

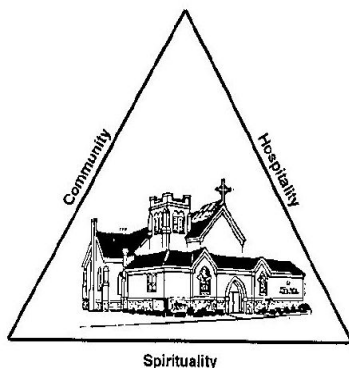
# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

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**God's Not Dead!** I am rewriting this month's newsletter article after seeing the movie **God's Not Dead**. I enjoy movies in general and watch my fair share including some Christian based movies that have been released over the last several years. For this article there are 2 types of movies, low budget and high budget, and in the Christian and Biblical sense you can find both low and high budget films. High budget films include "Son of God", "Prince of Egypt" (Dreamworks animated), "Passion of the Christ" (Mel Gibson) and 3 "Chronicles of Narnia" films. Low budget films include "Courageous", "Fireproof", any VeggieTale Movie and **God's Not Dead**. I am sure there are others I have forgotten but each of these films has exceeded Hollywood's expectation for results from a film with a Christian or Biblical message.



Over the next few weeks and months there will be more films that have a Biblical or Christian message being released including "Noah", "Heaven Is for Real", "Exodus" and "A Matter of Faith". Will these be good or bad? Who knows, but I am sure about one thing, there is a growing trend of telling God's story in film and it has found success and now mainstream Hollywood is hopping on board. Will all of these film be accurate? No. Will they cause controversy? Yes. But as they say in show business all press is good press. The more people are discussing the Word of God, the better. These movies cause me to reread the stories of the Bible and think about God in different ways. That is always a good thing. So take a friend to the movies and share God's story with them.

A big thanks again to all who are helping out with the EASY Program. I am amazed every week to see the hearts of children infected with the Love of God through your hard work and effort. Keep up the great work.

During the season of Easter as we again celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the defeat of sin and death, we are surprised by the people who don't know or even care about the story of God's love for them. Now you have more options for sharing God's Love with them, instead of scaring them away with an invitation to church. You should invite them to a Christian or Biblical movie. Then when the questions about God come up invite them to church to hear the rest of the story. Remember **God's Not Dead**.

We are proud of our following students who are on the Honor Roll for their school:

- Torie McAdams
- Emma Scannell
- Joshua guess
- Isaac McAdams
- Jenson Nagy
- Makayla Bok

# Youth News

Congratulations to Emma Scannell for receiving the Lima Area Swim Coaches Association All Lima Area Swimmers Honorable Mention for the second year.

Emma started her swimming career at age 3.



April 22



## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

**Seniors Day Out  
April 15, 2014**

Linda Craft to speak about her trip to Israel  
12:00 Noon

All seniors welcome!

**ATTENTION BELL RINGERS:**

Bell Choir Practice is Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM to prepare for Easter

For more information contact Judy Chaffins



### St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Secretary:	Jone Lane
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian:	Dave Decker



Newsletter deadline: the 16th of each month

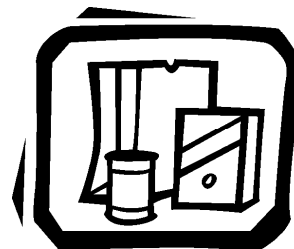
### Koinonia Chicken Barbeque

April 26, 2014  
5:00 to 7:00 PM  
\$8.00

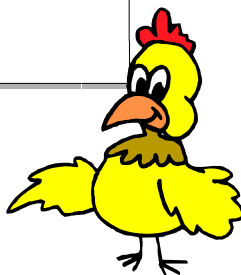
Menu:  
1/2 Chicken (Harlan's),  
homemade potato salad, applesauce,  
roll and homemade dessert

