

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 49 Issue 9

September, 2026

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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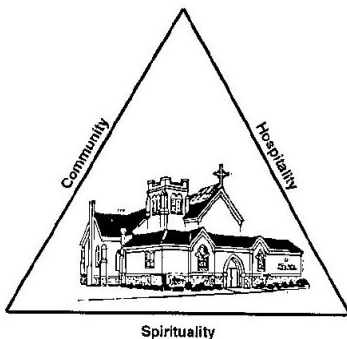
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Hello Everyone,

First, I want to say thank you, to everyone who has helped out over the last month: people who gave blood, people who drove a cart, people who have signed up to hand out water at the 5K, and everyone who came to National Night Out. You have done some great work in our community. One of the things we have been talking about is finding ways to be active in the world around us while making a difference. It isn't always the big things; sometimes, it is as simple as a glass of water or a place for a child to have fun for 3 minutes. Keep up the great work!

Two years ago, we had a 'Kindness Campaign' that coincided with the presidential election. We had shirts, yard signs, and decals. This year is another national election year, and we are once again taking part in a national campaign titled "Let's Love One Another". We will be making yard signs available for \$15 each, but no shirts or decals. I want to invite you to participate in the campaign as we try to lead by example, showing our neighbors there is a way forward without hatred. We will be posting online, placing yard signs, and maybe even having a couple of sermons at the end of October. There will be a sign-up sheet early in September for the signs, and they will be available at the end of the month.

Just a quick reminder that all of the Festival of Sharing kits are due by the 13th of September.

We will be starting a new sermon series in September. "Inadequate" is a series of sermons about people from the Bible who believed they, for whatever reason, did not have the ability to do what God had asked them to do. Like many of us who think we are unworthy, or do not have the gifts or talents to be good enough for God's work. We are all God's creation, and gifted for what God's plan is. I hope this series will inspire you to believe in yourself and to trust God with your future. I hope you will join me as we continue to seek God, and to be about being the church in our world today. I'll see you around the church and in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:

Faith and works are like the light
and heat of a candle;
they cannot be separated.

—Joseph Beaumont



September 6

**Coins for Communion to benefit
The Samaritan House**

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR

**Practices begin on Wednesday,
September 2 at 7:00 PM.**

**First Sunday singing is,
September 13**

Thank You!

Director: Casey Rife

Piano Accompaniment: Lois Cook

All are Welcome!

New members please contact Casey Rife.



LifeWise 5K Water Station Mission

**Labor Day, September 7
8:30 AM**

**Watering stations are at the front of the church,
and at the Fieldhouse parking lot.**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Christian Symbol



**Deadline: the 22nd
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



BREAD

One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or "bread from heaven," to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord's Supper, where it represents Christ's body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God's provision, Christ's presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.



September 11

BOOK CLUB

**Saturday, September 12
@ 10:00 AM.**

**The book for discussion
"The Sisters of Glass Ferry"
By Kim Michele Richardson**



September 22

KITS MISSION

**The last Sunday to bring in kits is
September 13.**

**Assemble the kits for delivery on
September 14 at 10:00 AM.**

**contact Janna Thompson or the
office if interested in helping.**

Food Pantry Sunday September 20

**5 Loaves Food Pantry at The Church at
Allentown.**

**Canned Meats and other non-perishable
food items are needed.**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**Classroom helpers
are needed,
for each class**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**There will be 3 children's Sunday school
classes beginning, September 13**

Preschool:

**3 year olds through Kindergarten
led by Shirley Moser**

Elementary Class:

**1st grade through 5th grade
Led by: Marla Scannell and Slone Whetstone.**

Middle School/High School Class:

**6th through 12th grades
Led by: Jan Wyant and Corinne Piper**

Poem

Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

Lessons That Last

Most of us can remember a Sunday school teacher who made a lasting difference in our lives. Sometimes the simplest lessons become the ones we carry with us the longest.

One man recalled his high school Sunday school teacher, a businessman named Mr. Homan, who shared this advice with the boys in his class: "Don't ever go anywhere you would not want your mother or sister to go. Don't ever do anything you would not want your mother or sister to do."

Years later, the man reflected on those words and said, "That advice has served me well. I have always remembered it."

God often uses faithful teachers to plant seeds of wisdom, character and integrity in young hearts. Their influence may not always be seen right away, but the lessons they share can guide lives for years to come.

Never underestimate the power of a few thoughtful words spoken with love and conviction.

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

QUOTE THE HYMNS

Hymns are as powerful when quoted as when sung. When the British “Prince of Preachers” Charles Spurgeon was a boy, his grandfather offered to pay him a bit of money for every hymn he memorized. Propelled by the bargain young Charles committed many hymns to memory. Now whenever you read a Spurgeon sermon (they’re masterpieces of encouragement), you can’t help noticing how virtually every message is punctuated with fragments and phrases of hymns. Spurgeon salted his messages with the quoted verses of hymns.

As a preacher, I’ve found that nothing is more powerful than moving effortlessly from a preached sentence to a quoted hymn. If preaching from Philippians 3, for example, about suffering the loss of all things for Christ, it’s natural and impacting to insert from memory the words...

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

When sharing a word of testimony or exalting in God’s ability to liberate us from our sins and addictions, I often quote the thrilling fourth verse of Wesley’s “And Can It Be?”

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;
Think eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee!”
Amazing love! How can it be,
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

How often in sickrooms and hospital corridors have I quoted Cowper’s “God Moves in a Mysterious Way” or Gerhardt’s “Commit Whatever Grieves Thee.” The fourth verse of “How Firm a Foundation” is a metrical paraphrase of one of my favorite Bible verses (Isaiah 41:10) and excellent to quote:

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid.*

Memorize the hymns so you can quote them in letters, in conversations, in Bible studies, and from the pulpit.

Faith In Action

FINANCIAL GIVING

Worship Attendance:

August 2, 2026	46
August 9, 2026	59
August 16, 2026	57
August 23, 2026	73

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
August 2, 2026	\$4,647.94	\$385.00
August 9, 2026	\$3,913.12	\$45.00
August 16, 2026	\$2,795.94	\$65.00
August 23, 2026	\$2,895.64	\$40.00
TOTAL:	\$14,252.64	\$535.00

Sunday School Attendance

August 2, 2026	3
August 9, 2026	11
August 16, 2026	16
August 23, 2026	13

Unified Budget:

Weekly Budget Needed = \$4,644.58

Total Need = \$18,579.40

August Total = \$14,252.64

Deficit= \$ 4,326.76

Hospitality Cart

September 6, 2026	OPEN
September 13, 2026	OPEN
September 20, 2026	OPEN
September 27, 2026	OPEN

Flower Calendar



September 6, 2026	Lynda Evans
September 13, 2026	Greg & Barb Schade
September 20, 2026	Jonathan & Chelsey Cook
September 27, 2026	Connie Mault

Communion Servers: September 6

Station #1:

Tracy Smith & Connie Mault

Station #2:

&

Daily Bible Readings

Tuesday 9/1

Psalm 120, 127, Judges 18:1-15
Acts 8:1-13, John 5:30-47

Wednesday 9/2

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Judges 18:16-31
Acts 8:14-25, John 6:1-15

Thursday 9/3

Psalm 133, 134, 135, Job 1:1-22
Acts 8:26-40, John 6:16-27

Friday 9/4

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Job 2:1-13
Acts 9:1-9, John 6:27-40

Saturday 9/5

Psalm 104, 137, 144, Job 3:1-26
Acts 9:10-19, John 6:41-51

Sunday 9/6

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Job 4:1-21
Revelation 4:1-11, Mark 6:1-6

Monday 9/7

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Job 4:1, 5:1-27
Acts 9:19-31, John 6:52-59

Tuesday 9/8

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Job 6:1-21
Acts 9:32-43, John 6:60-71

Wednesday 9/9

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Job 6:1, 7:1-21
Acts 10:1-16, John 7:1-13

Thursday 9/10

Psalm 18, Job 7:1-21
Acts 10:17-33, John 7:14-36

Friday 9/11

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Job 9:1-35
Acts 10:34-48, John 7:37-52

