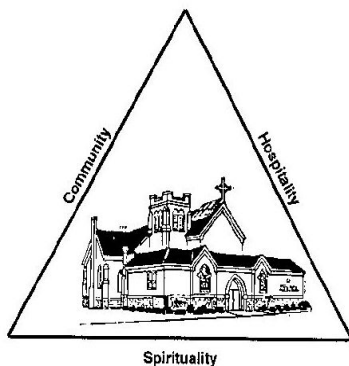


St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
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It is always a struggle this time of year, the weather warms up and I want to get outside into the garden and plant something. Some crops can go in early: peas, radishes, and Brussel sprouts, but even they cannot be planted this early. Patience is called for, working the soil to prepare seeds when the season is right or even starting seeds inside for the promise of the future. How often are we, as Christians, eager for a quick or easy resolution to a problem we have? Unwilling to wait for an answer, we try to make things happen before God is ready. Unwilling to prepare for the present or plan for the future, we expect something without putting in the work. A prayer life is something that allows us to be in rhythm with God, like a good gardener who is in rhythm with the seasons. I hope you will join us for the rest of lent as we look at prayer and growing closer to God.

I want to continue to encourage you to not only come to the Dish It Out Café, but to call ahead with someone you know who could use a meal delivered to their home. Invite a friend, a neighbor, or a family member, to come to church during this Lenten season. Also be looking for information about the Chicken BBQ, which will be happening next month on the 18th.

I will see you out in the garden when the time is right.

Pastor Paul

"I have come to do your will, my God."

Hebrews 10:7, NIV



Thought for the Month:
Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.
—Anthony J. D'Angelo

Christian Symbol

IHS



This sacred monogram originally appeared as "IHC," the first three letters of "IHCOYC," the Greek word for Jesus. Over time the Greek "C" was replaced by the Latin "S" to become "IHS." There are many interpretations given to the letters "IHS," including the Latin "Iesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Men) and the English "I (Christ) Have Suffered."

REMINDER:

**Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 8
Set your clocks ahead 1 hour.**

Dish-It-Out Café

**Tuesday, March 17
12 Noon
in the Fellowship Hall**

All retirees are welcome!



**Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

March 1
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit
Our Daily Bread
Soup Kitchen

Praying For People Who Can't Sit Still

During Lent we will have prayer times for people who can't sit still. Each week we will offer a different idea on how to focus on praying while engaging your body in the process. Each session will be offered three times a week: Mondays at 12:00 p.m. (noon); Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Come to any topic that interests you or to all of them. There will be a sign directing you where we are meeting.

Below is the tentative schedule.
Any changes will be announced at church.

March 2-8 — Praying in Color

March 9-15 — Catholics Aren't the Only Ones with Beads

March 16-22 — Cast Your Cares Away

March 23-29 — Making. Your Cross

March 30-April 5 — Walk Around in Circles

April 6-12 — The Way to the Cross

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

 * **March 19** *
 * **SPRING BEGINS!!** *
 * *

Koinonia Meeting
 Sunday, March 8
 5:30 PM
 At the home of Art and Linda Holman
 Linda's famous cherry pie for dessert



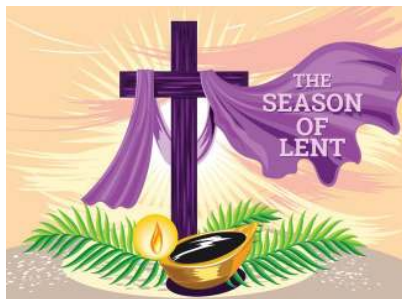
St. Paul's Chicken Barbeque
 Saturday, April 18
 Watch for more details

Save the Date

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



March 1, 2020



March 22, 2020



March 8, 2020



March 29, 2020



March 15, 2020



April 5, 2020

Prayer

March 6, 2020



Prayer Around the World

Travel writer Rick Steves, who's a Christian, believes travel can help us see God. He writes of gaining new insights into prayer from a so-called "whirling dervish" (a sort of Muslim monk) in Turkey. Before demonstrating how he prays, the man explained to Steves: "When we pray, we keep one foot in our community, anchored in our home. The other foot steps around and around, acknowledging the beautiful variety of God's creation ... touching all corners of this great world. I raise one hand up to acknowledge the love of God, and the other hand goes down like the spout of a teapot. As I spin around, my hand above receives the love from our Creator, and my hand below showers it onto all of his creation."

Most of us probably won't add whirling to our prayer practices! And we likely already pray for people near and far. But what if we pictured ourselves both anchored at home and stepping out among God's whole creation? What if we imagined God's love pouring into us, then out of us onto all the world? How might such an approach to prayer influence how we live?

Ancient Guidance on Prayer

When we pray, we are not to pray for ourselves alone. We do not say, "My Father, who art in heaven" or, "Give me this day my daily bread"; we do not ask for our own trespasses alone to be forgiven; and when we pray that we may be delivered from evil, we are not praying only for ourselves either.

Our prayer is for the general good, for the common good. When we pray, we do not pray for our own single selves; we pray for all God's people, because they and we are one.

—Cyprian, bishop of Carthage (third century)

God of times and seasons, you have brought us again to Lent for the study of Your Word, for the remembrance of the temptation of Your Son, and for the contemplation of His Cross. The birds know their seasons; forbid that we be blind to our times. Grant us a Lenten blessing, and may no one miss this time of growth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Prayer group, led by Corinne Piper meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Brides Room. The group spends this time in prayer for those with concerns on our prayer list. All are welcome!



History of a Hymn

Sweet Hour of Prayer

"Then Sings My Soul" Book 2

By Robert J. Morgan

Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. Psalm 61:1 (NKJV)

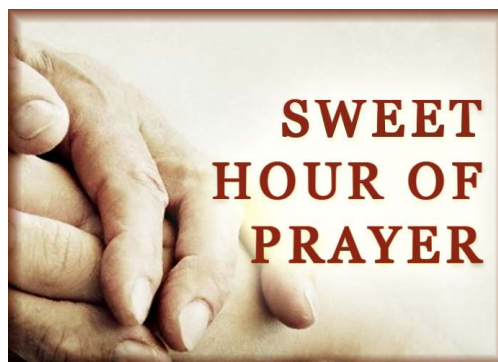
"Sweet hour of Prayer" first appeared in *The New York Observer* on September 13, 1845, accompanied by this explanatory note by a Rev. Thomas Salmon, a British minister recently immigrated to America:

At Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, I became acquainted with W. W. Walford, the blind preacher, a man of obscure birth and connections and no education, but of strong mind and most retentive memory. In the pulpit he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision and scarcely ever misplacing word in his repetition of the Psalms, every part of the new Testament, the prophecies, and some of the histories, so as to have the reputation of "knowing the whole Bible by heart." He actually sat in the chimney corner; employing his mind in composing a sermon or two for sabbath delivery... On one occasion, paying him a visit, he repeated two or three pieces he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. "How will this do?" asked he, as he repeated the following lines...?" I rapidly copied the lines with my pencil as he uttered them, and sent them for insertion in the Observer.

No one, however, has ever found a trace of a blind preacher named W. W. Wilford in Coleshill, England. There was a congregational minister named William Walford who wrote a book about prayer containing striking similarities to this poem, and some believe he was the author. But he was neither blind nor uneducated, and the authorship of the hymn remains a mystery.

There's yet another mystery—a deeper one—connected with this hymn. It's the question Jesus asked Simon Peter in Gethsemane: "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?" If an hour spent with the Lord is so sweet, why do we race through our day prayerless, then squeeze all our requests into a two-minute segment at bedtime? If prayer is so powerful, why do we neglect it so consistently? An oft-omitted verse to this hymn say:

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
of those whose anxious spirits burn with the strong desire for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows His face,
And gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*



Faith In Action

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

Worship Attendance:	
February 2, 2020	80
February 9, 2020	88
February 16, 2020	71
February 23, 2020	87

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
February 2, 2020	\$4,938.00	\$285.97
February 9, 2020	\$16,729.96	\$249.00
February 16, 2020	\$1,638.75	\$1,184.00
February 23, 2020	\$2,756.00	\$375.00

Sunday School Attendance	
February 2, 2020	5
February 9, 2020	7
February 16, 2020	7
February 23, 2020	12

Greeters	
March 1, 2020	Steve & Tracy Sdao
March 8, 2020	Virginia Hollar
March 15, 2020	Evelyn Sarber
March 22, 2020	Slone & Lena Whetstone
March 29, 2020	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
March 1, 2020	Ron & Mary Steiner
March 8, 2020	OPEN
March 15, 2020	Nancy Gesler & Linda Craft
March 22, 2020	Tony & Shirley Shoup
March 29, 2020	Pam & Tony Lozano

Hospitality Cart	
March 1, 2020	Book Club/ Janet Grigg
March 8, 2020	Corinne Piper
March 15, 2020	Crafty Creatures
March 22, 2020	Choir/ Deb Hurd & Jan Wyant
March 29, 2020	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday 3/1
Psalm 63, 98, 103, Daniel 9:3-10
Hebrews 2:10-18, John 12:44-50

Monday 3/2
Psalm 41, 44, 52, Genesis 37:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-19, Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday 3/3
Psalm 45, 47, 48
Genesis 37:12-24
1 Corinthians 1:20-31
Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday 3/4
Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Genesis 37:25-36
1 Corinthians 2:1-13
Mark 1:29-45

Thursday 3/5
Psalm 19, 46, 59, 60
Genesis 39:1-23
1 Corinthians 2:14-3:15
Mark 2:1-12

Friday 3/6
Psalm 40, 51, 54, Genesis 40:1-23
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Mark 2:13-22

Saturday 3/7
Psalm 55, 138, 139
Genesis 41:1-13
1 Corinthians 4:1-7
Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday 3/8
Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Genesis 41:14-45
Romans 6:3-14, John 5:19-24

Monday 3/9
Psalm 58, 64, 65
Genesis 41:46-57
1 Corinthians 4:8-21
Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday 3/10
Psalm 61, 62, 68, Genesis 42:1-17
1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday 3/11
Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Genesis 42:18-28
1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8, Mark 4:1-20

Thursday 3/12
Psalm 70, 71, 74
Genesis 42:29-38
1 Corinthians 6:12-30
Mark 4:21-34

Friday 3/13
Psalm 69, 73, Genesis 43:1-15
1 Corinthians 7:1-9, Mark 4:35-41

Saturday 3/14
Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Genesis 43:16-34
1 Corinthians 7:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sunday 3/15
Psalm 34, 93, 96, Genesis 44:1-17
Romans 8:1-10, John 5:25-29

Monday 3/16
Psalm 79, 80, Genesis 44:18-34
1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday 3/17
Psalm 78, Genesis 45:1-15
1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday 3/18
Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Genesis 45:16-28
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 6:13-29

Thursday 3/19
Psalm 42, 43, 83, Genesis 46:1-34
1 Corinthians 9:1-15
Mark 6:30-46

Friday 3/20
Psalm 95, 88, Genesis 47:1-26
1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Mark 6:47-56

Saturday 3/21
Psalm 87, 90, 136
Genesis 47:27-48:7
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Mark 7:1-23

Sunday 3/22
Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Genesis 48:8-22
Romans 8:11-25, John 6:27-40

Monday 3/23
Psalm 89, Genesis 49:1-28
1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1
Mark 7:27-40

Tuesday 3/24
Psalm 95, 100
Genesis 49:29-50:14
1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Mark 8:1-10

Wednesday 3/25
Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Genesis 50:15-26
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Mark 8:11-26

Thursday 3/26
Psalm 69, 73, Exodus 1:6-22
1 Corinthians 12:12-26
Mark 8:27-9:1

Friday 3/27
Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Exodus 2:1-22
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3
Mark 9:2-13

Saturday 3/28
Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
Exodus 2:23-3:15
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Mark 9:14-29

Sunday 3/29
Psalm 118, 145, Exodus 3:16-4:12
Romans 12:1-21, John 8:46-59

Monday 3/30
Psalm 31, 35
Exodus 4:10-20(21-26)27-31
1 Corinthians 14:1-19
Mark 9:30-41

Tuesday 3/31
Psalm 120, 127, Exodus 5:1-6:1
1 Corinthians 14:20-40
Mark 9:42-50



Missions



Thank you to Steve, Tracy and Tahler Sdao, Tony Shoup, Pastor Paul and Tim & Corinne Piper for helping at Family Promise at Immanuel UMC on January 31st. Special thanks to the Scannells and Schades for providing food for that evening! Your service is greatly appreciated!



Thank You!

Thank you to Martha Vazquez, Marty White, Deb Hurd, Steve Sdao, Corinne Piper, Tahler Sdao and Tim Piper for serving at Our Daily Bread on January 31st.

As the Operation Christmas Child Central Drop-off leader at WTLW TV 44, we were blessed to collect 3,151 shoeboxes. Thank you so much for being a part of God's plan to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Operation Christmas Child collected 8,950,144 shoeboxes nationwide. Praise God! That is nearly 9 million children who hear the gospel. And it doesn't stop there, those children will tell parents and friends. Countless people will be touched by **your gift**. No matter if you gave 1 box or 100 or 1,000, it takes 1 box to reach 1 child to hear about the 1 God.

