



2024



# The Mountain Top Messenger

JULY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Elders:</b> July 3 John S. July 7 Andy July 10 Doug July 14 Scott July 17 Darryl July 21 JohnS July 24 John P July 28 Randy July 31 Andy Aug. 4 Doug Aug. 7 JohnS Aug. 11 Scott Aug. 14 Darryl Aug. 18 John P Aug. 21 JohnS Aug. 25 Andy Aug. 28 Randy Sept. 1 Scott Sept. 4 Doug						
	1	2	3 6:30pm Worship Service	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	8	9	10 6:30pm Worship Service	11	12	13
14 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	15	16	17 1:00-2:30pm Hospice Grief Support 6:30pm Worship Service	18 9:00am Winkel Butternut	19	20
21 9:00am Worship Service	22	23	24 6:30pm Worship Service	25 1:30pm Northern Light Service	26	27
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	29	30	31 6:30pm Worship	<b>July Altar Guild</b> Lisa Warren 715-209-8547 Michelle Vyskocil 715-682-2498		

I pray you all had an enjoyable Fourth of July Holiday. June and I spent the day recuperating at our camper at Little Girls Point, as I had a summer cold and then shared it with her. It was a nice day, not too warm (rather chili 65 actually) with a slight breeze coming in off the lake, overall relaxing.

As we head into the middle of summer the weather still seems a bit confused, at least in the Northern part of the country. I am thankful we have not experienced any of the extreme heat and other weather conditions that have been around the nation and even some of our region.

As I was wondering on a topic for this month's cover I was considering our last month or so of discussions from second Corinthians and all of the things that Paul encourages the Corinthians and us with in his writings. Then I figured perhaps we have looked at that enough for now. It turned into quite a stretch. So, I began looking into the future and realized that in this post Pentecostal season, that kind of what it is all about, it is kind of the teaching season. In Advent we prepare for Christ's first coming, then in Lent we prepare for His passion, death, and resurrection. We follow that up with the Easter/post Easter season with His Ascension and then the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Once that is completed we get into the season after Pentecost where we really get into the life and times of Jesus, the three years of teaching and sharing with His disciples and all of His dealings with the people.

People like you and I, people who toil and struggle through this life looking for answers. It is in this teaching season that I, as your pastor use to try to help you understand, and if you do understand, to help you strengthen your understanding, that Jesus is the answer to all of your questions in this life. It is a never-ending journey. It is a journey that at least for me has had many ups and downs, many highs and lows. As I grow older, I can see with much better clarity. where Jesus has been and what He has done in my life.

I look back and remember times when I wondered where He was, fortunately hindsight has now allowed me to see Him there. I know without He and the Holy Spirit leading and guiding me throughout my life I certainly would not be where I am today. I will be the first to admit, it is not and has not always been an easy journey, there were times I could have turned away, even times when I was being called to take a different path. I look back at

*(Continued on next page)*



those times and thank the Lord that He stuck with me. I remember some of those challenges could have gone the other way. I am reminded of several things I had heard in my life, one was a statement from my mother. I was struggling, unsure of what to do, unsure of which way to go, she reminded me to trust the Lord, and watch out for the pull of Satan. She told me as she had before “Satan doesn’t waste his time on lost causes.” So when you feel that tug of Satan know that you are not a lost cause. The other came from my mentor Pastor Bo, when I first became deacon here at Zion, he warned me, “be watchful, for the target on your back just got bigger”. Both of these statements have been a guide for me particularly in the last ten or more years of my life. I do my best to continue to grow in my faith, and to share that faith with you all of you in every way I know how. Even knowing that as our faith grows, that target gets large. For I have come to realize that as that target grows so does that shield of faith.

So as the apostle Peter reminds us; “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8). Don’t be so scared you don’t venture out, but be prepared, trust in the Lord, always, and trust in the Holy Spirit. For while the devil prowls around looking, the Lord is protecting, and I am always trusting in the Lord.

So, as we travel together through this common season, as we learn of the teachings of our Lord, take them to heart, read, mark, and learn them. Grow in the faith, share the faith, be watchful, but above all, trust in the Lord always. That’s enough for now, I hope to see you all at the Church Picnic on August 4th.

In the meantime,

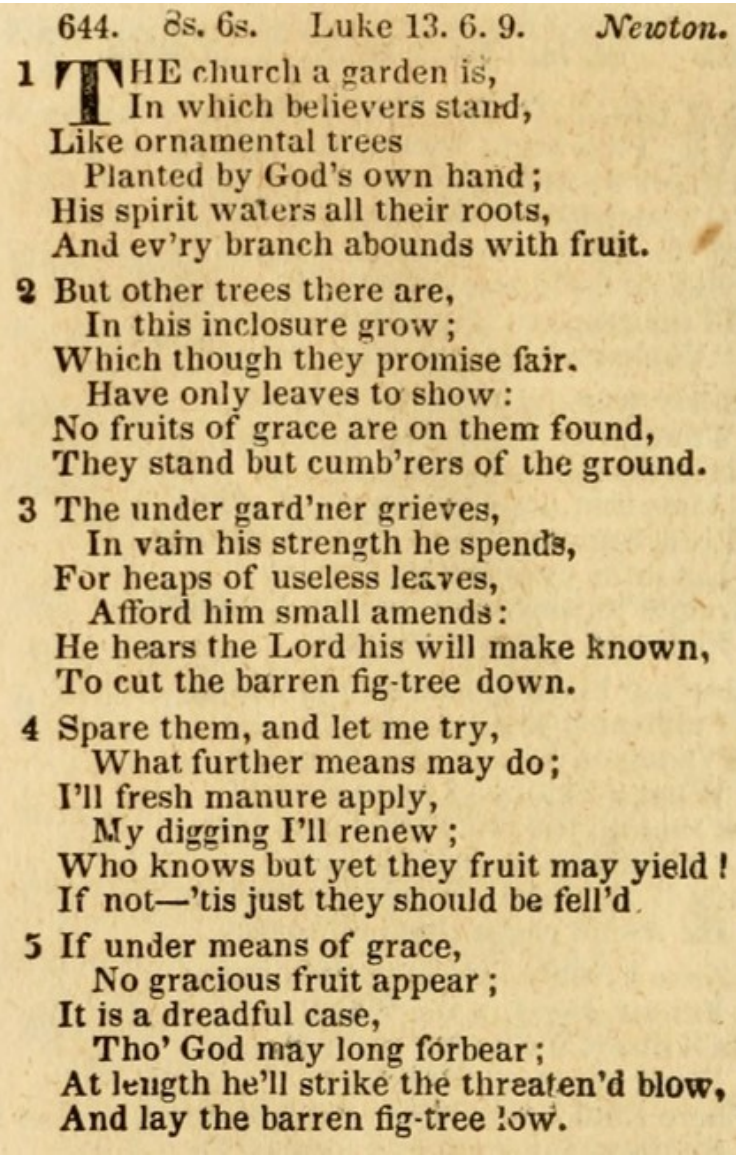
The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



**BAPTISMS**  
Graci Rebecca Lampson  
06-14-2024  
Maci Marie Lampson  
06-14-24  
Piper Jude Pagels  
06-23-2024  
Lainy Hagen  
06-30-2024

**The Barren Fig-Tree text by John Newton**  
His text gives out a 66 66 88 meter. This meter shows up in many different hymns. These are a few texts that we sing. “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” “Amazing Grace” “Come, My Soul, with Every Care



Doesn’t Belong 2 & 7

Hand Shakes 190

Three Whole Numbers 1x2x3=6 1+2+3\_6

Tangled 3  
36

Subtract Fruits Melon 5 apple 2 grapes 3  
Lemon 1

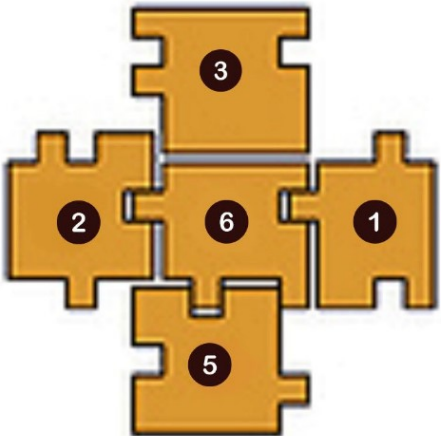
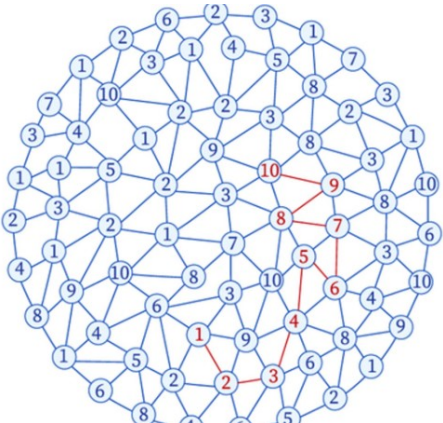
Lunar Missing Humber 8 the relationship between the diagonals are cubes and cube roots.

4 The sum of the stamps of the same color combinations always equals 10. 1 + 9, 10 + 0, 3 + 7, and 6 + 4

Answer: 30 points. The outer zone is worth 1 point, then 2, 3, etc. The center is worth 10 points. 5 + 8 + 8 + 9 = 30. = 30.

: 11. Replace the compass rose with a clock on military time. The red tip of the compass needle points to the hour in the afternoon from 13 to 24 (midnight) and corresponds with the day temperature. The gray tip points to the hour in the morning from 1 to noon and is the night temperature.

Trees	22	16	11
number	9	15	12
order	2	18	23
7	10	21	3
5	1	20	13
6	7	4	
20	8	14	



- 1– oak
- 2– acacia
- 3-pomegranate
- 4– cedar
- 5– juniper
- 6– fig
- 7 -Boswellia
- 8– olive
- 9– many trees





**Newton, John,** who was born in London, July 24, 1725, and died there Dec. 21, 1807, occupied an unique position among the founders of the Evangelical School, due as much to the romance of his young life and the striking history of his conversion, as to

his force of character.

His mother, a pious Dissenter, stored his childish mind with Scripture, but died when he was seven years old. At the age of eleven, after two years' schooling, during which he learned the rudiments of Latin, he went to sea with his father. His life at sea teems with wonderful escapes, vivid dreams, and sailor recklessness. He grew into an abandoned and godless sailor. The religious fits of his boyhood changed into settled infidelity, through the study of Shaftesbury and the instruction of one of his comrades. Disappointing repeatedly the plans of his father, he was flogged as a deserter from the navy, and for fifteen months lived, half-starved and ill-treated, in abject degradation under a slave-dealer in Africa.

The one restraining influence of his life was his faithful love for his future wife, Mary Catlett, formed when he was seventeen, and she only in her fourteenth year. A chance reading of Thomas à Kempis sowed the seed of his conversion; which quickened under the awful contemplations of a night spent in steering a water-logged vessel in the face of apparent death (1748). He was then twenty-three.

The six following years, during which he commanded a slave ship, matured his Christian belief. Nine years more, spent chiefly at Liverpool, in intercourse with Whitefield, Wesley, and Nonconformists, in the study of Hebrew and Greek, in exercises of devotion and occasional preaching among the Dissenters, elapsed before his ordination to the curacy of Olney, Bucks (1764).

The Olney period was the most fruitful of his life. His zeal in pastoral visiting, preaching and prayer-meetings was unwearied. He formed his lifelong friendship with Cowper, and became the spiritual father of Scott the commentator. At Olney his best works—Omicron's Letters (1774); Olney Hymns (1779); Cardiphonia, written from Olney, though published 1781—were composed. As rector of St.

Mary Woolnoth, London, in the centre of the Evangelical movement (1780-1807) his zeal was as ardent as before. In 1805, when no longer able to read his text, his reply when pressed to discontinue preaching, was, "What, shall the old African blasphemer stop while he can speak!" The story of his sins and his conversion, published by himself, and the subject of lifelong allusion, was the base of his influence; but it would have been little but for the vigour of his mind (shown even in Africa by his reading Euclid drawing its figures on the sand), his warm heart, candour, tolerance, and piety. These qualities gained him the friendship of Hannah More, Cecil, Wilberforce, and others; and his renown as a guide in experimental religion made him the centre of a host of inquirers, with whom he maintained patient, loving, and generally judicious correspondence, of which a monument remains in the often beautiful letters of Cardiphonia.

As a hymnwriter, Montgomery says that he was distanced by Cowper. But Lord Selborne's contrast of the "manliness" of Newton and the "tenderness" of Cowper is far juster. A comparison of the hymns of both in The Book of Praise will show no great inequality between them. Amid much that is bald, tame, and matter-of-fact, his rich acquaintance with Scripture, knowledge of the heart, directness and force, and a certain sailor imagination, tell strongly.

The one splendid hymn of praise, "Glorious things of thee are spoken," in the Olney collection, is his. "One there is above all others" has a depth of realizing love, sustained excellence of expression, and ease of development. "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds" is in Scriptural richness superior, and in structure, cadence, and almost tenderness, equal to Cowper's "Oh! for a closer walk with God."

The most characteristic hymns are those which depict in the language of intense humiliation his mourning for the abiding sins of his regenerate life, and the sense of the withdrawal of God's face, coincident with the never-failing conviction of acceptance in The Beloved. The feeling may be seen in the speeches, writings, and diaries of his whole life.



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1111-11TH AVE WEST**  
**ASHLAND, WI 54806**

**Sunday Worship Service 9:00am** live streamed  
**Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm**  
**Sunday School - 1st .– 7th grade** Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)  
**Bible Studies**  
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479**  
**Office Hours: M /Th 9-5 Tues. off Wed. 12-8 Fri. 9-1**  
Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.  
**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075** Office Hours M/T/Wed 8:30-2:30  
Days and times may change.  
**Church President:** John Pruss 715-292-4825 **Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488  
**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center:** 715-682-5185  
**LFOJ Administrator:** JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075  
**Website** [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org) **E-mail** [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)

**PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home**

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

*Ingrid Pocernich  
Arlene Zimmerman  
Violet Basina*

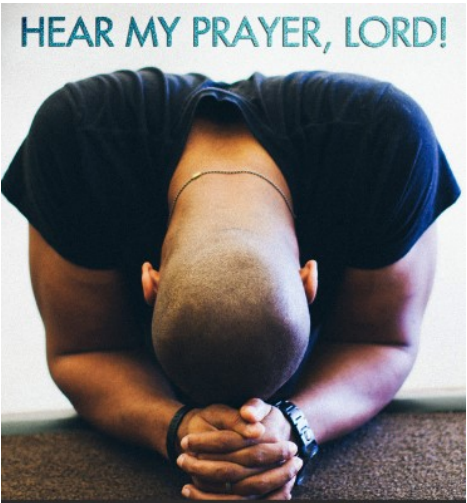
**PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION**

