

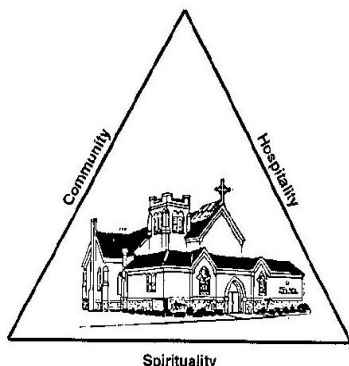
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807
419-339-3801
officeespc@gmail.com

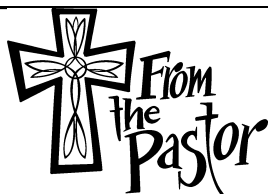
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Easter: a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and renew our hope in God's amazing grace that sets us free from death. We have spent the last few weeks looking at the lament and its place in the life of Christians. On Easter we will be looking not only at the empty tomb but also at how Christ turned Mary's lament to unbridled joy. Come and see how Christ has defeated death and misery with the promise of eternity in heaven. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday and celebrating the risen Lord.

A couple of housekeeping issues this month: sometime in the next few weeks following Easter we will not be able to use the front entrance and library area as repairs are made to the walls and painting gets done. A big thank you for putting up with the construction this winter. We hope to have everything cleaned up very soon.

"Smile, You're on Candid Camera" was a TV show on CBS we watched when I was barely old enough to remember. I always enjoyed watching people feel uncomfortable knowing that the host, Alan Funt, was about to step out and declare those magic words. People laughed, cried, yelled or just shook their heads in disbelief. Do you feel uncomfortable right now? Are you hoping Alan Funt comes around the corner to free you from the embarrassment? Well, that is not going to happen. I want you to come get your picture taken for the new pictorial directory we are putting together. April 21 & 22 you will hear the line, "Smile, you're going to be in the new directory."

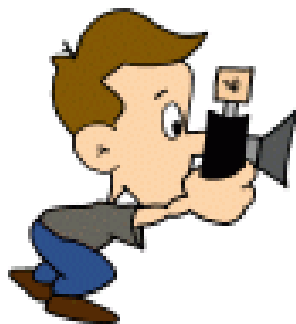
Have a great Easter and I'll see you smiling for the camera.

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

The task ahead of us
is never as great
as the Power
behind us.



DIRECTORY PHOTOS
Coming in April:
 Tuesday April 21, 2015
 &
 Wednesday, April 22, 2015
 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM

You may schedule your appointment on the website www.elidastpaulschurch.org or call the church office 419-339-3801 Monday—Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

If you are interested in volunteering to be a host to check people in for their appointment, please let the office know.

Photos by Life Touch

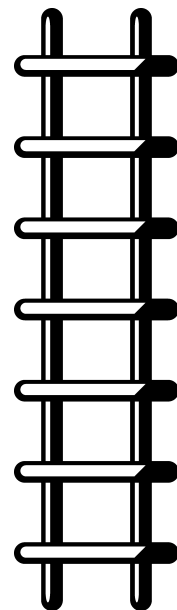
Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Seniors Day Out
Tuesday April 21st
12:00 Noon
All seniors welcome!

Christian Symbol

Ladder

A ladder is sometimes pictured with a sponge at the end of a long stick, reminiscent of the soldier offering Jesus vinegar to drink on the cross (Matthew 27:48). Thus, a ladder may symbolize Christ's Passion. In the Old Testament, Jacob dreamed of angels ascending and descending a ladder (or staircase, depending on the Bible version) set up between earth and heaven (Genesis 28:12). Both accounts show that through Jesus, our Savior, we — like the angels — have ready access to God, now and for eternity!



Newsletter deadline:
 the **16th**
 of each month

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

Koinonia Chicken Barbeque

April 18, 2015

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Pre-sale \$8.00

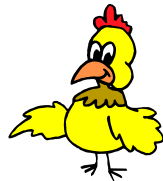
At the door \$8.50

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
members or from the church office.**



April 5

Coins for Communion
to benefit the 5 Loaves Food
Pantry at The Church at
Allentown



April 12th

Food Pantry Sunday to
benefit the 5 Loaves Food
Pantry at The Church at
Allentown

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**Easter Sunrise
Service
April 5th
8:00 AM**



**Holy Thursday
April 2nd
7:00 PM**
Come and experience
a Seder Service

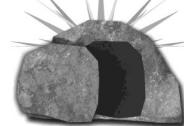


**Breakfast served
8:45 AM
in the Fellowship
Hall**
Prepared by the
Nurture Committee



**Easter Worship
April 5th
10:00 AM**

**He Is
RISEN
INDEED!**



In The News



Congratulations to **Reggie McAdams** for being chosen *Player of the Game* in the Akron Zips 58-45 win in the MAC Tournament over Western Michigan. Akron finished its season at 21-14. Congrats on a great season, Reggie!

Congratulations to **Emma Scannell** for finishing 2nd in her division for her dance solo at Mason, Ohio.

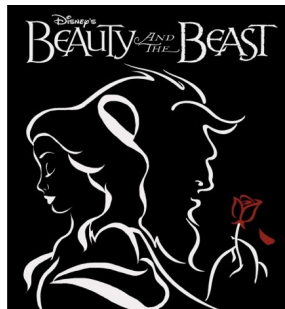
Congratulations

Congratulations to **Oliver Fessler** for receiving his State FFA Degree at Elida's FFA banquet held on March 8th. Oliver will also be recognized at the Ohio State FFA Convention in May.



Shirley Shoup dressed up as "Thing 1" for Teacher's Favorite Book Character Day at the Elida Elementary School.

In The News



Congratulations to the Elida High School Musical Theater for their production of Beauty and the Beast on March 12, 13, 14, and 15. Rhonda Bargerstock was the producer, Rhonda and Randy Bargerstock were the directors, and Cory Schoonover was the student director. Our own **Title Nooprasit** was cast as a villager, and one of the dancing forks. Everyone attending agreed that the performances were impressive!



Music Gets the Basketball Bouncing

Denny Thompson's playing days predates iPhones and Spotify playlists. But music still played a role in his pregame routine; before games he'd put on the same record and lay down on the couch. Now as the Elida boys basketball coach, Thompson still knows the importance of music. During the Bulldogs run to the state championship game in 2012, he would listen to ELO because the meaning of the words meant something to him. It also became kind of a superstition as well.

"I didn't have many superstitions, but one was I'd go home every Friday, lie down on the sofa and listen to this one album," Thompson said. "This sounds funny, but it might have been Anne Murray." From listening to music on stereo systems and Beats headphones in the locker room to pep bands and playlists in the gymnasium during warm-ups, high school basketball teams in Allen County value the effects of music. Whether it's settling them down or pumping them up, music serves its purpose.

"I get nervous before games, so I listen to music that gets me off the game a little bit," Elida's Austin Allemeier said. "I stop thinking about it. I kind of relax a little bit." The relative cleanliness of the message matters to the coaches, though. Bath coach Shawn Allen walked into the locker room to hear some colorful language coming from the speakers and put a quick stop to it. Bath players Dylan Burkholder, Cam Clark, and Andrew Renner smile at the memory of Allen yanking the audio cord out of the iPhone. That was Cam's first thing, because he heads up the music. It has to be edited," Allen said. "Does that stop kids from listening to it? Absolutely not. In my venue, that's not going to happen." The playlists of area teams trends heavily to rap and hip-hop. The message doesn't matter. What does matter is the beat.

In the world of rap lover, Burkholder is a dissenting voice, claiming to be more of a country guy. But regardless, he goes with the flow and doesn't raise a fuss. According to Lima Central Catholic senior Sydney Santaguida, not everyone has to agree with the music choices but everyone gets a say in what's played. Even if it's an unpopular choice, like her favorite song, "Uptown Funk," by Bruno Mars. It's a lot about the beat," Santaguida said, "We don't have a specific genre we listen to. The girls who don't like it don't really say anything. If you are vibing to it, then you're vibing to it. If not, then you're just changing and getting ready. We don't have any outliers with music. No one's too picky."

Once the teams hit the floor, the playlists hit pause and the pep bands take over. Elida's Clark Etzler said the music in the locker room—including team favorite Eminem—can't compete with the energy he feels when the Elida pep band kicks in. "I'd rather have the pep band play than any music because I think the pep band is the most hype," Etzler said. "The more loud they are, the more pumped I get."

