

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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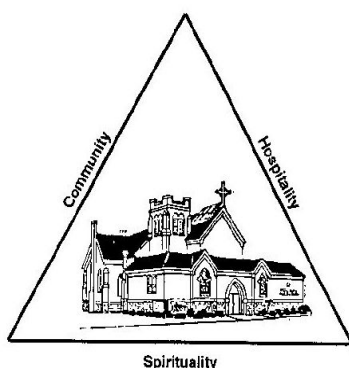
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By the time you read this, we are already in the Lenten season and preparing for the coming of Easter. Even though it is still a month and a half away, we can use this Lenten season to prepare for the biggest Holiday in the Christian Church. The theme for Lent will be "Eyewitness Testimonies". We are going to spend most of Lent looking at all of the people who were present for the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. I hope in the midst of the series you will look for a little bit of yourself in each of these characters. Together, I hope we will learn more about the crucifixion, about how God sees us and what God has called us to be.

Spring has felt like it is sprung. But be warned; it is March in Ohio and anything can happen. I know you want to put away the heavy coats and snow shovel, and get out the garden tools and fire up the lawn mower, but don't be disappointed when it snows again. You will know it is really Spring when you smell the BBQ chicken being served here at church. It will quickly be upon us this April. Be ready when someone asks you to volunteer or to make something. But I want to especially encourage you to invite friends and coworkers to experience church in a way that does not threaten them. It is a good way for people to see how much of a family church can be and that Christians can have fun while working hard.

Also, come on down on Monday and Wednesday and we will introduce you to the kids of E.A.S.Y. or invite a friend to have lunch at the church on Senior's Day Out. Thanks for all the work you do and I'll see you around church.

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

No winter lasts forever,
No Spring skips its
turn.

—Hal Borland

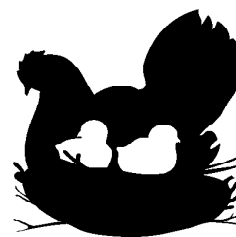
**March 5
'Coins for Communion'
to benefit Our Daily Bread
Soup Kitchen**



Christian Symbol

Hen

The hen represents Jesus' deep care and compassion even for those who killed prophets God had sent to them. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," mourned Jesus shortly before his death. "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37, ESV).



Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission

Friday, March 31, 2017

**Volunteers needed
to help prepare and serve
the noon meal.**

**Please contact Tim Piper
if you can help.**

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

REMINDER:

**Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 12
Set your clocks ahead 1 hour.**

God's Hands

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixtyfold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.

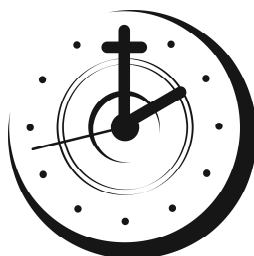
—Virginia Brandt Berg

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



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

St. Paul's Book Club
Saturday, March 4, 2017
9:00 AM

Book discussion about
And The Mountains Echoed
By Khaled Hosseini

Bring your own breakfast.

**BOOK
CLUB**

Seniors Day Out

Tuesday,
March 21, 2017

All seniors welcome!

Koinonia Weekend Get-Away

Friday, March 31 to Saturday, April 1
at Comfort Inn and Suites in Piqua, Ohio

Please RSVP to Linda Holman

March 20
SPRING BEGINS!!

Happy
SPRING

St. Paul's Chicken Barbeque
Saturday, April 22
Tickets will be \$8.00



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

• A S H •

Wednesday



March 1, 2017
Ash Wednesday
Worship Service at
7:00 PM



Lenten Worship
Schedule



March 19, 2017
Third Sunday in Lent



March 12, 2017
Second Sunday in Lent



March 26, 2017
Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 5, 2017
First Sunday in Lent

You Are Enough

It is very easy to live with an underlying fear that somehow who we are, and what we have, and what we can do is never quite enough. This incompleteness is fed by a creative advertising industry that persuades us certain products will not only complete us, but ensure we stay that way.

Feeling we do not quite measure up or that we have an inner emptiness gets us to do all kinds of things: overworking, overspending, overeating, overcontrolling. We fear emptiness and see incompleteness as a social stigma that indicates we haven't been smart enough to get our life under control and get what we need.