Saturday 9/12

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Job 9:1, 10:1-22
Acts 11:1-18, John 8:12-20

Sunday 9/13

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Job 11:1-20
Revelation 5:1-14
Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 9/14

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Job 12:1-25
Acts 11:19-30, John 8:21-32

Tuesday 9/15

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Job 12:1, 13:3-27
Acts 12:1-17, John 8:33-47

Wednesday 9/16

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Job 12:1, 14:1-22
Acts 12:18-25, John 8:47-59

Thursday 9/17

Psalm 37, Job 16:16-22, 17:1-16
Acts 13:1-12, John 9:1-17

Friday 9/18

Psalm 31, 35, Job 19:1-27
Acts 13:13-25, John 9:18-41

Saturday 9/19

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Job 22:1-23:7
Acts 13:26-43, John 10:1-18

Sunday 9/20

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6
Revelation 14:1-13
Matthew 5:13-20

Monday 9/21

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Job 32:1-19, 33:1-28
Acts 13:44-52
John 10:19-30

Tuesday 9/22

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Job 29:1-20
Acts 14:1-18, John 10:31-42

Wednesday 9/23

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Job 29:1, 30:1-31
Acts 14:19-28, John 11:1-16

Thursday 9/24

Psalm 59, 60, 93, 96
Job 29:1, 31:1-23
Acts 15:1-11, John 11:17-29

Friday 9/25

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Job 29:1, 31:24-40
Acts 15:12-21, John 11:30-44

Saturday 9/26

Psalm 55, 138, 139:1-23
Job 38:1-17
Acts 15:22-35, John 11:45-54

Sunday 9/27

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Job 38:1, 18-41
Revelation 18:1-8
Matthew 5:21-26

Monday 9/28

Psalm 58, 64, 65, Job 40:1-24
Acts 15:36-16:5
John 11:55-12:8

Tuesday 9/29

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Job 40:1, 41:1-11
Acts 16:6-15, John 12:9-19

Wednesday 9/30

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Job 42:1-17
Acts 16:16-24, John 12:20-26



National Night Out

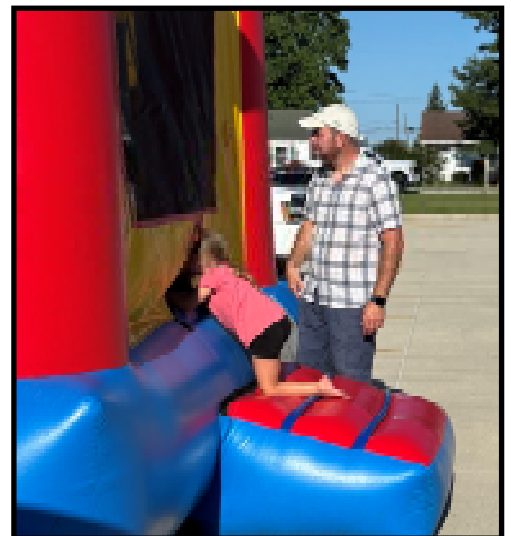


*Pastor Paul and Congregation,
Thank you for your sponsorship and donation to Elida's
National Night, 2026.*

*Sincerely,
Elida National Night Out Planning Committee*

Thank You

Thank you to the Volunteers who helped at the St. Paul's Booth and "Bouncy House", greeting people and keeping the children safe as they played at this years National Night Out held at the Elida Fieldhouse parking lot. There was a record crowd this year.



Parsonage Deck



Thank you to all who volunteered to help build the deck at the backdoor of the parsonage.

Thank you Jamie Wyant for supervising this project!

Below: Connie Mault sitting on her porch watching the progress.



China Language Camp

Why Language Immersion Camp in China?

China continues to be a region prepared for significant spiritual growth and outreach. Our English immersion camp gives students the chance to strengthen a skill that is essential for academic advancement, while also experiencing Christ's love through the words and actions of both American and Chinese counselors.

This year I served as the American Director, partnering with the Chinese Director, a longtime friend. Together, our team of four Americans and four Chinese Christians taught reading, leadership, drama, and sports, and led evening activities that brought the entire camp together. We also took campers to a recycling center, where they learned how waste is transformed into electricity and mulch.

