

Newsletter May 2024

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Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoffmann; Clerk: Dee Mowry



FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

In his book <u>Living the Resurrection</u>, Eugene Peterson reminds us that the resurrection impacts our lives today. He connects the resurrection of Jesus with our spiritual formation. This resurrection stops us in our tracks, and we are filled with a wondrous sense of awe and amazement.

Peterson also suggests that the primary place for this spiritual formation is the workplace (note: the home may be our workplace). At the workplace we spend a tremendous amount of our time. However, it is not always a place that encourages ceasing from our labor and standing in awe and wonder of God's presence. In many workplaces this is discouraged. So, it is important for us to find a time to strengthen this awesome wonder, so it impacts our life throughout the week. We need a time to cultivate resurrection amazement in our lives, so it will affect the many hours spent at the workplace. Scripture identifies this time as Sabbath.

At the beginning of our Sabbath worship, an acolyte will light two candles. Of course, the light symbolizes the presence of Jesus, the light of the world in our worship. But why two candles? Why not one, perhaps symbolizing Jesus? Or, why not three, symbolizing the Trinity? Peterson explains the tradition:

On Friday evening, on the day Jesus died, devout Jewish people lit two candles to welcome the Sabbath. One candle was lit for the Exodus command, "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy...You shall not do any work...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, but rested on the seventh day" (Exodus 20:8, 10-11).

The second candle was lit for the Deuteronomy commandment which says, "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...You shall not do any work...remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 5:12, 14-15).

Sabbath is the beginning of the week. In Christian worship we are spiritually formed in the resurrection of Christ. When we leave the sanctuary, the light goes before us. We do not leave it behind. The light of Christ is present in the place we spend most of our time, often a place where it may not be welcomed. Sabbath keeps us focused on the resurrected Lord and his presence and call to us to follow wherever he may lead, even to those places we are busiest and spend most of our time. Without its practice, it may be difficult to rejoice in the stone that has been rolled away.

May God's new and resurrected life in Christ remain with you, in all places you abide.

Grace and peace to you, Larry

FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: Dee Mowry

WELCOME to May...After a long winter, 'light at the end of the tunnel' is finally here. May 1 is May Day and also Mother Goose Day, May 3 is Lumpy Rug Day, May 6 is International Nurses Day......... pay attention Carri and Joanie......, May 9 is Lost Sock Memorial Day, May 12 is No Diet Day, May 14 is Dance Like a Chicken Day, May 27 is Tap Dance Day. These dates are for your edification as I am sure you will want to celebrate one or more. One VERY important and serious day is May 27 when we observe Memorial Day, the day we celebrate and remember those men and women who have given so much to make this country as great as it is. THANK YOU!

Looking back to the May 2013 Newsletter, it was noted that the Breakfast-to-Go Program had 79 participants, and the program was under the direction of Karen May, Cynthia McKay and Kathy Mowry. Currently there are about 280 participants, and with three weeks to go this school year, the Committee has already packed 8,060 bags.

The One Great Hour of Sharing showed a total collection of \$835.93 which compares with \$320.00 collected in 2023. In other financial news, your session gave approval for our very able church secretary/financial clerk to be given access to the "Contribution" platform of the CDM+ computer program used by the church. Currently, only the church treasurer has access to this program. This will alleviate the problem of having only one person with access to the program and will provide a back-up for the treasurer.

The church is a beneficiary under the terms of a will by John E. Francisco which is currently in Probate Court in Perry County. None of the current session members were familiar with Mr. Francisco.......If you can help, please contact the clerk or Rev. Hoffmann.

The outside walls of the church appear to need extensive repair work, which will be done under the auspices of the Operations Committee.

It was suggested that the minutes of the session meeting be posted on the church bulletin board. The clerk stated that this was in direct violation of Presbyterian Polity. Any questions regarding the action(s) of the session should be directed to the Clerk or the moderator, Rev. Hoffmann.



FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Judy Turner

The Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility is located in New Lexington. The facility provides youth with significant problems the opportunity to become well adjusted individuals ready to return to their communities as responsible, productive and law-abiding citizens. Presbyterian Women of the Scioto Valley have been filling backpacks for these young men to be given upon their release from the facility. The backpacks contain numerous hygiene items and items such as socks, notebooks pens and pencils. This year our Presbyterian Women agreed to provide items for 14 backpacks. Our local Zeta Alpha supplied items for 2 backpacks and the McCandlish family donated items for a 3rd backpack. There is also A Shoe Fund that Zeta Alpha will be donating money to so the boys can have shoes for the gym in the PMCJ Facility.

