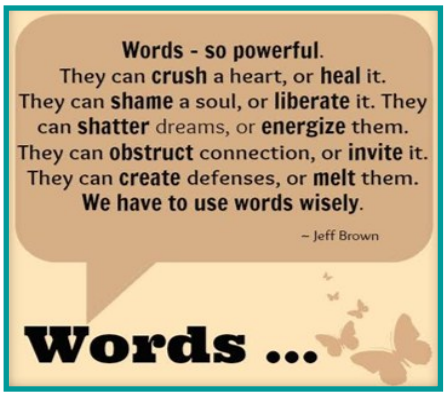
New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

Dear friends,



A Word from Your Pastor

I have been ruminating for a while about the **POWER OF WORDS**. And so, I invite you to ruminate with me, so I share this fable with you. It is entitled, ***Feathers in the Wind***.

A man went to his rabbi with a question. "Rabbi," he said, "I understand almost all of the law. I understand the commandment *not* to kill. I understand the commandment *not* to steal. What I don't understand is *why* there is a commandment against slandering our neighbor."

The rabbi looked at the man and said, "I will give you an answer, but first I have a task for you. I would like you to gather a sack of feathers and place a single feather on the doorstep of each house in the village. When you have finished, return for your answer."

The man did as he was told and soon returned to the rabbi to announce that the task was complete. "Now, Rabbi, give me the answer to my question. Why is it wrong to slander my neighbor?"

"Ah," the rabbi said. "One more thing. I want you to go back and collect all the feathers before I give you the answer." "But Rabbi," the man protested, "the feathers will be impossible to collect. The wind will have blown them all away."

"So it is with the lies we tell about our neighbors," the rabbi said. "They can never be retrieved. They are like feathers in the wind." Scripture says this about slander:

Proverbs 20: 19 - *"A gossip reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a babbler."*

Luke 6: 31 - *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

Think about the effect of gossip as if it disseminates like the feather in the picture. What a horrible and powerful trajectory it can have.

~continued~

Be The Reason Someone Smiles Today

2026

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1
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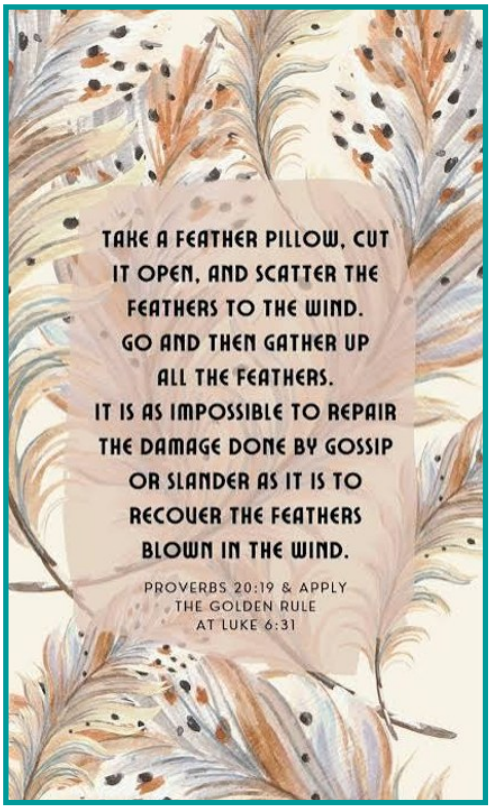
A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)



Of course, words can be either positive or negative but I want to encourage all of us to focus on the ***positive*** words and actions we can contribute to our world. Just think about what happens when you gossip or tell a negative story about someone else. Once you talk about someone, the words fly from one person's mouth to another, just like feathers fly through the wind. Once you say them, you can never take them back. So, we really need to be prudent about what we say about others.

Have you ever tried to ***blow*** a feather, wanting it to go in a particular direction? How successful were you? It's as if feathers, or malicious thoughts and words, have a mind of their own.

