

# The Spirit of Bethlehem



**BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042  
(920)894-3332

## Pastor Randy's Ramblings:

Dear Members of Bethlehem,

This month, in place of my usual article, I would like to share the following essay written by our Wisconsin Conference Minister, Franz Rigert. Have a great October! Be Blessed!

Pastor Randy

*Dear friends,*

*In August, I tackled a backyard paver project, installing a flagstone patio around the deck. I had never taken on a stone project, so each step was a learn-as-you-go exercise. I began by digging out the dirt and replacing it with gravel, then compacted it with water and by hand-tamping, and topped the foundation with leveling sand. It took every flagstone -- 64 total -- and lots of spatial adjustments to complete the puzzle before sealing the in-between spaces with polymeric sand.*

*Projects are spiritual practices for me. They involve calculations and physical exertion, but also a freeing of the mind and a chance to rhythmically ponder the blessings and challenges of life. A wise spiritual director taught me to embrace the notion that some of us encounter God's Spirit through repetitive movements.*

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## **OCTOBER 2023**

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## **NOVEMBER SPIRIT DEADLINE:**

**Wednesday, Oct. 18th**

**@ 5pm**

**Send to Traci at**

**trabefamily5@gmail.com**



*The truth is, I find silent meditation dreadful. But in project spaces, where anxiety meets determination and assurance confronts doubt, I experience sacred companionship. Somehow the Spirit meets me in all the sweaty “sorting out” and settles my soul into a place of deep contentment. God’s grace shows up in everyday projects, so it never feels as if I must go it alone.*

*I’ve been thinking lately about the Church as an ongoing paver project, recalling the many ways those early apostles had to “figure it out” with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. So, too, in the tumultuous days of the Protestant Reformation, our spiritual ancestors debated and deliberated and were led by the grace of God to pave new paths for an ancient Church.*

*Five hundred years later we find ourselves with more questions than answers. So many unknowns in this puzzling future of “project” Church. If only we had a better sense of direction, instant Google answers, or clearer guidance from the Holy One, we could set our sights and get to work. But, as author Susan Beaumont suggests in her book “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going,” this is a liminal season for the Church. In the same way some of the world’s great cathedrals took hundreds of years to build, so too the full future of this rapidly changing Church may take several decades to unfold.*

*Meanwhile, we in the United Church of Christ remain faithful to God’s unique calling upon our tradition – to welcome widely and love deeply, to be truth tellers and Gospel believers, to advocate for justice, and to respond generously to the needs of the poor and hurting. To lean forward.*

*These are tricky times, given the political and social tensions of our day. Yet each of us is like a solid paver in the great landscape of the Church. When we choose to make our platform all about the love of Jesus and the inclusion of the marginalized, we model a new way of living. And there are spiritual seekers out there who yearn to share this expression of faith alongside us.*

*Blessings in Christ,*

*Franz Rigert*



# Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

You can also follow Bethlehem UCC

on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/buccckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

## Our Spiritual Leader:

**Pastor Randy Koppenhaver**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



- Sunday School begins at 8:00am. All children 4 years – 6<sup>th</sup> grade welcome!
- Gather in the sanctuary for worship Sunday mornings. Our service begins at 9:30am.
- Tune your car radio to 101.3FM to listen to the service in the church parking lot at 9:30am.
- View Sunday's service from the comfort of your home through Facebook live stream at 9:30am <http://www.facebook.com/buccckiel/>
- OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website at a time that is convenient for you and your family [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

**Pastoral Care:** If you have any pastoral/spiritual care needs please contact Pastor Randy.

## 2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Pastor – Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

Elder/President - Steve Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 or [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

If you are not able to join us in person Sunday mornings, please mail your giving envelope to:

**Bethlehem UCC**  
**c/o Ruthie Rumpff**  
**11608 Lax Chapel Road,**  
**Kiel, WI 53042**



You can also give electronically! Please contact Ruthie Rumpff for details.

## Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website

[www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)



*Click on the Donate button to make a secure online contribution today!*

**Donate**

Your giving will go directly to offset our day-to-day costs of maintaining the church. This option was added in addition to giving at church, mailing your giving to church or giving electronically.

The On-line giving is secure by using your PayPal account, credit or debit card. (The church is charged a 2.89% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add that to your donation.)

Thank you for all your support!

## Lectionary Readings for OCTOBER:

|                  |  |  |                        |                  |
|------------------|--|--|------------------------|------------------|
| October 1, 2023  | Exodus 17:1-7<br>Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16       | Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32<br>Psalm 25:1-9  | Philippians 2:1-13     | Matthew 21:23-32 |
| October 8, 2023  | Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20<br>Psalm 19      | Isaiah 5:1-7<br>Psalm 80:7-15          | Philippians 3:4b-14    | Matthew 21:33-46 |
| October 9, 2023  | Deuteronomy 8:7-18<br>Psalm 65             |  | 2 Corinthians 9:6-15   | Luke 17:11-19    |
| October 15, 2023 | Exodus 32:1-14<br>Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23     | Isaiah 25:1-9<br>Psalm 23              | Philippians 4:1-9      | Matthew 22:1-14  |
| October 22, 2023 | Exodus 33:12-23<br>Psalm 99                | Isaiah 45:1-7<br>Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 | Matthew 22:15-22 |
| October 29, 2023 | Deuteronomy 34:1-12<br>Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 | Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18<br>Psalm 1     | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  | Matthew 22:34-46 |

## **Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 9-12-2023**

Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ruthie Rumpff, Traci Rabe, Ross Westphalen, Lee Watson, Kathy Bowe, Pastor Randy Koppenhaver

Call to order: 6:32 PM

Opening Prayer by Randy – From “Our Daily Bread” Be Still Psalm 37

### **Monthly Reports**



- **Financial Secretary – Ruthie**

- Month income \$6,050.00 (\$1,696.00 below YTD collection) \$54,476.00 (\$7,492.00 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Traci)

- **Treasurer – Jane**

- Giving's received in Aug to date are \$6,514.12 bringing the checkbook balance to \$48,117.01

The report is approved as presented (motion by Ruthie and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ross)

### **Building & Grounds checking and Savings**

- Checking = \$985.86
- Saving = \$9,656.93

- **Secretary – Kathy**

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the Aug Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Traci and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane

- **Building & Grounds Updates**

- Leak in choir room – tiles will be replaced with new ones
- Looking into outside lighting issues – Steve D. – pending
- Getting estimate for canister light replacement – Rick R. – pending
- Getting 2 estimates for parsonage roof
- House style mailbox – mailbox has been purchased and was mounted-thank you Bill Schlegel
- Annual water system check is complete by Manitowoc company-all good
- Septic pumping is completed
- Annual furnace cleaning – date will be set in the near future
- Parsonage deck – Bldg & Grounds will look into updating

- **Pastoral Report**

### Worship -

8/13, 8/20, 9/10

Upcoming “OFF” Sundays: Oct. 15, Oct. 29

Had to cancel Field of Dreams worship for Thursday

*Continued on page 6*



### Confirmation/Youth

- First class and meeting on Sept. 13
- Faith Mentors: Nancy Zimmermann, Bob Marklez, and Traci Rabe
- Confirmation event on 9/20 at Lakeland. Jacob Nault and speakers from Mental Health America.
- Crop Walk on Oct. 8
- Bethlehem will host RCF youth on October 29 from 5p-7p
- Confirmation Retreat w/ St. Peters Jan. 19-10 - (\$60/student)- Any way we can offer a partial scholarship?
- Confirmation Sunday?

### Mission

- Loads of Love on 9/5 - \$50 expended
- Period Pack ongoing - Mission Committee will pay for detergent sheets
- WISE
  - Book Study starts Sept. 10
  - Monthly displays
  - NAMI guest for entire congregation - November 5

### Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 1x
- Cards 0x
- Visits 3x
- Hospital visits 0x

### Wider Church/MID process

-COP (communities of practice) Canceled for August, next meeting on Sept. 28

-MID work towards ordination:

- CPE (clinical pastoral education) runs Sept.- mid Nov. classes on Mon/Wed plus clinical hours (20/week) at Sheboygan Memorial Hospital
- finished course on UCC history and polity
- Learning Covenant in process (approved 7/20)

### Communication and Other

- Weekly Blurbs and monthly newsletter articles
- Wedding 9/16 - Sarah Mueller and John Schisel
  - Met on 9/11 for final plans. Rehearsal 6pm on Friday, Ceremony @ 1:30 on Saturday
- Baptism 9/17 - Carter Dean Schisel (son of Stephanie Nenahlo)
- Recruiting members for community UCC choir
- United Church Men and Women's Dinner - Thursday, 10/19 @ 6:30pm - St. James. Newton. (\$18)

**Member Outreach** – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem = 1 sympathy, 1 Get well, 1- thinking of you

*Continued on page 7*



## OLD BUSINESS

- Mission Fest- Final plans are made for the activities and food.
- Lunch will be walking tacos. Sign up in the fellowship hall for your favorite activity.
- Sound Room/Audio Visual – Reviewed estimate from TFG Audio
- Confirmation/Sunday School – All is going good
- Church website – Lori will be retiring. We are looking into a replacement

## NEW BUSINESS

- Heifer Project – Yes, there will be a donation letter sent – See info under Merry Christian news
- Annual Meeting preparation begins – Budget, Committee Nominations & Pastoral Position Review
- Sign Policy – A request was made by another church to advertise their events with a sign next to the road. Bethlehem will only display Bethlehem events.
- Thanksgiving service – TBA
- Consistory will have a short meeting after church on 10/1

Motion to adjourn by Ruthie and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ross

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

Next meeting – Oct 10, 2023 6:30 PM

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Kathy Bowe

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## **Bethlehem Mission Fest – Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Do good and...  
share what you have,  
for such sacrifices  
are pleasing  
to God.

*Hebrews 13:16*

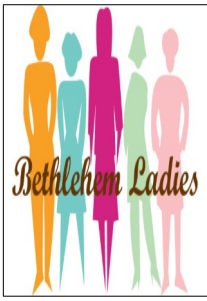


Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Mission Fest. This year's greater community outreach activities will include:

1. Assembling Period Packs
2. Making sandwiches for Mission House
3. Highway clean-up
4. Playing BINGO at an assisted living facility

***A delicious lunch of walking tacos with all the fixings will be provided!***

## **Bethlehem Ladies:**



The Bethlehem Ladies hosted their annual Guest Night on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 28 people in attendance. Our speakers for the evening were Alia Swingle and Erin Quesnell from Harbor House. Alia is the coordinator for Calumet County Engagement & Education. Erin is the Community Education Specialist at Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs. It was a very informative presentation expressing how domestic and sexual violence is very present in today's world including right here in our own communities. They both talked about how Harbor House is available 24/7 to serve all people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

**24-Hour Crisis Helpline: 920-832-1666**

They encouraged us all to share this information with all those around us as you never know if someone may be in need of these services. Another way the community can help Harbor House is by donating needed items for the shelter. The current list can be found at <https://www.harborhousewi.org/current-needs>. The last couple months we collected items for the Harbor House. The response was overwhelming. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Erin and Alia were very pleased when they saw all the donations and greatly appreciate your generosity.

Our next meeting is Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

On to wash communion glass on October 1<sup>st</sup> are Polly and Ginny.

Polly Jeanty  
Secretary





## **Bethlehem Sunday School:**

Happy Fall from the Sunday School! It's been a joy to have the kids back in Sunday School for the season. We are enjoying learning about the Bible Stories and creating so many crafts that relate to the stories. The kids are really enjoying the crafts and the music this season!



Sunday School is held at 8:00-9:15 am every Sunday.

