

Newsletter January 2026



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



FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

January begins with the continued celebration of Christmas. However, very quickly we move into 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 2026 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 MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Judy Turner

The Bremen Food Pantry served 64 families for Christmas on December 20, 2025. Thanks to all who donated money, turkeys, cookies, taxable items and dish towel/dish cloths. Reminder: start watching for dish towels/dish cloths for the 2026 Christmas Food Pantry give away. The Food Pantry is happy to accept new, seasonally designed items that may be on sale throughout the year. Of course, the non-decorated towels/cloths are welcome too.

Yoga continues on Monday evenings at 5:30 pm in the church basement. Each class costs \$10, and everyone is welcome.

Calendar of Events

Jan 1st – Happy New Year!

Jan 11th – Ordination and Installation of Elders for the class of 2028.

Jan 11th - **ZETA ALPHA** will meet at 9:30 am in the church basement. Lesson 4 called “The Prodigal Child, The Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent” will be discussed in the Bible study *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. All women are welcome to attend.

Jan 13th – Annual Reports are due to the church secretary.

Jan 24th – Elder Training is from 9 am to 1 pm.

Jan 25th - Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service

Jan 25th – Session Meeting after worship

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Jan 23rd – Mark Embrey

Jan 25th – Joanie Ray

Jan 30th – David Winegardner

*** *There are no anniversaries for the month of January.* ***

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

Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:

Jan 4th – Cinda Keller: Lay Reader & Communion Server
Tracy Embrey: Communion Server & Usher
Mark Embrey: Usher

Jan 11th – Dee Mowry: Lay Reader & Usher
David Mowry: Usher

Jan 18th – Judy Turner: Lay Reader & Usher
Cinda Keller: Usher

Jan 25th – Scott Bergreen: Lay Reader & Usher
Karen Bergreen: Usher



Kids' Page

The Visit of the Magi

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



After Jesus was born in _____ in Judea, during the time of King Herod, _____ from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been _____ king of the Jews? We saw his _____ in the east and have come to _____ him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it _____ over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother _____, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of _____ and of _____ and of _____. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-12 (NIV)

Bethlehem	gold	Magi	myrrh	stopped
born	incense	Mary	star	worship

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)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- ___ 1. The wise men who searched for Jesus
A. Herod B. priests C. myrrh D. Magi
- ___ 2. To come into existence by birth
A. die B. born C. rule D. king
- ___ 3. A male ruler of a country
A. king B. queen C. prophet D. Magi
- ___ 4. A twinkling point of light in the night sky
A. earth B. star C. sun D. moon
- ___ 5. The direction which is opposite to west
A. east B. north C. star D. south
- ___ 6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect
A. born B. incense C. bow D. east
- ___ 7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
A. jewels B. rewards C. Magi D. gifts
- ___ 8. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
A. incense B. silver C. gold D. myrrh
- ___ 9. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
A. gold B. silver C. wax D. incense
- ___ 10. A substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
A. gold B. myrrh C. incense D. silver