Lent prompts us to think about giving something up, often food. Fasting, however, is not the most popular word in my vocabulary! I would like to learn to be more at peace with my experiences of emptiness, or the vague anxiety that accompanies letting go of overworking, or the tendency to buy more books than I can ever read because the one on the shelf before me is one I simply can't miss out on.

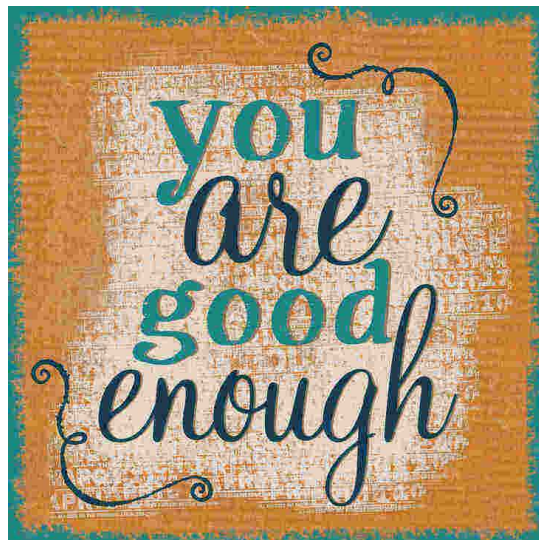
Maybe fasting is then to do with affirming that we are enough, rather than attempting to deny ourselves.

Christianity is not the only religion that talks about working against the appetites, addictions, and compulsions that are often the signs of our unwillingness to be empty, or to not have, or to appear incomplete or not successful. To work against these things with a rigorous asceticism or a joyless religiosity simply replaces one addiction with another!

Learning to let be, to experience the inner emptiness that is meant to take us to God who alone satisfies our deepest needs; refusing to be coerced into thinking we need to look a certain way; or own or achieve certain things in order to be acceptable are all part of this acknowledgment that we *are* enough, even when we do not have everything. Contemplative prayer is, at the heart of it, a simple resting in the goodness of God and the reality of our life.

You are enough.

– Ann Siddall



Men Of Faith

LAMM

The next Lima Area Methodist Men's Breakfast will be at 8 AM, Saturday, March 4th at **Trinity United Methodist Church**, 301 W. Market Street, Lima. Park on the West side of the building. Breakfast will be in the Fellowship Hall down the stairs from the west entrance. Thank you to the men of Trinity for hosting the breakfast! Our speaker will be Jamie Wyant who will give us an update on the UMC Camp Wesley Lake Cabin Project, in Bellefontaine. Jamie has been involved with mission work at Camp Wesley and is on the camp committee which decides what work will be done at each United Methodist Camp. He will give us an update on the change in the scope of work for the Lake Cabin Project. We will also discuss upcoming mission work planned by our United Methodist churches in the Lima area. A free-will offering will be taken which will go towards local mission work. All are welcome. We hope you will come join us in food and fellowship as we discuss how we can make a difference in God's Kingdom.

Who are LAMM?

Lima Area Methodist Men's breakfasts are for men in our local United Methodist churches (non-Methodists are welcome, too) who would like to fellowship with other Christian men and discuss how our churches can make a difference in the Lima area for God's Kingdom. We meet quarterly at four different churches in the Lima area.

A free-will offering will be taken at the breakfast which will be used for future local mission work, as designated by our group. No reservations are necessary. Guests are welcome. **We hope to see you there.**



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

January 29, 2017	92
February 5, 2017	101
February 12, 2017	110
February 19, 2017	106
February 26, 2017	96

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
January 29, 2017	\$1,702.00	\$210.00
February 5, 2017	\$4,466.00	\$598.69
February 12, 2017	\$2,603.10	\$252.00
February 19, 2017	\$1,862.00	\$281.37
February 26, 2017	\$3,133.00	\$1,386.00

Sunday School Attendance

January 29, 2017	17
February 5, 2017	18
February 12, 2017	15
February 19, 2017	16
February 26, 2017	10

Greeters

March 5, 2017	OPEN
March 12, 2017	Virginia Hollar
March 19, 2017	OPEN
March 26, 2017	Makayla & Anika Bok

Flower Calendar



March 5, 2017	Denny & Carole Grapner
March 12, 2017	Nancy Gesler
March 19, 2017	Bill & Joyce Nichols
March 26, 2017	Fran Hall