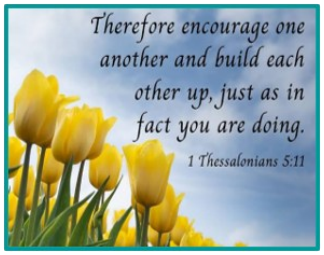
Can you remember when you were a child, either saying or hearing the phrase, ""Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!" It is a classic English idiom used to teach emotional resilience. It encourages individuals to brush off verbal insults, name-calling, or bullying by asserting that only physical attacks can cause true harm. It was first documented as early as 1872 in Mrs. George Cupples' book *Tappy's Chicks: and Other Links Between Nature and Human Nature*, where it appeared as a bit of sound advice.

While this saying is intended to encourage thick skin, modern psychology and cultural consensus largely disagree with its literal meaning. Many argue that it is invalidating because verbal abuse, insults, and harsh words can cause deep, lasting psychological and emotional wounds that far outlast a physical bruise. So, as disciples of Christ, trying to treat ALL people with love and respect, we need to be very careful about NOT ONLY our actions, but our words as well. I dare say that most of us have probably been hurt a lot more by words that by physical harm.

The purpose of this rhyming saying is 3-fold: **DEFLECTION** (To be used by children on playgrounds as a quick defense mechanism against name-calling); **STOICISM** (Intended to help victims remain calm and avoid reacting with physical violence); and **CONTROL** (Focuses on the idea that you can choose to ignore external insults).

But this saying is flawed for at least 3 reasons: **MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT** (Harsh criticism and verbal attacks can ruin self-esteem, fuel anxiety, and linger in a person's mind for years); **INVALIDATION** (Telling someone "it's just words" often minimizes real emotional pain and discourages people from seeking help); and **BRAIN DEVELOPMENT** (Constant verbal abuse alters how children process stress and build self-worth).

So, we need to focus on how to **BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE**, as I Thessalonians 5: 11 says. So, friends, let's give it our best effort and God will surely be pleased with us.



Your partner in ministry,

Carol

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion & ODB offering	3 Deacons' Mtg @ 10 am	4	5	6	7 Our Daily Bread	8
9 Trustee mtg @ 11:30	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Session mtg @ 10:00	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26 Lunch at the Chesapeake Inn @ 12:30	27	28	29

PLEASE NOTE *TIME & DATE* : DEACONS NOW MEET ON THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM; TRUSTEES CONTINUE ON THE 2ND SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP; SESSION NOW MEETS ON THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE 3RD SUNDAY AT 1 PM

EVERY SUNDAY - WORSHIP AT 10 AM FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP.
CHRISTIAN ED - CHECK OUT THE ARTICLE ON THE CE PAGE FOR AN UPDATE.

8/2 10th Sunday after Pentecost
The Lord's Supper & ODB Offering
Birthday - Jason Easter
8/3 Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am
8/7 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
8/9 11th Sunday after Pentecost
8/12 Birthday - Earlene Kelter
8/14 Birthday - Ken Hudson
8/15 Birthday - Bill Shields
Anniversary - Jim & Katheryn Driscoll
8/16 12th Sunday after Pentecost
8/17 Birthday - Carol Fisher
8/23 Birthday - Jay Fisher
8/23 11th Sunday after Pentecost
8/27 Birthday - Betty Lou Schafer
8/30 14th Sunday after Pentecost;
Deacon's Offering

Clerk & Nominating Com. Reports

CLERK'S REPORT:

Stated Session Meeting was held on July 22, 2026 .
Approved the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 24, 2026
Approved the final version of the Funeral/Memorial Serv. Guide.

Next Stated Session meeting will be August 19, 2026

New Castle Presbytery Meetings:

Sep 19th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg (Princess Anne, MD) Barbara B & Carol; Dec 1st (Tues) Zoom only Jane Adams & Carol

Financial Statements:

At the end of June, our YTD Income/Revenue = $86,885 and our YTD Expenses=$62,706. The revenue over expenses =$24,179. So as of the end of June, we are still in the black by $24,179. As the year progresses this may change as some submit their entire annual pledge at the beginning of the year. Also looking at the month of June, we took in more revenue than we spent that month.

Carol's Sabbatical Leave is scheduled for January 2027. Presbytery gave us a grant of $1000 to be used for Pulpit supply during her sabbatical.

Membership 41; With the passing of Alice Megonigal, our membership is now at 41. Email Addresses:

Clerk: clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com; Office: newcov.office2@gmail.com; Treasurer: treasurernewcov@gmail.com; Pastor: pastornewcov@gmail.com

Yours in Christ,

Pat Wright, Clerk

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Our committee had a challenging task this year as we sought to fill vacancies in our 3 boards for next year. We discussed this issue at a recent session meeting and we have a new plan for our small congregation. In 2026, on the Session, we have 5 of the six positions filled, and all of those individuals plan on continuing their service.

As for the Board of Deacons, we are recommending a **change from being a board to a ministry.** In 2026, we had 5 of the 6 positions filled which meant we were already short, and then Kathy Henry died, so we were down to 4 people. With Skip rotating off next year, that would leave 3 people. Session is recommending shifting to a **Ministry of Deacons** with 3 people who meet as needed to ensure the care of our congregation and to plan fellowship events. We will be having a Congregational Meeting on 11/8 following worship for the congregation to approve this change in our By-Laws. We will be having an additional meeting in February of 2027 to finalize this change.

As for the trustees, this year all 3 positions were filled. One is rotating off and needs a break. We are still looking for a new person to fill this position. Prayers would be appreciated. Stay tuned, friends, for more information.

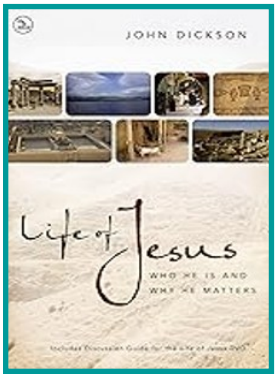
Pam Leeson,

Nominating Committee Chairperson

Chris. Education & Worship Reports

Christian Education Classes

Summer C. E. Class: Cheryl Shields is offering and a study and discussion of the Book of Enoch, chapters 6-36. It will be offered on **SUNDAY MORNINGS - August 9, 16 and 23rd at 8:45 am** in the Fellowship Room. Enoch is an ancient Jewish religious text attributed to Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah. The theme is of Fallen angels (Watchers) who defy divine orders which leads to their punishment and the creation of the Nephilim. This study will help you see Genesis through a new lens. Please let Cheryl know if you are interested so that she can order the book which is $15.



We are looking at possibilities for study in the fall. Since a few of us will be out of town in September, we plan on beginning a new study of *The Life of Jesus, Who He Is and Why He Matters* by John Dickson in October. It has a book with Study Guide questions as well as a dvd. Looks like it will be a good study. For September, Carol is looking at various ideas to fill in until October. There will be a class on Sept.13, 20, and 27th, topic still to be determined. But if you are interested in getting a book for the October series, let me know and we will take care of it. Cost is $14 per book.

Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder

RELAX **SUMMER IS A TIME TO -** RENEW

READ

WORSHIP IN THE SUMMER

Who has musical talent that would be willing to share it with the congregation. Bell Choir does not meet during the summer so we sure would like to hear someone sing or play an instrument to add to our worship services. Please let Carol and Jenny know so that we can get you scheduled.

One other highlight is that we will receive a **Deacons' Special Offering on 8/30** since it is a 5th Sunday when we like to highlight helping others. Thanks for you help!

Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We served 48 meals and prepared an additional 40 meals for the Community Refrigerator on First Friday in June. Again, this year, our "First Friday" was the Independence day holiday and ODB asked if we would serve a meal since they would not be serving one that day. Like last year, we served a lunch of Hod Dogs, potato salad and coleslaw. WE had a great time and were able to "stock" the Community Refrigerator for the evening and some of the weekend. ODB continues to assist us with ingredients for our meal when they have the supplies. The ODB collection continues to support this thanks to the congregation. **Jane Adams** delivered our non-perishable food collection to ODB since Neighborhood House is no longer in operation in Middletown.

