

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 45 Issue 8

August, 2022

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

officeepc@gmail.com

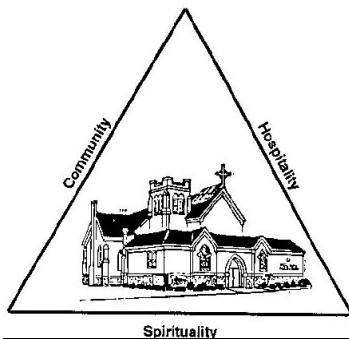
Rev. Paul Scannell

419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

pastorespc@gmail.com

4pastorpaul@gmail.com



Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Prayer	4
History of a Hymn	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Missions	8
Kits Mission	9
Crafty Creatures	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
August Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16



August is already here, and the year is flying away. It is time to put our minds toward school and kids. The Scannell house already has marching band and all the football games on the schedule. Back-to-school shopping is already underway, and I hope that I have purchased all the clothes we need for the year, as long as someone doesn't grow. We will be having a blessing of the backpacks this year at Elida St Paul's on the 28th of August. You are invited to bring in your children or grandchildren with their backpacks to be blessed to start the new school year. If you are a teacher, aide, bus driver, ground keeper, coach, or cook, bring in what you carry to work every day, and we will bless them during our worship service.

Speaking of blessing backpacks, it will also be the last Sunday to turn in your health and school kits for one of our big mission Sundays. You will find a list of supplies to pack in your kits, as you prepare them for people in need here in the U.S. and around the world. The lists are specific so that when they are sent overseas, an accurate packing slip can be created so there are no customs issues as the kits cross international borders.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who sent cards of sympathy, and support. A special thanks to all of you who donated to Ted's memorials following his death last month. It is wonderful to know we are so supported here at Elida St Paul's. I also want to thank everyone who has helped with the many events here at St. Paul's; funeral dinners, National Night Out, and the ramp ministry, you have all worked overtime this month

I hope you will continue to join us on Sunday morning for worship service, in person and online. We hope to improve a few things in the months ahead, so be on the lookout for changes. Things have been so busy that I am not even sure what I am preaching about after the first week of August, but I am sure God will lead me in a way that will please Him and encourage us all to follow Jesus more closely. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:

Life is for service.

— Fred Rogers



National Night Out
August 2, 2022
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM



Elida Field House Parking lot

National Night Out is observed annually on the 1st Tuesday in August. It is a community first responders awareness-raising event throughout the United States.

St. Paul's, once again, will have a booth. Volunteers are needed.



August 7

Coins for Communion
To benefit Meals 'til Monday

Meals 'til Monday is a nonprofit organization that provides kid-friendly weekend meals for local elementary children whose primary source of food is the school cafeteria.

Staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, Meals 'til Monday packs sacks of food on Mondays to be delivered and distributed to students on Fridays.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

RAM

This Old Testament symbol of Christ represents him as the leader of the "herd," as well as a sacrifice for people's sins. Jesus' sacrificial death is foretold in Genesis 22, when God instructed Abraham to kill his only son, Isaac. But God provided a ram to take Isaac's place, just as he provided Jesus, God's only Son, to take our place on the cross



St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

Food Pantry Sunday
August 14

Donations are taken to
 the Five Loaves Food Pantry at
 The Church at Allentown



**Blessing of the
 Backpacks**
Sunday, August 28

To start off the new school year, all students, teachers, home schooling,
 and any school employee, bring your backpacks, or whatever you
 carry into work each day, to the worship service to be blessed.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY,
 AUGUST 14TH!!**

By now, I'm sure all of you have heard that **Marty, Kathy, & AJ White** will be leaving us soon and moving to Twinsburg, Ohio to be closer to their other sons. What you may not know, however, is that they are the ones who decorate our St. Paul's altar every single Sunday. We are not only going to miss them, but we are going to miss their talents and dedication as well. We would like to show them our love and support by having a Carry-In lunch after church on Sunday, August 14th. Drinks & table service will be provided. We have lots of wonderful cooks at St. Paul's - after all, we ARE Methodists! So bring your creations to share as we give the White's the send-off they deserve.

Prayer

Praying With Our Bodies

By Corinne Piper

Engaging my body in movement while praying is one way to keep my mind focused because my body is busy doing something. Some people dance. I have done that on one occasion, but it isn't the most natural for me. I have felt the urge to stand during a hymn because I just couldn't express my reverence while sitting. Walking is another way that works for me. But there are times when I can't do any of these things. An alternative is to just use our hands. I noticed others moving their hands at church last Sunday when we sang "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High". Other times, I have seen people using their hands during prayer to show God they were ready to receive His gifts.

Recently, Guidepost Magazine posted an article on praying with our hands and I give you their highlights:

1. Palms Open

Start a prayer by extending your arms, opening your hands, and turning your palms up as a gesture of openness and receptivity to the "still small voice" of God.

2. Palms Flat

Next, turn your palms over and hold them flat while envisioning your worries and fears dropping into God's hands.

3. Hands Folded

After a while in that position, press your hands together, like the famous "Praying Hands" painting. Ask the Holy Spirit, on the basis of Romans 8:26, to intercede—to translate our praying hands into all the petitions we *could* or *should* be praying.

4. Hands Lifted

Finally, lift "holy hands," a gesture of gratitude and praise. Thank God for listening, Jesus for the gift of oneness with God, and the Holy Spirit for the guidance and wisdom to enact what you have learned.

Allow yourself the freedom to move in your prayers, no matter where you are. As the old spiritual goes: I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, (or raise my hands) and obey the Spirit of the Lord.



History of a Hymn

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

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

1905

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. Matthew 10:29

Most people have a hobby of some sort to provide a healthy diversion from the rigors of work. Long ago, there was a woodworker in Nazareth who counted bird-watching among His diversions. We can make that assumption, because Jesus later referred frequently to bird-life in His sermon, saying things like:

- “Are not two sparrows sold for copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground from your Father's will” (Matthew 10:29).
- “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matthew 6:26)
- “Consider the ravens...?” (Luke 12:26).
- “Do not fear... you are of more value than many sparrows” (Luke 12:7)

It was this theme that caused the author of “God Will Take care of You,” to write, a year later, another great hymn on God's care: “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.”

Civilla Durfee Martin was a Canadian by birth, born August 21, 1869, in Nova Scotia. She became a school and music teacher, but when she married Dr. Walter Martin, an evangelist, she gave up teaching to travel with him and assist in his meetings.

This is her account of the writing of this song:

Early in the Spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheelchair. Despite their afflictions they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittle's, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.” The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” was the outcome of that experience.

The day after writing the song, she mailed it to the famous Gospel composer, Charles Gabriel, who penned the music.



Faith In Action

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,879.00

Worship Attendance:

July 3, 2022	57
July 10, 2022	56
July 17, 2022	57
July 24, 2022	53

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
July 3, 2022	\$4,360.00	\$391.55
July 10, 2022	\$2,285.00	\$1,822.40
July 17, 2022	\$1,281.00	\$50.00
July 24, 2022	\$5,260.00	\$810.00

Sunday School Attendance

July 3, 2022	4
July 10, 2022	4
July 17, 2022	7
July 24, 2022	0

Altar Flowers

August 7, 2022	Ron & Mary Steiner
August 14, 2022	Don & Mary Irvin
August 21, 2022	Paul & Marla Scannell
August 28, 2022	Jon & Chelsey Cook

Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2,
which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my
DELIVERER; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE**
REFUGE. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my
SALVATION, my **STRONGHOLD**.

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

GOD ROCKS!