Hospitality Cart

March 5, 2017	OPEN
March 12, 2017	Marty & Kathy White
March 19, 2017	Margie Best & Jone Lane
March 26, 2017	Choir

Daily Bible Readings

Wednesday 3/1

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Ruth 2:1-13
2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
Matthew 5:21-26

Thursday 3/2

Psalm 131, 132, 134, 135
Ruth 2:14-23
2 Corinthians 3:1-18
Matthew 5:27-37

Friday 3/3

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Ruth 3:1-18
2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Matthew 5:38-48

Saturday 3/4

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Ruth 4:1-17
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10
Matthew 6:1-16

Sunday 3/5

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Deuteronomy 4:1-9
2 Timothy 4:1-8, John 12:1-8

Monday 3/6

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Deuteronomy 4:9-14
2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Matthew 6:7-15

Tuesday 3/7

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Deuteronomy 4:15-24
2 Corinthians 11:1-21a
Matthew 6:16-23

Wednesday 3/8

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Deuteronomy 4:25-31
2 Corinthians 11:21b-33
Matthew 6:24-34

Thursday 3/9

Psalm 18, Deuteronomy 4:32-40
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Matthew 7:1-12

Friday 3/10

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Deuteronomy 5:1-22
2 Corinthians 12:11-21
Matthew 7:13-21

Saturday 3/11

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Matthew 7:22-29

Sunday 3/12

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Hebrews 12:18-29, John 12:24-32

Monday 3/13

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Deuteronomy 6:10-15
Hebrews 1:1-14, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 3/14

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Deuteronomy 6:16-25
Hebrews 2:1-10, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 3/15

Psalm 32, 102, 130, 143
Jonah 3:1-4:11
Hebrews 12:1-14, Luke 18:9-14

Thursday 3/16

Psalm 37, Deuteronomy 7:6-11
Titus 1:1-16, John 1:29-34

Friday 3/17

Psalm 31, 35
Deuteronomy 7:12-16
Titus 2:1-15, John 1:35-42

Saturday 3/18

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Deuteronomy 7:17-26
Titus 3:1-15, John 1:43-51

Sunday 3/19

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Deuteronomy 8:1-10
1 Corinthians 1:17-31
Mark 2:18-22

Monday 3/20

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Deuteronomy 8:11-20
Hebrews 2:11-18, John 2:1-12

Tuesday 3/21

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Deuteronomy 9:4-12
Hebrews 3:1-11
John 2:13-22

Wednesday 3/22

Psalm 49, 53, 119:49-72
Deuteronomy 9:13-21
Hebrews 3:12-19, John 2:23-3:15

Thursday 3/23

Psalm 19, 46, 50
Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5
Hebrews 4:1-10, John 3:16-21

Friday 3/24

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Hebrews 4:11-16, John 3:22-36

Saturday 3/25

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Deuteronomy 11:18-28
Hebrews 5:1-10, John 4:1-26

Sunday 3/26

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Jeremiah 1:1-10
1 Corinthians 3:11-23
Mark 3:31-4:9

Monday 3/27

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65
Jeremiah 1:11-19
Romans 1:1-15, John 4:27-42

Tuesday 3/28

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Jeremiah 2:1-13
Romans 1:16-25, John 4:43-54

Wednesday 3/29

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Jeremiah 3:6-18
Romans 1:28-2:11, John 5:1-18

Thursday 3/30

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28
Romans 2:12-24, John 5:19-29

Friday 3/31

Psalm 69, 73
Jeremiah 5:1-9
Romans 2:25-3:18
John 5:30-47



Scout Sunday



Scout Sunday, February 12

Thank you to all the Boy and Girl Scouts that participated in the Worship Service as greeters, hospitality host, acolytes, flag bearers and liturgist.



Church History

After seven months of construction, on February 7, 1988, the final worship service had been held in the multipurpose room and the worship paraphernalia headed the procession to the newly outfitted sanctuary. The choir anthem was again "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place."

In 1988, a St. Paul's Cookbook was sold with proceeds going to the renovation. During Lent, a dramatic service, "On the Road with Jesus," written by Tom Tozer, was presented to the congregation. It was first performed in Hollywood, CA, in March, 1978.

The hymnals were shabby, and dated from before the union to make the United Methodist Church so the U.M.W. started a movement to buy new hymnals at the pre-publication price. Many were purchased by members of the congregation as memorials.

The largest confirmation class conducted by Rev. Puffenberger was held in 1988. The 17 young people were confirmed on June 12, 1988. The class consisted of the following: Gary Adams, Bryan Craft, Amy Gladfelter, Wendy Gossett, Emily Henne, Jennifer Hines, Kate Holman, Mary Massay, Jennifer Morrissey, Pam Moser, Mark Neely, Angeline Neiford, Rachel Neiford, Erik Puffenberger, Joy Reinoehl, Brian Steiner and Ryan Williams.

One of the highlights of 1989 was the musical production by the children, "Fat, Fat, Jehoshphat" under the direction of Judy Chaffins. It was presented to the congregation on June 25, 1989. Thirty youth and fourteen adults helped make this presentation a huge success!

Rev. Puffenberger had part in another book, We Are the Lords, an anthology of funeral sermons.

Also in 1989, the annual smorgasbord was transformed into a Fun Festival with a children's tent (Remember Rev. Puffenberger taking a pie in the face?), crafts, booths, food, silent auction, exhibitors, and entertainment. This very successful, well-attended event made a profit of \$4,000.

Because the financial burden was heavier, the property at 101 E. Main Street was sold and the proceeds applied to the mortgage.

1988 Confirmation Class



Remember When...



March, 1984

Mina Brenneman honored after her 100th birthday in December, 1983



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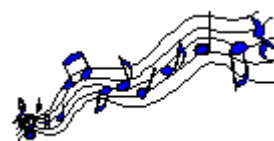
March, 1987

Tom Tozer and some of the cast of "The Villian of Glitter Gulch" celebrating their great performance!



March, 1992
Cherub Choir

L-R: Angie Gossard, Caitlin McGlade, Cari Metzger, Amanda Crates, Ashley Reiff, Lindsey Reiff, Tara Thompson, Aaron Thompson, Chelsea Bowsher, David Segovia, Jon Cook



Connecting With ...

Emma Scannell is busy preparing for her ballet performance as Wendy in Peter Pan, April 7 and 8 at Knickerbocker Theatre in Holland, Michigan. Tickets may be purchased through Hope College at 616-395-7222; ask for ticket office. Emma is also practicing for the Choreograph Showcase March 3 & 4 and 10 & 11.



Sherilyn Ellinger serving as an acolyte for the first time and with her sister Adrianna, Sunday, February 19.

Thank you to the youth that serve as acolytes.

It's a boy!

St. Paul's Honor Roll Students:

Elida High School:

Joshua Guess—Junior
Isaac McAdams— Junior
Megan Emmons—Sophomore

Elida Middle School:

Makayla Bok—8th Grade

Spencerville High School:

Jenson Nagy—Sophomore



Tara and AJ Strauch and big brother, Thaddeus, welcomed Marcus Bolton Strauch on February 9. Marcus weighed 6lbs. 13oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Denny and Janna Thompson. Cards may reach the Strauch family at 517 Boone Trail Rd. Danville, Kentucky, 40422

The People of St. Paul's

*Church family,
Thank you for the beautiful
flower arrangement for the
birth of our baby boy. It was
very thoughtful of you.*

*Kelly, Dominic,
Demi and Dakota DeRose*

Thank you!



*Thank you, for the prayers,
flowers, cards, food and
expression of concern during
my knee replacement surgery
and recovery.*

Lavonne and Rudy Segovia

*St. Paul's Church and
EASY friends,
Thank you for the pretty
flower arrangement,
prayers, and taking over my
jobs at EASY this week
while I had a little "R & R"
at Lima Memorial Hospital.
All tests came back clear
and I am ready to roll
again!*

Corinne Piper

*St. Paul's,
A big thank you to my
church family!
I appreciate all of the
support over the years.
What a great church to grow
up in!*

*With love,
Tahler Sdao*

*Nurture Committee,
Thank you so much for the delicious
meal. It was very much enjoyed by
our entire family.
Our church family is so special to us.*

*God's Blessings,
Dwain and Myrna Metzger*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Corinne Piper
Lavonne Segovia

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Ruth Hardy
John Holmes
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Glenna Kohli

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart



In Sympathy

Our sympathy to John Holmes on the death of his son-in-law, Larry Ward, who passed away February 22 in Diamond City Arkansas. His wife, Shirley, is John's daughter. Cards may be sent to John at 2075 N. Eastown Rd. Apt. 231, Elida, Oh 45807.