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

*David Wright*

**PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering

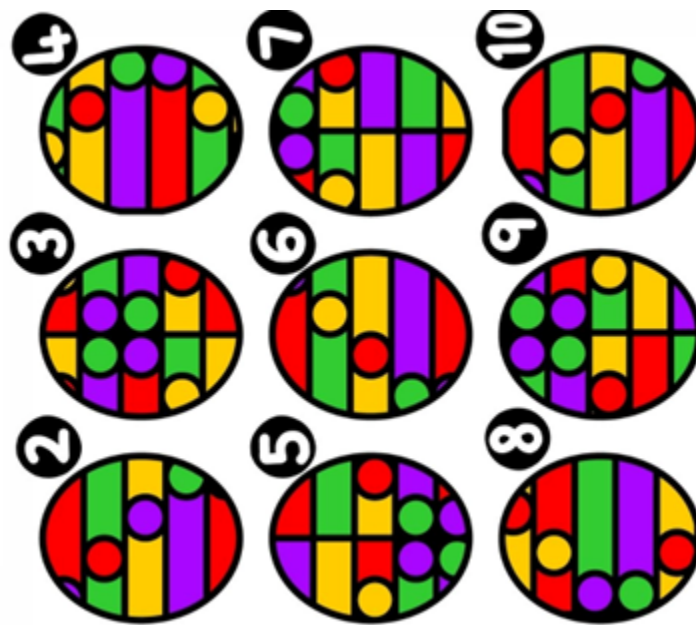
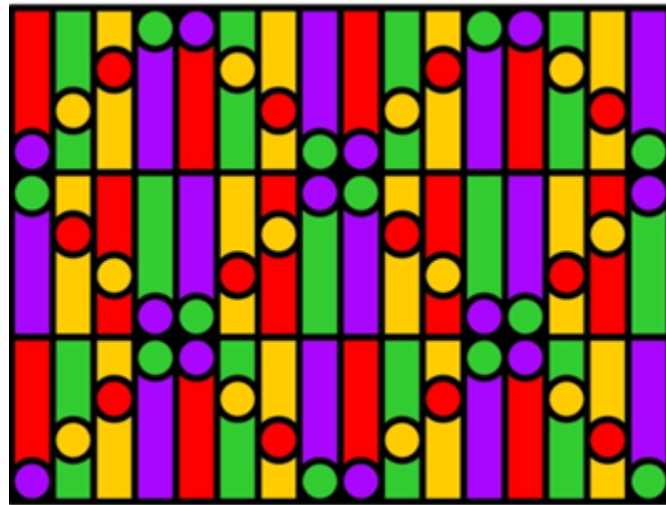


Brad Prill  
Vi Basina  
James Fletcher  
Sheryl Hildebrandt  
Harold Larson  
Diane Beiersdorff  
Linda Stenroos  
Steve Key  
Tim Erickson  
Patty Hmielewski  
Jean Wickman  
Andrea Gunderson  
Pam Ekholm  
*Mary Dahl*

Riley Bretting  
Mike Trimble  
Jamie Klema  
Mike Ariens  
Karen Piff  
Molly Colgrove  
Linda Parrish  
Chuck Sandor  
*Carl Kubley  
Carolyn  
Janet Houle  
Sandy Bosma  
and those in our hearts*

**Dear Lord, "We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit" Amen.**

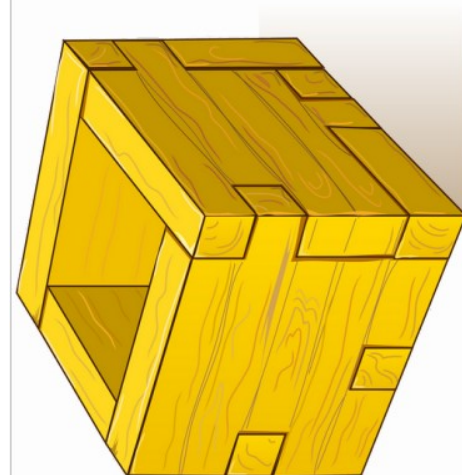




1

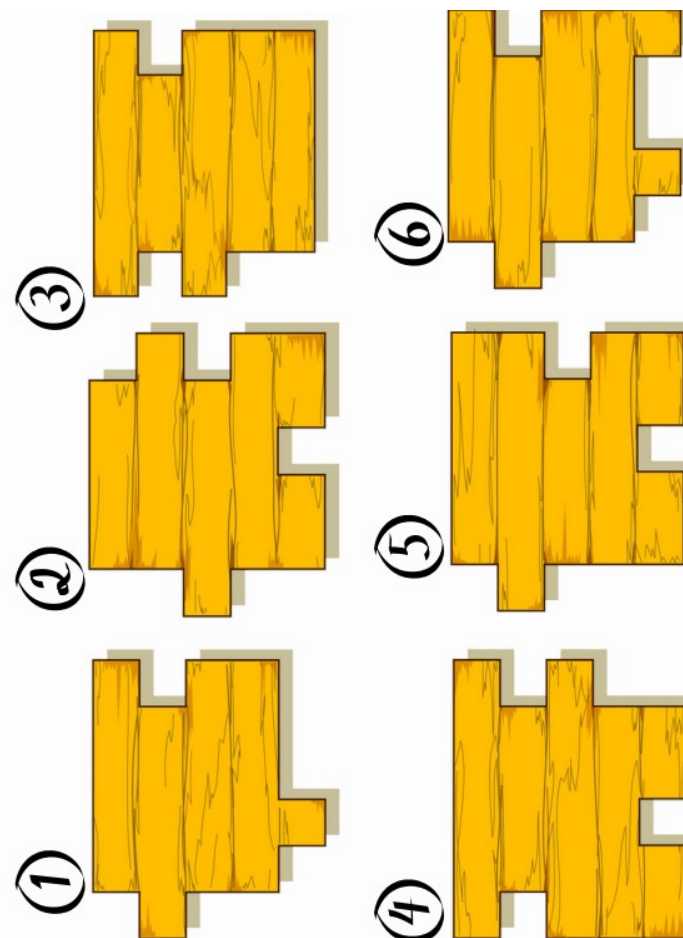
DOESN'T  
BELONG

Find the fragments  
(#2 - #10) that are  
NOT part of image #1.



MAKING IT

Find the five (5) correct  
sides that will fit together  
to form the box.



## The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree and The Call For Repentance Luke 13:6-9

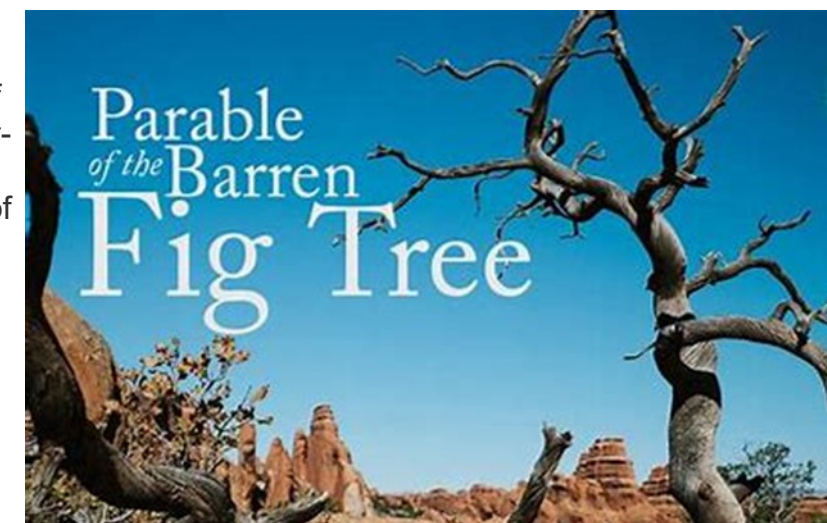
6 And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. 7 "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' 8 "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; 9 and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'" Luke 13:6-9

### What Is the Meaning of the Parable of the Fig Tree?

When Jesus told the parable of the fig tree, He was trying to get our attention because He is the master gardener. He always nourishes and protects. He prunes off the [dead parts](#) of our lives that won't serve us. He's tender to our new vines and branches.

