

St. Paul's Epistle

Volume 39, Issue I

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

January, 2016

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.

Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

officeespc@gmail.com

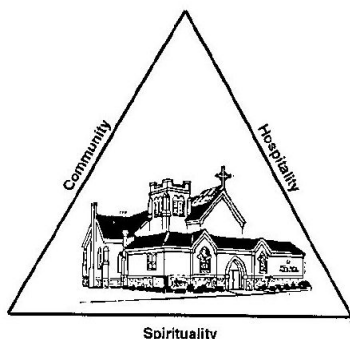
Rev. Paul Scannell

419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

pastorespc@gmail.com

4pastor paul@gmail.com



Happy New Year! Wow, another year gone. How time flies when you are having fun. I want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who sent a card or gift to my family. We appreciate all that we receive and give thanks for our wonderful church family.

January is a time to start new every year; the same as the gift given to us through the sacrifice of Christ. The gift of new life found in the grace of Jesus allows us to start new each day. As we start each day for Christ my hope is that you will share your gifts and talents where ever God sends you this new year.

February 7th we have another opportunity to do some community outreach, but this time they will be coming to us. We are going to be celebrating Scout Sunday by inviting Girl, Cub and Boy Scouts to come participate in our worship service. They will have a chance to help in many aspects of the Sunday Service: greeting, ushering, liturgy, acolyte and a special flag ceremony. There may be several new families present who do not have a church home so let His light shine through you.

Have a Happy New Year and stay warm and dry.

Pastor Paul

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Welcome
2016!

*God's love creates
thankful hearts.*



Thank you to everyone who made and donated items and or bought items at the cookie walk on December 13th. The Nurture committee collected \$610.00 which will go to the Crafty Creatures small group missions for material and items needed to make quilts for residents in nursing homes.

Thank You



Thank you to all who placed hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves on our sanctuary Christmas tree. The tree was overflowing with items. The items were taken to Lima Rescue Mission, Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and Samaritan House.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

January 3, 2015
Coins For Communion
will benefit Heartbeat
of Lima.

**There will be no Seniors
Day Out in January.
We will see you Feb. 16!**

**Food Pantry Sunday
January 17th**
**Items needed:
Canned Vegetables**



St. Paul's Epistle	
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Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

**St. Paul's Book Club
will meet on Saturday,
January 2, 2016 @ 9:00 AM.**

**The Shoemaker's Wife
By Adriana Trigiani
will be discussed.**

**Bring your own
breakfast and join the
discussion group**



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

Thank You!

Special thanks to the **McAdams family** for their gift of the beautiful new multi-media desk. A special thank-you to **Alex McAdams** and **Art Heft** for building the desk. It is a beautiful addition to our sanctuary.

Thank you to the Tech Team members that prepare and run the visuals: **Judy Chaffins, Tim Piper, Tony Shoup, and Jamie Wyant.** Thank you to **Scott Fessler** and **Tim Theodore** who run the sound system.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Thank you to Judy Chaffins for directing the choir for the cantata, **Rise Up: A New Light A-Comin** that was performed on Sunday, December 20th. Thank you to Lois Cook, piano accompanist, Marty White, narrator, St. Paul's children, and those who helped behind the scenes.

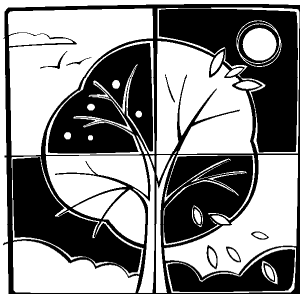
Thank You

Thank you to **Dwain and Myrna Metzger, Stacy Alexander, Alex McAdams, and Larry Moser** for decorating the church for this Christmas season.

Everything looked beautiful!



The Right Time



I find New Year's depressing. Another year has ended, another has begun. You are one year older; one year closer to your end... Happy New Year! And though we rarely have church on New Year's, the scripture assigned is the appropriately depressing but perhaps instructive poetry from Ecclesiastes 3:1-3:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal. "

When Pete Seger set those words to music I thought them beautiful, until I read them in context. They suddenly revealed themselves to be terribly dark. After considering the passing of time, Ecclesiastes asks, "What gain have the workers from their toil (verse 9)?" What good comes of it?

Look back on the year that has just passed. There is a time to live, yes. A time to write checks, a time to paint bedrooms, a time to care for the yard, a time for conservatives, a time for liberals, a time for independents, and a time to die. And with that time, a January wind blows through this ancient poem.

As we read these words, we are not in Hebrew time, which begins somewhere and steadily moves somewhere to its gracious fulfillment. This is Greek time. It is circular, without beginning or end. We are not moving forward, onward, or upward. We are on the treadmill to nowhere.

The writer isn't just talking about how time passes. The writer says there is a "right time" for every matter under heaven. For example, a doctor told me that timing is everything in diagnosis. If the patient comes too early to the physician, the complaint is unspecific and difficult to pinpoint. But if the patient waits too long the illness can progress too far and it is too late for treatment. The same could be said about the difference between the right time and almost the right time.

In all things - birth, death, love, war, planting, and harvesting - there is the right time. It is beyond us to fully know the appropriate time for anything. God is God and we are not. At New Year's, Ecclesiastes bids us to think of the difference between us and God in terms of time.

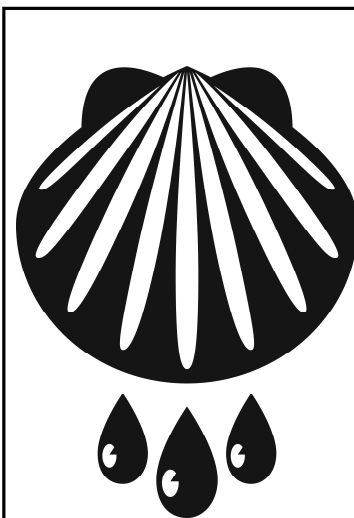
As a teacher, I have learned that there is a "teachable moment," that sacred, unknown moment when the listener becomes a learner and the eyes light up. The heartbeat quickens, and it is the right time. The older you get, the more you see how often you have done something right, but at the wrong time. You pushed your children too soon, or you missed a golden opportunity, or you jumped forward when you should have stood still.

It would be great wisdom to always know the right time. But Ecclesiastes says that it is greater wisdom to accept our finite, creaturely status. Too much is outside our ability to control. The right time is in God's hands, not ours.

Christmas was such a time. Mary and Joseph didn't know it as they went about paying taxes, visiting relatives, getting engaged, having a baby. But it was the right time; God knew.

You and I are not gods unto ourselves. We cannot know the right time. Yet, here is the good news: Wherever life takes you in the coming year, the seasons of your life are held in God's hand and by God's grace. All shall be well.

** By William H. Willimon,
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A scallop shell, pointing down with three drops of water falling from it, is often used to symbolize baptism and the washing away of sin. The three water droplets stand for the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Poem

When The Clouds Roll By

By Dillon Staas

*Amidst the fury of the storm
Our minds are filled with fear.
And yet we know within our hearts
That sunny skies are near.*

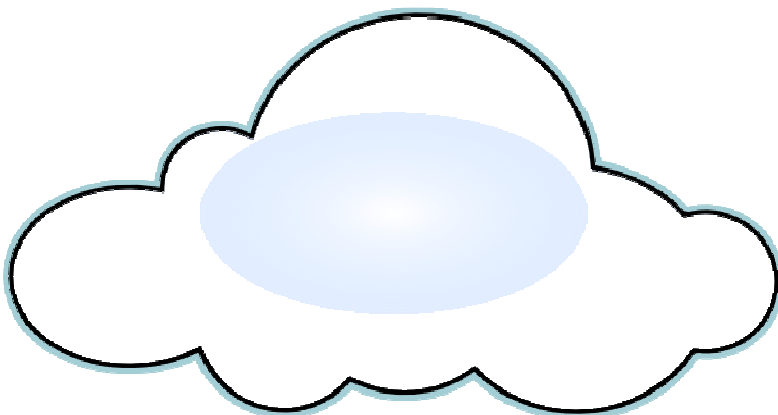
*The terror of the thunder as
The lightening sears our eyes
Will not allow our minds to see
Beyond the children's cries.*

*To look upon the beauty
With the passing of the cloud;
To feel the whisper of the wind
That tells its tale aloud.*

*And so it is with every curse
On us which life has brought,
That in the end, what happens here
Shall yet amount to naught.*

*For with the passing of the cloud
Cerebral skies will clear,
And we shall find a sunny heart
Immersed in joy and cheer.*

*So when your heart is heavy and
A teardrop dims your eye,
Remember that the sunshine follows
When the clouds roll by.*



Faith In Action

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget

Worship Attendance:

November 29, 2015	116
December 6, 2015	129
December 13, 2015	115
December 20, 2015	149
December 24, 2015 6:00 PM	47
December 24, 2015 10:00 PM	144
December 27, 2015	81

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 29, 2015	\$1,197.53	\$385.00
December 6, 2015	\$6,297.50	\$742.17
December 13, 2015	\$2,898.00	\$1,286.00
December 20, 2015	\$2,967.00	\$1,005.52
December 27, 2015	\$1,461.00	\$234.45

Sunday School Attendance

November 29, 2015	16
December 6, 2015	29
December 13, 2015	26
December 20, 2015	9
December 27, 2015	6

Greeters

January 3, 2016	Steve & Tracy Sdao
January 10, 2016	Ron & Mary Steiner
January 17, 2016	Susan Nartker
January 24, 2016	Denny & Janna Thompson
January 31, 2016	Don & Mary Irvin

Communion Servers January 3

Station #1	Steve & Tracy Sdao
Station #2	OPEN
Station #3	OPEN

Flower Calendar

January 3, 2016	Paul & Marla Scannell
January 10, 2016	Bill & Joyce Nichols
January 17, 2016	Ruth Hardy
January 24, 2016	Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
January 31, 2016	Don & Mary Irvin

Daily Bible Readings

Friday 1/1

Psalm 90, Isaiah 65:15b-25
Revelation 21:1-6

Saturday 1/2

Psalm 103, 148, Isaiah 62:1-12
Colossians 2:6-12, John 16:23b-30

Sunday 1/3

Psalm 66, 67, 145
Colossians 3:12-17, John 6:41-47

Monday 1/4

Psalm 33, 34, 1 Kings 19:1-8
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:1-14

Tuesday 1/5

Psalm 68, 72, 1 Kings 19:9-18
Ephesians 4:17-32, John 6:15-27

Wednesday 1/6

Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29
Joshua 3:14-4:7
Ephesians 5:1-20
John 9:1-12, 35-38

Thursday 1/7

Psalm 2, 110, Jonah 2:2-9
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 11:17-27, 38-44

Friday 1/8

Psalm 29, 98, Isaiah 66:18-23
Romans 15:7-13

Saturday 1/9

Psalm 46, 97, 96, 100
Isaiah 49:1-7
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21

Sunday 1/10

Psalm 103, 114, 115
Deuteronomy 8:1-3
Colossians 1:1-14
John 6:30-33, 48-51

Monday 1/11

Psalm 112, 113, 117, 118
Exodus 17:1-7
Colossians 1:15-23, John 7:37-52

Tuesday 1/12

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 131, 132
Isaiah 45:14-19
Colossians 1:24-2:7
John 8:12-19

Wednesday 1/13

Psalm 138, 139, 147
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Colossians 2:8-23, John 10:7-17

Thursday 1/14

Psalm 91, 92, 148, 150
Isaiah 55:3-9
Colossians 3:1-17, John 14:6-14

Friday 1/15

Psalm 98, 99, 100
Genesis 49:1-12
Colossians 3:18-4:6
John 15:1-16

Saturday 1/16

Psalm 104, Isaiah 61:1-9
Galatians 3:23-4:7

Sunday 1/17

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Genesis 1:1-2:3
Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:29-34

Monday 1/18

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Genesis 2:4-25
Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 1/19

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Genesis 3:1-24
Hebrews 2:1-10, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 1/20

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 2:11-18, John 1:29-42

Thursday 1/21

Psalm 18, Genesis 4:17-26
Hebrews 3:1-11
John 1:43-51

Friday 1/22

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Genesis 6:1-8
Hebrews 3:12-19, John 2:1-12

Saturday 1/23

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Genesis 6:9-22
Hebrews 4:1-13, John 2:13-22

Sunday 1/24

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Genesis 7:1-23
Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19

Monday 1/25

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Genesis 8:6-22
Hebrews 4:14-5:6
John 2:23-3:15

Tuesday 1/26

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Genesis 9:1-17
Hebrews 5:7-14, John 3:16-21

Wednesday 1/27

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Genesis 9:18-29
Hebrews 6:1-12, John 3:22-36

Thursday 1/28

Psalm 37, Genesis 11:1-9
Hebrews 6:13-20, John 4:1-15

Friday 1/29

Psalm 31, 35, Genesis 11:27-12:8
Hebrews 7:1-17
John 4:16-26

Saturday 1/30

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Genesis 12:9-13:1
Hebrews 7:18-28, John 4:27-42

Sunday 1/31

Psalm 93, 98, 103
Genesis 13:2-18
Galatians 2:1-10
Mark 7:31-37

Seniors Day Out



At the Seniors Day Out on **November 17th**, the Seniors enjoyed a presentation about Coffee by Andrew Piper, son of Tim and Corinne.



