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# Grace and Truth

Grace Lutheran Church - Fremont, Ohio  
June 2020

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## A Time to



# Celebrate



As the church remains shut down,  
we will still recognize and celebrate the  
milestones of our youth! This is a time  
of celebration for our Confirmands and  
our High School and College Graduates!

Congratulations!  
We rejoice and celebrate with you!

# UPDATE ON REOPENING

How do you acquire your information? What is the source of your news? Who informs your point-of-view? It makes quite a difference, doesn't it? Because the decisions we make are generally based upon the information we receive. Good decisions are the result of good data and solid information. Agreed?

So, in terms of our congregational decision on when and how to reopen, where will we receive our information: Who do we listen to? We listen to our elected leaders within and beyond the church. They are charged with the care of our community. They have access to the most up-to-date data.

Here at Grace we have formed a Re-Opening Task Force to help lead us in all these decisions. We are looking at the "How" more than the "When". Every aspect of our service needs to be scrutinized in order to keep people safe.

I think we are still weeks away from opening up our facility for worship and work in the usual way. Our team will listen carefully to our elected officials as we try to make the safest and wisest decisions possible. Believe me, keeping you safe is at the forefront of our minds.

Meanwhile, watch for continuing opportunities for worship, study and prayer. Maureen, Pastor Jody and the leaders of our church are carefully working through what our future worship like together might look like so that congregation members and staff remain healthy and safe.

*Blessings and peace to you,  
Pastor Jody*

## Status of Activities at Grace Lutheran...

We are amazed at the participation levels each week and particularly enjoy the fun messages you've shared about the online services. We'll keep you posted on in-person worship opportunities as COVID-19 cases in our community level out or decrease per the advice of medical experts and leaders in our state. Our Reopening Task Force has met and is putting plans in place for the how and why to reopen. At this point we have not discussed the "when". In the meantime, what can you expect?

- **Worship Together:** For now, we'll continue to worship together virtually at 9am on Facebook and through our webpage. Although we miss seeing your smiling faces, we know worshipping in your pajamas with a cup of steaming coffee in your hand can be pretty special!
- **Pray Together:** Tune into our Monday through Friday Morning Devotion with Moe! See page 3 for complete details.
- **Study Together:** A Men's Group is also forming. Watch for further details.
- **Grow Together:** Information about the online youth and parent groups are on page 3.
- **Fellowship Together:** Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for an hour of fellowship after the sermon! Connect online via Zoom and chat with other members you haven't seen in a while! More details on page 3.

# AVAILABLE ONLINE



**WEEKDAY MORNINGS at 8:00 a.m. Morning Devotion with Moe** - via Facebook Live. You can find Maureen on Facebook at Maureen McClure Pump.

**TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS 9:30 p.m. Evening Compline** (*prayer to close the day*) - via Facebook Live with Pastor Matt Wheeler on the St. John's Fremont Facebook page.

**WEDNESDAY 6:30 p.m. Bible Study on the Apostle's Creed** - via Facebook Live on the Hayes Memorial Facebook page.

**WEDNESDAY 7:11 p.m. Devotion with Pr. Jody** via Facebook Live on the Fremont Grace Lutheran Facebook page.

**THURSDAY 1:00 p.m. - Women of the Bible Study** via Zoom Conference Call led by Maureen Pump. *For details on how to connect with Zoom for this Bible study, contact Maureen at [maureenpump@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenpump@yahoo.com)*

**FRIDAY 4:00 p.m. - Teen Check in with Heather Hawn on Zoom** - Life is hard and often full of changes. Join Heather and other teens for a time to unwind with friends (youth grades 6-12). *Email [HeatherRHawn@gmail.com](mailto:HeatherRHawn@gmail.com) for a link to the meeting.*

**SUNDAYS at Noon & WEDNESDAYS at 7:30 p.m. Youth Virtual Hangout** via Zoom Conference Call (<https://zoom.us/j/671080858>) led by Tricia McElfresh. If you have trouble joining the call send Tricia a message at 419-603-9477.