Thompson said of his playing days, "We were just waiting for the pep band to start. We loved warming up to Sweet Georgia Brown. For me, it's always been a landmark thing for me, the pep band and the music before. It has been a part of the game preparation." Current teams listen to playlists on their phones built in Spotify or random choices through Pandora.


Whether its vinyl albums, cassette tapes, CDs or playlists on phones, one thing hasn't changed—the importance and power of music.

from 419

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
March 1, 2015	56
March 8, 2015	96
March 15, 2015	94
March 22, 2015	81

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



	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
March 1, 2015	\$2,459.00	\$392.66
March 8, 2015	\$6,469.00	\$784.50
March 15, 2015	\$2,698.00	\$356.00
March 22, 2015	\$5,177.00	\$991.87

Sunday School Attendance	
March 1, 2015	13
March 8, 2015	21
March 15, 2015	15
March 22, 2015	15

Greeters	
April 5, 2015	Steve , Tracy & Tahler Sdao
April 12, 2015	OPEN
April 19, 2015	Marty & Kathy White
April 26, 2015	Margie Best & Jone Lane

Flower Calendar	
April 5, 2015	Easter Lilies
April 12, 2015	Ray & Phyllis Trigg
April 19, 2015	Denny & Janna Thompson
April 26, 2015	Paul & Marla Scannell

Communion Servers	
April 5	
Station #1	Steve & Tahler Sdao
Station #2	OPEN
Station #3	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 4/1

Psalm 55, 74
Lamentations 2:1-9, 14-17
2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11
Mark 12:1-11

Thursday 4/2 *Holy Thursday*

Psalm 102, 142, 143
Lamentations 2:10-18
1 Corinthians 10:14-17, 11:27-32
Mark 14:12-25

Friday 4/3 *Good Friday*

Psalm 22, 54, 95
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-33
1 Peter 1:10-20, John 13:36-42

Saturday 4/4

Psalm 27, 88
Lamentations 3:37-58
Hebrews 4:1-16, Romans 8:1-11

Sunday 4/5 *Easter*

Psalm 118, Exodus 12:1-14
John 20:19-23, Isaiah 51:9-11
Luke 24:13-35

Monday 4/6

Psalm 66, 93, 98, Exodus 12:14-27
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

Tuesday 4/7

Psalm 103, 111, 114
Exodus 12:28-39
1 Corinthians 15:12-28
Mark 16:9-20

Wednesday 4/8

Psalm 97, 99, 115
Exodus 12:40-51
1 Corinthians 15:(29)30-41
Matthew 28:1-16

Thursday 4/9

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149
Exodus 13:3-10
1 Corinthians 15:41-50
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 4/10

Psalm 136, Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16
1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Luke 24:1-12

Saturday 4/11

Psalm 104, 145, Exodus 13:17-14:4
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10
Mark 12:18-27

Sunday 4/12

Psalm 111, 112, 113
Exodus 14:5-22
1 John 1:1-7, John 14:1-7

Monday 4/13

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Exodus 14:21-31
1 Peter 1:1-12, John 14:(1-7)8-17

Tuesday 4/14

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Exodus 15:1-21
1 Peter 1:13-25, John 14:18-31

Wednesday 4/15

Psalm 12, 13, 14
Exodus 15:22-16:10
1 Peter 2:1-10, John 15:1-11

Thursday 4/16

Psalm 18, Exodus 16:10-22
1 Peter 2:11-25, John 15:12-27

Friday 4/17

Psalm 16, 17, 134, 135
Exodus 16:23-36
1 Peter 3:13-4:6, John 16:1-15

Saturday 4/18

Psalm 20, 116, 117
Exodus 17:1-16
1 Peter 4:7-19, John 16:16-33

Sunday 4/19

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Exodus 18:1-12
1 John 2:7-17, Mark 16:9-20

Monday 4/20

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Exodus 18:13-27
1 Peter 5:1-14
Matthew (1:1-17), 3:1-6

Tuesday 4/21

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Exodus 19:1-16
Colossians 1:1-14, Matthew 3:7-12

Wednesday 4/22

Psalm 38, Exodus 19:16-25
Colossians 1:15-23
Matthew 3:13-17

Thursday 4/23

Psalm 37, Exodus 20:1-21
Colossians 1:24-2:7
Matthew 4:1-11

Friday 4/24

Psalm 105, Exodus 24:1-18
Colossians 2:8-23
Matthew 4:12-17

Saturday 4/25

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Exodus 25:1-22
Colossians 3:1-17
Matthew 4:18-25