After camp, I visited current students and continued supporting English learning through small seminars using *The Magic School Bus: Outer Space*. I am grateful for your prayers and support.



Breakfast before team meeting.

Please join us on **October 11th from 6-7 PM**, in the Fellowship Hall, for a slideshow presentation about the camp and the areas of China where I served.

All are welcome at this dessert reception and presentation.

Campers and staff at closing first week.



Marla gaining some knowledge and wisdom while shopping in Qianmen St. This is outside the stationary shop.



Connecting With ...



30 Quilts were blessed on Sunday August 2nd during the worship service. The blessed quilts were delivered to Lost Creek, Lima Convalescent Home, and Bluffton Mennonite Home, each received 10 blankets.

*Dear St. Paul's United Methodist,
Thank you for reaching out to us at the Mennonite Memorial Home and offering your home-made lap blankets. These always come in handy to re-stock our Elders, use as prizes, or gift at Christmas.*

The blankets are beautiful and we appreciate your time and handi-work on them.

Blessings to you all and for the fabric you work with.

With appreciation,

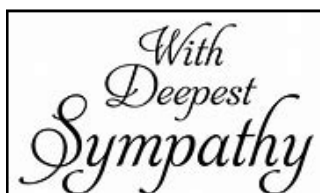
Kristen Niekamp



Vacation Bible School class was held one Sunday a month through the Summer, during the worship service. Thank you to Kerry Fremont for organizing this to keep the kids connected during the summer.



The People of St. Paul's



Our sympathy to Lynda Evans on the Passing of her sister Marlene Holtzapple Weaver, she was 93 and had recently celebrated her 75th wedding anniversary with her husband Bill Weaver. Cards may reach Lynda at 314 Baxter St, Elida, OH 45807

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement

In the Military

Nathan Stewart



*To My Church Family,
Thank you for the wind chimes, cards, and
prayers during my sadness over the passing
of my sister. You are a kind, caring, and
thoughtful church family.*

*God bless you,
Lynda Evans*

*Thank you for the flowers
after my surgery. It certainly
brightened my day. I am
grateful for the continued
prayers and support during
this journey.*

Scott Grapner

St. Paul's Vision Statement:
*Is for the Elida community to be led
to Christ through words and deeds
enabling youth to have purpose,
families to be nurtured and
supported, and senior citizens to
feel valued.*

Our Biblical Purpose Statement:
*Elida St. Paul's United Methodist
Church exists as God's people embracing
His grace through humble service to all.*

Meetings

September 1, 2026
Trustees...7:00 PM

NO PPR

No Worship Mtg.

NO Ad Council /
Finance..

NO Missions Mtg..

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

Wednesday
Choir ..7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Avery Chambers	2 Kathy White	3 Reggie McAdams	4 Jack Kindle	5 Gene Craft Casey Rife
6	7	8	9 Janet Grigg	10	11	12
13 John Kuenzli	14	15	16	17	18	19 Jordan Wyant
20	21 Merah McAdams Nathan Stewart	22 Oliver Fessler Shannen Vermillion	23 Amy Wyant	24 Troy Selover	25 Valerie Kuenzli	26 Carl Rabley
27 Alex McAdams Ann Stewart Juergen Waldick	28	29 Rob Craft Bruce Kizer	30			

Anniversaries

Chris & Kate Stengel
September 6

Josh & Lori Motzer
September 7

Greg & Barb Schade
September 7; 47 yrs.

Jordan & Jacinda Freed
September 12

Eric & Joella Sten
September 12

Rick & Kara Woeller
September 17

Chris & Molly Przekora
September 19

Jonathan & Chelsey
Cook
September 20

Don & Mary Irvin
September 22; 64 yrs.

