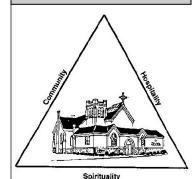
St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 42, Issue 7

July, 2019

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Independence Day, Fourth of July, Firecracker 4th, whatever you call it, it is a celebration of all things American. It is becoming harder and harder to tell exactly what is "truly" American. Mom, apple pie and baseball used to fit the criteria, but I think more people are watching soccer, eating gluten free

low-fat dessert and only call mom if they need something. We are a nation of diverse people from diverse cultures who have come together in our not so perfect Union for exactly the same thing: Independence. The ability to be who you are, like what you want and not judge others who choose a different lifestyle from your own. We do judge and our culture gives us bias that determines how we judge each other. We argue about things that are not really important and forget to keep things simple.

For the rest of the summer we are going to keep things simple with the one-verse sermon series and spend some time getting back to the basics. Our job as Christians is to tell the story of how Christ has affected our lives and allow God to be about the job of changing people's hearts. We try so hard to make people believe what we believe and act the way we act, when really God made us all different for a reason. Diversity, difference, uniqueness or whatever word you use to describe the human condition has allowed all of us to thrive in this world. Lack of freedom has led to some of the most terrible atrocities in human history. So when you judge someone, remember that we are not all the same and we are also not always right. Sometimes the best thing we can do is to love someone right where they are and allow God to open our eyes to truly see creation the way God intended it to be.

Stay cool, don't get too sunburned, spend time with those you love, and make new friends. It's a good plan this summer. I'll see you around church and around town. Make sure you wave and say hello.

