

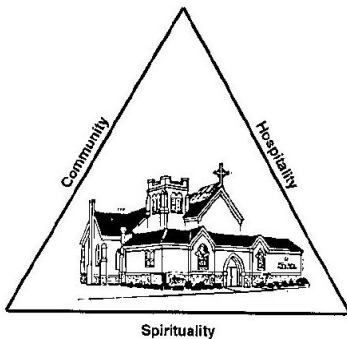
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 41, Issue 7

July, 2018

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Summer is officially here. The kids are out of school, it is hot and many of us will take a vacation, go to a family reunion or enjoy summer in various different ways. Whether you go to the beach, go camping, go to a ball game or just go for a nice drive in the country, all of these things share that action in common, to go. The next five weeks we are going to spend some time with people who were on the go; the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their leader, Moses. I started June 24th talking about the five courageous women who saved Moses' life when he was an infant. I will spend time looking at several different people who entered Moses' life to help God's plan come to fruition. The series is about Moses but the sermons are mostly about the people around him. Look for 'yourself' among the many faces that helped God by supporting Moses through the journey toward the Promised Land.

We will look at some of the great stories of the Bible such as a baby in a basket in a river, a burning bush, a stubborn king with plenty of plagues, Ten Commandments, a home for God, disgruntled people and a final blessing. Moses had help from God and a lot of other people too. Come with me on the journey as we explore who those people are and how God used their gifts to His glory.

We are still looking for a couple volunteers to help with the Brad Joseph Memorial golf outing on the 14th of July. We are also building three ramps this summer and we need your muscles. You do not need to be skilled labor. Lord knows I am not that, but they even take what little help I can give. So you are always welcome. Jamie Wyant is the contact person for ramps and he is good at letting us know by email and in church where we are going and when we will start. Seniors Day Out is always the 3rd Tuesday of the month and all are welcome for a free meal, good fellowship and an interesting program.

I have to go. The kids are up, the sun is shining and it is summer so that means we're going somewhere. I'll see you around town a.k.a. the mission field.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul

Thought for the Month:

Adopt the pace of nature: Her secret is patience.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Alex and Stacy McAdams on the birth of their daughter, Rylan Kay, born on Friday, June 1. Rylan weighed 10 lbs., 9 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Brent and Vicki McAdams. Great grandparents are Ron and Kay McAdams and Dwain and Myrna Metzger. She is niece to Reggie, Tori and Isaac McAdams, who will help spoil her.

Congratulations to Cody and Briana Warris on the birth of their son, Brayden (Brady) Michael born June 15, weighing 8 lbs., and 20 inches long. Proud big sister is Ryleigh and grandparents are Scott and Beth Warris and great grandma is Dottie Jennell.

Congratulations to Tony and Shirely Shoup on the birth of their granddaughter, Luna Ann Swartz, born on June 13. Luna weighed 6 lbs. and was 18 3/4 inches long. Proud parents are Mindy and Dustin Swartz and big sister Hana.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Five Loaves Food Pantry
at The Church at Allentown
Food Pantry Sunday is
July 15

Christian Symbol

Lamp

A lamp symbolizes the Word of God: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). It also may represent wisdom, based on Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13). Additionally, a lamp may symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – and life itself.



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Subscription Rate: NONE	
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Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker



THE BRADLEY W. JOSEPH
MEMORIAL FUND



MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, July 14
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 1
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit the
Brad Joseph Memorial Fund

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



A prayer for the 4th

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate

SENIORS DAY OUT

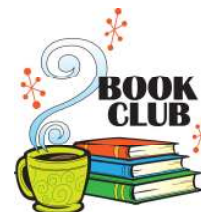
July 17, 2018
12:00 Noon
In the Fellowship Hall
All seniors welcome!

Book Club

August 4, 2018
9:00 AM

We will discuss
"One Summer"
By David Baldacci

Bring your own breakfast.



Newsletter
deadline:
the 16th
of each month

Summer Saints

Many churches celebrate saints - a variety of Christians over the centuries who are seen to have lived especially good lives. Of course, you do not need "St." in front of your name to be a saint. The New Testament refers to all Christians as saints. The word simply means "holy" or "set apart for God."

However, there are many people who have been recognized as having shown extraordinary faith. Each month prayer books and calendars of Roman Catholic, Anglican (Episcopal), Lutheran, and other churches recognize these people.

It might be fun spending time learning about saints. Perhaps your church, street, or community is named for a saint. Who is that person? What did they do? Your name may be the same as a saint. Try searching for "Saint [Your Name]" on the internet and see what happens. You might also search for the saints listed below to learn more about them.