Walk-in, dine-in, or carry-out

Tickets available from Koinonia



April  
Coins for Communion  
to benefit  
5 Loaves Food Pantry



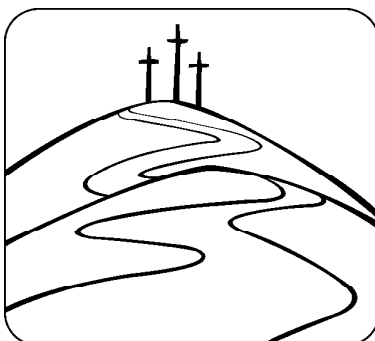
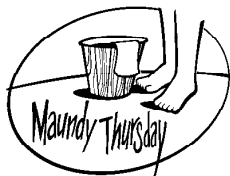
## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Palm Sunday  
April 13, 2014  
10:00 AM



Easter Sunrise  
Service  
April 20, 2014  
8:00 AM

Holy Thursday  
April 17, 2014  
7:00 PM



### Holy Week

Easter Worship  
April 20, 2014  
10:00 AM

Breakfast served  
8:45 AM  
in the Fellowship Hall



# Congratulations

# Congratulations

Congratulations to Coach Denny Thompson and the Elida Boys Basketball team for finishing with a 21-4 record and their THREE-PEAT as WBL Co-Champs and as Division II District Runners-Up. Congrats on a great season.



Congrats to Torie McAdams for scoring 9 points and 5 rebounds in an Elida Girls sectional win against Shawnee. Congrats to Torie and the Elida Girls Basketball Team for a fine season, finishing as Sectional Runners-Up.



Congratulations to Reggie McAdams and the Akron Zips for finishing the season at 20-11 with a 4-point win over Kent State on March 7th. Reggie had 8 points in the game. The win secured Akron the number 4 seed in the MAC Tournament starting March 13th.



# Congratulations



Gene Craft was in the cast of the play "Don't Drink the Water" held in March at the Van Wert Civic Theatre in Van Wert.



Congratulations to Hayden McKee, who was a member of the cast of the play "Miss Nelson is Missing!" at the Encore Theater on February 14-16. Hayden played the part of Elvis. Congrats, Hayden. Gene Craft built the sliding back drops for the play.



Photo by The Lima News

Dr. Tony Shoup, a physics lecturer at OSU-Lima, received the Provost's Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Lecturer. This award recognizes lecturers, senior lecturers and other auxiliary faculty members who have displayed excellence in teaching. Forty-five were nominated with three selected. Tony is the only one from the regional campuses to win the award this year. You can't even be considered for the award unless you are nominated by your colleagues and students. He began teaching at OSU-Lima in 2005 and was promoted to senior physics lecturer in 2012. Tony currently serves as the coordinator of the first year engineering program at the campus.




Vice Provost Mike Boehm presents the award.

# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
March 2, 2014	59
March 5, 2014 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	31
March 9, 2014	86
March 16, 2014	98
March 23, 2014	85

**Financial Giving**  
 Weekly Need for  
 Unified Ministry Budget  
 \$3,466.00



<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>		<b>Other:</b>
March 2, 2014	\$5,171.00	\$802.01
March 9, 2014	\$3,683.50	\$830.90
March 16, 2014	\$3,403.10	\$481.00
March 23, 2014	\$2,310.00	\$898.52

<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
March 2, 2014	20
March 9, 2014	26
March 16, 2014	28
March 23, 2014	24

<b>Greeters</b>	
April 6, 2014	Steve, Tracy & Tahler Sdao
April 13, 2014	Marty & Kathy White
April 20, 2014	Marla & Cody Scannell
April 27, 2014	Julie, Anika & Makayla Bok & Cari Metzger

<b>Flower Calendar</b>	
April 6, 2014	Ginny Doseck
April 13, 2014	Paul Scannell
April 20, 2014	Easter Lillies
April 27, 2014	Susan Nartker

<b>Communion Servers</b>	
<b>April 6</b>	
<b>Station #1</b>	<b>Gary &amp; Janet Grigg</b>
<b>Station #2</b>	<b>Marla &amp; Emma Scannell</b>
<b>Station #3</b>	<b>OPEN</b>

# Daily Bible Readings

## Tuesday 4/1

Psalm 78, Jeremiah 7:21-34  
Romans 4:13-25, John 7:37-52

## Wednesday 4/2

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120  
Jeremiah 8:18-9:6  
Romans 5:1-11, John 8:12-20