He shows up with sturdy gloves and an eye for detail. He shows up wearing old blue jeans, an old white shirt, and a hat; ready to get to work as we lay ourselves before Him as He tells us, "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain on the vine" (John 15:4). The vine He created was for the purpose of staying rooted and bearing fruit through Him. He reminds us, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8). When He talks about each of us, His eyes shine as He takes pride in the work of our lives even when the work He is doing feels more like loss of life than actual living.

This is the meaning of the fig tree in Luke 13:6-9. Jesus wants us to live our lives for God. He wants us to ensure we stay deeply rooted in His Word, in His Presence in all that we do. As He tends to our branches, He expects a fruitful return of His investment because He willingly paid dearly through the death on [the cross](#). It covered our sins and in return, He wants to see each of us adding to the Kingdom of God with our hearts, our speech, and in all that we do.



Psalm 1:1-6

*Blessed is the one*

*who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,*

*but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.*

*Not so the wicked!*

*They are like chaff  
that the wind blows away.*

*Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.*

*For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*

In sum, the Parable at its core is about true *repentance* and the *mercy of God*. The Lord, in His great patience and mercy for mankind, extends ample opportunities for us to repent (ask for forgiveness and turn from sin) and to *bear fruit* (undergo conversion) – [see [Psalm 1:1-6](#); [Col. 1:10](#); [Jn 15:8](#); [Matt. 3:8](#)]. However, if we persist in (and insist on) doing things *our own way* – outright *refusing* God's love, forgiveness, and saving grace – then we will indeed perish by our *own choice*.



Circle the trees that might be some of the Nine Trees Significance in Scripture..

Second - See if you can guess which tree goes with its name.

Third - Look at the bible verses. You can find the answer in them.

1-THE TREE OF PROMISE - Genesis 4:4-9

2-THE TREE OF THE ARK - Genesis 6:14-17 This one is tricky. It matters on what bible translation you use.

3-THE TREE OF ABUNDANCE - Exodus 28:33-35 Deuteronomy 8:7-10 1 Kings 7:18-22

4-THE TREE OF STRENGTH - 1 Kings 5:6 Ezekiel 17:22–24 (this was the Old Testament reading for June 6th—remember?)

5-THE TREE OF FAITHFULNESS - Isaiah 41:19

6-THE TREE OF HUMANITY Micah 4:4

7-THE TREE OF CARNATION Matthew 2:11

8-THE TREE OF PEACE & UNITY Romans 11:24

9-THE TREE OF LIFE Revelation 22:2



“Angle Oak Tree”

## Identity

The Greek Septuagint (3rd–1st centuries BC) translated the phrase mentioning gopher wood as ἐκ ξύλων τετραγώνων (*ek xylōn tetragōnōn*), 'out of squared timber', translating *gofer* as squared. Similarly, the Latin Vulgate (5th century AD) rendered it as *de lignis levigatis* (*lævigatis*, in the spelling of the Clementine Vulgate), 'of timber planks'.

*The Jewish Encyclopedia* states that it was most likely a translation of the Babylonian *gushure is erini*, 'cedar beams', or the Assyrian *giparu*, 'reeds'. The Aramaic Targum Onkelos, considered by many Jews to be an authoritative translation of the Hebrew scripture, renders this word as *qadros*, 'cedar'. The Syriac Peshitta translates this word as *arqa*, 'box'.

Many modern English translations favor *cypress* (otherwise referred to in Biblical Hebrew as *berosh*). This was espoused (among others) by Adam Clarke, a Methodist theologian famous for his commentary on the Bible: Clarke cited a resemblance between the Greek word for cypress, *kuparisson*, and the Hebrew word *gophar*. Likewise, the *Nova Vulgata* (20th century) has it as *de lignis cupressinis* ('out of cypress wood')

Others, noting the visual similarity between the Hebrew letters *g* (*gimel* ג) and *k* (*kaf* כ), suggest that the word may actually be *kopher*, the Hebrew word meaning 'pitch'; thus *kopher* wood would be 'pitched wood'. Recent suggestions have included a lamination process (to strengthen the Ark), or a now-lost type of tree, but there is no consensus.

# I Like July

I like July!  
Want to know why?  
It makes me think of the swimming pool.  
It makes me think,  
Of a bubbly drink,  
Miles away from that stuffy school.

What a royal scene,  
All leafy green,  
The month of July calls to my mind.  
A sky of blue,  
Deep shadows too,  
And the deepest, coolest pool you could find.

No need to hurry!  
No need to worry!  
Summer - hot, hot summer - is here.  
Life is sublime!  
All kinds of time  
To float and dive in the water clear.

Your head quite hazy,  
Just feeling lazy,  
You swim along the rippling pool.  
Oh isn't it grand!  
Strike up the band!  
You're a million miles away from school.

If You Hear This 4-Word Phrase  
When You Pick Up the Phone, Hang  
Up Immediately    *Part 2—Part 1 was in  
June’s newsletter*    By Brooke Nelson Alexander

How to guard against these types of scams

To avoid falling victim to this phone scam and other robocall scams, it’s best to never answer calls from unfamiliar phone numbers, or quickly hang up if you do. Pressing any numbers or responding to the caller confirms that the phone number is active, which might lead to more robocalls, Gordon says.

Be cautious when speaking with any unknown caller too. “Under no circumstances should you hastily respond to their questions or give anything that is requested,” Shirley says. “Assume that any unknown party attempting to solicit payment or information may not be who they claim to be.”

Finally, both They suggest signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry and using a call blocking or labeling app to screen and block unknown calls. With these apps, each caller will receive short prompts to verify their identity before the call is forwarded to your phone. Many phone carriers also provide security apps and services to block unwanted calls.

What to do if you responded to the scammer

Already said “yes” in response to this phone scam? Start securing your online accounts and important information now. “The sooner you act, the better,” Gordon says.

If a scammer has authorized a purchase under your name, Gordon recommends contacting the company through which the payment was made—whether that’s a credit card company, bank, money transfer app, wiring company like Western Union or a gift card/prepaid card/cash reload card company—and telling them what happened. These companies might be able to stop the payment or issue a refund.

You should also change your passwords to sensitive accounts and monitor your credit report for unusual activity. If you think a scammer might have remote access to your computer, update your computer’s security software and look for the signs that your computer has been hacked.

How to report phone scams

If you receive a call that appears to be a phone scam, Gordon suggests reporting it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Make sure to share the number that appears on your caller ID and any number you are told to call back. The FTC uses this data to identify, label and block illegal callers, Gordon says. Of course, learning how to stop robocalls and spam calls for good can help you avoid receiving these calls in the first place.

Area Codes

Hopefully, you’ve already learned not to answer calls from these area codes and know how to tell if the “iPhone virus warning” is a scam.

