

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 39, Issue 7

July, 2016

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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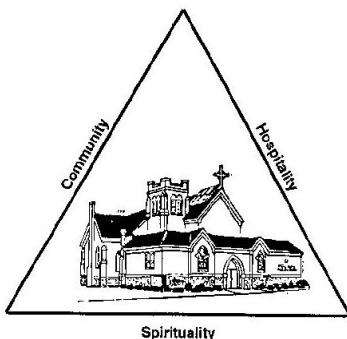
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We have been working our way through the fruits of the spirit and I hope you have found some places where God has ripened you. Gentleness and self-control are left on the tree and together we will continue to harvest what God has for us.

Three years ago I asked you to pray for a program that has become E.A.S.Y; not easy to do or plan. People are meeting again this summer to put together the E.A.S.Y. program. I am asking for your prayers of support and that you would think about ways you could help in our community. Several people listened to and believed God had a plan for this program and followed through with actions. Maybe there is something God is challenging you to make happen. I want to encourage you to talk to me or someone else about that dream.

July has arrived and the heat is on, or at least it is as I write this in mid-June. So I am asking you to remember last winter and how cold it was and the wish you made about it being summer again and hot outside. Also, this is the time of year when food banks are beginning to run low on food and they could use a boost from us. Please bring food as though the holidays were here and let's help replenish supplies at the food bank.

God Bless,
Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

"Prayer is where the action is"

- John Wesley



THE BRADLEY W. JOSEPH MEMORIAL FUND



MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, July 9, 2016
Tee Time: 9:00 AM
Hot Dogs at the turn
Games/Contests all day

Event Location:

Colonial Golfers Club
10985 Harding Hwy
Harrod, OH 45850
419-649-3350

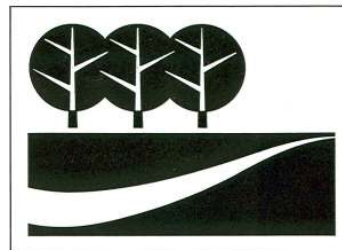
July's
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit the
**Brad Joseph Memorial
Fund**

Activity Highlights:

Award Luncheon & Ceremony
Team Prizes
18 Holes of Golf with Cart
Shot Gun Start
Four Person Scramble

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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



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Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

SENIORS DAY OUT

July 19
12:00 Noon

At Hermon Woodlands Metro Park
485 N. Wapak Rd., Elida
(South off Allentown Rd.)

Guest Speaker:
Mr. Kevin Haver
Director of the Metro Parks District
Picnic lunch provided

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

July 3rd – **Coins for Communion** – to benefit the **Brad Joseph Memorial Fund**.

July 9th – **Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing** – we need a foursome to defend our **1st Place finish** from the 2015 outing and 3-4 volunteers to help at the outing. If you can golf or help at the outing, contact Tim Piper.

July 10th – **Food Pantry Sunday** – thank you to those individuals who faithfully give food for our partnership with the **Five Loaves Food Pantry** at Allentown.

July 29th – **Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen** – There is a fifth Friday in July which means that St. Paul's will again provide volunteers to work at the soup kitchen to serve food. You can volunteer by contacting Tim Piper or let the office know. It is a very rewarding experience!

July – August – **Operation Christmas Child** – take advantage of summer sales to stock your shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, which will be collected in November. A list of items for shoeboxes may be found on the sanctuary windowsills.

August – September – **Health & School Kits** – Maedene Holmes will again be heading up the effort by our congregation to fill and donate health and school kits to be collected in September and delivered by Pastor Paul to the **Festival of Sharing** at Otterbein College.

Thank you everyone at St. Paul's for your continued support of our missions. If you would like to help on any of our missions, see Pastor Paul or Tim Piper, missions chair.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Allen County Fair Chairs 2016

Your help is needed for the annual fair chairs setup and takedown at the Allen County Fair. On Friday, August 26, St. Paul's Church will again be setting up chairs for the 2 concerts in the grandstands. We will take chairs down on Saturday, August 27th after the last concert. Everyone's help is needed. If you can't lift chairs, there are stickers to place on the chairs and chairs to straighten. Or you can just come and give moral support to the workers. Age isn't a factor. Contact Art Holman for more information. Come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie of your friends at St. Paul's.



