

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
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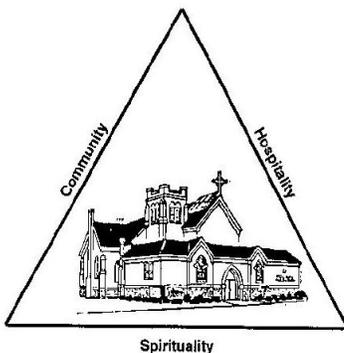
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I want to thank all of you who have stepped up to help with cleaning the church as our custodian has had some health concerns. It is always interesting as people go about cleaning the church during the daytime and how their dedication to the church shows in the pride of the work done. The body of Christ caring for one another is a wonderful sight to behold!

The third Sunday of May we are going to take some time during worship to talk about sanctuary safety. I am going to be showing a video from Bishop Palmer that will give us all some examples of what we should do in the event of an attack during worship. I know some of you are saying this is something we should not discuss or would never happen here. These are the very reasons I am giving everyone advance notice. I also wanted to make sure parents have the opportunity to keep kids out of that service if they are concerned that the topic will be too upsetting. I also hope you will come to me with any questions or concerns that you have with the safety of our building and sanctuary, especially as it relates to Sunday mornings.

Finally, I want to encourage you to continue exploring with me the example of Peter in the Bible and how his portrayal throughout the gospels gives us a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and how we fit into God's plan for the world. Peter also allows us to see that being impulsive, making mistakes and falling short of perfection is something that every great Christian faces. It is not our short comings that limit us, but it is our inability to have faith in the One who saves us all and gives us the grace that frees us from sin and gives us all eternal life.

See you in the mission field,

Pastor Paul

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Thought for the Month:

The point is not to pay back kindness but to pass it on.

—Julia Alvarez



He ascended into Heaven

**May 10, 2018
Ascension**

Seniors Day Out
 May 15, 2018
 Lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall.
 Then going to the Welsh Museum in Gomer.



Trinity Sunday
 May 27

Memorial Day
 May 28
 Office closed

Mother's Day
 May 13, 2016



May 20 is the last Sunday for St. Paul's Chancel Choir. They will return in the Fall after summer break. Anyone interested in doing Special Music for the summer contact Judy Chaffins or the church office.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

May 6, 2018
Coins for Communion to benefit West Ohio United Methodist Church Camps
Camp Wesley, Camp Otterbein, Camp Widewater

Christian Symbol

Fleur-de-lis

Because the fleur-de-lis resembles a lily — a symbol of purity — it is sometimes used to represent the Virgin Mary. Due to its three-petal form, the fleur-de-lis also symbolizes the Holy Trinity.



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



May 20, 2018
Wear Red



Pentecost Petals

The Pantheon, dedicated in 126 A.D. as the home of ancient Roman gods, is now a Catholic basilica. In a tradition dating back to the seventh century, on Pentecost Sunday thousands of rose petals are dropped through the roof's opening onto worshipers below. The red petals symbolize the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus' disciples, as well as the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

To accomplish this "rose rain," five firefighters climb to the roof after mass. While the choir sings the ancient hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* ("Come Creator Spirit"), firefighters empty seven bags of petals through the building's 27-foot-wide oculus, or eye in the sky.

Only a fortunate few can witness this spectacular event in person each year, but videos are available online.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Congratulations to **Makayla Bok**, an Elida High School Freshman and Latin student. Makayla was one of 16 National Latin Exam award winners from Elida Schools. The exam is given to over 143,000 Latin students from all 50 states & 24 different foreign countries. As a result of doing well, students, in addition to seeing how they rank amongst other Latin students in the world, also have the opportunity to win scholarships awarded through the American Classical League and the Junior Classical League. Congratulations to these students and thanks to Mrs. Whittacker for being an awesome Latin teacher!

Congratulations



Latin I
8th graders Cody Crates, Silvia Morales, Conner Douglass & Katherine Wright

Latin II
Dakota Holdeman (9th)
Dane Harter (9th), Alana Shurelds (10th)
Micah Schilling (9th), Makala Bok (9th) Lily Niebel (9th) & Preston Layman (9th)

Latin III
Sophomores Alyssa Stiles, Makaya Burgess, Michael King & Haydin Warner

Congratulations Graduates

ST. PAUL'S 2018 COLLEGE GRADUATES

- * **Reggie McAdams** is graduating from the University of Akron with a degree in Engineering. He will be working for the Ohio Department of Transportation.
- * **Torie McAdams** is graduating from the University of Toledo in Occupational Therapy. She will continue her education with an internship at Mercy Health (St. Rita's) Hospital.

Updates on other college graduates include:

- * **Diane Eagy** graduated from the University of Toledo, majoring in Marketing and Communications.
- * **Samantha Myers** graduated from the Henry Ford College as a Pharmacy Technician. She is employed by CVS Pharmacy.

Congratulations to our students! God bless each of them.



ST. PAUL'S 2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- * **Joshua Guess** will graduate from Elida High School. He will be attending The Ohio State University. He has an upcoming audition with the OSU Marching Band. Joshua is the son of Cynthia Guess.
- * **Isaac McAdams** will graduate from Elida High School. He will be attending Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Isaac is the son of Brent and Vicki McAdams.

Senior Commencement at Elida will be held on Sunday, May 27th.

St. Paul's UMC Senior High graduate breakfast will be held on **May 20th** at the Wyant's, followed by graduate recognitions for both college and high school students at the ten o'clock church service.

Congratulations to our students! God bless each of them.

Chicken BBQ

Our Annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 and it was once again a HUGE success. The Koinonia Class would like to thank some special people - Norm & Mary Grigsby, who once again sold the most tickets - 122!!! Way to go you two! You are always our #1 sales people and we appreciate you more than you know. We would also like to thank Greg & Barb Schade for coming in and cleaning the entire fellowship hall and kitchen in preparation for the BBQ. You are our angels here on earth. God bless you all.

I, too, would like to thank all of you who so unselfishly were willing to donate food items when either myself or Sue Theodore approached you. It makes our job so much easier when we have people who willingly donate. And what can I say about the entire Koinonia Class - you are the BEST!!! You gave of yourselves in so many ways in setting up, prepping food, serving, cleaning up, and having fellowship together. Hard work? You bet! But the entire Community of Elida loves our BBQ and waits eagerly for the ticket sales to begin. We are only as successful as all of you working together can be. As it says in 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." You indeed served our Community well and you can be very proud.

For 2018, we ordered 400 chickens and actually sold out, which is awesome! We made a profit of \$1,409.00 because of the hard work you all did. Another fundraiser is 'in the books', but the outreach St. Paul's United Methodist Church shows is indeed ever present. God bless you all!

Deb Hurd



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

March 29, 2018 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	30
April 1, 2018 <i>Easter Sunrise</i>	65
April 1, 2018 <i>Easter 10 AM</i>	111
April 8, 2018	87
April 15, 2018	72
April 22, 2018	72

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



	Unified Ministry Giving:	Other:
April 1, 2018	\$4,322.00	\$1,328.00
April 8, 2018	\$4,026.00	\$322.72
April 15, 2018	\$2,290.00	\$203.00
April 22, 2018	\$1,951.00	\$430.00

Sunday School Attendance

April 1, 2018	7
April 8, 2018	8
April 15, 2018	5
April 22, 2018	9

Greeters

May 6, 2108	Corinne Piper
May 13, 2018	OPEN
May 20, 2018	OPEN
May 27, 2018	Ellinger Family

Flower Calendar



May 6, 2018	Bill & Joyce Nichols
May 13, 2018	OPEN
May 20, 2018	Gary & Deb Hurd
May 27, 2018	Dan & Margie

Hospitality Cart

May 6, 2018	Becky Ellinger & Cari Metzger
May 13, 2018	OPEN
May 20, 2018	Corinne Piper
May 27, 2018	Choir

Daily Bible Readings

Tuesday 5/1

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Leviticus 16:20-34
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday 5/2

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Leviticus 19:1-18
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Matthew 6:19-24

Thursday 5/3

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Leviticus 19:26-37
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
Matthew 6:25-34

Friday 5/4

Psalm 106, Leviticus 23:1-22
2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
Matthew 7:1-12

Saturday 5/5

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Leviticus 23:23-44
2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Matthew 7:13-21

Sunday 5/6

Psalm 34, 93, 96
Leviticus 25:1-17
James 1:2-8, 16-18
Luke 12:13-21

Monday 5/7

Psalm 77, 79, Leviticus 25:35-55
Colossians 1:9-14
Matthew 13:1-16

Tuesday 5/8

Psalm 78, Leviticus 26:1-20
1 Timothy 2:1-6
Matthew 13:18-23

Wednesday 5/9

Psalm 119:97-120
Leviticus 26:27-42
Ephesians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:41-46

Thursday 5/10

Psalm 8, 24, 47, 96
Daniel 7:9-14
Hebrews 2:5-18
Matthew 28:16-20

Friday 5/11

Psalm 85, 86, 91, 92
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Ephesians 2:1-10
Matthew 7:22-27