Our Sympathy to the family of Mary LaRue, who passed away February 18, at the age of 97. Mary had been a member of St. Paul's since March of 1948. Mary is the mother of Myrna Metzger and mother-in-law of Dwain Metzger. Cards may reach them at 3794 N. Cable Rd, Elida, OH 45807.

Meetings

PPR...No Meeting

March 7, 2017
Trustees..7:00 PM

March, 8, 2017
Worship Mtg.. 6:00 PM

Finance...No Meeting

March 13, 2017
Ad Council...7:00 PM

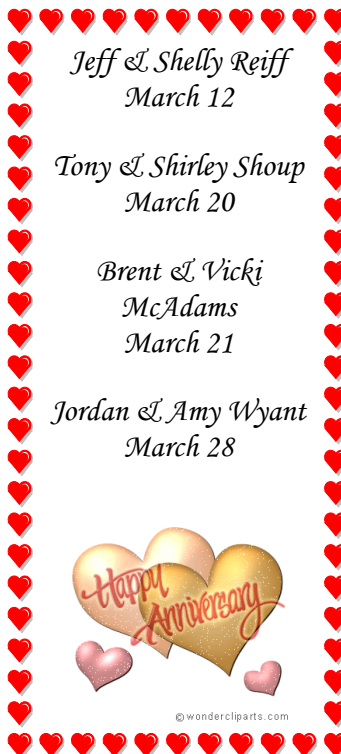
Sundays
Prayer...8:45 AM
Sunday Sch...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

March 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Scott Grapner	2	3 Chelsey Cook	4 Janna Thompson
5 Scott Fessler	6	7 Tim Theodore	8	9	10	11
12 Linda Holman	13 Carol Lee	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Tara Strauch	21	22 Nancy Gesler	23	24 Joyce Nichols	25
26	27 Julie Bok	28	29 Casey Lane	30 Tahler Sdao Julia Thomas	31 Tom Thomas	



Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Hot Chicken Salad Casserole

By Marybeth Corbett

Ingredients		Instructions
2 cup	Cooked chicken (diced)	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix ingredients together. Put in 13x9 baking pan. Top with grated cheese. Bake 30 minutes.
2 cup	Celery (diced)	
2 Tbs.	Minced onion	
3	Eggs, hard boiled (diced)	
1 tsp.	Salt	
1-8oz. can	Water chestnuts	
1-4oz. can	Mushrooms (optional)	
2 Tbs.	Lemon Juice	
1 can	Cream of chicken soup	
1/4 cup	Milk	
1 cup	Sour cream	
1/2 cup	Almonds	
1 cup	Mayonnaise	
dash	Pepper	
1 cup	Grated cheese	



Cheese Cake Brownies

By Linda Matlock

Ingredients		Instructions
1 box	Brownie mix	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake 35-40 minutes Prepare brownies as directed on package. Spread brownie mixture in 9x13 baking pan. Beat cream cheese and sugar. Add vanilla and egg. Spread cream cheese mixture over brownies. Cut knife through several times for marbled effect.
1- 8oz.	Cream Cheese (softened)	
1/3 cup	Sugar	
1	Egg	
1 tsp.	Vanilla	

KIDZ KORNER

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.

Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____

A	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	_____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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Living Our Faith

From Great To Good

Jim Collins' 2001 book Good to Great featured companies that had "made the leap" to greatness. Years later, many of them are no longer great; some aren't even around.

Should Christians seek greatness? After all, our attempts to be great — wealthy, powerful, successful, famous — often become the "enemies" of our doing the good God commands.

God's Word flips on its head the saying "good is the enemy of great." The meek, Jesus teaches, will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). "Whoever would be great among you," he says, "must be your servant" (Mark 10:43, ESV). One of Jesus' most famous parables is called the Good Samaritan, not the Great Samaritan. And goodness, not greatness, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Christians and churches are called not to greatness but to doing good for the sake of the world. Let's shift our focus "from great to good."

—Based on "From Great to Good,"
Homiletics, January-February 2017