

# Newsletter March 2025



Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church  
142 Purvis Ave., Bremen, OH 43107  
(740) 569-7320

[bremenbethelpc@gmail.com](mailto:bremenbethelpc@gmail.com)  
<https://www.bremenbethelpc.org>

Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoffmann; Clerk: Corey Riley



## FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

In his book, *Opening to God*, Thomas Green shares the insight that when two cultures meet a third is formed. This was a fascinating idea that led me to reflect on some aspects of my own journey. I recall when I returned from Vietnam how the culture of being at war met the culture I left behind. The new culture that was formed left me with strong feelings of being out of place, questioning things other people thought to be important, and I now thought to be trivial. I experienced the same when I returned from a vacation to Acapulco some years ago. I saw great prosperity and great poverty side-by-side in this part of Mexico, a very moving experience. This again caused considerable reflection on my part. There have been retreats I have been on that resulted in my prayer life informing decisions I would make about directions my own life would take. This meeting of two cultures and creating a third has influenced my faith, politics, and many other aspects of my journey.

This is the experience when our prayer life interacts with everyday circumstances. For Green, prayer is an opening of the mind and heart of God. This “opening” stresses receptivity and responsiveness to another. Prayer is speaking and listening responsively. Prayer is a personal encounter of love. Prayer cannot be analyzed or scientifically studied. Prayer is to be lived and experienced. Honest prayer requires an unmasking of our inner self. In the Gospels stories, Jesus stripped away the masks of the religious leaders of his time and exposed to all who they were deep within. None of us like this kind of exposure, yet this is an important piece of knowing ourselves, which opens us to the knowledge of God.

Lent is traditionally a time of prayer, fasting, evaluation of lifestyles, and service. Lent can be an exciting part of our journey when our prayers meet our cultural experience, and draw us closer to the Kingdom of God.

Peace,

Larry

## **FROM THE TREASURER: Kathy Mowry**

There are currently 13 households participating in our Kroger Community Rewards. For the quarter of November through January, we received \$40.89. The session has designated the income to the ***Breakfast to Go*** program.

## Calendar of Events

**Mar 5<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm at the Bremen Community Methodist Church

**Mar 9<sup>th</sup>** – Zeta Alpha will meet in the church basement at 9:30 am; Bible Study: Let Justice Roll Down, Lesson 7. All women are welcome to attend.

**Mar 9<sup>th</sup>** - Daylight Saving Time Begins; set your clocks forward 1 hour.

**Mar 17<sup>th</sup>** – St. Patrick's Day

Mar 20<sup>th</sup> – First Day of Spring

**Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Session Meeting following worship

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Mar 6<sup>th</sup>** – Carolyn Ankrom

**Mar 12<sup>th</sup>** – Brian & Kerry Boyd

**Mar 21<sup>st</sup>** – David & Julia Mowry

**Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Gene & Carri McCandlish

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup>** – James David Mowry

**Mar 25<sup>th</sup>** – Sharon Ankrom

**Mar 26<sup>th</sup>** – Carri McCandlish

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup>** – Peyton McCandlish

## March Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:

**Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ron Cullumber: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher  
Cindy Cullumber: Communion Server & Usher

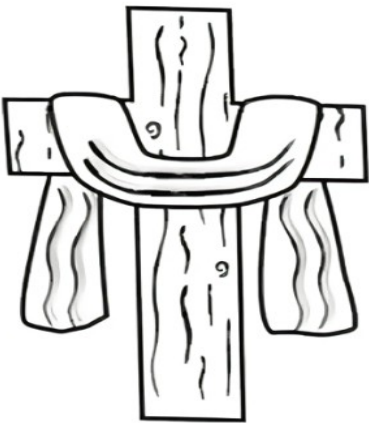
**Mar 9<sup>th</sup>** – Brenda Winegardner: Lay Reader  
Kerry Boyd & Savannah Collis: Ushers

**Mar 16<sup>th</sup>** – John McCandlish: Lay Reader & Usher  
Kayla McCandlish: Usher

**Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Karen Bergreen: Lay Reader & Usher  
Scott Bergreen: Usher

**Mar 30<sup>th</sup>** – David Mowry: Lay Reader & Usher  
Kathy Mowry: Usher

# Kids' Section



Find all ten words!