Seniors Day Out, **December 15th**. Al and Karen Joseph came to provide Christmas music to the seniors. Dillon Staas wrote a song that was sung by Linda Holman, Dillon Staas, Al Joseph, and Anne Laman.

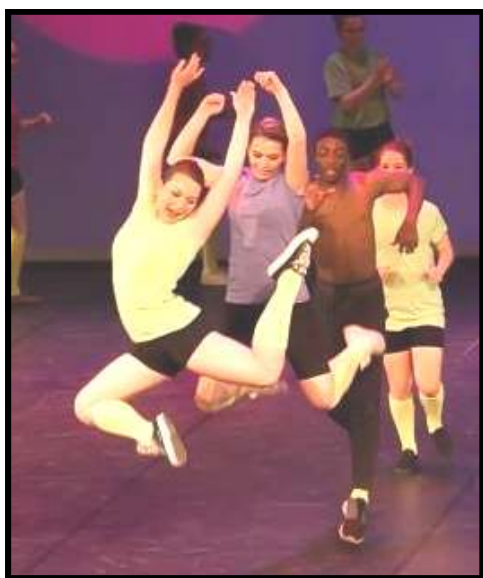


Spotlight on Youth

Making the Grade

Congratulations to the following St. Paul's youth that made their school's honor roll for the 1st grading period.

- * Elida Middle School, **Makayla Bok**, 7th grade Honor Roll I.
- * Spencerville High School, **Jenson Nagy**, 9th grade Honor Roll II.
- * Elida High School, **Joshua Guess**, 10th grade Honor Roll II
- * Elida High School, **Isaac McAdams**, 10th grade Honor Roll II



Emma Scannell traveled to Europe this Summer for 3 weeks where she danced in Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium and France with the Blue Lake Fine Arts European Tour. This Fall she danced at Ohio Northern University in Paul Taylor's Esplanade in association with Taylor 2 Dance Company. Emma danced the role of the Prince in the Nutcracker for Lyn's Dance Academy this December at the Civic Center.

Congrats to Jenson Nagy for being a starter as a freshman on the Spencerville Girls Volleyball Team, who just finished their season. Way to go Jenson!

Congratulations to Dalton and Channing Poling and the Elida Crew who finished their season 11-0-2 and won the fifth/sixth grade WCOSA Championship. Way to go Dalton and Channing!



Remember When...



Church Meeting
January, 1986
L-R: Judy Chaffins, Linda Holman,
Elaine Gladfelter, Ron Gossard



Adult Sunday School
January, 1995
L-R: Marty White, Ron and Mary
Steiner, Margie Best, Janna
Thompson, Kathy White



Youth Fundraising
Spaghetti Dinner
January 30, 2005



Connecting With ...

These young people participated in the service on November 29, 2015.
 L-R: Torie McAdams, Stacy Alexander, Alex McAdams, Isaac McAdams, Tahler Sdao, and Oliver Fessler



Congratulations to Travis and Julie Bok on the birth of their son, Terry Isaiah Bok, born on November 27, 2015, at 3:21 PM. He was their Black Friday deal! He weighed 7lbs. 14oz. and was 21in. long. His very proud big sisters are Makayla and Anika Bok. Grandparents are Denny and Kim Metzger, aunts and uncle are Cari Metzger and Becky and Mike Ellinger and cousins are Adrianna and Sherilyn Ellinger. Cards may be sent to the Bok family at 2475 N. Kemp Rd., Elida, OH 45807.

It's a boy!

Congratulations to Jonathan Edward Perry who was baptized on Sunday, December 20th. He is the son of Nick and Jacinda Perry and grandson of John and Joy Fletcher.



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Shirley Adams
Karen Bible
Joanna Hurd

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Jean Redd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Karen Bible
Joanna Hurd

Thank You!