## Thursday 4/3

Psalm 42, 43, 85, 86  
Jeremiah 10:11-24  
Romans 5:12-21, John 8:21-32

## Friday 4/4

Psalm 88, 91, 92, 95  
Jeremiah 11:1-8, 14-20  
Romans 6:1-11, John 8:33-47

## Saturday 4/5

Psalm 87, 90, 136  
Jeremiah 13:1-11  
Romans 6:12-23, John 8:47-59

## Sunday 4/6

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67  
Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22  
Galatians 4:21-5:1, Mark 8:11-21

## Monday 4/7

Psalm 89, Jeremiah 16:10-21  
Romans 7:1-12, John 6:1-15

## Tuesday 4/8

Psalm 94, 95, 97, 99, 100  
Jeremiah 17:19-27  
Romans 7:13-25, John 6:16-27

## Wednesday 4/9

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144  
Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Romans 8:1-11, John 6:27-40

## Thursday 4/10

Psalm 69, 73, Jeremiah 22:13-23  
Romans 8:12-27, John 6:41-51

## Friday 4/11

Psalm 95, 102, 107:1-32  
Jeremiah 23:1-8  
Romans 8:28-39, John 6:52-59

## Saturday 4/12

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108  
Jeremiah 23:9-15  
Romans 9:1-18, John 6:60-71

## Holy Week:

## Sunday 4/13

### *Palm Sunday*

Psalm 24, 29, 103  
Zechariah 9:9-12  
Matthew 21:12-17  
1 Timothy 6:12-16

## Monday 4/14

Psalm 51, 69:1-23  
Jeremiah 12:1-16  
Philippians 3:1-14, John 12:9-19

## Tuesday 4/15

Psalm 6, 12, 94, Jeremiah 15:10-21  
Philippians 3:15-21, John 12:20-26

## Wednesday 4/16

Psalm 55, 74  
Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-17  
Philippians 4:1-13, John 12:27-36

## Thursday 4/17

### *Holy Thursday*

Psalm 102, 142, 143  
Jeremiah 20:7-11  
1 Corinthians 10:14-17, 11:27-32  
John 17:1-11(12-26)

## Friday 4/18

### *Good Friday*

Psalm 22, 54, 95, Genesis 22:1-14  
1 Peter 1:10-20, John 13:36-38

## Saturday 4/19

Psalm 27, 88, 95, Job 19:21-27a  
Hebrews 4:1-16, Romans 8:1-11

## Sunday 4/20

### *Easter*

Psalm 118, Exodus 12:1-14  
John 1:1-18, Isaiah 51:9-11  
Luke 24:13-35

## Monday 4/21

Psalm 66, 93, 98, Jonah 2:1-9  
Acts 2:14, 22-32, John 14:1-14

## Tuesday 4/22

Psalm 103, 111, 114  
Isaiah 30:18-21  
Acts 2:26-41, John 14:15-31

## Wednesday 4/23

Psalm 97, 99, 115, Micah 7:7-15  
Acts 3:1-10, John 15:1-11

## Thursday 4/24

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Acts 3:11-26, John 15:12-27

## Friday 4/25

Psalm 118, 136, Daniel 12:1-4, 13  
Acts 4:1-12, John 16:1-15

## Saturday 4/26

Psalm 104, 145, Isaiah 25:1-9  
Acts 4:13-21, John 16:16-33

## Sunday 4/27

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147  
Isaiah 43:8-13  
1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-7

## Monday 4/28

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, Daniel 1:1-21  
1 John 1:1-10  
John 17:1-11

## Tuesday 4/29

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Daniel 2:1-16  
1 John 2:1-11  
John 17:12-19

## Wednesday 4/30

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
Daniel 2:17-30  
1 John 2:12-17  
John 17:20-26



## Gathered Around the Cross

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? There is still something hauntingly spiritual and powerful about that question. In truth, even those who were there may not have had any idea about what was really taking place. Only in retrospect - especially with the perspective of faith - do some people like the writers of the gospels tell us that something cosmically significant and everlastingly important was taking place at the moment when Jesus was on that cross.