Here are some people that various churches recognize and celebrate in the month of July:

July 3 Thomas - one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. John 20:24-29 tells of Thomas' encounter with the risen Christ.

July 4 Elizabeth of Portugal - Married to King Diniz before she was a teenager, Elizabeth did many great acts of charity. Upon the king's death she gave away her property to the poor. She also was known as a peacemaker in her family.

July 11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino - Patron Saint of Europe, Benedict was the founder of modern monasteries. He urged his monks to "welcome every person as if you were welcoming Christ."

July 15 Swithun, bishop of Winchester - One legend about Swithun claims that he restored a woman's basket of eggs when they had been broken. A song is sung about him each July, noting that if it rains on his day there will be 40 days of more rain; if it is sunny, there will be 40 days of sun.

July 15 Bonaventure - Many places have been named for this medieval Franciscan, noted for combining the Greek and Latin branches of the church.

July 16 Henry Williams - In the early 1800's, Williams and his wife travelled from England to Australia, and then to New Zealand, where Williams worked to bring Christianity to the native Maori people. He translated the Treaty of Waitangi into Maori; however, many have questioned aspects of his translation which made the treaty difficult to understand.

July 17 William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania - In addition to being the 2nd bishop in the Episcopal Church (USA), White founded a school for the deaf, and was known for his work in reforming early prisons. He also aided many sick people during the yellow fever epidemic, and later served as presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Continued on pg. 5

Summer Saints

July 22 St. Mary Magdalene - This courageous woman was the first person commissioned by the risen Christ to proclaim the good news of Easter to the world (Jn 20:11-18). More modern stories have tried to paint her as a prostitute to discredit her important ministry, but the scriptures do not support this.

July 25 James and John - Jesus called these two brothers to ministry as one of his first acts (Mt 4:21-22; Mk 1:19-20; Lk 5:1-11). They were sometimes called the "sons of thunder," presumably because of their temper, yet they were included in Jesus' inner circle of disciples.

July 29 Mary, Martha, Lazarus - These three were counted among Jesus' closest friends. One story tells of Jesus visiting the sisters in their home (Lk 10:38-42). Mary sits as a disciple at Jesus' feet and Martha is at first concerned, but Jesus reassures her. John's Gospel tells the story of Jesus restoring Lazarus to life (Jn 11:1-44) and Jesus later visits at the home of the three shortly before his crucifixion.

July 30 William Wilberforce - Wilberforce was a member of the British parliament. Among his accomplishments were the abolition of slavery in the British Empire and founding the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

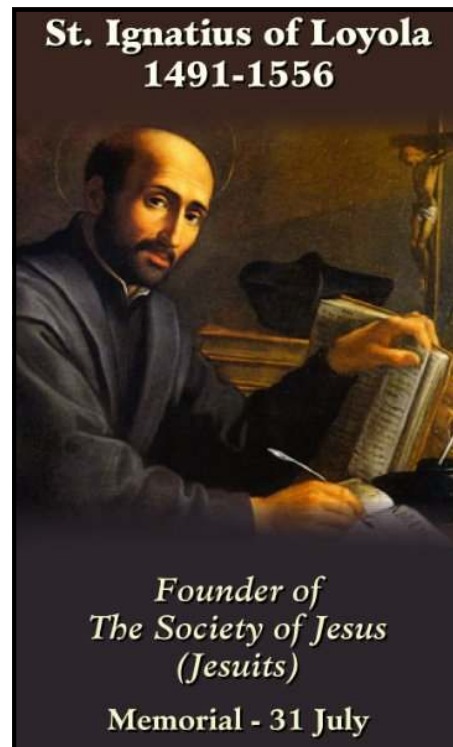
July 31 Ignatius of Loyola - This Spanish man was the founder of the monastic order known as the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits. He also wrote a famous book known as the *Spiritual Exercises*.



St. Elizabeth of Portugal
1271 - 1336
Memorial - 4 July
"Queen Isabella of Portugal"



ST. BONAVENTURE



St. Ignatius of Loyola
1491-1556

*Founder of
The Society of Jesus
(Jesuits)*

Memorial - 31 July

Faith In Action

Financial Giving
Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00



Worship Attendance:	
June 3, 2018	74
June 10, 2018	88
June 17, 2018	76
June 24, 2018	79

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
June 3, 2018	\$3,205.00	\$402.00
June 10, 2018	\$2,934.00	\$307.04
June 17, 2018	\$2,499.00	\$611.00
June 24, 2018	\$2,658.00	\$962.12

Sunday School Attendance	
June 3, 2018	9
June 10, 2018	10
June 17, 2018	10
June 24, 2018	9

Greeters	
July 1, 2018	Bok Family
July 8, 2018	Evelyn Sarber
July 15, 2018	Denny & Carole Grapner
July 22, 2018	OPEN
July 29, 2018	OPEN

Flower Calendar	
July 1, 2018	Gary & Janet Grigg
July 8, 2018	Greg & Barb Schade
July 15, 2018	Tim & Corinne Piper
July 22, 2018	Lois Cook
July 29, 2018	Jone Lane

Hospitality Cart	
July 1, 2018	Janet Grigg
July 8, 2018	OPEN
July 15, 2018	Slone Whetstone
July 22, 2018	Choir/ Deb Hurd & Jan Wyant
July 29, 2018	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday 7/1

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Numbers 14:26-45
Acts 15:1-12, Luke 12:49-56

Monday 7/2

Psalm 89, Numbers 16:1-19
Romans 3:21-31
Matthew 19:13-22

Tuesday 7/3

Psalm 95, 100, Numbers 16:20-35
Romans 4:1-12, Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday 7/4

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Numbers 16:36-50
Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday 7/5

Psalm 105, Numbers 17:1-11
Romans 5:1-11
Matthew 20:17-28

Friday 7/6

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

Saturday 7/7

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

Sunday 7/8

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

Monday 7/9

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

Tuesday 7/10

Psalm 120, 127
Numbers 22:21-38
Romans 7:1-12, Matthew 21:23-32

Wednesday 7/11

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

Thursday 7/12

Psalm 133, 134, 135
Numbers 23:11-26
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday 7/13

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

Saturday 7/14

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

Sunday 7/15

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

Monday 7/16

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

Tuesday 7/17

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

Wednesday 7/18

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

Thursday 7/19

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

Friday 7/20

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

Saturday 7/21

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

Sunday 7/22

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

Monday 7/23

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

Tuesday 7/24

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

Wednesday 7/25

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

Thursday 7/26

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

Friday 7/27

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

Saturday 7/28

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

Sunday 7/29

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Joshua 6:15-27
Acts 22:30-23:11
Mark 2:1-12

Monday 7/30

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

Tuesday 7/31

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

2018 Annual Conference

2018 Annual Conference Summary

“Be Not Afraid, There Is Enough” was the theme of the 2018 West Ohio Annual Conference at Lakeside, June 3-6. Our days consisted of powerful worship, small group conversations concerning the church’s direction, emotional testimonies, and conference business. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer addressed the anxiety of church members as the denomination moves toward the February, 2019 special session of the General Conference, where delegates will decide on legislation regarding human sexuality.

Guest preachers were the Rev. Zan Wesley Holmes Jr., pastor emeritus of St. Luke Community UMC in Dallas, and the Rev. Lou Seiple, lead pastor at Stonybrook UMC in Gahanna, Ohio, where Lori Chaffins Motzer and family attend. “Fear Less” segments allowed individuals to share their experiences with addiction, racism, gun violence and disaster responses.

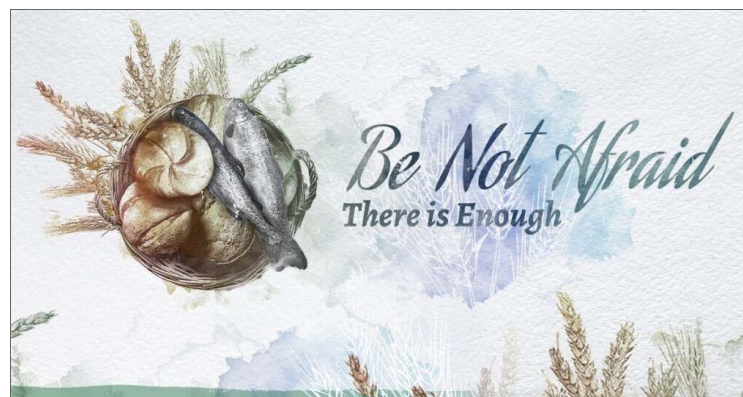
Conference business included:

- Passed the 2019 Budget of \$20,065,646, nearly \$2.25 million less than 2018
- Passed a Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
- Passed an increase of 2 percent for salaries
- Approved a vacation policy
- Approved a recommendation that rescinded investment restrictions
- Passed the recommendation to support those churches who provide services to refugees and immigrants

Award presentations indicated that West Ohio Conference is a generous giver to Mission Initiatives, Global Health and U.S. Disasters and Mission Together. An offering of \$100,800 was collected for the “Light the Way” plan for developing new faith communities and increase the highly vital existing congregations.

Lastly, the Bishop said he would hold several gatherings throughout the conference this autumn. Entitled “I Believe in the Church: A Time of Inspirational Worship, Teaching and Testifying,” the sessions are open to all West Ohio United Methodists. The closest one to us will be Oct. 8 at Kenton First UMC.

Submitted by Linda Craft, Lay Delegate



Our Church History

In June, 2007, Brad Joseph again went on the Medical Mission Trip to Nuevo Progresso, Mexico. Also in June, a group participated in a mission close to home: they installed a new roof on the home of Robert Potter. Those helping on the roof and on the ground were: Dennis and Shara Bowsher, Scott Fessler, Wilbur Hurd, Kevin Potter, Marty White and Jamie Wyant.

Rev. Ruth Solo was appointed to St. Paul United Methodist Church at the West Ohio Annual Conference in June. Rev. Solo and her husband, Rich, moved into the parsonage and her first Sunday to preach was July 1, 2007. During that service, to welcome them to Elida, Marty White, PPR Chair, presented Rev. Solo with a white Elida School polo shirt and a black Elida School polo shirt to Rich. The choir came out of their "summer hiatus" and sang for the service. A punch and cookies reception was held in the Narthex after the service.

The renovation of the fellowship hall was about to begin, which included installing an elevator that would transport people to either the sanctuary or the fellowship hall from the entry level. The theme for the renovation project was "Standing on the Promises, Building on the Premises." A prayers and recognition of the building project service was held in the basement after the church service on July 15, 2007. Garmann/Miller Architects Engineers drew the plans and Heyne Construction, Inc. of Minster are the contractors. The renovation has begun!

In July, a large group of young people and adults from St. Paul UMC, Immanuel UMC, and Allentown UMC went on a mission trip to New Orleans, Louisiana. Before returning home, they took some time for fun and relaxation.

While the renovation project was continuing in the basement, church life was continuing as normally as possible. The Chancel Choir, directed by Mary Kaye Pease, presented a Christmas cantata on December 16, 2007, entitled "A Light Still Shines." Lois Cook was the accompanist, Marty and Kathy White were the narrators, Judy Chaffins, Wilbur Hurd, and Steve Moser were soloists.



July, 2007
Welcome Pastor Ruth & Rich Solo



July, 2009
Mission trip to New Orleans

Remember When...



July 1996
Demolishing the fellowship house.



July 2004
Welcome Reception
For Rev. John Tsironis



July 2004
Welcome Reception
For Rev. John Tsironis



July 2013
Children's Church
with Shirley Moser



Connecting With ...

Seniors Day Out, June 19
The History of the Handkerchief
Presentation by Janet Krick
With a tea party theme



The People of St. Paul's



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Tim Piper
Greg Schade
Jan Wyant

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jim Hines
Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart



*St. Paul's Church,
Thank you for
acknowledging me in service
for graduating with a
bachelors degree.
Thanks for the gift card too!
I pray that God will guide me
to the right job.*

*Love in Christ,
Diane Eagy*

*Thank you, to my St. Paul's
family for the visits, cards,
many texts, and phone calls I
received during my recent
surgery and recovery time.
Most importantly, Thank you
for your prayers and good
wishes, that covered me
before, during and following
surgery. Everything was most
appreciated.*

Lois Cook

*I just want to
thank everyone at St. Paul's
for all the prayers! I also
would like to thank everyone
who volunteered to help keep
the church clean while I was
away. You guys did an
awesome job!*

*Sincerely,
Dave Decker*



"Thank You" doesn't seem adequate for all the support and prayers we have during Greg's illness. The journey started in March which was a blessing in disguise. Little did we know that the kidney stone would lead to finding much larger issues.

A special "Thank you" to Pastor Paul and Marla, for being with us during this journey. To all the friends in the Bible Study that prayed and stayed in constant contact with me, even during the long hours of surgery.

We are so grateful for all the prayers, cards, balloons and messages during this time. We are thankful for the medical teams and the EMS for the excellent care we received. However, the greatest gift was the power of prayer and the faith we felt that grows stronger with our St. Paul's Family. God has truly blessed us.

