

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church  
105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807  
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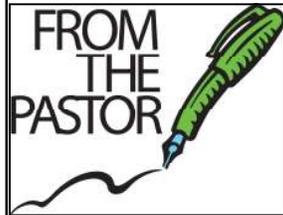
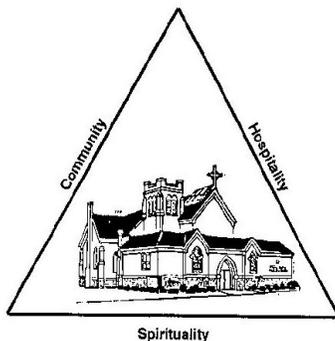
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I want to thank everyone who helped out with the Lenten Wilderness Sermon series. Your pictures helped set the tone and inspired us all to seek Christ. Now we are beginning a six week series about second chances. Maybe you are looking for a second chance or you have had a second chance and want to share your experience. We will talk about divorce, mental illness, three moms, prostitution, greed, and finally, about someone who abandoned everything he believed in. Just because you haven't done something that bad doesn't mean you will need a second chance. All of us seek second chances, seek change in our lives, seek forgiveness even though we don't deserve it. We know Jesus is the place we can go for second chances but sometimes we need to be reminded who is the author of second chances.

Things are happening in the mission field: one thing close to home and one thing far away and both are truly amazing opportunities to be about the work of the church. We will continue to do the work we have already been doing, but now we can expand the kingdom through new and exciting ways. If you didn't know it, Habitat for Humanity is close to building a home right here in Elida and I hope we can be one of many organizations that play an important role in building hope for a family who will be our neighbors. The second chance we have is in Mexico, working with a missionary couple who dreams of bringing a neighborhood the gospel through camping ministry. Working with Allentown and possibly Immanuel, we can be one of the founding West Ohio churches who helps this couple repeat what they accomplished at Camp Sierra Linda, which we supported with prayer and money. I want you to be in prayer for these missions and be ready to roll up your sleeves and get to work wherever God leads us.

Well, I have to go get ready to eat chicken at the church chicken BBQ, so I'll see you in the mission field.

*Pastor Paul*



## Thought for the Month:

The wise man doesn't give the right answers; he poses the right questions.

—Claude Levi-Strauss

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**May 2**  
National Day of Prayer



**May 5**  
**Coins for Communion to benefit United Methodist Church Camps**  
(Camp Wesley, Camp Otterbein, and Camp Widewater)



**LADIES BIBLE STUDY:**  
Thursdays, in the classroom beside the office.

- Fellowship time 6:00 to 6:30 PM.
- Bible study 6:30 to 7:30 PM.
- prayer concerns/prayer time 7:30 to 8:00 PM.

The study is divided into segments to fit your schedules. The month of May means Mother's Day! Let's learn together about 2 very important women from the Old Testament.  
**May 9 & 16th:** RUTH. Said to be the most beautiful classic short story ever written.  
**May 23 to June 6:** ESTHER. 'For such a time as this'. A story of courage and wisdom..

Join us whenever you are able for a deeper understanding of the Word and great fellowship!  
 If you have any questions, call or text  
 Kathy Waldick at 419-604-0299

*Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*

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

**Christian Symbol**



**7-POINTED STAR**

This star represents Isaiah's list of the gifts of the Spirit to be revealed in the Branch of Jesse — that is, Christ: "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2-3, NIV). Some baptism and confirmation liturgies pray for God to "stir up in" the newly baptized or confirmed "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in [God's] presence."

<b>St. Paul's Epistle</b>	
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Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker


**Mother's Day May 12**

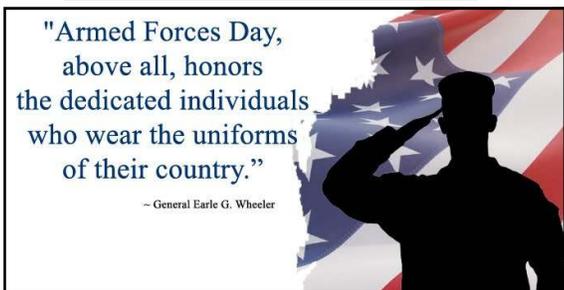
**Joys Of Motherhood**

- ◆ A hug for no reason.
- ◆ Belly laughs.
- ◆ The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- ◆ Smiles and giggles.
- ◆ Mud pies.
- ◆ Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- ◆ Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- ◆ Quiet moments on the couch.
- ◆ Reading aloud together.
- ◆ A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- ◆ Watching your child be kind to another.
- ◆ Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- ◆ A child's look of surprise and joy.
- ◆ A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- ◆ The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown

*Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*

**May 18**  
Armed Forces Day



**The *Dish-It-Out Café***  
 (Formerly, Seniors Day Out)  
**Tuesday, May 21**  
**At noon**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**  
**All Retiree's**  
**welcome!**

**Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission**  
**Friday, May 31**  
**Volunteers needed to help prepare**  
**and serve the noon meal.**  
**Please contact Tim Piper**  
**if you can help.**

# Congratulations Graduate

## Megan Emmons

Megan attends Elida High School and will be graduating at the end of May. She has been active in Cheerleading and Latin Club. Megan plans to attend The Ohio State University, Lima Branch majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Cards will reach Megan at:  
1151 N. Stevick Rd.  
Elida, OH 45807

## Jenson Nagy

Jenson will be graduating from Spencerville High School this Spring. She has been active in Spanish Club, National Honor Society, Student Council and is the President of SADD. Jenson works at the Spencerville hardware and Finish Line. She plans to attend Ohio University, majoring in Business Management with focus on Human Resources. Jenson is the daughter of Slone and Brad Whetstone and the late Aaron Nagy.

Cards may be sent to Jenson at:  
21577 Monticello-Spencerville Rd.  
Spencerville, OH 45887

## 2019 High School Graduates

## Hayden McKee

In May Hayden will graduate from Kalida High School. He has participated in Track and Field and Cross Country running. He has worked as a tech assistant along with taking tech classes. Hayden hosts web servers and You Tube channels encouraging others to reach their goals. He plans to take time after graduation to pursue his options and decide what he would like to study. Hayden is the Grandson of Nancy Gesler.

Cards may be sent to Hayden at:  
1044 Woodland Dr.  
Lima, OH 45805

**Congratulations to our Graduates!**  
**May God bless each of them.**



## Graduates Sunday May 19

A graduate breakfast for these students and families will be held prior to the 10:00AM Worship Service, where they will be recognized for their achievements.

# Mission

## St. Paul's Missions Projects

The people at St. Paul's church are "on the move" with mission projects. We have some continuing missions, which we have been faithfully supporting and are looking at some new mission projects this year. First, thank-you to the people who worked at ***Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen*** on March 29<sup>th</sup>. A small group of people have been very faithful about serving in the soup kitchen, and it is greatly appreciated. Our next Friday to serve at the kitchen is May 31<sup>st</sup>. A signup sheet will be available in May. Another thank-you to people who faithfully support our food pantry each month. The food collected goes to the ***Five Loaves Food Pantry*** at Allentown church and is distributed to people in need in the 45807 zip code area (Elida). Your faithfulness feeds families!

St. Paul's ***Coins-for-Communion*** offering on the first Sunday of each month has been supported well by our congregation for use in many areas of mission work. In April, the CFC offering went to the ***Five Loaves Food Pantry*** and in May the CFC will go to the United ***Methodist Church Camps*** including Camp Wesley. Thank-you for your faithful giving to the CFC offering. Special offering Sundays are also well supported at St. Paul's church. Our ***Easter offering*** was designated to go to two new mission projects (new to St. Paul's) this year. Half will go to ***Light the Way***, a mission of the West Ohio Conference to develop new faith communities and increase the number of highly vital existing communities throughout west Ohio. The other half of the Easter offering will go to another new mission, ***Mission Possible***, a mission of the Northwest Plains District which supports seven Christian schools, 2200 students and 250 teachers in Haiti and including providing food, child sponsorships and mission trips as well. In 1988 ***Mission Possible*** was expanded to include the Dominican Republic, so both countries are being served.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrate ***Native American Ministries Sunday***, a mission of the United Methodist Church, which nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. Special offering envelopes will be available.

Our summer mission's projects include some familiar projects and some that are new. Our ***building of ramps locally*** and support of building a modern cabin at ***Camp Wesley*** in Bellefontaine continues. The cabin project is nearing completion with a few issues that need to be resolved to complete the project. Another project that St. Paul's is looking at is partnering with other churches in Elida to build a ***Habitat For Humanity House in Elida***. A presentation was given to the mission committee by an official of HFH in Lima, which spelled out the project. Both physical work and donations will be needed by our congregation. There will be more information on this project in coming months.

An exciting mission project, which we are looking at is located in ***Haultuco, Mexico***. Support of the ***Camp Sierra Linde*** in Monterrey, Mexico, has been completed by the Northwest Plains District. Two individuals in Mexico who helped with Sierra Linde have moved their mission work to ***Haultuco*** in southern Mexico. Allentown Church has asked our help in supporting this mission to establish churches and camps in this very poor area of Mexico. Monetary support will be needed at first with possibly mission teams in the future. More information will be forthcoming.