See You At The Fair!



2016 Annual Conference



Comments About the 2016 Annual Conference Worship Experiences

This year's annual conference finalized the theme Becoming the Beloved: Taken, Blessed, Broken, Given. We learned that the focus of "Given relates to be 'given'. Henri Nowen writes "We are chosen, blessed, and broken so as to be given. There is joy, happiness and peace in being given away for the sake of the other. We come to see that God's grace abounds and is to be shared in the name of the one who gave his life so that all might experience the glory of a transformed life. How different would our life be were we truly able to trust that it multiplied in being given away."

Sunday evening, Lay Leader, Tom Slater, welcomed 892 laity to the 47th Annual Conference. After prayer, he welcomed Rev. Dr. David Watson, President of United Theological Seminary. Dr. Watson spoke about the need of churches to include persons with disabilities in worship, more than providing ramps. Churches need to actively welcome persons with disabilities through programs and creating an inclusive spirit.

Worship Sunday evening was a version of a New Orleans dirge weaving together joy and sorry. The procession consisted of a band, dancers and mourners singing, "Just a Closer Walk With Thee." This was truly awesome watching the processors come down the aisles dressed in black and twirling colorful umbrellas. Following this procession was the honoring of all those who have died this past year: clergy, spouses, laity, and family members. This was a great celebration of death and life. The final message expressed by Bishop Palmer was, "We are not running from death, we are running into abundant life in Jesus."

Each morning worship services began our day. All of the services were inspiring and had great messages. My favorite message was delivered by Bishop Peggy Johnson who resides and serves as the Episcopal leader of the Philadelphia area of the United Methodist Church. She has a passion for ministry with people with disabilities and was a pastor of an all deaf congregation for several years. Her signing throughout the conference was beautifully flowing and natural. We learned and practiced clapping as deaf people do. If you would like to hear her wonderful, joyful message, just ask me or go to West Ohio Conference United Methodist Church, click on 2016 Annual Conference. Next click on Live Streaming and then click on Watch any session...archive and lastly scroll down and click on Wednesday morning Worship Service. It is worth the viewing!

August's newsletter report will let you know about the business of the conference and some other notable highlights.

Linda Craft, Lay Delegate



Missions

SUMMER MISSIONS ARE UNDERWAY

On Sunday, June 5th, St. Paul's had a "summer kickoff" and celebration of all of our missions that we support. Tim Piper gave an overview of our missions and showed a PowerPoint about many of our missions. Jamie Wyant showed a PowerPoint of our summer mission work at **Camp Wesley** and of the upcoming cabin to be built at Camp Wesley. Jamie has been involved with the planning for this cabin and members of our congregation have donated funds for it. St. Paul's donated a total of \$2,500 this year towards the construction of the cabin, which should begin in August. Jamie also talked about **Operation Christmas Child** and suggested we begin now to collect items for the shoeboxes during summer sales months. A list of items for the shoeboxes and envelopes are on windowsills in the sanctuary. Jamie also talked about our ramps mission of building ramps for people to have access to their homes. Corinne Piper recognized and thanked all of our St. Paul's volunteers who helped with or provided materials and food for our **Elida After School Youth program**. John Fleming, uncle of Brad Joseph, presented a PowerPoint and discussed the upcoming **Brad Joseph Golf Outing** on July 9th. John talked about all of the medical mission work now being done in the world that is funded by the **Brad Joseph Memorial Fund**.

On Saturday, June 11th, a small group of volunteers from St. Paul's and Immanuel United Methodist Churches went down to Bellefontaine for **workday at Camp Wesley**. Two layers of old roof shingles were removed and stacked in a pile, new tarpaper installed and a few rows of shingles nailed on. We will need to go back later to finish shingling the roof. Thanks to Gary Hurd for mowing and to Jeff Gast and Bruce Tumblin from Immanuel UMC for working on clearing trees for the footprint of the new cabin and some other work that they did. Praise God for providing such a beautiful setting for a church camp! (See photos on our St. Paul's Facebook page).



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

May 29, 2016	114
June 5, 2016	92
June 12, 2016	114
June 19, 2016	122

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
May 29, 2016	\$2,503.50	\$207.00
June 5, 2016	\$5,441.00	\$743.36
June 12, 2016	\$2,563.23	\$230.26
June 19, 2016	\$2,367.00	\$384.00

Adult Sunday School / Children's Church Attendance

May 29, 2016	A- 6 C-5
June 5, 2016	A- 5
June 12, 2016	C-5
June 19, 2016	A-6 C-6

Greeters

July 3, 2016	Norm & Mary Grigsby
July 10, 2016	Dan & Margie Best
July 17, 2016	Travis & Makayla Bok
July 24, 2016	Gary & Deb Hurd
July 31, 2016	OPEN

Flower Calendar

July 3, 2016	Ruth Burgoon
July 10, 2016	Greg & Barb Schade
July 17, 2016	Tim & Corinne Piper
July 24, 2016	Lois Cook
July 31, 2016	Nick & Jacinda Perry

Hospitality Cart

July 3, 2016	Julie Bok & Cari Metzger
July 10, 2016	OPEN
July 17, 2016	Fran Hall & Lois Cook
July 24, 2016	Choir
July 31, 2016	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Friday 7/1

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Numbers 20:1-13
Romans 5:12-21
Matthew 20:29-34

Saturday 7/2

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
Numbers 20:14-29
Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11

Sunday 7/3

Psalm 118, 145
Numbers 21:4-9, 21-35
Acts 17:(12-21)22-34
Luke 13:10-17

Monday 7/4

Psalm 106, Numbers 22:1-21
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 21:12-22

Tuesday 7/5

Psalm 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126
Numbers 22:21-38
Romans 7:1-12, Matthew 21:23-32

Wednesday 7/6

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Numbers 22:41-23:12
Romans 7:13-25
Matthew 21:33-46

Thursday 7/7

Psalm 131, 132, 134, 135
Numbers 23:11-26
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday 7/8

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Numbers 24:1-13
Romans 8:12-17
Matthew 22:15-22

Saturday 7/9

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Numbers 24:12-25
Romans 8:18-25
Matthew 22:23-40

Sunday 7/10

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Numbers 27:12-23
Acts 19:11-20, Mark 1:14-20

Monday 7/11

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27
Romans 8:26-30, Matthew 23:1-12

Tuesday 7/12

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Numbers 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34
Romans 8:31-39
Matthew 23:13-26

Wednesday 7/13

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Deuteronomy 1:1-18
Romans 9:1-18, Matthew 23:27-39

Thursday 7/14

Psalm 18, Deuteronomy 3:18-28
Romans 9:19-33, Matthew 24:1-14

Friday 7/15

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Deuteronomy 31:7-13, 24-32:4
Romans 10:1-13
Matthew 24:15-31

Saturday 7/16

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Romans 10:14-21
Matthew 24:32-51

Sunday 7/17

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Joshua 1:1-18
Acts 21:3-15, Mark 1:21-27

Monday 7/18

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Joshua 2:1-14
Romans 11:1-12, Matthew 25:1-13

Tuesday 7/19

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Joshua 2:15-24
Romans 11:13-24
Matthew 25:14-30

Wednesday 7/20

Psalm 38, 119:25-48, Joshua 3:1-13
Romans 11:25-36
Matthew 25:31-46

Thursday 7/21

Psalm 37, Joshua 3:14-4:7
Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 26:1-16

Friday 7/22

Psalm 31, 35
Joshua 4:19-5:1, 10-15
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 26:17-25

Saturday 7/23

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Joshua 6:1-14
Romans 13:1-7
Matthew 26:26-35

Sunday 7/24

Psalm 68, 98, 103
Joshua 6:15-27
Acts 22:30-23:11, Mark 2:1-12

Monday 7/25

Psalm 41, 44, 52, Joshua 7:1-13
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 26:36-46

Tuesday 7/26

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Joshua 8:1-22
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 26:47-56

Wednesday 7/27

Psalm 49, 119:49-72
Joshua 8:30-35
Romans 14:13-23
Matthew 26:57-68

Thursday 7/28

Psalm 50, Joshua 9:3-21
Romans 15:1-13
Matthew 26:69-75

Friday 7/29

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Joshua 9:22-10:15
Romans 15:14-24
Matthew 27:1-10

Saturday 7/30

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Joshua 23:1-16
Romans 15:25-33
Matthew 27:11-23

Sunday 7/31

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Joshua 24:1-15
Acts 28:23-31, Mark 2:23-28

Business of the Church

Trustees report

I would like to explain what the trustees have been doing with the heating system at the church.

We installed a small gas furnace in the pastor's office that heats that room plus the church office and the meeting room. It also has air conditioning to do the three rooms. We painted the walls and put in new ceilings with new lights.

We had to bring in a new big gas line for the new furnace and for the two other ones that we would like to put in to do the rest of the top floor.

The total cost of the project was \$17,099.36. This came out of the building fund. We have decided to put one new furnace in the choir room to do that room and the adjoining room on the east side of the hall. It also will have air conditioning on it. We will not put a new ceiling and new lights in now but at a later date. The cost for this is \$9,000.00.

We are also going to replace the kitchen cabinets, but use the same counter top. They will be like the center cabinet, 6" off the floor. The cost of this is \$8,700.00.

When we get this done later this summer or early fall we will see how our money looks. We would like to install the last furnace in the Ed. Wing. The boiler pipes were installed in the mid 1950s so we are hoping they do not rust thru until we can unhook the Ed. Wing off of the boiler.

When we setup the building fund the trustees wanted 40% held out in a rainy day fund. That balance is \$18,508.66. The balance for the 60% part of the fund is \$17,577.55.

This is what we are trying to get done this year and also keep the buildings in good repair.

Ron Steiner, Trustees Chair

Christian Symbol



Eagle

Eagles came to symbolize the Resurrection thanks to ancient legends that they renewed their youth, plumage or eyesight by flying near the sun, then diving into water. The eagle's upward movement made it a symbol of Jesus' ascension. John the Evangelist is represented by an eagle, for his "soaring" description of Christ's divinity. God's care is likened to an eagle in Bible verses such as Exodus 19:4: "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself" (ESV).

Our Church History

During the years 1957-1960, the village experienced a building boom, and in this short time, hundreds of new homes were built, bringing with them a whole new potential of people seeking a church home. With the addition of new people, a whole new change took place in the growth and work of the church.

In October, 1963, the mortgage on the church addition was paid in full, and a special observance was held, at which time the mortgage burning was witnessed. Rev. Lewis Nichols gave the address during the dedication service. Rev. Wayne Morgan was the serving minister.

In June, 1964, the parsonage was remodeled, including a new kitchen with built-in cupboards, range and sink installed, hardwood floors laid, new roof put on, and a large carpet laid in the living room and dining room. An open house celebrating this milestone was held on November 1, 1964.

On November 18, 19, and 20 of 1964, a church directory was begun with families, church groups, and officers being photographed in order to have a pictorial record of Elida Methodist Church as of 1964.

In the Spring of 1965, on the recommendation of a Church Planning Committee, Mr. Harold Hardy, Chairman, and the Official Board, purchase was made of the Worthy Gahman property on North West Street, adjacent to the northeast corner of the Educational Building.

