

Newsletter February 2025



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



FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

As we move closer to Valentine's Day, we start to think about the meaning of love. The happiest people are those who experience love in their lives. A young student wrote a composition on Benjamin Franklin. "Benjamin Franklin was a poor boy. He went to Philadelphia to live. He didn't have many clothes. One day he walked down the street and saw a pretty girl. She smiled at him. He smiled at her. Before long they were married, and he discovered electricity." Love is the "electricity" that brings energy and excitement to life.

Of course, God's love is greatest. God's love is the powerful "electricity" that created us in the beginning and gives life to us each day. Scripture tells us that "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them" (1 John 4:16). Abiding in God's love means that we are cared for and strengthened to share this wonderful gift. We are loved into God's future. This is God's intention for us. The promise of the risen Christ is that nothing will ever thwart God's intention. Peace, Larry

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: Dee Mowry

The year 2025 is off and running. Your session has had its first meeting and is organized for action. The new session standing committee structure is as follows: Christian Education, Carri McCandlish David Mowry*, Corey Riley MISSION, Kerry Boyd, Tracy Embrey, Judy Turner* OPERATIONS, Scott Bergreen, Sue Henwood*, Gene McCandlish, SERVICE, Cinda Keller, Linda Shreyer, Sally Spangler* (* denotes chair). You will also have a new clerk of session, Corey Riley. My first tenure was when Richard Smith was Pastor which was a LONG time ago. It is time for me to be 'turned out to pasture.'

Rev. Hoffmann, Moderator, presented the elder training which revolved around the Bremen-Bethel Manual of Operations and the church by-laws. Much time in the by-laws is devoted to harassment, sexual misconduct and nondiscrimination. All these items are mandated by the Book of Order and the insurance carriers. Bremen-Bethel is up-to-date on all the issues. Also, these items need to be reviewed by the session every three years and kept current.

The clerk reviewed our status in relation to presbytery. We belong to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley which encompasses 83 churches with a combined membership of 12,175 . Geographically, the presbytery stretches from Marion County to Scioto County. Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian is the second largest Presbyterian Church in the county. The largest church in the presbytery has 1,461 members and the smallest, six members. Six churches have 10 or less

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: Dee Mowry (continued)

members and 33 churches in the presbytery are smaller than Bremen-Bethel. The next higher level of adjudication is the Synod of the Covenant which stretches from the UP of Michigan to Northern Kentucky and finally, General Assembly which contains all Presbyterian Churches of our sect.

This will be my last newsletter article as Corey will take this task over in February.

FROM THE TREASURER: Kathy Mowry

In January there were donations of **\$ 650.00 for the relief efforts for the California Wildfires**. Contributions are still being accepted. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Mowry, Treasurer.

Calendar of Events

Feb 9th – Zeta Alpha will meet in the church basement at 9:30 am; Bible Study: Let Justice Roll Down, Lesson 5. All women are welcome to attend.

Feb 14th – Valentine's Day

Feb 23rd - Session Meeting following worship

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Feb 2nd – Gene MCCandlish

Feb 7th – Scott & Karen Bergreen

Feb 10th – Susie Seifert

Feb 14th – Bill Nutter

Feb 23rd – Don & Sally Spangler

Feb 24th – Susan Henwood

Feb 25th – Ray Schmidt

February Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:

Feb 2nd – Susan Henwood: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher
Susan Hoffmann: Communion Server & Usher

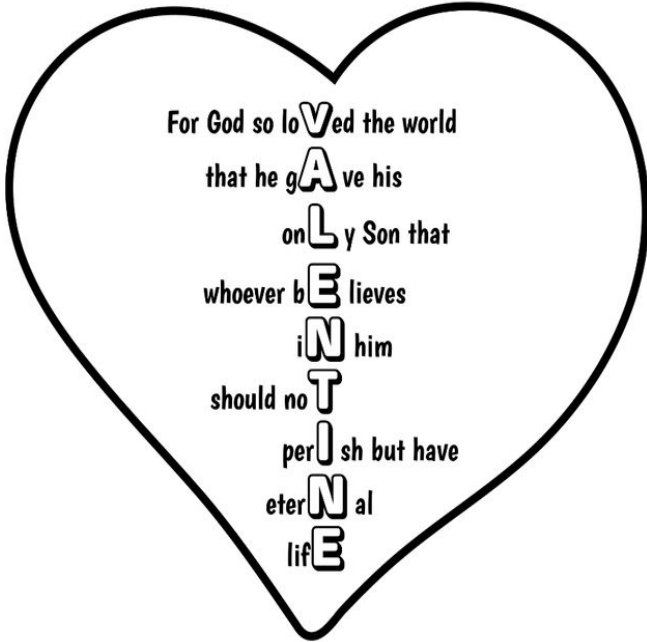
Feb 9th – Sharon Ankrom: Lay Reader & Usher
Tom Ankrom: Usher

Feb 16th – Gene McCandlish & Andrew McCandlish: Ushers
Cinda Keller: Lay Reader

Feb 23rd – Judy Turner: Lay Reader & Usher
Jane Griffith: Usher

Kids' Section

John 3:16



Valentine's Day Bible Activity

Draw a line to match the husband's name to the wife's name

1. Abram

2. Adam

3. Boaz

4. Zechariah

5. Joseph

6. Isaac

7. Elkanah

8. Elimelech

9. Zebedee

10. Moses

Mary

Ruth

Hannah

Sarai

Rebekah

Zipporah

Eve

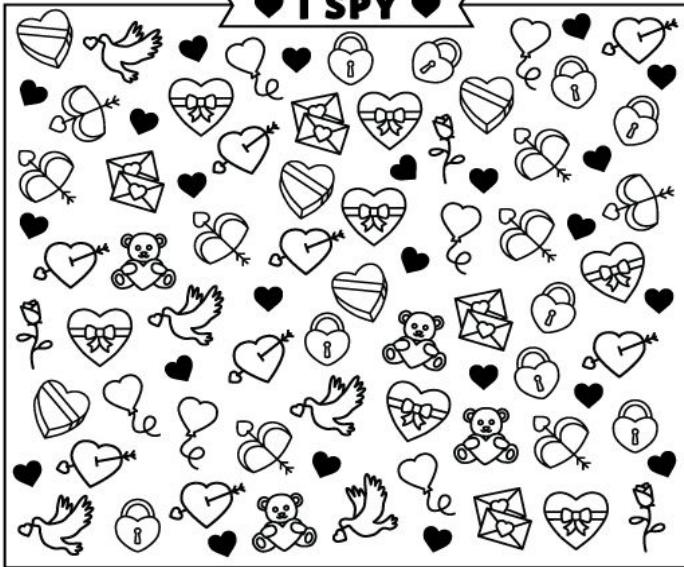
Elizabeth

Naomi

Salome

VALENTINE'S DAY

♥ I SPY ♥







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