

# Newsletter January 2024



Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church  
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Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoffmann; Clerk: Dee Mowry

## **FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann**

January begins with the liturgical season of Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the beginning of the Church's journey to the peoples of the world. We begin the season with the story of Magi from the east coming to worship the Christ child, who scholars tell us is about two years old at this time in the story. In the dreams and journeys of Matthew's Gospel, this particular child, whom we name Christ, will be made known far beyond his homeland. It is a new beginning.

We now begin the year 2024 with hope of a new beginning. New beginnings are a consistent activity of God. We are offered special times to pause and reflect on the direction our lives are taking. We are given grace. Now that Christ is incarnate among us, we too respond with love to this revelation, knowing it is not only for us, but, for all the peoples of the world.

May God bless the New Year with a growing sense of the presence of the Holy One in each of our lives.

God's peace be with you,  
Larry

## **FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: Dee Mowry**

It's hard to believe but another year has passed. It has been a busy year for the church and the session. Probably a major issue was the sale of the manse which lately had become a concern for the session, especially the operations committee. The sale is complete, and we are no longer landlords dealing with tenants! The church, under the direction of Mike and Susan Henwood, provided thousands of weekend breakfasts for Bremen Elementary School students, shawls were made by members of the church for local shut-ins, money and support was provided for the Bremen Area Food Pantry, the Ackermans continue their work with materials for shut-ins, lunch was prepared by the service committee for the Bremen Area Chamber of Commerce, Vacation Bible School was presented in cooperation with other local churches, etc., etc. I know I have missed other activities of the church, but I am doing this from memory.

Session will be reorganizing later in January with newly elected elders, Class of '26. Returning to service are Susan Henwood, Gene McCandlish and Linda Shreyer. One new member of session, Tracy Embrey, will be ordained as an elder in January. Judy Turner will complete a term, Class of '24, for an elder who resigned due to health reasons.. Church 'officers' will be selected at the January training and first session meeting. (Presbyterians 'go to great lengths to avoid ostentatious titles'; there shall be two officers, the moderator and the clerk, Book of Order).

## FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: Dee Mowry (continued)

The church is on firm financial grounds due to a decision made by the session a few years ago to open a brokerage account. This account has shown very favorable returns. Our members are also very generous. A fund has been opened at the Fairfield Foundation to receive cash gifts, gifts of stocks and bonds.

On to another successful year!

## FROM THE TREASURER: Kathy Mowry

Donations to the Joy Offering totaled \$ 625.00 through December 24, 2023.

### A SPECIAL THANKS!

**Food Pantry** – Thank you to everyone who contributed money, volunteered time packing, donated dish cloths and towels, and donated canned goods, cookies and turkeys for the Bremen Food Pantry Christmas baskets. This year we prepared 56 baskets and distributed them on Saturday, December 16. With your help, we were able to supply a variety of food for Christmas dinner for area families.

**Poinsettias** – Thank you to those who donated poinsettias for the church sanctuary. The flowers are beautiful!



**Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** - New Year's Luncheon after the worship service

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup>** - Zeta Alpha 9:30 am Church Basement - Sacred Encounters – Lesson 5

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Reports due to church Secretary

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup>** - Ordination and Installation of Elder Class of 2026

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** - Elder Training and Session meeting

**Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service



**Jan 17<sup>th</sup>** – Deanna Burdett

**Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Mark Embrey

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** – Shirley Elick

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** – Joanie Ray

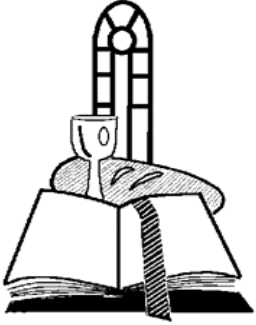
**Jan 30<sup>th</sup>** – David Winegardner



\*\*\*There are no anniversaries for January.

*Anyone wanting to add a birthday or anniversary to the list, please send an email or call the church office.*

## January Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:



**Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** – Ron Cullumber: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher  
Cindy Cullumber: Communion Server Usher

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup>** – Cinda Keller: Lay Reader & Usher  
Judy Turner: Usher

**Jan 21<sup>st</sup>** – Scott Bergreen: Lay Reader & Usher  
Karen Bergreen: Usher

**Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** – Linda Shreyer: Lay Reader & Usher  
George Shreyer: Usher



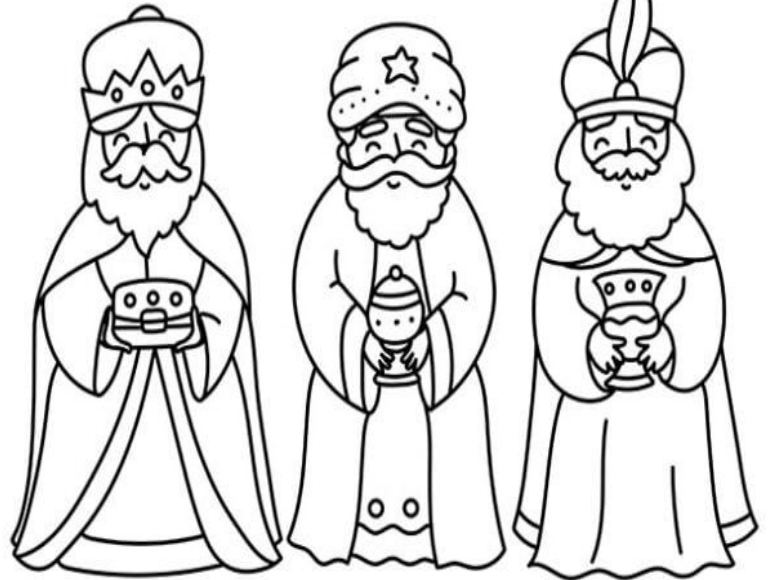
## Kids' Section



### The Visit of the Magi

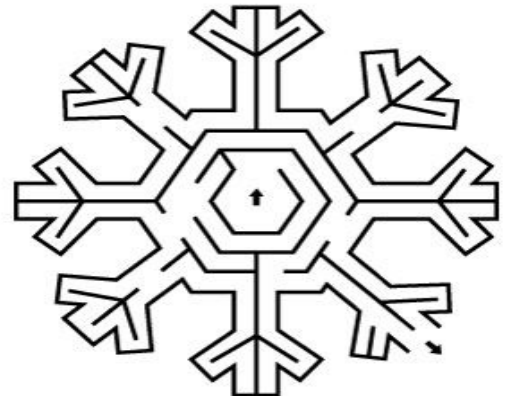
On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.  
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).



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### Snowflake Maze



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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD