style of "Borning Cry" reflects the composer's interest in folk song. In his book *What Song Shall We Sing?* (2005), he speaks of "Fusion" of traditional folk songs with hymnody."

After noting several well-known hymns that use music from traditional folk sources, he poses the question: "What is it that makes traditional (folk) tunes so appealing? It is their strength and durability, certainly, but ultimately it comes down to one word: flexibility."

Folk songs can be adapted rhythmically, melodically and harmonically. The can be accompanied on a wide variety of instruments.

The use of folk sources is embedded in Mr. Ylvisaker's Lutheran heritage of the chorales, many of which had folk influences and provide the basis for congregational song heritage of the Lutheran Reformation.

In addition to the lyrical melody and text that allows God to sing a love song to humanity, "Borning Cry" gives us a sense of the timelessness of God. The final stanza of the seven-stanza hymn is the same as the first stanza. While we think of ourselves as finite beings, God re-creates us and gives us new life in the baptismal waters, a spiritual regeneration that lasts for eternity.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:			
March 30, 2025	72		
April 6, 2025	75		
April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday	92		
April 17, 2025 Holy Thursday	35		
April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday -Early	40		
April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday-10AM	104		
April 27, 2025	75		

Financial Giving Weekly Need for Unified Ministry Budget \$4,386.25

Unified Mini	Other:	
March 30, 2025	\$2,386.94	\$516.00
April 6, 2025	\$6,628.10	\$161.00
April 13, 2025	\$3,872.40	\$398.00
April 20, 2025	\$2,157.20	\$1,141.00
April 27, 2025	\$2,180.00	\$1,122.00

Sunday School Attendance		
March 30, 2025	15	
April 6, 2025	13	
April 13, 2025	17	
April 20, 2025	21	
April 27, 2025	11	

Hospitality Cart		
May 4, 2025	OPEN	
May 11, 2025	Virginia Hollar	
May 18, 2025	OPEN	
May 25, 2025	OPEN	

Flower Calendar 減減減減減減		
May 4, 2025	Larry and Shirley Moser	
May 11, 2025	Bruce and Nancy Kizer	
May 18, 2025	Gary & Deb Hurd	
May 25, 2025	Roger & Jackie Henderson	



Daily Bible Readings

Thursday 5/1

Psalm 18, Daniel 2:31-49 1 John 2:18-29, Luke 3:1-14

Friday 5/2

Psalm 16, 17, 134, 135 Daniel 3:1-18 1 John 3:1-10, Luke 3:15-22

Saturday 5/3

Psalm 20, 21, 110,116, 117 Daniel 3:19-30 1 John 3:11-18, Luke 4:1-13

Sunday 5/4

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150 Daniel 4:1-18 1 Peter 4:7-11, John 21:15-25

Monday 5/5

Psalm 19, 15, 25, Daniel 4:19-27 1 John 3:19-4:6, Luke 4:14-30

Tuesday 5/6

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39 Daniel 4:28-37 1 John 4:7-21, Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday 5/7

Psalm 38, 119:25-48 Daniel 5:1-12 1 John 5:1-12, Luke 4:38-44

Thursday 5/8

Psalm 38, Daniel 5:13-30 1 John 5:13-20, Luke 5:1-11

Friday 5/9

Psalm 105, Daniel 6:1-15 2 John 1-13, Luke 5:12-26

Saturday 5/10

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43 Daniel 6:16-28 3 John 1-15, Luke 5:27-39

Sunday 5/11 *Mother's Day* Psalm 63, 98, 103 1 Peter 5:1-11, Matthew 7:15-29

Monday 5/12

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

Tuesday 5/13

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

Wednesday 5/14

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

Thursday 5/15

Psalm 50, 114, 115 Colossians 2:8-23, Luke 6:39-49

Friday 5/16

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

Saturday 5/17

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

Sunday 5/18

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84 1 Thessalonians 2:13-17 Matthew 7:7-14

Monday 5/19

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65 Colossians 3:18-4:18 Luke 7:36-50

Tuesday 5/20

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

Wednesday 5/21

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

Thursday 5/22

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

Friday 5/23

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

Saturday 5/24

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

Sunday 5/25

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

Monday 5/26

Psalm 77, 80 Deuteronomy 8:1-10 James 1:1-15, Luke 9:18-27

Tuesday 5/27

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

Wednesday 5/28

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

Thursday 5/29

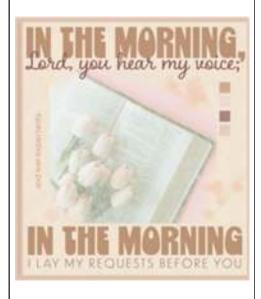
Psalm 8, 24, 47, 96 Ezekiel 1:1-28 Hebrews 2:5-18 Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 5/30

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

Saturday 5/31

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



Nurture News

The Nurture Committee is alive and busy. On April 7th, the committee met to fill six inch bright yellow boxes. They used items the congregation donated, to pack and mail or deliver to homebound and those watching online. We hope these boxes will help the recipients celebrate spring and know they are in St. Paul's thoughts.

Nurture members Are:

Margie Best, Gloria Brunk , Deb Hurd, Mary Irvin, Connie Mault, Vicki McAdams, Sharla Murphy, Susan Nartker, Marla Scannell, Barb Schade, Tahlor Sdao, and Tracy Sdao.

Chairs: Virginia Hollar and Jan Wyant



thank you!

Thank you for the box of goodies I received in the mail yesterday. This is a wonderful outreach Ministry. Thank you again.

Yours in Christ, Pat Ketner



Imagine our delightful surprise upon receiving and opening our "goodie" boxes this week. How thoughtful of you all. We certainly felt the love of our dear friends at St. Paul's. THANK YOU! We miss worshipping with you and catching up on family news! Happy Easter to all! HE IS RISEN!!!

Marty, Kathy, and A J White



Special thanks for my heart warming sunshine pkg. It certainly added a glowing touch to my day. How I enjoy my weekly church services from here in Michigan.

Love and blessings to all, Cindy Swihart

Holy week

Palm Sunday "Hosanna"











Holy Thursday



Easter







Children's Moments



Choir Anthem

*"The Bells of Easter" - S. Pethel*Bell Ringers; Ashton, Hudson, and Jackson Rife





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 \sim St. Paul's UMC \sim An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples \sim

Easter Egg Hunt



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The People of St. Paul's



Congratulations to Stacy and Alex McAdams on the birth of their son, Ridge Roy McAdams, who arrived on April 10th, weighing 10 lbs 15 oz. and 22.5 inches long. He was welcomed home by big sisters, Rylan and Merah, and brother Baylor. Grandparents are Brent and Vicki McAdams and great grandparents are Myrna Metzger and Ron McAdams. Cards may be sent to the McAdams family at 13939 State Rd. Delphos, OH 45833





Macovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

In the Military & Missions

Ally cally c

Nathan Stewart

Congratulations to Jessie and Ross Harmon on the birth of their son, Tanner Scott Harmon, who arrived on April 21st, three weeks early, weighing 6 lbs 6 oz. Big sisters, Wren and Andi, are very proud of the new family addition. Cards may be sent to the Harmon family at 312 Baxter St. Elida, OH 45807.

Happy Mother's Day

There is no love, like a mother's love
No stronger bond on earth...
Like the precious bond that comes from God,
to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong, and never changing for all time...
And when her children need her most, a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers, Go bless them every one... For all the tears and heartache, and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over, a mother's love lives on... through many generations, with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers, for they love with a higher love... From the power God has given, And the strength from up above.



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 6, 2025 **Trustees...7:00 PM**

> May 7, 2025 **Worship Mtg.. 10:00 AM**

> > No Ad Council/ Finance..

No **Missions Mtg**...

> Sundays: Hospitality .. 9:30 AM

Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesday: Choir..7:00 PM

MAY

2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Lily Bice	2 Noah Vermillion	3
4	5 Shelly Rife	6 Angie Nartker	7	8	9 Michael Whetstone	10 Larry Brunk
11 Jackson Rife	12	13 Glenna Kohli	14	15 Logan Kinney	16 Mary Irvin Jennifer Morrison Luke Vermillion	17 Martha Vazquez



Ross & Jessie Harmon May 16

Gary & Deb Hurd May 19; 41 yrs.

> Joe & Torie Gerdeman May 22

Dan & Margie Best May 28

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Jackson Rife		Glenna Kohli		Logan Kinney	Mary Irvin Jennifer Morrison Luke Vermillion	Martha Vazquez
18	Aaron Thompson Marlene Weaver	20	21	22	23	24 Isaac McAdams
25 Carter Kuenzli	26 Torie Gerdeman	27 Scott Warris	28	29	30	31



Crunchy	Cheeseroni	
		By Susan Nartker
Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb.	Ground beef	Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain
1 can	Tomato Soup, condensed	Brown and drain ground beef.
	_	Add soups and cooked macaroni.
1 can	Cream of Mushroom soup, condensed	Place 1/2 the mixture in a greased 2 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle with half the cheese and onions.
2 cups	Cheddar Cheese, cubed	-
3 oz.	French fried onions, Durkee	Top with remaining macaroni mixture and cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.
2 cups	Macaroni, uncooked	Sprinkle with remaining onions and bake 5 minutes longer. Makes 6 servings
		1

Frozen 3	Fruit Salad	
		By Gloria Brunk
Ingredients		Instructions
1–8oz.	Cream cheese	Beat cream cheese and sugar until creamed. Then add cool whip and mix well.
3/4 cup	Sugar	In another small bowl, mix Pineapple, nuts,
1 sm.	Cool whip	Strawberries, and bananas.
1 lg. can	Pineapple, crushed drained	Add mixtures together and pour into a 2 quart dish, and freeze. Thaw partially before serving.
1/2 cup	Chopped nuts	Can be kept in freezer for weeks.
10 oz. pkg.	Strawberries, frozen	
2 –3	Bananas, sliced	

KIDZ KORNER



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

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- · 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- · 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

- With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
- Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
- On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
- Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
- Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
- Trim off crusts with a serrated knife.
 Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles.
 Serve and enjoy!



A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



- WORD BANK -

bread, household, women, laugh, children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is _____ with strength and dignity;

she can QQ_{a} at the days to come.

She ______ with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her

She watches over the affairs of her of idleness.

Her _____ arise and call her blessed;
her _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many ___ _ _ do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, N/V

Charm is __eceptive, and be___ty is fl__eting; but a woma__ w__o f___rs the Lo__d is to be prais__d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: dothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women; Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807

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Living Our Faith

Death Is Not The End

Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist who died in 1977, requested this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth but could not stay." No one can stay, of course. We're all moving toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (*The Book of Common Prayer*).

On Memorial Day, we remember people who have perished in war, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. May God hasten the day when humans can solve disputes peacefully. We also remember loved ones whose stay on earth is over.

A memorial stone at Ohio's College of Wooster, placed by a class years ago, reads: "United in time / Divided in time / To be reunited / When time shall be no more." Christians believe that death does not end all. When our earthly life is over, we have the promise of eternal life — and joyful reunions — in heaven.