We want to thank you all for the lovely flowers and for all of the cards we have received! We feel so blessed to have such a loving church family!

 Love
 Travis & Julie Bok

St. Paul's December Activities

December 8
Holiday
Home Tour



December 10
Making
candy for
Candy Walk



December 13
Cookie Walk



December 17
Gift bags prepared
by the Nurture
Committee for the
homebound.



December 20
Cantata "Rise Up:
A New Light A-Comin"

December 14
Making white chocolate
snowflakes for Seniors Day Out



Meetings

January 2016

TBA
PPR...7:00 PM

January 5, 2016
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 6, 2016
Worship Team..6:00 PM

No Finance Mtg.

January 11, 2016
Ad Council..7:00 PM

January 13, 2016
Missions...6:00 PM

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

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Tim Piper	2
3 Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook	6	7	8 Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9 Jenessa Peters
10 Larkin Wyant	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13	14 Roger Henderson	15	16 Steve Sdao
17 Norm Grigsby 86 yrs.	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup	22	23 Joanne Bragg
24	25	26 Ginger Fox	27 Jackie Henderson	28	29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White
31 Judy Strayer						



Anniversaries

Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
 January 1
 60 yrs.

Paul & Marla Scannell
 January 8

Gerald & Wanda Strayer
 January 13
 62 yrs.

Bill & Bev Nesbitt
 January 16

Don & Maedene Holmes
 January 25
 57 yrs.

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

Spiced Nuts *by Jan Wyant*

Ingredients		Instructions
2 sticks	Margarine	Melt margarine in large skillet. Add nuts. Cook on low temperature for 20 minutes. Sift powdered sugar with spices. Remove nuts from heat and drain on paper towel. Add nuts to sugar mixture while warm. Coat well. Spread on paper towel to cool.
4 cups	Pecans or favorite nut	
3 cups	Powdered sugar	
2 Tbl.	Cinnamon	
2 Tbl.	Ground cloves	
2Tbl.	Nutmeg	



Golden Potato Soup *By Myrna Metzger*

Ingredients		Instructions
10 slices	Bacon, thinly chopped	Cook bacon in soup pot until done. Add green onions; saute 3 minutes. Add potatoes; cook 3-5 minutes. Add chicken stock. Cover and cook until potatoes are done.
1 bunch	Green onions, including green parts, chopped	
2 lb.	Raw potatoes, peeled and diced	While soup is cooking, melt butter in saucepan. Add flour to make roux. Cook for 3 minutes. Add roux to boiling soup and cook until the soup thickens.
1/2 cup	Butter	
1/2 cup	Flour	Add cream; then blend in grated cheese. Add water if needed. Serve with grated cheese, bacon bits and chopped green onion on top.
1/2 cup	Heavy cream	
2 small cans	Chicken broth	
1 cup	Grated cheddar cheese	



KIDZ KORNER

GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.

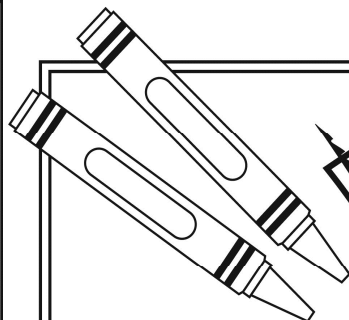


What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



PUZZLE

LET THERE BE LIGHT

In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

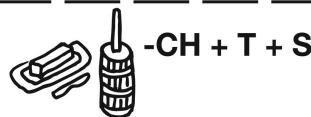
" Y O U , _____ , A R E





_____ ; T H E



_____ M Y



D +  +  - T + S

I N T O _____ .



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Kindness Counts

Need some creative ideas for performing acts of kindness? From randomactsofkindness.org:

- Make blankets or scarves for homeless people.
- Send a care package to someone who's in college or the military.
- Collect coins for a charity or cause.
- When you can't attend an event, give the tickets to strangers.
- Provide tutoring or mentoring in your field of expertise.
- Offer to babysit or pet-sit for free.
- Send a note of appreciation to someone who's made a difference in your life.
- Share your gifts of music, reading or conversation at a nursing home.
- Donate old sports equipment to schools.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt — maybe even a family member or yourself!

Seeking the Best

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing — that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

—Fred Rogers

Special Dates

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2016
- Epiphany, January 6, 2016
- Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2016
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, January 18, 2016
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2016