W	J	E	P	S	A	C	T	A	P
E	Q	L	L	U	F	A	W	L	R
D	J	G	E	O	R	V	R	M	A
N	E	A	F	N	V	P	C	Q	Y
E	P	R	R	I	T	E	L	W	E
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	R
D	U	S	T	F	W	Y	R	Z	N
A	R	Y	H	V	A	L	M	S	D
Y	Z	B	J	E	S	U	S	H	U
Z	J	F	A	S	T	I	N	G	F

Unscramble these Lenten Words

TRYFO YASD \_\_\_\_\_

HSESA \_\_\_\_\_

NLTE \_\_\_\_\_

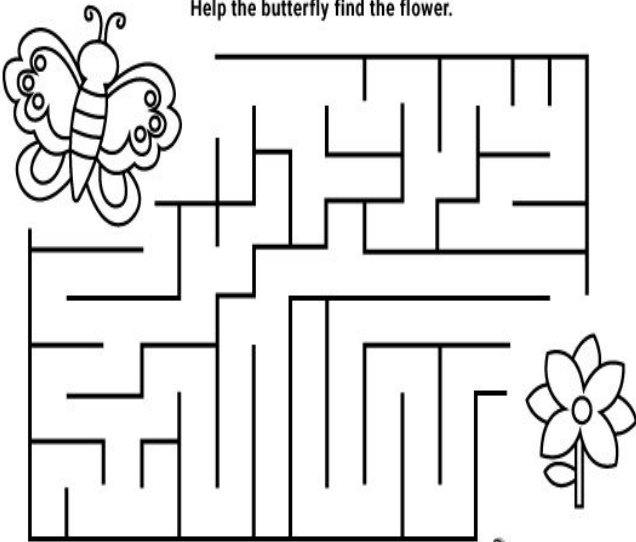
TISFGNA \_\_\_\_\_

One thing I can do during Lent to bring me closer to God...

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## Butterfly Maze

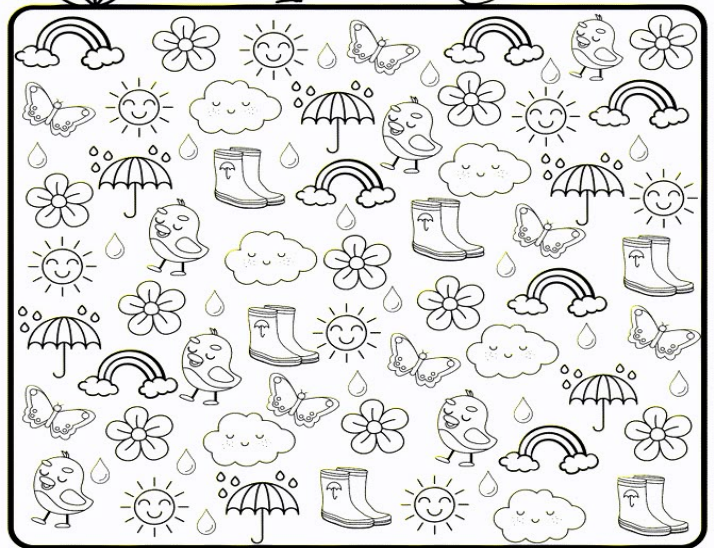
Help the butterfly find the flower.



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I SPY...

## Spring



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# The Big Book Nook

The Big Book Nook is a non-profit bookstore donating 100% of the money raised to  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Ohio.

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DONATIONS ACCEPTED  
MONDAY-SATURDAY

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IF YOU HAVE A UNIQUE ITEM-  
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## DONATIONS



## WE DO NOT TAKE

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DONATIONS MAY BE PLACED IN THE BOX ON THE  
PEW UNDER THE NORTH WINDOW.

**The Mission Committee will make sure your donations get  
to THE BIG BOOK NOOK!**