St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 49, Issue 11

November, 2026

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

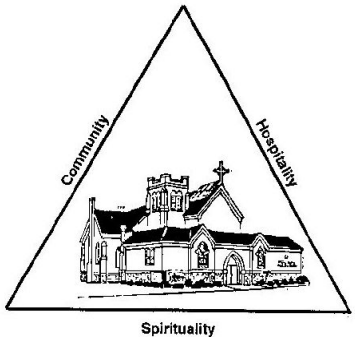
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

officeespc@gmail.com

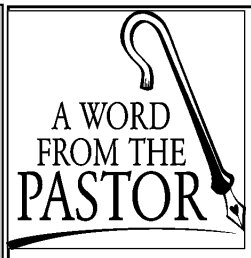
Rev. Paul Scannell
Cell Phone:
734-660-1984

4pastorpaul@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Hymn As Therapy	4
Crafty Creatures	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Veterans Poem	8
Missions	9
October Worship	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
November Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16



Hello Everyone,

November 22nd is Consecration Sunday; I want to invite you to turn in a pledge card for 2027 on that Sunday, or turn it in to the office if you will be out of town. We have been looking at "Generosity" as we look at stewardship. Generosity has been a part of the Christian message from the beginning, and I am inviting you to explore how God is calling you to be generous, where you are. Your Stewardship, here at St. Paul's, helps us maintain all our ministries, keep the lights on, make repairs to the building, and pay salaries. Your pledge will help us set the budget for 2027 and give us a framework for the ministry of the church. I want to encourage you to pray about what God has called you to give and follow your heart as you fill out your pledge card.

Operation Christmas Child is already in full swing, and there are lists available of all the things that are allowed this year. Build a box, and if you can, pack it as a family or include your grandkids. Pray for the person who will receive it, and remember to pay for the shipping. Packing a box is a great way to get kids interested in the real message of Christmas and giving to others. If you pay online, you will be able to track your package and see where the child who receives it lives. I want to encourage you to pack a box and deliver it to church or order one online through their box builder tool: https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline. You can buy a box online, and you can even choose what goes in the box. If you do this, please let Jamie Wyant know so we can count your donation in our box count. Boxes are at the front of the church, and information is on the window sills in the sanctuary.

By the time you are reading this, we should be starting our journey into understanding "Generosity" as Jesus saw it. We will talk about God's Generosity, how we can live a Generous Life during these difficult times, and how we can find Contentment, Gratitude, and Joy. I hope you will join me in November, as we continue to explore our faith, where God wants us to be the church, and how we continue to grow in our knowledge of God. I'll see you in church on Sunday, or in the mission field right here in Elida, Ohio.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

Before God, we are all equally, wise and equally foolish.

—Attributed to Albert Einstein

Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 1
Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.



St. Paul's Book Club

Saturday, November 7
10:00 AM
In the classroom beside the office
The book for discussion is:
"The Truth About the Devlins"
By Lisa Scottoline

November 1
All Saints Sunday
Bring a white candle to place on the altar in remembrance of your loved ones.

November 11



November 1
Coins for Communion will benefit Lima Rescue Mission



November 16
Last day to collect Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Deadline: the **22nd** of each month

Christian Symbol



DOOR

A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and a personal relationship with Jesus: "Knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7, NIV). A door can also represent Jesus' loving invitation to open our hearts to him: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:20, NIV). When we welcome him in, we receive the joy of fellowship and life with Christ.

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

November 22
Christ the King and Stewardship Sunday

November 29
1st Sunday of Advent



Food Pantry
November 22

Personal care items
plus feminine care items needed.

Items are taken to the Five Loaves Food Pantry at The Church At Allentown.

Anyone interested in doing the reading and lighting of the Advent candle, please notify Pastor Paul or the church office.

November 26



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Faithful Witnesses

Many churches observe All Saints' Day on November 1, a time to remember believers who have died in the faith and give thanks for their faithful witness.

The story of Christianity is filled with ordinary people who held fast to Christ in both joyful and difficult seasons. Across the centuries, countless believers have followed Jesus with courage, and many have even given their lives while bearing witness to God's love and the saving grace of Christ. Even today, Christians in some parts of the world continue to face persecution for their faith.

On this day, take time to remember our Christian heritage with gratitude. Give thanks for those who remained faithful before us, and ask God to help us follow Christ with the same courage, hope and steadfast faith.