232    242    441    345    141    809,  
233    849    829    876    473

11 Top Scam Phone Numbers

- **AT&T raffle winners:** (904) 495-2559
- **Bank account temporarily on hold scam:** (858) 605-9622
- **Card lock scam:** (878) 877-1402
- **Debit card frozen scam:** (863) 532-7969
- **Failed delivery attempt scam:** (469) 709-7630
- **Fake Publisher’s Clearing House win:** (805) 637-7243
- **Student loan forgiveness scam:** (202) 221-7923
- **Wells Fargo text message scam:** (865) 630-4266
- **Unpaid taxes scam:** (347) 437-1689

- |             |       |                                                                                                |
|-------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Alder     | _____ | A tree that grows needles instead of leaves and produces cones.                                |
| 2 Ash       | _____ | A tree with thin, white or silver bark and small, triangular leaves.                           |
| 3 Banyan    | _____ | An evergreen tree with a strong fragrance and durable wood.                                    |
| 4 Beech     | _____ | An evergreen tree with short, sharp needles and hanging cones.                                 |
| 5 Birch     | _____ | A tree with long, drooping branches and narrow leaves, often found near water.                 |
| 6 Cedar     | _____ | A tree with rough, serrated leaves and a vase-shaped growth habit.                             |
| 7 Chestnut  | _____ | A tree with compound leaves and winged seeds, often used for making tools.                     |
| 8 Cypress   | _____ | An evergreen tree with flat, soft needles and upright cones.                                   |
| 9 Elm       | _____ | A tree that often grows near rivers and streams, with rounded leaves.                          |
| 10 Fir      | _____ | A tree with large, hand-shaped leaves and edible nuts enclosed in spiky cases.                 |
| 11 Hawthorn | _____ | An evergreen tree with small, scale-like leaves and wood that resists rot.                     |
| 12 Juniper  | _____ | A tree with a tall, unbranched trunk and large leaves at the top, often seen in warm climates. |
| 13 Linden   | _____ | A small tree known for its fruit and oil, common in Mediterranean regions.                     |
| 14 Magnolia | _____ | A tree with tall, straight growth and leaves that flutter in the breeze.                       |
| 15 Olive    | _____ | A tree with broad, maple-like leaves and bark that flakes off in patches.                      |
| 16 Palm     | _____ | A massive tree known for being one of the tallest and oldest types.                            |
| 17 Pine     | _____ | A tree with smooth, gray bark and leaves with wavy edges.                                      |
| 18 Poplar   | _____ | A tree with large, fragrant flowers and broad, glossy leaves.                                  |
| 19 Sequoia  | _____ | A small tree with sharp thorns and clusters of white flowers.                                  |
| 20 Spruce   | _____ | An evergreen with needle-like leaves and berries used in flavoring.                            |
| 21 Sycamore | _____ | An evergreen tree with flat, sharp needles and red, berry-like fruits.                         |
| 22 Willow   | _____ | A type of fig tree known for its aerial roots and massive branches.                            |
| 23 Yew      | _____ | A tree with heart-shaped leaves and fragrant flowers, often used for making tea.               |

. We were really confused. While transcribing medical audiotapes, a colleague came upon the following garbled diagnosis: "This man has pholenfrometry." Knowing nothing about that particular condition, she double-checked with the doctor. After listening to the tape, he shook his head. "This man," he said, translating for her, "has fallen from a tree."

DATES TO  
REMEMBER

Church Picnic  
Sunday, August 4th 10:00am  
Prentice Park

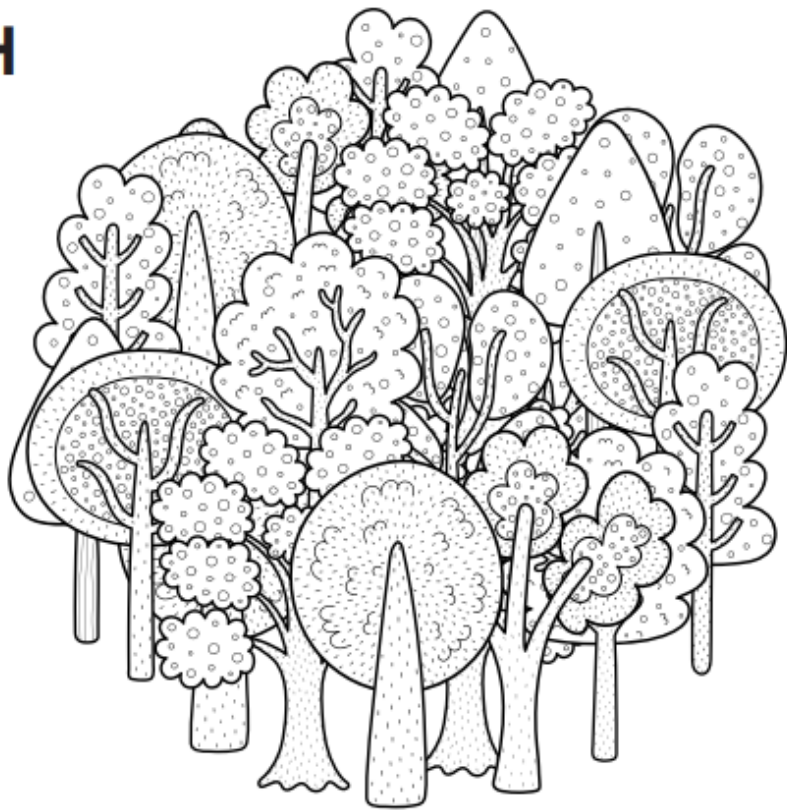
Wednesday Night Services 6:30pm

If you are going to be away for the weekend please join us on a Wednesday. Sunday and the following Wednesday have the same service.



TREES WORD SEARCH

- MAPLE  
OAK  
PINE  
BIRCH  
CEDAR  
SPRUCE  
WILLOW  
ELM  
ASH  
FIR  
ALDER  
CHESTNUT  
CYPRESS
- PALM  
OLIVE  
POPLAR  
SYCAMORE  
SEQUOIA  
BEECH  
MAGNOLIA  
HAWTHORN  
JUNIPER  
YEW  
BANYAN  
LINDEN



His Dog Taught Him a Lesson in Forgiveness

EDWARD GRINNAN

Although difficult, forgiveness has the power to contribute to a strong faith.

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another; forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”—Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)*

If looks could kill, I'd have been dead twice over. I'd taken Gracie to one of her favorite places—Tractor Supply Company. Gracie has trained the cashiers there to give her treats, planting her big paws on the counter. Smart girl. But I had a secret agenda, and when Gracie perceived my nefarious plan, I got the look.

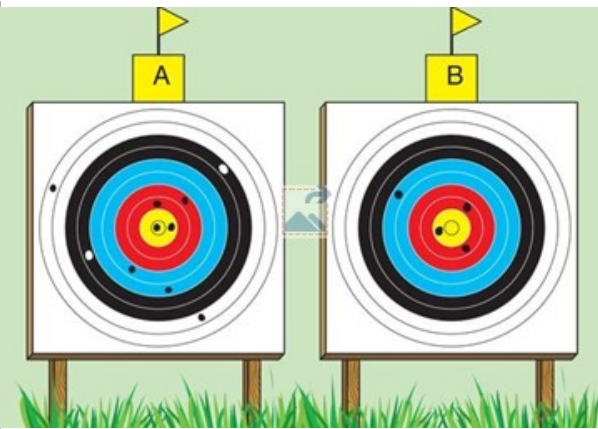
A bath.  
At the rear of the store is a little doggie spa with tubs, shampoo, towels, blow dryers, combs, everything you need to bathe your dog.  
I've never understood how a dog who loves to roll in mud finds a bath so objectionable. I talk softly to her and ply her with treats, and she still acts as if she's been led to the gallows.  
At home, she retires to one of her several beds and shows me her back. Turning their backs is a way dogs sometimes demonstrate that they are upset with you. Today she was particularly adamant in her affect. Even when I brought her a peace offering—a bit of string cheese, her favorite—she snatched the treat from me without making eye contact.



So I settled in to watch the Yankees drop another game to the Rays. I was nodding off when I felt a cold nudge on my hand. Gracie. She looked up at me as if to say, “All is forgiven. Let’s be friends again.”  
Forgiveness is difficult. I’m not always as magnanimous as my dog. I can cling to a grudge. Maybe I derive satisfaction in nursing a sense of injustice. Yet I know that forgiveness is a necessary ingredient in a strong faith. Jesus came to earth to forgive our sins. We are expected to forgive. I scratched behind Gracie’s ears, and she laid her head on my knee. It was nice to be friends again.  
*Lord, you know I have trouble forgiving a wrong. Today help me let go of a resentment and take a closer step toward you.*



Which number should replace the question mark?



How many points does Archer B score knowing that the total score of Archer A is 55 and that different points are earned in the ten zones in ascending value toward the center?





**Parable For The 4th of July** (author unknown)  
Once, in the 1820's, a little boy called Sam was playing in the yard behind his house. During his pretend fighting game, he knocked over the outhouse.  
Now Sam was upset and worried that he would get into trouble so he ran into the woods and didn't come out until after got dark. When he arrived back home, his pappy was waiting for him. He asked suspiciously, "Son, did you knock over the outhouse this afternoon?"  
"No, pappy," Sam lied.  
"Well, let me tell you a story," said the father.  
"Once, not that long ago, Mr Washington received a shiny new axe from his father. Excited, he tried it out on a tree, swiftly cutting it down. But as he looked at the tree, with dismay he realized it was his mother's favorite cherry tree," his pappy paused." just like you, he ran into the woods.

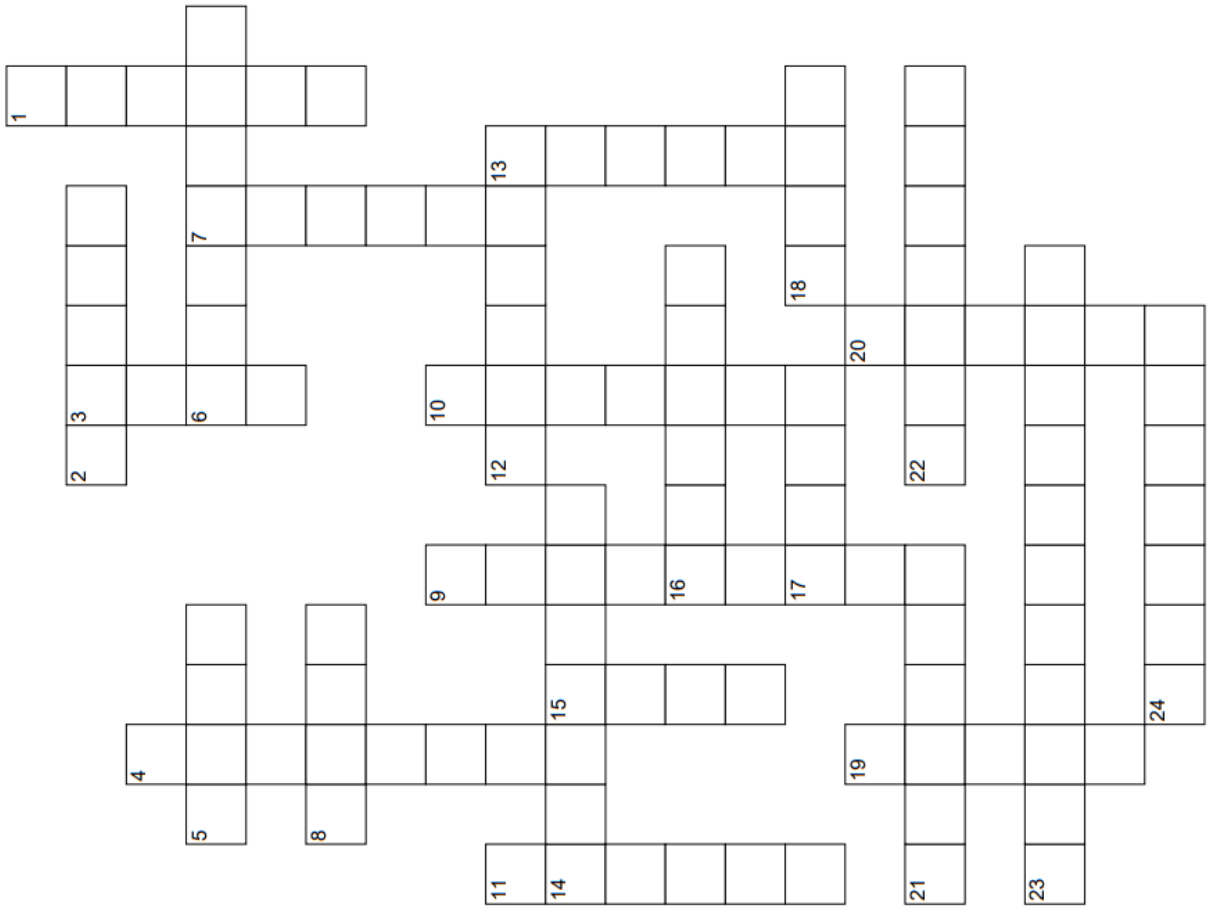
When he returned, his pappy asked, "George, did you cut down the cherry tree?" George answered with, 'Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did indeed chop down the tree.' Then his father said, 'Well, since you were honest with me, you are spared from punishment. I hope you have learned your lesson, though.' So," the Sam's father asked again," did you knock down the outhouse?"  
"Pappy, I cannot tell a lie any more." said the little boy. "I did indeed knock down the outhouse."  
Then his pappy father spanked Sam boy red, white, and blue. The boy whimpered,  
"Pappy, I told you the truth! Why did you spank me?"  
Pappy answered, "That's because George Washington's father wasn't in the tree when he chopped it down!"

**Happy New Month of July**  
Are you aware of what a new month represents for you? You're getting wiser and more mature with every month that adds to your life. No matter what happens, always smile. Your smile means a lot to everyone around you.

May every broken piece of your life feel the healing touch of the Lord. May lots of testimonies fill your days. You'll shine just like the sun and you'll be precious just like the diamonds.

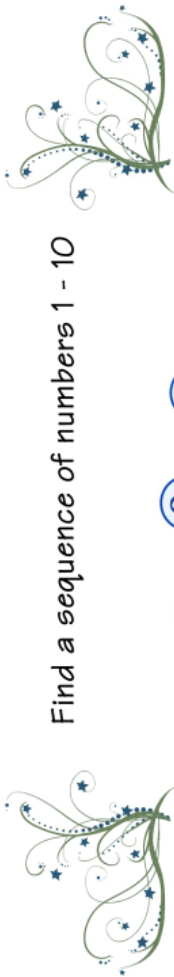
May this new month provide you with heavenly wings which will enable you to fly above all the storms that are likely to come your way in this new month. You are much stronger than you look and I'm so sure that this is your month of favor and success.

A new month is here to erase all the negativity which the previous month introduced, and shower upon you all the positivity in this world hence making your life more wonderful than ever.

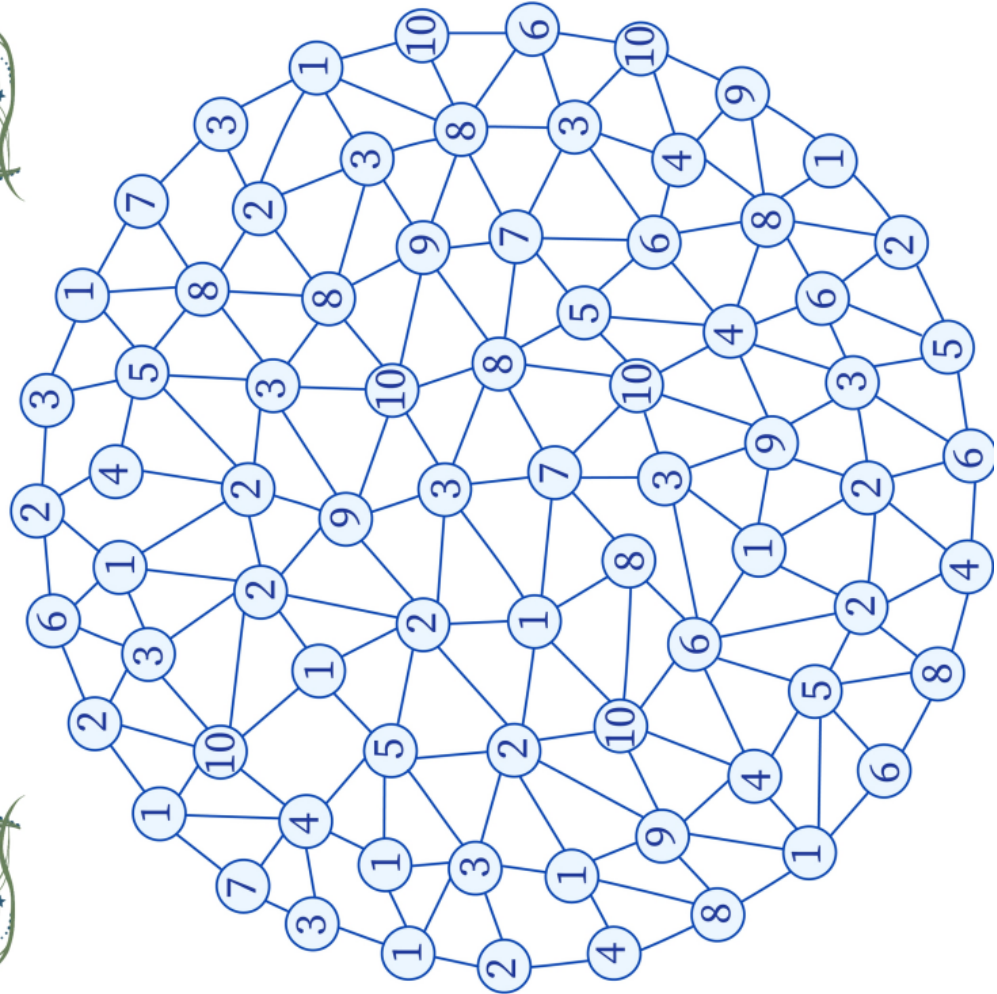


- ABLAZE
- BAND
- BOATING
- BONFIRE
- CAMPING
- CITIZENSHIP
- CROWDS
- FAMILY
- FIREWORKS
- FLAG
- GAME
- HOLIDAY
- JULY
- LIBERTY
- PARADE
- PICNIC
- PRIDE
- RACES
- ROCKET
- RUBY
- TRAVEL
- VACATION
- WISDOM
- YOUTH

FOLLOW THE NUMBERS



Find a sequence of numbers 1 - 10

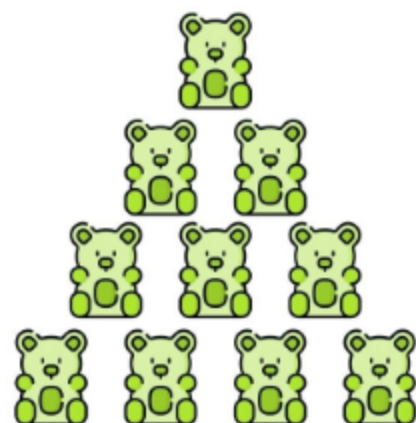






# The Gummy Bear Pyramid

How can you flip the gummy bear pyramid upside down by moving only 3 gummy bears?



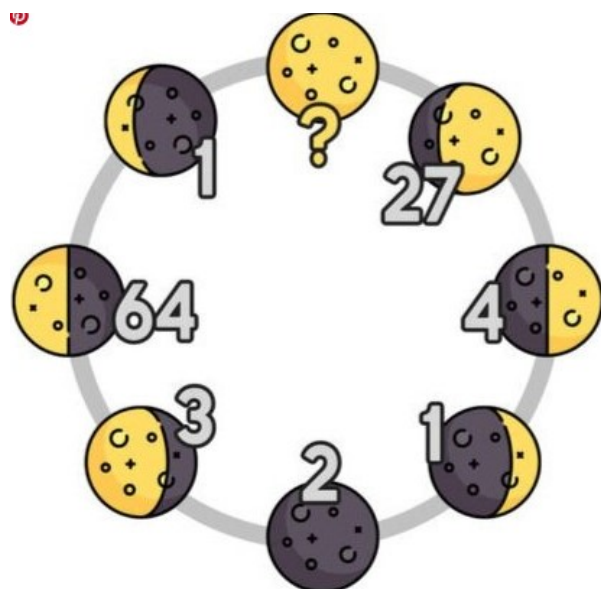
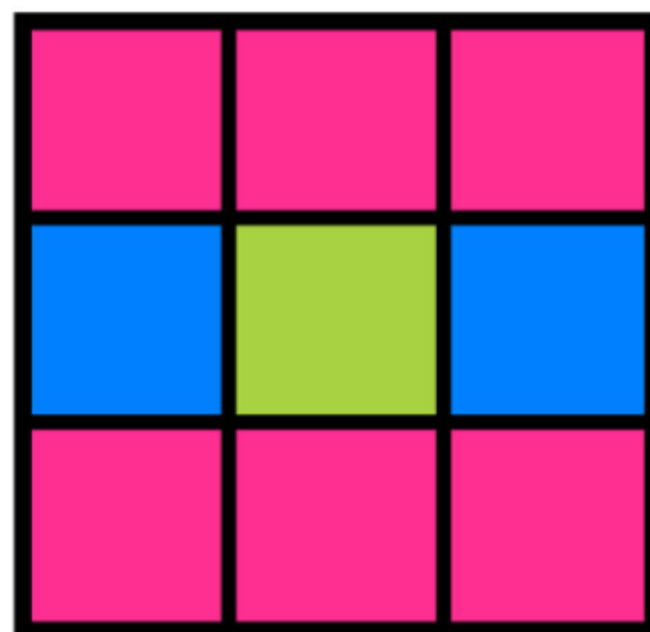
Each of the fruits in the digrams below are equal to one of the following whole numbers: 1 2 3 5

Find the value of each fruit so that both of the following would be true:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Apple} + \text{Apple} + \text{Banana} \\ - \text{Grape} + \text{Lemon} + \text{Lemon} \\ \hline \text{Apple} + \text{Lemon} + 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Apple} + \text{Lemon} + \text{Banana} \\ - \text{Lemon} + \text{Lemon} + \text{Apple} \\ \hline \text{Lemon} + 0 + \text{Grape} \end{array}$$

**HOW MANY RECTANGLES?**  
**This one is tricky.**



**Problem:** What is the value of the missing number “?” in the lunar diagram below?



Making my way back to the bush, I found the nest completely tipped over once again. This time there were *three* eggs on the ground. I lined the container with some dry leaves and set the nest on top before gently arranging all the eggs inside. Then I put the new container-nest between the branches and wired it in place. I also added some wire fencing

**She was having a hard time letting go of her kids, until this cardinal couple showed her the way**

My husband and I were new empty nesters. Our twins, Annie and Tyler, were leaving home after graduating from college. I was excited for them—and worried. Would they be okay on their own? Had we prepared them for the challenges out there in the world?

