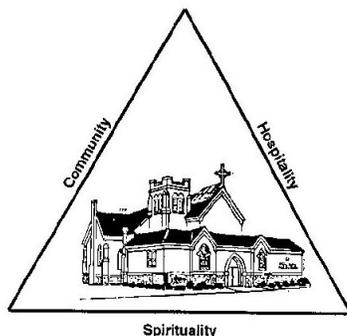


St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's United
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Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Prayer	4
Crafty Creatures	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Advent	8
Advent Season	9
Christmas eve	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
January Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Komer	15
Living Our Faith	16



Before I get started with January's newsletter, I want to take a personal moment to thank all of you who have sent us cards, gifts, and food this Christmas and during our time of loss with Ted's passing, funeral, and graveside service. You have shown us the love of Christ in all your actions cards and hugs. The Scannell's have made it through a long and trying 2022. Your love and support have been essential to our not just surviving, but our growing closer to Christ through your caring and love. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

2023, a new year, and nearly a quarter of the way through the 21st Century, the older I get the faster time flies by. My babies are growing up fast, and this year our 3rd child will be moving out, and we are getting closer to being empty nesters. 2022 brought a lot of changes to everyone, and we at St Paul's, were not immune from the effects of time. We lost more than our share of people, some passed away, and some moved away, but we also gained a group of new faces as God continues to be faithful to all of us. I am blessed to count myself a part of this church's footprint on the Elida Community, and I look forward to how God can use us to be about the work planned for Elida and the world.

I wanted to speak to you briefly about our structure of leadership here at St Paul's; if you looked at the list of people in positions, here at church, you will notice the committees have gotten smaller. We chose to do this so we do not have people on multiple committees (there are still a few), which will free us up to create some groups for short-term projects on temporary committees. Making it easier for you to say yes to the work of the church, knowing it may only last 6-12 weeks, then disband once the task is accomplished. If the experiment does not work, we can revisit the arrangement at any time to create leadership in our church that allows us to complete the work and still be active in ministry to all of God's children.

Finally, January is of course the month I focus on Women of Faith in my sermon series. The first Sunday of January will be about Epiphany, and the next 4 will be the Women of Faith series. For the last two years, I have focused on women of faith who are not Biblical characters, 2023 will focus on Biblical women who have not only been faithful but are indeed heroic. We will look at Hannah, the mother of Samuel (a genius whose faith is overwhelming), Deborah, the judge (whose strength and leadership saved her people), Esther, a young woman who overcame her fear (Queen of an empire who saved her people), and Priscilla, a leader and mentor to leaders of the early church (whose level head helped shape the church as we know it).

I look forward to what 2023 has in store for us, and until I see you at church in 2023, I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Another Year For God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
 in working or in waiting, another year with thee....
 Another year of progress, another year of praise,
 another year of proving thy presence all the days.
 Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
 another year of training for holier work above.
 Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
 on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

—Frances Ridley Havergal

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Newsletter
 deadline:
 the **19th**
 of each month

Christian Symbol



OPEN BOOK

A book symbolizes the Bible, the written Word of God. When shown open, a book represents truth or revelation. Apostles and saints are often pictured holding an open book, understood as the New Testament writings of the early Christian church.

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

**Epiphany
January 1, 2023**



**Food Pantry Sunday
January 15**
**Donations taken to
Five Loaves Food Pantry
at The Church at Allentown**



**January 1, 2023
Coins for Communion
will benefit Heartbeat of Lima**

**January 16
Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**January 8, 2023
Baptism of the Lord Sunday**



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$78.74 to Family Promise. 100% of your support goes to helping the homeless children and families rebuild their lives and regain their independence. The next Family Promise mission is on Friday, **January 27, 2023**. Volunteers are needed to prepare food and deliver to Family Promise on Gloria Dr. in Lima, by 5:30 PM. The Sign-up sheet to volunteer to provide food is at the media desk. Further details of families will follow as the date gets closer.