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## **Confirmation:**

Confirmation Class



Confirmation classes 6-7pm

Wednesday, October 4 and Wednesday, October 18

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**Loads of Love:** Once a month, recipients meet Bethlehem's Loads of Love team at the laundry mat and are supplied detergent and dryer sheets to wash and dry their clothing, towels, and bedding. Loads of Love also generously provides the quarters for the washers and dryers. With your help Bethlehem will continue to do God's work through this important mission. Your donations can be placed in the "Laundry Detergent" container located near the entrance to the sanctuary.



***Thank you for sharing God's love through your generosity!***

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# Those in our thoughts and prayers:

**Joys:** A joy for the birth of Nova Rosalyn Henning on Aug 23, 2023

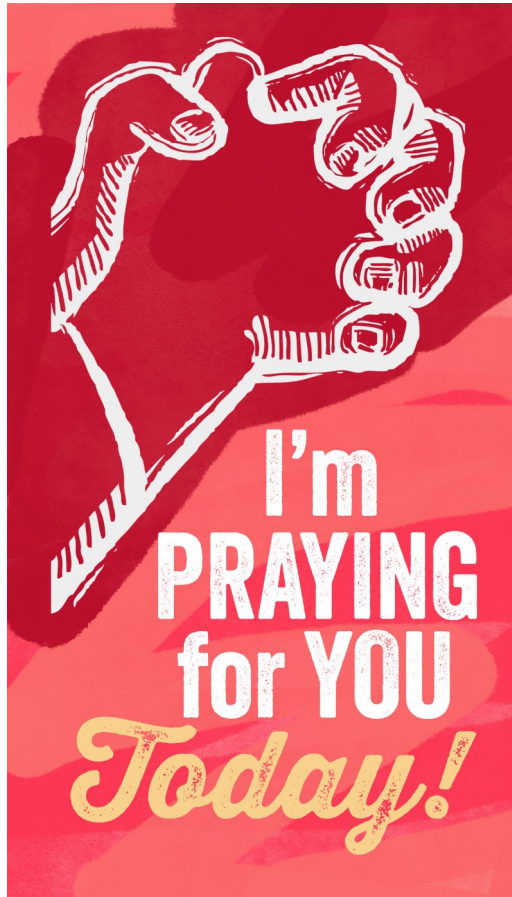
Parents are Zachary and Kristi Henning. Proud Grandparents are Kerry and Barb Henning!

## ***Families who have lost loved ones:***

Courtney Krebsbach



## ***Those struggling with health issues:***



Neal (Louie's Brother)

Mary Beth Molitor

Marie Rietbrock

Brenda Voland

Heidi Konen

Gary Steinhardt

Sandra Tesch

Bob Radder

Doreen Schmidt

Tom Lefeber

Helen Henning

Hattie Lucille

Darlene Horneck

Daisy Sippel

Dawson Horneck

Jessica Horneck

Crystal (Friend of Koppenhavers)

Molly (Friend of Koppenhavers)

## **Those unable to worship with us:**

*Merlin & Doris Mae Nimmer*

### **Other concerns:**

Those affected by Hawaiian wildfires

Those affected by gun violence

Those affected by the war in Ukraine

Those affected by violence and oppression in other places of the world

Those affected by wildfires or other natural disasters

### Save your Christmas Lights:

Do you have Christmas lights that no longer work? DON'T THROW THEM OUT! Please bring them to church and place them in the basket under the mailboxes in the fellowship hall.

### Save your Aluminum Cans:

Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans.  
Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.



### Community Outreach and Events:

**Faith in the Fall Music Festival at Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove**

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 10am – 2pm**

*Join us for our annual music festival with live music, food, 50/50 raffle (benefit for Sheboygan County Food Bank), raffle baskets, children's activities, and fellowship.*

*Rain or shine. Please bring lawn chairs.*

**Menu: Pulled Pork and Turkey, Homemade Beans, Mac & Cheese, Potato Salad, and  
Homemade Tortes**

10 ~ Worship Service with Hannah Rose Reyes

11:15 ~ Praiseworthy

12:15 ~ Messengers of the Way Quartet

1:15 ~ Straight Street

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### CROP Walk – Sunday, October 8th

Crop Walk starts and ends at Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove

Registration 12:00-12:30, leaving for walk at 12:30. Walk will go down the streets and through the woods and then streets returning.

Estimated return around 2:00 with a campfire and hotdogs and s'mores to follow. Yard games are encouraged. Bring your own chairs, encouraged hot dog roasters and games

Online donations will go directly to Church World Service, cash and checks will support local pantries.

## Youth Event!! Sunday, Oct 29 - 5p-7pm



Fall fun! Campfire...Pumpkin Games... Food..."Ghost in the Graveyard"  
Hosted by Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 11608 Lax Chapel Rd,  
Kiel

- 
- Wed. Oct 4 - Drive-Thru Chili Supper @ Bethel UCC – 11a-6:30pm
  - Fri. Oct. 6 – Drive-Thru Fish Fry @ Anchor Lanes – 4p-7p Hosted by Community UCC, Elkhart Lake

***\*\* Ham Dinner at St. James UCC (Newton) Sun., Oct. 15 11am-12:30pm CARRY OUTS ONLY. Dinner includes ham, German potato salad, corn, applesauce, coleslaw, dinner roll and pumpkin or apple pie. Cost = \$14 per meal.***

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**The Kiel Area Food Pantry, Inc.**(which provides food to anyone within the Kiel School District Area), has been experiencing the largest needs ever faced in our community. Last year in November they hit 42 households, in the last two months more than 80 households have needed support.

The pantry is ecumenical-- open to everyone. There is a huge need in our community. Each month boxes include cheese donated from Hennings and Sargento, butter donated by Pine River Dairy --- the pantry then purchases meat to add to the box. The months that normally see the most need are October, November and December.

The pantry has served an all-time high of 80+ households. If anyone does not want to do shopping, or would like to help donate money towards meat, cash donations are also welcome.

### **Kiel Area Community Food Pantry most needed items:**

#### **Food:**

1. Boxed Cereal (Adult or Children)
2. Canned Fruits /Applesauce
3. Hearty Soups (Chunky/Progresso)
4. Jam/Jelly/Peanut Butter
5. Pasta Sauce
6. Boxed Rice
7. Hamburger Helper
- 8 Baked Pork and Beans
9. Instant Potatoes
10. Knorr Side Dishes
- 11 Stuffing/Yams/Pie Filling/Cranberries

#### **Other Personal Care Items:**

1. Kleenex
2. Toilet Paper
3. Toothpaste
4. Bar Soap
5. Shampoo/conditioner



They currently have adequate supplies of Vegetables and Pasta



**OCTOBER VINNIE'S PANTRY ITEMS -**  
**Please bring Cleaning Supplies**



**OCTOBER Jingle Change supports: Neighbors in Need**

## OCTOBER 2023 – BETHLEHEM EVENTS

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                           | TUESDAY                             | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>8am Sunday School<br>8:30am Book Study<br><b>9:30am Communion</b><br><b>Service w/Pastor Randy</b><br>Short Consistory mtg after worship            | <b>2</b><br><b>Loads of Love</b> | <b>3</b>                            | <b>4</b><br><b>6pm Confirmation</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>8am Sunday School<br><b>9:30am MISSION FEST -Shortened worship,</b><br><b>Mission/Community Outreach Activities &amp; Lunch</b><br><b>CROP WALK</b> | <b>9</b>                         | <b>10</b><br>6:30pm Consistory mtg. | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>8am Sunday School<br>8:30am Bethlehem Ladies mtg.<br><b>9:30am Worship</b>   | <b>16</b>                        | <b>17</b>                           | <b>18</b><br><b>November Spirit articles due to Traci by 5pm</b><br><b>6pm Confirmation</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br>8am Sunday School<br><b>9:30am Worship w/Pastor Randy</b>  | <b>23</b>                        | <b>24</b>                           | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b><br>8am Sunday School<br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>5-7pm Youth Event at Bethlehem   | <b>30</b>                        | <b>31</b>                           |   |           |           |           |