Sunday 4/26

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38
1 John 2:18-29, Mark 6:30-44

Monday 4/27

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Exodus 32:1-20
Colossians 3:18-4:6(7-18)
Matthew 5:1-10

Tuesday 4/28

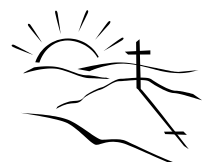
Psalm 45, 47, 48
Exodus 32:21-34
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 5:11-16

Wednesday 4/29

Psalm 49, 53
Exodus 33:1-23
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:17-20

Thursday 4/30

Psalm 114, 115
Exodus 34:1-17
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Matthew 5:21-26



Spotlight On Seniors

Meet **John Holmes**, long time member of St. Paul UMC. John was born November 15, 1920, on a farm south of Bluffton, Ohio, on Route 25. He lived in Bluffton until the age of 16. His family included his brother, Vincent (known as Red) and two sisters, Mary and Nora. Nora, aged 90, is still living. John lived in Bluffton until he was 16 years old, when they moved to Lima Gomer Road. He says he had a good boyhood, playing softball and baseball, swimming in the summer, being a Boy Scout, and attending the Methodist Church in Bluffton. John's dad worked in the oil fields and as a boy, John would sometimes go with his dad to those oil fields.



After graduating from high school in 1938, John started working at his brother's gas station in Elida.

Red paid him \$5 a week; John got \$3 a week cash and \$2 a week went into a fund for him to purchase part of the gas station.

One day, Blake Hurley, John's future brother-in-law, stopped at the gas station. Ruth's sister, Betty Vandemark,, was with them. She was babysitting her niece. Red told John he should try to get a date with Betty. In fact, Red bet John 5 gal. of gas and \$5 that he wouldn't be able to get a date with Betty. John persevered and won the bet. He and Betty went on their first date on Feb. 28, 1939. John said he was never interested in any girl but Betty after that. They were married in the small Christian Church in Rockville, Maryland, on the evening of July 30, 1941. On their 63rd anniversary in 2004, they were traveling with their son near Rockville. They stopped to see if they could find that small Christian Church. They found that a new Christian Church had been built in Rockville, but also discovered that the former small Christian Church was an attorney's office. An employee was there who took them inside to look around. What a wonderful memory for their 63rd anniversary!

John worked at the gas station until WWII began when he and a friend enlisted in the Army Air Corp on October 28, 1942. He was sent to Camp Perry in Toledo and later to Biloxi, MS, for training at aircraft mechanic and gunnery school on B-24 bombers. John became a flight engineer for B-29s and served in Kharagpur, India, and Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. While serving in India, John flew over the Himalayan Mountain "Hump" on his way to China. He was discharged on October 28, 1945, exactly 3 years after he had enlisted. He was flown to California, where he got a train to travel to Ohio. John was awarded 4 bronze stars and 1 silver star for serving in 5 different combat areas.

In November, 1945, John and Red started building a new gas station. They opened it in March, 1946, and operated it until they sold it in 1950 to the Pure Oil Co. Red and John and their families then traveled to California and other parts of the west for 5 weeks in their 1949 Fords.

When they returned from their trip, they bought a milk route and delivered milk. After that they bought a 100-acre farm and farmed it for about a year or so. They wanted to purchase more farm land, but none was available, so they sold their farm in 1952. John then worked at Excello for 1 ½ years and then he and Red bought a meat market, which they operated for about 8 years. Between 1957 and 1961, they became licensed real estate agents. They sold their meat market and founded Holmes Realty Co. John enjoyed selling real

Continued on page 9

Spotlight on Seniors (continued)

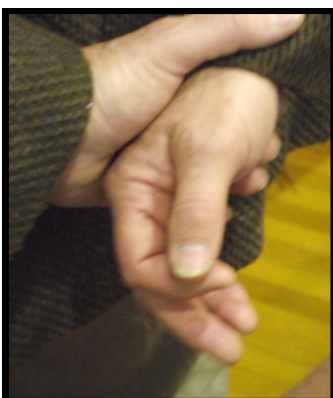
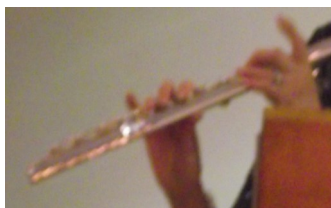
estate, always wanting to help the seller get a fair price. He worked there for 40 years, from 1957 – 1997. He retired in 1997 when he was 77 years old.