Special Offerings: PC(USA) has reduced the number of special offerings this year to 3. The Peace and Global Witness and Pentecost offerings have been combined into the World Communion Offering which will begin around Labor Day (September 6th) and end on World Communion Sunday (October 4th).

Christmas Child Shoeboxes Mission: Christmas in July was a big success! We packed 31 shoeboxes and the Korean Church did 10! We totally ran out of everything except for our stuffies. We will do another packing in early October. Please keep shopping for school supplies, hair accessories, small toys like matchbox cars, yo-yos, t-shirts, balls, etc. Thank you for the great response!

Food Truck Tuesday: Unfortunately the weather prevented us from enjoying *Seafood and Soul* this month.. Shay was unable to reschedule to another day so we will try to catch her cuisine another time. August 18th is our date for this month…*Out of the Ordinary* will return once again 5-7PM. Plan to come out and enjoy Robert's delicious food!

Pat Wright,
Mission Elder

Trustee Report

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and they are normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Worship. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 9 Aug 2026.

There was an approved recommendation to upgrade the Ladies Re-stroom, which is in the progress of being completed.

We are still looking at the issue of increasing the security around our property.

Landscaping and signage to be placed around the main electrical connection in our front yard has been received and will be put in place as time permits.

Our Church sign to be placed on the development property next to us is still a work in progress with New Castle County Land Use Department.

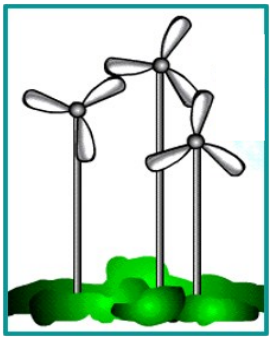
The request for a Farmers Market to use part of our parking lot a few days a week is in the process of getting started. They are scheduled to start on 6 Aug 2026 from 4:00 – 7:30 PM. At the present time they will only be at our location each Thursday but are looking at extending to include Friday's and Saturday's in the future.

If there are any questions or comments you would like to make, please let us know. You can use my e-mail address: al.grimminger@icloud.com

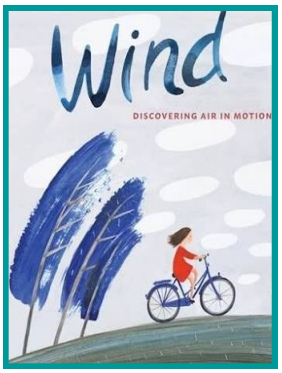
Your Friendly Trustees,
Al Grimminger, Bill Shields, and Bob Megonigal

Stewardship & Finance

- Taken from *Parish Publishing*



As a young child, you may have wondered, "What is the wind?" The answer is simple; the **wind is just air in motion.** But think of all the things that it can do! From powering windmills that grind grain into flour, to the wind in the sails of great ships traveling the seas in the past; to today's wind-powered generators that can provide electricity, to pinwheels spinning on a fence which will (hopefully) keep animals away from the garden, wind has been an important source of power for humanity for centuries.



As an adult, you may have wondered, "What is stewardship?" Well, one answer is that stewardship is just Christians in motion! Think of church members preparing food for the hungry. Think of them visiting shut-ins, or possibly driving them to church or a doctor's appointment. Think of a Sunday school class of teens raking leaves or painting houses for those in need. Think of younger students pouring lemonade they sell to raise money to send overseas to purchase books for a school serving children who never had a chance at an education before. And many of these actions begin with someone writing a check to pay for needed supplies.

Fin. Summary YTD 2026		**Jan.- June**
Operating Revenue		
Revenue		**$86,885.08**
Expenditures		
Building/Property	$7,928.80	
Personnel	$50,218.48	
Other Expenses	$4,559.06	
Net Expenditures		**$62,706.34**
Net Operating Revenue		**$24,178.74**
Other Revenue (aka Special Funds)		
Fund	$1,010.00	
Passthrough	$370.20	
Net Other Revenue		**$1,380.20**
Change to Net Assets (aka Profit/Loss)		**$25,558.94**
Note: Actuals include In-kind Donations & Expense; Net Other Revenue 538 is the change to Fund Bals this yr. Total Fund bal is $59,013.		

We know from the Bible that Jesus Christ controls the wind, because he stilled it (along with the sea) during the storm when he was on a boat with the Apostles. Christians should also let him control our lives. When we do, our stewardship will become even more powerful.

What if, in doing God's will as far as giving is concerned, we find the "windows of heaven" opened and "overflowing blessings" have been showered upon us?

Barbara Bookhart, Elder
Stewardship and Finance

Financial Report from Carol L. McBride, Treasurer

Ministry of Fellowship

JULY

7/12 Ice Cream and a Movie

Good Ice cream and fellowship + a great movie was enjoyed by those who gathered to watch *The Sheep Detectives* with Hugh Jackman as the Shepherd. It featured many sheep who were very upset by their Shepherd being killed, and so they became "detectives" who solved the case. A very delicious and enjoyable evening for all.

AUGUST Lunch at the Chesapeake Inn on 8/26 at 12:30 pm

Come one and all and enjoy a beautiful location with delicious food. Please sign up so that we can ensure everyone will be accommodated.

CHESAPEAKE INN
RESTAURANT & MARINA

Skip Leeson & Cheryl Shields
Deacon Servants

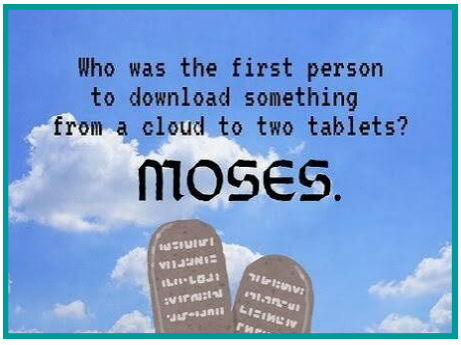
Frog Corner

F.R.O.G. CORNER: *Forever Rely on God*

Don't forget the meaning behind the acronym **R I B B I T :**
Revere, ***I***nvite, ***B***less, ***I***nspire, and ***T***rust in the Lord.

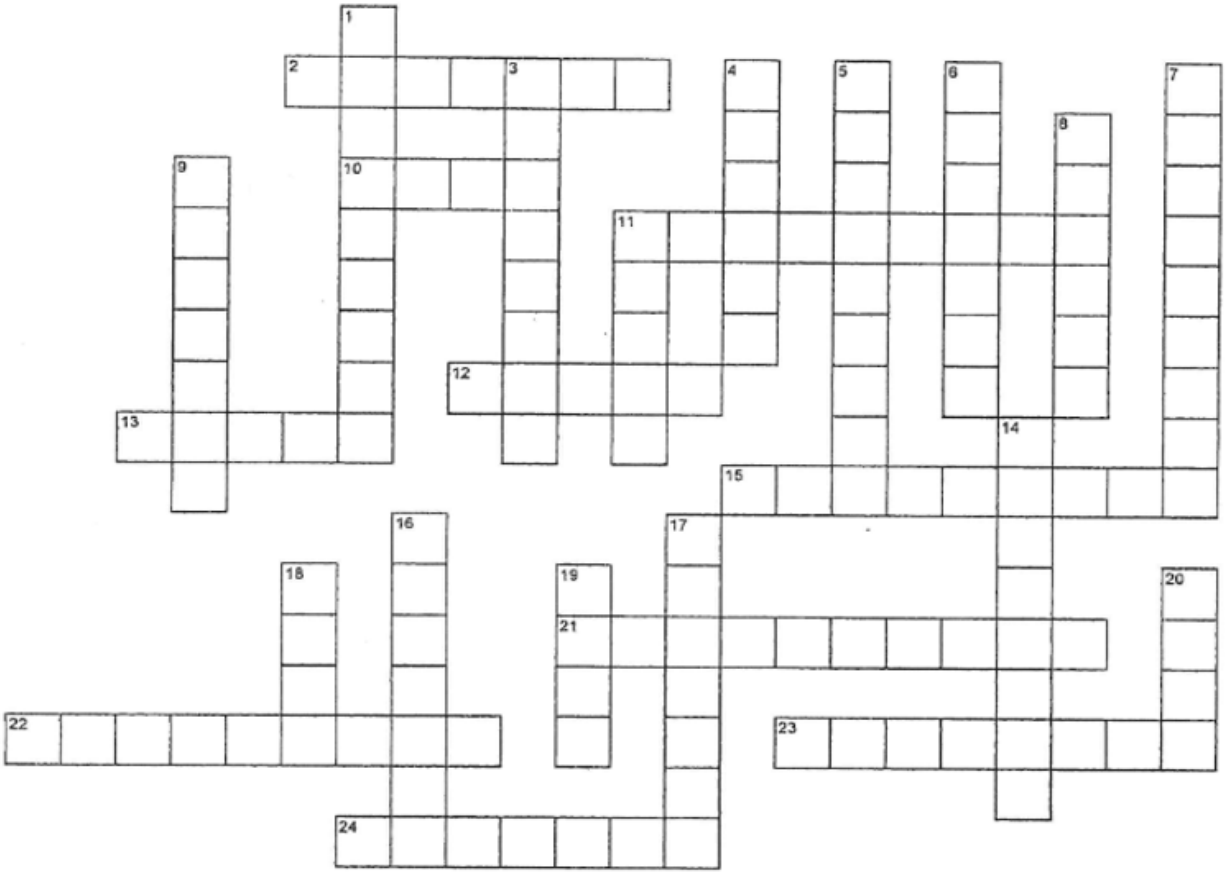
Riddles:

- Adam wakes up and finds Eve counting his ribs and asks, "What are you doing?" Eve says, "I want to make sure there's no other woman in your life."
- Why did Adam insist on naming the spearmint leaf? Because he was Adam-mint.
- How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman? By his net income.
- What is appropriate attire for church? Holy jeans.
- They say you should exercise daily, but I walk with the Lord every day.
- Where is the first baseball game in the Bible? In the big inning. Eve stole first. Adam stole second.
- What did Jesus say to Peter as he was walking on water? "Water you waiting for?"
- Why was Solomon always so quiet? Because he was a solemn-man.
- What did the donkey say to Jesus? Wow you've got the crowd in the palm of your hands this Sunday.
- They say love is patient and love is kind. I don't know if that's true because my 3-year-old says he loves me.
- What's bought by the yard and worn by the foot? A carpet.
- What thrives when you feed it but dies when you water it? A fire.
- What did the beach say when the tide came in? Long time, no sea.
- What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in 1,000 years? The letter "m."



