

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 48, Issue 7

July, 2025

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.

Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

[officeespc@gmail.com](mailto:officeespc@gmail.com)

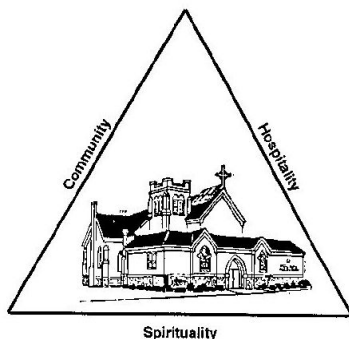
Rev. Paul Scannell

419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

[pastorespc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorespc@gmail.com)

[4pastorpaul@gmail.com](mailto:4pastorpaul@gmail.com)



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July is here!

As I write this, it is just a few days before we (I) begin the new adventure with Lima Westside. I feel like a hamster on a wheel running as fast as I can and getting nowhere. I hope you will all be patient as we learn a new way of living, into worship and ministry, as part of a 2 point charge. I will be adding some office hours on Sundays from 1-5 pm, and I will be at Westside on Tuesdays, and you can always come over there and meet with me. The schedule will be M, W, Th 10-2, and Su 1-5 at Elida, and Tu 10-4 at Westside. You can always call, text, or email me, and we can schedule another time to meet. My normal days off are Friday and Saturday, but I will always be available for emergencies, and I am flexible with my schedule.

You are going to see an increased amount of information about finances and where we stand financially. We have seen a downward trend in our account balances for a couple of years, but we are getting, nearly, too low for comfort. So, I will begin to include in the weekly word a section of income received, and amount needed, with a running total for the month. You can find that information here in the newsletter, but hopefully, by seeing it on a weekly schedule, you will see the shortfall we continue to have. Please, be in prayer about how God is calling you to help with these needs.

A new church directory is in the beginning stages to updating our information. No pictures will be included, just a simple booklet with up-to-date names, addresses, and phone numbers. Please fill out an information card, so our records are up to date, and to let us know what you want, and don't want, published in the directory.

We will finish the 'God, Cars, and Faith Series' and begin a Series on 'Generations' in July. I will be out of town one week in July, but I am looking forward to a great summer of sermons, cookouts, and fun in the sun. Stay cool out there, and remember to stay hydrated. And until next month, remember, running on the hamster wheel may not get you anywhere, but it is keeping the lights on somewhere. I'll see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Paul*





July 6  
'Coins for Communion'  
to benefit  
Crossroads Crisis Center of Lima

**Family Promise Mission**  
**Monday, July 21**  
**(NOTE: Date Change)**

Volunteers needed to provide the evening meal for families through the Family Promise Mission.  
Contact Tim Piper for more information.

July 20  
**Five Loaves Food Pantry**  
**At The Church at Allentown**  
**Suggested Items:**  
Drink mixes and shelf-stable milk

**Thought for the Month:**

Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear.

—Catherine of Siena

## *Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*



**Deadline: the 20th**  
of each month

### Christian Symbol

#### **PELICAN**



In the Middle Ages, the pelican came to represent Jesus' sacrifice of his blood for the world. According to legend, a mother pelican, in times of famine, would pluck open her chest and feed her young with her own blood. An alternate myth was that she fed her dying young with her blood to revive them, losing her own life in the process. The depiction of a pelican with a drop of blood on her chest is called "the pelican in her piety."

#### **St. Paul's Epistle**

is published by St. Paul's  
United Methodist Church

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker

## Church Directory (non-pictorial)



**If you and your family wish to be included in the directory, please fill out this form and return it to the Church Office by August 10.**

### 2025 DIRECTORY INFORMATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last, Husband, Spouse*

*Names: children living at home*

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, Zip*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell #** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell #** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

## *Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*

### National Night Out

**August 5, 2025**

**6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

Elida Field House Parking lot.

St. Paul's, once again, will have a booth. Volunteers are needed. There will be a sign-up sheet at the media desk closer to date or contact Pastor Paul or the church office.

National Night Out is a community event observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in August.



### Sunnydale House Mission 5K Run

**September 1, at 9:00 AM  
(Labor Day)**

Volunteers needed at watering stations for the runners, in front of the church on Main St., and at the fieldhouse parking lot. If you would like to help, there will be a sign-up sheet at the media desk closer to the date.



# 2025 Annual Conference

## Conference Report, May 2025

Our new Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, presided over the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the West Ohio Annual Conference at Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, declaring that joy and love are contagious. The Bishop exuded these traits during the entire conference. This year's conference centered on the theme "Rise Up, Beloved," inspired by Mark 5:35-43. Bishop Jung emphasized unity in diversity and called for mutual support and Spirit-led collaboration. He also introduced The Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team, composed of clergy and laity from both conferences, to explore a vision for a shared future. The decision to form a unified Ohio Conference would come through votes by both West and East Ohio Annual conferences, with a recommendation expected in 2027. Bishop Jung concluded, "We are stronger together; let us rise up, beloved, and trust in God's promises."

Celebrative moments: Ordination of five Elders and four Deacons; commissioning of five provisional Elders and two provisional Deacons; recognition of 28 retiring clergy; commissioned one deaconess; evangelism Laity Award was given to Sandy Ferrell, Kirkersville UMC, and Fresh Starts Multiplier Award was received by Clifton UMC, Gem City Collective, and North Broadway UMC.

Worship was inspiring as always. Bishop Jung led a Litany of Confession, acknowledging harm the Church has caused to Indigenous peoples, women, people of color, the LGBTQ community, and those on the margins. He said, "Today, let the West Ohio Annual Conference reclaim the way of Jesus, loving all, rejecting none." Pastor Paul mentioned from the pulpit the engaging Bible studies led by Dr. AHyun Lee, that we listened to and participated in. In a matter of minutes, my table became community as we discussed the questions she presented. I especially liked these sessions, along with special music written and sung by talented artists from varying places.

There were four constitutional amendments voted upon, which passed at West Ohio. For any constitutional amendment to take effect, it must receive a two-thirds majority of the combined votes of all members present and voting from all annual conferences. The Council of Bishops will announce results in November. There were six recommendations adopted. Five are the usual financial issues. You may be interested to know that the 2026 budget shows that apportionments for continuing churches will decrease by 3 percent to \$11.7 million, based on 600 churches. Recommendation #6 stated that within three months of adjourning the 2025 Annual Conference, Bishop Hee Soo Jung and the West Ohio Cabinet, shall create a LGBTQ1+ ministries task force to: Support the LGBTQ+ laity, clergy, and candidates for licensed/ordained ministry; amplify their voices; monitor policy-making committees; and support ministries through educational support and collaboration. If you are interested in the unreported documents in full, please see Linda Craft or Pastor Paul.

It was a full, busy time during the four days of conference, which included pastor and laity sessions, reports, voting, Bible Study, celebrating, singing, worshiping, and praying. A highlight was seeing and saying hello to Elizabeth Trigg and some of my former team members when I served on the Board of Ordained Ministries. No former pastors from St. Paul's were in attendance.

Linda Craft,  
Lay Delegate





# Hymn History

## **The Gloria Patri ("Glory Be to the Father")**

"Then Sings My Soul", Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan

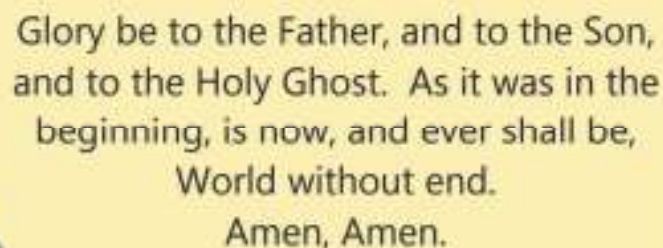
### **About AD100**

The word *doxology* comes from two Greek words: *Doxo*, meaning *praise*, and *-ology*, from *logos*, meaning *word*. A doxology then is a word or a burst of praise. The most famous doxology is the one written in 1674 by Thomas Ken, which begins: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." It's one of our oldest English hymns, but as doxologies go it's the new kid on the block. The oldest doxology still commonly sung today is the "Glori Patri," which dates almost to still New Testament times and has been used in various forms by the ancient church, the Roman Catholic Church, Orthodox churches, Anglicans, and Protestants. Arguably Christianity's oldest universally sung hymn, the "Gloria Patri" is often called the Lesser Doxology to distinguish it from another prominent doxology in the early church, the "Gloria in excelsis."

In its most common English rendering, the "Gloria Patri" is a praise of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who was and is and is to be, forever, world without end. According to John Julian's *Dictionary of Hymnology*, the "Gloria Patri" is possibly (but not demonstrably) of apostolic antiquity. Its Trinitarian language is derived from our Lord's commission in Matthew 28. St. Basil the Great asserts that the first part of this doxology was being sung in both the Eastern and Western churches as early as the time of St. Clement of Rome, who died about AD 100, not long after John the apostle.

When we sing the 'Gloria Patri' today, we commonly use a joyful melody composed by Henry Wellington Greatorex, who was born in Burton upon Trent, England, in 1816. His father the organist at Westermister Abbey, taught him music. In 1839, Henry immigrated to the United States, settled on New York, and himself became a church organist. Ten years later, he married an Irish immigrant, Eliza Pratt, who was a Wesleyan preacher's daughter.

Eliza went on to become one of the most famous artists of her day, as did their two daughters.



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end.  
Amen, Amen.

# Faith In Action

## Worship Attendance:

June 1, 2025	66
June 8, 2025 (Worship in the Park)	35
June 15, 2025 <i>Father's Day</i>	60
June 22, 2025	61

## Financial Giving

Weekly Need for  
Unified Ministry Budget  
\$4,386.25

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
June 1, 2025	\$5,296.00	\$295.00
June 8 & 15, 2025 combined	\$11,080.00	\$5,285.00
June 22, 2025	\$2,325.37	\$80.00

## Sunday School Attendance

June 1, 2025	12
June 8, 2025 (Worship in park)	0
June 15, 2025	7
June 22, 2025	6

## Hospitality Cart

July 6, 2025	Rife Family
July 13, 2025	Jamie & Jan Wyant
July 20, 2025	Greg & Barb Schade
July 27, 2025	OPEN

## Flower Calendar

July 6, 2025	Tim & Corinne Piper
July 13, 2025	Tim & Sue Theodore
July 20, 2025	Lois Cook
July 27, 2025	Gloria Brunk

## Communion Servers: July 6

### Station #1:

**Joella Stern & Gail Fessler**

### Station #2:

**Barb & Greg Schade**

# Daily Bible Readings

**Tuesday 7/1**

Psalm 45, 47, 48  
Deuteronomy 12:1-12  
2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1  
Luke 17:11-19

**Wednesday 7/2**

Psalm 53, 119:49-72  
Deuteronomy 13:1-11  
2 Corinthians 7:2-16  
Luke 17:20-37

**Thursday 7/3**

Psalm 59, 60  
Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:14-20  
2 Corinthians 8:1-16  
Luke 18:1-8

**Friday 7/4**

Psalm 40, 51, 54  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
2 Corinthians 8:16-24  
Luke 18:9-14

**Saturday 7/5**

Psalm 55, 138, 139:1-17  
Deuteronomy 29:2-15  
2 Corinthians 9:1-15  
Luke 18:15-30

**Sunday 7/6**

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84  
Deuteronomy 29:16-29  
Revelations 12:1-12  
Matthew 15:29-39

**Monday 7/7**

Psalm 58, 64, 65  
Deuteronomy 30:1-10  
2 Corinthians 10:1-18  
Luke 18:31-43

**Tuesday 7/8**

Psalm 61, 62, 68  
Deuteronomy 30:11-20  
2 Corinthians 11:1-21  
Luke 19:1-10

**Wednesday 7/9**

Psalm 72, 119:73-96  
Deuteronomy 31:30-32:14  
2 Corinthians 11:21-33  
Luke 19:11-27

**Thursday 7/10**

Psalm 70, 74  
2 Corinthians 12:1-10  
Luke 19:28-40

**Friday 7/11**

Psalm 69, 73  
2 Corinthians 12:11-21  
Luke 19:41-48

**Saturday 7/12**

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76  
Corinthians 13:1-14, Luke 20:1-8

**Sunday 7/13**

Psalm 34, 93, 96  
Revelation 15:1-8  
Matthew 18:1-14

**Monday 7/14**

Psalm 79, 80, 1 Samuel 1:1-20  
Acts 1:1-14, Luke 20:9-19

**Tuesday 7/15**

Psalm 78, 1 Samuel 1:21-2:11  
Acts 1:15-26, Luke 20:19-26

**Wednesday 7/16**

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120  
1 Samuel 2:12-26  
Acts 2:1-21, Luke 20:27-40

**Thursday 7/17**

Psalm 83, 85, 86  
1 Samuel 2:27-36  
Acts 2:22-36, Luke 20:41-21:4

**Friday 7/18**

Psalm 87, 90, 136  
1 Samuel 4:1-11  
Acts 4:32-5:11, Luke 21:20-28

**Saturday 7/19**

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67  
1 Samuel 4:12-22  
James 1:1-18, Matthew 19:23-30

**Sunday 7/20**

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67  
1 Samuel 4:12-22  
James 1:1-18, Matthew 19:23-30

**Monday 7/21**

Psalm 89, 1 Samuel 5:1-12  
Acts 5:12-26, Luke 21:29-36

**Tuesday 7/22**

Psalm 95, 100, 1 Samuel 6:1-16  
Acts 5:27-42, Luke 21:37-22:13

**Wednesday 7/23**

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144  
1 Samuel 7:2-17  
Acts 6:1-15, Luke 22:14-23

**Thursday 7/24**

Psalm 105, 1 Samuel 8:1-22  
Acts 6:15-7:16, Luke 22:24-30

**Friday 7/25**

Psalm 102, 107:1-32  
1 Samuel 9:1-14  
Acts 7:17-29, Luke 22:31-38

**Saturday 7/26**

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108  
1 Samuel 9:15-10:1  
Acts 7:30-43, Luke 22:39-51

**Sunday 7/27**

Psalm 118, 145  
1 Samuel 10:1-16  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 21:23-32

**Monday 7/28**

Psalm 106, 1 Samuel 10:17-27  
Acts 7:44-8:1, Luke 22:52-62

**Tuesday 7/29**

Psalm 120, 127, 1 Samuel 1-15  
Acts 8:1-13, Luke 22:63-71

**Wednesday 7/30**

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130  
1 Samuel 12:1-25  
Acts 8:14-25, Luke 23:1-12

**Thursday 7/31**

Psalm 133, 1 Samuel 13:5-18  
Acts 8:26-40, Luke 23:13-25



## Poem

### Fire Transforming Us For The Good

For many people, relaxing by a campfire is a favorite summer activity. Nestling into the surrounding darkness while gazing into dancing flames, we sense God's love and let the day's chaos go. In contrast, Exodus 24:17 describes, "Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a devouring fire."

Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes offers another take, writing about God using flames to change us. "unfolding light"

### Fire

God, your presence is like a consuming fire —  
not destructive, but transformative,  
not the fire of anger but the flame of love,  
the fire of glassblowers and bakers  
the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and useful.  
Your glory is no tame campfire  
where we sit and make s'mores.  
It burns out of our control.  
The furnace of your love  
roars about our hearts, remaking us  
Teach us to be unafraid. ...

Radiant One, I want your grace  
to burn away all the old junk that is not really me,  
like gold being refined.  
I want the warmth of your presence  
to melt what is hard and brittle in me.  
I want the heat of your love  
To change the chemistry of my heart,  
To bake me into something life-giving,  
To mold me into a new shape.  
Re-make me into a vessel of love.  
Your light shine in me, the aroma of you  
Waft from me to the oven.

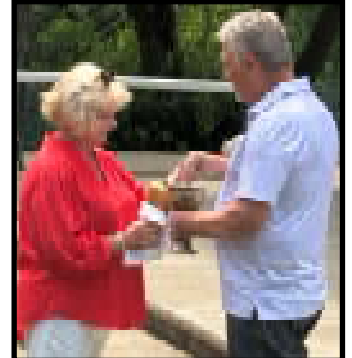
When you bask in firelight glow — and maybe eat some s'mores! — ponder how God is transforming you with love, and for the sake of love.





