

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807
419-339-3801

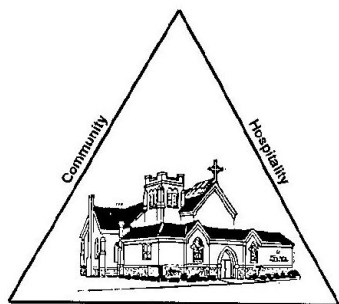
officeespc@gmail.com

Rev. Paul Scannell
419/909-9419

Cell Phone: 734/660-1984

pastorespc@gmail.com

4pastorpaul@gmail.com



Pastor's Post

June is upon us and hopefully by the time you read this our weather will have settled into a nice summer pattern so we can complain about the hot weather and sunshine. Some of you are getting used to having the kids around now that school is out for the summer and still others are off to the lake and/or cottage for the season. Vacations, picnics, ball games, family reunions and anything else you do for fun in the summer. Some of you find yourself missing church and then when you see me you apologize for not being at church. You don't have to apologize. We all have lives that happen outside the church. The question is, are you living like God would want you to?

Someone caught me this week ending my prayer with the phrase "be a witness for Christ this week and use words if you have to". When you are out and about having fun and doing all the things that go with a busy summer, take Christ with you wherever you go. Be His witness through your actions. Show how Christians can be good and have fun.

We have an event coming in June at Camp Wesley and I want to invite you to participate with clean up or the roofing. It is happening June 11th from 8 to 5 at Camp Wesley 653 Twp. Rd 37 E. Bellefontaine, OH. Jaime Wyant or Tim Piper are the contact people for this event.

Most of the summer we will be spending time on the Fruits of the Spirit as listed in the 5th chapter of Galatians. So you will be able to show up to church on any Sunday this summer because each sermon will stand on its own. No apologies. Have a great summer and be a witness to the love of Christ and remember it very rarely requires words. If you live it, they will see it.

God Bless

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

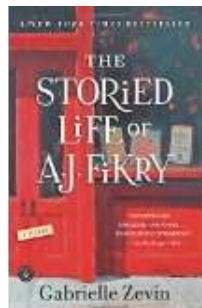
"It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live."

- Ethel Percy Andrus

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Koinonia Chicken BBQ	4
Missions	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
EASY Program	8
Our Church History	9
Remember When...	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
June Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16

St. Paul's Book Club



Saturday
June 4, 2016
at 9:00 AM.

We will discuss
**The Storied Life of
A.J. Fikry**
by Gabrielle Zevin.

Bring your own breakfast.



**West Ohio Annual Conference
Lakeside, Ohio
June 5 thru June 8**

Missions Sunday June 5, 2016

There will be a Presentation of all St. Paul's missions projects with highlights of Camp Wesley projects, Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing, and Operation Christmas Child.

JUNE 5
Coins for Communion
to benefit UMCOR

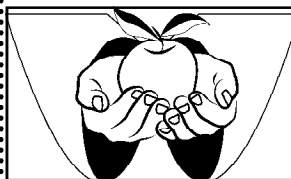


Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

Christian Symbol

Apple



Although Genesis 3 doesn't identify the forbidden fruit eaten by Adam and Eve, it has traditionally been thought of and portrayed as an apple. This may be because in Latin, "apple" and "evil" are the same word (malum). An apple, then, often represents humanity's fall into sin. When Christ is shown holding an apple, however, it symbolizes his conquest over sin and death. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22, NIV).

St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's
United Methodist Church

Subscription Rate: NONE

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

Camp Wesley Work Day

**Saturday, June 11
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Projects: Reroofing 1/2 of the arts pavilion which includes tearing off and re-shingling, painting, landscaping and clearing of trees for the new building.



Food Pantry Sunday June 12

Donations are taken to
the Church at
Allentown

Thank you to all who
have been donating



FLAG DAY

**Flag Day
Tuesday, June 14**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Father's Day June 19



Every man who desires to become a true father has to look continually to the Lord, that he might learn of him and how to relate to his own children.

—Sunday Adelaja

June 20, 2016
First Day of Summer



Seniors Day Out

**June 21, 2016
12:00 noon**

All seniors welcome!

Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing Fundraiser

Saturday, July 9th

At Colonial Golfers Club



Koinonia Chicken BBQ

HUGE THANK YOU TO ST. PAUL UMC!!!

St. Paul UMC Annual Chicken BBQ was once again a tremendous success making a profit of \$1,440.00!!!! You are ALL to be congratulated on a job well done. There are two special people, however, that we would like to recognize and they are Norm & Mary Grigsby. They alone sold well over 100 tickets!!! This is incredible. So when you see either one of them, please give them an extra thank you for a job well done.

Many of you donated items for the BBQ and we thank each and every one of you. St. Paul has THE ABSOLUTE BEST when it comes to members responding to help with any project and this was no exception. Some of you may not be aware of all that is done prior to that day. The Koinonia Class is busy getting donations for the potato salad; boiling and cutting up potatoes; boiling, peeling, and chopping up eggs; chopping celery; chopping onions; putting applesauce in containers; setting up tables; making coffee; making lemonade; cutting and labeling all the desserts; and the list goes on and on. The members do the best they can to make it a huge success for the church.

So another Chicken BBQ is behind us now and we look forward to next year and what it may bring. The Love and Outreach that our church does for the Community of Elida shows. Thank you all!

- Deb Hurd



Missions

(Photo Courtesy of the Lima News)

Church group donates blankets



The Crafty Creatures are still meeting and going strong as they continue to make quilts for the nursing homes in the area, prayer shawls for church members in need, and comfort squares for women diagnosed with breast cancer. On Sunday, April 24, the Crafty Creatures had quilts made for young children, blessed by Pastor Paul. Shirley Moser and Mary Steiner's mother, Arlene Fetter, recently passed away and most of this material came from her home. Mrs. Fetter made quilts for all of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Shirley took the material from her mother to make the quilts that were blessed on Sunday. Her mother had some of the tops sewn together and lots of the squares cut out for making these quilts, so Shirley finished them. The family felt that their mom would be happy to know the quilts were going to children and all of the members of the group agreed. Pastor Paul suggested the

Fire Department for distributing quilts to children. Shirley spoke with the fire chief, Tom Hadding, and he was very excited to receive them for their department. These quilts will be distributed to children that are injured, sick, or from a fire call to their home, when the rescue squads go out on calls. They told us they received quilts one other time and when they gave them to a child that was hurt or scared you could just see that child calm down. It gave them something to hang on to that made them feel secure. It is our hope that they will feel our love that went into making them and God's love from Pastor Paul blessing them. The quilts were donated to the American Township Fire Dept. on Monday, April 25, and they were very appreciative to have them to put on their rescue squads.

- Carole Grapner

April Seniors Day Out

Mike Buettner, a partner of **Kohli & Kaliher Associates, Inc.** gave a talk entitled: "How Ohio's Counties Got Their Names and Shapes" explaining how Ohio's counties were formed over the years and how each county was named. Thanks to Mike for taking time to make this presentation.



4/19/2016

Faith In Action

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



Worship Attendance:

May 1, 2016	106
May 8, 2016	136
May 15, 2016	105
May 22, 2016	96

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
May 1, 2016	\$3,905.22	\$303.97
May 8, 2016	\$2,692.00	\$728.00
May 15, 2016	\$3,193.00	\$163.44
May 22, 2016	\$2,538.92	\$592.92

Greeters

June 5, 2016	Lynda Evans
June 12, 2016	OPEN
June 19, 2016	Corinne Piper & Jean Thomas
June 26, 2016	Don & Mary Irvin

Sunday School Attendance

May 1, 2016	19
May 8, 2016	14
May 15, 2016	6
May 22, 2016	12

Flower Calendar

June 5, 2016	Marty & Kathy White
June 12, 2016	Art & Linda Holman
June 19, 2016	Brent & Vicki McAdams
June 26, 2016	Don & Judy Chaffins

Hospitality Cart

June 5, 2016	Barb Schade
June 12, 2016	Slone Whetstone
June 19, 2016	Janna Thompson
June 26, 2016	Choir

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 6/1

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Proverbs 17:1-20
1 Timothy 3:1-16
Matthew 12:43-50

Thursday 6/2

Psalm 37, Proverbs 21:30-22:6
1 Timothy 4:1-16
Matthew 13:24-30

Friday 6/3

Psalm 31, 35, Proverbs 23:19-21
1 Timothy 5:17-22(23-25)
Matthew 13:31-35

Saturday 6/4

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Proverbs 25:15-28
1 Timothy 6:6-21
Matthew 13:36-43

Sunday 6/5

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
Acts 8:26-40, Luke 11:1-13

Monday 6/6

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Ecclesiastes 2:1-15
Galatians 1:1-17, Matthew 13:44-52

Tuesday 6/7

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Ecclesiastes 2:16-26
Galatians 1:18-2:10
Matthew 13:53-58

Wednesday 6/8

Psalm 49, 53, 119:49-72
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Galatians 2:11-21
Matthew 14:1-12

Thursday 6/9

Psalm 8, 50, 84
Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3
Galatians 3:1-14
Matthew 14:13-21

Friday 6/10

Psalm 40, 51, 54, Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
Galatians 3:15-22
Matthew 14:22-36

Saturday 6/11

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Ecclesiastes 5:8-20
Galatians 3:23-4:11
Matthew 15:1-20

Sunday 6/12

Psalm 24, 29
Ecclesiastes 6:1-12
Acts 10:9-23, Luke 12:32-40

Monday 6/13

Psalm 56, 57, 58, 64, 65
Ecclesiastes 7:1-14
Galatians 4:12-20
Matthew 15:21-28

Tuesday 6/14

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Ecclesiastes 8:14-9:10
Galatians 4:21-31
Matthew 15:29-39

Wednesday 6/15

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Ecclesiastes 9:11-18
Galatians 5:1-15
Matthew 16:1-12

Thursday 6/16

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
Galatians 5:16-24
Matthew 16:13-20

Friday 6/17

Psalm 69, 73
Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
Galatians 5:25-6:10
Matthew 16:21-28

Saturday 6/18

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Numbers 3:1-13
Galatians 6:11-18
Matthew 17:1-13

Sunday 6/19

Psalm 34, 93, 96
Numbers 6:22-27
Acts 13:1-12, Luke 12:41-48

Monday 6/20

Psalm 77, 79, 80
Numbers 9:15-23, 10:29-36
Romans 1:1-15, Matthew 17:14-21

Tuesday 6/21

Psalm 78, Numbers 11:1-23
Romans 1:16-25, Matthew 17:22-27

Wednesday 6/22

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
Numbers 11:24-33(34-35)
Romans 1:28-2:11, Matthew 18:1-9

Thursday 6/23

Psalm 83, 85, 86, Numbers 12:1-16
Romans 2:12-24
Matthew 18:10-20

Friday 6/24

Psalm 88, 91, 92
Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30
Romans 2:25-3:8
Matthew 18:21-35

Saturday 6/25

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Numbers 13:31-14:25
Romans 3:9-12, Matthew 19:1-12

Sunday 6/26

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

Monday 6/27

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

Tuesday 6/28

Psalm 94, 95, 97, 99
Numbers 16:20-35
Romans 4:1-12
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday 6/29

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

Thursday 6/30

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

EASY Program

(After)-School's Out For The Summer What a year we had at EASY! It was a year of firsts:

- * Our first year with four grades (5-8).
- * Our first year at two locations (St. Paul's and Immanuel UM Churches).
- * Our first year for some new volunteers.
- * Our first year to receive two substantial grants (from Wal-Mart and Sam's Club used for iPads and equipment and supplies).

We have some good-byes as well:

- * Our first group of eighth graders, some of whom have been with us since the very first day of EASY, has "graduated". It has been exciting watching them grow up and we look forward to having some back as volunteers next year.
- * We are also saying good-bye to Doug Anthony who is stepping down as president of the Elida Area Community Center (EACC) the parent organization of EASY. Doug's new mission involves much travel which limits his time to work with the program. If not for him and Dan Best and their tenacity at holding on to the goals, none of us would be involved in this community outreach.

We cannot thank everyone in our churches enough for your tireless support of our EASY students. Volunteers have given 2,011 hours of service to our programs this year. This translates to \$15,987.45 of paid work. Church and community members donated \$2,048 worth of food, equipment, (including 3 sewing machines) and supplies, and I'm sure this is an extremely low amount as many things were just dropped off with "EASY" written on them.

Now, we take a breath, regroup, and start planning again:

- * We begin praying and looking for an EACC president and an additional on-site coordinator.
- * We evaluate how this year's programs went and what we need to adjust for next year.
- * We look at the feasibility of helping the middle school with activities at the school for early student arrivals.
- * We always pray for more volunteers and for current volunteers to return.
- * We consider how the EACC can expand its support to others in need in the Elida Community area.

These programs came into being because people listened to God's promptings. Everything that has happened has been because members of churches in the Elida area were open to doing God's work. If we continue to follow His lead, we can transform our village and surrounding area.



Our Church History

In 1929 a Page pipe organ was installed by the Bielharz Organ Co. It served the congregation until the new Allen Digital Computer 3000 Organ was installed in 1988. Mrs. Jordan Rinehart was the first organist. Others who gave a considerable amount of their time in service to the church were Ruth Crites, Kathryn Shoemaker, and Lenore Strayer.

Then came the crash of 1929. People felt despair and helplessness. Unemployment was high and money problems of the church were acute. Volunteer labor kept most churches in existence.

On May 10, 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Protestant Church merged and became one Methodist Church.

Following the depression, World War II changed the people's attitude towards the church. Indignation against the war and the call of young people into service, brought folks back into the church. The church was used for many functions: Red Cross meetings, air raid shelters, Civil Defense, training centers, headquarters for service men, W.C.T.U., and the Ladies Aid Society. The Church continued to minister to the community, making its witness during those very difficult years. The Rev. Charles Heininger served the Elida Charge during the 1940s. Business was booming during the war years. Lots of money was available, but materials were all tied up for war purposes.

A feeling of thanksgiving prevailed at the end of the war. Money had been saved and the church was to see a boom in construction and remodeling. Need for parking was in evidence due to the increase of automobiles. This period of thanksgiving and increase church attendance was felt in the Elida Methodist Church.

On June 6, 1954, ground was broken for a new educational building, and in October, 1954, the corner stone was laid as construction of a new educational unit was well under way. This unit was composed of two floors of modern classrooms, a multi-purpose room, choir room, two restrooms, and a kitchen. The Rev. Lewis Nichols was pastor in charge. The Building Committee for this project consisted of Charles Holtzapple, Charles Little, Weldon LaRue, George Allen, Harold John, and Harold Montgomery. The cost of this building was \$75,000 plus \$15,000 for re-pointing of the old brick on the other church structure and a complete new heating system for both structures.

In February, 1956, Elida Church was strong enough to leave the other two churches that comprised the three unit charge and become a station church. Rev. Lewis Nichols had been pastor, but just at this time he accepted a call to minister at Portsmouth, Ohio. In February, 1956, Rev. Cecil Wyant filled the pulpit. He helped steer the membership into the new venture of becoming a station church. At this time, it became necessary for Elida to purchase the parsonage at 113 E. Main Street, since it was owned by all three churches. Elida church paid Morris Chapel and Zion each \$4,000 for a total of \$8,000. This represented one half of a total purchase price of \$16,000. Elida Church already owned one-half interest in the home.

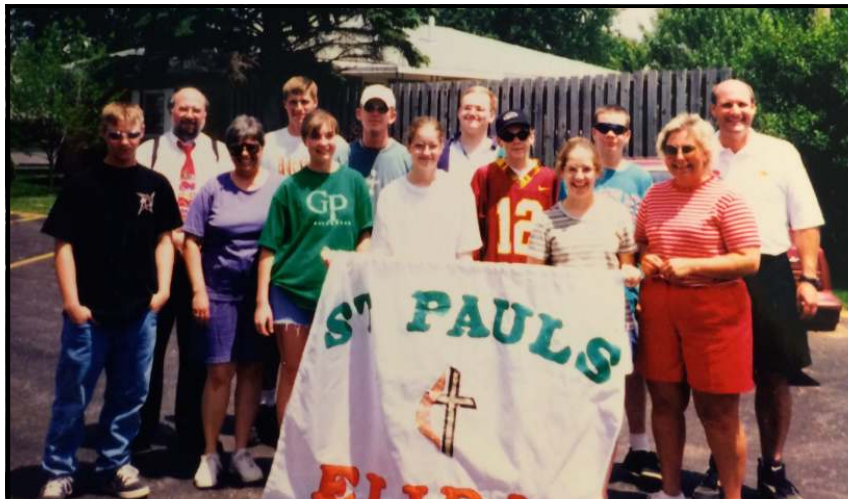


1954
Groundbreaking for
Educational Wing

New Educational Wing



Remember When...



June, 1997

St. Paul's Youth Group and Leaders with Rev. Eric McGlade and adults ready for Lakeside.

Josh Peters, Eric McGlade, Linda Craft, Brad Joseph, Lori Chaffins, Justin Wyant, Sara Matlock, Mike Matlock, Mike Myers, Erin Peters, Aaron Piper, Karen Myers, Todd Hanes.

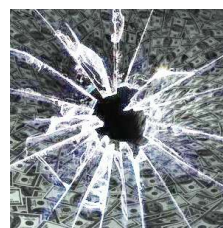
June, 2007

Medical Mission to Nuevo Progreso, Mexico with Brad Joseph.

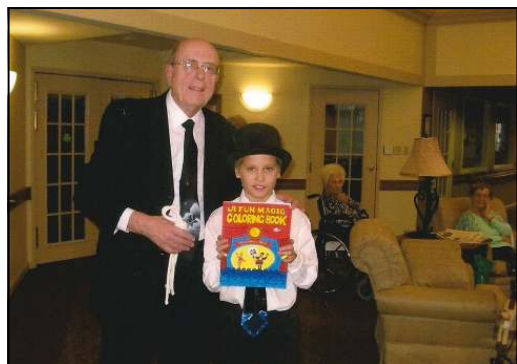


June, 2014

Oliver Fessler repairs the broken basement window.



Connecting With ...



Gene Craft and his assistant, Cody Scannell, performed magic to residents at Baton Rouge and Shawnee Manor Nursing Home.

Remember in Prayer

- Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital**
Jerry Bean
Cyndi Smith
- Homebound Members**
Joanna Hurd
- Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement**
Jan Sodders
- In the Military**
Dani Milke



Our sympathy to **Larry and Gloria Brunk** on the passing of Gloria's mother, Eleanor DeBias on May 15TH. A service was held May 18th in Wellsburg, West Virginia. Cards may be sent to 1501 Ivy Dr., Elida, OH 45807.

New Method of Keeping Prayer List Current

- To add to prayer list:**
1. Write note on pew pad.
 2. Contact office.
 3. Contact Lavonne Segovia.
419-339-3978 home
419-236-5639 cell
rlsegovia@wcoil.com email
(note: 1st 2 letters are lower case rl)

To keep list current: We will keep requests on list for one month. We realize that some requests, such as cancer and other reasons, require a longer time on the prayer list and we are happy to keep them on for a longer time. Please go over prayer list in the bulletin and check on people you have requested prayer for. If you wish them to remain on the list, please use the above methods of contact. State the name of the person and say "Keep on Prayer List", which will keep them on for another month. Repeat as often as needed.

Also please let us know if there is a change in status, such as death, hospitalization, moved to nursing home, etc.

Thank you for your help!

The People of St. Paul's

Thank You!

To my St. Paul's family,
 Thank you so much for
 your cards and visits and
 especially your prayers
 during my recent
 hospitalization. Thank
 you to Pastor Paul for his
 visit and to the Crafty
 Creatures for the
 beautiful lap blanket. It
 has been very
 appreciated during the
 recent chilly weather.
 Thank you for your
 extended prayers as I
 continue to recover.

Love to all,
Fran Hall

For those of you who
 thought of us in any way
 in the recent passing of
 my mother. Your
 kindness meant so much.

God Bless you all,
Tony and Pam Lozano

Thank you so much for
 your gift of food in
 support of our shelter.
 You are making a
 difference in the lives of
 women and children.

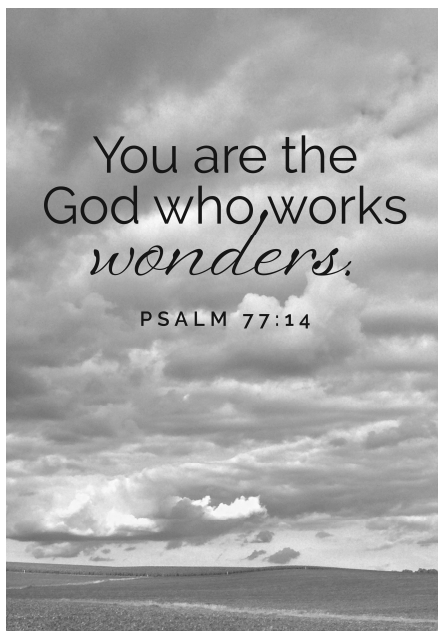
God Bless,
Samaritan House staff

Thank you for the
 flowers , prayers and
 expressions of concern
 during Rudy's recent
 mishap.