The 12<sup>th</sup> ***Annual Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing*** fundraiser is coming up on July 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to golf or be a volunteer helper, watch for notices in the bulletin. Choose a mission project in which you would like to help and come join us be ***Christ's hands and feet!***



# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
March 31, 2019	88
April 7, 2019	81
April 14, 2019 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	98
April 18, 2019 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	32
April 21, 2019 <i>Easter sunrise</i>	68
April 21, 2019 <i>Easter 10 AM</i>	114

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

<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>		<b>Other:</b>
March 31, 2019	\$2,928.00	\$386.00
April 7, 2019	\$2,958.00	\$342.00
April 14, 2019	\$4,453.00	\$482.00
April 21, 2019	\$3,426.13	\$1,352.00

<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
March 31, 2019	4
April 7, 2019	5
April 14, 2019	7
April 21, 2019	12

<b>Greeters</b>	
May 5, 2019	Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
May 12, 2019 <i>Mother's Day</i>	OPEN
May 19, 2019	Denny & Janna Thompson
May 26, 2019	OPEN

<b>Flower Calendar</b>	
May 5, 2019	OPEN
May 12, 2019	Virginia Hollar
May 19, 2019	Gary & Deb Hurd
May 26, 2019	Dan & Margie Best

<b>Hospitality Cart</b>	
May 5, 2019	Book Club
May 12, 2019 <i>Mother's Day</i>	OPEN
May 19, 2019	OPEN
May 26, 2019	Choir/ Lynda Evans & Martha Vazquez

# Daily Bible Readings

## Wednesday 5/1

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
Daniel 2:17-30  
1 John 2:12-17, John 17:20-26

## Thursday 5/2

Psalm 18, Daniel 2:31-49  
1 John 2:18-29, Luke 3:1-14

## Friday 5/3

Psalm 16, 17, 134, 135  
Daniel 3:1-18  
1 John 3:1-10, Luke 3:15-22

## Saturday 5/4

Psalm 20,21, 110, 116, 117  
Daniel 3:19-30  
1 John 3:11-18, Luke 4:1-13

## Sunday 5/5

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150  
Daniel 4:1-18  
1 Peter 4:7-11, John 21:15-25

## Monday 5/6

Psalm 9, 15, 25, Daniel 4:19-27  
1 John 3:19-4:6, Luke 4:14-30

## Tuesday 5/7

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39  
Daniel 4:28-37  
1 John 4:7-21, Luke 4:31-37

## Wednesday 5/8

Psalm 38, 119:25-48  
Daniel 5:1-12  
1 John 5:1-12, Luke 4:38-44

## Thursday 5/9

Psalm 37, Daniel 5:13-30  
1 John 5:13-20(21)  
Luke 5:1-11

## Friday 5/10

Psalm 105, Daniel 6:1-15  
2 John 1-13, Luke 5:12-26

## Saturday 5/11

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43  
Daniel 6:16-28  
3 John 1-15, Luke 5:27-39

## Sunday 5/12

Psalm 63, 98 103  
1 Peter 5:1-11, Matthew 7:15-29

## Monday 5/13

Psalm 41, 44, 52  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 6:1-11

## Tuesday 5/14

Psalm 45, 47, 48  
Colossians 1:15-23  
Luke 6:12-26

## Wednesday 5/15

Psalm 53, 119:49-72  
Colossians 1:24-2:7  
Luke 6:27-38

## Thursday 5/16

Psalm 50, 114, 115  
Colossians 2:8-23  
Luke 6:39-49

## Friday 5/17

Psalm 40, 51, 54  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 7:1-17

## Saturday 5/18

Psalm 55, 138, 139  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 7:18-28(29-30)31-35

## Sunday 5/19

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84  
2 Thessalonians 2:13-17  
Matthew 7:7-14

## Monday 5/20

Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65  
Colossians (3:18-4:1)2-18  
Luke 7:36-50

## Tuesday 5/21

Psalm 61, 62, 68  
Romans 12:1-21, Luke 8:1-15

## Wednesday 5/22

Psalm 72, 119:73-96  
Romans 13:1-14  
Luke 8:16-25

## Thursday 5/23

Psalm 70, 71, 74  
Romans 14:1-12  
Luke 8:26-39

## Friday 5/24

Psalm 106  
Romans 14:13-23, Luke 8:40-56

## Saturday 5/25

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76  
Romans 15:1-13  
Luke 9:1-17

## Sunday 5/26

Psalm 34, 93, 96  
1 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Matthew 13:24-34a

## Monday 5/27 Memorial Day

Psalm 77, 79, 80  
Deuteronomy 8:1-10  
James 1:1-15, Luke 9:18-27

## Tuesday 5/28

Psalm 78, Deuteronomy 8:11-20  
James 1:16-27, Luke 11:1-13

## Wednesday 5/29

Psalm 119:97-120  
James 5:13-18, Luke 12:22-31

## Thursday 5/30

Psalm 68:1-20  
2 Kings 2:1-15  
Revelation 5:1-14

## Friday 5/31

Psalm 8, 24, 47, 96  
Ezekiel 1:1-14, 24-28b  
Hebrews 2:5-18  
Matthew 28:16-20



# Easter 2019



## Church History

A Blessing of the Quilts was held on September 30 with Pastor Paul after the children's moments so the children could help with the blessing. The 24 lap quilts were taken to Van Crest Nursing Home and the Sarah Jane Center, both in Delphos. A quilt was also taken to our fellow church members, Mary LaRue and Sandra Parker, at Elmcroft Assisted Living.

Seniors Day Out was held in the fellowship hall on October 16, 2012. Twenty-nine seniors enjoyed a delicious meal, October decorations, and friendly company. Thanks to Gloria Brunk, Linda Holman, and Corinne Piper for preparing and serving the meal.

Shirley Moser, Linda Matlock and Marla Scannell taught Children's Worship during the worship hour. The children heard Bible stories, did crafts and coloring, sang songs and watched a science experiment.

On October 21, 2012, a church carry-in luncheon was held in the fellowship hall after the worship service.

Makayla Bok was presented with a Bible on November 11, 2012, by Jan Wyant, Education Chair. Every child at St. Paul's is presented with their own Bible when they reach the 3rd grade.

On Stewardship Sunday, November 18, the Chancel Choir sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Carole Grapner provided a Stewardship Moment and everyone went to the fellowship hall for a carry-in luncheon. After the luncheon, Marty White, Finance Chair, gave a report on the church finances.



October 16, 2012  
Seniors Day Out



November 18, 2012  
Stewardship Sunday Luncheon

# Remember When...



**2005**  
5 H.S. Grads Honored  
Jason Holmes, Tim White,  
Tori Holmes, David Segovia,  
Tyler Smith

*Congratulations*

**2007**  
3 H.S. Grads Honored  
A. J. White, Jenni Theodore,  
Kelly Warris



**2015**  
Koinonia Movie Night  
Scott Fessler, Art Holman,  
Larry Moser



# Connecting With ...

Please help us identify some of the children in this picture. Contact our church historian, Jone Lane, if you can help.



Top Row: (L-R)  
 \_\_\_?\_\_\_, Dan Banks, Dave Brown,  
 Rick Evans

Middle Row:  
 Kevin Tuttle, Brad Rabley, \_\_\_?\_\_\_,  
 Keith Rabley

Bottom Row:  
 \_\_?\_\_, Cindy Bowers, \_\_?\_\_, Kim  
 Evans



Thank you to Becky Ellinger and the Nurture Committee and all those who had a helping hand in preparing and serving the delicious Easter breakfast.

## Thank You so much!

We would like to thank Carl Miller for his generous donation of several glass serving bowls and serving trays that he recently donated to our kitchen here at St. Paul. Carl, you are indeed a blessing to our church and we are glad to have you as part of our church family!

### Making the Grade St. Paul's Honor Roll Students

#### Elida High School

**Megan Emmons** - Senior  
Honor Roll II

**Makayla Bok** - Sophomore  
Honor Roll I

#### Elida Middle School

**Savannah Emmons** - 7th Grade  
Honor Roll I

**Cameron Emmons** - 5th Grade  
Honor Roll II

# The People of St. Paul's

## THANKS *from the* HEART

*To our church family, Thank you for the flowers and all the messages and especially all the prayers. A big thank you to Pastor Paul for his support and kindness. To all the ladies from the bible study group that always knew what to say to help us during some long hours. Also to our friends that called and were always checking on us.*

*St. Pauls is truly a family that cares, Barb and Greg Schade*

*Thank you to our St. Paul's family for the beautiful flowers we received after the passing of my brother, Ron LaRue. We went to the funeral held in Knoxville on March 28.*

*Gods Blessings to all, Dwain and Myrna Metzger*



## Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Maedene Holmes  
Esther McKinney  
Jack Swihart  
Ray Trigg  
Jamie Wyant

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn  
Glenna Kohli

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Ray Trigg

In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler  
Nathan Stewart

### A Life of Praise



Despite becoming an invalid while in her teens, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century English poet who used the pen name Anna Steele wrote prolifically — often about praising God. The closing stanza of “Now I Resolve With All My Heart,” one of Steele’s 144 hymns, is a timeless prayer that’s fitting for the start of each new day.

O may I never faint nor tire,  
Nor wandering leave his sacred ways;  
Great God, accept my soul’s desire,  
And give me strength to live thy praise.

### A Key Ingredient

In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together and the music that brings harmony.

—Eva Burrows

**Meetings**

# MAY 2019

May 1, 2019  
**Worship Mtg..10:00 AM**

May 6, 2019  
**PPR Mtg....7:00 PM**

May 7, 2019  
**Trustees...7:00 PM**

May 13, 2019  
**Ad Council...7:00 PM**

**No Finance Meeting**

**Missions Mtg...TBA**

**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**

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



*Gary & Deb Hurd*  
 May 19  
 35 years

*Dan & Margie Best*  
 May 28  
 31 yrs.

**Happy Anniversary**

# Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

## Sausage & Cheese Balls

*By Deb Hurd  
(Served at Hospitality cart)*

Ingredients		Instructions
3 cups	Bisquick, original	Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease bottom and sides of Jelly roll pan 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 1.  In large bowl, stir together all ingredients using hands. Stir into 1" balls and place on pan.  Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until brown. Transfer to a crockpot on warm for serving.  Can serve with BBQ sauce if you wish.  Makes 90 to 100 sausage balls.
1 lb.	Pork Sausage (bulk) uncooked.	
4 cups (16 oz.)	Cheddar Cheese (shredded)	
1/2 cup	Parmesan Cheese (grated)	
1/2 cup	Milk	
1/2 tsp.	Rosemary leaves, dried & crushed	
1/2 tsp.	Parsley flakes	



## 2 - Ingredient Apple Pie Cups

*By Deb Hurd  
(Served at Hospitality cart)*

Ingredients		Instructions
1 can (13 oz.)	Cinnamon rolls (Pillsbury refrigerated, flaky) with butter cream icing	Heat oven to 375 degrees.  Spray 8 regular size muffin cups with cooking spray.  Separate dough into 8 rolls. Press into muffin cups.  Spoon 2 generous tablespoons pie filling into each dough lined muffin cup.  Bake 14 to 18 minutes or until golden brown; Cool in pan 5 minutes.  Transfer icing to small microwavable bowl. Microwave uncovered on low 8 to 10 seconds or until thin enough to drizzle. Place rolls on serving plate; spoon icing over rolls.  Serve warm.
1 1/3 cups	More Fruit Apple Pie Filling (from 21 oz can), coarsely chopped	

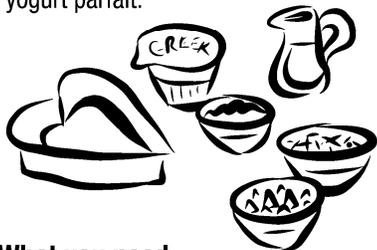
# KIDZ KORNER

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

## HEART-SHAPED breakfast

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.



**What you need:**

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

**What you do:**

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



## A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.*

She gets \_\_\_\_\_ while it is still \_\_\_\_\_ ;

she provides \_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_ ....

Her \_\_\_\_\_ rise \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ her blessed.

PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answers: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

\*Return Service Requested

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45807  
Permit No. 71

**Our Web Address:**  
**www.elidastpaulschurch.org**

**Our Facebook page**  
**Elida St. Paul's Church**

**Twitter Account**  
**@ESPCHURCH**



## Living Our Faith

### Echoes Of Easter

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann

### Floating On Faith

As a man and his young daughter were boating one day, their vessel sprang a leak. The father knew he'd have to swim to shore but couldn't with the child in tow. She hadn't gotten far in swimming lessons but could float on her back, so he told her to do so and promised to return.

Coast Guard personnel were skeptical that a child could survive so long in the water. But hours later, as the sun set and they considered halting the search, someone spied a red dress amid the waves. The girl, still floating, was singing a hymn. Astounded, rescuers asked how she held on so long. "My daddy said he'd come back for me," she said, "and he never breaks his promises."

Prayer rests on just such trust. We can't know when God will answer or act, but we know he promises never to abandon us and that God keeps his promises. So we can lie back and float — on faith.