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 8/1

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27
Romans 8:26-30, Matthew 23:1-12

Tuesday 8/2

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34
Romans 8:31-39
Matthew 23:13-26

Wednesday 8/3

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Deuteronomy 1:1-18
Romans 9:1-18, Matthew 23:27-39

Thursday 8/4

Psalm 18, Deuteronomy 9:19-33
Romans 9:19-33, Matthew 24:1-14

Friday 8/5

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Deuteronomy 31:7-13, 24-32:4
Romans 10:1-13
Matthew 24:15-31

Saturday 8/6

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Romans 10:14-21
Matthew 24:32-51

Sunday 8/7

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Joshua 1:1-18
Acts 21:3-15, Mark 1:21-27

Monday 8/8

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Joshua 2:1-14
Romans 11:1-12, Matthew 25:1-13

Tuesday 8/9

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Joshua 2:15-24
Romans 11:13-24
Matthew 25:14-30

Wednesday 8/10

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Joshua 3:1-13
Romans 11:25-36
Matthew 25:31-46

Thursday 8/11

Psalm 37, Joshua 3:14-4:7
Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 26:1-16

Friday 8/12

Psalm 31, 35
Joshua 4:19-5:1, 10-15
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 26:17-25

Saturday 8/13

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Joshua 6:1-14
Romans 13:1-7
Matthew 26:26-35

Sunday 8/14

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Joshua 6:15-27
Acts 22:30-23:11, Mark 2:1-12

Monday 8/15

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Joshua 7:1-13
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 26:36-46

Tuesday 8/16

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Joshua 8:1-12
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 26:47-56

Wednesday 8/17

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Joshua 8:30-35
Romans 14:13-23
Matthew 26:57-68

Thursday 8/18

Psalm 66, 67, Joshua 9:3-21
Romans 15:1-13
Matthew 26:69-75

Friday 8/19

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Joshua 9:22-10:15
Romans 15:14-24
Matthew 27:1-10

Saturday 8/20

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Joshua 23:1-16
Romans 15:25-33
Matthew 27:11-23

Sunday 8/21

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Joshua 24:1-15
Acts 28:23-31, Mark 2:23-31

Monday 8/22

Psalm 58, 64, 65, Joshua 24:16-33
Romans 16:1-16
Matthew 27:24-31

Tuesday 8/23

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Judges 2:1-5, 11-23
Romans 16:17-27
Matthew 27:32-44

Wednesday 8/24

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Judges 3:12-30
Acts 1:1-14, Matthew 27:45-54

Thursday 8/25

Psalm 70, 71, 74, Judges 4:4-23
Acts 1:15-26, Matthew 27:55-66

Friday 8/26

Psalm 69, 73, Judges 5:1-18
Acts 2:1-21, Matthew 28:1-10

Saturday 8/27

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Judges 5:19-31
Acts 2:22-36, Matthew 28:11-20

Sunday 8/28

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Judges 6:1-24
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Mark 3:20-30

Monday 8/29

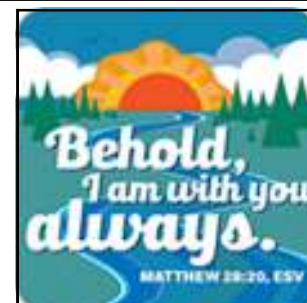
Psalm 79, 80, Judges 6:25-40
Acts 2:37-47, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 8/30

Psalm 78, Judges 7:1-18
Acts 3:1-11, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 8/31

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Judges 7:19-8:12
Acts 3:12-26, John 1:29-42



Missions

The Bradley W. Joseph Memorial Fund 14th Annual Golf Outing



BRAD JOSEPH MEMORIAL FUND

the 14th Annual Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing. A total of \$3,140 was raised this year of which \$785 will go into St. Paul's Brad Joseph Memorial Camp Scholarship Fund. Said fund may be used by children wishing to go to a United Methodist church camps or by adults wishing to go to a workshop or retreat. The total amount in the Brad Joseph Memorial Fund is now \$55,320 and is used to send adults on medical missions to other countries. The 15th and final Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing will be on July 8, 2023 at Colonial Golfers Club.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN!!!!



