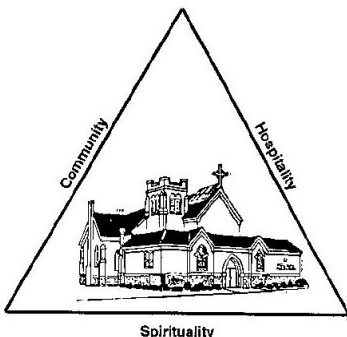


St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
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Febucherry is a uniquely Allen County, Ohio, event. Before we moved here we had heard of Kewpees but had never fully experienced a trip to the Kewpee. When we moved in, my new neighbors showed up with a bag of hamburgers from a local restaurant. I had no context to understand the culture of the community and after all these years, I am beginning to understand how the community operates. Now imagine you are talking to someone who knows nothing about Jesus and Christianity. How will they understand what we are like and how good what we are offering is for their life? Only through invitation, only when we give them a little taste of God's love, it is a commitment of time that saves lives and all it takes is a simple gift or invitation and time. Like that bag of burgers began my initiation into Allen County, Ohio, your invitation may lead someone to life eternal. Be a friend this Febucherry.

Several of you have shown an interest in joining the church, so this Lent we will have a new membership class. I am going to try and meet on several Tuesdays in February. Look for signup sheets in church with dates and times when we will meet.

Ash Wednesday is February 26, marking the beginning of Lent and the season leading up to Easter. Even though it is the end of the month, I want to prepare you for the theme of prayer we will be sharing during Lent this year.

Finally, I want to invite you to Dish It Out Café in February, where you have a chance to fellowship and feed someone in your circle of friends and neighbors who could use not just a meal, but could use a friend who cares for them. Make a difference in someone's life this month.

I'll see you in the mission field,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

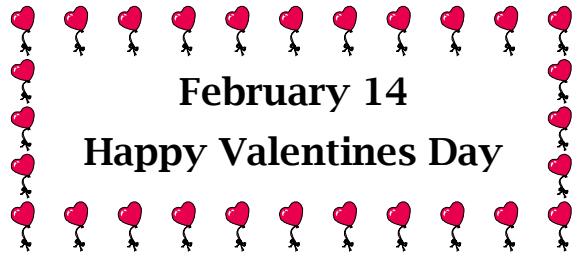
There is only one happiness in this life: to love and be loved.

—George Sand

St. Paul's Book Club
Saturday, February 1
@ 9:00 AM.

The book discussion is
"Little Fires Everywhere"
By Celeste Ng


Bring your own
 breakfast and join the
 discussion group



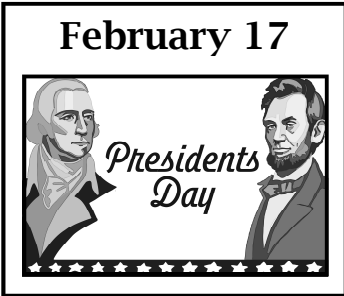
February 14
Happy Valentines Day

February 16
Food Pantry Sunday
 Items are taken to The
 Church at Allentown

February 2
'Coins for Communion'
 to benefit Immanuel UMC
 for additional monetary help
 for hosting Family Promise



Save Your Coins



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

SHEPHERD'S CROOK

The shepherd's crook is a symbol for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The crook also symbolizes the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It's also used in connection with King David, who worked as a shepherd when he was young.



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

Dish-It-Out Café
Tuesday, February 18
At noon
in the fellowship hall



February 23
Transfiguration of Our
Lord Sunday



Transfiguration
SUNDAY

A prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord of the winds,
 I cry to thee,
 I that am dust,
 and blown about
 by every gust
 I fly to thee.

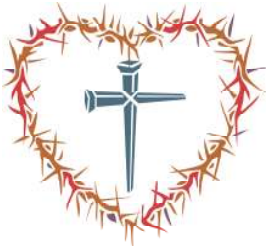
Lord of the waters,
 unto thee I call.
 I that am weed
 upon the waters borne,
 and by the waters torn,
 tossed by the waters,
 at thy feet I fall.

