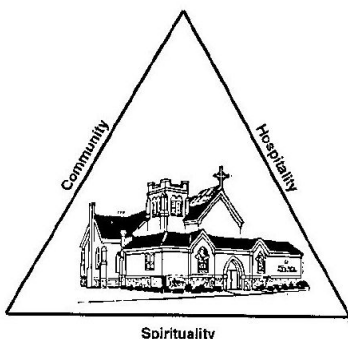


St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
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Happy New Year Everyone,

2017 has been quite the year at Elida St Paul's with many things happening all around the church and the community. I am going to take a little time to remember a few events from this past year, and take a personal privilege and talk about the future here at St Paul's. First, the personal privilege is quite simply a BIG thank you to everyone who has given us gifts this past Christmas. We appreciate every card and gift. I am still amazed by the kindness given to my family throughout the year, but especially at Christmas. Thank you all!

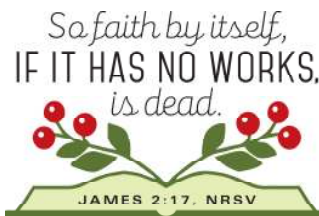
2017 in Review. First, I will forget something important in this list so I am relying on your grace when I forget. Music - what great music we have had throughout 2017! Piano and organ music is the envy of my colleagues; soloists with instruments and voices; a choir who works hard to make every anthem wonderful. Thank you, musicians, one and all! Office staff, newsletters, mailings, schedules, bulletins continue to magically appear exactly on time. They keep me in line and make sure everything runs smoothly, no matter what else is going on. Thank you, Gail and her office helpers! Finance, you keep the lights on and keep us on budget, you helped us fund a capital campaign 100% in just a few short weeks and when I call and need it today you have always come through. Thank you all! Trustees, what can I say? All the big projects over the last few years and then heat in the sanctuary in just a few weeks, walls built, trenches dug, electrical hooked up, fire escapes built, roofs repaired, ceilings ripped out, messes cleaned up, snow plowed and grass cut, just to name a few. We appreciate all the little and big things you do!

Mission team, what great work you do! Hot chocolate served, ramps built, food served at Our Daily Bread, Health and School kits shipped, Christmas boxes sent, Camp Wesley construction (in all types of weather), food pantry food delivered, mittens and hats collected, just to name a few. Thank you for serving God and our world in missions. Nurture team, you keep us fed when we grieve, remembering us when we no longer can make it to church, helping us celebrate with a meal and helping others feel loved and comforted. Thank you! Crafty Creatures and Seniors Day Out making others feel good through your hard work and generosity. We say thanks! As you can tell, I could go on and on, but there is only so much space in the newsletter.

I look forward to all we will do for our community in 2018 and how God will continue to use this place and you, the people of St Paul's, to bring the love of Christ to His people.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

Kindness is like snow —
it beautifies everything
it covers.

—Kahlil Gibran

Happy New Year!

Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2018

Resolve To "Be There"

Let our New Year's resolution be this:

We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

—Goran Persson

Epiphany Wonder

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look ... their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—Peter Chrysologus (5th century)

GOLD
myrrh
& incense

January 7
Coins For Communion will
benefit Heartbeat of Lima.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
deadline:
the 16th
of each month

Christian Symbol

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ — This set of letters spells "Christ" in Greek. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (from which the English alphabet descended), but is also often presented in Greek characters, as shown here.

St. Paul's Epistle

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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

Baptism of the Lord
 We will be celebrating Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 14.



Monday,
 January 15

January 18-25
 Week of Prayer for
 Christian Unity



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Food Pantry Sunday, January 14
 Items needed:
 Non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



NO Seniors Day Out in January.
 We will see you February 19!!

LOST:


1 Thermos hard-side insulated carrier for a 9x13 inch casserole dish.
 It has been missing since the Nagy funeral dinner.

If you know its whereabouts, please contact Sue Theodore at (419-979-8002) or the church office.

St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Saturday, February 3, 2018 @ 9:00 AM.


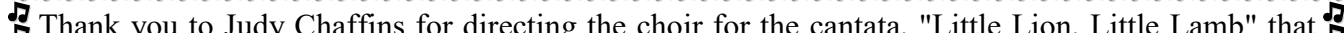
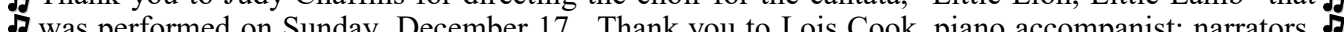

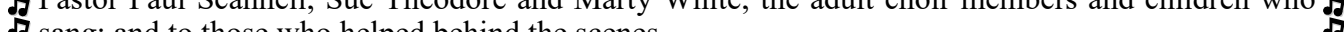


The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper
 By Phaedra Patrick

Bring your own breakfast and join the discussion group

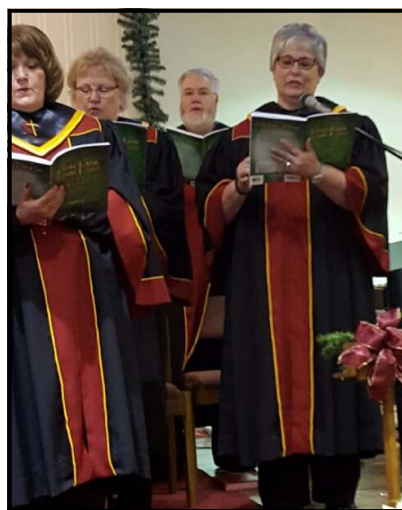


Choir Cantata

"Little Lion, Little Lamb" *by H. Sorenson*

Thank you to Judy Chaffins for directing the choir for the cantata, "Little Lion, Little Lamb" that was performed on Sunday, December 17. Thank you to Lois Cook, piano accompanist; narrators, Pastor Paul Scannell, Sue Theodore and Marty White; the adult choir members and children who sang; and to those who helped behind the scenes.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made and donated items and or bought items at the cookie walk on December 10. \$695.50 was collected which will go to the **Crafty Creatures** small group quilt and prayer shawl missions.



A HUGE thank you to our choir who have again helped Elida Brownie Troop 20082 sing to the residents at Elm Croft. This is our 4th year joining together to bring joy to the residents!

Merry Christmas!
Becky Ellinger



Thank you to all who placed hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves on our sanctuary Christmas tree. The tree was overflowing with items.



Thank you to Dwain and Myrna Metzger and all who helped decorate the church for Christmas.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

December 3, 2017	106
December 10, 2017	97
December 17, 2017	152
December 24, 2017	84
December 24, 2017 6:00 PM	74
December 24, 2017 10:00 PM	86

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
December 3, 2017	\$4,472.00	\$602.64
December 10, 2017	\$3,060.00	\$1,041.99
December 17, 2017	\$2,318.00	\$441.00
December 24, 2017	\$2,444.00	\$1,748.00

Sunday School Attendance

December 3, 2017	16
December 10, 2017	12
December 17, 2017	0
December 24, 2017	0

Greeters

January 7, 2018	OPEN
January 14, 2018	OPEN
January 21, 2018	Alex & Stacy McAdams
January 28, 2018	OPEN

Flower Calendar



January 7, 2018	OPEN
January 14, 2018	Virginia Hollar
January 21, 2018	Ron & Mary Steiner
January 28, 2018	Gerald & Wanda Strayer

Hospitality Cart

January 7, 2018	Marty & Kathy White
January 14, 2018	Don & Mary Irvin
January 21, 2018	Alex & Stacy McAdams
January 28, 2018	Choir

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 1/1

Psalm 66, 67, 145
Colossians 3:12-17, John 6:41-47

Tuesday 1/2

Psalm 33, 34, 1 Kings 19:1-8
Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:1-14

Wednesday 1/3

Psalm 68, 72, 1 Kings 19:9-18
Ephesians 4:17-32, John 6:15-27

Thursday 1/4

Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29
Joshua 3:14-4:7
Ephesians 5:1-20
John 9:1-12, 35-38

Friday 1/5

Psalm 2, 110, Jonah 2:2-9
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 11:17-27, 38-44

Saturday 1/6

Psalm 46, 96, 97, 100
Isaiah 49:1-7
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21

Sunday 1/7

Psalm 103, 114, 115
Deuteronomy 8:1-3
Colossians 1:1-14
John 6:30-33, 48-51

Monday 1/8

Psalm 112, 113, 117, 118
Exodus 17:1-7
Colossians 1:15-23, John 7:37-52

Tuesday 1/9

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 131, 132
Isaiah 45:14-19
Colossians 1:24-2:7, John 8:12-19

Wednesday 1/10

Psalm 138, 139, 147
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Colossians 2:8-23, John 10:7-17

Thursday 1/11

Psalm 91, 92, 148, 150
Isaiah 55:3-9
Colossians 3:1-17, John 14:6-14

Friday 1/12

Psalm 98, 99, 100
Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12
Colossians 3:18-4:6, John 15:1-16

Saturday 1/13

Psalm 104, Isaiah 61:1-9
Galatians 3:23-29, 4:4-7

Sunday 1/14

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Genesis 1:1-2:3
Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:29-34

Monday 1/15

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Genesis 2:4-9(10-15) 16-25
Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 1/16

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Genesis 3:1-24
Hebrews 2:1-10, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 1/17

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 2:11-18
John 1:(29-34)35-42

Thursday 1/18

Psalm 18, Genesis 4:17-26
Hebrews 3:1-11, John 1:43-51

Friday 1/19

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Genesis 6:1-8
Hebrews 3:12-19, John 2:1-12

Saturday 1/20

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Genesis 6:9-22
Hebrews 4:1-13, John 2:13-22

Sunday 1/21

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23
Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19

Monday 1/22

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Genesis 8:6-22
Hebrews 4:14-5:6, John 2:23-3:15

Tuesday 1/23

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Genesis 9:1-17
Hebrews 5:7-14, John 3:16-21

Wednesday 1/24

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Genesis 9:18-29
Hebrews 6:1-12, John 3:22-36

Thursday 1/25

Psalm 37, Genesis 11:1-9
Hebrews 6:13-20, John 4:1-15

Friday 12/26

Psalm 31, 335
Genesis 11:27-12:8
Hebrews 7:1-17, John 4:16-26

Saturday 1/27

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Genesis 12:9-13:1
Hebrews 7:18-28, John 4:27-42

Sunday 1/28

Psalm 63, 98, 103, Genesis 2:1-10
Galatians 2:1-10, Mark 7:31-37

Monday 1/29

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Genesis 14:1-24
Hebrews 8:1-13, John 4:43-54

Tuesday 1/30

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21
Hebrews 9:1-14, John 5:1-18

Wednesday 1/31

Psalm 54, 119:49-72
Genesis 16:1-14
Hebrews 9:15-28, John 5:19-29



Our Church History

On August 16, 2003, many volunteers were at the Allen Co. Fairgrounds to help set up and take down the chairs for the grandstand concert. A large number of chairs have to be set up before the concert and then taken down as soon as the concert is over. The more volunteers we have, the easier the job. Thanks to all who helped on that day.

Brad Joseph once again went on the medical mission trip to Nuevo Progreso, Mexico, in October, 2003. Many people walk many miles to get medical help. It is a very worthwhile mission trip.

Congratulations to the people of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Your apportionments were again paid in full for the year 2003. The church again received a certificate from Bishop Ough stating this fact.

St. Paul's "Y" Night was held at the YMCA in February, 2004. Many activities were enjoyed by the members, their families, and their guests: swimming, basketball, racquetball, volleyball, and walking the track. Afterwards, snacks brought by the members were enjoyed by all in a special room.

A carry-in lunch was held for Rev. Larry and Beth Snyder in the fellowship hall on his last Sunday, June 27, 2004. The good food brought by St. Paul's wonderful cooks was enjoyed by all.

Rev. John Tsironis became St. Paul's minister in July. His first Sunday to preach was July 11, 2004. A welcome reception with cookies and punch was held in the Narthex following the worship service. Many people were present to welcome our new minister.

On August 21, 2004, many volunteers were at the Allen Co. Fairgrounds bright and early that Saturday morning to begin to set up the large number of folding chairs for the grandstand concert that evening. After the concert that night, many people returned to take the chairs down.

In October, Brad Joseph, and Shara and Kim Bowsher, went on the Medical Mission Trip to Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Over 30 people made the journey to help provide the Mexican people with medical care. The group stays at the First United Methodist Church in Mercedes, Texas, about 11 miles from their destination in Mexico.

On November 7, 2004, St. Paul UMC celebrated paying off the roof loan mortgage with a special "burning" ceremony with Rev. Tsironis, Todd Hanes, and Art Holman. Also in November, Myrna Metzger and Shelly Reiff remodeled the East Entrance.



August 16, 2003
Allen Co. Fair Chair Set-Up

February, 2004
St. Paul's Night at the YMCA



Winter

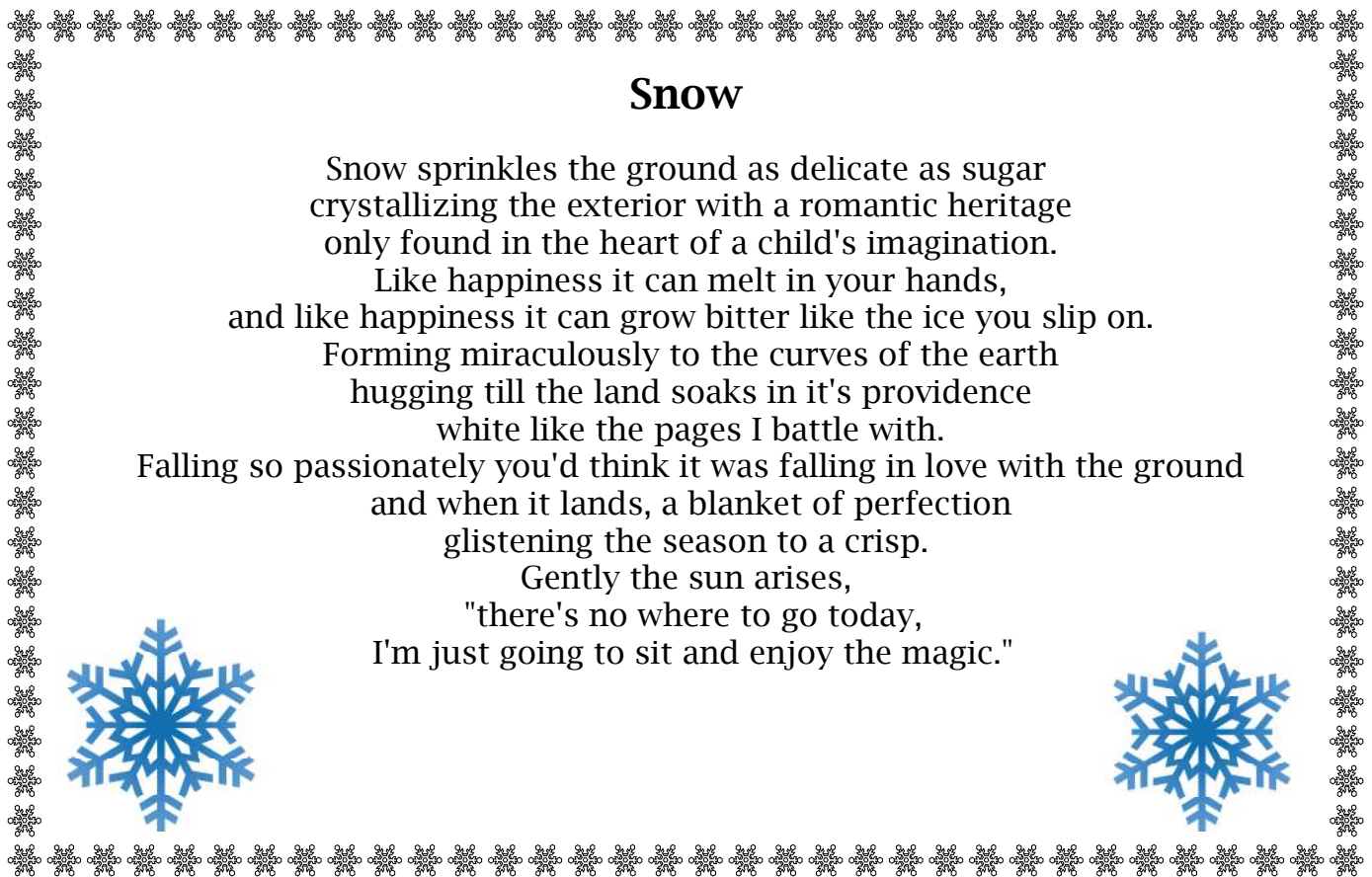
Winter Gift

“God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, ‘Fall to the earth’; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann



Snow

Snow sprinkles the ground as delicate as sugar
crystallizing the exterior with a romantic heritage
only found in the heart of a child's imagination.

Like happiness it can melt in your hands,
and like happiness it can grow bitter like the ice you slip on.

Forming miraculously to the curves of the earth
hugging till the land soaks in it's providence
white like the pages I battle with.

Falling so passionately you'd think it was falling in love with the ground
and when it lands, a blanket of perfection
glistening the season to a crisp.

Gently the sun arises,
"there's no where to go today,
I'm just going to sit and enjoy the magic."



Remember When...



Church Meeting
January, 1986
L-R: Judy Chaffins, Linda Holman,
Elaine Gladfelter, Ron Gossard



Adult Sunday School
January, 1995
L-R: Marty White, Ron and Mary
Steiner, Margie Best, Janna
Thompson, Kathy White



Youth Fundraising
Spaghetti Dinner
January 30, 2005



Connecting With ...



Congratulations to coach, Denny Thompson and senior, Isaac McAdams on a good start to the basketball season. Elida Boys Basketball is off to an 8-0 start (as of 12/29/17). Way to go Dawgs!



December, Seniors Day Out
Elida High School Choir performed Christmas music.
Thank you to the ladies that prepared the meal and decorated the Fellowship Hall.



Christmas Eve Early Candlelight Service:
Cody and Brittany Scannell played a duet
“Carol of the Bells”.

Children's Bells played with help from
Jenson Nagy and Slone Whetstone.

The People of St. Paul's



Remember in Prayer

Thank you so much for the beautiful nativity scene you sent me for Christmas. It's so nice to have you as my church family and I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Jan Soddors

Thank you for the beautiful nativity scene. Also thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

Ruth Hardy



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

- Jerry Bean
- Karen Bible
- Mary Irvin
- Bill McKinney
- Ray Trigg
- Jan Wyant

Homebound Members

- Hazel Dunn
- Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

- Karen Bible
- Bill and Esther McKinney
- Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

- Oliver Fessler
- Nathan Stewart




Crafty Creatures, Thanks so much to a special group of ladies who truly made my day. I'm sure it will make many trips to Detroit with me. It is so soft and just the right size. I Love it! God's blessings to you all during this Christmas season.

*Much Love,
Sharon Overholt*

Thank You!

“For
I KNOW
 the plans
 I have for you,”
 declares the LORD,
 “... plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”
 Jeremiah 29:11, NIV



Prayer For A New Beginning

Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I've caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name. Amen.



Meetings

January 2, 2018
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 3, 2018
Worship Mtg...6:00 PM

No PPR
No Finance Mtg.

January 8, 2018
Ad Council..7:00 PM

TBA
Missions Mtg.

Sundays
Prayer...8:45 AM
Sunday Sch...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00

January 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Tim Piper	2	3 Dakota DeRose Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook	6 Adia Slemmons
7	8 Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9 Jenessa Peters Larkin Wyant	10	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13
14 Roger Henderson	15	16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby	18	19	20
21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup	22	23 Joanne Bragg	24	25	26 Jeff Reiff	27 Jacalyn Henderson
28	29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31 Linda Kristoff Judy Strayer			

January
ANNIVERSARIES

Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
 January 1; 62 yrs.

Paul & Marla Scannell
 January 8

Gerald & Wanda Strayer
 January 13; 64 yrs.

Bill & Bev Nesbitt
 January 16

Don & Maedene Holmes
 January 25; 59 yrs.

Cooking Tips

FOOD STORAGE GUIDELINES

Food	Storage Time	Special Handling
Sugar, granulated	2 years	Keep in airtight container after opening
Syrups—corn, maple, maple flavored	1 year	Refrigerate maple syrup after opening
Vegetable oil	1 year	Keep in a tightly capped bottle away from heat and light
Yeast, active dry	Check package date	Refrigerate during warm weather

EQUIVALENT MEASURES:

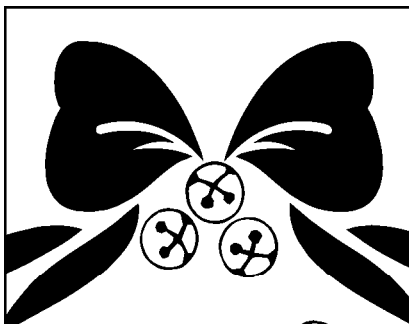
3 teaspoon = 1 Tablespoon
 16 Tablespoons = 1 cup
 2 cups = 1 pint
 4 cups = 1 quart
 2 pints = 1 quart
 4 quarts (liquid) = 1 gallon
 4 Tablespoons = 1/4 cup
 5 1/3 Tablespoons = 1/3 cup
 1 cup = 8 fluid ounces
 Pinch or dash is less than 1/8 teaspoon
 2 Tablespoons = 1 fluid ounce
 1 pound = 16 ounces



SUBSTITUTIONS:

1 tablespoon cornstarch (for thickening) = 2 tablespoons flour (approximately).
 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour = 1 cup + 2 tablespoons sifted cake flour.
 1 square chocolate (ounce) = 3-4 tablespoons cocoa + 1/2 tablespoon shortening.
 1 teaspoon baking powder = 1/4 teaspoon baking soda + 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar.
 1 cup molasses = 1 cup honey.
 1 cup sour cream = 1 cup evaporated milk + 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice.
 1 whole egg = 2 egg yolks + 1 tablespoon water (*in cookies*) or
 2 egg yolks (*in custards and similar mixtures*)
 1 tablespoon fresh herbs = 1 teaspoons dry herbs.
 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder = 1 small pressed clove of garlic.
 1 cup fine crumbs = 24 saltine crackers, 4 slices of bread, or 14 squares graham crackers.

KIDZ KORNER



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

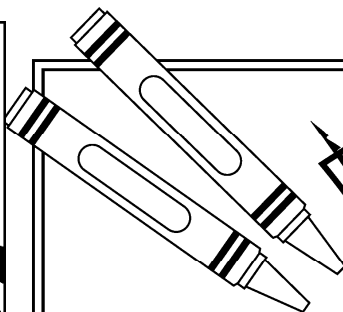


What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
 QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR
 MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

----- , -----

----- , -----

----- :

----- , -----

----- ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith



A Penguin "Parable"

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective "crèches" (French for "cribs"); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can't survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

A New You

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

—G.K. Chesterton

