

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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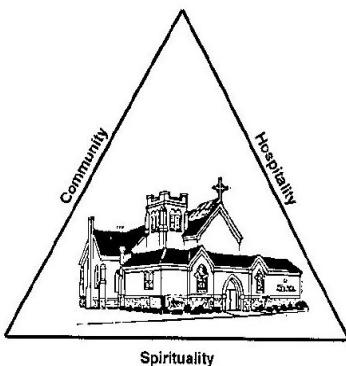
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Well, I am going to declare March as the month Spring should arrive, but as I write this in February it remains only a hope. I want to talk to you this month about several things, first being the new system we are setting up for contacting you in case the church should need to close. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the notification of cancelation texts and/or emails. There is always time to add yourself to the list by contacting the church office. We will notify you as soon as possible that church will be canceled, but if there is a level 2 snow emergency we will be canceling services automatically. Where do you look for snow emergency levels? www.allen-ema.com is the official site for Allen County Ohio Emergency Management Agency where you can see what snow level we are currently under. This policy is still being discussed and I hope at the Ad Board in March to finalize the policy for the church.

March 2nd is Camp Sunday this year and we will have Heather Brake from Camp Wesley visiting to talk to us about camping opportunities for kids and adults in the West Ohio Conference. I invite you to show up in your camp gear and be ready to sing camp songs, remember your church camp experience and maybe even have a s'more treat. Heather will also be talking to us about mission events that will be happening at Camp Wesley and how we can make a child's experience at camp even better. My goal this year is to have at least 6 kids from St. Paul's going to church camp this year and with week long camps in the \$3-\$400 range we need to be ready to make some donations to cover half of kid's camp cost as we have in the past.

The beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday on March 5th this year and we will be having a service at 7pm to begin the Lenten Season. I want to invite you all to this special service and to make a pledge this year to add something new to your life with Christ. I know many people give up something for Lent which is a good practice to remember Christ's sacrifice for you, but I would challenge each of you to add something for remembering Christ's sacrifice as well. Maybe that could include reading the Bible 10 minutes per day, or if you already do that praying 10 minutes per day for the needs of others or if you already do that spend 10 minutes per day listening for God's instruction. What, you already do all those things? What else could you do for God for 10 minutes per day that you don't already do: listening to a friend, helping someone, watching for evidence of God's love in the world, singing hymns, whatever it is you decide to add, do it with the intention of learning more about your Creator. If you will join me in adding something for God I know you will be blessed this next 40 days of Lent.

Pastor Paul

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



Gomer Congregational Church
 St. David's Day Dinner
 March 1, 2014
 Serving 4:30 to 6:30 PM
 baked steak or chicken
 mashed potatoes/gravy
 green beans, salads
 homemade noodles, bread
 homemade pie and cake,
 drink.

Advance tickets \$8.00
 At the door \$8.50

For tickets call Gomer Church
 office: 419-642-2681

Gomer Congregational Church
 St. David's Day Program
 March 1, 2014
 7:30 PM

The St. Paul's choir, along with a few other choirs, will be participating. Mark your calendars for an evening of music and community fellowship.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Happy 
 St. Patricks Day
 MARCH 17, 2014

Seniors Day Out

March 18, 2014
 12:00 Noon

Guest Speaker:
 Rhonda Eddy Steinecker

All seniors welcome!

St. Paul's Epistle

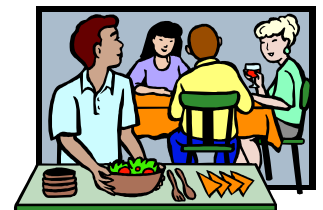
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 United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

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

St. Paul's Book Club
 March 1, 2014
 9:00 AM

Join us for a book discussion about
Save Me by Lisa Scottoline
 Please bring your own breakfast.



Newsletter
 deadline:
 the 16th
 of each month

ST. PAULS UMC SHIRT ORDER

*Taking St. Paul's shirt orders thru
March 2, 2014.*

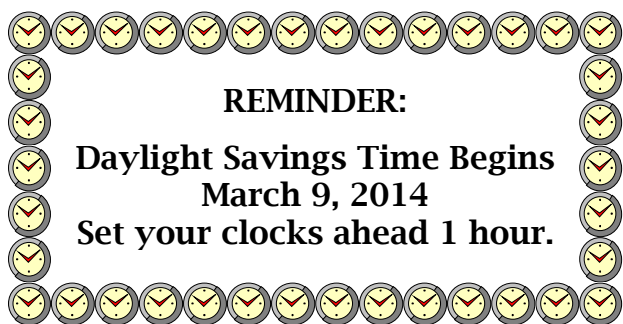
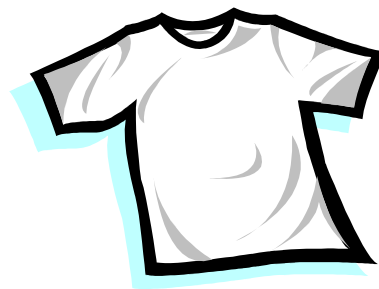
POLO SHIRT \$22.00 EACH

T-SHIRT \$12.00 EACH

Contact the church office or Linda Holman.

Order deadline: Sunday March 2nd

Make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC



REMINDER:

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 9, 2014

Set your clocks ahead 1 hour.



**March 20
SPRING BEGINS!!**



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**Ash Wednesday Service
March 5, 2014
7:00 PM**

Ash Wednesday special offering to benefit the St. Paul's Special Needs Fund

St. Paul's Chicken Barbeque

April 26, 2014
Tickets will be \$8.00

Watch for more details in the April newsletter





**March
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit
Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen**

Missions

EASY (Elida After School Youth) Program

I have been asking for volunteers to love our community youth through the Elida After School Youth (EASY) program and you have responded in a big way. You have gifted us with snacks and your presence and I want you to know how much we appreciate your help. So thank you to: Lavonne Segovia, Jamie Wyant, Shirley Shoup, Marla, Paul, and Emma Scannell, Mary and Don Irvin, Norm Grigsby, Lynda Evans, Linda Craft, Linda Holman, Ginny Doseck, Ruth Hardy, Virginia Hollar, Judy Chaffins, Martha Vazquez and Tim Piper. We are growing our list of volunteers from other churches: Diane Koch and Brian Nartker from Immanuel have joined us, with a few more making plans to become part of the group. Without your help and dedication (and patience) we would not be able to provide this ministry.

Just because this looks like an impressive list, rest assured we can still use more help! We will be changing interest groups next month. Stay tuned and see what is coming!

Corinne Piper

THANK YOU!

Thank You

The staff and board of directors of Living Hope Mission thank you for your continued, generous support of this organization. Donation amount of \$388.18 was donated on 12/31/13.

Thank you to Lavonne and Rudy Segovia, Shara Bowsher and Martha Vazquez for working at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen on January 31st and representing St. Paul's Church. Your work there is truly being the hands and feet of Jesus."

The Business of Church

Church Cancellation

Do you want to be notified about church cancelations and you have not signed up yet? Contact the church office with your cell number and carrier or email and we will notify you via text and email as soon as possible that church will be canceled, but if there is a **level 2 snow emergency** we will be canceling services automatically. Where do you look for snow emergency levels? www.allen-ema.com is the official site for Allen County Ohio Emergency Management Agency where you can see what snow level we are currently under or listen to local radio or TV stations. This policy is still being discussed and we hope at the Ad Board meeting in March to finalize the church's cancellation policy.



