

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

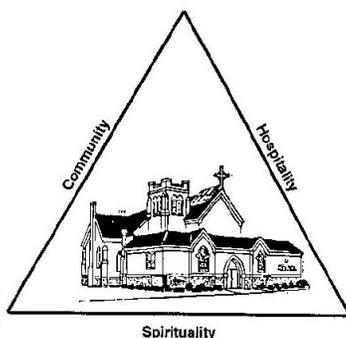
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September already? So many plans for the summer, and we only have about 3 more weeks left by the time you read this. One of the things I didn't get done was a new members class, the plan moving forward is to maybe have a picnic at the parsonage or a picnic meal at church if the weather is bad. Please let me or the office know if you would like to become a member, and we can try to find a date that works for everyone.

If you are reading this before Labor Day, we need you in the morning at the church or in the Field House parking lot. We will be handing out water to the runners and walkers of the LifeWise 5K. It has been a great way to be present in our local community and you can say hello to the many people you know as they go by our watering stations. We have always had a fun time, as we are "being" the church here in Elida.

I am looking forward to Fall as we roll out a new service for you in the next few weeks. You will soon have the option to give your church offering online via credit card, debit card, or your checking account. Regular givers could set up automatic payments for church, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments. Each gift you give online will have a percentage fee and a flat fee, Credit cards will be 2.25% and \$.30/transaction and ACH (from your checking account) will be .5% and \$.30/transaction. If you would like to be in the beta test for the online giving, please contact me and I will send you a link where you can give so we can see how the system works. More information will be released by the end of September.

We will be finishing up the "Becoming Better" series here in September, and before you know it, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. Hopefully, there will be a couple of sermon series before then, but as I said at the beginning of this article, time has the ability to get away from us, so before it does, get out there in the mission field and join God, who is already hard at work.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*

## Thought for the Month:

Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total.

—Alistair Begg, Made for His Pleasure

**September 3**  
 Coins for Communion to benefit  
 The Lima Samaritan House

**Sunday, September 10**  
 Last Sunday for collecting School  
 and Health Kits.  
**Kits assembly will be**  
**Monday, September 11 at 10 AM**  
 If interested in helping, please notify  
 the office or Janna Thompson.



**September 4**  
**Labor Day**



**Sunnydale House 5K**  
**Labor Day, September 4**  
**Between 8:00 AM and Noon**  
 We have been asked to man the watering stations  
 in front of the church, and at the Fieldhouse parking lot.  
 We will need volunteers to help with this mission  
 to give out cups of water.

*Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*

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

**Christian Symbol**

<b>St. Paul's Epistle</b>	
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

**STONE TABLETS**

The tablets of stone symbolize God's giving of the Law to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai (Horeb). They're often shown with Roman numerals I through III on the left tablet and IV through X on the right. This represents the Ten Commandments — with the first three focusing on God and the final seven focusing on other people. The image of the stone tablets also may represent the entire Old Testament.

September 11  
Patriot Day



Food Pantry Sunday  
September 17  
Canned Meats are needed

Thank you to all who  
have been donating.

### St. Paul's Book Club

Saturday, September 16  
9:00 AM  
In the classroom beside the office

The book for discussion is:  
*"Flowers For Algernon"*  
By David Keyes

September 23  
First Day of Fall



## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

### Prayer as a Place for Play

Writer Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew tells of attending a retreat focused on a type of meditation called centering prayer. She found it challenging to “set down [her] frantic internal voices” and “lean back into stillness.” But one day, during a stretch of sleep, she had a dream: “My dear camel, who feels a sweet attachment to me, is ready to retire. I release him into a green-enclosed pasture. He cavorts; he frolics; he races in circles. He’s gleeful and free. Poor beast of burden! I’ve been asking far too much of him.”

Andrew’s dream was a revelation: “Turns out silent prayer is a fence within which both [my camel] and I can lay down our baggage,” she writes. “We can pause our trudge across the desert long enough to play.”

Have you ever thought of prayer — especially silent prayer — as a fenced-in space where it’s safe to lay down your burdens, pause your trudge through life, play, cavort and frolic? In God’s secure love, we can relax, rejuvenate and experience freedom, even glee. Sometimes this, too, is prayer.

—based on “Happy Camel,” Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew  
<https://www.elizabethjarrettandrew.com/blognew/>

# Music

## ST. PAUL'S CHANCEL CHOIR:

**Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."**

And so we shall! This year, the St. Paul's Chancel Choir will begin singing on September 10th with one of our favorite anthems: "Blessings." We will begin practicing to get our voices in shape on Wednesday, August 30th.

We are a part of worship, but we are also a small group that sings and prays together. We grow closer as we interact and we enjoy our time together as we prepare for service to this church. We feel blessed when we sing scripture and can connect with the beautiful music that accompanies it.

We sing three out of four Sundays every month and provide special music for additional services, such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday, among others.

We welcome anyone who wishes to join us, and if not, we pray we connect you to the stories of our God through our songs. We welcome your prayers for us as we begin this year.

Judy Chaffins, Choir Director

Lois Cook, Accompanist



Dameer Relford, Pianist



# Thank You

Thank you Dameer for sharing your talents with the St. Paul's congregation while our regular pianist, Lois Cook was recovering from Hip Surgery.

# Hymn History

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

“Then Sings My Soul” Book 1, By Robert J. Morgan

### About 1800

*Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24*

The first Africans on American shores arrived in chains. Their hellish voyage aboard slave ships was only the beginning of their sorrows. The breakup of their families, the oppression of bondage, the whips and shackles, their loss of dignity ... it all combined to kill both body and spirit.

But the souls of the slaves found release through singing, and a unique form of music evolved called the “Negro Spiritual.” Spirituals differed greatly from the hymns we’ve this far studied. The classics of English hymnody were largely written by pastors like Isaac Watts and John Newton out of their studies of Scriptures. African-American slaves, on the other hand, composed their songs in the fields and barns, the words dealing with daily pain and future hope.

Often the slaves were allowed to sing while working. If, for example, they were hauling a fallen tree, they would combine muscles and voices, using the musical rhythms for a “Heave-ho” effect. Other times risking the lash or branding iron, they’d slip into torch-lit groves to worship the Lord. With swaying bodies, they would stand, eyes half-closed, singing, “Go Down, Moses,” “Roll, Jordan, Roll, He’s Got the Whole Word in His Hands,” and the classic “There is a Balm in Gilead” based on Jeremiah 8:22.

“Hymns more genuine than these have never been sung since the psalmist of Israel relieved their burdened hearts,” wrote Editha A Talbot.

Fisk University, in Nashville, Tennessee, was established after the Civil war, and the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers popularized these Negro spirituals around the world. Composers began arranging spirituals in a way that appealed to the large population and this gave rise to another type of Christian music, tagged by composer Thomas A. Dorsey as “gospel Songs.”

Few Negro spirituals can be precisely dated, nor are many specific authors known, but they have mightily influenced American Christian music. The roots of the children’s Sunday school chorus, “Do Lord,” for example, is in this old spiritual:

*O do, Lord, remember me!  
For death is a simple thing,  
And he go from door to door  
And he knock down some, and he cripple some,  
And he leave some here to pray.  
O do Lord, remember me!*

# Faith In Action

**Worship Attendance:**

July 30, 2023	65
August 6, 2023	49
August 13, 2023	61
August 20, 2023	55
August 27, 2023	74

**Financial Giving**  
 Weekly Need for  
 Unified Ministry Budget  
 \$3,879.00

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
July 30, 2023	\$1,335.00	\$720.00
August 6, 2023	\$7,056.64	\$1,401.00
August 13, 2023	\$1,265.40	\$760.00
August 20, 2023	\$3, 250.00	\$400.00
August 27, 2023	\$2,060.80	\$295.00