Hymns As Therapy

In Private: Hymns as Therapy

Why We Must Draw Strength from Song

Then Sings My Soul Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan

PASS THE HYMNS DOWN TO YOUR CHILDREN

Appreciating the hymns as I've described in this chapter is the best way of passing them down to the next generation. One of the reasons I love the hymns today is because I heard my mother sing hymns like "When they Ring Those Golden Bells for You and Me" as she went about her housework. I recall my dad singing in the choir on Sundays. When my own girls were small, I'd often rock them to sleep singing my favorite hymns or some of the new songs we were learning at the time, such as "Oh How I Love You and Me."

Some parents take it a step further.
Dr. David Outlaw and his wife, Angie, are dear friends of mine who love the hymns. David told me just this evening how they have chosen a hymn for each of their five children as a lifelong theme song. It began when their first born, Carson was an infant. They found that he most always fell asleep at night when they rocked him and sang the old gospel song "I Know the Master of the Wind." Their next child, Victoria, seemed to fall asleep best with the hymn "O Worship the King."

And then came Conner—early. After a troubled pregnancy, Angie gave birth to a premature little boy who spent the first seven weeks of his life in neonatal Intensive care unit. David and Angie stayed by his incubator day and night as he fought for life, and every night they read him Psalm 139 and sang the hymn "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." and solidified the practice of assigning each child a hymn.

By the time Schaeffer arrived, his hymn was already in place: "Holy, Holy, Holy." David told me, "we sang it for the first time in the hospital; and just as we were about to begin, the anesthesiologist walked in the room. Turns out he was a Christian, and so he joined in and sang with us that first time"

Baby number five was Elizabeth Grace, who was given the hymn "Grace, Grace, God's Grace…"

Every night, David and Angie tuck in each child with the singing of their special hymn.

Oh yes, here's a P.S. to the story. Last year, Schaeffer was hit by a car while riding his bicycle down the street. Angie ran to his side while a passing doctor admitted treatment. To calm him down, the family encircled him, held his hand, and sang his hymn—"Holy, Holy, Holy." Conner has recovered from his injuries, but he'll never outlive the memories of God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity.



Crafty Creatures

Pre-Order Candy Sales

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Order Deadline: December 6, 2026

Pick Up: December 12, 2026 10:00 AM—Noon In the Fellowship Hall

	# Pkgs	Cost	Total
Buckeyes – 12 Per Package		$8.00	
Turtles – 12 Per Package		$9.00	
Peanut Clusters – 12 Per Package		$9.00	
White/Chocolate Covered Pretzels Mixed - 12per Package		$7.00	
Peanut Butter Fudge – 8 oz. Package		$7.00	
Chocolate Fudge – 8 oz. Package		$7.00	
Variety Package: 3 Turtles, 3 Peanut Clusters, 3 Chocolate Covered Pretzels, 2 Pieces Peanut Butter Fudge, 2 Pieces Chocolate Fudge, 4 Buckeyes		$12.00	

Pay When Picked up: **Grand Total: $_____**

*** Please make check payable to St. Paul's United Methodist Church ***
Write **Candy Orders** on the memo line.

Order forms may be given to a Crafty Creature or turned in the office.
We have been truly blessed by the many donations we have received over the years, but we still have to purchase many supplies to finish the quilts and prayer blankets.

Thank you all for supporting our Crafty Creatures Mission!

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
October 4, 2026	62
October 11, 2026	48
October 18, 2026	69
October 25, 2026	61

FINANCIAL GIVING

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
October 4, 2026	$3,298.55	$330.00
October 11, 2026	$3,956.21	$110.00
October 18, 2026	$3,907.60	$190.00
October 25, 2026	$2,751.78	$972.32
TOTAL:	**$13,914.14**	**$1,602.32**

Sunday School Attendance	
October 4, 2026	12
October 11, 2026	10
October 18, 2026	13
October 25, 2026	12

Unified Budget:

Weekly Budget Needed = $4,644.58

Total Need = **$18,578.32**
October Total = **$13,914.14**
Deficit= **$ 4,664.18**

Flower Calendar

November 1, 2026	Greg & Barb Schade
November 8, 2026	Chelsey & John Cook
November 15, 2026	Virginia Hollar
November 22, 2026	Gary & Deb Hurd
November 29, 2026	OPEN

Hospitality Cart

November 1, 2026	Vermillion Family
November 8, 2026	Virginia Hollar
November 15, 2026	Vicki McAdams
November 22, 2026	Jessie Harmon
November 29, 2026	OPEN

Communion Servers: November 1

Station #1:
Tracy Smith &Connie Mault

Station #2:
_____ & _____



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday 11/1
Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Matthew 16:13-20

Monday 11/2
Psalm 9, 15
Revelation 7:1-8, Luke 9:51-62

Tuesday 11/3
Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Revelation 7:9-17, Luke 10:1-16