Thank You



Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Your generosity is allowing us to show hurricane victims, Ukrainian refugees, Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipients, and many more that God is with them. God bless you, and Merry Christmas!
Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President



Prayer

Prayer For The New Year

Edgar A. Guest

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.
Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.
A Happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.



Crafty Creatures



On behalf of the members of the Crafty Creatures small group, we would like to thank our church family and friends for your huge support of our candy sale. When the group decided to have this candy sale as a fundraiser, we had no idea what to expect. After deducting expenses and adding donations, we have cleared a total profit of \$938.50. Thank you all for your support, allowing us to continue our mission of showing God's love by providing prayer shawls and quilts to those in need of comfort and support. We have also done a few other projects with the yarn and fabric we have received.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
December 4, 2022	67
December 11, 2022	58
December 18, 2022	85
December 24, 2022 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	62
December 25, 2022 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26

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

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
December 4, 2022	\$10,655.00	\$1,066.70
December 11, 2022	\$4,134.00	\$2,018.50
December 18, 2022	\$8,625.00	\$525.00
December 25, 2022	\$1,466.00	\$605.00

Hospitality Cart	
January 1, 2023	OPEN
January 8, 2023	OPEN
January 15, 2023	OPEN
January 22, 2023	OPEN
January 29, 2023	OPEN

Sunday School Attendance	
December 4, 2022	7
December 11, 2022	10
December 18, 2022	21
December 25, 2022	0

<i>Altar Flowers</i>	
January 1, 2023	Lavonne Segovia
January 8, 2023	Paul & Marla Scannell
January 15, 2023	Brent & Vicki McAdams
January 22, 2023	OPEN
January 29, 2023	OPEN

2023 Altar Flower Calendar

There are some dates open for Altar flowers for 2023. If you would like to sign-up , the flower chart is on the hallway bulletin board or call the office at 419-339-3801, or e-mail the office at officeespc@gmail.com.

Please specify if the flowers are in honor of, or in memory of someone, or a special occasion.

The cost for Altar flowers is \$30.00 plus tax, through the Flower Loft in Elida.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday 1/1

Psalm 66, 67, 145
1 John 2:12-17, John 6:41-47

Monday 1/2

Psalm 33, 34, Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12
John 6:35-42, 48-51

Tuesday 1/3

Psalm 68, 72, Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22, John 10:7-17

Wednesday 1/4

Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29
Exodus 3:1-12
Hebrews 11:23-31, John 14:6-14

Thursday 1/5

Psalm 2, 110, Joshua 1:1-9
Hebrews 11:32-12:2
John 15:1-16

Friday 1/6 *Epiphany*

Psalm 46, 96, 97, 100
Isaiah 52, 7-10
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21

Saturday 1/7

Psalm 103, 114, 115
Isaiah 52:3-6
Revelation 2:1-7, John 2:1-11

Sunday 1/8

Psalm 111, 112, 113
Isaiah 40:1-11
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 11:1-7, 19-20, 29-34

Monday 1/9

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4,7
Isaiah 40:12-23
Ephesians 1:1-14, Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday 1/10

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11,
Isaiah 40:25-31
Ephesians 1:15-23, Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday 1/11

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Isaiah 41:1-16
Ephesians 2:1-10, Mark 1:29-45

Thursday 1/12

Psalm 18, Isaiah 41:17-29
Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 2:1-12

Friday 1/13

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Isaiah 42:(1-9)10-17
Ephesians 3:1-13, Mark 2:13-22

Saturday 1/14

Psalm 20, 21:1-7(8-13),
Psalm 110:1-5(6-7), 116, 117
Isaiah 43:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21
Mark 2:23-42

Sunday 1/15

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Isaiah 43:14-44:5
Hebrews 6:17-7:10
John 4:27-42

Monday 1/16

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Isaiah 44:6-8, 21-23
Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday 1/17

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Isaiah 44:9-20
Ephesians 4:17-32
Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday 1/18

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Isaiah 44:24-45:7
Ephesians 5:1-14, Mark 4:1-20

Thursday 1/19

Psalm 37, Isaiah 45:5-17
Ephesians 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34

Friday 1/20

Psalm 31, 35, Isaiah 45:18-25
Ephesians 6:1-9
Mark 4:35-41

Saturday 1/21

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Isaiah 46:1-13
Ephesians 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sunday 1/22

Psalm 63, 98, 103, Isaiah 47:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-31, John 5:2-18

Monday 1/23

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Isaiah 48:1-11
Galatians 1:1-17

Tuesday 1/24

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Isaiah 48:12-21
Galatians 1:18-2:10
Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday 1/25

Psalm 53, 119:49-72
Isaiah 49:1-12
Galatians 2:11-21, Mark 6:13-29

Thursday 1/26

Psalm 50, 118, Isaiah 49:13-23
Galatians 3:1-14, Mark 6:30-46

Friday 1/27

Psalm 40, 51, 54, Isaiah 50:1-11
Galatians 3:15-22, Mark 6:47-56

Saturday 1/28

Psalm 55, 138, 139, Isaiah 51:1-8
Galatians 3:23-29, Mark 7:1-23

Sunday 1/29

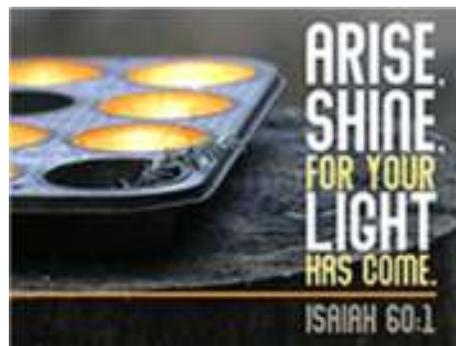
Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84, Isaiah 51:9-16
Hebrews 11:8-16, John 7:14-31

Monday 1/30

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65
Isaiah 51:17-23
Galatians 4:1-11, Mark 7:24-37

Tuesday 1/31

Psalm 61, 62, 68, Isaiah 52:1-12
Galatians 4:12-20, Mark 8:1-10



Advent

2nd Sunday of Advent
The Sdao Family
Steve, Tracy & Tahler Sdao



3rd Sunday of Advent
The Rife Family
Benjamin, Casey,
Jackson, Ashton, & Hudson



4th Sunday of Advent
The Clark Family
Austin, Lauren, & Calloway



Christ Candle
The Bok Family
Travis, Julie
Anika, Terry & Cassidy



Thank You!

The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season by Myrna Metzger and the McAdams Family. **THANK YOU!!**

Thank you, to our musicians; Linda Holman, Organ, and flute accompaniment with the choir; Lois Cook, Piano; Judy Chaffins, Choir Director.



Advent Season

In the Spirit of Giving

Jan Wyant made, and packaged, cookies that were handed out following worship service, one to keep for yourself and the other to share with someone else.



In the Spirit of Giving

Pastor Paul had a special gift for the children after Children's moments.

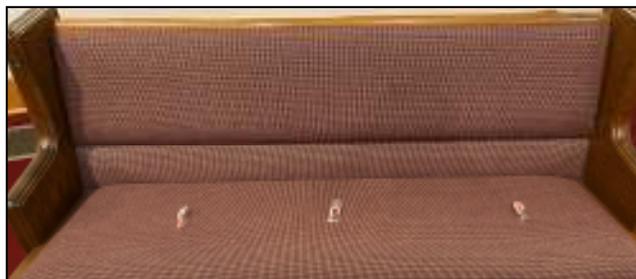
In the Spirit of Giving

Shirley Moser and helper's, held a Christmas party for the Children's Church kids. Santa came!



In the Spirit of Giving

Candy canes were anonymously placed on the pews for those attending the worship service.



Christmas Eve



Scripture Readers:
Isaac McAdams,
Cody Scannell,
Corinne Piper,
Dan Best & Tahler Sdao



Special Music:
Myrna Metzger
"Mary Did You Know?"
Piano Accompaniment,
Lois Cook.

Special Music: Brittany Scannell—Flute
"Silent Night, Holy Night" During the service of the Light.



Connecting With...



Our sympathy to the Family and friends of Esther McKinney, who was 96. She passed on November 24. A service was held on November 9 with Pastor Paul officiating. A luncheon was held in the fellowship Hall where friends and family shared stories of both Esther and Bill McKinney. The McKinney's always sat in the 2 person pew at the far right side of the sanctuary, it is still remembered as, Bill and Esther's Pew.

Our sympathy to Carolyn Michael on the passing her husband, Jim, on November 29, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Jim was very active in the Elida Community, and sang in many Barbershop quartets.

Our sympathy to the Family of Jim Hines, who passed away on December 2, at the age of 86. A memorial service was held on December 7, in Celina with Pastor Paul officiating.

Dear Friends,
What a surprise and what a beautiful poinsettia delivered to me. He was such a wonderful husband and has no more pain. I'm sure he's in heaven playing his trumpet and singing with the other barbershoppers. He attended St. Paul's for many years but one day said "why are we driving past one church to go to another" so started attending at Allentown. Both places will help us get to where we want to go and I'm sure he's already waiting on all his friends.

Thanks again
Sincerely,
Carolyn Michael

Thank You!

To Members of St. Paul's United Methodist,
Thank you for the lovely floral arrangement given in memory of our father.

The Family of James Hines

The People of St. Paul's

Thank You

St. Paul's Church Family,
Sincere thanks for the love,
support, and flowers for
Butch (Carl) during his
recent surgery. He continues
with physical therapy and is
doing well.
Thanks too for the ongoing
live streaming of church
services. We feel blessed to
have that availability in our
home.

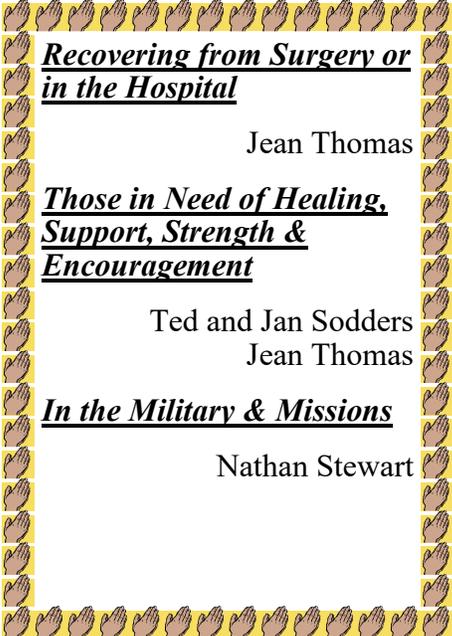
Love and Hugs,
Lois and Butch Rabley

We wish to thank St. Paul's
for the flower bouquet
which my mom, Jean
Thomas, received from the
church. Thank you to
everyone who prayed for my
mom while she had COVID
and was in the hospital and
nursing home. A special
thanks to Pastor Paul for
visiting her in the nursing
home. She greatly
appreciated it. Mom has
recovered and is residing at
Kessler Estates. The office
has her address.

Tim and Corinne Piper



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or
in the Hospital
Jean Thomas

Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement
Ted and Jan Soddors
Jean Thomas

In the Military & Missions
Nathan Stewart

Kessler Estates Christmas Party!
Joyce Nichols, and new resident
Jean Thomas, attended the party.
Other St. Paul's residents,
not pictured, are Mary Grigsby,
Mary Holmes, and Glenna Kohli.



Meetings

No Trustees Mtg...

January 4, 2023
Worship Mtg..10:00 AM

January 16, 2023
PPR Mtg..7:00 PM

No Ad Council/Finance

Missions ...TBA

**Sundays
 Worship...10:00 AM**

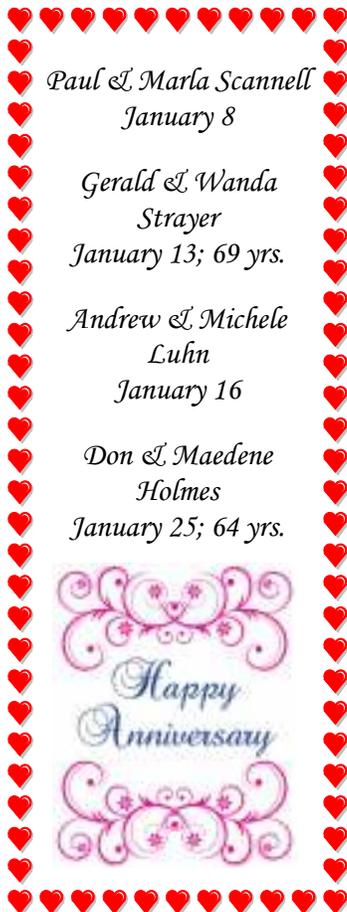
**Wednesdays
 Choir...7:00PM**

JANUARY

2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Anniversaries



Paul & Marla Scannell
 January 8

Gerald & Wanda Strayer
 January 13; 69 yrs.

Andrew & Michele Luhn
 January 16

Don & Maedene Holmes
 January 25; 64 yrs.



Happy Anniversary

1 Tim Piper Ron Stewart	2	3 Dakota DeRose Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Calloway Clark Lois Cook	6 Adia Slemmos	7
8 Cynthia Guess Larry Moser	9 Larkin Wyant	10	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13 Carolyn Michael	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 Ginger Fox	27 Jacalyn Handerson	28
29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31 Austin Clark Judy Strayer				

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

White Chili

By Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
1 (48oz.)	Northern Beans (don't drain)	Add all ingredients and cook until thick. For creamy chili, add 1 cup sour cream.
1 to 2 cups	Chicken, white Cooked and cut up	
1 small	Onion, chopped	
1 can (small)	Chicken broth	
1 can	Green Chilies, chopped	
1 1/2 tsp.	Garlic powder	
1 tsp.	Salt	
1/2 tsp.	Pepper	
1 tsp.	Cumin	
1/4 tsp.	Cayenne Pepper	
1 tsp.	Oregano	



SEEKING RECIPES!!

We would love to pass your special recipes on to others by featuring them on this page of our newsletter.

Recipes may be e-mailed, snail mailed or brought into the church office.

KIDZ KORNER

TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story – and the snack – with a friend!



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

God made wild animals and livestock.

○ _ _ _ _ _

God said, "Let there be light."

_ _ _ _ _ ○

God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.

○ _ _ _ _ _

God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."

_ _ _ _ _ ○

God created plants and trees.

_ _ _ _ _ ○

God separated the light from the darkness.

○ _ _ _ _ _

God made the water teem with living creatures.

_ _ _ _ _

God made the sun and moon.

_ _ _ _ _ ○

God made birds fly above the earth.

_ _ _ _ _

God made stars.

○ _ _ _ _ _

God created mankind in his own image.

_ _ _ _ _

God _aw all tha_ he _ad ma_e, an_ _t was ve_y g_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

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

Baptism is serious business!

Baptizing people into God's family has always been a ministry highlight for Pastor Stan Purdum. One Sunday, he had the privilege of welcoming three infants and two young boys to the baptismal font, along with all their parents. After baptizing the babies, Purdum turned toward the families with older children, who'd been instructed to have their boys step forward one at a time.

Immediately, the 3-year-old shouted, "Not me!" and bolted for the exit. His father caught the youngster and carried him back as the congregation chuckled. This time, Purdum wasted no time completing the sacrament.

"Maybe this young boy was not greatly wrong to try to duck baptism," he later pondered. "Far from being a harmless little ceremony, baptism begins a lifetime commitment to God, which over the long haul is no easy thing. It lays upon us the responsibility to live up to the vows we have made." How seriously do you take your baptismal vows?