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CITIES OF THE BIBLE

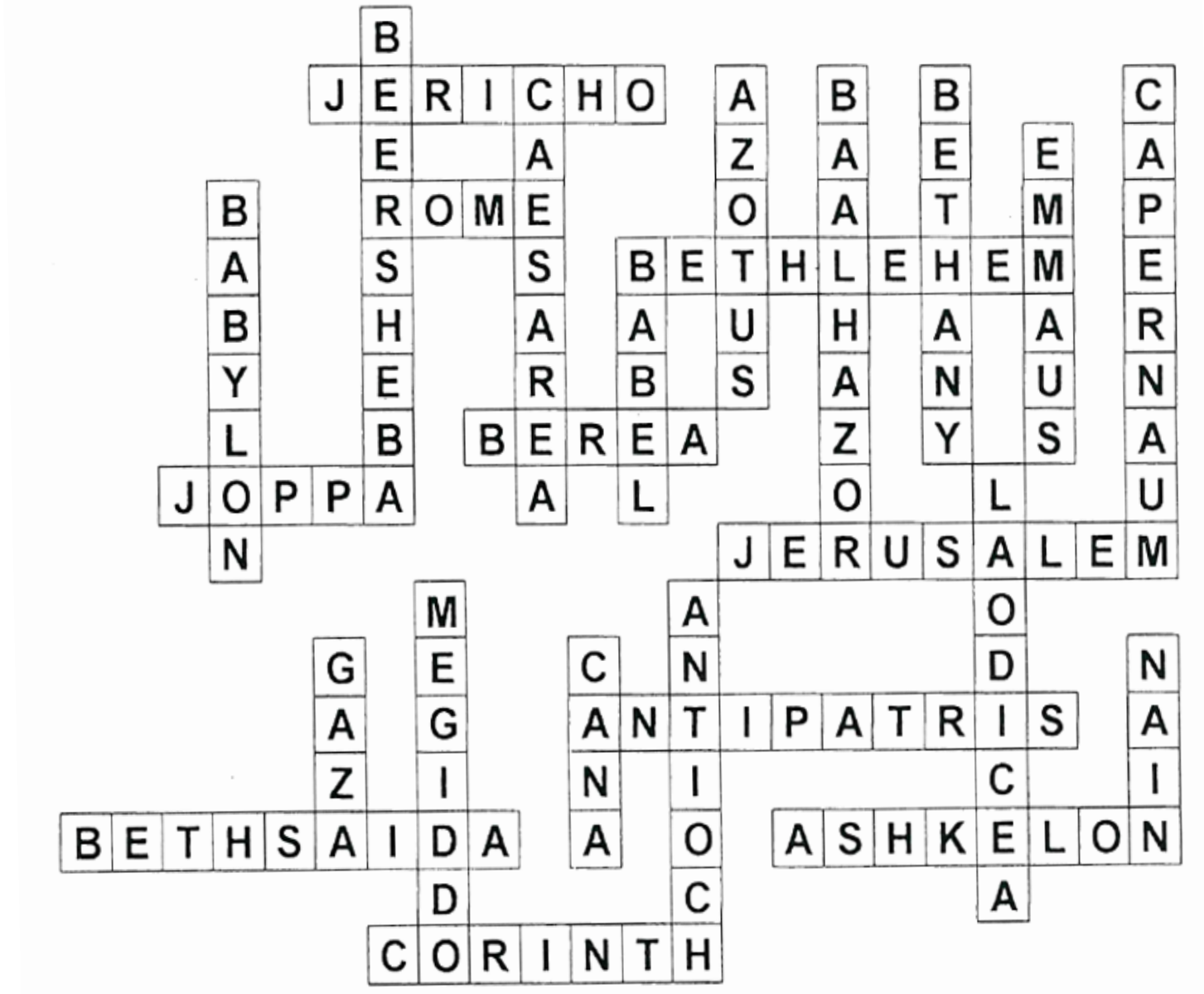


ACROSS

2 The walls fell after Joshua's army blew trumpets
10 Paul was under house arrest in this city
11 Birthplace of Jesus
12 A people of noble character lived here
13 A disciple named Tabitha lived here
15 The name of this city occurs 806 times in the Bible
21 Paul was taken there by soldiers at nighttime
22 Jesus healed a blind man here
23 Samson slew thirty men in this Philistine city
24 Paul wrote to the church in this place while on his third missionary journey

DOWN

1 Where Abraham and Abimelech settled their differences over a well of water
3 Paul spent more than two years in a jail in this city
4 Visited by Philip
5 Where Absalom held the feast of sheep-shearing
6 Home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus
7 After leaving Nazareth, Jesus went to this place
8 Two disciples met Jesus on the road to this place
9 Modern day Iraq
11 The Lord confused the language here
14 The church here was lukewarm
16 A battle during the end times will happen here
17 Paul started his missionary journeys from this city
18 Where Samson was imprisoned
19 Jesus' first public miracle took place here, with water...and wine
20 Jesus raised the widow's son here

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

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