Wednesday 11/4
Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Revelation 8:1-13
Luke 10:17-24

Thursday 11/5
Psalm 37
Revelation 9:1-12
Luke 10:25-37

Friday 11/6
Psalm 31, 35
Revelation 9:13-21
Luke 10:38-42

Saturday 11/7
Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Revelation 10:1-11
Luke 11:1-13

Sunday 11/8
Psalm 63, 98, 103
1 Corinthians 10:15-24
Matthew 18:15-20

Monday 11/9
Psalm 41, 44, 52
Revelation 11:1-14
Luke 11:14-26

Tuesday 11/10
Psalm 45, 47, 48
Revelation 11:14-19
Luke 11:27-36

Wednesday 11/11
Psalm 49, 119:49-72
Revelation 12:1-6, Luke 11:37-52

Thursday 11/12
Psalm 33, 50
Revelation 12:7-17
Luke 11:53-12:12

Friday 11/13
Psalm 40, 51, 54
Revelation 13:1-10
Luke 12:13-31

Saturday 11/14
Psalm 55, 138, 139
Revelation 13:11-18
Luke 12:32-48

Sunday 11/15
Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13
Matthew 18:21-35

Monday 11/16
Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65
Revelation 14:1-13
Luke 12:49-59

Tuesday 11/17
Psalm 61, 62, 68, 43:1-22
Revelation 14:14-15:8
Luke 13:1-9

Wednesday 11/18
Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Revelation 16:1-11, Luke 13:10-17

Thursday 11/19
Psalm 71, 74
Revelation 16:12-21
Luke 14:18-30

Friday 11/20
Psalm 69, 73
Revelation 17:1-18, Luke 13:31-35

Saturday 11/21
Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Revelation 18:1-14
Luke 14:1-11

Sunday 11/22
Psalm 34, 93, 96
1 Corinthian 14:1-12
Matthew 20:12-25

Monday 11/23
Psalm 77, 80, Joel 1:1-13
Revelation 18:15-25
Luke 14:12-24

Tuesday 11/24
Psalm 78, Joel 1:15-2:2-11
Revelation 19:1-10
Luke 14:25-35

Wednesday 11/25
Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Joel 2:12-19
Revelation19:11-21
Luke 15:1-10

Thursday 11/26 *Thanksgiving*
Psalm 23, 27, 85, 86
James 1:1-15, Luke 15:10-32

Friday 11/27
Psalm 88, 91, 92, Joel 2:28-3:8
James 1:16-27, Luke 16:1-9

Saturday 11/28
Psalm 87, 90, 136 , Joel 3:9-17
James 2:1-13, Luke 16:10-18

Sunday 11/29
Psalm 111, 112, 113,146, 147
Isaiah 1:1-9
2 Peter 3:1-10, Matthew 25:1-13

Monday 11/30
Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4,7, Isaiah 1:10-20
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Luke 20:1-8



Veterans Poem

The Healing Wall

By Dillon Staas

As I came upon the wall I saw their figures standing tall.
And as I knelt to read a name a flood of distant memories came.
A thousand faces I recall; a thousand names upon that wall.
A family for every name, whose lives will never be the same.

Along this well worn path I walk, listening to these spirits talk,
About their families and friends, whom they shall never meet again.
And I continue to walk there, and hear their voices loud and clear,
Asking why, why was it me? And why did God not hear my plea?

Buth there are no answers clear; no voice to whisper in my ear,
By what grand scheme or secret code, why you he chose to bear the load.
By sacrificing all that's dear, your name you have recorded here.
Before your maker now you stand, a credit to the likes of man.

I listen as I walk away, to hear what others have to say,
I hear a soft and soulful cry; a tearful voice that says goodbye.
I turn to see whom it may be, but no one's standing there but me.
And so I leave my heart behind, and hope to ease a troubled mind.





Honoring Faithful Service

Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.

Missions

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Pack a Gift and Pray

A shoe box filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies tangibly demonstrates God's love to a child in need. Guides for how to pack a shoebox may be picked up in the sanctuary or online at samaritanspurse.org. Remember to pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoebox gift, and that many children and families will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Give

We ask for a donation of $10.00 per box to cover international shipping and other costs, but not everyone can afford to send a gift. Your generosity beyond $10.00 per shoebox gift will help us to reach even more children with the true meaning of Christmas and a tangible expression of God's amazing love.

Last Sunday for Shoe Box Collection is November 16





REMINDER:
Start making or buying mittens, scarves, hats and gloves for our special tree, which will be at the entrance to the sanctuary near the hospitality area.