FROM THE TREASUER: Kathy Mowry

Please mark your calendars for the
2024 Community Play Dates
Saturdays
June 8 July 13 August 10
10:00 am -11:30 am



Plans are under way for our 1st ever Community Play Dates! Our grounds will be open to the community for activities and refreshments. This will be an opportunity for our church family to connect with our community in an informal setting. *We will need everyone's help* (from moving tables and chairs to the parking lot, to helping with kids' games and making the adults feel welcome) to make this happen. Watch for sign-up sheets on the back table of the Sanctuary.

There is a flyer on the back to this newsletter. Please share it with friends, family and neighbors. Additional copies are available on the back table in the Sanctuary.

For more information *or to be the first volunteer (!)* contact Kathy Mowry at (740-503-8945) or any of the Session committee chairs.







May 2nd – National Day of Prayer

***Bible Reading Marathon: April 28 – 4:00 pm through May 2 – 12:00 pm; located at the Lancaster Gazebo Band Stand at Main and Broad Streets

***Fairfield County Gathering at 6:00 pm (5:00 pm - fellowship and pizza) at the Lancaster Gazebo Band Stand. Sponsored by: Fairfield County-NDP-Task Force 2024

***6:30 pm at Dowling Park on East Main in Bremen, OH. All are welcome to attend.

Hosted by: Bremen Community Methodist Church, Avlon United Brethren Church and
Calvary United Methodist Church

May 9th – Ascension of the Lord

May 12th – Zeta Alpha Meeting, 9:30 am, in the church basement; Sacred Encounters – Chapter 8 Bible Study

May 12th – Happy Mother's Day!

May 19th – Day of Pentecost

May 26th – Trinity Sunday

May 26th – Session Meeting after worship service

May 27th – Memorial Day

Birthdays & Anniversaries



May 3rd - Brian Boyd

May 6th – Cindy Cullumber

May 6th - Rick & Loretta Dawson

May 9th – Brice Winegardner

May 11th - Cenlee Riley

May 16th – Mike Henwood

May 19th – Ron and Cindy Cullumber

May 20th - David Keller

May 24th - Dean Ackerman

May 26th – George Shreyer

May 28th - Christa Riley



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



May Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:



May 5th – Ron Cullumber: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher

Cindy Cullumber: Communion Server & Usher

May 12th - Cinda Keller: Lay Reader & Usher

Judy Turner: Usher

May 19th - Linda Shreyer: Lay Reader & Usher

George Shreyer: Usher

May 26th - Brenda Winegardner: Lay Reader & Usher

Cinda Keller: Usher



Kids' Page





MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH

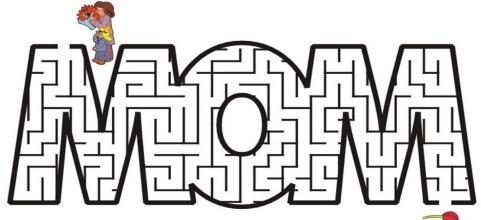
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CILVIMORUGQ
PAIOKYCHNAX
YSFLOWERSJO
PESGUHACNRG

MOMMY TEACHER
LOVE KIND
HUGS PATIENT
KISSES NURSE
FLOWERS COOKIES



Help the mother and baby find their way through the MOM shaped maze to find the missing rattle.







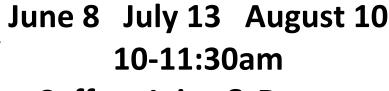
Please join us on the lawn of the Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church

142 Purvis Avenue, Bremen, OH 43107 740-569-7320

FOR

2024 Community Play Date(s)

Second Saturday of June, July & August





For the adults



*Children MUST be accompanied by a parent, babysitter or responsible adult

ACTIVITES INCLUDE: outdoor games, crafts, Hula Hoops, jump ropes, bubbles, chalk drawing & craft table with professional staffer!

June 8: Coupons for children & students for a free ice cream cone at the Bremen Tasty Freeze.

July 13: Magic Show by "The Magic of Believe". August 10: Enjoy complimentary Kona Ice.

ALL COMPLIMENTARY

FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE









