

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

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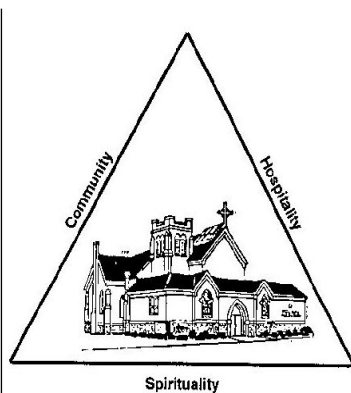


April is upon us and all that comes with it. Starting yard work, thinking of planting the garden, firing up the grill, and whatever else you do every Spring. But, I have already cut the grass, and the flowers are very early this year. Sometimes, the schedule of life changes without warning, and we have to be flexible. I have a sister who doesn't turn up the heat in the Fall until November (no matter what), even if it snows in October. I heard a few people talking about not mowing until April, no matter how tall the grass gets. Sometimes, we get stuck in our ways and we refuse to move off our choices, no matter the reason, but sometimes we have to look at what is happening around us and be flexible.

We have just finished Easter when Christ died and rose from the grave three days later. Turning the religious world upside down, freeing us from sin for all eternity, but it was centuries before the Christian church figured out who we were and how we should believe. The Trinity wasn't even agreed upon for centuries after Christ was with us, in fact, not until the council of Constantinople in 381 was it solidified into church doctrine. Nearly four hundred years to get something set in the church, but moving slowly is sometimes a good thing.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be meeting at the end of April, and beforehand, there will be a lot of rumors about what is happening in the UMC. I want to say to you that until after the General Conference, no one knows what the delegates will do, and come forward with, as a direction for the UMC. We will probably have some things to vote on and discuss after the General Conference, but even that will not be official until all the Annual Conferences in the world, have an opportunity to ratify whatever is decided. What I am trying to say is don't panic, if you hear crazy rumors, come talk to me and I will tell you what I know, and be patient as we move forward. The General Conference does not end until May 3, so there will be no definite news until then. I'll keep you informed, and I encourage you to pray for the leaders of our church who have been elected to the General Conference that they would follow God's call as they decide on the direction of the UMC. Until then, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Paul*



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**April 7**  
**Coins for Communion to benefit**  
**5 Loaves Food Pantry**  
**at The Church at Allentown**



**Family Promise**  
**Friday, April 26**

St. Paul's will be providing the evening meal for those housed at Family Promise. There will be a sign-up sheet at the media desk closer to the date.

Any questions see Tim Piper.



**April 14**  
**Food Pantry Sunday**

Dry Goods:  
 Rice, oatmeal, beans,  
 dried potatoes, pasta etc..

**BOOK Club**  
**Saturday, May 4**  
**at 9:00 AM**

"Emma's Journal"  
 By Ed Rowell


available in the library for \$7.00  
 All Are Welcome!

*Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*



**Deadline: the 22nd**  
 of each month

**Christian Symbol**



**VICTOR'S CROSS**

Also called the conqueror's cross, the victor's cross is composed of the Greek cross, recognized by its four equal arms, adorned with Greek letters in each quadrant. The top left letters stand for *Jesus* and the top right letters stand for *Christ* (the horizontal lines above them indicate that they are abbreviations). The four letters across the bottom spell the Greek word for *conqueror*.

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

## Keep On Shining

Charles W. Naylor (1874-1950) was a traveling evangelist until misfortune struck. First a tentpole fell on him as he prepared for a meeting. A year later, a bus accident left him partially paralyzed.

Despite experiencing chronic pain, Naylor became a prolific author and hymnist, dictating almost 150 songs. He often wrote about God's loving care amid adversity. One of his hymns begins:

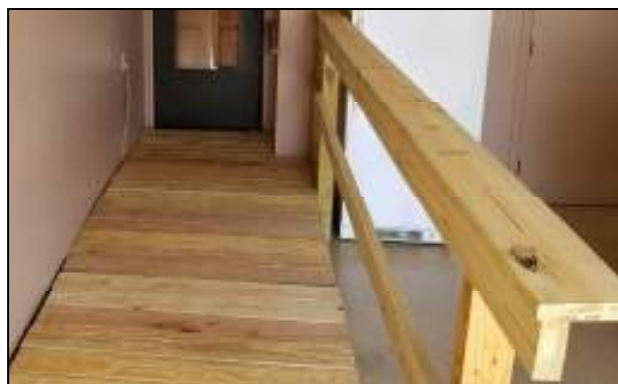
When the winds of persecution blow,  
When the streams of hatred tow'rd you flow,  
When your foes in number seem to grow,  
Just keep on shining.