When John was 83 years old, he and his son, Ron, and a grandson, took a plane ride. John sat beside the pilot. The pilot asked if any of them had ever flown a plane before. John told the pilot that he had his private pilot's license and had flown for over 300 hours, but he didn't fly any more. The pilot replied, "You do now!" and John got to fly that small plane again!

Betty passed away on March 30, 2008, 4 months shy of their 66th anniversary. John and Betty have a daughter, Shirley, and a son, Ron, 5 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. John is absolutely delightful telling stories about his life. Visit him at Elmcroft and hear these stories first hand. His memory is phenomenal!



Roving Ron, Resident Photographer



Were you "caught" by Roving Ron? Do you recognize these people? You never know when he will be around!



Remember When...



Elida Methodist Episcopal Church

1911



November 16, 1974
Annual Smorgasbord
Elida St. Paul UMC
Evelyn Broshes and Jane Brown



Chancel Choir, 1978
L-R: Linda Holman, Carol Harper,
Lenore Strayer, Mary Lou Massey,
Ruth Hardy, Norm Grigsby, Hope
Wyant, Maedene Holmes



Connecting With ...

Our sympathy to Carol Lee, Linda Craft, Nancy Gesler and their families on the death of their son and brother, Rodney Lee, who passed away on March 13, 2015. Rodney's memorial service was held on March 21st at Harvest Baptist Church in Wapakoneta. Cards will reach Carol at 2685 Yoakam Road, Lima, Ohio 45806, Linda at 5038 Pheasant St., Elida, OH 45807, and Nancy at 2950 Sunderland Road, Lima, OH 45706



Our Condolences to Bill and Esther McKinney. Bill's brother, Robert, of Tiffin passed away on March 23rd. His funeral was held on March 28th. Cards will reach them at 300 N. Greenlawn Ave., Elida, OH 45807



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital
 Karen Bible
 Dorothy Foster
 Tony Matlock

Homebound Members
 Hazel Dunn
 Jean Redd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement
 Karen Bible
 Dorothy Foster
 Joanna Hurd

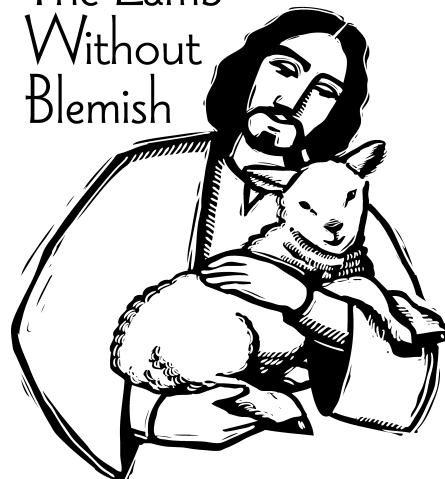
In the Military & Missions
 Dani Milke

Trusting the Shepherd

In The Glory of God's Will (Back to the Bible Publishing), Elisabeth Elliot writes about watching sheep being dipped into antiseptic troughs. Although this was done for their good, the sheep struggled mightily; dogs had to keep them in place.

Certain life experiences made Elliot sympathetic to those sheep. "I couldn't figure out any reason for the treatment I was getting from the Shepherd I trusted," she writes. "As I watched the struggling sheep, I thought, 'If only there was some way to explain to these poor animals what was being done to them.' Such knowledge is too wonderful for them. It is high. They cannot attain it." (See Psalm 139:6.)