Mike & Becky Ellinger
September 25

St. Paul's Featured Recipes

Apple Pie Goopy Cake

By Tracy Sdao

Ingredients:		Instructions
3/4 cup	Butter, unsalted, divided	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 baking dish. Melt 1/4 cup butter in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Add apples, brown sugar, 1/4 tsp. salt, and cinnamon. Cook until apples are soft, 5 to 7 minutes. Cool slightly. Combine cake mix, 2 eggs, remaining 1/2 cup butter, and vanilla in bowl and mix well. Carefully fold in apples. Batter will be thick. Transfer batter into prepared pan, and spread evenly. Combine confectioners sugar, cream cheese, remaining eggs, remaining salt and apple pie spice in a separate bowl and mix well. Pour mixture over top of cake batter. Bake cake in a preheated oven until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean, 30 to 35 minutes. Allow the cake to cool completely before serving. Serve with caramel sauce.
2	Granny Smith Apples, Peeled & diced	
3 Tbl.	Light brown sugar	
1/2 tsp.	Salt, divided	
1/2 tsp.	Ground cinnamon	
1 pkg.	Yellow cake mix	
4 - large	Eggs, divided	
1 tsp.	Vanilla extract	
3 1/2 cups	Confectioner's sugar	
8 oz.	Cream Cheese, softened	
1 tsp.	Apple pie spice	
garnish	Caramel sauce	



Cheesecake Pie

By Sue Theodore

Ingredients:		Instructions
1 pkg.	Cream cheese, softened	Beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip. Spoon into graham cracker crust and chill until set, about 4 hours. Top with fresh fruit or fruit filling, if desired.
1/3 cup	Sugar	
2 tsp.	Vanilla	
1 - 8 oz. tub	Cool Whip	
1	Graham cracker pie shell	
	Fruit, fresh or filling	



KIDZ KORNER



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about ¾ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

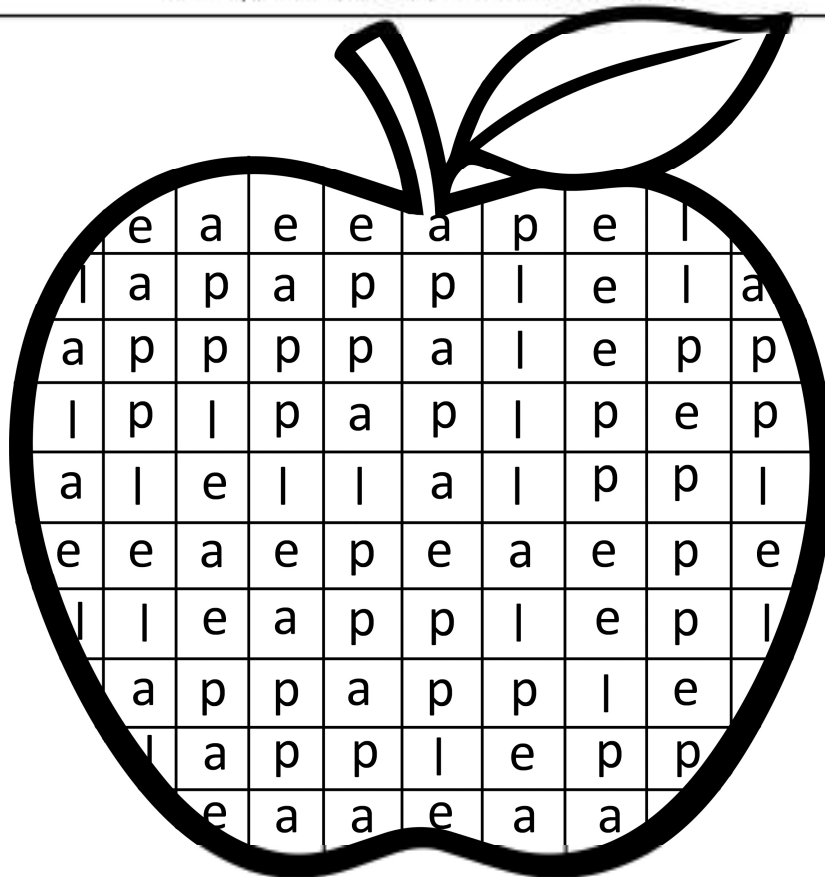
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!



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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St Pauls United Methodist Church



Living Our Faith



When the Road Gets Rough

It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, "Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles," he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Notice He doesn't say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn't say we "might" have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.