Thank you so much and please pray for another successful year.

God Bless,
Debra Laman

Dear Friends in Mission,

Through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly frequent and destructive storms. Sharing 100 percent of donated funds with those in need!

Together, we may continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Thank you,
for supporting UMCOR US Disaster
Response and Recovery



Our Church History

On December 20, 2015, Pastor Paul baptized Jonathan Edward Perry, son of Nick and Jacinda. Many people brought donations of gloves, mittens, hats and scarves for the Mitten Tree. The Chancel Choir presented the cantata "Rise-Up! A New Light A-Comin." The children of the church presented a children's play at the early service on Christmas Eve. The beautiful candlelight service was at 10:00 P.M.

Special thanks to the McAdams family for their gift of the beautiful new multi-media desk in January, 2016. A special thank you to Alex McAdams and Art Heft for building the desk. It is a beautiful addition to our sanctuary.

Avery Chambers, granddaughter of Dan and Margie Best, played a violin solo, "Adoration" by F. Borowski for our special music on January 24, 2016. She was amazing!

On January 29, 2016, a group volunteered at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. St. Paul's sends volunteers on every fifth Friday that occurs throughout the year. The helpers this day were Margie Best, Deb Hurd, Corinne and Tim Piper and Dillon and Helen Staas.

Emma Scannell was selected as one of the 13 dancers chosen to dance with 14 performers of New York City's Ballet with a Twist Troupe. They performed "Cocktail Hour: The Show" at Ohio Northern University. Emma performed in the vignette, "Return to Normalcy." Emma has been taking theatre classes at ONU for 2 years.

Scout Sunday was observed on February 7, 2016. Daisy Scouts were acolytes and ushers. Cub Scouts were also ushers.

**January, 2016
Multi Media Desk**

**January 24, 2016
Avery Chambers, Violin solo**



Remember When...



March 20, 2005
Sunday School Youth
Making Soft Pretzels



March 23, 2011
ReFocus Summit



March 21, 2017
Senior Day Out



Poem

Spring's Orchestra

By Lenore Hetrick

March is such a blustery month—
And yet I think I hear,
Beneath the clamor a little voice,
Crying, “oh be of good cheer!
This medley of terrific sounds,
The banging far and near,
Is just the orchestra of spring,
Announcing she is here!

It is the overture that heralds
A sweeter melody,
You know how it is with a piece of music,
A march or a symphony.
The opening notes are very loud,
Triumphant as can be,
The orchestra blares forth with might,
And shouts its mounting glee.

But in a moment there is heard
A sweeter, softer tune,
A melody that hints of birds,
And on an April moon,
A melody that whispers sweetly
Flowers are coming soon,
Apple blossoms buds and daisies
Mingle with this tune.

So when I hear the banging sounds
With which March comes and goes,
I only smile for now, you see,
I know why the wind blows.
He is the orchestra of spring
That heralds the bud and rose.
When he has finished his overture,
Then March packs up and goes.



The People of St. Paul's

Thank You!