Saturday 5/12

Psalm 87, 90, 136
Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29
Ephesians 2:11-22
Matthew 7:28-8:4

Sunday 5/13

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
Exodus 3:1-12
Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 10:17-24

Monday 5/14

Psalm 89, Joshua 1:1-9
Ephesians 3:1-13, Matthew 8:5-17

Tuesday 5/15

Psalm 95, 100
1 Samuel 16:1-13a
Ephesians 3:14-21
Matthew 8:18-27

Wednesday 5/16

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
Isaiah 4:2-6
Ephesians 4:1-16
Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday 5/17

Psalm 105, Zechariah 4:1-14
Ephesians 4:17-32, Matthew 9:1-8

Friday 5/18

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
Jeremiah 31:27-34
Ephesians 5:1-20, Matthew 9:9-17

Saturday 5/19

Psalm 107:33-43, 108
Ezekiel 36:22-27
Ephesians 6:10-24
Matthew 9:18-26

Sunday 5/20

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Job 38:1-11, 42:1-5
Revelations 19:4-16, John 1:29-34

Monday 5/21

Psalm 106, Ezekiel 33:1-11
1 John 1:1-10, Matthew 9:27-34

Tuesday 5/22

Psalm 120, 127, Ezekiel 33:21-33
1 John 2:1-11
Matthew 9:35-10:4

Wednesday 5/23

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
Ezekiel 34:1-16
1 John 2:12-17, Matthew 10:5-15

Thursday 5/24

Psalm 131, 132, 134, 135
Ezekiel 37:21b-28
1 John 2:18-29
Matthew 10:16-23

Friday 5/25

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
Ezekiel 39:21-29
1 John 3:1-10, Matthew 10:24-33

Saturday 5/26

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Ezekiel 47:1-12
1 John 3:11-18
Matthew 10:34-42

Sunday 5/27

Psalm 118, 145
Deuteronomy 16:9-12
Acts 4:18-21, 23-33
John 4:19-26

Monday 5/28

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Proverbs 3:11-20
1 John 3:18-4:6, Matthew 11:1-6

Tuesday 5/29

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Proverbs 4:1-27
1 John 4:7-21, Matthew 11:7-15

Wednesday 5/30

Psalm 119:1-24, 12, 13, 14
Proverbs 6:1-19
1 John 5:1-12
Matthew 11:16-24

Thursday 5/31

Psalm 18, Proverbs 7:1-27
1 John 5:13-21
Matthew 11:25-30

Crafty Creatures

Leigha Shoup, from the Child Advocacy Center of West Central Ohio, came to speak to the Crafty Creatures Quilt Group on March 28. The Crafty Creatures have given 42 quilts and 2 baby blankets to the CAC. Leigha was very interesting, explaining what the CAC does to help children. Their mission is to provide a comprehensive community response to individuals and families affected by abuse and neglect.

When police, child protective services or boards of Developmental Disabilities believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC - a safe, child-focused environment by a caregiver or other "safe" adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask.

Crafty Creatures is continuing to make quilts and blankets for these children.

The Mission of the Child Advocacy Center of West Central Ohio is to provide a comprehensive community response to individuals and families affected by abuse and neglect.



Child Advocacy Center • West Central Ohio

Thank you for the amazing donation of handmade quilts from St. Paul United Methodist Church in Elida.

*Facebook page:
ChildAdvocacyCenterofWestCentralOhio*



Thank You

*To our Church family,
Thank you for all of your
prayers and kindness through
Greg's surgery and recovery.
The flowers were a pleasant
moment.*

*A special thank you to Pastor
Paul for being with us during
surgery and after. Thanks to
Marla for the support when
Greg could not be left alone
and needed additional
medicine. It was hand
delivered with a smile. Even
our dog benefitted from her
kindness.*

*Thanks for the cards and text
messages with your
willingness to bring food and
help anyway possible.
St. Paul's members are truly a
family that offers prayers,
kindness, and support during
life's journey.*

*Bless You All,
Greg and Barb Schade*

*St. Paul's Members,
I'd like to thank everybody for
their prayers, cards and
flowers in showing concern
for my recent ear operation. It
was appreciated.*

*Sincerely,
Don Chaffins*

*Thank
you*



*St. Paul's Family,
Thank you for the many
remembrances received
during the recent loss of our
sister, Betty Rabley-Herbst.
The lovely signature chimes
are assisting us to work
through the grief process.
Betty age 90, was the
Matriarch of the Rabley
family. She was a classy
lady and most certainly will
be missed. A memorial
service with the immediate
family will be held May 12,
2018.*

