

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

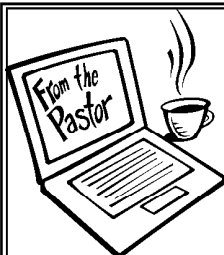
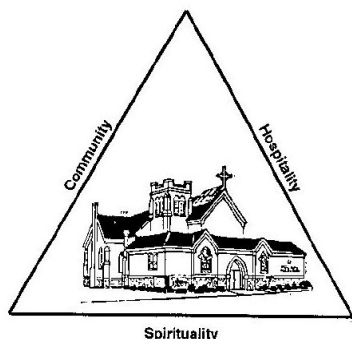
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Like many of you I have been praying that the rain will slow down enough so that it can dry out a little bit. I am keeping an eye out for pairs of animals loitering near any new construction just in case. We find ourselves during difficult times negotiating with God about what we will do if only God will improve our situation. Sometimes bad things happen because that is the way the world works and we have to believe that we will survive whatever is happening, and even if we don't, we are God's children and the promise is not about this world but the next. The calm we need to overcome difficult times is found through Christ and through Christ all things are possible. Keep the faith and stay the course and all things work together for the good of God.

By the time you are reading this I will be at the West Ohio Conference Annual Conference in Lakeside, Ohio, working on the business of the church. I hope you will be in prayer for all the delegates as we elect representatives for next year's General conference. I will try not to eat too much ice cream and attend most of the meetings.

Finally, I want to encourage you to be in prayer about how you can support the mission of the church. We have opportunities to serve the 3rd Tuesday of the month delivering meals at the Dish It Out Café, helping work on a ramp for someone in our community, serving a meal at Our Daily Bread, shopping for the food pantry, or volunteering to welcome a new family into our Elida community by working for Habitat for Humanity on the new home that will be built on North Street. Wherever you volunteer, witness to God's love through your actions.

I'll see you in the mission field,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

A good reputation is much easier to maintain than to rebuild.


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**West Ohio
United Methodist Church
Annual Conference
Lakeside, Ohio
June 2 to June 6**

Book Club
Saturday, June 8
At 9:00 AM

Book discussion will be about
"Nine Perfect Strangers"
By Liane Moriarty



JUNE 2
Coins for Communion
to benefit U.M.C.O.R



Save Your Coins

Pentecost Sunday
June 9
Wear RED




Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

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

Christian Symbol



TRIANGLE & CIRCLE

Dating back to ancient Christianity, a circle symbolizes eternity, and a triangle, with its three equal sides and three equal angles, symbolizes the Holy Trinity. Placed together, they represent the eternal Three-in-One and One-in-Three: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Flag Day
June 14**



**Trinity Sunday
June 16**



Our
**TRIUNE
GOD**

Dish-It-Out Café
Tuesday, June 18
at 12:00 Noon
All Retirees welcome!

June 16

**Food Pantry Sunday
June 16**
Donations are taken to
the Church at
Allentown



**First Day of Summer
June 21**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**THE BRADLEY W. JOSEPH
MEMORIAL FUND**



MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING



Saturday, July 13
Tee Time: 9:00 AM
Colonial Golfers Club
10985 Harding Hwy.
Harrod, OH 45850
419-649-3350

If interested in being on a team,
sponsoring a hole, or helping with the
golf outing, contact Tim Piper.

July 7
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit the
Brad Joseph Memorial Fund

Blankets of Love

BLANKETS OF LOVE

As most of you know, Gary & I are involved in the Honor Flight Network at the Columbus Hub. A few years ago, there were two groups in Central Ohio - Semper Fi Sisters and the Buckeye Military Families, who made lap blankets for each veteran on our flights. That is a HUGE undertaking since there are 80-100 Veterans per flight (and usually 6+ flights per year). This year for the first time, they asked for help in making these blankets. The program is called "Blankets of Love" and each blanket is to be patriotic in color and are fleece tied, knitted, crocheted, or quilted. We decided to ask the Crafty Creatures here at St. Paul UMC if this is something they might be interested in. They immediately jumped onboard and put together 24 BEAUTIFUL quilts. The Veterans who receive these are going to be very lucky individuals and it is something they will treasure always. We want to thank the Crafty Creatures for their generosity in this project and for the entire church for the blessing of these quilts.

Deb & Gary Hurd



The Business of Church

CHICKEN BBQ REPORT 2019

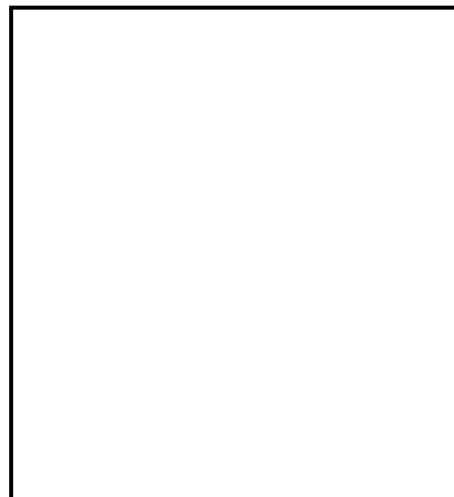
The Annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser that has been held for many years is once again 'in the books' as we say. It was held on Saturday, April 27, 2019, and it was once again a big success. Our top seller again this year was Norm Grigsby, who sold 138 tickets – he even broke his own record this year! Way to go Norm! We couldn't do it without you. The weather may not always cooperate (yes, we had rain this year), but Norm is always dependable.

Want to thank all of the people for their generosity to both Sue Theodore and myself when we asked for the donations of the food items. It is never an easy task to approach people and ask for help, but the wonderful people here at St. Paul are always willing to lend a hand and for that we are grateful. And thanks to those of you who bought the tickets as well. Although the Koinonia Class are the 'worker bees' so to speak when it comes to this fundraiser, it takes the entire church to make it a success. Matthew 7:7-8 says "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened."

For 2019, we increased the order to 450 chickens due to sales. We had bumps along the way this year but we had to trust in Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." We made around \$2,000.00 when we were all said and done this year. We want to thank a special person for your generous donation to the fundraiser (you know who you are).

May the outreach of St. Paul's United Methodist Church continue. Your presence in the Community shows and you can all be very proud. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God is aware of your generosity to others each and every day. Keep up the good work!

God Bless!
Deb Hurd



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
April 28, 2019	77
May 5, 2019	74
May 12, 2019 <i>Mother's Day</i>	76
May 19, 2019	110
May 26, 2019	74

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

	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
April 28, 2019	\$2,062.00	\$495.00
May 5, 2019	\$3,576.00	\$297.09
May 12, 2019	\$2,903.00	\$221.30
May 19, 2019	\$3,363.00	\$434.00
May 26, 2019	\$2,594.00	\$485.00

Sunday School Attendance	
April 28, 2019	3
May 5, 2019	3
May 12, 2019	4
May 19, 2019	5
May 26, 2019	5

Greeters	
June 2, 2019	Gary & Deb Hurd
June 9, 2019	Lynda Evans & Martha Vazquez
June 16, 2019 <i>Father's Day</i>	Lois Rabley
June 23, 2019	Margie Best & Jone Lane
June 30, 2019	Bev Nesbitt

Flower Calendar	
June 2, 2019	Marty & Kathy White
June 9, 2019	Carole & Denny Grapner
June 16, 2019	Art & Linda Holman
June 23, 2019	Greg & Barb Schade
June 30, 2019	Don & Judy Chaffins

Hospitality Cart	
June 2, 2019	Book Club
June 9, 2019	Sue Theodore
June 16, 2019 <i>Father's Day</i>	Marty & Kathy White
June 23, 2019	Choir/ Judy Chaffins
June 30, 2019	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 6/1

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Ezekiel 3:4-17
Hebrews 5:7-14, Luke 9:37-50

Sunday 6/2

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Ezekiel 3:16-27
Ephesians 2:1-10
Matthew 10:24-33,40-42

Monday 6/3

Psalm 89, Ezekiel 4:1-17
Hebrews 6:1-12, Luke 9:51-62

Tuesday 6/4

Psalm 94, 97, 99
Ezekiel 7:10-15, 23b-27
Hebrews 6:13-20, Luke 10:1-17

Wednesday 6/5

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Ezekiel 11:14-25
Hebrews 7:1-17, Luke 10:17-24

Thursday 6/6

Psalm 105, Ezekiel 18:1-4,19-32
Hebrews 7:18-28, Luke 10:25-37

Friday 6/7

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Ezekiel 34:17-31
Hebrews 8:1-13, Luke 10:38-42

Saturday 6/8

Psalm 107:33-43, 108
Ezekiel 43:1-12
Hebrews 9:1-14, Luke 11:14-23

Sunday 6/9

Psalm 118, 145, Isaiah 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-13
John 14:21-29

Monday 6/10

Psalm 106, Isaiah 63:7-14
2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 11:24-36

Tuesday 6/11

Psalm 120, 127
Isaiah 63:15-64:9
2 Timothy 1:15-2:13
Luke 11:37-52

Wednesday 6/12

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Isaiah 65:1-12
2 Timothy 2:14-26
Luke 11:53-12:12

Thursday 6/13

Psalm 131, 132, 134, 135
Isaiah 65:17-25
2 Timothy 3:1-17, Luke 12:13-31

Friday 6/14

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Isaiah 66:1-6
2 Timothy 4:1-8, Luke 12:32-48

Saturday 6/15

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Isaiah 66:7-14
2 Timothy 4:9-22, Luke 12:49-59

Sunday 6/16

Psalm 33, Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20
1 Peter 2:4-10

Monday 6/17

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Ruth 1:1-18
1 Timothy 1:1-17, Luke 13:1-9

Tuesday 6/18

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11, Ruth 1:19-2:13
1 Timothy 1:18-2:8
Luke 13:10-17

Wednesday 6/19

Psalm 12, 13, 14
Ruth 2:14-23
1 Timothy 3:1-16, Luke 13:18-30

Thursday 6/20

Psalm 18, Ruth 3:1-18
1 Timothy 4:1-16, Luke 13:31-35

Friday 6/21

Psalm 16, 17, 22, Ruth 4:1-17
1 Timothy 5:17-22(23-25)
Luke 14:1-11

Saturday 6/22

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Deuteronomy 1:1-8
1 Timothy 6:6-21, Luke 14:12-24

Sunday 6/23

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Deuteronomy 4:1-9
Revelation 7:1-4, 9-17
Matthew 12:33-45

Monday 6/24

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Deuteronomy 4:9-14
2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Luke 14:25-35

Tuesday 6/25

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Deuteronomy 4:15-24
2 Corinthians 1:12-22
Luke 15:1-10

Wednesday 6/26

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Deuteronomy 4:25-31
2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Thursday 6/27

Psalm 37
Deuteronomy 4:32-40
2 Corinthians 3:1-18
Luke 16:1-9

Friday 6/28

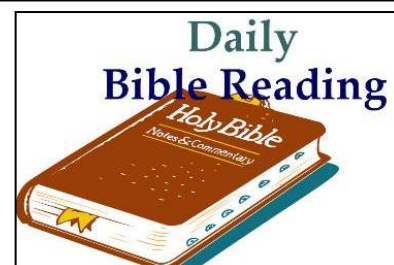
Psalm 31, 35
Deuteronomy 5:1-22
2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Luke 16:10-17(18)

Saturday 6/29

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10
Luke 16:19-31

Sunday 6/30

Psalm 63, 103
Deuteronomy 11:1-12
Revelation 10:1-11
Matthew 13:44-58



Remember When...



Vacation Bible School
June, 1991



Church Carry-In Lunch for
Rev. Larry Snyder's last Sunday
June, 2004



Seniors Day Out:
Goldenaires performed for
Seniors Day Out
June, 2014



Church History

A Children's Play was held on Christmas Eve at the earlier service. More than a dozen children were angels and shepherds. The Chancel Choir sang at the candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

During January and February in 2013, many children learned the task of being an acolyte, lighting the candles at the beginning of the service and putting them out as the last hymn is sung.