Thank you to our St. Paul's Golfer's:
Who placed 2nd!!
Larry and Shirley Moser, Tim Theodore
and Denny Thompson

Thank you to our St. Paul's helpers:
Dan and Margie Best, Norm Grigsby,
Jami and Jan Wyant, and Marty White

Kits Mission

SCHOOL KITS

Starting a new school year is exciting...but for children who don't have school supplies, it can also be terrifying. That's where these kits - and your compassion - come in!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ◆ One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only).
- ◆ Three 70-count bound notebooks.
- ◆ One 30-centimeter, 12" ruler.
- ◆ One hand-held pencil sharpener (removed from package).
- ◆ One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers).
- ◆ Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (removed from the package).
- ◆ One box of 24 crayons.
- ◆ **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits.

Pack kit in a **2 gallon size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.



Last collection day is August 28



HEALTH KITS

When people are forced to abruptly leave their homes because of emergencies, they may not have time to pack the things they use on a daily basis like toothbrushes or soap. But after a few days without these items, they definitely miss them. Your hygiene kits offer a refreshing daily boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ◆ One hand towel measuring @ 15" x 28" to 16" x 32 (no micro-fiber).
- ◆ One washcloth.
- ◆ One wide-tooth comb (removed from package).
(if you want to purchase comb from Bev Nesbitt include \$1.00 in your kit).
- ◆ One fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from package).
- ◆ One bath size bar of soap in original package.
- ◆ One toothbrush in original package.
- ◆ Ten standard size Band-Aids.
- ◆ **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits.

Seal kit in a **gallon size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.

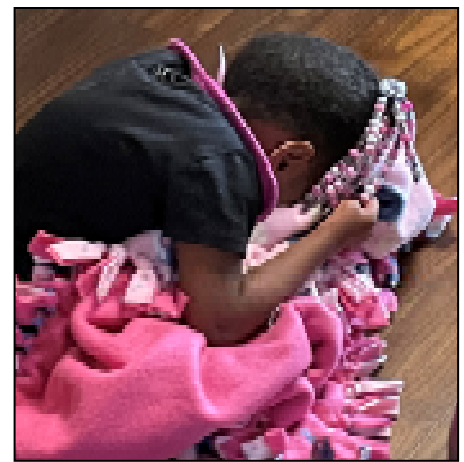
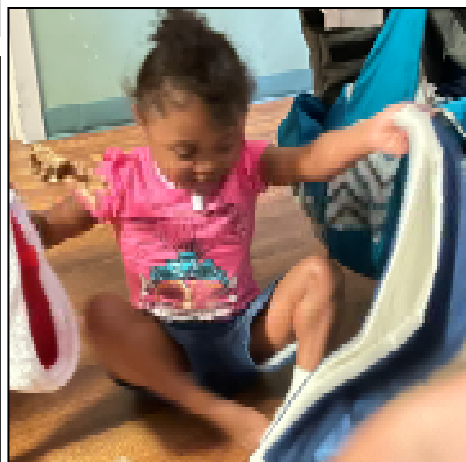
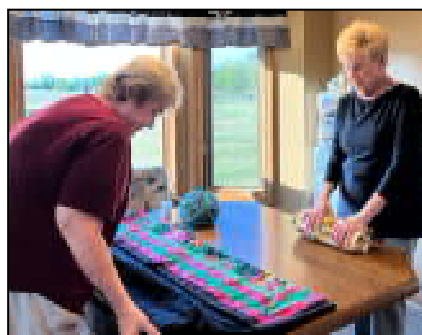
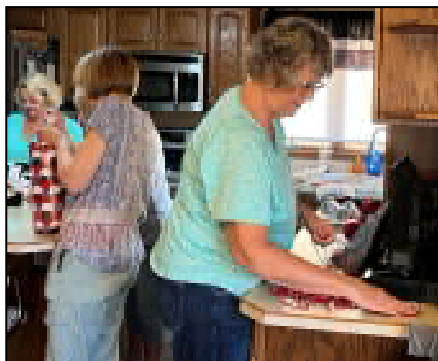
Crafty Creatures

“Christmas in July”

The Crafty Creatures were gifted several yards of fleece material which was made into 24 beautiful blankets. It was decided to pass these, along with some of our other quilts, to the Sunshine Facility, in Holland, Ohio. This is a home to many severely handicapped children and adults that need extra care. Many have no visitors or family. We could do a small part to make their world happier.