Book of Timothy



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

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
January 26, 2014	30
February 2, 2014	75
February 9, 2014	65
February 16, 2014	103
February 23, 2014	105

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



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
January 26, 2014	\$1,269.50	\$730.00
February 2, 2014	\$6,036.54	\$954.18
February 9, 2014	\$3,008.50	\$303.95
February 16, 2014	\$3,632.56	\$478.12
February 23, 2014	\$2,568.00	\$563.67

Sunday School Attendance	
January 26, 2014	3
February 2, 2014	23
February 9, 2014	10
February 16, 2014	21
February 23, 2014	20

Greeters	
March 2, 2014	Gail Fessler
March 9, 2014	Ron & Mary Steiner
March 16, 2014	Don & Mary Irvin
March 23, 2014	Bill & Joyce Nichols
March 30, 2014	Dillon & Helen Staas

Flower Calendar	
March 2, 2014	Denny & Carole Grapner
March 9, 2014	Dennis & Shara Bowsher
March 16, 2014	Chris Bowsher
March 23, 2014	Bill & Joyce Nichols
March 30, 2014	Fran Hall

Communion Servers	
March 2	
Station #1	OPEN
Station #2	Deb Hurd & Oliver Fessler
Station #3	Jan & Jamie Wyant

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 3/1

Psalm 137:1-9, 104, 144
Ruth 4:1-17
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10
Matthew 6:1-16

Sunday 3/2

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Deuteronomy 4:1-9
2 Timothy 4:1-8, John 12:1:1-8

Monday 3/3

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Deuteronomy 4:9-14
2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Matthew 6:7-15

Tuesday 3/4

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Deuteronomy 4:15-24
2 Corinthians 11:1-21a
Matthew 6:16-23

Wednesday 3/5

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Deuteronomy 4:25-31
2 Corinthians 11:21b-33
Matthew 6:24-34

Thursday 3/6

Psalm 18, Deuteronomy 4:32-40
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Matthew 7:1-12

Friday 3/7

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Deuteronomy 5:1-22
2 Corinthians 12:11-21
Matthew 7:13-21

Saturday 3/8

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Matthew 7:22-29

Sunday 3/9

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Hebrews 12:18-29
John 12:24-32

Monday 3/10

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Deuteronomy 6:10-15
Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 3/11

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Deuteronomy 6:16-25
Hebrews 2:1-10, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 3/12

Psalm 102, 130, 143
Hebrews 12:1-14, Luke 18:9-14

Thursday 3/13

Psalm 37, Deuteronomy 7:6-11
Titus 1:1-16, John 1:29-34

Friday 3/14

Psalm 31, 35
Deuteronomy 7:12-16
Titus 2:1-15, John 1:35-42

Saturday 3/15

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Deuteronomy 7:17-26
Titus 3:1-15, John 1:43-51

Sunday 3/16

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Deuteronomy 8:1-10
1 Corinthians 1:17-31
Mark 2:18-22

Monday 3/17

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Deuteronomy 8:11-20
Hebrews 2:11-18, John 2:1-12

Tuesday 3/18

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Deuteronomy 9:4-12
Hebrews 3:1-11, John 2:13-22

Wednesday 3/19

Psalm 49, 53, 119:49-72
Deuteronomy 9:13-21
Hebrews 3:12-19, John 2:23-3:15

Thursday 3/20

Psalm 50, 59, 60
Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5
Hebrews 4:1-10, John 3:16-21

Friday 3/21

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Hebrews 4:11-16, John 3:22-36

Saturday 3/22

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Deuteronomy 11:18-28
Hebrews 5:1-10, John 4:1-26

Sunday 3/23

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Jeremiah 1:1-10
1 Corinthians 3:11-23
Mark 3:31-4:9

Monday 3/24

Psalm 56, 57, 58, 64, 65
Jeremiah 1:11-19
Romans 1:1-15, John 4:27-42

Tuesday 3/25

Psalm 61, 62, 68, Jeremiah 2:1-13
Romans 1:16-25, John 4:43-54

Wednesday 3/26

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Jeremiah 3:6-18
Romans 1:28-2:11, John 5:1-18

Thursday 3/27

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28
Romans 2:12-24, John 5:19-29

Friday 3/28

Psalm 69, 73, Jeremiah 5:1-9
Romans 2:25-3:18, John 5:30-47

Saturday 3/29

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Jeremiah 5:20-31
Romans 3:19-31, John 7:1-13