—*Mary Coleridge*
 (1861-1907)

Ash Wednesday Service
February 26, at 7:00 PM.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Our Lenten Focus



Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

2019 Missions Activities Report

St. Paul's Congregation and Missions Committee Efforts During 2019:

- Jesus said to “feed my sheep.” Donations of food for the Allentown UMC Five Loaves Food Pantry continued to be strong in 2019 with St. Paul's individuals faithfully filling the food bins every month. An estimated \$1,500 worth of food was donated to the food pantry by St. Paul's in 2019! Thank you to all who donated food to feed those families who are in need in our Elida community;
- St. Paul's has monetarily supported the Meals 'til Monday mission which provides weekend meals to children from various elementary schools in and around Allen County, including Elida Elementary;
- St. Paul's continued to serve the needy at the Central Avenue, Lima, Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen on every fifth Friday that occurred during the year. Numerous individuals represented St. Paul's as volunteers at the soup kitchen during the four 2019 dates, serving 100 to 150 persons at each gathering. Thank-you for your service in this important mission;
- Bev Nesbitt, and her band of faithful workers processed 110 school kits and 94 health kits donated by numerous members of our congregation as part of this annual mission effort. This exceeded St. Paul's effort in 2018. Pastor Paul delivered the kits to the local collection point for the West Ohio Conference Festival of Sharing;
- The small group, Crafty Creatures continues to bless our congregation and our community with their mission of prayer shawls, blankets, and quilts. They also made significant contributions to our annual mission, Christmas Tree of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves which were donated to Samaritan House and other local shelters;
- Our members gave a total of \$850 during Coins-at-Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Recipients of these funds included many local missions as well as UMCOR. Our members also gave \$851 to United Methodist Special Sundays such as UMCOR Sunday, and Student Day;
- St. Paul's donated \$182 to the 9th Annual Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing in July. St. Paul's had a golf foursome with their golf fees going to the memorial fund. Also, five of our members assisted with running the outing. The Brad Joseph Memorial Fund has given out scholarships for medical mission trips to Kenya, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico & Uganda in the past ten years;
- Jamie Wyant led an effort by our members to build at least three wheel-chair ramps in 2019 for people with special needs to gain access to their houses. This continues to be a unique mission both funded and constructed by St. Paul's members;
- On November 2nd members of St. Paul's Church handed out coffee, hot chocolate and pencils to parents and their children at the church for our Trick-or-Treat Night Mission. Over 300 cups of hot beverages were distributed along with pencils having St. Paul's name and website on them. Members of St. Paul's Church also participated by donating candy and manning the trunks for Trunk-or-Treat that same evening. Our members enjoyed this memorable evening;
- St. Paul's donated \$500 to help start a mission in Haultuco, Mexico. Our participation will help start a mission in southern Mexico to develop a camp for youth in the Haultuco area so they may learn the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- St. Paul's members designated our Easter offering for the Light The Way and Mission Possible missions of the West Ohio Conference. We donated \$543.50 to each of these missions. We also designated our Christmas offering to Lima Samaritan House, Lima Rescue Mission and UMCOR - U.S. Disaster Relief, and \$625.67 was donated to each;
- Our youth and a few adults left \$123.30 on “the cow” in the hallway to send to Heifer International to purchase items for families around the world. Thank-you to our youth and adults for their generous donations;

Continued on page 8

2019 Missions Giving Summary

<u>COINS AT COMMUNION GIVING:</u>		<u>2019 AMOUNT GIVEN</u>
Heartbeat of Lima	(January)	\$ 14.60
Elida Area Community Ctr/EASY	(February)	\$ 115.18
Our Daily Bread	(March)	\$ 94.06
5 Loaves Food Pantry - Allentown	(April)	\$ 32.09
WOC United Methodist Church Camps	(May)	\$ 60.56
UMCOR - West Virginia Flood Relief	(June)	\$ 97.19
Brad Joseph Memorial Fund	(July)	\$ 82.57
Meals 'til Monday	(August)	\$ 42.06
Samaritan House	(September)	\$ 61.40
Family Promise	(October)	\$ 93.74
Lima Rescue Mission	(November)	\$ 103.17
Salvation Army	(December)	\$ 53.58
TOTAL:		\$ 850.20
<u>UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPECIAL SUNDAYS GIVINGS:</u>		
Human Relations Day	(January)	\$ 15.00
UMCOR Sunday	(March)	\$ 70.00
Native Amer. Awareness Day	(May)	\$ 15.00
Peace with Justice Day	(June)	\$ 10.00
Health & School Kits shipping donations	(September)	\$ 628.00
World Communion Sunday	(October)	\$ 5.00
Student Day	(November)	\$ 108.00
<u>OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS/GIVINGS:</u>		
Heifer International (\$'s left on cow)		\$ 123.30
Habit for Humanity house in Elida		\$ 5,136.05
TOTAL FOR SPECIAL SUNDAYS/OFFERINGS:		\$ 6,110.35
<u>SPECIAL SERVICES GIVING (Designated Use of \$'s):</u>		
Ash Wednesday (Special Needs Fund)		\$ —
Easter (West OH Conf-Light The Way)		\$ 543.50
Easter (West OH Conf-Mission Possible)		\$ 543.50
Christmas Offering (UMCOR U.S. Disaster Relief)		\$ 625.67
Christmas Offering (Lima Samaritan House)		\$ 625.67
Christmas Offering- (Lima Rescue Mission)		\$ 625.67
UMCOR designated gift		\$ 50.00
TOTAL:		\$ 3,014.00
<u>SPECIAL MISSIONS/DESIGNATED GIVING:</u>		
Giving to ramp fund for ramp projects		\$ 1,020.98
Brad Joseph Golf Outing hole sponsorship		\$ 100.00
Haultuco Mexico Mission		\$ 500.00
Health & School Kits (value=94 Health Kits x \$12; 110 School Kits x \$11)		\$ 2,338.00
Donations to General Missions Fund including \$2000 Gen. Fund Budget Item		\$ 2,628.62
Donations to Crafty Creatures (includes Cookie Walk)		\$ 786.15
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (95 boxes x \$35 per box average)		\$ 3,325.00
Hats, Gloves, Scarves (100 items x \$6 per item average)		\$ 600.00
TOTAL:		\$ 11,298.75
(Food pantry items - not quantified)		
GRAND TOTAL MISSIONS GIVING - 2019:		\$ 21,273.30
2019 Mission Giving as a % of 2019 Church Budget (\$198,858) =		10.7%

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
January 5, 2020	91
January 12, 2020	95
January 19, 2020	74
January 26, 2020	81

Financial Giving
 Weekly Need for
 Unified Ministry Budget
 \$3,879.00

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
January 5, 2020	\$3,263.00	\$725.97
January 12, 2020	\$3,793.00	\$182.19
January, 19, 2020	\$3,024.00	\$102.00
January 26, 2020	\$2,828.00	\$444.61

Sunday School Attendance	
January 5, 2020	4
January 12, 2020	10
January 19, 2020	6
January 26, 2020	5

Greeters	
February 2, 2020	Tony & Shirley Shoup
February 9, 2020	Julie Bok & Cari Metzger
February 16, 2020	OPEN
February 23, 2020	OPEN



Flower Calendar	
February 2, 2020	OPEN
February 9, 2020	OPEN
February 16, 2020	Jamie & Jan Wyant
February 23, 2020	Larry & Shirley Moser

Hospitality Cart	
February 2, 2020	Book Club/ Polly McPheron & Martha Vazquez
February 9, 2020	Sue Theodore
February 16, 2020	Roger & Jackie Henderson
February 23, 2020	Choir/ Linda Holman

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 2/1

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Genesis 18:1-16
Hebrews 10:26-39, John 6:16-27

Sunday 2/2

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Genesis 18:16-33
Galatians 5:13-25, Mark 8:22-30

Monday 2/3

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65
Genesis 19:1-29
Hebrews 11:1-12, John 6:27-40

Tuesday 2/4

Psalm 61, 62, 68, Genesis 21:1-21
Hebrews 11:13-22, John 6:41-51

Wednesday 2/5

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Genesis 22:1-18
Hebrews 11:23-31, John 6:52-59

Thursday 2/6

Psalm 71, 70, 74, Genesis 23:1-20
Hebrews 11:32-12:2
John 6:60-71

Friday 2/7

Psalm 69, 73, Genesis 24:1-27
Hebrews 12:3-11, John 7:1-13

Saturday 2/8

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Genesis 24:28-51
Hebrews 12:12-29, John 7:14-36

Sunday 2/9

Psalm 34, 93, 96
Genesis 24:50-67
2 Timothy 2:14-21
Mark 10:13-22

Monday 2/10

Psalm 77, 79, 80
Genesis 25:19-34
Hebrews 13:1-16, John 7:37-52

Tuesday 2/11

Psalm 78, Genesis 26:1-33
Hebrews 13:17-25
John 7:53-8:11

Wednesday 2/12

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Genesis 27:1-29
Romans 12:1-8, John 8:12-20

Thursday 2/13

Psalm 83, 85, 86
Genesis 27:30-45
Romans 12:9-21, John 8:21-32

Friday 2/14

Psalm 88, 91, 92
Genesis 27:46-28:4, 10-22
Romans 13:1-14, John 8:33-47

Saturday 2/15

Psalm 87, 90, 136, Genesis 29:1-20
Romans 14:1-23, John 8:47-59

Sunday 2/16

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Genesis 29:20-35
1 Timothy 3:14-4:10
Mark 10:23-31

Monday 2/17

Psalm 39, Genesis 30:1-24
1 John 1:1-10, John 9:1-17

Tuesday 2/18

Psalm 94, 97, 99, Genesis 31:1-24
1 John 2:1-11, John 9:18-41

Wednesday 2/19

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Genesis 31:25-50
1 John 2:12-17, John 10:1-18

Thursday 2/20

Psalm 105, Genesis 32:3-21
1 John 2:18-29, John 10:19-30

Friday 2/21

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Genesis 32:22-33:17
1 John 3:1-10, John 10:31-42

Saturday 2/22

Psalm 33, 107:33-43
Genesis 35:1-20
1 John 3:11-18, John 11:1-16

Sunday 2/23

Psalm 118, 145, Proverbs 1:20-33
2 Corinthians 5:11-21
Mark 10:35-45

Monday 2/24

Psalm 106, Proverbs 3:11-20
1 John 3:18-4:6, John 11:17-29

Tuesday 2/25

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 124, 125,
126, Proverbs 4:1-27
1 John 4:7-21, John 11:30-44

Wednesday 2/26

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Proverbs 6:1-19
1 John 5:1-12, John 11:45-54

Thursday 2/27

Psalm 131, 132, 134, 135
Proverbs 7:1-27
1 John 5:13-21, John 11:55-12:8

Friday 2/28

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Proverbs 8:1-21
Philemon 1-25, John 12:9-19

Saturday 2/29

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Proverbs 8:22-36
2 Timothy 1:1-14
John 12:20-26



DO JUSTICE ...

love kindness ...

WALK HUMBLY

with our God.

MICAH 6:8



Missions

Continued from page 4.

- Money was given at Christmas and during Coins-For Communion to the **United Methodist Committee On Relief, UMCOR** for both **U. S. disaster relief** and **international disaster relief**;
- St. Paul's Church again participated in a worldwide mission by **Samaritan's Purse** called **Operation Christmas Child**. Jamie Wyant headed up the collection of 95 shoeboxes. The shoeboxes were filled with gifts for boys or girls, and given to **Samaritan's Purse** to distribute to children worldwide. Thank-you to all who filled boxes with gifts for these children;
- The people at St. Paul's generously donated **\$5,136.05** to **Lima Habitat for Humanity** for them to build a house in the village of Elida. An anonymous donor generously matched the donations by other members to double the amount given to \$5,136. Thanks to all who donated so we could provide a house for a new family in our Elida neighborhood.

The people of St. Paul's United Methodist Church donated over \$21,273 to special missions, coins-for-communion, United Methodist Special Sundays, special designated Sundays and other missions and ministries of our church. See "2019 ST. PAUL'S MISSIONS GIVING SUMMARY", found elsewhere in the newsletter for a complete listing. Thank-you to all who donated to these missions.

Many thanks to the members of the **Mission Committee for 2019**: Jamie Wyant, Norm Grigby, Maedene Holmes, Bev Nesbitt, Dillon & Helen Staas, Martha Vazquez, Dennis Bowsher, Shara Bowsher, Chairman Tim Piper and Pastor Paul Scannell. Also, many thanks to members of our congregation who faithfully volunteered at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, worked on quilts, hats & mittens, assembled health and school kits, filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, worked or played golf at the Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing, worked at Camp Wesley, helped hand out hot chocolate, candy and pencils on Halloween, donated food faithfully to 5 Loaves Food Pantry, worked on ramps, and donated to special missions, projects and funds. You are truly a blessing to the many people who have been served by the generosity of our congregation at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Praise God for his blessings upon our efforts to further His Kingdom!

Thank-You!

Thank you to everyone who pledged to St. Paul's 2020 Unified Budget pledge drive! **\$153,176 was pledged** for the 2020 Unified Budget by **41 giving units** from our congregation. The amount is the most pledged to date for a yearly budget and covers 76% of our 2020 budget of \$201,729. Also, \$2,200 was pledged to our building fund for use by the trustees to complete projects for the church and parsonage. **Thank you** to everyone who pledged faithfully so that St. Paul's may continue with God's work!

Thank you so much, for your support.
It is truly appreciated.

Lima Samaritan House Staff



Mitten Tree Report:

Once again St. Paul's has stepped up to serve the community. Donated to the Samaritan House were 10 hats, 5 scarves/headbands, 8 large gloves, 8 hat/glove sets and 28 mittens and gloves. You all are awesome!

Thank you!
Bev Nesbitt, Missions

Thank you So Much!

Words can not describe the many blessings that the ramp has brought to our mother.
Thank you all for the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make sure this came together.

Jerry and Navette McClure, Mary McClure

Our Church History

United Methodist Student Day was celebrated November 29. Six students and young adults took part in the worship service by being the liturgist, passing out bulletins, and ushering. Those taking part were Stacy Alexander, Oliver Fessler, Alex McAdams, Isaac McAdams, Torie McAdams and Tahler Sdao. We are proud of our students and appreciate their participation in the worship service very much.

December 8 was the Holiday Home Walk. A soup supper was served in the fellowship hall with prizes and gifts given out to the women attending. Three houses were part of the walk this year: the Scannell house, Ginny Doseck's house, and the Theodore's house. It was a very enjoyable evening.

The Crafty Creatures Quilt Group met on December 10 at Shirley Moser's house to make candy for the upcoming Candy and Cookie Walk. Those helping make the candy were Margie Best, Carole Grapner, Mary Irvin, Jone Lane, Shirley Moser, and Lavonne Segovia. The Candy and Cookie Walk was held after the worship service in the fellowship hall on December 13. Many varieties of candy and cookies were sold, with the proceeds going to the Crafty Creatures to buy supplies for making lap quilts.

The Children's Bell Choir, directed by Judy Chaffins, played for the worship service on December 10. The children enjoyed playing for the congregation and did a wonderful job.

On December 14, Margie Best, Ginny Doseck, and Jone Lane made white chocolate snowflakes for the Seniors Day Out dinner at Jone's house. The Seniors Day Out for December was held on December 15. Margie Best, Ginny Doseck, Linda Holman, Corinne Piper and Bev Nesbitt helped serve the meal. Twenty-eight seniors attended the celebration where Al and Karen Joseph provided the Christmas music for the seniors. Linda Holman played the flute, accompanied by Karen Joseph and Dillon Staas wrote a song that was sung by Linda Holman, Al Joseph, Anne Laman and Dillon Staas, accompanied on piano by Karen Joseph. It was a wonderful Christmas celebration.

United Methodist Student Day
November 29, 2015

Holiday Home Walk
December 8, 2015



Remember When...

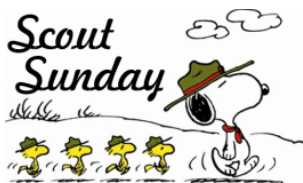
February 18, 2007
Church Birthday party



February 14, 2012
Seniors Day Out



February 12, 2017
Children's Moments on
Scout Sunday



Connecting With ...

Children's Sunday School News:

Preschool

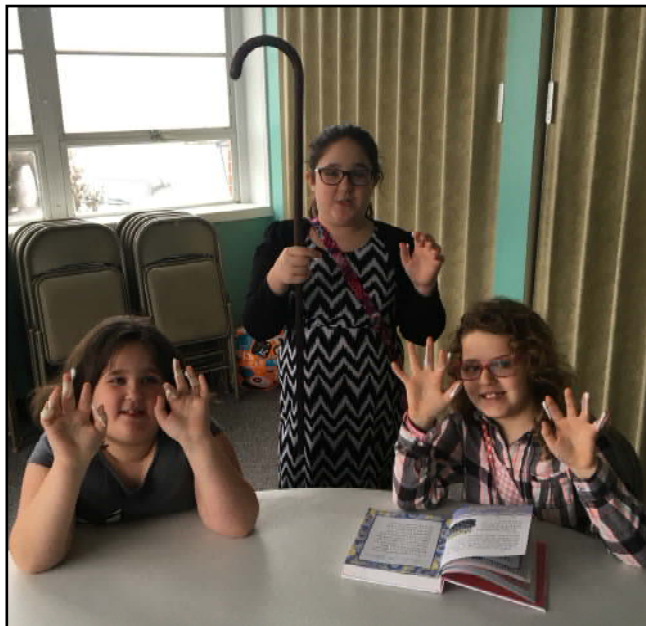
As of the first of the year, a class for children ages 1 to 6 years was started during church. Please come and join us for a fun time while learning about Jesus with simple stories and songs with curriculum geared to this age group. We will meet every Sunday after the Children's time in the preschool class room.

Shirley Moser and Torie McAdams



These Sunday School classes meet following the children's moments during the Sunday morning Worship service that starts at 10:00 AM.

The Sunday School offering is designated to The Heifer International, to buy animals to better the lives of the less fortunate in poor countries. The children get to choose what animals to buy. The Sunday School offering may be placed in the wooden cow in hallway.



Elementary

Our Elementary class (which regularly consists of four girls) is currently using God's Little Princess Devotional Bible by Sheila Walsh as the basis for our class. We read different stories each week then learn more about them and how they relate to us through role playing, song and prayer. Our class can definitely include Little Princes who want to join us as well. The focus is on what God's words mean to his children, his princes and princesses!

Slone Whetstone

The People of St. Paul's

Church Family at St. Paul's, Your prayers, cards, texts and flowers are greatly appreciated, during my recent surgery and illness!

*Peace,
Lois Rabley*

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the prayer blanket for my sister Chris Risner, and for everyone who prayed over it. She liked it very much and it gave her comfort. She had it on her bed when she passed away on January 16th after an extended illness.

Your thoughts and prayers for my family are greatly appreciated.

Tim Piper

Thank you for the flowers from St. Paul's which I received upon the death of my daughter, Chris Risner. Also, thank you for the prayer blanket for Chris and for all of the prayers for Chris these past two months.

*God bless you all.
Jean Thomas*



Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Jerry Crates
Lois Rabley

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jerry Crates
Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart



Our Condolences to Jim Hines on the passing of his brother-in-law, Butch Piper. Butch was also a nephew to Jean Thomas and Tim Piper's cousin. Cards may reach Jim at 2601 Whipoorwill Ave., Elida, OH 45807.

Our sympathy to Jean Thomas and Tim and Corinne Piper on the passing of Chris Risner, Jean's daughter and Tim's sister. A Memorial service was held in Piqua on January 20. Cards will reach Jean at Lochaven Apt. #115, 1640 Allentown Rd., Lima, OH 45805, and Tim and Corinne at 3003 Freyer Rd., Elida, OH 45807.

Meetings

February 3, 2020
PPR...7:00 PM

February 4, 2020
Trustees...7:00 PM

February 5, 2020
Worship Mtg..10 AM

Finance ...No Mtg.

February 10, 2020
Ad Council...7:00 PM

TBA
Missions...7:00 PM

Sundays
Prayer...9:30 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

FEBRUARY

2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 Barb Schade	3	4 Cyndi Smith	5 Don Irvin	6	7 Gary Hurd	8 Cari Metzger
9 Michelle Grapner	10 Marla Scannell Caroline Stengel	11	12	13	14	15 Tara Gaghen Bill Waever
16	17	18 Sherilyn Ellinger Sydney Lane	19	20 Ron Steiner	21 Mary Kaye Pease	22 Andrew Piper
23	24	25	26 Addison Chaffins	27	28 Makayla Bok Kate Stengel	29

HAPPY 
Anniversary

Gary & Janet Grigg
February 18; 54 yrs.

Gene & Linda Craft
February 25; 53 yrs.

Larry & Shirley Moser
February 28; 49 yrs.



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Pioneer Woman Brownies

By Barb Schade

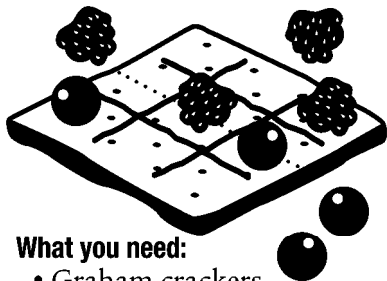
Ingredients		Instructions
1/3 cup + 1 Tbl.	Evaporated milk	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 9x9 inch pan. (can use parchment paper and spray lightly.) Pour evaporated milk in bowl with cake mix. Add melted butter. Add chopped nuts, mix ingredients together. Batter will be thick. Divide the dough in half, down the middle. Press into bottom of pan to make first brownie layer. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Thin canned caramel with a little evaporated milk until smooth, spread caramel mixture over first baked layer. Sprinkle Chocolate chips over top of caramel layer. On clean surface, press remaining dough into square and set on top of chocolate chips. Bake an additional 20 to 25 minutes. Cool then refrigerate. Top with powdered sugar. Can also wrap in parchment paper and freeze in ziplock baggie, add powdered sugar before serving. (These freeze well.)
1 box	German Chocolate cake mix	
1 stick	Butter, melted	
1 cup	Nuts (pecans or walnuts), chopped	
3/4 can	La Lechera caramel (thinned with a little evaporated milk until smooth)	
1/2 cup	Chocolate chips (semisweet)	
1/4 cup	Powdered sugar (sifted)	



KIDZ KORNER

Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

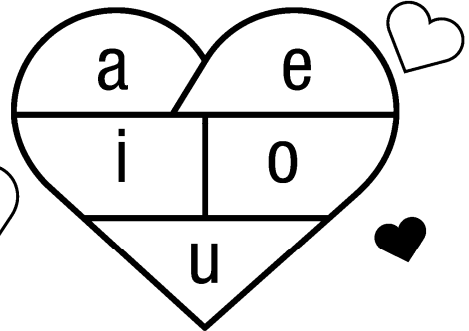
1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!



A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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Living Our Faith

Looking for Love

Though not a fan of making New Year's resolutions, Jen Kramer decided to add meaning to 2018 by declaring it #theyearoflove. Each day she wrote a "love note" to a different person, expressing gratitude and offering encouragement. Recipients ranged from waiters and custodians to relatives and a terminally ill friend.

The experiment may have stemmed from the sudden, unexpected death of Kramer's father while she was away at college. "Why don't we say those things to people while they're here?" she tells the *Chicago Tribune*. "It's easy to be kind, and it's easy to tell people how you feel."

Kramer's campaign didn't cost a cent, yet it changed her life and touched hundreds of people in the process. Wherever she went, she discovered that "love showed up." It's simple, Kramer says: "You just have to look."

Burden Bearers

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ... We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—Philip Yancey,
Where Is God When It Hurts?