A Mission Field of Prayer

Missionary Cynthia Sundman shares the story of a woman in her 80s who is battling cancer and confined to bed. Though she can no longer leave home, she keeps a list of missionaries around the world and prays for them each day.

Cynthia says, "This woman travels the globe every day serving the Lord. Her mission is to pray for all the missionaries on her list."

Her story reminds us that faithful service does not always require travel or public recognition. Sometimes ministry happens quietly, from a bedside, through prayers lifted to God.

October Worship

October 18
Students served
as liturgist









October 25
Choir Anthem
"I'll Sing the Praise of Jesus"
By C. Courtney

October 25
Third graders received Bibles
Ashton Rife and Wren Harmon
Introduced and presented by Jan Wyant & Corinne Piper

For Pastor Appreciation
Deb Hurd
presented Pastor Paul
with cards collected
from the congregation.







Connecting With ...

Marla Scannell gave a presentation on her trip to China explaining the work she does for an organization called "Light the Path". Marla helps with a language camp for the students that are learning to speak English. Refreshments were served that included some snacks that are popular in China. Assisting with this camp gives Marla the opportunity to meet some of her students and their families in person. Marla Appreciates all the prayers and support she receives while attending this camp.











The People of St. Paul's

Our sympathy to the Grigsby family on the passing of Mary on October 11, 2026. Mary is reunited with Norm, who passed on July 7, 2026; they celebrated 68 years of Marriage. Mary was well known in the community as the 'Avon Lady' for over 40 years. They have 3 daughters: Cathi (Rick) Lloyd, Teresa Grigsby, and Lisa (Phil) Wurster, and several Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren. Mary had been a member of St. Paul's since 1962, and served on the Nurture committee and helped with many fundraising dinners and other meals.

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

In the Military

Nathan Stewart

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Our sympathy to Lynda Evans on the Passing of her brother-in-law, Bill Weaver. Bill was 95. His wife Marlene of 75 years, had recently passed in August. Cards may reach Lynda at 314 Baxter St, Elida, OH 45807

Our sympathy to Jason and Sharla Murphy on the passing of their sister-in-law, Kim Murphy, on October 19, 2026. She was 55. cards may be sent to 2671 Gaithersburg Dr. Lima, OH 45805.

thank you!

Dear St. Paul's friends,
Family… That is what all of you are to the Grigsby's.
From the early 1960's until today, Mary and Norm considered St. Paul's their home.
While Mom's passing marks the end of their physical presence with all of us, we are comforted knowing they are in the presence of Jesus. Those of us left behind are grateful for the wind chimes, delicious funeral dinner, visits, and prayers for Mom. God is good. Not only do we have wonderful "family" at St. Paul's, but precious memories to sustain us until we are "Safely home."

Much Love,
Lisa, Teresa, and Cathi

I want to thank my church family at St. Paul's for thinking of me during a time of loss. The wind chime is a beautiful reminder of a life well lived.

Thank you,
Tracy K Smith

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

November 3, 2026
Trustees...7:00 PM

November 4, 2026
Worship Mtg..2:15 PM

NO PPR

NO Ad Council / Finance.

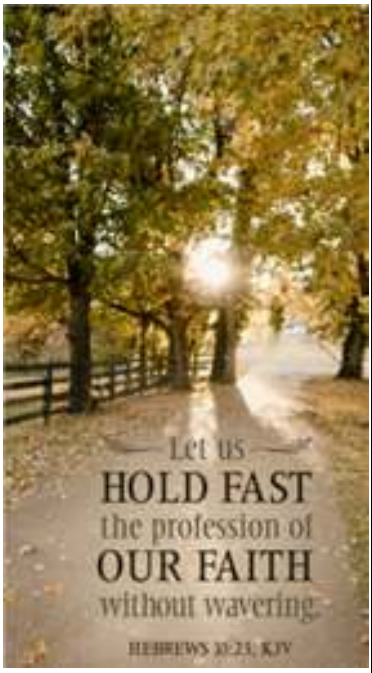
NO Missions Mtg..

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

Wednesday
Choir ..7:00 PM



Reggie & Stephanie McAdams
November 7



NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Margie Best Cody Warris	2	3 Holly Cook Jacinda Fried	4	5	6	7
8	9 Jonathan Cook	10	11 Virginia Hollar Jenson Nagy	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Audrey Cook Gary Grigg	20 Marty White Joelle Stern	21
22 Christie Lewsis Tony Lozano Samanth Whetstone	23 Piper Kinney Jennifer Loose Tony Shoup	24	25	26	27 Terry Bok	28
29	30					

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Nutty Pumpkin EClair

By Susan Nartker

Ingredients	
1- box	Honey Graham Crackers
2 - boxes small	Vanilla Pudding, instant
1 - 15 oz. can	Pumpkin
2 cups	Milk
1 1/4 tsp.	Cinnamon
1 tsp.	Pumpkin Spice
1 - 16 oz.	Whipped topping
1 1/2 cups	Pecans, chopped

Instructions

Spray bottom of 9x13 baking pan with non-stick spray or olive oil.

Break graham crackers in half and layer on bottom of pan.

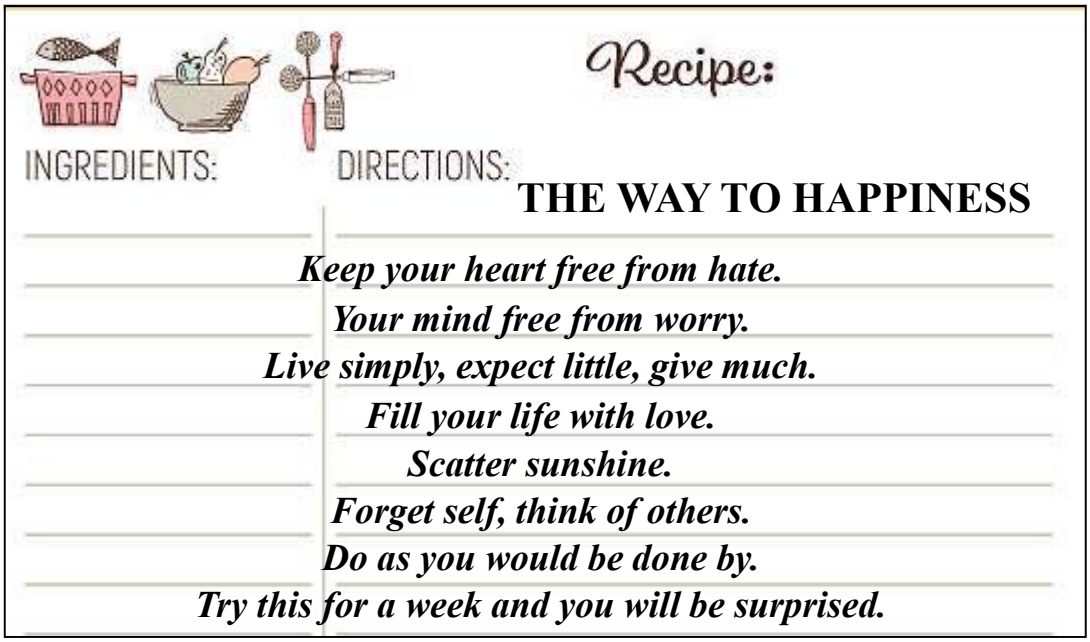
In a large bowl, combine pudding, milk, pumpkin, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice, and 8 oz. whipped topping.

Place 1/3 of pudding mixture on top of crackers, then 1/3 of pecans. Top with another layer of crackers then 1/3 of pudding and 1/3 nuts. Repeat.
Finish with a layer of graham crackers on top.

Mix 8 oz. of whipped topping with 1/4 tsp. cinnamon and spread over crackers. May be finished with cinnamon/sugar sprinkled evenly over top.

Refrigerate overnight.

Sugar free pudding and skim milk may be used.



KIDZ KORNER

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder: Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life." John 6:35, NIV



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

14 - 7 = ____ Father
10 + 9 = ____ heavenly
10 + 5 = ____ blessed
2 - 1 = ____ Praise
7 + 7 = ____ has
11 + 11 = ____ every
12 + 12 = ____ blessing
10 + 10 = ____ realms
13 + 13 = ____ Christ
8 + 8 = ____ us
8 + 9 = ____ in
5 + 5 = ____ Lord
10 + 11 = ____ with

10 + 15 = ____ in
6 - 3 = ____ to
12 - 6 = ____ and
6 + 6 = ____ Christ
18 - 9 = ____ our
22 - 11 = ____ Jesus
1 + 1 = ____ be
7 + 6 = ____ who
2 + 2 = ____ the
10 - 5 = ____ God
4 + 4 = ____ of
9 + 9 = ____ the
10 + 13 = ____ spiritual

" ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
1 2 3 4 5 6

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ,
7 8 9 10 11 12

____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
13 14 15 16 17 18

____ ____ ____ ____
19 20 21 22

____ ____ ____ ____ ."
23 24 25 26

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

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 Pauls United Methodist Church



Living Our Faith

A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.

We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.