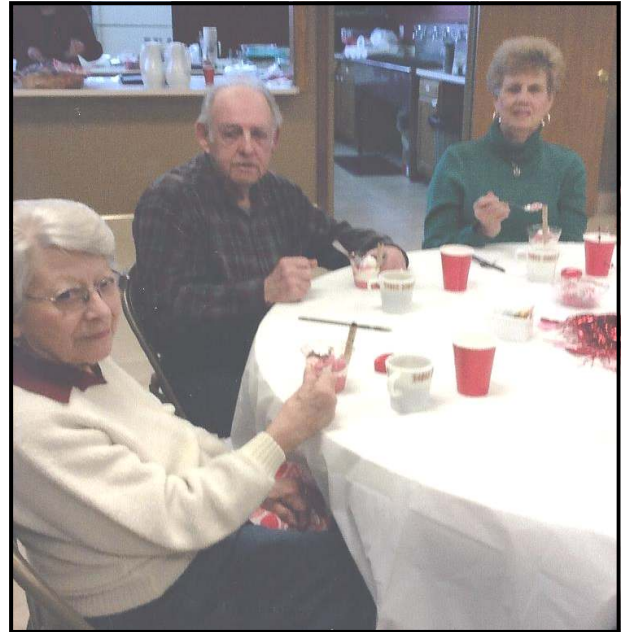
Sunday 3/30

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Jeremiah 6:9-15
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Mark 5:1-20

Monday 3/31

Psalm 77, 79, 80, Jeremiah 7:1-15
Romans 4:1-12, John 7:14-36

Seniors Day Out—February 18, 2014



Shirley Moser spoke about making quilts and several seniors brought a quilt that meant a lot to their family and shared the story about that quilt.

The Great U-Turn



I lived in St. Louis for three years while I was attending seminary. While I was there I noticed something radically different from the large metropolitan area where I had been raised. Precisely, it was the way in which the drivers in that city made

U-turns at the most unpredictable moments and inopportune times. It didn't matter how crowded the streets were. It made no difference how many cars were coming toward the driver. That driver would carefully calculate his or her move and then make the U-turn, much to the astonishment and anger of the other drivers.

The word repent means "to change." Literally, it means to make a U-turn. What St. Louis drivers were determined to accomplish on busy streets is not done quite so easily by those who are called to change their ways. We are creatures of habit, and old habits die hard. Maybe that habit is a way we have of behaving when we are with our siblings. Perhaps it's the way we act around the people we love. Maybe we not only eat to live, but we live to eat, and we find ourselves paying dearly for our appetites.

When repentance is the topic, however, we are talking about more than just changing habits; we are describing a change in our lives. In repentance, we acknowledge and confess that deep within us is a desire to be like God. Repentance calls us to say to God and to one another that we have been guilty of the primal sin, of wanting to be our own God. In the end, repentance doesn't deal directly with outward appearances; repentance deals with inner matters of the heart.

Sometimes repentance can seem tied up in our fears. When we are afraid we sometimes make changes as a sign of appeasement. We change because if we don't, we fear we will be marked by evil, rather than with God's grace.

However, we live on this side of Calvary, and so we need not be slaves to fear. No matter what comes,

our risen Lord and Savior goes before us. Reinforced by the confidence of this promise, our faith empowers us to change, not because we have to or because we are afraid of the ultimate consequences of staying the same. Rather, we make our own personal U-turn with the help of God's Holy Spirit who moves us from fear to faith.

There truly are days in our lives that we dread: that trip to the dentist, tax day, the results of the MRI, the day the divorce decree is final, perhaps even the day that we die. We tend to view those days in terms of judgment, thinking about all the things we could or should have done differently. Those days sometimes leave us with guilt and remorse about what we have left incomplete, or relationships that remain broken, or our own inability to turn things around financially or emotionally.

During those days it is tempting for us to try to strike a deal with God. Those are the days when we say to God, "God, if we receive a favorable result, we promise that we will change our ways, our attitudes, or our lifestyles." And even when the news is good, our deal is short-lived and we soon return to the patterns we knew before.

How different it is with our journey of faith. The crucified and risen Christ journeys with us, calls us to change - to repent - and to follow him. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus, the Christ, gives us the strength to complete that U-turn. And as we do, Jesus will be with us every minute and each mile of the way.

- John Bucka, excerpted with permission from *The Clergy Journal*, © Logos Productions..

Count your joys
instead of your woes;
Count your friends
instead of your foes.

Irish Proverb



Remember When...



1990
Koinonia Scavenger Hunt
L-R: Sally Gossard, Larry Moser,
Mike Bartels, Jan Neely



January, 1995
Joy Singers Celebrate
Lois Cook's Birthday
L-R: Erin Peters, Sara Matlock, Aaron
Piper, Kayla Evans, Jennifer Wenger,
Lois Cook, Tara Thompson, Ashley
Reiff, Andrew Piper, Mallory
Rentz, Aaron Thompson



March, 2000
The congregation celebrates
Rev. Terry Heck's birthday



Connecting With ...

My Daily Prayer

By Dillon Staas

Lord be with us through this day.
 Guide us in thy holy way.
 Cleanse us of our earthly sin.
 All our hearts hold love within.

Peace be with us here below.
 Clear our minds that we may know
 That your will on earth be done
All God's people live as one.

Fill our hearts with thoughts of you
 Blessing everything we do
 When day is done at evening tide
 Again with you we'll all abide,
 Hearts filled with love for you inside.

Amen



March

*March can never decide
 If the season's winter or spring;
 Winds from the south, warm weather provide,
 While those from the north, cold weather bring.*

*Poem by,
 Jenessa Fletcher Peters*



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Denny Grapner
 Anne Laman
 Linda Matlock
 Cari Metzger

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
 Jean Redd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Joanna Hurd
 Rodney Lee

In the Military & Missions

Eddie Mault
 Jason Stanley

Tom and his wife Grace listened to the speaker, "It is essential that husbands and wives know each other's likes and dislikes."

He addressed the men, "Can you name your wife's favorite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently, and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"



The People of St. Paul's

*Dear St. Paul's Friends,
I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, prayers and cards I received after my recent surgery, and during my recovery. Special thanks to Pastor Paul for his visit.*

***In Christ's Love,
Myrna Metzger***

Thank You!

We would like to thank our St. Paul's family for taking down our Christmas decorations & building a ramp, and for the cards, visits, flowers, gift cards, & food that were given to us following Gary's recent accident. A special thank you to Pastor Paul who was there with Deb during Gary's surgery. We appreciate them all more than you will ever know. We are so blessed to be part of such a wonderful Christian family. Gary's recovery will be slow, but we are taking each day at a time and thanking Him for our many blessings which include each and every one of you.

***God bless you all!
Gary & Deb Hurd***



Seniors Day Out
February 18, 2014

Thought for the Month:

"Nothing can dim the light that shines from within."

- Maya Angelou



Praying Together

Teach me to always say what's true.
Be willing in each thing I do.
Help me to be good each day,
and lead me in your holy way.
Amen.

Prayer List Updates

Please Contact

Lavonne Segovia

Meetings

March 3, 2014
PPR...7:00 PM

March 4, 2014
Trustees..7:00 PM

March 10, 2014
Finance...7:00 PM

March 10, 2014
Ad Council...7:30 PM

March 12, 2014
Worship mtg.. 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 PM

March 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Scott Grapner
2 Joanna Hurd	3	4 Janna Thompson	5 Scott Fessler	6	7 Tim Theodore	8
9	10 Jim Phillips	11	12 Linda Holman Ethan Lewis	13 Carol Lee	14 Cody Smith	15 Amanda Cummins
16	17 	18	19	20 Tara Strauch 	21 Amber Fox	22 Nancy Gesler
23	24 Joyce Nichols	25	26	27 Julia Bok	28 Derek Bible	29 Casey Lane
30 Tahler Sdao Julia Thomas	31 Tom Thomas					

Anniversaries

Jeff & Shelly Reiff
 March 12

Tony & Shirley Shoup
 March 20

Brent & Vicki McAdams
 March 21

Bruce & Nancy Kizer
 March 23; 46 years

Jordan & Amy Wyant
 March 28

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Banana Shake *By Dottie Foster*

Ingredients		Instructions
1	Banana	Put all ingredients in blender. Blend until ice cubes are no longer ice cubes. Good—not fattening!
1/2 cup	Low fat milk	
2 pkg.	Equal	
1/2 tsp.	Vanilla	
6 or 7	Ice Cubes	



Cinnabon-Like Cinnamon Rolls *By Judy Chaffins*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 pkg.	Active dry yeast (1/4 oz. size)	Dissolve yeast in warm milk in large bowl. Mix together sugar, margarine, salt and eggs. Add flour and yeast and mix well. Knead dough into large ball, using your hands dusted lightly with flour. Put in bowl, cover tightly with plastic wrap so it doesn't form a crust, and let rise in warm place 1 hour, or until the dough has doubled in size. (Can turn oven on warm, then turn off and use as a warm place.) Roll dough out on lightly floured surface. Roll the dough flat until it is approx. 21 inches long and 16 inches wide. It should be about 1/4 in. thick. Some recipes suggest spreading the dough with 1/4 cup margarine before adding the filling.
1 cup	Warm milk (105-110 degrees F; microwave milk 45-60 seconds)	
1/2 cup	Granulated sugar	
1/3 cup	Margarine, melted	
1 tsp.	Salt	
2	Eggs	
4 cups	flour	Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Filling: Combine brown sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. Spread the softened margarine evenly over the surface of the dough, then sprinkle evenly with cinnamon and sugar. Working carefully from the top (21-inch side), roll the dough down to the bottom edge. Cut the rolled dough into 1 3/4-inch slices and place 6 at a time, evenly spaced, in a lightly greased baking pan. Let the rolls rise again until double in size (about 30 min.) Bake for 10 min., or until light brown on top. Coat roll generously with icing. Hints: These rolls can be frozen after baking. Just put in microwave for 20-30 seconds to reheat. You can line the pan with foil, then lightly butter or spray the foil to make it easier to lift rolls out of pan onto a serving plate.
Filling:		
1 cup	Packed brown sugar	
2 1/2 Tbl.	Cinnamon	
1/3 cup	Margarine, softened	
Icing:		
8 Tbs. (1 stick)	Margarine, softened	
1 1/2 cups	Powdered sugar	
1/4 cup (2 oz.)	Cream Cheese	
1/2 tsp.	Vanilla extract	
1/8 tsp.	Salt	

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

March 2014



Living Our Faith

Welcome to Lent!

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days. This year, it begins Wednesday, March 5, on a day we call Ash Wednesday. During the six weeks of Lent we remember things that Jesus said and did and we think about what we are doing to follow in his way. It can be a good time to focus on prayer and on giving to others. Try some of these activities to learn more about prayer with your friends or family.

Prayer Cross

Lent is a good time to think about prayer and to practice praying regularly. You can use prayers that are already written, like the Lord's Prayer or you can write or say prayers of your own. Making a prayer cross is something you can do with your family to practice prayer each day.

Make a cross out of thick branches or recycled cardboard tubes. Hold the pieces in position and wrap string or twine around the intersection of the two cross pieces until they are secure. Hang it on the wall or stand it up with a base of rocks.

Whenever you have a worry or a struggle, write it on a piece of paper and tape it to the cross. You can also write down joys and thanksgivings. All of these are prayers. Gather with your family around the cross as often as you can. Share the things you are praying. We don't know how or when our prayers will be answered, but we can remember that God loves us and is with us through everything.

Lenten Stories

These are the Bible stories you will hear in church during the Season of Lent. You can read these on your own or with your family.

- March 9: Matthew 4:1-11
- March 16: John 3:1-17
- March 23: John 4:5-42
- March 30: John 9:1-41
- April 6: John 11:1-45
- April 13: Matthew 21:1-11