Another Blessing of the Quilts occurred on February 24, when 28 quilts were blessed by Pastor Paul. These quilts were taken to Baton Rouge Nursing care facility that week.

Easter Sunrise service was held on March 11, 2013. The sanctuary was beautiful with many Easter lilies placed around the room. Corinne Piper was the liturgist. Easter breakfast, prepared by the Nurture Committee, was served in the fellowship hall. During the regular Easter Sunday service, the Chancel Choir performed the cantata, "Easter Trilogy" – a cantata in three suites. The narrators were Art Holman, Rev. Paul Scannell and Sue Theodore.

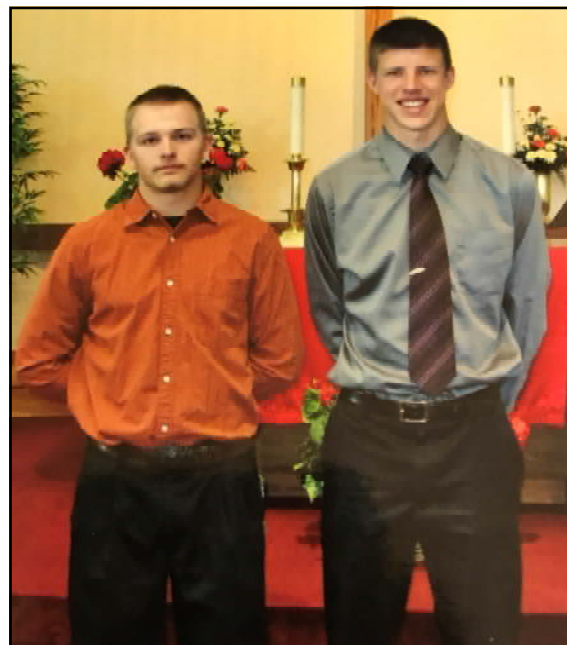
On April 16, the Lima Host Lions held a free diabetes screening in the church fellowship for anyone who stopped in. Preschool vision testing was also offered.

Two high school graduates were recognized on May 19. A breakfast was prepared for them in the fellowship hall. Attending were David Scannell, son of Pastor Paul and Marla, a home school graduate, and Aric Thompson, son of Janna and Denny, an Elida High School graduate. Unable to attend were Zachary Shoup and Michael Whetstone.



Lima Host Lions held a diabetes screening.

2013 High School Graduates
(David Scannell
& Aric Thompson)



Connecting With ...

Dan Best Retirement What happened to the last 43 years??

That's a question that I have asked myself quite a few times since I began planning for my retirement over the past year. Forty three years is the time that I had worked at the Department of Agriculture and several financial institutions through my career.

Through this retirement process it also dawned on me that what my grandparents and parents told was correct - time certainly does go faster the older you are!!

The 43 years began when I graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics. The economy and the job market were not very strong at that time and the only solid job offer that I accepted was with the Dept. of Agriculture in Chicago. I recall setting off for Chicago in my 1967 Ford Galaxy (a car that started most of the time) with no friends, contacts or place to stay in a very large strange city. I was pleased to discover that there were over 20 other recent college graduates that were in the same straits and I made several friends and together we rented an apartment and socialized after work and on the weekends. The job involved collecting and testing grain as it was loaded on to ships and trains for export.

After 6 months I was offered a job again with the Dept. of Agriculture but with a Govt. lending agency called Farmer's Home Administration. A great benefit with this job was that it was located in Bowling Green, Ohio, which was much closer to family and friends in Lima. For the next 6 years I learned about making and servicing agricultural and home loans. The greatest benefit of this job and any other job since then was that I met a co-worker - Margie who would eventually become my wife!! I also stayed busy after work building a house in Bowling Green. My next job was with the Farm Credit System in Ottawa, Ohio, that also involved making farm and home loans in a 4 county area. I also kept busy after work building a house in Findlay. I stayed with this job for 6 yrs,

Acting on a tip from a friend, I applied for my next job as a commercial loan officer at the Toledo Trust Bank in Delphos. I accepted that position and moved to Elida. The most note worthy item about my tenure here was that the name of the bank changed 4 times in 10 yrs. The joke around town was that the bank signs were installed with Velcro so that they could be quickly and easily changed.

My next job was with a smaller bank in Defiance, again making and servicing mostly farm loans. After 3 years of driving to Defiance, (by the way, there is no good way to drive from Elida to Defiance) Bryan, Archbold and many other smaller towns in far northwest Ohio, I had an opportunity to transfer to an affiliate bank much closer to home in Lima. From there it was 8 yrs. at First Federal Bank in Ottawa and Lima.

The last 9 yrs. of my career I spent at The Union Bank Co. on Elida Rd. In Lima. My responsibilities there were making & servicing mostly commercial loans and some farm loans.

With reflecting back on my career it seems like I couldn't hold a job, but each change gave me a great opportunity to meet a variety of people and to make good, long-lasting relationships with my clients and co-workers. So, I guess that I wouldn't have changed a thing. By the way, I still haven't figured out what happened to those 43 years!!



Connecting With ...

Marty White Retirement

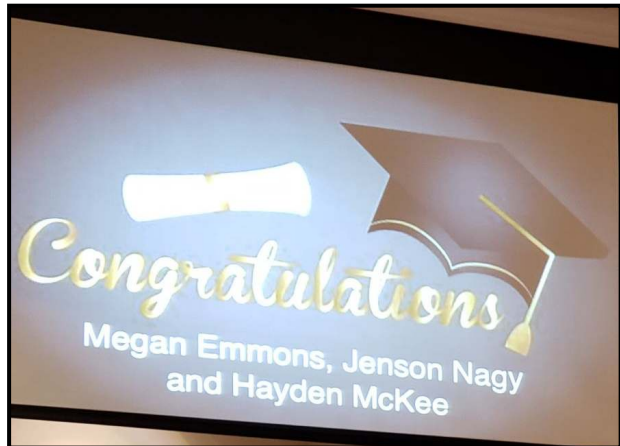
After nearly 40 ½ years with Buckeye Pipe Line Company, now an affiliate company of Buckeye Partners, L.P., founded in Lima as part of the Rockefeller empire in 1886, I retired May 1, 2019. Buckeye's last corporate headquarters in Ohio was located on the corner of S. Dixie Highway and Buckeye Road, Lima. Today, the building is occupied by St. Rita's Occupational Health and a few other tenants. Buckeye relocated its headquarters to Macungie, PA (adjacent to Allentown, PA) in the late 1960s. It was here that Kathy first joined Buckeye in 1976 and I followed in December, 1978. Kathy left Buckeye in 1979 for Stanley-Vidmar, a division of The Stanley Works, but Buckeye couldn't seem to shake me loose. After years of listening to stories about Lima and Midwestern company operations and administration from associates that relocated to the Allentown, PA area, I found myself in Lima following a job relocation in 1992....and the rest is history.

Most of my company activities were in the area of 'Real Estate, Right of Way, and Damage Prevention.' There is no formal training, for the most part, for this position - only patience and perseverance....lots of patience! My degree is from the School of Hard Knocks (actually, from Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, in Business Management.) Consequently, I feel I could deliver sermons over a month of Sundays on the nature and mindset of the average property owner or public agency. As company spokesperson during emergency response or other media issues, I have given numerous on-camera interviews. I have been before the court several times in Lima (Common Pleas and Appellate), Lucas County, OH, and Genesee Co., MI. As an agent in Buckeye's Right of Way Dept., I was expected to be a jack-of-all-trades. Time-permitting, that's O.K. but it gets old....which is why I retired from my full-time position of 60-70 hours per week and am moving on to a new position (or job status) as *contract* agent for Buckeye - same desk, same office on Buckeye Road (the smaller office built in 1978 closer to the Army tank plant.) Under this job scenario, I hope to drop to 40 hours per week with far fewer balls in the air. So, not exactly the complete definition of 'retirement' but definitely a step in the right direction until Social Security/Medicare kick in, assuming these benefits still exist in 3-4 years.

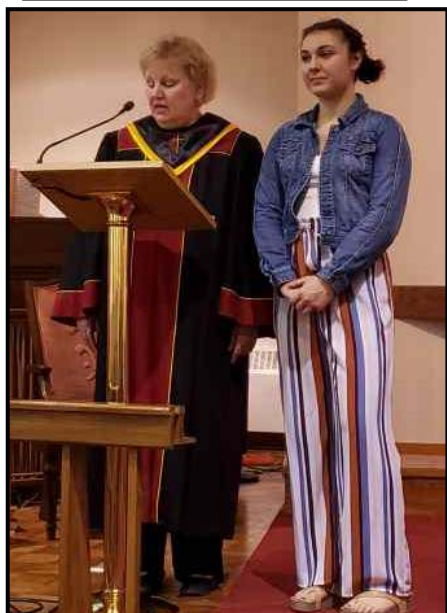
Congratulations



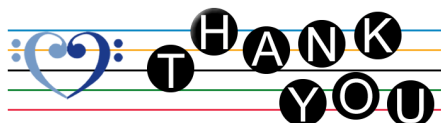
Worship Celebrations



**Sunday, May 19
Honoring Graduates**



**Sunday, May 19
Choir last Sunday for the summer**



Thank you to Judy Chaffins for directing the choir and to Lois Cook for the piano accompaniment. Thank you to all the choir members for their time and dedication to bring a joyful sound to our worship service.

Summer Special Music:
If you or someone you know that would like to volunteer their talent in providing special music during the summer months, please let Judy Chaffins know.

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.



EASY Connections

The United Methodist Church is a denomination that focuses on building connections between the local church and community, between other congregations and with the united church. Its goal is to lead people into a connection with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

For the past few years, the St. Paul UMC congregation and the Immanuel UMC congregation have worked together at EASY to connect with middle school students and their families. Those who volunteered had fun, laughter, and, at times, frustration with the current and former students. Through the years, we saw shy students turn into confident, outgoing teens. We celebrated with them as they passed tests and raised their grades. We talked with parents and suggested ways to interact with the school more effectively. We found hidden interests through board games and skills groups. We listened to stories of families where the connection had broken and the pain those breaks caused in their lives. We watched them develop leadership skills to help younger or struggling students. We got to follow them into high school as they returned to volunteer or just stop by for a chat.

After six and a half years, our volunteers' lives have changed and we have come to the conclusion that we cannot continue with the same structure for EASY. It nearly brought us to tears on the last day as formerly difficult students gave us hugs and said they would be back in the fall. The EACC board is talking about ways to continue in some form but we haven't figured out what that will be. The need for love and relationships among these children is great and brings wonderful rewards to them and our community.

The EACC is at a turning point as we work towards new leadership and community interaction. The needs of Elida continue to be much the same as they were when we developed ReFocus with Rev. Solo: activities for our youth, seniors, and families. In fact, they became the focus of St. Paul's Mission Statement. The board will work toward involving more community members so please join us if you would like to further our outreach to our neighbors.

The People of St. Paul's

*Dear Christian Friends,
I want to thank you for the beautiful red and white paisley quilted lap robe that you so lovingly gave to me at Christmas . I have been a resident at the Springs of Lima on Eastown Rd. since last December and really appreciate the warmth and the love this lap robe provides me with.*

*Sincerely,
Jo Jett-Swaney*


Thank You!

*St. Paul's Friends,
I would like to thank all of you for the cards, gift cards and well wishes for my recent retirement. Retirement has been great so far and as so many other retirees have told me, "I'm not sure how I ever had enough time to work." Also thank you for your well wishes to Margie regarding my retirement even though I'm not sure what that means??*

*Thanks again,
Dan*

Thank you for the delicious desserts that you donated to the Samaritan House. Such a treat for our residents.

*God Bless You!
Samaritan House Staff*



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Norm Grigsby
Cindy Swihart
Phyllis Trigg

Homebound Members

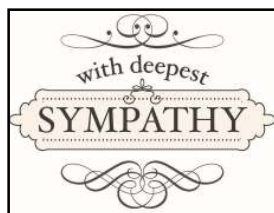
Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Ray & Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart



Our sympathy to the Travis and Julie Bok family and the Brady and Tiffany Emmons family on the death of their grandfather, Jim Losey. Pastor Paul officiated the Memorial service on Monday, May 6. Cards may reach the Bok Family at 2475 N. Kemp Rd., Elida, OH 45807, and the Emmons Family at 1151 N. Stevick Rd., Elida, OH 45807.

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

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.

Meetings

No PPR

June 4, 2019
Trustees...7:00 PM

No Finance

June 12, 2019
Worship Mtg...10:00 AM

June 12, 2019
Missions...7:00 PM

No Ad Council Mtg.

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

JUNE 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						<p>1 Becky Bean Rylan McAdams</p>
2	<p>3 Megan Emmons</p>	<p>4 Gary Adams Lois Rabley</p>	5	6	7	8
<p>9 David Nartker Jamie Wyant</p>	<p>10 Don Chaffins Caleb Kinney Susan Nartker</p>	11	12	13	<p>14 Evan Motzer</p>	<p>15 Jim Hines Brayden Warris</p>
<p>16 Judy Chaffins</p>	<p>17 Gwyneth Woeller</p>	18	19	<p>20 Greg Schade</p>	<p>21 Steve Moser Josh Motzer Katie White</p>	<p>22 Kim Metzger Emma Motzer</p>
23	<p>24 Vicki McAdams</p>	25	<p>26 Art Holman</p>	27	28	29
30						

Anniversaries

- Dominic & Kelly DeRose*
June 1
- Marty & Kathy White*
June 2; 40 yrs.
- Jon & Amber Moorman*
June 11
- Brad & Slone Whetstone*
June 13
- Art & Linda Holman*
June 17; 52 yrs.
- Justin & Megan Wyant*
June 19
- Caleb & Krista Slemmons*
June 21
- Jim & Sharon Phillips*
June 22
- Don & Judy Chaffins*
June 29; 45 years
- Tom & Denise Thomas*
June 29
- Zac & Jenni Jankovsky*
June 30

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

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Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

What Rain Reveals



Unless you're a pluviophile (someone who loves rain), a stretch of sunshine-free days can seem drab and dreary. To make South Korea's long monsoon season more colorful, art students created murals on some Seoul sidewalks with hydrochromic paint. It's invisible on dry surfaces, but as soon as water hits, vibrant images appear. Rain transforms gray pavement into bright scenes of fish, whales and turtles.

Life's storms, whether literal or figurative, can dampen our enthusiasm and even challenge our faith. Yet adversity often reveals God's true colors — and ours. No matter what clouds pass overhead, God remains perfect, loving and steadfast. And by praising God "rain or shine," we, as his artwork, reveal that our Creator and his every brushstroke are trustworthy.

A Father's Legacy

For Joseph Dodson, the pressures and responsibilities of parenthood felt compounded when he and his wife adopted a son. Dodson, a Bible professor, wonders if Jesus' earthly father also struggled with doubts and fears.

Scripture doesn't say much about Joseph, but he clearly left Jesus "a significant legacy," Dodson writes in *Bible Study Magazine*. Joseph obeyed God — despite the risk to his reputation — by marrying a pregnant woman. Joseph, a son of David, raised *the* Son of David as his very own. To protect his family he fled to Egypt, foreshadowing the "new exodus" of Jesus' saving ministry. And Joseph heard neighbors mock Jesus as "the carpenter's son."

"Joseph taught Jesus much more than woodworking," Dodson writes. "He modeled for his adopted son how, for God's glory, he must drink the Father's cup no matter the cost."