<b>Children's Church Attendance</b>	
July 30, 2023	7
August 6, 2023	4
August 13, 2023	12
August 20, 2023	4
August 27, 2023	9

<b>Hospitality Cart</b>	
September 3, 2023	Deb & Gary Hurd
September 10, 2023	Scannell Family
September 17, 2023	OPEN
September 24, 2023	OPEN

<b>Flower Calendar</b>	
September 3, 2023	Scott & Gail Fessler
September 10, 2023	Lynda Evans
September 17, 2023	Myrna Metzger
September 24, 2023	Don & Mary Irvin

**HOSPITALITY CART**

We are very fortunate to have a hospitality area for Sunday mornings. There will always be coffee in this area. Unfortunately, the workers are few and the area will be empty except on those Sundays when volunteer's sign-up to bring in doughnuts and/or other goodies. Thank you for understanding.

The Nurture Committee

# Daily Bible Readings

## Friday 9/1

Psalm 102, 107:1-32  
2 Samuel 15:19-37  
Acts 21:37-22:16, Mark 10:46-52

## Saturday 9/2

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108  
2 Samuel 16:1-23  
Acts 22:17-29, Mark 11:1-11

## Sunday 9/3

Psalm 118, 145, 2 Samuel 17:1-23  
Galatians 3:6-14, John 5:30-47

## Monday 9/4

Psalm 106, 2 Samuel 17:24-18:8  
Acts 22:30-23:11, Mark 11:12-26

## Tuesday 9/5

Psalm 120, 127  
2 Samuel 18:9-18  
Acts 23:12-24, Mark 11:27-12:12

## Wednesday 9/6

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130  
2 Samuel 18:19-23  
Acts 23:23-35, Mark 12:13-27

## Thursday 9/7

Psalm 133, 134, 135  
2 Samuel 19:1-23  
Acts 24:1-23, Mark 12:28-34

## Friday 9/8

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143  
2 Samuel 19:24-43  
Acts 24:24-25:12  
Mark 12:35-44

## Saturday 9/9

Psalm 104, 137, 144  
2 Samuel 23:1-17  
Acts 25:13-27, Mark 13:1-13

## Sunday 9/10

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147  
2 Samuel 24:1-25  
Galatians 3:23-4:7, John 8:12-20

## Monday 9/11

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7  
1 Kings 1:5-31  
Acts 26:1-23, Mark 13:14-27

## Tuesday 9/12

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11  
1 Kings 1:38-2:4  
Acts 26:24-27:8, Mark 13:28-37

## Wednesday 9/13

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
1 Kings 3:1-15  
Acts 27:9-26, Mark 14:1-11

## Thursday 9/14

Psalm 18, 1 Kings 3:16-28  
Acts 27:17-44, Mark 14:12-26

## Friday 9/15

Psalm 16, 17, 22, 1 Kings 5:1-6:7  
Acts 28:1-16, Mark 14:27-42

## Saturday 9/16

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117  
1 Kings 7:51-8:21  
Acts 28:17-31, Mark 14:43-52

## Sunday 9/17

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150  
1 Kings 8:22-30-40  
1 Timothy 4:7b-16  
John 8:47-59

## Monday 9/18

Psalm 9, 15, 25  
2 Chronicles 6:32-7:7  
James 2:1-13, Mark 14:53-65

## Tuesday 9/19

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39  
1 Kings 8:65-9:9  
James 2:14-26, Mark 14:66-72

## Wednesday 9/20

Psalm 38, 119:25-48  
1 Kings 9:24-10:13  
James 3:1-12, Mark 15:1-11

## Thursday 9/21

Psalm 37, 1 Kings 11:1-13  
James 3:13-4:12  
Mark 15:12-21

## Friday 9/22

Psalm 31, 35  
1 Kings 11:26-43  
James 4:13-5:6  
Mark 15:22-32

## Saturday 9/23

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43  
1 Kings 12:1-20  
James 5:7-12, 19-20  
Mark 15:33-39