A graphic with an orange background. On the left, there are three pumpkins: one orange, one white with orange outlines, and one orange. To the right of the pumpkins, the word "OCTOBER" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below "OCTOBER", the words "Birthdays & Anniversaries" are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

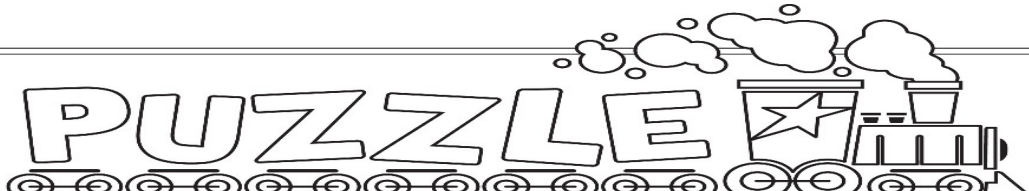
### **Birthdays:**

*October 4 – Kerry Henning*  
*October 12 – Abby Wilharms*  
*October 14 – Rick Rabe*  
*October 16 – Lisa Westphalen*  
*October 17 – Cameron Wempner*  
*October 20 – Harold Shaver*  
*October 27 – Aliyah Arnold*  
*October 27 – Tyson Arnold*  
*October 27 – Steve Deignan*  
*October 29 – Hudson Hoban*  
*October 31 – Laura Mueller*

### **Anniversaries:**

*October 9–Lloyd & Darlean Rumpff (1954)*  
*October 15–Mark & Brenda Riesterer(2005)*  
*October 16–Tom & Marie Mueller (1992)*  
*October 16–Daniel & McKenna Rugowski (2021)*  
*October 24–Randy & Melissa Kopenhagen (1998)*  
*October 25 – Bob & Kaye Radder (1975)*  
*October 29 – Tony & Sandy Tesch (2006)*


## Just for Fun:



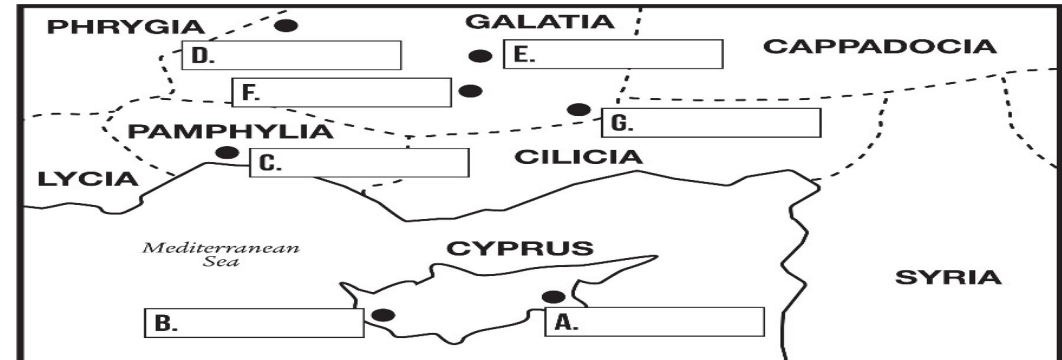
# PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

**Directions:** From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.



|                   |              |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| A. <b>SALAMIS</b> | (ACTS 13:5)  | E. <b>ICONIUM</b> | (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. <b>PAPHOS</b>  | (ACTS 13:6)  | F. <b>LYSTRA</b>  | (ACTS 14:6)  |
| C. <b>PERGA</b>   | (ACTS 13:13) | G. <b>DERBE</b>   | (ACTS 14:6)  |
| D. <b>ANTIOCH</b> | (ACTS 13:14) |                   |              |



Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe


?? ?

## Bible Quiz

? ??

Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to \_\_\_\_ the world, but to \_\_\_\_ the world." Fill in the blanks.

- A. judge; save
- B. hate; love
- C. condemn; teach
- D. disrupt; conform to



Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)





And the peace of God,  
which surpasses  
all understanding,  
will guard your hearts  
and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.

❧ Philippians 4:7, ESV ❧