**SUNDAY 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. - Grace Zoom Fellowship** - Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for an hour of fellowship after the sermon! Connect online via Zoom and chat with other members you haven't seen in a while! The Zoom link information will be shared in our weekly news blast - **Just 3 Things** (If you are not on the *Just 3 Things* mailing list, e-mail your contact information to Linda at [gracefremont@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefremont@yahoo.com))

**SUNDAYS 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. - PARENT'S POWER HOUR** - Connect with other parents as we all adjust to a new normal. To join email [HeatherRHawn@gmail.com](mailto:HeatherRHawn@gmail.com) for a link to join.

For Online Bible Study with interactive posts and Facebook Live moments throughout the week, connect through the LIFT Fremont Facebook page.

**Grace Lutheran worship is posted weekly  
online at [www.gracefremont.org](http://www.gracefremont.org)**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### General Fund

As of APRIL 2020

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
Year to date receipts:	153,848	161,857	140,647
Year to date expenses:	<u>172,489</u>	<u>187,168</u>	<u>165,692</u>
Receipts less expenses:	(18,641)	(25,311)	(25,045)

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Morris  
Financial Assistant

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes May 11, 2020

- Council meeting was held via Zoom
- Online worship and fellowship opportunities are filling the gap while we remain closed.
- Congregants continue to give generously.
- Graduates will be recognized May 24 during online service
- Confirmation will be conducted in a similar way (three confirmands)
- Re-opening Task Force is in place; members are contributing to development of a plan
- Phone calls, contacts, and mask-making productivity is all happening.
- Prayer Request button is activated on the web page and is checked daily
- On-line giving button on the web page is active
- Data analytics are being collected to track the number of individuals that log in to our online services and our Sunday radio broadcasts
- At present, only outdoor funerals (graveside) are being conducted to comply with social distancing directives
- Livestream capabilities are being researched
- A Sunday evening "Parents Power Hour" is hosted by Heather Hawn
- Capital Campaign remains on hold
- New LIFT Pastor Call Process - transition team has held initial planning meeting

For many years now the pine tree in our courtyard has continued to grow! By now, as most of you know, it is very tall! The Church Council has decided it is time to remove the tree. We want to protect our building from any future damage if the tree falls down. This will also enable us to utilize the space more effectively and frequently. Sometime over the next few months, you will see the tree come down, and for now, we will fill the space with grass.





### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Travis Bowlus** - Fremont Ross High School - University of Cincinnati  
majoring in Materials Science and Engineering

**Levi Cooper** - Clyde High School - Lineman Apprenticeship

**Brianna Fraley** - Fremont Ross High School - The University of Toledo  
majoring in Marketing and Finance

**Ben Gedeon** - Fremont Ross High School - Bowling Green State University  
majoring in Pre-Med

**Jordan Star** - Fremont Ross High School - Full Sail University, Florida - Majoring in Gaming

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### COLLEGE GRADUATES

**Walker Cooper** - University of Mount Union, Marketing - Sports Business with Honors

**Morgan Durell** - Ashland University - Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Honors

**Meghan Moses** - Rutgers University - Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science in Biology Pre-Med

**Emily Muffler** - The Ohio State University - Summa Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**Morgan Waggoner** - University of Akron - Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science in Biology

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### CONFIRMANDS

Virginia Dabrunz, Blake Bender, Cole Bender and Brandon Carnicom (Trinity)

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The following youth have been each awarded a \$250 scholarship from the Grace Lutheran Church General Scholarship Fund. These funds will be used towards their 2020/2021 academic year!



Good Luck and Best Wishes!

*Brianna Fraley - The University of Toledo*

*Cydne Jess - The Ohio State University*

*Karina Seem - Youngstown State University*



# Sharing God's Bounty

June

## Summer Stewardship

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing..." Hebrews 10:25*

**T**he old song goes "Summer time and livin' is easy." Warm weather, vacations, no school, golf, tennis, fishing, hiking, swimming, relaxing, less hectic schedules ... all seem to define summer time.

Thankfully our Lord never takes a vacation from blessing us with his abundant love, gracious gifts, and providential care. The Psalmist writes about our heavenly Father, *"He who watches over Israel will neither slumber or sleep. The Lord watches over you ... the Lord is your shade at your right hand."* (Psalm 121:4-5). The Lord's care is ongoing. God never tires of caring for us.

Summer presents God's people with numerous opportunities to be good stewards of his manifold gifts. We care for the wonderful world God has given us when we are outdoors. We treasure the important relationships we enjoy as we spend time with loved ones. Also, we use wisely the material blessings he gives us.

There is great temptation during the summer months to neglect the most precious of all our Lord's gifts, His holy Word and Sacraments offered in worship. As many other responsibilities are taken more lightly in the relaxed atmosphere of summer living, so, too, are we tempted to take lightly the spiritual aspect of our lives. Vacation plans and recreational activities often replace worship. And we diminish in the stewardship of our Christian faith by letting worldly things take precedence over God in our lives.

In response to our Lord for his grace and mercy, may we place him first in all our summer plans and activities, allowing adequate time for worship, Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. May we be good stewards of God's rich blessings. May we all continue to support the mission and ministries of our church with our regular tithes and offerings given from thankful hearts, even when we are away from home.



*With his thumb, a hitch-hiker says: "You furnish the gas, car, repairs, upkeep, and insurance; and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, I'll sue you for damages!"*

*Sounds pretty one-sided, but one wonders how many hitch-hikers there are in churches and organizations. Many seem to say: "You go to the meetings, serve on boards and committees, and take care of the things that need doing and I'll go along for the ride! If things don't happen to suit my fancy I will complain, criticize, and probably get out and hitch-hike with another group."*

*Here is a short excerpt from the most recent newsletter written by Pr. David Brondos. If you would like to read this newsletter in its entirety, please visit <http://dbrondos.mx>.*

## **BRONDOS MISSIONARY NEWS**

**MARCH/APRIL 2020**

April 30, 2020

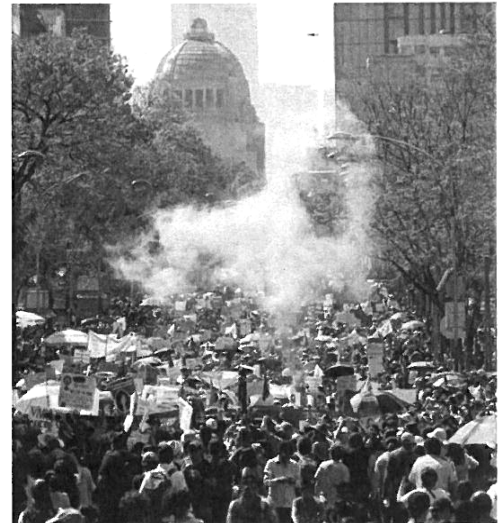
Mexico City, Mexico

**Dear friends in Christ,**

As you can imagine, this is a very difficult newsletter to write, though thankfully not because we are going through any kind of health or personal difficulties. Rather, other than being content that our work in Mexico is able to carry on and that all the people we know and work with here are well, there is not a lot of good news to share. But we rejoice in the countless blessings we continue to enjoy even in these times and we pray that all is as well as can be with you.

Many of you have written asking how we are, and I can't tell you how much we appreciate your kind notes. It's wonderful to have so many people thinking about us and praying for us, as we are for you. In this newsletter, instead of sharing news items, I thought I'd let you know how things have gone the last couple of months, what the situation is like right now in Mexico, and what we are anticipating that the future may hold in Mexico and similar places. I'm also including some links from New York Times articles that you can click on if you are interested in knowing more.

While by early March there was already much uncertainty as to what might happen here in Mexico, things still continued much as normal. As usual, International Women's Day was celebrated here on March 8 with marches in the street and other events, but they mostly took the form of a protest against the violence and exploitation of women in Mexico. This problem has been getting more attention in recent years since things have been getting worse rather than improving, especially the killing of women, which in Mexico has come to be called "feminicidio" in Spanish (see [HERE](#)). A national poll found that, among women over the age of 15, 66% have experienced some type of aggression, including physical (34%), emotional (49%), economic (29%), and sexual (41.3%). In the days leading up to March 8, there were two especially grisly murders, including the rape and murder of a seven-year old girl, that heightened the tension and awareness even more (see [HERE](#)). Hundreds of thousands of women marched throughout the country, including over 80,000 in Mexico City alone.



On Monday, March 9 the protest continued as women throughout the country went on a one-day strike called "One Day Without Women." It affected virtually all of the businesses, schools, offices, and other workplaces. Even many of the women who work at home took the day off. It was the first time that this had been done in Mexico, and as you can imagine, it had a huge impact (see [HERE](#)).

The following Saturday, the Mexican government announced that because of the COVID-19 virus, schools would be closing as of March 20, and businesses and offices began closing around that time as well. Since then non-essential businesses have been closed and most of the country is in lockdown.





# THANK YOU NOTES



Our sincere thanks to Pastor Jody and Jeff Rice for their many acts of kindness and to the many friends of the congregation who sent beautiful cards offering words of hope and comfort.

The family of Dean Dorr

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BUSY CARING FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CONGREGATION:

During the time we have been following the “stay at home” order many have been busy taking care of the congregation. Below are some of the people working hard to make sure we stay connected and cared for:

**THE PHONE CALLERS:** Each of these people are calling at least 10 people each week to make sure everyone is healthy and to see if anyone needs anything. Julie Aldrich, Connie Amor, Paul Antesberger, Ruth Auxter, Linda Baumer, Janet Bowles, Kathy Burmeister, Tom Curry, Annette Fisher, Jan Harris, Heather Hawn, Jody Jess, Peggy Kiser, Janice Longabach, Mary Nossaman, Judy Overmyer, Maureen Pump, Pastor Jody Rice, Peggy Rutherford, Cindy Scranton, Christine Schneider Smith and Sara Tanner.

**MASK MAKER TEAM:** When we return to worshipping together we will all be asked to wear a mask. We encourage everyone to come with a mask at that time, but we will have some available in case you forget yours! Thank you to all the people who have worked in a variety of ways to help make these masks: Connie Amor, Laura Bauman, Betty Behlmer, Jenny Billings, Cindy Durell, Robin Gowitzka, Jan Harris, Michele Hollister, Shantel Laird, Janice Longabach, Mary Nossaman, Becky Prasuhn, Peggy Rutherford, Becky Seibert, Cornelia Starr, and Vicki Zartman.

**SHOPPERS:** We have also been blessed with a team of people who have volunteered to pick up a few items from the store for those who feel they should not go for themselves. This need has not been as great as we first thought it might be because most people have someone who will shop for them but a few of the shoppers have blessed to help: Sarah Auen, Pat Crispen, Tricia Dabrunz, Cindy Durell, Mindy Gedeon, Jan Luse, Peggy Kiser, Ginny McAfee, Beth Muffler, Carol Slemmer, Kassi Stotz, Jodi Welton and Cindy Zilles.

## LIFT DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH SNAPSHOT - June 2020

The **LIFT Mercy Fund** is now fully operational. This fund exists to respond to the financial needs of our neighbors who are impacted directly or indirectly by the COVID-19 pandemic. The LIFT Ministry Coordinator, Sarah Sarty, shepherds the process for applicants. Applications are available on our website [www.liftchurches.org/mercyfund](http://www.liftchurches.org/mercyfund) If you are aware of someone in need, we invite you to utilize the Mercy Fund Angel Form. Angels remain anonymous and allow for us to reach out to your neighbors, co-workers, friends or family who have a need during these uncertain days. For those who are able to make a financial contribution to the fund, please make checks payable to LIFT Parish, LLC and mail to 705 W State St, Fremont, OH 43420. Indicate “Mercy Fund” on the memo line to ensure that your generosity is faithfully stewarded towards supporting the needs of those impacted by the pandemic.

With you on the journey,  
*Pam K.*

**BRIDGE OF HOPE** will operate with modified hours in May & June. For the safety of our staff, volunteers, and patrons, the Bridge of Hope food pantry will be operating on a reduced schedule for the remainder of May and all of June. Please note that we will only be offering curbside pick up during these hours, so please remain in your vehicle and pull up to the glass double doors.

Tuesday, May 26: 10 am - 12 pm & Wednesday, May 27: 5 - 6:30pm

Tuesday, June 9: 10 am - 12pm & Wednesday, June 10: 5 - 6:30pm

Tuesday, June 23: 10 am - 12pm & Wednesday, June 24: 5 - 6:30pm

Our hope is to return to weekly openings in July and begin including volunteers in serving at the pantry. If you would like to donate items to the pantry, we invite you to drop those off during the above hours or contact us via e-mail ([liftparishllc@gmail.com](mailto:liftparishllc@gmail.com)) or phone/text 419-463-2683. Current needs are for breakfast items, fruit (canned or individual packages), protein (peanut butter or canned meat), and pasta and sauce.



# **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating 75 years and more!*

June 1	June Valent	600 N. Brush St., Rm. 205
June 5	Norbert Mayer	600 Quail Creek Dr., Clyde 43410
June 6	Charles Mowry	533 Third Ave.
June 14	Larry Burmeister	234 Co. Rd. 32, Gibsonburg 43431
June 15	Richard Bauer	225 Race St., Clyde 43410
June 23	Marjorie Tanvas	1545 Fangboner Rd, Rm. 112
June 25	Larry Overmyer	541 Elizabeth St.
June 27	Larry Beck	19 Fox Run Dr.
June 27	Susan Streeter	2022 Roselawn Dr.
June 29	Richard Schepflin	78 Lisa Ann Dr.
June 30	Lillian Zilles	1232 Clinton St.



**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17.**

*The newsletter will be assembled  
on Thursday, June 25.*

## **New Babies**

**April 9 - Zander Michael Cooper**, son of  
Sara Gowitzka and Dylan Cooper

**May 6 - Elijah Allen Jess**, son of  
Austin & Jenna Jess

**FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE:** for the  
month of June, we will collect potato flakes and  
noodles. **While the church office is closed,**  
**please take your items directly to the Food**  
**Pantry located in the Share & Care building.**  
**Food Pantry hours are M - F, 12noon to**  
**2:30pm.**

*Happy Anniversary*

*To those couples celebrating 50 or  
more years of wedded bliss!*

**June 3, 1967 - Bill & Tanya Schling**

**June 15, 1963 - Ken & Barb Klohn**

**June 15, 1957 - Daryl & Betty Jo Sherman**

**June 19, 1954 - Eugene & Dorothy**  
*Dierksheide*

**June 21, 1969 - Judith & David Reed**

**June 23, 1962 - Gary & Mary Nossaman**

**June 25, 1960 - Ed & Sharon Mitchell**

**June 28, 1959 - William & Clara Bowlus**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Jody Rice, Senior Pastor

[jjrice2002@yahoo.com](mailto:jjrice2002@yahoo.com)

Maureen Pump, Lay Associate Minister

[maureenpump@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenpump@yahoo.com)

Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator

[gracefremont@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefremont@yahoo.com)

Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist

[dabrunztricia@yahoo.com](mailto:dabrunztricia@yahoo.com)

Heather Hawn, Youth Minister ~ Middle/High School

[heatherrhawn@gmail.com](mailto:heatherrhawn@gmail.com)

Tricia McElfresh, Director, Noah's Ark Preschool

[noahs\\_ark\\_fremont@yahoo.com](mailto:noahs_ark_fremont@yahoo.com)

Tom Curry, Director of Music,

[musicatgracelutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:musicatgracelutheran@yahoo.com)

## Worship Services and Sunday School

Until further notice, the following remains in effect due to the Covid-19 health emergency:

- All worship services are cancelled
- The Sanctuary is closed
- The Church Office is closed



## Grace Lutheran Church

705 West State Street

Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th

9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m., F

Phone: 419-332-1558

E-mail: [gracefremont@yahoo.com](mailto:gracefremont@yahoo.com)

Web page: [www.gracefremont.org](http://www.gracefremont.org)