After spending an evening (thanks to those who donated paper) wrapping our 18 children’s and 48 Adult Christmas presents, we were set for delivery. Christmas cookies were given out, plus the presents, by Santa and his elves.

We receive many blessings when donating our quilts, and this day was filled with many smiles and much laughter.



Connecting With...

THANK YOU!!!



Thank you
Corinne Piper for leading the
Worship Service on Sunday, July 17.



Special Music
July 17
Lena Whetstone
"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

THANK YOU

*St. Paul's Friends,
Thank you for a wonderful funeral dinner
for Denny.
You may have had a kind word, or a prayer,
or a visit to Denny. Thank you for your
cards. You have been by our side in this long
journey that Denny and I have had together.
Love and thank you!
Connie, Tracy and the Mault Family*



Remember in Prayer

*Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital*
Greg Schade

*Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement*
Ted and Jan Soddors

In the Military
Nathan Stewart

The People of St. Paul's

Our Sympathy to the Scannell family on the Passing of Marla's father, Ted Lennox, on Sunday, July 3. A memorial service was held in Wyandotte, Michigan on Saturday, July 23rd. Cards may be sent to 113 E. Main St., Elida, OH 45807



Our sympathy to Connie Mault on the passing of her husband Denny, on July 14. A memorial service was held on July 19. cards may reach Connie at 117 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807

Our condolences to the family of Brooks May who passed away on July 18. Brooks and Jeannine would have celebrated their 62 wedding anniversary on August 28. A memorial service was held on July 23. Cards may reach Jeannine at 9633 Piquad Rd., Delphos, OH 45833

Always in our hearts
 Always a part of us
 Never to be forgotten
 Never to be lost
 For you live on
 In our memories
 In our hearts
 In our minds
 In our souls
 You are a part of us
 We carry you within
 Always held dearly
 Always held closely
 Always with love



Our sympathy to Travis and Julie Bok family and Brady and Tiffany Emmons family on the passing their grandmother, Mary Lou Bok, on July 16.

Evelyn Sarber, a long time member of St. Paul's, passed on July 22. Evelyn was 102 years old, just a couple months shy of her 103rd birthday. She was a volunteer at St. Rita's medical center until 2020. She moved into Otterbein Cridersville, Independent living in 2020 and continued to enjoy her independence and going on walks. A graveside service was held on July 29th.

Meetings

August 2, 2022
Trustees...7:00 PM
 August 3, 2022
Worship Mtg..10:00 AM
 August 8, 2022
PPR...6:00 PM
 August 8, 2022
Ad Council / Finance 7:00 PM
 TBA
Missions Mtg.
Sundays
Worship...10:00 AM

AUGUST 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Mary Grigsby Tim White	2	3	4 Joy Fletcher Cody Scannell	5	6 Anne Laman
7	8 Myrna Metzger	9 Ruth Hardy	10 Kathy Furry	11 Nancy Kizer Michele Luhn Emma Scannell	12	13
14 Chris Przekora	15 Virginia Doseck Polly McPheron	16 Bev nesbitt	17	18 Tracy Sdao	19 Jacquie Bice	20 Austin Lewis Dennis Metzger
21	22	23 Aric Thompson	24 Gail Fessler	25 Ira Slemmons	26	27
28 Julia White	29 Brad Selover Justin Wyant	30 Esther McKinney Cole Lewis	31			

- Happy Anniversary*
- ♥♥♥♥♥ *Scott & Beth Warris August 1*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *AJ & Tara Strauch August 2*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Ron & Mary Steiner August 3; 53 yrs.*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Jim & Christie Lewis August 3*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Brandon & Jaime Chambers August 4*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Brady & Tiffany Emmons August 4*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Steve & Tracy Sdao August 4*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Dennis & Kim Metzger August 5; 44 yrs.*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Jamie & Jan Wyant August 6; 45 yrs.*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Scott & Michelle Grapner August 11*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *David & Susan Nartker August 16; 47 yrs.*
 - ♥♥♥♥♥ *Ron & Kay McAdams August 19; 61 yrs.*

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Chickeatas (aka - Salty Chicken Stuff)

By Gail Fessler

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 cup	Spaghetti, raw and broken	Mix broth, mushroom soup, 1/2 of grated cheese in a sauce pan, until cheese is melted. Break raw spaghetti into baking dish,. pour hot mixture into baking dish over the raw spaghetti. Top with remaining cheese. (good with extra cheese) Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Or until cheese is golden and bubbly. *Can make early and let set before baking.
2 cups	Chicken, cooked and chunked	
1 small	Onion, cubed	
1 (optional)	Green pepper	
1 can	Chicken broth	
1 can	Cream of mushroom soup	
1/2 lb.	Cheddar cheese , shredded	



SEEKING RECIPES!!

We would love to pass your special recipes on to others by featuring them on this page of our newsletter.

Recipes may be e-mailed, snail mailed, or brought into the church office.

KIDZ KORNER

Superior BANANA SPLIT

Fruit and yogurt combine for this healthy take on a sweet treat.



What you need:

- Bananas
- Plain Greek yogurt
- Assorted berries and fruit
- Granola
- Honey

What you do:

1. Using a butter knife, split the banana in half lengthwise. Lay the halves open in a bowl.
2. Add several dollops of yogurt atop the banana halves.
3. Arrange other fruit, such as berries and grapes.
4. Top the banana split with a sprinkle of granola and a drizzle of honey. Enjoy!



Fruit or false



Spotting true fruits can be tricky. Thankfully, it's much easier to spot the fruit of the Spirit.



Directions: Determine whether each item is a fruit or vegetable and circle the correct letter. Then insert the letters in order below to complete the verses.

	Fruit	Vegetable		Fruit	Vegetable
Apple	V	P		Pepper	O U
Carrot	E	O		Spinach	R S
Tomato	Y	R		Watermelon	H P
Grape	C	F		Broccoli	G N
Eggplant	T	D		Pumpkin	T Y
Celery	I	N		Pear	F C
Banana	K	M		Asparagus	L R
Cucumber	N	W			

But the fruit of the Spirit is lo__e, j__ __, pea__e,

pa__ie__ce, __ind__ess, go__dne__s,

fait__ful__ess, gen__leness, sel__-cont__ol.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, ESV

Answer: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elida, OH
45807
Permit No. 71

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Safe and Secure

The Resurrection is an exploding flare announcing to all sincere seekers that it is safe to believe. Safe to believe in ultimate justice. Safe to believe in eternal bodies. Safe to believe in heaven as our estate and the earth as its porch. Safe to believe in a time where questions won't keep us awake and pain won't keep us down. Safe to believe in open graves and endless days and genuine praise. ...

Because of the Resurrection, everything changes. Death changes. It used to be the end; now it is the beginning.

—Max Lucado, *When Christ Comes*

New Seat, New Perspective

In older sitcoms, family members, especially parents, each had their own chair in the living room. No one else sat there. If its “owner” wasn't present, the on-set chair remained empty. Church can be like that too, with people claiming the same seat week after week. Our view of the service and of fellow worshipers is familiar and comfortable.

Recently, our family was “bumped” back a bit, which felt surprisingly different at first. But we interacted just the same with the service. As a bonus, I talked with different people. And after church we stayed to visit a bit longer.

I'm glad church seats don't have nameplates. And I'm thankful that God nudges me out of my comfort zone from time to time, giving me a new perspective.

—Janna Firestone