## Sunday 9/24

Psalm 63, 98, 103  
1 Kings 12:21-33  
Acts 4:18-31, John 10:31-42

## Monday 9/25

Psalm 41, 44, 52  
1 Kings 13:1-10  
Philippians 1:1-11  
Mark 15:40-47

## Tuesday 9/26

Psalm 45, 47, 48  
1 Kings 16:23-34  
Philippians 1:12-30  
Mark 16:1-20

## Wednesday 9/27

Psalm 53, 119:49-72  
1 Kings 17:1-24  
Philippians 2:1-11  
Matthew 2:1-12

## Thursday 9/28

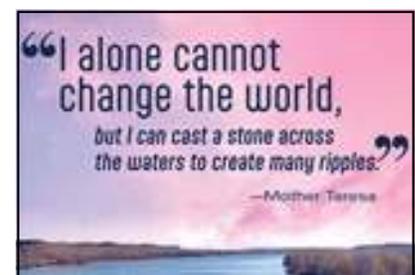
Psalm 59, 60  
1 Kings 18:1-19  
Philippians 2:12-30  
Matthew 2:13-23

## Friday 9/29

Psalm 40, 54, 51  
1 Kings 18:20-40  
Philippians 3:1-16  
Matthew 3:1-12

## Saturday 9/30

Psalm 55, 138, 139  
1 Kings 18:41-19:8  
Philippians 3:17-4:7  
Matthew 3:13-17



# Worship—July 30

Baptism of Greyson Kent McAdams. The son of Reggie and Stephanie McAdams, Born February 20, 2023. Grandson of Brent and Vicki McAdams and Great-grandson of Myrna Metzger.



Baptism of Baylor Allen McAdams. The son of Alex and Stacy McAdams, Born March 15, 2023. Grandson of Brent and Vicki McAdams and Great-grandson of Myrna Metzger.



Introducing Greyson and Baylor to the congregation!



Children singing with hand motions. "Jesus Loves Me"



Special Music  
Tony Lozano—solo  
*"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"*  
Accompaniment:  
Piano—Lois Cook



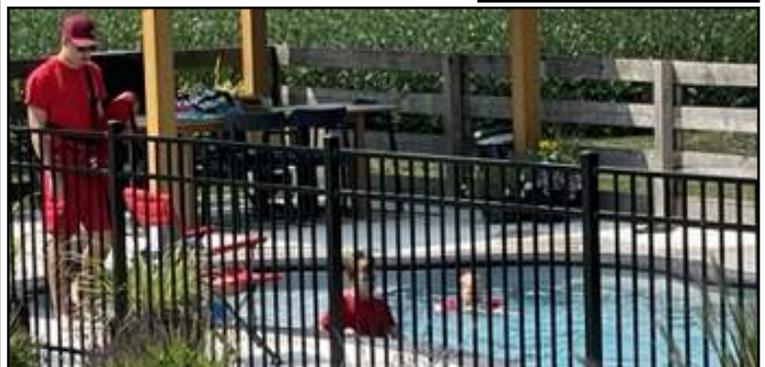
Children's Moments with Pastor Paul!



# Big Guys & Little Guys



**Camping Party**  
**Saturday, August 18**  
Thank you Alex & Stacy McAdams for hosting the "Guys" special event.  
Thank you to the event organizers; Judy Chaffins and Jan Wyant and their helpers preparing and serving food.



# Missions



Hello,  
We just wanted to thank you for your generous contribution to Elida's National Night Out 23' event! Without our community's support NNO would not be possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Elida National Night Out  
Planning Committee,  
April, Becky, Danielle, Jill & Julie



## RAMP MISSION

A ramp was built for Rico Sanchez at 3681 River Bend.

Thank you volunteers:

Jamie Wyant, Benjamin Rife, Greg Schade, Cody Scannell, Dave Decker, and Paul Scannell.



## Sunnydale House

### LifeWise volunteer s needed:

This year we are holding classes in 2 locations. Our 1st-5th graders remain at 4289 Sunnydale, and our 6th graders will meet at Immanuel Church. Volunteers only need to commit to one day a week, and aren't expected for the entire day. [elidaoh@lifewiseacademy.org](mailto:elidaoh@lifewiseacademy.org)

# Connecting With ...



To Our Church Family,

On August 10<sup>th</sup> our granddaughter, Macy Chambers, graduated with honors from Lackland Air Force Basic Training in San Antonio, Texas. Training in 100-degree temperatures and missing family back home was very difficult, but the cards and letters she received each day, helped get her through. Many of those came from you, our friends at St. Paul's. Macy thanks you for your outpouring of love and support.

Macy enlisted with a friend during her Senior year at Lexington High School, and 3 weeks after graduation, she began her new career. She is currently completing her Finance Technical training at Keesler AFB in Mississippi and will return home on September 28. Macy will serve at the 179 Air Lift Wing Base in Mansfield while attending Bowling Green State University.

Her new address is: Chambers, Macy Ellen, 140 Phantom Street, Unit 12785, Keesler AFB, MS, 39534. Cards may be sent no later than September 18.

Dan and Margie Best

**Sunday, August 27**  
**Stump the Pastor**  
**and**  
**Blessing**  
**of the Backpacks**



Dear God,  
Help me spend today 😊  
with a *Smile* on my face,  
*Love* ❤️ in my heart,  
*Joy* 🧸 in His grace, 🧠  
and my *thinking cap* on all day.  
Amen

# The People of St. Paul's

Congratulations to Jon and Chelsey Cook on the birth of their daughter, Nellie June Cook, born August 23, weighing 5lbs. 15 oz. her sisters are Holly and Audrey and grandmother Lois Cook. Cards will reach them at 2540 Irvin Rd., Elida, OH 45807



## Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery  
or in the Hospital

Those in Need of Healing,  
Support, Strength &  
Encouragement

Ted & Jan Sodders

In the Military

Nathan Stewart



*Dear Ladies of St. Paul's,*

*My many thanks for the blanket that was presented to me for Mary. How appropriate with it's Coke theme. I know it will blend well with the Coke Room downstairs.*

*Love to all,  
Norm Grigsby*

# Thank You!

*We would like to thank everyone at St. Paul's UMC that helped our family during this difficult time. Thank you for the prayers, donations, kindness, also to those that came together and helped feed our families after Kim's Celebration of Life. That was truly an occasion that we didn't realize we needed. A special thank you to everyone that kept in contact with Kim during her battle. Also, to all of you that prayed, not only with her weekly, but to everyone that continued to lift her up in prayer every single day. Sisters in Christ, you held a special place in Kim's life and we thank each and everyone of you. To Pastor Paul, thank you for sitting with our family and listening when you did, and for the service that you provided that honored Kim and her legacy. Our family is humbled by the outpouring of God's love through all of you and thank you will never be enough.*

*Sincerely,  
Mike Crates and Family*

### 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**

**NO PPR**  
 September 5, 2023  
**Trustees...7:00 PM**  
 September 6, 2023  
**Worship Mtg.10:00 AM**  
**NO Ad Council/Finance..**  
**NO Missions**  
**Wednesdays Chancel Choir...7:00 PM**  
**Sundays Hospitality...9:30 AM**  
**Worship...10:00 AM**

# September 2023

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

**Anniversaries**

- Chris & Kate Stengel  
September 6
- Josh & Lori Motzer  
September 7
- Greg & Barb Schade  
September 7; 44 yrs.
- Tim & Katie White  
September 8
- Nick & Kim White  
September 10
- Rick & Kara Woeller  
September 17
- Chris & Molly Przekora  
September 19
- John & Chelsey Cook  
September 20
- Norm & Mary Grigsby  
September 20; 65 yrs.
- Don & Mary Irvin  
September 22; 61 yrs.
- Mike & Becky Ellinger  
September 25

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

# Featured Recipes

## Ham and Macaroni Au Gratin

*By Susan Nartker*

Ingredients		Instructions
5 oz.	Elbow Macaroni	Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cook elbow macaroni according to directions on box. Drain and return to pan, set aside. In saucepan: melt butter; add onions, cook for 2 minutes; stir in flour, stirring constantly 2 minutes; gradually stir in milk; cook 1 minute or until thick enough to coat the back of spoon. Remove from heat. Stir in nutmeg, Cayenne, salt and pepper, ham and peas. Combine saucepan ingredients with the pasta, stir until well mixed. Pour into greased 1 quart baking dish. Bake 10 minutes or until bubbly. Serves 4. *May double or triple recipe.*
1 Tbs.	Butter	
1/2 cup	Onion, finely chopped	
1Tbs.	Flour	
1 cup	Milk	
1 cup	Swiss cheese, shredded	
1/4 tsp.	Nutmeg	
pinch	Cayenne	
to taste	Salt & Pepper	
2 cups	Ham, cooked & diced	
1 cup	Peas, thawed	

## English Toffee & Shortbread Pecan Cookie

*By Barb Schade (served at hospitality cart)*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	Flour, Gluten free or All purpose	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. This is made in a food processor Use 9 inch square or round pan. Butter or line pan with lightly sprayed parchment paper. Combine flour, brown sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt. Process briefly until well mixed. Scatter butter over flour mixture, add vanilla and using pulses, process until mixture resembles fine meal. Add pecan and process until finely chopped. Add Heath Bars and process just to incorporate. Place dough into prepared pan, and press out evenly, sprinkle with granulated sugar. Bake until shortbread begins to turn color about 20 to 25 minutes. Place on wire rack to cool for 5 minutes. Cut into 16 pieces. Cool completely before serving.
1/3 cup	Brown sugar, firmly packed	
2 1/2 Tbs.	Cornstarch	
1 tsp.	Cinnamon	
1/8 tsp.	Kosher salt	
8 Tbs.	Butter, unsalted, cold cut into pieces	
1 tsp.	Vanilla	
1/2 cup	Pecans or walnuts	
2 1/2	Heath bars, finely chopped	

# KIDZ KORNER



## SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

### What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

### What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sand-box or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.



## A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

*Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.*



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A



\_\_\_\_\_ R            \_\_\_\_\_ G    \_\_\_\_\_ S    \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ M    \_\_\_\_\_ P            \_\_\_\_\_ N    \_\_\_\_\_ B            \_\_\_\_\_ T    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ W  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ V    \_\_\_\_\_ E    \_\_\_\_\_ V    \_\_\_\_\_ I    \_\_\_\_\_ B            \_\_\_\_\_ G    \_\_\_\_\_ R    \_\_\_\_\_ N    \_\_\_\_\_ V            \_\_\_\_\_ R  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I    \_\_\_\_\_ V    \_\_\_\_\_ N    \_\_\_\_\_ V    \_\_\_\_\_ N    \_\_\_\_\_ Y    \_\_\_\_\_ V    \_\_\_\_\_ I            \_\_\_\_\_ B    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ F  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ R    \_\_\_\_\_ M            \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ O    \_\_\_\_\_ O            \_\_\_\_\_ N    \_\_\_\_\_ B  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ K    \_\_\_\_\_ I    \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ B    \_\_\_\_\_ V    \_\_\_\_\_ I    \_\_\_\_\_ H            \_\_\_\_\_ U    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ I            \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ O    \_\_\_\_\_ O  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ U            \_\_\_\_\_ B    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ F            \_\_\_\_\_ R            \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ O    \_\_\_\_\_ D    \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ B    \_\_\_\_\_ H  
  
 \_\_\_\_\_ K    \_\_\_\_\_ I    \_\_\_\_\_ Z    \_\_\_\_\_ B            \_\_\_\_\_ D    \_\_\_\_\_ R    \_\_\_\_\_ G    \_\_\_\_\_ S            \_\_\_\_\_ Q    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ B  
  
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1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

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## Living Our Faith

### Who, Me? Yes, You!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."