

Newsletter August 2025



Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church
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Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoffmann; Clerk: Corey Riley



FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

I've read *The Seven Storey Mountain*, by Thomas Merton. This book is about Merton's search for faith and peace. In part of his life's journey, Merton knew he was approaching an uncertain time in his life when his future was not clear. About this experience he wrote, "This was probably the last time I would see this place. Where would I be in a week from that day? It was in the hands of God. There was nothing I could do but leave myself to His mercy. But surely, by this time, I should have been able to realize that He is much more anxious to take care of us, and capable of doing so, than we could be ourselves. It is only when we refuse His help, resist His will, that we have conflict, trouble, disorder, unhappiness, ruin."

Trusting God in times of uncertainty does not come easily. To leave oneself at God's mercy requires a great deal of trust. It is admitting to ourselves that we are not as much in control of our lives as we think we are. This is, perhaps, where the tire of faith meets the road of life. As the tire is prepared by checking the pressure, balancing the wheel, and making sure there is an adequate amount of tread, so trusting in God requires prayer, worship, study, and discipline to provide the trust that is so important in the life of faith. The road of life is twisting, has its ups and downs, and even its blind spots where we cannot see what lies clearly ahead. I think Merton is right, "He is much more anxious to take care of us, and capable of doing so, than we could be ourselves." God cares.

God's grace and peace to you,

Larry

FROM THE CLERK EMERITUS: D. Dee Mowry

In 1989, I had the honor to be a commissioner to General Assembly representing the Scioto Valley Presbytery. This was the 200th anniversary of the General Assembly as the first meeting was held on May 21, 1789. The meeting was held in Philadelphia and yellow ribbons were tied on the tombstones of the first commissioners at the Old Pine Presbyterian Church Cemetery. At the May 21 (1989) meeting, communion was served, and this was printed in the bulletin.

FROM THE CLERK EMERITUS: D. Dee Mowry (continued)

A Presbyterian Perspective

We are Presbyterians gathered to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of our first General Assembly held in Philadelphia on May 21, 1789.

We are a covenant people delivered out of bondage and challenged to stand fast in the freedom to which we have been called. We celebrate the varieties of freedom as God's gracious gift: the liberation of slaves from human taskmasters; of the spirit from the bondage of our rebellion against God; and from idolatrous submission to authorities that usurp God's place. We celebrate our foretaste of that promised "glorious freedom of the children of God," the unveiling of which is awaited by all Creation.

We are a pilgrim people. We identify with those who cherish these lands before our parents came. We identify with the immigrants and refugees from distant lands. No less do we identify with those brought in chains from other lands to our shores. We identify, too, with those spiritual pilgrims who left the security of established certainties and institutions in quest of higher truths and a more just and compassionate social order.

We acknowledge and celebrate that we have been and what we are, knowing that our past and present can be authentic only if we are and still oriented toward the future. The call of our church, reformed and still reforming, is the quest of Abraham and Sarah as well as Calvin's still-sought, still unrealized city of God, a civilized people of celebrant saints.

FROM THE TREASURER: Kathy Mowry

Our local offering from January 1, 2024 through June 2024 was \$ 35,230.83. Our local offering from January 1, 2025 through June 2025 was \$ 29,643.18. That is more than a \$ 5,000.00 decrease.

BOOK NOOK

As of 7-21-25 our church has donated 105 books to the Non-profit Book Nook. That is in addition to many magazines and jigsaw puzzles.

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Judy Turner

The Mission Committee provided free snacks for the Tuesday free swim at the Bremen Pool on June 10, July 1, and July 29. Thanks to all who volunteered time and donated snacks/cash for this project.

The Bremen Food Pantry has received lots of great school supplies/cash donations from Bremen Bethel for the give away on August 2, 2025. Thanks so much!!

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Judy Turner (continued)

YOGA has been extended through October 27 on Mondays from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the church basement, **except** on Monday, September 1 and October 13. The cost is \$10 per class.

ZETA ALPHA will **next** meet On Sunday, September 14th at 9:30 am. The new Bible study is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ". All women are welcome to attend.

Calendar of Events

Aug 2nd - The Bremen Food Pantry giveaway will be held on August 2, 2025. School supplies for the next school year will be included in the giveaway.

Aug 9th – Community Play Dates! From **10-11:30 am**. This is the last Community Play Dates of the season. Enjoy complimentary Kona Ice. Flyers with information about the Community Play Dates are available on the back table in the sanctuary and on the website.

Week of Aug 10th – The church office will be closed this week.

Aug 30th – Movie Night in Bremen at 7 pm at Calvary United Methodist Church, 130 Purvis Ave. Calvary United Methodist Church is inviting area children to come and watch a kid friendly movie. Any questions, please call Carrie (740) 270-9364 or Amy (740) 605-2036. Children under 8 must have a parent present. Popcorn and water will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, September 14, 2025 - Please join us as we celebrate Rev. Hoffmann's 40 years of ministry. A luncheon will be served after the worship service.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Aug 1st – Johnathon & Kayla McCandlish

Aug 2nd – James McCandlish

Aug 8th – Johnathon McCandlish

Aug 9th – Loretta Dawson

Aug 18th – Tom & Sharon Ankrom

Aug 19th – Ron Cullumber

Aug 20th – Ann Nutter

Aug 21st – George & Linda Shreyer

Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:

Aug 3rd – Ron Cullumber: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher
Cindy Cullumber: Communion Server & Usher

Aug 10th – Linda Shreyer: Lay Reader & Usher
George Shreyer: Usher

Aug 17th – Scott Bergreen: Lay Reader & Usher
Karen Bergreen: Usher

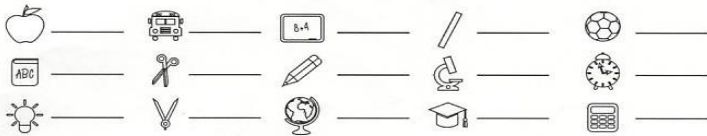
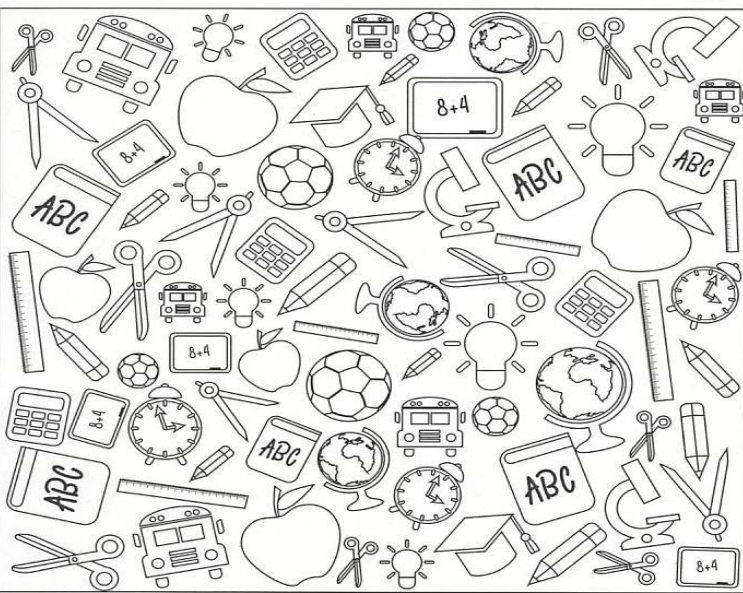
Aug 24th – Kathy Mowry: Lay Reader & Usher
David Mowry: Usher

Aug 31st – Susan Henwood: Lay Reader & Usher
Susan Hoffmann: Usher

Kids' Page

BACK TO SCHOOL

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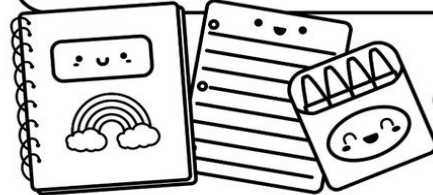
BACK TO SCHOOL



WORD SEARCH

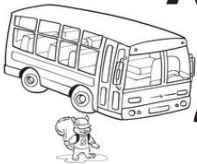
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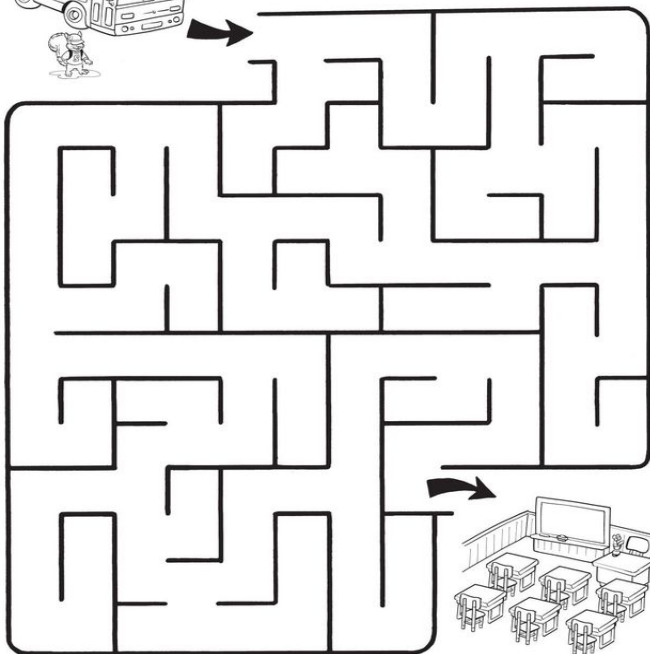


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A-MAZING!

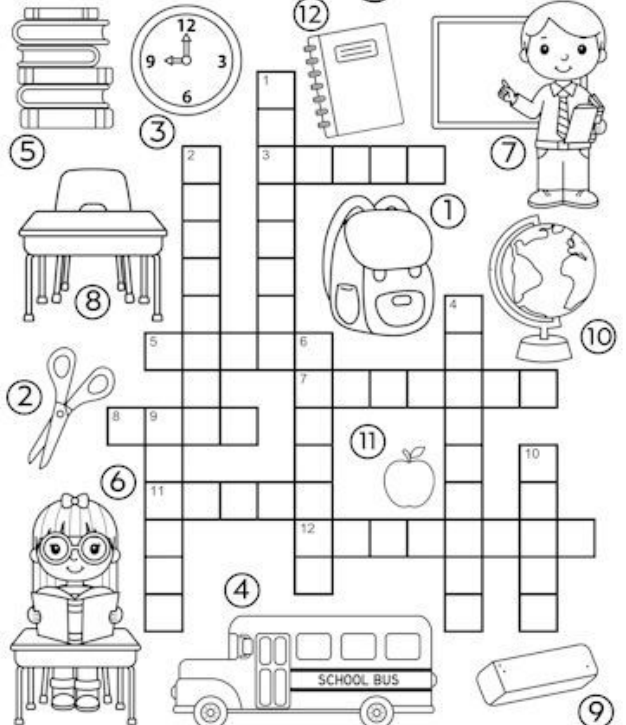


Help Sammy find his way from the school bus to the classroom.



School Days

Crossword Puzzle



Free printable courtesy of PrintFree.net