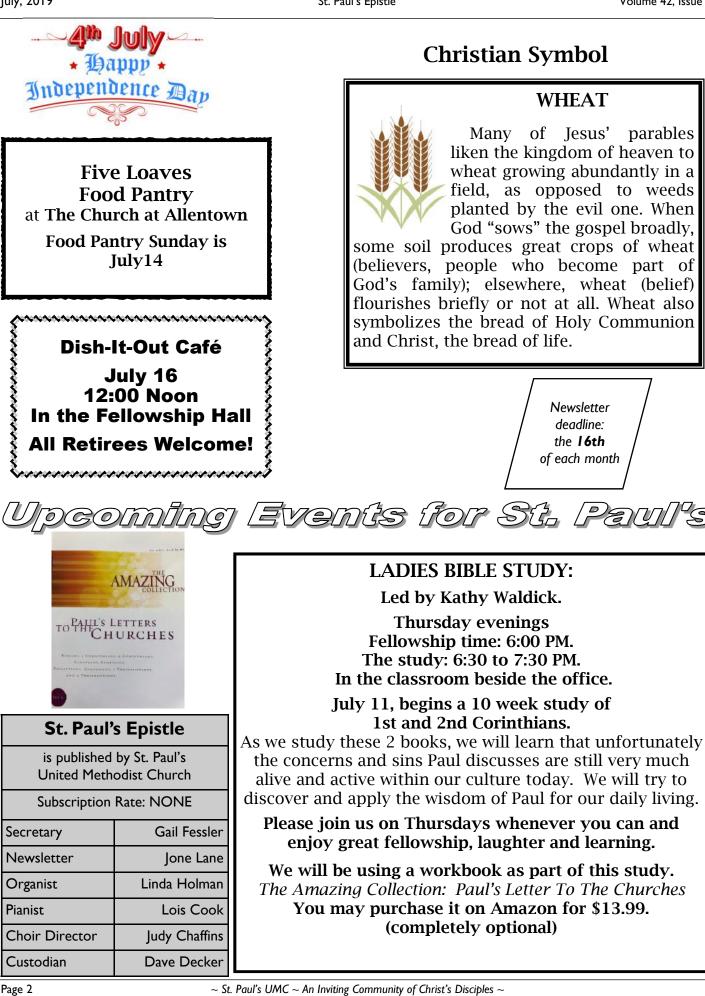
Yours in Christ, **Pastor Faul**

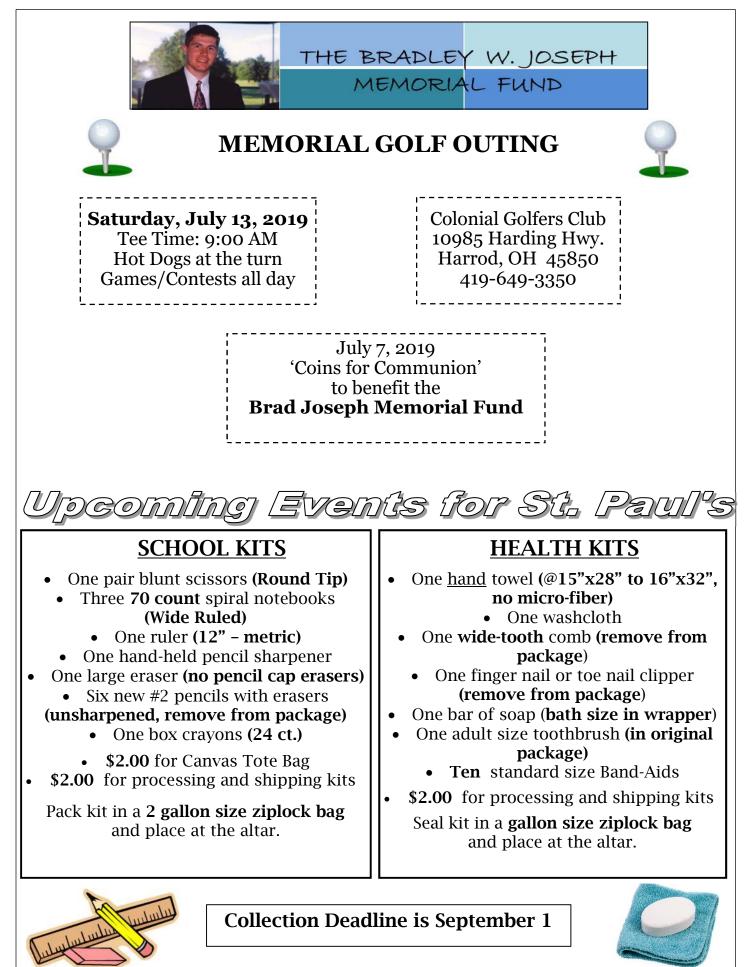


Thought for the Month:

Obstacles are what you see, when you take your eyes off the goal.

parables





2019 Annual Conference

Annual Conference Summary

The 50th session of The West Ohio Conference was held June 2-6, at Lakeside Chautauqua on the shores of Lake Erie. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer presided. The theme of "Be Not Afraid-HOPE," was based on Romans 15:13.

The Bishop addressed the conference, speaking into the unrest in the denomination regarding human sexuality. He stated that, "I am not going to be defined by a single conversation and a single story, and you ought not to be as well." The primary mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Five people shared their testimonies with us. Twins with Cystic Fibrosis, recovering addicts and returning citizens from prisons expressed their gratitude for the faith and hope they found in God through The United Methodist Church.

One week before we met, 18 tornadoes devastated parts of the conference. A special offering of more than \$10,000 was received with many online contributions yet to be counted. Donations are still being received online or by check to The West Ohio Conference, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, Ohio 43085 with West Ohio Disaster Response written on the Memo line. Earlier in the year, Bishop Palmer challenged conference members to bring contributions for Light the Way, a focused plan to develop new faith communities and increase the number of highly vital existing congregations. An offering of more than \$100,000 was collected, bringing the total of gifts and pledges to \$2.6 million. St. Paul's contribution towards this was \$493.50.

During the session's of holy conferencing, Members:

- ELECTED, in one day, the 14 General Conference, 14 Jurisdictional Conference, and 8 Alternate delegates to represent West Ohio in 2020.
- PASSED Recommendation #1-the 2020 budget of \$19,572,211, a reduction of \$500,000 from 2019. (no raises for cabinet members.)
- PASSED Recommendation #2-Board of Pension & Health Benefits.
- PASSED Recommendation #3-Recommended minimum salary for clergy is 2% higher than last year.
- PASSED Recommendation #4-Petition to the General Conference to amend Paragraph 316.1 regarding licensed clergy.
- PASSED recommendation #5-Petition to the 2020 General Conference to amend Paragraph 319.2 concerning Annual Licensing for Local Pastors.

Please contact Linda Craft, lay delegate, if you wish further explanation or clarification for anything in this summary.



Missions

SUMMER MISSION WORK



Summer mission work at St. Paul's is beginning to gear-up. At our last meeting the Missions Committee authorized our treasurer to disburse some funds to a couple of our ER mission's projects. We disbursed *\$1,056.63* to *Camp Wesley* to use at their discretion. This money was collected over the past year. Thank you to all who donated money to the Camp Wesley fund! Also, \$522.52 has been collected on the "heifer" in the hallway for Heifer International. The

children in Shirley Moser's class chose to use that money to buy one water buffalo, one Llama, a trio of rabbits, a share of rabbits, a hive of honeybees and a flock of chicks. Great Choices! The \$522.52 was disbursed to Heifer International. Thank you to the children and adults who faithfully leave dollar bills on the hallway heifer!

If you remember from Pastor Paul's Easter letter, it was decided that Easter Offering icht would be divided evenly between the Light the Way, a mission of the West Ohio Conference, and Mission Possible, a mission of the Northwest Plains District of the United Methodist Church. The checks were sent (approximately \$500 each) for these

respective missions. The Northwest Plains District contacted our Treasurer to clarify which of the *Mission* Possible's various campaigns was to be designated for our gift. It was decided to send the money to a campaign called **By George**. This campaign is part of a special effort to help Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti. The hospital which has served countless number of children over the years was devastated by the earthquake and hurricane and is in desperate need of repairs. The Northwest Plains District has received over \$30,000 for By George which will go to help repairing the hospital. Thank you all who gave generously in your Easter Offering!

We mentioned in the May Newsletter that St. Paul's was looking closely at helping on a new mission in Huatulco, Mexico. The mission was to establish children's camps and possibly churches in a poor region of Mexico south of Acapulco in the Oaxaca State of Mexico. The leaders of this mission, Hector and Rocio Briseno, were very active in the Camp Sierra Linda children's camp development which was a mission of the Northwest Plains District. The Briceno's' had planned to do the same development with a faith-based initiative in Huatulco. However, on May 21st of this year, Hector died unexpectedly. This introduced some doubt as to whether the mission would continue. Brooke Sauer from Allentown UMC, who is heading up this mission project locally, will be speaking to our Missions Committee on July 18th at 7:00 PM. She has some updated information as to the disposition of this proposed mission. Anyone who may be interested in this mission is welcome to attend that meeting.



St. Paul's UMC has agreed to be a part of the Habitat for Humanity House to be built at 207 W. North Street in Elida. We will join other area churches **Habitat** in fundraising and in helping build part of the house. We are still working out the for Humanity[®] details but if you would like to donate money to help with materials to be used

by our workers or others, you may put a check to St. Paul's UMC in the offering plate, and put "Missions-Habitat House" in the memo line. Any contributions received in this manner will go buying materials for the house. Work on the house is to begin in July of this year with the laying of the foundation. More information on how individuals may help with the building of the house will be in upcoming bulletins.

Thank you to those individuals who faithfully support our *Five Loaves Food Pantry* by bringing food to St. Paul's each month. We have noticed that giving has been down recently so any food that you can donate will be greatly appreciated! Thank You! Keep the Faith, but not to yourself!



Faith In Action

Worship Atte	ndance:
June 2, 2019	79
June 9, 2019	87
June 16, 2019 Father's Day	81
June 23, 2019	73

Financial Giving Weekly Need for Unified Ministry Budget \$3,466.00 **Unified Ministry Giving: Other:** June 2, 2019 \$3,343.00 \$632.00 June 9, 2019 \$4,273.00 \$320.00 June 16, 2019 \$2,763.00 \$390.60 June 23, 2019 \$2,550.00 \$335.00

Sunday School Attendance		
June 2, 2019	N/A	
June 9, 2019	3	
June 16, 2019	6	
June 23, 2019	4	

Greeters	
July 7, 2019	Jamie & Jan Wyant
July 14, 2019	The Bok family
July 21, 2019	Steve & Tracy Sdao
July 28, 2019	Carl Miller

Flower	Calendar
July 7, 2019	Bill & Bev Nesbitt
July 14, 2019	Tim & Corinne Piper
July 21, 2019	Lois Cook
July 28, 2019	Jone Lane

Hospitality Cart			
July 7, 2019	Book Club/ Margie Best & Jone Lane		
July 14, 2019	Judy Chaffins		
July 21, 2019	Bev Nesbitt		
July 28, 2019	Choir/ Deb Hurd & Jan Wyant		

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 7/1 Psalm 41, 44, 52 Deuteronomy 11:13-19 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 Luke 17:1-10

Tuesday 7/2 Psalm 45, 47, 48 Deuteronomy 12:1-12 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1 Luke 17:11-19

Wednesday 7/3 Psalm 49, 119:49-72 Deuteronomy 13:1-11 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 Luke 17:20-37

Thursday 7/4 Psalm 8, 59, 60, 84 Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:14-20 2 Corinthians 8:1-16 Luke 18:1-8

Friday 7/5 Psalm 40, 51, 54 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 Luke 18:9-14

Saturday 7/6 Psalm 55, 138, 139 Deuteronomy 29:2-15 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 Luke 18:15-30

Sunday 7/7 Psalm 24, 29 Deuteronomy 29:16-29 Revelation 12:1-12 Matthew 15:29-39

Monday 7/8 Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65 Deuteronomy 30:1-10 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 Luke 18:31-43

Tuesday 7/9 Psalm 61, 62, 68 Deuteronomy 30:11-20 2 Corinthians 11:1-21a Luke 19:1-10 Wednesday 7/10 Psalm 72, 119:73-96 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:14 2 Corinthians 11:21b-33 Luke 19:11-27

Thursday 7/11 Psalm 70, 71 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 Luke 19:28-40

Friday 7/12 Psalm 69, 73 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 Luke 19:41-48

Saturday 7/13 Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76 2 Corinthians 13:1-14 Luke 20:1-8

Sunday 7/14 Psalm 34, 93, 96 Revelation 15:1-8 Matthew 18:1-14

Monday 7/15 Psalm 77, 80 1 Samuel 1:1-20 Acts 1:1-14, Luke 20:9-19

Tuesday 7/16 Psalm 78, 1 Samuel 1:21-2:11 Acts 1:15-26, Luke 20:19-26

Wednesday 7/17 Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120 1 Samuel 2:12-26 Acts 2:1-21, Luke 20:27-40

Thursday 7/18 Psalm 83, 85, 86, 1 Samuel 2:27-36 Acts 2:22-36, Luke 20:41-21:4

Friday 7/19 Psalm 88, 91, 92, 1 Samuel 3:1-21 Acts 2:37-47, Luke 21:5-19

Saturday 7/20 Psalm 87, 90, 136 1 Samuel 4:1b-11 Acts 4:32-5:11 Luke 21:20-28 **Sunday 7/21** Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67 1 Samuel 4:12-22 James 1:1-18, Matthew 19:23-30

Monday 7/22 Psalm 89, 1 Samuel 5:1-12 Acts 5:12-26, Luke 21:29-36

Tuesday 7/23 Psalm 95, 100 1 Samuel 6:1-16 Acts 5:27-42, Luke 21:37-22:13

Wednesday 7/24 Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144 1 Samuel 7:2-17 Acts 6:1-15, Luke 22:14-23

Thursday 7/25 Psalm 105, 1 Samuel 8:1-22 Acts 6:15-7:16, Luke 22:24-30

Friday 7/26 Psalm 102, 107:1-32 1 Samuel 9:1-14 Acts 7:17-29, Luke 22:31-38

Saturday 7/27 Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1 Acts 7:30-43, Luke 22:39-51

Sunday 7/28 Psalm 118, 145, 1 Samuel 10:1-16 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 21:23-32

Monday 7/29 Psalm 106, 1 Samuel 10:17-27 Acts 7:44-8:1a, Luke 22:52-62

Tuesday 7/30 Psalm 120, 127 1 Samuel 11:1-15 Acts 8:1-13, Luke 22:63-71

Wednesday 7/31 Psalm 119:145-178, 128, 129, 130 1 Samuel 12:1-25 Acts 8:14-25, Luke 23:1-12

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Remember When...



United Methodist Women July, 1986



Brad Joseph Golf Outing July 9, 2016 This group won 1st Place







Welcome lunch for Pastor Paul July 8, 2012



Church History

The Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing was held at Colonial Golfer's Club, Harrod, Ohio, on July 13, 2013. John Fleming, Brad's uncle, was the organizer. Brad's cousin, Abby Paskvan, sang the National Anthem. Dan Best, Norm Grigsby, Tim Piper, Sue Theodore and Jamie Wyant were St. Paul's volunteers. Margie Best, Larry and Shirley Moser, and Tim Theodore made up St. Paul's foursome. Dan Best presented John Fleming with \$170, collected from St. Paul's Coins at Communion donation.

Another blessing of the quilts occurred on August 11, 2013, with Pastor Paul and the children during Children's Moments. These 30 quilts were taken to Lost Creek Care Center and Springview Manor.

A Pampered Chef bridal shower was held in the fellowship hall for Jenessa Fletcher on August 18, 2013. It was hosted by Margie Best, Judy Chaffins, Lois Cook, Linda Craft, Linda Holman, Jone Lane and Jan Wyant. In addition to Jenessa getting gifts, the guests could purchase Pampered Chef items.

Another Camp Wesley mission project was done in the summer of 2013. The front porch, steps and a ramp were built on one of the buildings that week. In the fall, a long wooden walk was built to the boat dock.

St. Paul UMC hosted the Lima Area Methodist Men's Breakfast on September 7, 2013. Several men attended from area Methodist churches.

September 29, 2013, was Mortgage Burning Sunday. Marty White, finance chair, spoke to the congregation. He spoke about "It All Started with a Plan." An Ad Hoc Committee was formed for the physical plant. A Building Campaign culminated to Pledge Sunday, October, 2006. Our theme: Standing on the Promises, Building on the Premises. The Chancel Choir anthem that day was "From Generation to Generation." Marty burned the mortgage in a large galvanized tub. A carry-in luncheon to celebrate was held in the fellowship hall following the service.

Lima Area Men's Breakfast September 7, 2013



Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing July 13, 2013



Community Outreach

A BENCH FOR CAPS!

Please help Elida Elementary with a recycle project to create new benches (and maybe even a picnic table) to be used at the new elementary school. These items will be made completely with the recycled caps and lids.

All kinds of plastic lids and caps will be collected, such as: snap-on's (butter tubs, coffee can lids, and yogurt lids), twist caps (medicine, drinks, milk, and detergent) spouts and flip tops.

May NOT use any metal lids or pumps with metal springs. No lids over 8 inches in diameter. This project will continue through the next school year! Caps may be turned in to Jan Wyant.







BLANKETS OF LOVE

On Saturday, June 8th, Shirley & Larry Moser and Deb & Gary Hurd went to the Columbus Airport to Welcome back 92 Veterans from their Honor Flight. This was the trip that the 23 beautiful quilts that the Crafty Creatures made were given out to some of the Veterans and we got to help do this. We were all very proud to participate.

The Crafty Creatures really enjoyed doing this for the Veterans and they would like to make some more for a future flight. But they need your help. If you have any patriotic material (cotton or cotton/blend) that you would like to donate, they would be happy to accept it. (This is to be patriotic in nature and color, but not Branch of Service specific.) **OR** if you would like to make a monetary donation for this Project, please mark it in the Memo that it is for the "Crafty Creatures HF Project". Let's help them with this very worthwhile project for our Veterans! **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

Dear Crafty Creatures,

Thank you so much for the beautiful lap blanket! I was on the Columbus, Ohio Honor Flight on 6/8/19. I took the liberty to fast-forward this blanket to our 99 year old neighbor-vet who served in the Battle of Bulge and was wounded twice - a much deserving vet. I enjoyed receiving it and I enjoyed forwarding it on in your behalf.

John Stevenson

Thank you so much for the hand sewn quilt I received upon my return on Honor Flight, Columbus. What an awesome and memorable day.

Thanks & God Bless, Tim St. Clair



Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket I received when I returned from my Honor Flight . It is such a special gift and I truly appreciate the thought and your support of veterans.

My wife has made several baby blankets and I know how much time is put into each one. I hope you enjoyed making it as I do having it!

> William Reed, Spec 4, U. S. Army, 1972-1974

Dear Crafty Creatures,

Thank you very much for the handmade quilt. You are special people to make this item for complete strangers. Thanks also for the picture of all the lovely ladies who crafted this item.

Thanks very much, Jim Gorenflo, Russells Point Served with B-Battery 5/4 Arty, 5th Division (Mech) on a 155 Howitez (M109), in Quangtri Province, 9/1968 to 12/1969.

Connecting With ...

PLEASE TAKE A SOLD R HOME AND PLACE IT SOMEWHER THAT WILL REMIND YOU TO PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY!!!



Prayer for Those in Military Service

God of compassion, we pray for military personnel, offered for the sake of others, and separated from family and loved ones. Care for them; meet their needs. Grant them courage, compassion, strength, and all they need for the living of these days. Sustain them through their every trial. Remind them of the humanity they share even with those who are called "the enemy;" through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen Sunday, May 26, Memorial Sunday, the children passed out toy soldiers as a reminder to pray for the safety of those who are active duty military. Thank you to Deb Hurd and Corinne Piper for making this possible.

Nathan Stewart is a Sargent in the Army, 1st Calvary Division stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. He recently re-enlisted and is training for an upcoming deployment. Nathan is the son of Ron and Ann Stewart and grandson of Ruth Hardy.

Oliver Fessler is a Corporal in the Marine Corps, in infantry with the Weapons Company. Oliver is stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. His unit is preparing for an upcoming deployment. Oliver is the son of Scott and Gail Fessler.

A Prayer For the Fourth

Declaration of Independence We the People hold these 7 cuths to be self-evident: that we can all experience Miraeles every day that will contribute to our Life, Liberty and the Parsuit of Sappiness Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that "this is our Father's world" and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: From generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, "O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet." Amen.

—Sandy Hyland

or in the Hospital

All

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgerv

Homebound Members

Those in Need of Healing,

In the Military & Missions

- 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19

Support, Strength & Encouragement

Norm Grigsby Jack Swihart

Hazel Dunn

Glenna Kohli 🗖

Ray & Phyllis Trigg 🚧

Oliver Fessler

Nathan Stewart

The People of St. Paul's

To all the people of St. Paul's,

I thank you so very much for

the outpouring support for my

are so gratifying and leads me to believe that this church is

Your prayers and concerns

indeed one loving family.

Again, Thank you so very

NK

recent surgery.

Norm Grigsby

much.

Thank you to the congregation of St. Paul's UMC, Your offering will assure youth and children with financial need have an opportunity to get to camp this summer. It is much appreciated.

> Blessings, Ken Overhold



With Deepest Sympathy.

Our Condolences to Jack and Cindy Swihart family on the death of their son, Jack (Chip) Swihart, who passed away June 13. Cards will reach them at, 2859 Hollyhock, Elida, OH 45807

Congratulations to Jim and Sharon Phillips who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 22. They were married at St. Paul's. Cards will reach them at 6203 Millwright Court, Greensboro, N.C. 27410.



St. Paul's Vision Statement: Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.

Our Biblical Purpose Statement: Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.

Meetings			J	UI	X		
No PPR							
No Worship Team			2	01	Q		
No Trustees				-			
No Finance	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ad Council To be announced							
July 18, 2019 Missions Mtg7:00 PM		1 Anika Bok Lucy Chaffins	2	3	4	5	6
Sundays Prayer9:30 AM Fellowship9:30 AM Worship10:00 AM		Jenni Jankovsky Jean Thomas					
	7	8	9	10 Don Holmes	11 Emma White	12	13
JULY ANNIVERSARIES							
	14 Gloria Brunk	15	16 Kim Crates	17	18 Madeline	19 Macy	20
 Doug & Ginger Fox July 6 	Brady Emmons Jackson Lane Hayden McKee Drew White				kuenzli Zachary Loose	Chambers	
 Travis & Julia Bok July 17 				<u> </u>	~ -	26	
Tim & Corinne Piper July 17; 43yrs	21 Savannah Emmons	22 Travis Bok Carole Grapner	23 Bryan Craft	24	25 Ian House	26	27 Ella Motzer Gretchen Woeller
Bill L Marlene Weaver		orapher					WOEller
July 18; 68 yrs.	28	29	30	31			
Tim L Sue Theodore	Katie White		Jonathan Perry	Jan Wyant			
 Denny & Carole Grapner 			Ethan Thomas				
9 July 26; 56yrs.	1	the .					
Bill L Joyce Nichols July 27; 73 yrs.				00			
			0				

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Carrot Gold Cake

By Lavonne Segovia

Ingredients		Instructions
2 cups	Flour	Sift or mix first 5 ingredients together.
2 tsp.	Baking powder	Add sugar, oil and eggs, mix well.
1 1/2 tsp.	Soda	Thoroughly blend in carrots and pineapple. (Optional: 1/2 cup nuts and coconut)
1 tsp.	Salt	Grease and flour 3, 9 inch layer cake pans or a 9x13 cake pan. (this makes a large cake).
2 tsp.	Cinnamon	Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.
2 cups	Sugar (may substitute with Splenda, 2 cups)	Cream together cream cheese frosting ingredients.
1 1/2 cups	Salad oil	Spread on cooled cake.
4	Eggs	May substitute cool whip instead of frosting.
2 cups	Finely grated carrots	
1 can (8 or 13 oz.)	Crushed pineapple (well drained)	
	Cream Cheese Frosting:	The Rest and a
1/4 to 1/2 cup	Butter	
1 (8 oz.)	Cream cheese	
1 lb.	Confectioner sugar	A CONTRACTOR
1 tsp.	Vanilla	

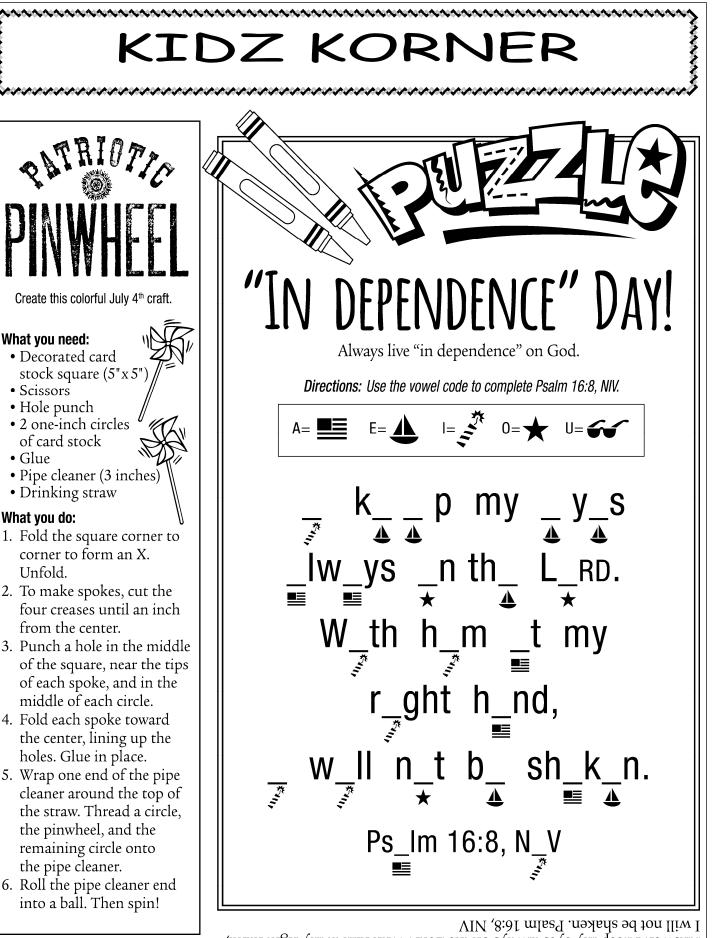
Apple Dumplings

By Carole Grapner

Ingredients		Instructions
2	Granny Smith Apples	Peel and slice apples into 8 slices each. Microwave apples 1 –2 minutes.
3/4 cup (12 Tbs.)	Butter or margarine	Melt butter and mix with sugar, vanilla and cinnamon.
1 1/2 cups	Sugar	Roll each slice of apple in a crescent roll (from the wide end) and place (seam down) in 9x13 pan.
1 tsp.	Vanilla	Scoop sugar mixture on top and around dumplings.
1 tsp.	Cinnamon	Pour Mountain Dew over all.
1 1/2 cups	Mountain Dew	Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until dumplings are nicely browned.

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Answer: I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand,

St. Paul's United Methodist Church 105 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address: www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page Elida St. Paul's Church

> Twitter Account @ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Don't Carry Two Days at Once

"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength — carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time." This wise counsel is attributed to Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian whose family in Amsterdam sheltered some 800 Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, suffering imprisonment as a result. Her father and sister died in captivity, but Corrie was freed and later set up a rehabilitation center for concentration camp victims and supporters of the Germans alike.

Surely ten Boom couldn't have survived and achieved what she did without laying aside her worries and trusting God. Indeed, her wisdom closely echoes Jesus' teaching: "Do not worry about your life. ... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ... Your heavenly Father knows [what] you need. ... Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:25-34, NIV).

God is Everywhere

We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows himself everywhere, in everything — in people and in things and in nature and in events. It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without him. It's impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it. -Thomas Merton