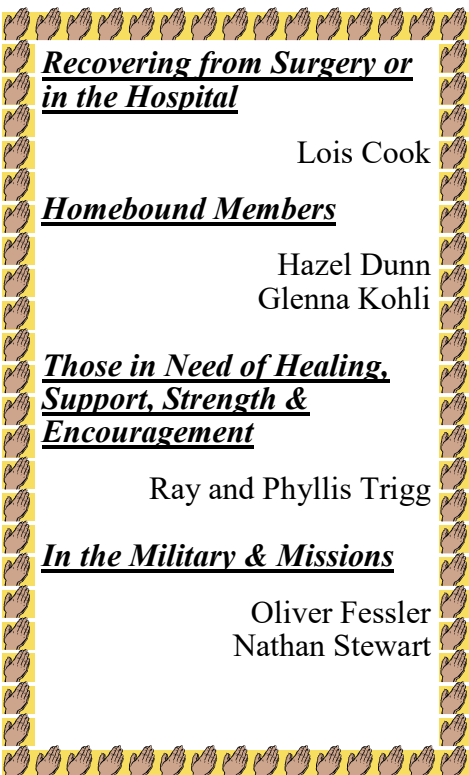
Dear St. Paul's Family,

Words are inadequate to express our family's gratitude for the countless things you did for us upon Dad's passing. Your thoughts, prayers, visits, food, gifts, cards, hugs, and service to us were more than expected or deserved. You truly showed Christ's unconditional love through all the many ways you interacted with us during that difficult time. Sometimes we were lost. Always you helped us experience the grounding in God's promises that helped us cope and get through it all. Dad was always proud to call you his church family, even writing a poem about it when he joined St. Paul's. The blessings you gave our family were exceptional and our humble gratitude extends to each and every one of you. It is precious to enjoy our biological families, but there is a specialness that ties us to our creator through our church family. We claim God's richest blessings on all of you as time moves forward this year and our lives develop a new normal without Dad.

*Christ's Love to You All!
The Family of Jerry Crates*



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital
Lois Cook

Homebound Members
Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement
Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions
Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart



Sending Our
SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Don and Judy Chaffins and the entire Crates family on the passing of Jerry Crates, on February 3. Jerry sang in the choir and enjoyed the monthly Seniors Day out luncheons. He was known as the "Candy Man" around the community, because he enjoyed passing out dum-dum suckers, peppermints and smarties to anyone he met. Cards may reach Judy and Don at 1826 Arlington Dr. Lima, OH 45805

Meetings

No PPR
 March 3, 2020
Trustees..7:00 PM
 March 4, 2020
**Worship Mtg...
 10:00 AM**
 March 9, 2020
Finance..7:00 PM
 No Ad Council
 TBA
Missions... 7:00 PM
Sundays
Prayer group.9:30 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM
Wednesdays
**Chancel Choir....
 7:00 PM**

MARCH 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Scott Grapner	2	3 Chelsey Cook	4 Janna Thompson	5 Scott Fessler	6	7 Tim Theodore
8	9	10	11	12 Linda Holman Ethan Lewis	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Tara Strauch	21
22 Nancy Gesler	23	24 Joyce Nichols Kathy Waldick	25	26	27 Julie Bok	28
29 Casey Lane	30 Tahler Sdao Julia Thomas	31 Tom Thomas				

Anniversaries



Jim & Carolyn Michael
 March 12

Jeff & Shelly Reiff
 March 12

Tony & Shirley Shoup
 March 20

Brent & Vicki McAdams
 March 21

Bruce & Nancy Kizer
 March 23; 52 yrs.

Jordan & Amy Wyant
 March 28

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Cabbage and Beef Soup

By Linda Holman

Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb.	Ground beef, lean	Brown ground beef. Add garlic powder, pepper, salt, celery, kidney beans, cabbage, tomatoes, water and bouillon cubes. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
3/4 tsp.	Garlic powder	
1/4 tsp.	Pepper	
1 tsp.	Salt	
2 stalks	Celery, chopped	
1 (16 oz.)	Kidney Beans	
1/2 medium	Cabbage head, chopped	
1 (28 oz.)	Tomatoes, chopped	
1 cup	Water	
4 cubes	Bouillon, beef	



Key Lime Pie

By Mary LaRue

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 cup	Lime juice, fresh	Mix all ingredients well. Put in pie crust. Refrigerate 1 to 2 hours.
1 (8 oz.)	Cool whip	
1 can	Eagle Brand milk	
1	Graham Cracker pie shell	

KIDZ KORNER

Joyful noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

What you do:

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.



- A type of horn MURTEP
- Played by King David PRHA
- Plucked to make sound IGSNSTR
- Similar to a tambourine MRBELIT
- A type of harp ELRY
- Blown through to make sound EPPI
- A percussion instrument YBLACMS

Le_ everyt_ing tha_ has _r_ath
_raise the _ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

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

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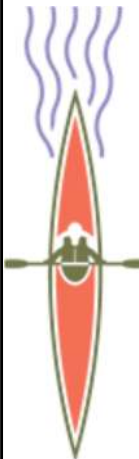
Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Paddling Through Lent — and Life



Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

All Beautiful the March of Days

All beautiful the march of days,
 as seasons come and go;
 the Hand that shaped the rose hath wrought
 the crystal of the snow;
 hath sent the hoary frost of heav'n,
 the flowing waters sealed,
 and laid a silent loveliness
 on hill and wood and field?

O Thou from whose unfathomed law
 the year in beauty flows,
 Thyself the vision passing by
 in crystal and in rose,
 day unto day doth utter speech,
 and night to night proclaim,
 in ever changing words of light,
 the wonder of Thy Name.

—Frances W. Wile