Non-Profit

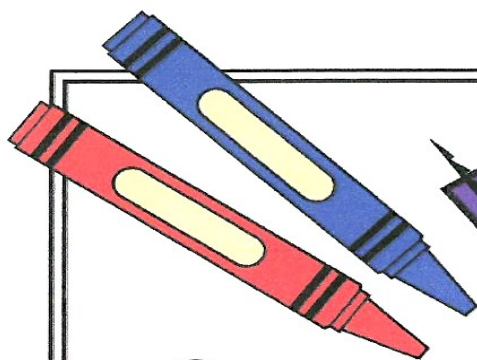
Paid

Fremont, OH

Permit #133

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
2020	1 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe	2 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  9:30 Evening Compline	3 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  6:30 Bible Study on Apostle's Creed  7:11 Devotion via Facebook Live  7:30 Youth Virtual Hangout	4 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  1:00 Bible Study with Maureen Pump	5 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  4:00 Teen Check-In with Heather  9:30 Evening Compline	6  Worship available via Grace website	
	7 9:00 Worship via Facebook 9:30 Grace Zoom Fellowship Noon Youth Virtual Hangout 8:30 - Parents Power Hour with Heather	8 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe	9 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  9:30 Evening Compline	10 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  6:30 Bible Study on Apostle's Creed  7:11 Devotion via Facebook Live  7:30 Youth Virtual Hangout	11 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  1:00 Bible Study with Maureen Pump	12 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  4:00 Teen Check-In with Heather  9:30 Evening Compline	13  Worship available via Grace website
	14 9:00 Worship via Facebook 9:30 Grace Zoom Fellowship Noon Youth Virtual Hangout 8:30 - Parents Power Hour with Heather	15 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe	16 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  9:30 Evening Compline	17 G & T DEADLINE 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  6:30 Bible Study on Apostle's Creed  7:11 Devotion via Facebook Live  7:30 Youth Virtual Hangout	18 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  1:00 Bible Study with Maureen Pump	19 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  4:00 Teen Check-In with Heather  9:30 Evening Compline	20  Worship available via Grace website
	21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE (potato flakes & noodles) 9:00 Worship via Facebook 9:30 Grace Zoom Fellowship Noon Youth Virtual Hangout 8:30 - Parents Power Hour with Heather	22 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe	23 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  9:30 Evening Compline	24 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  6:30 Bible Study on Apostle's Creed  7:11 Devotion via Facebook Live  7:30 Youth Virtual Hangout	25 G & T ASSEMBLED 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  1:00 Bible Study with Maureen Pump	26 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  4:00 Teen Check-In with Heather  9:30 Evening Compline	27  Worship available via Grace website
	28 9:00 Worship via Facebook 9:30 Grace Zoom Fellowship Noon Youth Virtual Hangout 8:30 - Parents Power Hour with Heather	29 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe	30 8:00 Morning Devotion with Moe  9:30 Evening Compline				<div>PLEASE NOTE: For complete details about all of our online meetings and worship services see page 3 of your newsletter.</div>










# PUZZLE

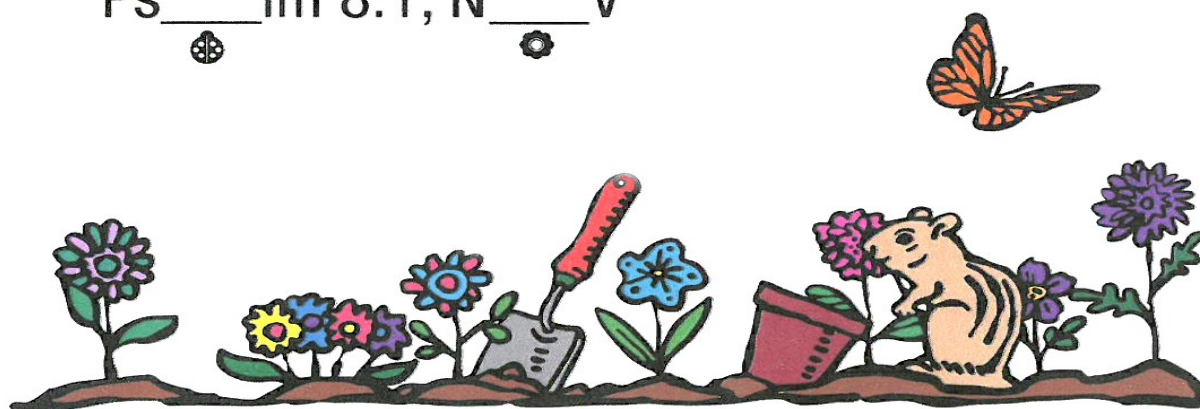
## Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

*Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.*

A =  E =  I =  O =  U = 

"L\_\_RD, \_\_r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
 m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c \_\_s y\_\_r  
 n\_\_m\_\_n \_\_ll th\_\_  
 \_\_rth!"  
 Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, our majestic is your name in all the earth!"  
 Psalm 8:1, NIV