"God's comfort in our times of sorrow is not an imaginary thing," Naylor wrote. "It can be so real that it is a balm for our wounded spirits. Having passed through the experience more than once, [I know] how real and vital and sustaining the comfort of God can be."

## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

A ramp was built on March 11 for Don and Elizabeth Nartker on East Rd. Thank you to Jamie Wyant for heading up this project and to all his helpers, Dave Decker, Greg Schade, Dan Best, Cody Scannell, Jamie Wyant and Pastor Paul Scannell.

Thank You!



## Poem

### Midlife Butterfly

*By Loraine Ziemke*

Fuzzy little caterpillar at home on the bush,  
Munching on leaves, his life was so lush  
Day after day, the same occupation  
Fulfilling his role without agitation

After a time, he wasn't sure why,  
He wrapped himself up and wanted to die.  
Bound up so tightly, no way could he function,  
Held fast by a thread at nature's injunction.

To sleep for so long in his quiet cocoon,  
To a world in a rush would seem importune,  
Unaware of the fact he was under construction,  
He slept through the maze of a silent production.

And when he awoke with the hope to go out,  
Explore his home bush and nibble a sprout;  
The wouldn't open, his feet wouldn't move,  
He twisted and grumbled 'gainst the threads that he wove.

He struggled so hard that at times he got tired,  
Gave up the battle and would have expired,  
But something inside had a will not to quit,  
An unexplained instinct, its source infinite.

At last the break came; he could see a small light.  
He pushed and he pounded with all of his might.  
The stress he endured speeded up circulation;  
As his body moved forward in anticipation.

Once out in the sun, he was still as could be.  
Just to stretch, even slowly, took great energy.  
No one knows just how long he sat and he waited.  
"I've come all this way, and still I'm ill-fated."

He tried to crawl...didn't know he could fly,  
'Till the wind came and whisked his wings up to the sky.  
He found himself doing wonderful things,  
Carried on beautiful, practical wings.





# History of a Hymn

## 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

"Then Sings My Soul" By Robert J. Morgan

**1882**

*In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid.* Psalm 56:11

How fitting that a missionary should write a hymn about faith and trust. Louisa M. R. Stead was born about 1850 in Dover, England and became a Christian at age nine. She felt a burden to become a missionary in her teenage years. When she was 21 or so, she immigrated to the United States and attended a revival meeting in Urbana, Ohio. There the Lord deeply impressed her with a missionary call.

She made plans to go to China, but her hopes were dashed when her health proved too frail for the climate there. Shortly afterward, she married a man named Stead. But sometime around 1879 or 1880, Mr. Stead drowned off the coast of Long Island. Some accounts say that he saved a boy who was drowning, and other accounts say both Stead and the boy perished. Other records suggest it was his own four-year-old daughter, Lily that he saved. In any event, the family's beach-side picnic ended in tragedy for Louisa.

Shortly afterward, taking little Lily, Louisa went to South Africa as a missionary, and it was there during those days she wrote, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Louisa served in South Africa for fifteen years, and while there she married Robert Wodehouse. When her health forced a return to America, Robert pastored at a local Methodist church. In 1900, her health restored, Robert and Louisa attended a large missionary conference in New York, and were so enthused by the experience they again offered themselves as missionary candidates.

They arrived as Methodist missionaries in Rhodesia on April 4, 1901. "In connection with this whole mission there are glorious possibilities," she wrote. "One cannot in the face of the peculiar difficulties help saying, 'Who is sufficient for these things?' but with simple confidence and trust we may and do say, 'Our Sufficiency is of God.'"

Louisa retired in 1911, and passed away in 1917; but her daughter, Lily, married missionary D. A. Carson and continued the work for many years at the Methodist mission station in southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).




# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>		<b>* RV</b>
February 25, 2024	74	63
March 3, 2024	60	63
March 10, 2024	66	71
March 17, 2024	74	61
March 24, 2024 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	79	X

**\*RV - Remote Viewing**  
(online viewing)

We are now recording the attendance for those watching online. This attendance is taken a week behind so we are sure to record those who have viewed the service throughout the week.

**Financial Giving**  
Weekly Need for  
Unified Ministry Budget  
\$4,187.00



<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
March 3, 2024	7
March 10, 2024	9
March 17, 2024	12
March 24, 2024	13

<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>	<b>Other:</b>
March 3, 2024	\$3,821.40
March 10, 2024	\$3,140.72
March 17, 2024	\$1,739.91
March 24, 2024	\$3,652.51

<h2>Flower Calendar</h2>	
April 7, 2024	Scott & Gail Fessler
April 14, 2024	Dan & Margie Best
April 21, 2024	Brent & Vicki McAdams
April 28, 2024	Gary & Janet Grigg

<h2>Hospitality Cart</h2>	
April 7, 2024	Jessie Harmon
April 14, 2024	OPEN
April 21, 2024	OPEN
April 28, 2024	OPEN

# Daily Bible Readings

## Monday 4/1

Psalm 66, 93, 98  
Exodus 12:14-27  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

## Tuesday 4/2

Psalm 103, 111, 114  
Exodus 12:28-39  
1 Corinthians 15:12-28  
Mark 16:9-20

## Wednesday 4/3

Psalm 97, 99, 115  
Exodus 12:40-51  
1 Corinthians 15:29-41  
Matthew 28:1-16

## Thursday 4/4

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149  
Exodus 13:3-10  
1 Corinthians 15:41-50  
Matthew 28:16-20

## Friday 4/5

Psalm 118, 136  
Exodus 13:1-16  
1 Corinthians 15:51-58  
Luke 24:1-12

## Saturday 4/6

Psalm 104, 145  
Exodus 13:17-14:4  
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10  
Mark 12:18-27

## Sunday 4/7

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147  
Exodus 14:5-22  
1 John 1:1-7, John 14:1-7

## Monday 4/8

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7  
Exodus 14:21-31  
1 Peter 1:1-12, John 14:1-7

## Tuesday 4/9

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11  
Exodus 15:1-21  
1 Peter 1:13-25, John 14:18-31

## Wednesday 4/10

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
Exodus 15:22-16:10  
1 Peter 2:1-10, John 15:1-11

## Thursday 4/11

Psalm 18, Exodus 16:10-22  
1 Peter 2:11-25, John 15:12-27

## Friday 4/12

Psalm 16, 17, 134, 135  
Exodus 16:23-36  
1 Peter 3:13-4:6, John 16:1-15

## Saturday 4/13

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117  
Exodus 17:1-16  
1 Peter 4:7-19, John 16:16-33

## Sunday 4/14

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150  
Exodus 18:1-12  
1 John 2:7-17, Mark 16:9-20

## Monday 4/15

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Exodus 18:13-27  
1 Peter 5:1-14, Matthew 3:1-6

## Tuesday 4/16

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39  
Exodus 19:1-16  
1 Corinthians 1:1-14  
Matthew 3:7-12

## Wednesday 4/17

Psalm 38, 119:25-48  
Exodus 19:16-25  
Colossians 1:15-23  
Matthew 3:13-17

## Thursday 4/18

Psalm 37, Exodus 20:1-21  
Colossians 1:24-2:7  
Matthew 4:1-11

## Friday 4/19

Psalm 105, Exodus 24:1-18  
Colossians 2:8-23  
Matthew 4:12-17

## Saturday 4/20

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43  
Exodus 25:1-22  
Colossians 3:1-17  
Matthew 4:18-25

## Sunday 4/21

Psalm 63, 98, 103  
Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38  
1 John 2:18-29, Mark 6:30-44

## Monday 4/22

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Exodus 32:1-20  
Colossians 3:18-4:6-18  
Matthew 5:1-10

## Tuesday 4/23

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Exodus 32:21-34  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 5:11-16

## Wednesday 4/24

Psalm 52, 119:49-72  
Exodus 33:1-23  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:17-20

## Thursday 4/25

Psalm 50, 114, 115  
Exodus 34:1-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20  
Matthew 5:21-26

## Friday 4/26

Psalm 40, 51, 54  
Exodus 34:18-35  
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13  
Matthew 5:27-37

## Saturday 4/27

Psalm 55, 138, 139  
Exodus 40:18-38  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12  
Matthew 5:38-48

## Sunday 4/28

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84  
Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36  
Hebrews 12:1-14, Luke 4:16-30

## Monday 4/29

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65  
Leviticus 16:1-19  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 6:7-15

## Tuesday 4/30

Psalm 61, 62, 68  
Leviticus 16:20-34  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 6:7-15



# Summer Camp



## 2024 Summer Camp Opportunities Offered in Partnership with East Ohio

West Ohio has partnered, once again, with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities.

Summer camps has always provided opportunities for campers, young and old, to have fun in the sun. Children, youth, and adults come together to learn new skills, have new experiences, and make new friends all under the guidance of our trained, creative, and compassionate staff.

All three sites in East Ohio will be focused on the theme “Faith Alive.” We will focus on five Community faith practices: Reading the Bible, worshipping, praying, providing hospitality, and living a life of service to the world. These five are a great launching point for campers to incorporate faith into everyday living. Our key verse for this summer’s curriculum is the passage from 1 Corinthians *“Let all that you do be done in love.”* For both the Corinthians and us, if we remember only one thing about living out our faith, it is to let love be our rule.

St Paul’s provides a campership through the Bradley Joseph Memorial Camp Scholarship fund, that provides up to half the cost to attend a camp of the campers choice. Contact Pastor Paul for more details.



### CAMP ALDERSGATE

Carrollton, Ohio  
Waterfront on Leesville Lake

For campers grades 1-12  
Aldersgate offers four life-changing programs to choose from including:

- ◆ Week long Classic Camp
- ◆ Music and Art camp
- ◆ Leadership Camps
- ◆ Two-night Beginners Program

For more information go to:  
[info@campaldersgate.org](mailto:info@campaldersgate.org)  
[www.campaldersgate.org](http://www.campaldersgate.org)

### The Water Front Includes:

- ◆ Swimming: A floating trampoline , water basketball hoop, and 9 square.
- ◆ Boating: Stand-up paddle boards, hydro bikes, and pontoon boats
- ◆ Land Features: A hammock Village, fishing poles, corn hole, and more.



# Summer Camps



### Have fun with New Friends Doing Awesome Things:

- Swim!
- Visit with animals!
- Cook over a fire!
  - Rock climb!
  - Discover!
- Canoe and fish!



### At Camp Asbury You Can:

- Learn to ride horseback in one of our many horse camps!
- Test your courage on the high ropes course and giant swing!
- Unleash your creativity at the Music Garden!
- Aim for a bullseye at the archery range!
- Discover your artistic talents through pottery at Asbury's brand new Art Center!

### WANAKE

#### Camp and Retreat Center

Beach City, Ohio

*A beautiful, spiritual place among the hills.*

At Wanake small groups of 10-12 campers with two counselors who serve as adult, Christian role models play, pray, swim, study the Bible, build friendships, worship, laugh, and live together in a Christ-centered environment in the outdoors. Wanake is a "build your own adventure" experience. Themed programs allow groups of campers with similar interest to explore their area of interest in depth. Check out all the themes on the website! At wanake campers build relationships with God, themselves, and others; practice making good decisions; try new things and develop skills; grow as leaders; experience positive Christian role models; and live in Christian community.

For mor information go to:  
[info@campwanake.org](mailto:info@campwanake.org)  
[www.campwanake.org](http://www.campwanake.org)

### CAMP ASBURY

Hiram, Ohio

*A natural place for God to find us.*

Camp Asbury offers five one-week sessions of residential camp for 1st-through 12th-grades. Spend the week exploring Camp Asbury's 450 acres of creation with your small group of peers and build new friendships to last a life-time! Choose from a variety of programs that are tailored towards your own skills and interests! Each week of camp has a unique weekly theme to add a level of fun and creativity to your experience.

For more information go to:  
[info@campasbury.org](mailto:info@campasbury.org)  
[www.campasbury.org](http://www.campasbury.org)

# March Worship

Jami Nathan, was our guest speaker Sunday, March 3rd. Her sermon title was "Invisible Belonging". Jami is the Ministries Coordinator for 'All in Community', which is West Ohio's modern day, Biblical response to the impact and aftermath of mass incarceration across our West Ohio mission field. Their mission is to train, resource, and connect WOC churches to embrace our members and neighbors impacted by crime, incarceration, and systems of injustice.



Thank you to Casey Rife  
For directing the choir on  
March 3 and 10.



## Palm Sunday, March 24

The children processed around the sanctuary led by Lena Whetstone and Jackson Rife waving their palms in celebration of Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem, while the choir sang "Hosanna to the King" - *L. Larson*. The congregation also waved their palms when they heard the word 'HOSANNA'!



# Connecting With...

**March 17—Baptism of Cavanaugh Charles Clark, son of Austin and Lauren Clark and little brother to Calloway.**



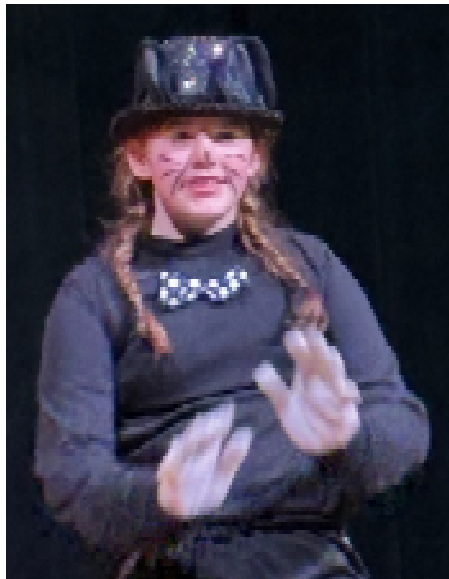
Pastor Paul introducing Cavanaugh to his Church Family!



Cavanaugh was given the sea shell that was used, the personalized towel, and a Bible to remember his baptism.  
Thank you Deb Hurd for the cross stitch personalization on the towel.



Congratulations to Lena Whetstone on her Performance in the play "Shrek" at Spencerville Schools on February 18th. Lena is a 6th grader at Spencerville.



# The People of St. Paul's

## A Wakeup Call

God — let me be aware.  
 Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,  
 Just getting somehow safely through the days,  
 Not even groping for another hand,  
 Not even wondering why it all was planned,  
 Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,  
 Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,  
 Please, keep me eager just to do my share.  
 God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.  
 Stab my soul fiercely with others' pain,  
 Let me walk seeing horror and stain.  
 Let my hands, groping, find other hands.  
 Give me the heart that divines, understands.  
 Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.  
 Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.  
 Please — keep me eager just to do my share.  
 God — let me be aware.

—Miriam Teichner



Recovering from Surgery  
or in the Hospital  
 Don Chaffins

Those in Need of Healing,  
Support, Strength &  
Encouragement  
 Don Chaffins  
 Ted and Jan Sodders

In the Military & Missions  
 Nathan Stewart

# thank you

Dear Crafty Creatures,  
 Thank you for your thoughts  
 and prayers during my recent  
 surgery!  
 Thanks especially to Lavonne  
 Segovia for the beautiful  
 crocheted prayer shawl.  
 You are all so appreciated!

Jami Brunk Young

### Thought for the Month:

The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives.

—Brennan Manning

**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.*

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

**Meetings**

**No PPR**

April 2, 2024  
**Worship Mtg..10:00 AM**

April 2, 2024  
**Trustees...7:00 PM**

April 18, 2024  
**Missions Mtg...7:00 PM**

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

**Wednesdays**  
**Chancel Choir.. 7:00 PM**

# APRIL

# 2024

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Mike Crates	<b>3</b> Demi DeRose David Scannell	<b>4</b> Lynda Evans Madelyn Thomas	<b>5</b> Peyton Przekora	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Dan Best	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pam Lozano	<b>11</b> Brittany Scannell	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Anne White	<b>15</b> Todd Chaffins	<b>16</b> Denise Thomas	<b>17</b> Doug Guess	<b>18</b> Pastor Paul Scannell	<b>19</b> Maedene Holmes Thaddeous Strauch	<b>20</b> Kelly DeRose Lori Motzer Aaron Piper
<b>21</b> Krista Slemmons	<b>22</b> Chloe Nartker	<b>23</b> Hudson Rife	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Lauren Clark Gerald Strayer	<b>30</b>				

**Happy Anniversary**

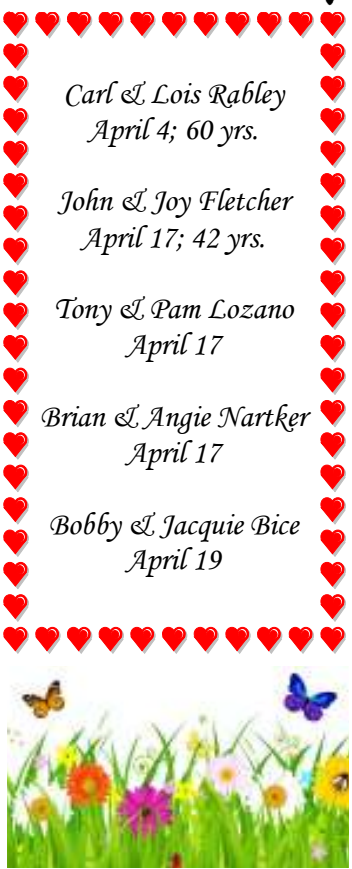
*Carl & Lois Rabley*  
*April 4; 60 yrs.*

*John & Joy Fletcher*  
*April 17; 42 yrs.*

*Tony & Pam Lozano*  
*April 17*

*Brian & Angie Nartker*  
*April 17*

*Bobby & Jacquie Bice*  
*April 19*






# St. Paul's Featured Recipes

## Cole Slaw

*By Gail Fessler  
(Hefner Family Recipe)*

Ingredients		Instructions
4 cups	Cabbage, shredded	In large bowl with lid, mix together first 4 ingredients. Stir dressing ingredients together in small bowl, then combine with cabbage mixture. Let Stand for at least 6 hrs. before serving. Good for up to 2 weeks. Keep in refrigerator.  **may use sugar substitute—measurement is 4 Tbl. Plus 1 1/2 tsp. **
1 small	Onion, chopped	
1	Green Pepper, chopped	
to taste	Celery seed	
<b>Dressing:</b>		
3/4 cup	*Sugar- may use substitute	
1/2 tsp	Salt	
1/2 cup	Salad oil	
2/3 cup	Vinegar, apple cider	
1/2 cup	Water	

## Chicken Roll Ups

*By Mary LaRue*

Ingredients		Instructions
8	Chicken strips, boneless	Preheat oven to 350 degrees Bake chicken strips 15 minutes in buttered casserole dish, drain and cool. Roll each baked strip of chicken in a crescent roll and place in oblong baking dish. Mix both soups and milk. Pour over Chicken roll ups. Top with cheddar cheese. Bake for 30 minutes.
1 pkg.	Pillsbury Crescent Rolls	
1 can	Cream of chicken soup	
1 can	Cream of celery soup	
1 cup	Milk	
4 oz.	Cheddar cheese, shredded	

# KIDZ KORNER

**SOMETHING OLD,  
Something New**

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

**What you need:**

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



**What you do:**

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!

















## PLANT, WATER, GROW




Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?



Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

 = God	 = grow
 = seed	 = one
 = planted	 = anything
 = watered	 = only

I  the , Apollos  it,  
but  has been making it .

So neither the  who plants nor the  
 who waters is ,

but , who makes things .

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

\*Return Service Requested

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# Living Our Faith

## When It Rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area. —Janna Firestone

