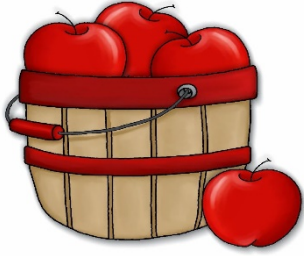


NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023



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



FROM THE PASTOR: REV. LARRY HOFFMANN

Looking for a good book for Autumn reading? Try the Book of Psalms.

Dr. Donald Griggs wrote, "As models for prayer and affirmations of faith, the Book of Psalms provides for contemporary believers a rich vocabulary for speaking to and about God." The Psalms reveal an honesty in the prayer life of Israel. We find a wide range of human experience, from joy and elation to personal and community lament. The Royal Psalms tell us of the King's interceding prayer on behalf of Israel, and we are reminded of our King's intercessions on our behalf. The Creation Psalms speak to us of God's presence throughout the world. The Psalms of Salvation History assure us of God's action in the past, present, and future, on our behalf. And, of course, we are reminded to trust, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

Dust off your favorite interpretation of Scripture. Read the Psalms, and God will bless you with a greater awareness of Christ's presence in your life. God's grace and peace to you, Larry

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: DEE MOWRY

This column is a continuation of the column which appeared in the July (2023) newsletter. That column left off at the building of the present church structure (1907-8).

In May of 1932, talks between the Bethel and Bremen churches resulted in the merger of the two churches. On June 13, 1932, the Columbus Presbytery finalized the merger. Presbytery was invited to meet and hold the September 1932 presbytery meeting in this church. Rev. John A. McEwen was called to be the minister of the two churches at a yearly salary of \$2,000.00. \$200.00 was returned by Rev. McEwen as his tithe. That same year on October 29, a sugar maple tree was planted on the west side of the church in honor of the George Washington Bicentennial. 150 people attended the event after the morning service.

The 1932-33 annual report to presbytery listed additions of 30 new members, 4 dismissals and two deaths for a total membership of 375, with a Sunday School membership of 310. (Church

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: DEE MOWRY (CONTINUED)

officers were to greet all visitors and to see that there was no crowding in the pews!!) The total budget for 1934 was \$2,643.00. That same year, the church celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Bremen Church and the 110th anniversary of the Bethel Church.

The 1935 bank balance was \$2.32. In 1936, the church was in arrears with the pastor's salary.

In 1937, a committee was appointed to investigate the union of the Rushville and Bremen Churches.

At a September 1940 congregational meeting, permission to buy a Hammond organ for \$2,395.00 was approved. \$5.00 and \$10.00 shares were sold to finance the purchase. This organ is in excellent working condition to this day.

Grace (Everitt) Mericle and Margaret Holcomb were welcomed as our first female elders in January of 1952.

In 1969, the congregation authorized improvement to the choir loft, and new sanctuary lighting was approved. Later that year, a study commission recommended that the present four boards, deacons, deaconesses, trustees and session be dissolved and one board, the session be approved. This system has operated well over the years.

“BREAKFAST TO GO” 2022-23 A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Breakfast to Go program provides a bag containing non-perishable breakfast foods for students at Bremen Elementary School to take home on the week-ends when school breakfasts are not available to them. Any student can participate with a parent's or guardian's permission.

The first year of the Breakfast to Go program was 2013. An average of 83 students participated. The program has grown each year since then, especially since Covid. For the past school year there were 252 students participating.

Under the very capable leadership of Mike & Susan Henwood there were 8 volunteers who gave a total of 248 hours packing bags each week. They packed 7,855 bags for a total of 15,710 breakfasts that were distributed to local students.

A grant of \$ 2,000.00 was received from Scioto Valley Presbytery, and the Bremen United Methodist Church donated \$ 1,000.00 to the project. Numerous people from our church and the community made cash and in-kind contributions. A total of \$ 9,038.52 was expended on food items.

Plans are underway for the Breakfast to Go program for the 2023-24 school year.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

There are currently 12 households supporting our church through the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

For the quarter May – July, we received \$ 47.70. All money received through this program will be deposited in the Breakfast to Go Fund.

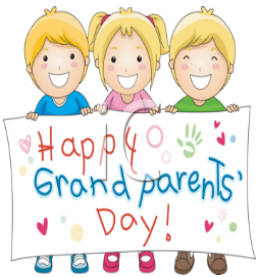
THE FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry assisted 50+ families with book bags and school supplies. Thanks to all who contributed!

MAUI WILDFIRE OFFERING

As of August 20, the congregation has given \$ 200.00 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund, to be used in Maui. Contributions are still being accepted.

DATES TO REMEMBER



- Sep 3rd – Coffee Hour at 9:30 am at the church
- Sep 3rd – Worship time will return to 10:30 am
- Sep 4th – Labor Day
- Sep 10th – Grandparents Day
- Sep 10th - Zeta Alpha will start a new Bible study, Sacred Encounters. First meeting 9:30 am, in the church basement. All women are invited to attend.
- Sep 10th – Session Meeting after the worship service
- Sep 23rd – Fall Begins



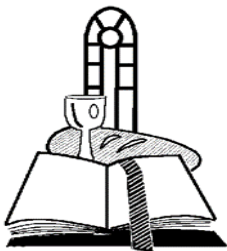


- | | |
|--|--|
| Sep 1 st – David Shannon | Sep 24 th – Judith Ackerman |
| Sep 7 th – Dee & Kathy Mowry | Sep 24 th – Larry Hoffmann |
| Sep 9 th – Nathaniel McCandlish | Sep 26 th – Cinda Keller |
| Sep 15 th – Dave & Cinda Keller | Sep 26 th – Linda Shreyer |
| Sep 18 th – Kerry Boyd | Sep 26 th - Drake Burdett |
| Sep 19 th – Sam Custer | Sep 29 th – Savannah Collis |



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

SEPTEMBER LAY READERS, COMMUNION SERVERS AND USHERS:



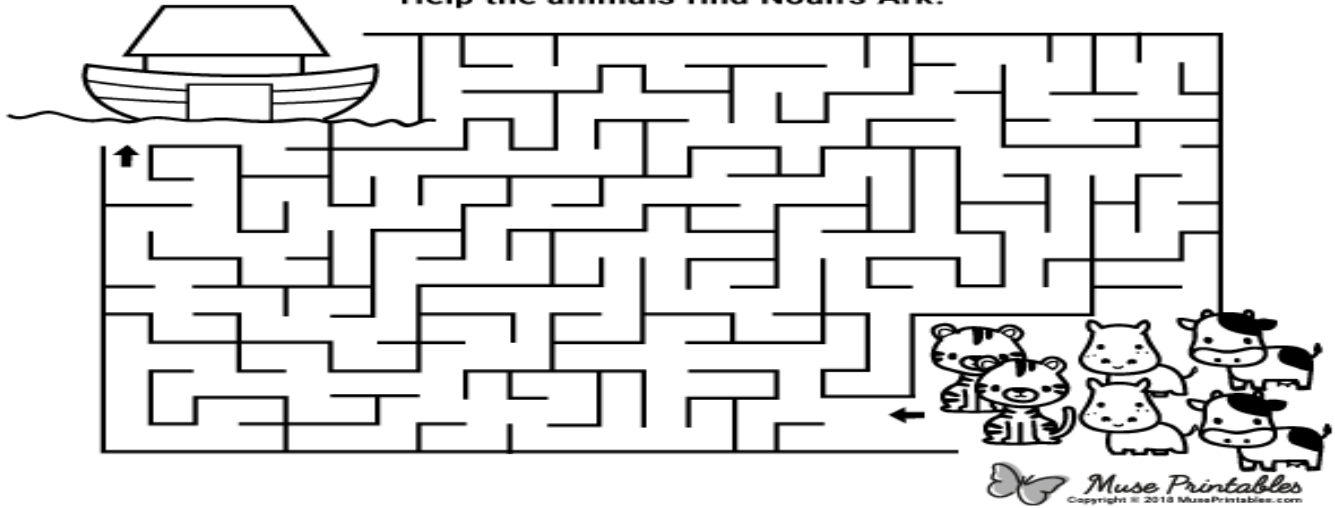
- Sep 3rd – Ron Cullumber: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher
Cindy Cullumber: Communion Server & Usher
- Sep 10th – Scott Bergreen: Lay Reader & Usher
Karen Bergreen: Usher
- Sep 17th – Cenell Boch: Lay Reader & Usher
Judy Turner: Usher
- Sep 24th – Brenda Winegardner: Lay Reader & Usher
Kerry Boyd: Usher

Just For Kids



Noah's Ark Maze

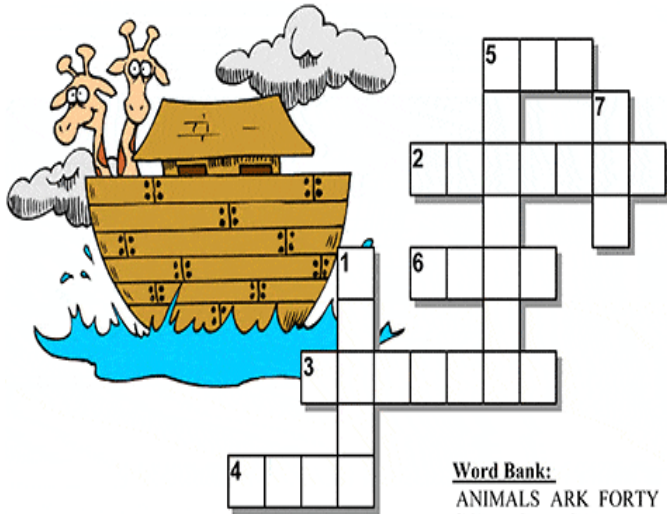
Help the animals find Noah's Ark.



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Name: _____

Noah's Ark Crossword



Word Bank:
ANIMALS ARK FORTY
GOD NOAH OBEY
PROMISE RAINBOW

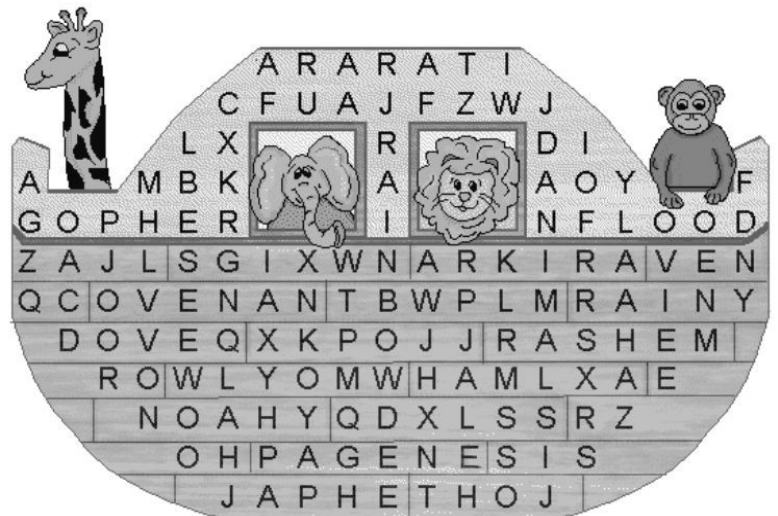
Across

- God put this in the sky
- A covenant is a _____.
- This means to listen.
- Noah built an _____?
- Who built the ark?

Down

- Rain fell on the earth for _____ days and _____ nights.
- Noah brought these on the ark.
- Who told Noah to build the ark?

Noah's Ark



animals
Ararat
ark
covenant
dove

flood
Genesis
gopher
Ham
Japheth

Noah
rain
rainbow
raven
Shem