Newsletter November 2026

Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church
142 Purvis Ave., Bremen, OH 43107
(740) 569-7320
bremenbethelpc@gmail.com
https://www.bremenbethelpc.org
Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoffmann; Clerk: Corey Riley

FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

With November comes the celebration of Thanksgiving. Traditionally in this time of the year, we reach out to help people as an expression of our thanksgiving to God. Sometimes we get to know folks who are in entirely different situations than you and I. And at times we are overcome with a sense of guilt that we are not in their situation.

I recently read an article by Catherine Gugerty entitled “In From Guilt to Gratitude: Spiritual Ministry with Persons Who Are Poor and Homeless. Catherine writes of her ministry in a soup kitchen for the homeless. She experiences a sense of guilt for her not being in their situation: she has a home, good food, a new car, etc. Homeless men and women helped her with her guilt – in making a shift to gratitude through honesty and relationships. She identifies a number of factors that lead to this sense of guilt, then tells how her friends from the soup kitchen have taught her. Here are some of the things she has learned over the years: Look for God in everyone; Make eye contact; Ask a question; Wait for them to share their story with you; Be consistent; Show compassion.

Our tendency is often to focus on the guilt and speak little of gratitude. Of gratitude Henry Nouwen wrote, “Gratitude is the awareness that life in all its manifestations is a gift for which we want to give thanks. The closer we come to God in prayer, the more we become aware of the abundance of God’s gifts to us.” I have a friend who says that God does not call people to poverty. God calls us from it. Guilt can be haunting. It is only the love of God through the ministry of compassionate people that can move us from guilt to gratitude.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,
God’s peace be with you,

Larry

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Judy Turner

Yoga continues through November on Monday evenings at 5:30pm in the church basement.

The Food pantry will collect food from the porches of Bremen residents on Saturday, November 14. We could use a couple volunteers to sort and organize donations at the Calvary Church that am. Please see Judy Turner for more details, if you are interested. Also, if you live outside Bremen and want to donate, contact Judy to arrange pick up.

Calendar of Events

Nov 1st – DAYLIGHT Saving Time Ends – don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour.

Nov 1st – Zeta Alpha will meet at 9:30 am in the church basement. Bible study: "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other", Lesson 2. All women are welcome.

Nov 22nd - Session Meeting after worship

Nov 22nd - COMMUNITY Thanksgiving Service: Sunday, November 22, at 6 pm at Calvary United Methodist Church

Nov 26th – Thanksgiving

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nov 1st – Mary Schmidt
Nov 11th – Andrew McCandlish
Nov 14th – Andy Ray
Nov 20th – Tate McCandlish

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

Nov 1st – Judy Turner: Lay Reader and Usher
Cinda Keller: Usher

Nov 8th – Susan Henwood: Lay Reader and Usher
Kathy Mowry: Usher

Nov 15th – Scott Bergreen: Lay Reader and Usher
Karen Bergreen: Usher

Nov 22nd – Judy Turner: Lay Reader, Communion Server and Usher
Cinda Keller: Communion Server
Jane Griffith: Usher

Nov 29th – Brenda Winegardner: Lay Reader
Kerry Boyd and Savannah Collis: Ushers

Kids' Section