If we just take the perspective of John's Gospel we find that Jesus must look hard in order to discover any true friends in the crowds gathered around the cross. But look he does, and in the process he sees his mother and the unnamed disciple; then all the others. There are the other two being crucified with him. Far into the background are Pilate and the chief priests, and off in hiding are the rest of the disciples, including bold Peter, sulking now for having denied Jesus.

But what looks like defeat is, strangely, the fulfillment of a life directed toward such a moment. At least in John's Gospel the picture we have of Jesus is of someone who is about as far from a helpless victim as you can get. It isn't that he would wish his death, for indeed he had prayed with real tears that this was a cup which might be taken away. But when finally the time comes for him to drink this cup, he does so with a kind of commanding presence that has eternal consequences.

At the moment of Jesus' death John tells us not once, but twice, that Jesus' death completes or finishes his work. The final words - so difficult to utter because it takes his last breath - "It is finished." One biblical commentator looking at this text wrote: "Jesus died with the cry of the victor on his lips."

What was finished, of course, was just about to start; except for those four who stood by the cross. For them, it will take a while before they can come to terms with what happened. It will take some time for Jesus' own disciples to be regathered and spirited for the enterprise that lies before them. It will take some time before Paul gets turned around by a bolt of lightning. A number of years will pass before there are some followers who feel compelled to write down the entire story.

On that crossmarked day so long ago only Jesus, it seems, had any inkling about the eternal ramifications of what was taking place. There were, of course, those faithful witnesses who stood there in their own confusion taking it all in, but not knowing how much we would care to know all that they were able to share. Others like Pilate and the chief priests simply wished for the day to come quickly to an end, to be out of sight and out of mind.

Now we find ourselves reflecting on what took place on the day Jesus died. From the perspective of the cross, when Jesus said "It is finished," he was saying that the bridge of reconciliation was finally and completely established. This bridge moreover was laid down in love and sacrifice and meant for everyone in the world. All who walk into this forgiveness will need to pause by his cross, if not today, then on another day, and see Jesus looking at them with the love he had for his mother and that disciple. He looks at us with the same love.

- by George H. Martin, excerpted with permission from The Clergy Journal, © Logos Productions.





# The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

## The Legend of the Dogwood Tree

At the time of the crucifixion, the dogwood was the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was selected as the timber for the cross.

To be used for such a purpose, caused the tree great distress and grief. Jesus observed this and made the tree this promise.

"Never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth, it shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross with the print of the nails in each petal. In the center of the flower will be the crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember that it was upon a dogwood tree I was crucified. Therefore, this tree shall not be destroyed, but cherished as a reminder of my death upon the cross."



from Lenten Devotional Book written by  
Members of St. Paul UMC, 1983

## God Hath Not Promised

**God hath not promised skies always blue  
Flower strewn pathways, all our lives  
through;**

**God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.**

**But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labour, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.**

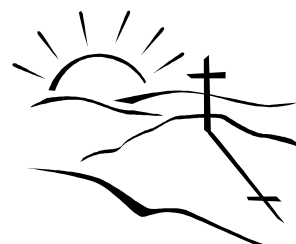
**God hath not promised we shall not know  
Toil and temptations, trouble and woe;  
He hath not told us we shall not bear  
Many a burden, many a care.**

**But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labour, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.**

**God hath not promised smooth roads and  
wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain, rocky and steep,  
Never a river turbid and deep.**

**But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labour, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.**

By Annie Johnson Flint



# Remember When...



1997  
Koinonia Chicken BBQ  
Tim and Sue Theodore,  
Jamie Wyant, Art Holman



1998  
Koinonia Chicken BBQ  
Front: Lois Cook and  
Corinne Piper



2005  
Koinonia Chicken BBQ  
Marty and A.J. White



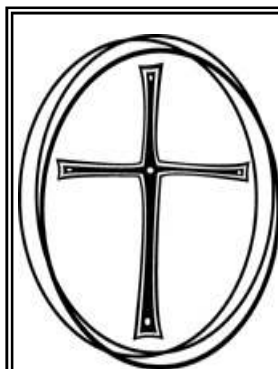
# Connecting With ...

Remembered  
with  
love



Our sympathy to Gary and Shirley Adams on the death of Shirley's sister, Edith Lammers. Cards may be sent to Gary and Shirley at 113 Weger Ave., Elida, OH 45807.

Our Condolences to Tony and Shirley Shoup on the death of Tony's father, Dick Shoup, who passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. A private family funeral service was held in Tipp City, Ohio. Cards may reach Tony and Shirley at 2052 Morning Glory, Elida, OH 45807



Praying Together  
When our hearts are saddened,  
grieving or in pain,  
By your touch  
you call us back to life again;  
Fields of our hearts  
that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.  
- John M. C. Crum



## Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Ruth Hardy  
Phyllis Trigg  
Mary Irvin

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn  
Jean Redd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Joanna Hurd  
Rodney Lee

In the Military & Missions

Ed Mault  
Jason Stanley

### Book of Timothy



Committee Chairs	2014
PPR Chair	Dwain Metzger
Trustees Chair	Ron Steiner
Finance Chair	Marty White
Treasurer	Margie Best
Education Chair	Jan Wyant
Administrative Council	Art Holman
Worship	Pastor Paul Scannell
Nurture	Linda Holman
Missions	Tim Piper

# The People of St. Paul's

*You kindness means the world to me.  
The flowers are lovely!  
Thank you so much, I hope to be back soon.*

*Love,  
Anne Laman*

# Thank You!

*To My St. Paul's family,  
Thank you so much for the flowers, cards and prayers, during my recent hospital stay. They were very much appreciated, and to Pastor Paul, your visits were very helpful to me.*

*Linda Matlock*

*Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and Pastor Paul's visits during my stay at St. Rita's.*

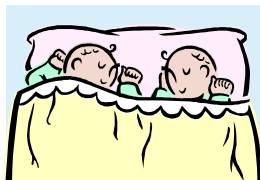
*Thanks,  
Cari Metzger*

*Thank you so much for building the ramp at our home for Gary.  
We appreciate this ministry!*

*God Bless,  
Gary and Deb Hurd*

*Thank you for sending your monthly newsletter to us. We have many friends who are members at St. Paul's. This news keeps tract of them for us!  
We attend Shawnee Alliance and sometimes visit St. Paul's*

*Again, thanks for thinking of us,  
George and Marilyn Woolley*



Congratulations to Brian and Angie Nartker and big sister Chloe. on the birth of their twins, Wesley David Nartker and Ella Marie Nartker, born Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, at 8:30 and 8:36 PM. Proud Grandparents are David and Susan Nartker and Great Grandma Ruth Burgoon. Wesley weighed 6lb, 8ozs., and Ella Marie weighed 5lb. 13ozs. and both were 18.7 inches long. Cards may reach them at 3039 Whippoorwill Ave., Elida, OH 45807.



**Prayer List  
Updates  
Please Contact  
Lavonne**

**Meetings**

April 1, 2014  
**Trustees...7:00 PM**

April 2, 2014  
**Worship Mtg..6:00 PM**

**NO PPR**

April 14, 2014  
**Finance...7:00 PM**

**No Ad Council Mtg.**

April 15, 2014  
**Missions...7:00 PM**

**Sundays**  
**Prayer...8:45 AM**  
**Sunday sch...9:00 AM**  
**Fellowship...9:30 AM**  
**Worship...10:00 AM**

**Wednesdays**  
**Chancel Choir...7:00 PM**

# April 2014

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Mike Crates	<b>3</b> David Scannell  Helen Scholfield 92 years	<b>4</b> Lynda Evans	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Dan Best	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pam Lozano	<b>11</b> Brittany Scannell	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Todd Chaffins	<b>16</b> Denise Thomas	<b>17</b> Doug Guess	<b>18</b> Paul Scannell Brent Stemen	<b>19</b> Maedene Holmes  Thaddeous Strauch
<b>20</b> Kelly DeRose  Lori Motzer  Aaron Piper	<b>21</b> Krista Slemmons	<b>22</b> Chloe Nartker	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Jaxson Stemen	<b>29</b> Gerald Strayer	<b>30</b>			

**Anniversaries**

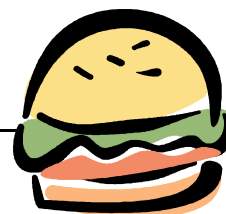
- Carl & Lois Rabley  
April 14; 50 yrs.*
- Ray & Phyllis Trigg  
April 15; 54 yrs.*
- John & Joy Fletcher  
April 17*
- Tony & Pam Lozano  
April 17*
- Brian & Angie Nartker  
April 17*
- Bobby & Jacquie Bice  
April 19*
- Brad & Kim Selover  
April 28; 35 yrs.*

# St. Paul's Featured Recipes

## Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

*By Kathy White*

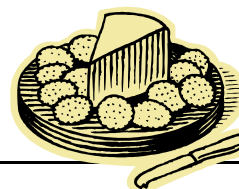
Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb	Ham sliced thin	Place rolls on a large cookie sheet or jelly roll pan. Place one slice of cheese and ham on each roll. Place last 5 ingredients in a saucepan and cook until bubbly. Close sandwiches and drizzle most of sauce over top. Bake at 275 degrees for 10 min. Take out and drizzle the remaining sauce over the top. Place back in oven at 350 for an additional 10 minutes. Serve warm.  These can be reheated by wrapping in foil and warming in oven. They can also be made ahead and frozen individually in foil and taken out and baked as needed.
24 slices	Swiss cheese	
24	Small rolls (Hawaiian are best)	
2 sticks	Butter	
1/2 to 3/4 cup	Brown sugar	
2 Tbl.	Poppy seed	
2 Tbl.	Dijon mustard	
2 Tbl.	Worcestershire sauce	



## Chocolate Chip Cheese Ball

*By Mary Irvin*

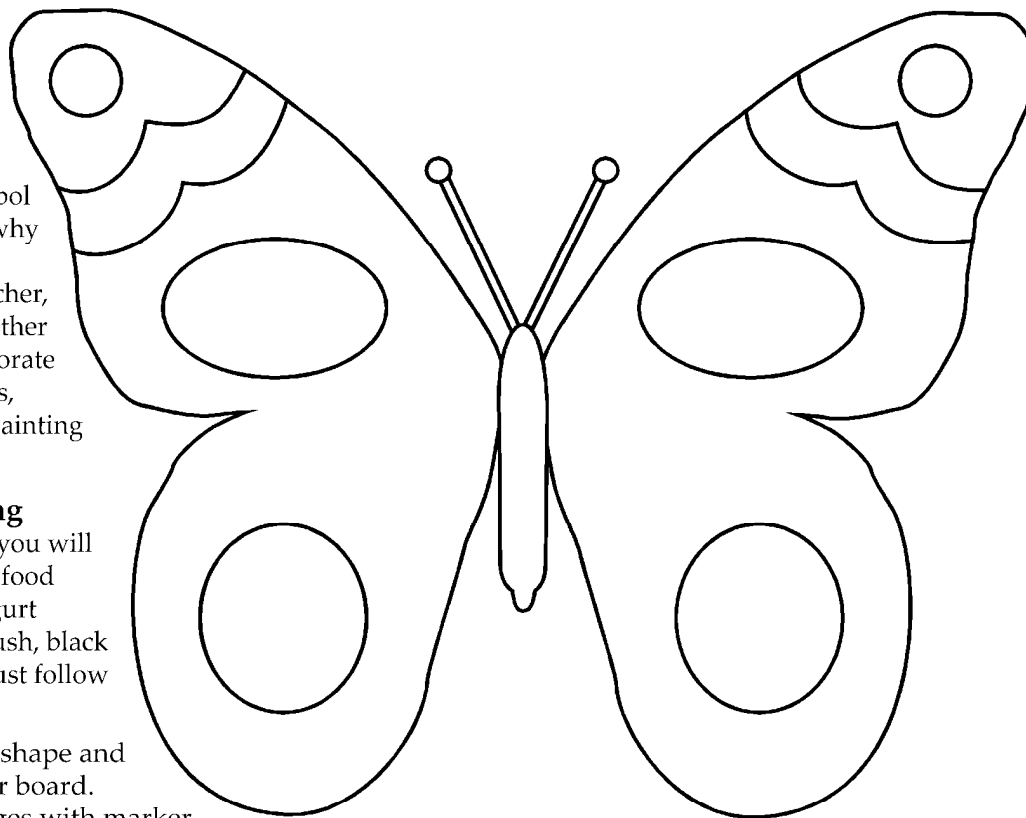
Ingredients		Instructions
1 pkg (8 oz.)	Cream Cheese	In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and extract until fluffy (you can use a mixer).  Gradually add sugars, beat just until combined.  Stir in chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.  Just before serving, roll cheese ball in pecans.  Serve with graham crackers.  Makes about 2 cups of cheese ball.
1/2 cup	Butter	
1/4 tsp.	Almond or Vanilla extract	
3/4 cup	Confectioners sugar	
2 Tbl.	Brown sugar	
3/4 cup	Miniature semisweet chocolate chips	
3/4 cup	Finley chopped pecans	
	Honey Graham crackers	



# KIDZ KORNER

## Butterfly Symbol

A butterfly is a great symbol of Easter. Can you think why this is? Talk with a friend, parent, church school teacher, or pastor about this and other Easter symbols. Then decorate this butterfly with crayons, markers, glitter, or sand painting (see below).







### Butterfly Sand Painting

To sand paint a butterfly, you will need: poster board, sand, food coloring, small jars or yogurt containers, glue, paint brush, black felt pen or crayon. Then just follow these directions.

1. Cut out this butterfly shape and mount it on the poster board.
2. Draw over design edges with marker or crayon.
3. Color the sand: (a) put small amount of sand in container, (b) add several drops of food color and shake, (c) put sand on newspaper to dry. Do the same for each color.
4. Paint small section of design with glue. Let it set up and become tacky. Sprinkle with desired color sand. Let dry. Gently shake off extra sand. Repeat for each different color until the surface is all covered with colored sand.
5. Allow the butterfly to dry flat overnight, especially if the layer of glue was thick.

## Jesus' Prayer

While he was hanging on the cross, Jesus prayed to God. Use this symbol key to fill in the missing letters in the message.

	= a
	= e
	= i
	= o

F\_ th\_ r f\_ rg\_ v\_ th\_ m; f\_ r th\_ y d\_

n\_ t kn\_ w wh\_ t th\_ y \_r\_ d\_ \_ ng.

Luke 23:34

Answer: Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

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

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

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**Living Our Faith**

**Welcome Easter!**

All through March and part of April we observe the Season of Lent, so when Easter is finally here there are lots of great ways to welcome this joyful season! Try some of these ideas with your friends and family.

**Read Some Books**

This is a great way to explore the wonder, mystery, sadness, and joy of Jesus' death and resurrection. Public libraries have many fiction and non-fiction books on the new life, hope, and joy - all themes of Easter.

**Plant an Easter Garden**

Prepare for Easter by making a portable Easter garden. You can enjoy the powerful fragrance of hyacinths, the sweet scent of paperwhite narcissus, the cheerful color of tulips, as well as other bulbs, if you plan ahead. Usually these bulbs are planted about six months before they flower, but if you refrigerate the bulbs you can get results in a matter of weeks.

**Hot Cross Buns**

Hot cross buns are part of many family Easter traditions. Originally eaten by the Saxons to honor their goddess Eostre, the buns are marked with a cross as it is believed the bun represented the moon and the cross the moon's quarters. To Christians, the cross symbolizes the crucifixion.

Purchase frozen raisin bread dough and let it thaw according to package directions. Form into buns and bake according to directions. While the buns are cooling, mix some frosting using these ingredients:

- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp powdered sugar
  - 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
  - pinch of salt
  - 4 tsp milk, to make a thick, pipeable icing
- Use the frosting to make a cross on each bun. Enjoy!