Greg and Barbara Schade

Meetings

No PPR

No Trustees

No Worship Team

No Finance

July 9, 2018
Ad Council...7:00 PM

No Missions Meeting

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

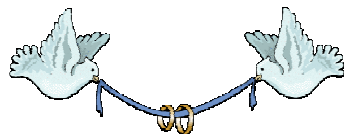
JULY 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Anika Bok Lucy Chaffins Jenni Jankovsky Jean Thomas	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Don Holmes Tony Matlock	11 Emma White	12	13	14 Gloria Brunk Brady Emmons Jackson Lane Hayden McKee Drew White
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 (Tim) White
29	30 Jonathan Perry Ethan Thomas	31 Jan Wyant				



- Doug & Ginger Fox
July 6*
- Travis & Julia Bok,
July 17*
- Tim & Corinne Piper
July 17; 42 yrs.*
- Bill & Marlene Weaver
July 18; 67 yrs.*
- Tim & Sue Theodore
July 20*
- Denny & Carole
Grapner
July 26; 55yrs.*
- Bill & Joyce Nichols
July 27; 72 yrs.*



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Red Velvet Cherry Dream Dessert

By Carole Grapner

Ingredients		Instructions
1 box	Red Velvet Cake Mix, dry	Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 9x13 baking pan. In medium bowl, beat eggs, add oil and dry cake mix. Mix well until no lumps. Press batter into baking dish. Bake for 8-12 minutes until set in the middle. Cook completely. In medium bowl, mix pudding and milk together and put in refrigerator to set. In another bowl, beat cream cheese, then add powdered sugar and combine well. Fold in 2 cups of cool whip. Assemble: Spread cream cheese mixture over cooled cookie layer, spoon on cherry pie filling; add vanilla pudding over pie filling; cover entire dessert with cool whip. Refrigerate 2 hours before serving.
2	Eggs	
1/3 cup	Oil	
2 (3.4 oz.)	Vanilla pudding mix, instant	
3 cups	Milk	
10 oz.	Cream cheese, softened at room temperature	
1 cup	Powdered sugar	
1 (21oz.)	Cherry pie filling	
2 (8oz.)	Cool whip	



Delicious Ice Cream Dessert

By Carole Grapner

Ingredients		Instructions
1 pkg.	Oreo Cookies	Crush Oreo cookies (reserve 1/2 cup). Melt butter over crumbs, stir well. Flatten to make bottom crust in an 8x11 dish. Soften ice cream and spread evenly over bottom crust. Place in freezer to harden between adding layers. Spread chocolate fudge on top of ice cream; next spread marshmallow topping; spread cool whip; add caramel topping and reserved cookie crumbs on top. Refreeze for at least 45 minutes to harden all layers. May use any flavor of ice cream and toppings.
1/4 stick	Butter	
1/2 gal.	Vanilla ice cream	
1 jar	Chocolate fudge ice cream topping	
1 jar	Caramel ice cream topping	
1 jar	Marshmallow topping (not marshmallow cream)	
1 (8 oz)	Cool whip	

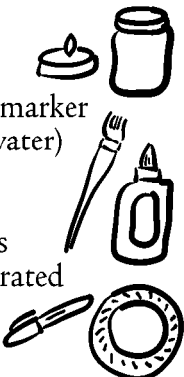
KIDZ KORNER



Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

What you need:

- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.



Wonders of creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A																													
B																													
C																													
D																													
E																													
F																													
G																													
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Z																													

PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, 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

You've Got Mail!

“What a wonderful thing is the mail,” someone has said, “capable of conveying across continents a warm human hand-clasp.” I remember the excitement of getting an “aerogram” from a grade-school pen pal in Sweden, or a letter from Mom when I was in college. How different from the instantaneous, typed messages we send today.

Can you imagine, then, how meaningful the letters of Paul, Peter and other apostles were to early Christians? Painstakingly handwritten, carefully delivered by a courier or friend — so different from emails, texts and even postal delivery! Think how elated the recipients must have been to read warm greetings, news from afar, teachings, even reprimands — and then words such as these: “My love be with you all in Christ Jesus” (1 Corinthians 16:24, ESV).

The next time you read or hear a New Testament letter, imagine a time when such communication was rare and precious. Hear the writer's words — which are also God's words to you — from that perspective, and hold them fast.

—Heidi Mann

Summer Faith Practices

Be a gardener.
 Dig a ditch, toil and sweat,
 and turn the earth upside down
 and seek the deepness
 and water the plants in time.
 Continue this labor
 and make sweet floods to run
 and noble and abundant fruits
 to spring.
 Take this food and drink
 and carry it to God as your true
 worship.

—Julian of Norwich,
 Christian mystic
 (ca. 1342-1416)