**Lavonne and Rudy
 Segovia**

Dear Friends at St.
 Paul's,
 Thank you for the Lovely
 Flower arrangement you
 sent during the passing
 of my mother. It was so
 thoughtful.
 Thank you to0, for your
 thoughts and prayers.

God Bless,
Gloria Brunk



**Prayer List
 Updates
 Please Contact
 Lavonne Segovia**

Meetings

June 1, 2016
Worship...6:00 PM

June 2, 2016
Missions...7:00 PM

June 7, 2016
Trustees...7:00 PM

June 13, 2016
Finance... 7:00 PM
No Ad Council Mtg.

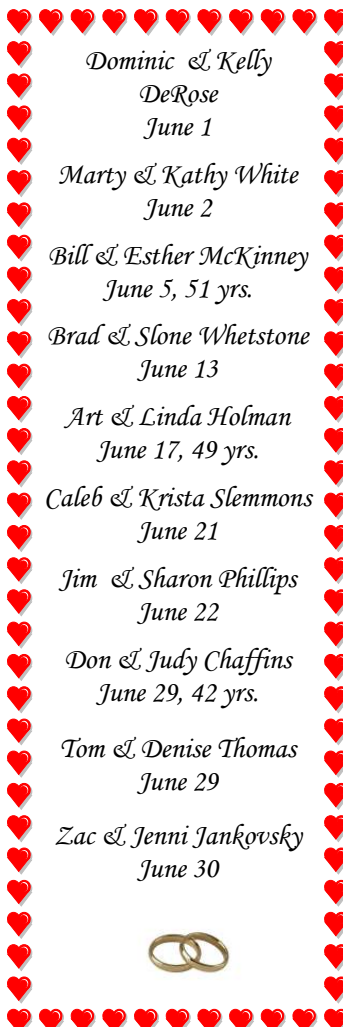
Sundays
Prayer...8:45AM
Sunday Sch...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

JUNE 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Becky Bean	2	3	4 Gary Adams Lois Rabley
5	6	7	8	9 David Nartker Jamie Wyant	10 Don Chaffins Caleb Kinney Susan Nartker	11
12	13	14 Rick Evans Evan Motzer	15 Jim Hines	16 Judy Chaffins	17 Gwen Woeller	18
19	20 Greg shade	21 Steve Moser Josh Motzer Katie White	22 Kim Metzger Emma Motzer	23	24 Vicki McAdams	25
26 Art Holman	27	28 Linda Matlock	29	30		

Anniversaries



Dominic & Kelly DeRose
 June 1

Marty & Kathy White
 June 2

Bill & Esther McKinney
 June 5, 51 yrs.

Brad & Stone Whetstone
 June 13

Art & Linda Holman
 June 17, 49 yrs.


Caleb & Krista Slemmons
 June 21

Jim & Sharon Phillips
 June 22

Don & Judy Chaffins
 June 29, 42 yrs.

Tom & Denise Thomas
 June 29

Zac & Jenni Jankovsky
 June 30



St. Paul's Featured Recipes

Grandma's Best Sugar Cookies

From May Seniors Day Out

Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 cup	Butter (softened)	<p>Cream butter and sugar. Add 2 eggs. Stir in sour cream and vanilla. Mix the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add dry ingredients to the wet. Mix well. Chill for 1 hour. Scoop and drop by tablespoon on parchment paper covered baking sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes or until light brown around edges. Let sit 2 minutes before taking off pan.</p> <p>Butter Cream Frosting: Cream butter for 2 minutes. Slowly add in rest of ingredients. Beat until fluffy. Add food coloring if desired. Frost cookies. For lots of frosting, double frosting recipe.</p>
1 1/2 cup	Sugar	
2	Eggs (<i>room temperature</i>)	
1 cup	Sour Cream (<i>room temperature</i>)	
1 tsp.	Vanilla	
2 3/4 cups	Flour	
1/2 tsp.	Baking soda	
1/2 tsp.	Baking powder	
1/2 tsp.	Salt	
	Butter Cream Frosting:	
1/4 cup	Salted butter (<i>softened</i>)	
2 cups	Confectioners sugar	
1/4 cup	Heavy Cream	
2 tsp.	Vanilla	
1 pinch	Salt	



Buttery Garlic Green Beans

From May Seniors Day Out

Ingredients		Instructions
1 lb.	Fresh green beans (<i>trimmed & snapped</i>)	<p>Place green beans into large skillet and cover with water, bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until beans start to soften, about 5 min. Drain water. Add butter to green beans; cook and stir until butter is melted, 2 to 3 minutes. Cook and stir garlic with green beans until garlic is tender and fragrant, 3 to 4 minutes. Season with lemon pepper and salt.</p>
3 Tbs.	Butter	
3 cloves	Garlic, minced	
2 pinches	Lemon pepper	
	Salt to taste	



KIDZ KORNER

In my FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS



Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

What you do:

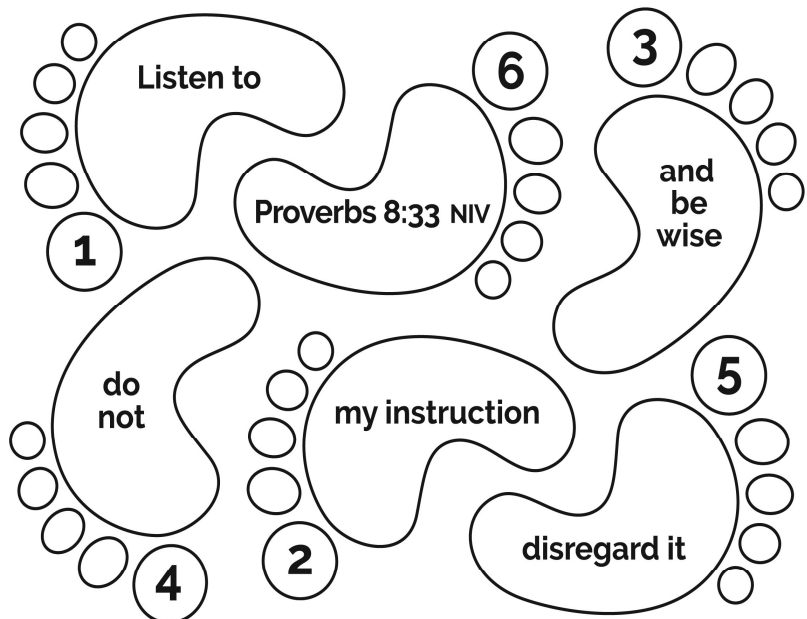
1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same one) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.



FOLLOW OUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

In the book of Proverbs, a father urges his son to listen to his wisdom, which he received from his heavenly Father.

Directions: Starting at 1, follow the footsteps and write the words in order on the blanks below.



“ _____ ;
 _____ .
 _____ : _____ , _____ ”

Answer: "Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it." Proverbs 8:33, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elida, OH
45807
Permit No. 71

*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

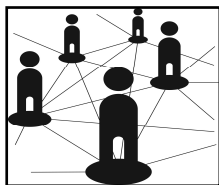
Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Family Web



Genealogy research turns up some intriguing relations; for example, Barack Obama and Sarah Palin are 10th cousins, and Britney Spears and Prince Albert of Monaco are 17th half-cousins. In the Bible, Jesus is linked to Rahab and Ruth, members of nations that were enemies of Israel.

Searches for family connections quickly reveal not only roots but also a web. Only a few generations up in the branches of each family tree are so many people that trees intersect. Scientists speculate that most people living today are related through a recent common ancestor. So there's a "web-like tapestry" rather than a "tree that fans out exponentially," according to writer Carl Zimmer.

Realizing we're all connected should affect how we treat others. After all, we're related to people with diverse backgrounds and opinions. In terms of genealogy, as well as living as Jesus' disciples, we belong to one another.

Running Blind

Years ago, I worked at a summer Bible camp with my cousin Erik. As an evening staff meeting concluded, a sprinkle suddenly became a downpour. Counselors sprinted off toward cabins, while Erik and I, who didn't supervise youngsters, debated whether to wait out the storm.

We opted to run for it, but being visually impaired, I soon realized the sheets of rain, added to the dark, hindered my view. "I can't see!" I yelled through the wind to Erik. Immediately, he grabbed my hand, pulling me along. "It's okay!" he shouted back. "I can!"

The sensation of running blindly yet feeling so secure became a metaphor for me about what I can handle and accomplish through faith. When I let God grab my hand and guide me, even when I'm running through dark, stormy times, I experience peace. For though I cannot see what lies ahead, I know God can.

—Heidi Mann