In the Fall of 1965, a state wide higher Education Crusade was made for seven million dollars for our Ohio Methodist Colleges and Wesley Foundations. The Elida Church was happy to receive pledges for 150% of its goal, or \$8,500. On a percentage basis, the Elida Church ranked first in the Lima District.

In 1966 and 1967, our church sanctuary was much brightened with color by the Senior Choir securing new blue-green choir robes and the Junior Choir new scarlet red robes. The Junior Choir sang twice a month for the morning services with 25 young voices singing in the choir. The sanctuary and entranceways also were redecorated in a candle-light ivory with white ceiling.

In 1967, through the love for their church, Mr. and Mrs. Shannon Morris provided funds for the installation of much needed new carpeting for the sanctuary. In February, 1967, the carpenters began laying a lovely new blue carpet.

In October, 1967, a New Life Mission was conducted in the church for the purpose of activating old members and bringing the church to a new sense of its Christian mission in the community.

The conferences of both the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church had been considering a merger for some time. In April, 1968, both conferences met in General Conference in Dallas, Texas, for the purpose of uniting the two churches into the United Methodist Church. As a result of this merger there were two United Methodist Churches in Elida. It was necessary to change the name of the Elida Methodist Church. By a congregational vote on March 31, 1968, the name was officially changed to St. Paul's United Methodist Church.



The United Methodist Church symbol is known worldwide. It is the mark of our church, just as other organizations have identifying logos. It came into being because of the merger.

Our symbol relates the church to God by way of the second and third person of the Trinity; God the son (the cross) and God the Holy Spirit (the flame).

The Cross further suggests the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord, and the Flame is the sign of the "Tongues of Fire" of the Holy Spirit.

Wherever you go, whenever you see the insignia, you can be sure that it represents an official part of the United Methodist Church.

Remember When...



July, 2004

Welcome reception for
Rev. John Tsironis

L-R: Martha Vazquez, Rev. John
Tsironis, Mary and Ron Steiner



July, 2008
UMCH Mission Trip

L-R: Dillon Staas, Norm Grigsby,
Bill McKinney



July, 2011
Special Music

Alsbrooks Smith, Jr.
Pianist

Connecting With ...

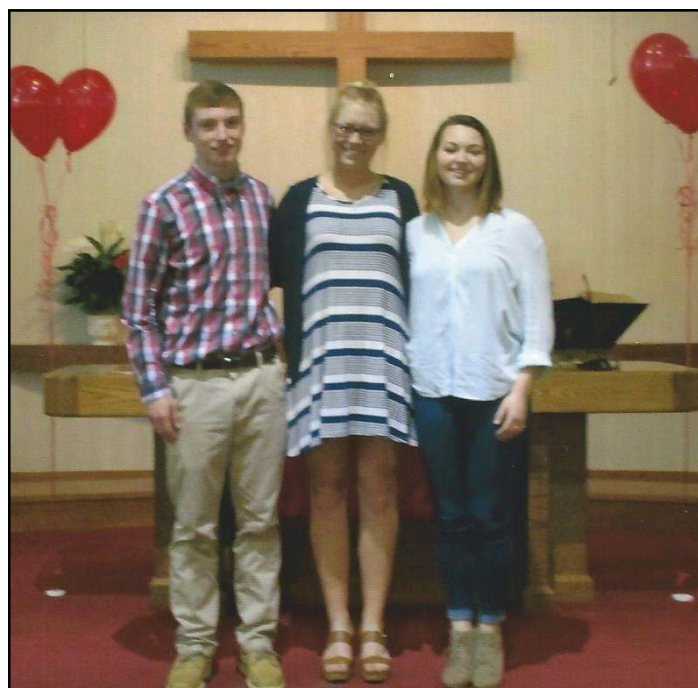
May Seniors Day Out!

Thank you to all who have a hand in making this mission a success.



Graduates Sunday May 15, 2016

High School :
Emma Scannell and Oliver Fessler
College: Stacy Alexander



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to **Jon Moorman** and **Amber Roesser** who were united in marriage, Saturday, June 11th, at St. Paul's. Pastor Justin Fuhrmann from Spencerville UMC officiated the ceremony. Cards of congratulations may reach Jon and Amber at 216 N. Greenlawn Ave., Elida, OH 45807



The People of St. Paul's

*To the People of St. Paul's,
I want to thank you for all the
good and nice things that
have been done for me
since Christmas.
I do appreciate every card,
every letter and especially the
Christmas package.*

***My Love To You All,
Jo Hurd***



*Thank you for the beautiful
wind chimes in memory of
my Sis, Jan Basinger.
St. Paul's fellowship is a very
caring church.*

Jeannine May

*To all at St. Paul's,
Many thanks for the flowers,
cards, prayers and good
wishes expressed by many of
my friends and members at
St Paul's Church. All are
greatly appreciated.*

Jerry Bean

Loving Friends,
*Thank you for the beautiful
flowers sent to me during my
hospital stay. Thanks to all of
you who sent cards, text
messages, and especially for
the prayers and love! God
has richly blessed me by the
friends of St. Paul's!*

***Blessings to all!
Carole Grapner***

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Carole Grapner
Jim Hines
Denny Thompson

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Jean Redd

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

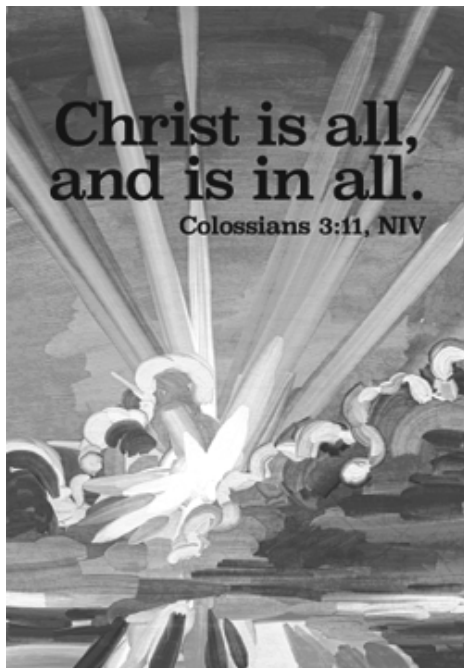
Joanna Hurd
Jan Soddors

In the Military & Missions

Dani Milke

**Christ is all,
and is in all.**

Colossians 3:11, NIV



Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you for the delicious graduation breakfast and for the wallet. Thank you for all your support through the years.

Oliver Fessler

Meetings

July 5, 2016
Trustees...7:00 PM

No Worship Team

No PPR

No Finance

July 11, 2016
Ad Council...7:30 PM

No Missions Meeting

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

JULY 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Anika Bok Lucy Chaffins Jenni Jankovsky	2
3	4	5 Brian Kinney	6	7	8 Jean Redd; 99 yrs.	9
10 Don Holmes Tony Matlock	11 Emma White	12	13	14 Gloria Brunk Brady Emmons Jackson Lane Hayden McKee	15	16 Kim Crates
17	18 Madeline Kuenzli Zachary Loose	19 Macy Chambers	20	21 Savannah Emmons	22 Travis Bok Carole Grapner	23 Bryan Craft
24	25 Ian House	26	27 Ella Motzer Gretchen Woeller	28 Katie White	29	30 Jonathan Perry Ethan Thomas
31 Jan Wyant						

Anniversaries

Doug & Ginger Fox
July 6

Travis & Julia Bok
July 17

Tim & Corinne Piper
July 17; 40 yrs.

Bill & Marlene Weaver
July 18; 65 yrs.

Tim & Sue Theodore
July 20

Denny & Carole Grapner
July 26; 53 yrs.

Bill & Joyce Nichols
July 27; 70 yrs.

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Vermicelli Ham Salad

By Teara Potter

Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb	Vermicelli	In 6 cups boiling water, break vermicelli into thirds and cook until tender but still firm. Approximately 7 to 8 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water. Set aside.
2 cup	Mayonnaise (Miracle Whip)	
4Tbs.	Apple cider vinegar	
4	Hard boiled eggs-chopped	In large to extra large bowl, combine mayo, vinegar and eggs. Add in remaining ingredients one at a time.
1- 10 oz.	Frozen peas, thawed (uncooked)	
2- 4oz. jars	Pimentos, chopped	Stir in vermicelli until well coated. Chill for at least 1 hour.
1/2 cup	Parsley, chopped or (1/3 cup parsley flakes)	
1/2 cup	Green onions, thinly sliced (use all the onion)	Serves 12 to 14.
1 cup	Celery, Chopped	
2 cups	Ham, cooked & cubed (can use ready to use pkgs.)	
To taste	Salt & Pepper or (Natures Seasoning)	



No Sugar Apple Pie

By Corinne Piper

Ingredients		Instructions
1-12 oz. can	Frozen apple juice	Combine juice, cornstarch, cinnamon, salt. Heat until thickened. Add sliced apples and simmer until partially cooked. Pour into unbaked pie shell and cover with top crust or crumb topping. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
2 Tbs.	Cornstarch	
1 tsp.	Cinnamon	
pinch	Salt	
5 large	Apples	
2	Pie crust (not baked)	



KIDZ KORNER



Celebrate summer with this tasty dessert pizza, using your favorite summer fruits as the toppings.

What you need:

- 1 tube slice-and-bake sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Round pizza pan
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sliced fruit
- Adult help

What you do:

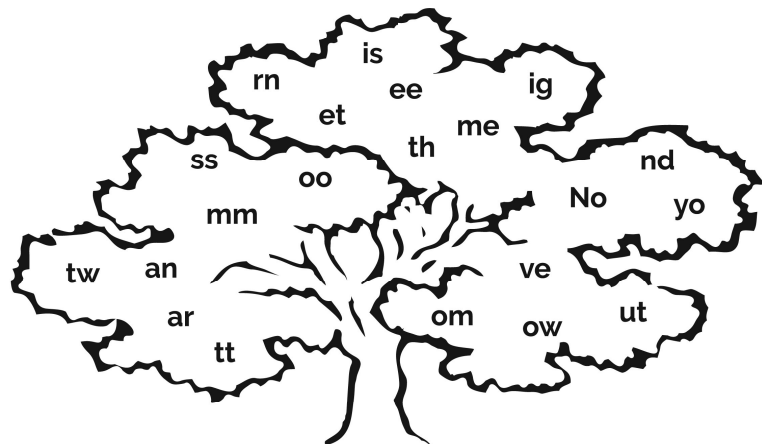
1. Cut the dough into slices $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick. Place slices on the pan, overlapping them slightly.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes. Let cool.
3. Combine softened cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, mixing well. Spread this "frosting" over the baked-cookie "crust."
4. Arrange fruit on top of the pizza.
5. Slice and enjoy!



Signs of summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



"___ w lea___ th___ le___ on
fr___ the f___ tr___: As s___ n
as its ___ igs g___ te___ er ___ d
its lea___ s co___ o___, ___ u
kn___ ___ at su___ er is ne___."

Ma___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."
Matthew 24:32, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org



Living Our Faith

Be a lifesaver

About 200 people — including 100 lifeguards — attended a pool party in New Orleans in 1985 to celebrate the first summer in memory that no one had drowned at a city pool. At the end of the festivities, the four on-duty lifeguards began clearing the area and found a fully dressed man in the deep end. Despite efforts to revive him, he died.

Just as swimming with a bunch of lifeguards doesn't guarantee safety, "swimming" with a sea of churchgoers doesn't guarantee peace. People in the pews next to you might be struggling to stay above water physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. Be alert to ways you can serve as a lifeguard. Extend a helping hand, a listening ear and an encouraging reminder of Jesus' ultimate rescue (see Romans 7:24-25).

The Gift of Grace

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: "Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you."

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*