*Peace and blessings,
Carl and Lois Rabley*

*Friends at St. Paul's,
Thank you for the really cool
LED lantern in memory of my
mother who passed March 23
after a 17 month bout with
dementia. Not only is it an
attractive addition to our home
décor, but will serve as a fond
memory of mom and reminder
of the caring and
compassionate parishioners
who are St. Paul's
congregation. Thanks also for
the handfuls of cards and
e-mails as expressions of
condolence from you. As has
been repeated many times, it is
comforting to have the support
and nurture of our
congregation during the
challenging moments when a
family member moves on to
life hereafter.*

*Much appreciated-Thank you!
Marty, Kathy and A. J. White*

*Heartfelt thanks to my
wonderful St. Paul's family
for the many prayers, cards,
texts and flowers during my
recent illness and surgery. A
special thank you to the
Crafty Creatures for the
beautiful prayer blanket,
which provides such a
feeling of peace and comfort.
Also, thanks to Pastor Paul
driving 3 hours to visit, then
having the sweet patience to
wait for us to wake up to talk
with him...he's such a
blessing! Hope to be back in
church soon.*

Shara Bowsher

*To my St. Paul's family who
have been so good to me
during my rough times.
Thank you for the flowers,
cards and especially the OSU
prayer shawl. My family and
I were so grateful for Pastor
Paul, who on one of his many
visits, dropped everything and
came to the hospital late at
night to pray for the right
decisions to be made.*

*God Bless You All!
Sincerely, Jim Hines*

Remember When...

1990

Koinonia men are peeling apples to make apple dumplings



May, 2005

Lois Rabley and Mary Grigsby serve the High School Graduates breakfast



May, 2005

The Children's Choir sing during the church service



Our Church History

A Sunday School open house was held on September 10th. The theme was “Standing on the Promises, Building on the Premises” which was to highlight our upcoming building and renovation project. People could move from room to room and area to area to learn about different interests: Scrapbooking by Kathy White and Jan Wyant; Puppet Ministry by Steve and Shirley Moser; and Bible Quiz Bowl by Judy Chaffins. Bagels and donuts, along with coffee and juice were served. There was also a drawing for a prize. The morning worship service was followed by a carry-in lunch in the fellowship hall, complete with “construction” décor.

During the church service on the following Sunday, September 17, several people spoke about the plans for the upcoming building project and about the unified budget to pay for the project.

In October, 2006, Brad Joseph, and Dennis and Shara Bowsheer went on the Medical Mission Trip to Nuevo Progresso, Mexico. So many people are helped with medical problems of all kinds on this mission trip. Some walk many miles to get to the mission facility.

The Fall Fellowship Gathering, on October 21st, included a Treasure Hunt, which sent the parishioners to various houses to do specific things, with a camera to take pictures as proof. It concluded with a hayride and bonfire to roast marshmallows.

United Methodist Student Day, on November 26, recognized St. Paul's college students, who took part in the service that morning. Ten students participated: Megan Bible, Kim Bowsheer, Jon Cook, Jenessa Fletcher, Jeff Perrin, Andrew Piper, Ashley Reiff, Tyler Smith, Tim White, and Zack White.

For the year 2006, St. Paul received a certificate proclaiming our church “One Hundred Percent Achiever Church for meeting our apportionments which support United Methodism's Ministries across the West Ohio Conference and throughout the World.” St. Paul's parishioners are very responsible in their giving and supporting their church.



United Methodist Student Day



**Sunday School Open House
Bible Quiz Bowl presented to A.J.
and Marty White by Judy Chaffins**

The People of St. Paul's

*With Deepest
Sympathy*

Our deepest sympathy to Becky Bean and Family on the death of her husband, Jerry Bean, who passed on April 16. Jerry was 79 and a long time member of St. Paul's. Cards may reach Becky at 5075 Daisy Ln. Elida, OH 45807.

Our condolences to Carl and Lois Rabley on the death of Carl's sister, Betty Rabley-Herbst. Betty was 90 and the Matriarch of the Rabley Family. A memorial service with the immediate family will be held May 12, 2018. Cards may reach the Rabley family at 4055 Brookshore Dr., Lima, OH 45801

*Thank you so very much for your prayers and the beautiful wind chimes, the music they play will be a fond memory of Ray.
The Ray Strayer Family*

Thank You

*Dear St. Paul's, Thank you so much for: The ramp and all who built it; flowers and Pastor Paul's visits when I was in the hospital; the Christmas manger scene; wind chimes when my Uncle Ray died; prayers for me and my parents, Ray and Phyllis Trigg; cards and anything else I may have forgotten. We are so blessed to belong to this church.
Our prayers are with you all,
Cynthia Guess*

Dear St. Paul's Family, Thank you for the prayers and flowers I received during, and while healing from my recent jaw surgery. Thank you to Jone for working in the office while I was off. Thank you for your many prayers and support for Oliver and all of us during his recent deployment, and during this past year with Molly and Chris, with Peyton's early arrival. It does take a village to raise a child, even as they have grown into adults themselves. The love from this congregation makes dealing with stressful times so much easier.

*Blessings to all,
The Fessler Family*

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Lois Cook
Jan Sodders
Dillon Staas

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Jim Hines
Mary Steiner
Jan Sodders
Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart



Congratulations to Tim and Katie White on the birth of their daughter, Anne Karis White, born April 14 at 2:00 PM. Anne weighed 7lbs. 5ozs. and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Marty and Kathy White and very proud uncle, A. J. White. Cards will reach them at 104 Overcrest Rd. Towson, MD 21286.

Meetings

MAY 2018

TBA
Trustees Mtg.
 May 2, 2018
Worship Mtg..6:00 PM
 May 14, 2018
Ad Council...7:00 PM
No Finance Mtg.
 May 21, 2018
PPR Mtg...7:00 PM
 TBA
Missions Mtg.
Sundays
Sunday sch...9:00 AM
Prayer...9:30 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM
Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Lily Bice	2 Bill Nichols	3	4	5 Shelly Reiff
						
6 Zachary Shoup	7	8	9 Michael Whetstone	10 Larry Brunk	11	12
	13 Glenna Kohli	14	15 Logan Kinney	16 Mary Irvin Jennifer Kinney	17 Martha Vazquez	18
19 Aaron Thompson Marlene Weaver	20 Karen Bible	21	22	23	24 Isaac McAdams	25 Carter Kuenzli
26 Torie McAdams	27 Scott Warris	28	29	30	31 Jonathon Moorman	

Gary & Deb Hurd
 May 19
Rod & Nancy Gesler May 27
 46 years
Dan & Margie Best
 May 28

"WHAT GOD
 HAS JOINED
Together,
 LET NO ONE
 SEPARATE."
 MATTHEW 19:6 NIV

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Fruited Mousse

By Tracy Sdao

Ingredients		Instructions
2 1/2 cups	Cold water	Combine top 3 ingredients and stir. Cook to full boil. It should thicken and become clear. Remove and chill for 1 hour. Stir in 12 oz. of Cool Whip. Garnish with fruit. (optional) Serve over angel food cake or cake of your liking.
1 pkg (small)	Jello (any flavor)	
1 pkg. (small)	Vanilla pudding (cook style) sugar free or regular	
12 oz.	Cool Whip	

Ham & Cheese Brunch Squares

By Deb Hurd—served at Easter breakfast.

Ingredients		Instructions
1 tsp.	Vegetable oil	Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Lightly brush oil on Pampered Chef Large Bar pan. Crumble hash browns over bar pan and press gently into an even layer. Sprinkle half of the cheese evenly over hash browns and bake 13-15 minutes or until crust starts to brown and cheese is melted. Whisk cream cheese until smooth (may soften in microwave a few seconds). Gradually add eggs and black pepper, set aside. Coarsely chop ham and slice green onions, reserving 1/4 cup of the tops for garnish. Place ham and onions in saute pan and stir over medium heat until hot. Stir ham mixture into egg mixture. Remove pan from oven and pour egg mixture over crust. Return pan to oven for 8—10 minutes until center is set. Slice tomatoes lengthwise, scrape out seeds and dice. Remove pan from oven; top with remaining cheese, tomatoes and reserved onions. Cut into squares and serve.
2 cups divided	Colby & Monterey Jack cheese blend (grated)	
1 pkg. (10 patties)	Hash brown patties-frozen toaster. (thawed)	
8oz.	Cream cheese (softened)	
12	Eggs	
1/2 tsp.	Black pepper (coarsely ground)	
8 oz.	Deli ham (thick sliced)	
4-5 divided	Green onions with tops (1 cup sliced)	
3	Plum tomatoes	

KIDZ KORNER

HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____
 and your _____ , _____
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____ ."
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Surprise!

Each day holds a surprise," wrote Henri Nouwen. "But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy."

Wait — sorrow as a surprise? And I'm not to fear it? Aren't surprises supposed to be happy things? What does Nouwen mean?

He continues: "It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity." And I remember, too, the psalmist's words: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18). Maybe that's the surprise in our sorrow: that when we ache, as when we celebrate, God is there — in new friends, in shared humanity. Surprise!

—Heidi Mann

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