The Lamb
Without
Blemish



The People of St. Paul's

*To St. Paul's UMC,
What a nice surprise when I
got back from the doctor on
February 12th. A big red
heart box with candy in it, but
was sorry to have missed the
friends at St. Paul's that
brought it to me. I always
enjoy their company.*

*Thank you for making me feel
so blessed,
Jean Redd*

THANKS
from the
HEART

*Dearest Church Family,
Thank you so much for the
lovely prayer blanket and
flowers. We appreciate your
kindness and friendship,*

Dorothy Foster and Family

*Members of St. Paul's,
Linda and I would like to
thank the members of St.
Paul's Church for your
prayers and thoughts as we
celebrated Mom's life. We
received so many cards and
expressions of sympathy. We
will place the wind chimes at
our backdoor to remind us of
mom as we go about each day.*

Art

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

**Visit The United
Methodist Website at:
www.umw.org**

*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.*



**Prayer List
Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne**

Meetings

April 1, 2015
Worship Mtg..6:00 PM

April 6, 2015
PPR

April 7, 2015
Trustees...7:00 PM

April 13, 2015
Finance...7:00 PM

No Ad Council Mtg.

April 15, 2015
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

APRIL 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

Anniversaries



Carl & Lois Rabley
 April 4
 51 years

Ray & Phyllis Trigg
 April 15
 55 years

John & Joy Fletcher
 April 17

Robert & Jacquie Bice
 April 19



Anniversary Blessings

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Quick Cake *By Lavonne Segovia*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 box	Angel Food cake mix	Mix dry angel food cake mix with dry mix of other flavor. Choose a small microwave dish (such as a custard dish) and spray with Pam. Combine 3 Tbl dry cake mix with 1 Tbl water. Pour into prepared small dish. Microwave for 1 minute. Frost as desired.
1 box	Any flavor cake mix	
	Water	
	Pam	



Key Lime Pie *By Mary LaRue*

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 cup	Fresh lime juice	Mix all ingredients well. Put in crust. Refrigerate 1 to 2 hours.
1 (8 oz.)	Cool Whip	
1 can	Eagle Brand milk	
1	Graham cracker pie shell	



KIDZ KORNER

HE
IS
RISEN!

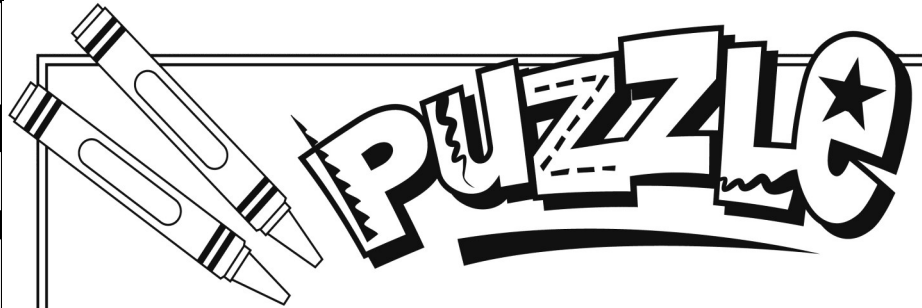
Create a simple yet powerful Easter display.

What you need:

- 3 wood blocks (small, medium, large)
- Acrylic paint (three pastel colors and white)
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Paper towels
- Letter stencils and tape (optional)

What you do:

1. Paint each block of wood a different pastel color. (You can paint the whole block or just one side.)
2. When paint is dry, use white paint to write (or stencil) "He" on the smallest block, "is" on the medium block and "risen!" on the large block.
3. When blocks are dry, stack them from largest to smallest to proclaim "He is risen!"



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5 who was R aised | 8 R ight hand | 6 T o life |
| 3 d i E d | 4 m o R e than that | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J e S us who | 11 i nt E rceding | 9 O f God |
| 12 f or U s | 1 C hrist | 10 a nd is also |

.....

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____, 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____

8 _____

9 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____ . *Romans 8:34, NIV*

RESURRECTION

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Living Our Faith

Stewards of the Earth

In our consumer culture, it's easy to forget that "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1, NIV).

God calls us to be caretakers of his entire wonderful creation. What a huge responsibility — and privilege — to have stewardship over everything God has made!

Thomas à Kempis, writing in the 15th century, noted the proper attitude toward God's creation: "If your heart were right, then every created thing would be a mirror of life for you and a book of holy teaching, for there is no creature so small and worthless that it does not show forth the goodness of God" (The Imitation of Christ, the Interior Life).



Four lessons of Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of Jesus: A Pilgrimage (Harper One), writes that Jesus' suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn't always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human — and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn't the last word.

"The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter," Martin writes. "The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It's the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father's will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life."