## Pentecost In The Park

Sunday, June 8, we had 'Pentecost in the Park' with 4 other United Methodist Churches from Allen County. Over 200 people gathered to celebrate together, United in the Spirit. It was a wonderful event which I hope becomes an annual event, where we can celebrate together and make a difference in Allen County. The offering is being equally divided between Church United Pantry and the Freedom School at the Bradfield Center. The offering collected at the park totaled \$1,872.81, and we received a special contribution from The Western Lakes District and our Superintendent, Rev. Jim Wilson, of \$5,000. Which means each organization will receive over \$3,400 to support their ministries here in Lima. Thank you for supporting this event, and I hope to see you out there next year for Pentecost Sunday.



*Bottom:* Pastor Jim Nathan, Lima, Trinity UMC; Pastor Paul Scannell, Elida St. Paul's UMC; Rev. Jim Wilson, District Superintendent; Pastor Eva Marie Wolfe, Shawnee UMC; Pastor Lynda Lockwood, Forest Park UMC; Pastor Dan Lee, Westside UMC.



## Kits

### SCHOOL KIT (Kids Kit)

The school kit has now become the **Kids Kit** - an updated, thoughtfully refreshed package filled with essentials to fuel children's creativity and learning.

- One box 12 colored pencils (**leave in box**)
- One 2-pocket folder
- One glue stick
- One pair of blunt scissors (**Round Tip, remove from package**)
- One **70-count** spiral notebook
- One 30-centimeter / 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener (**Remove from package**)
- One large eraser (**no pencil cap erasers**)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (**remove from package, rubber band together**)
- One box crayons (**24 count only**)

\$2.00 for processing and shipping kits

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

**KITS COLLECTION WILL BEGIN AUGUST 3 TO SEPTEMBER 7**

### HEALTH KIT (Hygiene Kit)

Many of those who receive this kit are living in temporary shelters or on the move. These simple supplies will make all the difference in giving someone a fresh start each day and helping them feel cared for.

- One washcloth
- One fingernail or toenail clipper (**remove from package**)
- One toothbrush (**in original package**)
- One bath-size bar of soap (**in original package**)
- One travel-size stick deodorant (**3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol**)
- One travel-size lotion (**3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free**)
- One travel-size shampoo (**3.4 oz. or less**)
- One travel-size toothpaste (**3.4 oz. or less, with expiration date of at least 1 year.**)

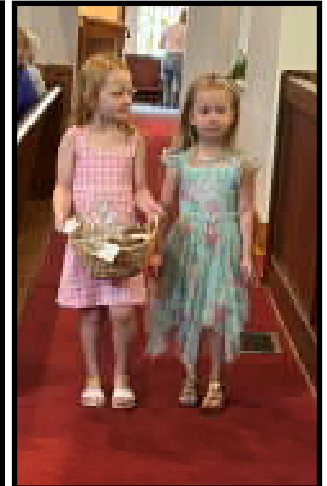
\$2.00 for processing and shipping kits

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

## Connecting With...

June 15

Children Passing out  
cookies to all the Men  
in the Congregation!



**KITS COLLECTION WILL BEGIN AUGUST 3 TO SEPTEMBER 7**

### PERIOD PACK

#### *Menstrual Hygiene Kit*

Many of our neighbors live in period poverty, lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies. These period packs give women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy, and live with dignity.

- Two - 2 oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- One - travel pack Wet Ones
- Ten - unscented tampons (**5 regular, 5 super absorbency**)
- Twelve - sanitary napkins (**long super ultra-thin**)
- One - bath-size bar of soap, 3 oz bar or larger, in original Package.  
(**NO Ivory or Jergen's soap**)
- One-pack flushable wipes (**unscented, 42 count**)

**\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits

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



## The People of St. Paul's

To My Friends at St. Paul's,  
Thank you for the Spring  
goodie box and the many  
other thoughtful cards and  
gifts you've given me.  
I'm still adjusting, but your  
kindness makes my days  
better.

Bless You All!  
Helen Staas



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

***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.***

### Remember in Prayer

#### Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Doug Fox  
Janet Grigg  
Wanda Strayer

#### Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Doug Fox  
Janet and Gary Grigg  
Wanda Strayer

#### In the Military & Missions

Nathan Stewart



### Complete Joy

Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture him lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our “joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.

# JULY 2025

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

**Sundays**  
**Hospitality...9:30 AM**  
**Worship...10:00 AM**



*Denny & Carole  
Grapner  
July 26; 62 yrs.*

		1 Anika Bok Jenni Jankovsky	2 Ross Harmon	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Don Holmes	11	12
13	14 Gloria Brunk Brady Emmons	15	16	17	18 Madeline Kuenzli Zachary Loose	19 Macy Chambers
20	21 Savannah Emmons	22 Travis Bok Carole Grapner	23 Bryan Craft	24	25	26
27 Gretchen Woeller	28 Juniper Jankovsky	29 Lux Wyant Sharla Murphy	30 Jonathan Perry	31 Jan Wyant		
						



# Featured Recipes

## Protein Peanut Butter Balls (Peanut Energy Bars)

*By Barb Schade*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	Peanut butter, creamy	<p>In a large bowl combine peanut butter, honey, and vanilla. Stir to combine.</p> <p>Add oats, coconut, sea salt, and cinnamon, and stir to combine.</p> <p>Add mini chocolate chips (your preferred mix-ins) And stir until evenly distributed.</p> <p>Use a 1 Tablespoon measuring spoon to portion out and roll into balls.</p> <p>Put the balls in an airtight container and chill for 30 to 60 minutes.</p> <p>Can be frozen.</p>
1/4 cup	Honey	
1/2 tsp.	Vanilla extract, pure	
1 1/4 cup	Old fashion oats	
1/2 cup	Coconut, unsweetened, shredded	
1/4 tsp.	Sea salt fine	
1/4 tsp.	Cinnamon	
1/4 cup	Mini Chocolate chips or Other mix-ins	

## Chicken Salad

*By Linda Craft*

Ingredients		Instructions
4 cups	Chicken, cubed	<p>Toss Lightly and refrigerate overnight.</p> <p>You can add chopped pecans and/or sliced olives.</p> <div data-bbox="933 1638 1299 1948" data-label="Image"> </div>
1 cup	Celery, chopped	
2 cups	Grapes, seedless	
1/2 tsp.	salt	
1/2 tsp.	Pepper	
1/2 cup	Mayonnaise	
1/2 cup	Sour cream	



# KIDZ KORNER



Make this candle to keep uninvited insects from your outdoor summer meals.

## What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



## What you do:

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half. Cut off the rounded end of one half so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate. Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side of the bottom half. Then place the other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the candle that's between the two lime halves. The flame's heat will warm the lime and create a smell that insects don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when it reaches the bottom lime.



## TINY TEAMWORK

The focused teamwork of ants is astounding! How can we learn from them?

Directions: Answer the clues. Then write the words in order below to complete Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV.

This 6-legged arthropod can carry 20 times its own weight. \_\_\_\_\_

A sleepy, sloth-like and slow-moving person. \_\_\_\_\_

Having deep understanding and sound judgment. \_\_\_\_\_

A person in charge of military troops. \_\_\_\_\_

A person in authority. \_\_\_\_\_

The season when daylight hours are longest. \_\_\_\_\_

A substance you eat for nutrition, \_\_\_\_\_

When farmers reap the rewards of hard work. \_\_\_\_\_



Go to the \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_;

consider its ways and be \_\_\_\_\_!

It has no \_\_\_\_\_, no overseer or \_\_\_\_\_,

yet it stores its provisions in \_\_\_\_\_

and gathers its \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV



Answers: ant, slugard, wise, commander, ruler, summer, food, harvest. Go to the ant, you slugard, consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**  
 105 E. Main St.  
 Elida, OH 45807

\*Return Service Requested

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 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Elida, OH  
 45807  
 Permit No. 71

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## Living Our Faith

### Holy Ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone