

# Newsletter February 2023



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



## From the Pastor

Greetings to all! Welcome to our first newsletter in quite some time. We are rapidly approaching Lent, and I want to share with you some exciting things that are happening. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Our service will begin at 7:00 pm.

The Service Committee is planning weekly dinners. They will be on the Thursdays of March: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, beginning at 5:30 pm. Following each meal we will have a Lenten Study. This year's study is, "Great Themes of the Bible: The Whole Bible's Message."

If we view the Bible as one whole document, what is it saying? What are the big messages by which interior messages are to be interpreted?

The Bible is richly diverse, sixty-six "books" written over eleven hundred years by prophets, poets, historians, sages, farmers, soldiers, prisoners, storytellers, theologians, and letter writers. Some expressed strong faith, others grave doubt. Aggregated into a unit, what is the whole book saying?

This study suggests that four major themes are to be found in the Bible that tell us about God and God's role in our lives. First, God is with us; we are not fugitives wandering the earth bereft of larger meaning. Second, God is most concerned not with kings and human power but with "the least of these my brothers and sisters." Third, God loves us; at the center of the creation is a heart of compassion. And fourth, God is always bigger than we think; our minds are repeatedly too small to fathom the enormity of God's mind and heart.

To keep in mind the Bible's central messages is highly important. Isolated texts, read by themselves, can say things that vastly contradict the whole. Smaller interpretations always need to be judged in the context of the larger messages.

Each session in this study examines one of these themes, using Old and New Testament texts and stories to help participants see the four large themes. The Leader's Guides help bring the biblical message to a more personal level, encouraging participants to examine just how these themes are manifest in their own lives.

The last study, March 30, will be, "How Did Jesus' Death Save Us?" We will explore three traditions of the church. I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to attend. We'll enjoy great fellowship, and excellent meal, and lively conversation.

Grace and peace,

Larry

**CLERK'S CORNER..... D Dee Mowry**

The first of the new year always is also the beginning of a new session year. It begins with the session training, an annual event, followed by the first regular session meeting. This a very important meeting as church leaders are selected and the standing committees of Bremen-Bethel are affirmed. The session has four standing committees Christian Education, Mission, Operations and Service. The following are members of each committee: Christian Education; Mike Henwood, Carri McCandlish, David E. Mowry\*, Mission; Cindy Cullumber\*, Ron Cullumber, D. Dee Mowry; Operations; Sue Henwood, Corey Riley\*, George Shreyer, Service; Linda Embrey, Cinda Keller\*, Sally Spangler (\*=Chair of committee) Moderator, Rev. Larry Hoffmann, Clerk of Session, D. Dee Mowry.

The session has set the time for the regular meetings which will be the fourth Sundays following the morning service. Session usually recesses during the summer months. Any pressing business is handled by the church council which consists of the chairs of the four standing committees, the moderator and the clerk. There is a provision in the church by-laws to allow an electronic vote should the need arise. This is accomplished in a 24 hour period.

This is the 'line-up' for 2023, should you have questions, feel free to contact the moderator or the clerk.

**Meet Our Secretary-Finance Clerk**

Loretta Dawson began her employment at Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church at the end of October 2022. She grew up in Columbus, Ohio, but moved to Junction City, Ohio, with her husband Rick to raise their two sons, Tucker and Garrett, who are now adults. She and her husband recently moved to Lancaster.

She is active in her church and had been seeking a part-time position with a church. Loretta has an accounting degree from Franklin University. She has already begun to work with CDM+, Church Data Management System, our church's software program. She is preparing the weekly bulletins and working on publishing monthly newsletters. Loretta has had time to review every file in the drawers and in the computer to familiarize herself with the details of what our church does. She is detail-oriented and likes working with numbers and being organized. At this point, her hours are 9:30am – 3:30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

In her free time she likes to read, cross stitch, walk and spend time with her family including her new grandson, Elias!

Stop by to introduce yourself.

## Upcoming Events

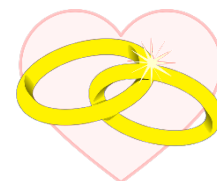
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> - Zeta Alpha 9:30 am - Church Basement  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - Jay's Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - Guest Pastor - Rev. Rick Nutt  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - Session Meeting after Worship Service



## February Birthdays and Anniversaries



2<sup>nd</sup> - Gene McCandlish  
7<sup>th</sup> - Scott and Karen Bergreen  
10<sup>th</sup> - Susie Seifert  
14<sup>th</sup> - Bill Nutter  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Don and Sally Spangler  
24<sup>th</sup> - Susan Henwood  
25<sup>th</sup> - Ray Schmidt



## February Ushers, Communion Servers, and Lay Readers

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> - Sharon Ankrom: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher;  
Tom Ankrom: Communion Server & Usher  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> - Mark & Tracy Embrey: Ushers; Cinda Keller: Lay Reader  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - Judy Turner: Lay Reader & Usher; Jane Griffith: Usher  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - Scott Bergreen: Lay Reader & Usher; Ila Bergreen



# KID'S PAGE

## February 2023



**PUZZLE**

**WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE**

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

*Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.*

ALWAYS REFUGE PERFECT LOVE PEACE CHRIST JESUS STRENGTH

God is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

"Surely I am with you \_\_\_\_\_." Matthew 28:20

And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God ... will guard  
your hearts and your minds in  
\_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in \_\_\_\_\_ lives in God,  
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

\_\_\_\_\_ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

**A MESSAGE OF**  
*Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.

**Love Never Fails.**

**What you need:**

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

**What you do:**

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.