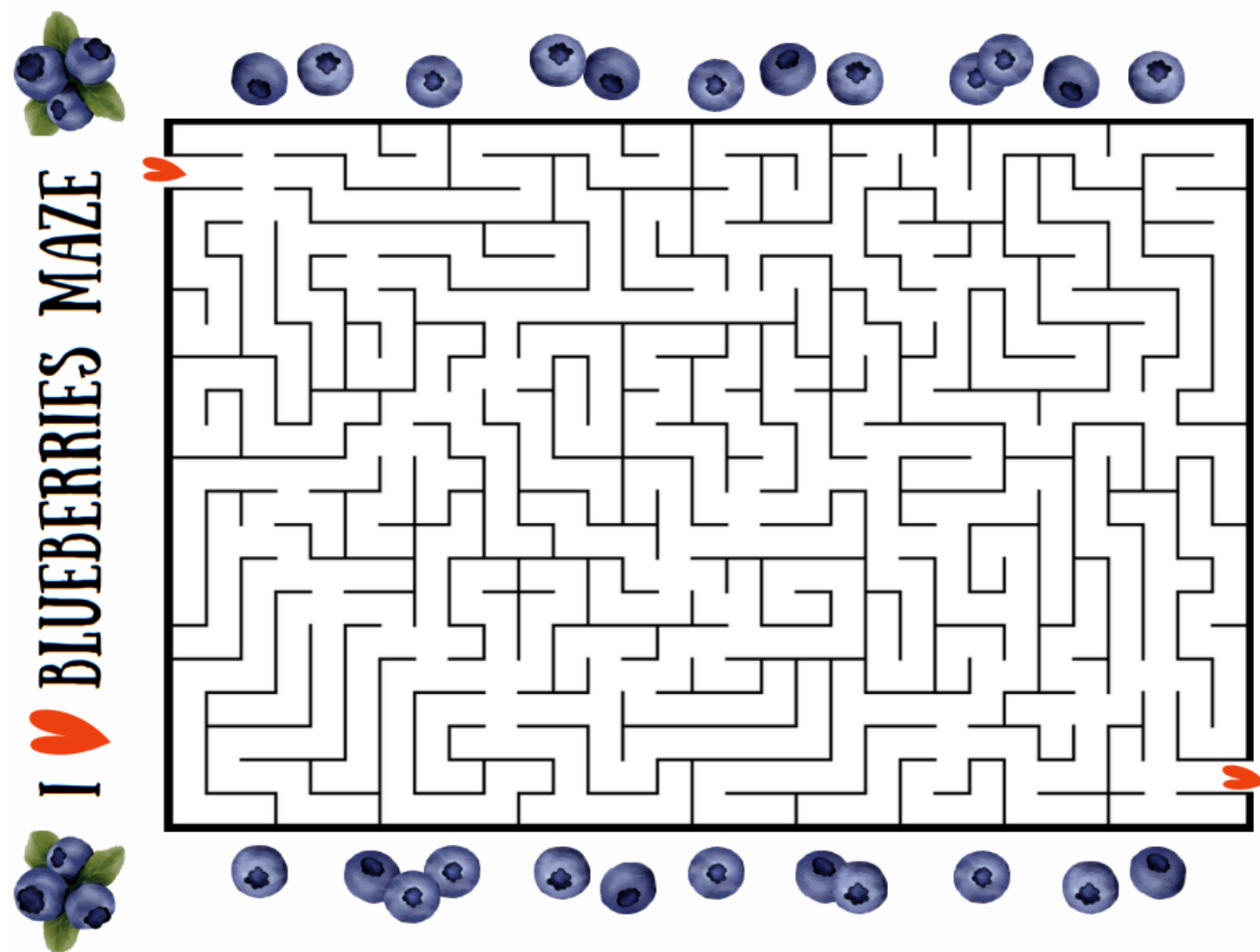
I was thinking about Annie and Tyler one day while pruning a huge nandina by our back door, when I discovered a nest with one little egg. *How sad it didn't hatch*, I thought. The nest was tattered—and abandoned, I assumed—so I moved it to a table. An hour later I noticed a beautiful male cardinal flying back and forth to the bush, chirping, and realized he was looking for his nest. I returned it to the bush and put it between some strong branches. The next day I discovered that the nest had tipped over. There were two eggs on the ground. I put them back and carefully tried to wedge the nest between the branches. On the third morning, I found that the nest had tipped again. It was so thin at this point. What if the eggs fell through the bottom? I rummaged around our kitchen for some sort of holder and decided on a pimento cheese spread container. It was the perfect size and sturdy enough to support the nest. I poked about 50 holes in the container for ventilation and to keep it from filling with rainwater.

around the bush to keep our coonhound away. Over the following weeks, I checked on the Pimento family every day. Mrs. Pimento was a wonderful mother, keeping her eggs warm and allowing me to keep an eye on her. She even let me take pictures. Mr. Pimento was a dutiful father, flying back and forth to feed his mate. Watching this cardinal couple prepare for parenthood reminded me of carrying the twins 23 years ago. I'd been put on bed rest for three months, and my husband had taken such good care of me, like Mr. Pimento. And when only two of the three eggs hatched, that made me draw an even greater parallel between the Pimento and Daniell families. I had started out pregnant with triplets, but God in his wisdom knew that only two would be able to survive and flourish, just like these two chicks. I named them Cheddar and Mayo—the ingredients in pimento cheese.

I kept looking in on the Pimentos and taking photos as the chicks grew. One morning, I pulled back the branches, and Cheddar leapt out of the nest and fluttered over to our wheelbarrow. I watched Mr. and Mrs. Pimento coaxing their sweet babies along and teaching them to fly. It was a long process, but as parents, there comes a time when you have to trust that you've done your best and your chicks will be okay out of the nest. What a joy it is to



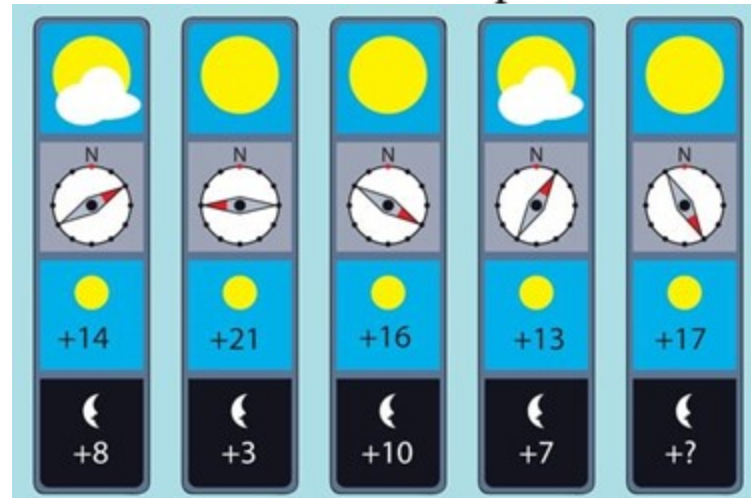




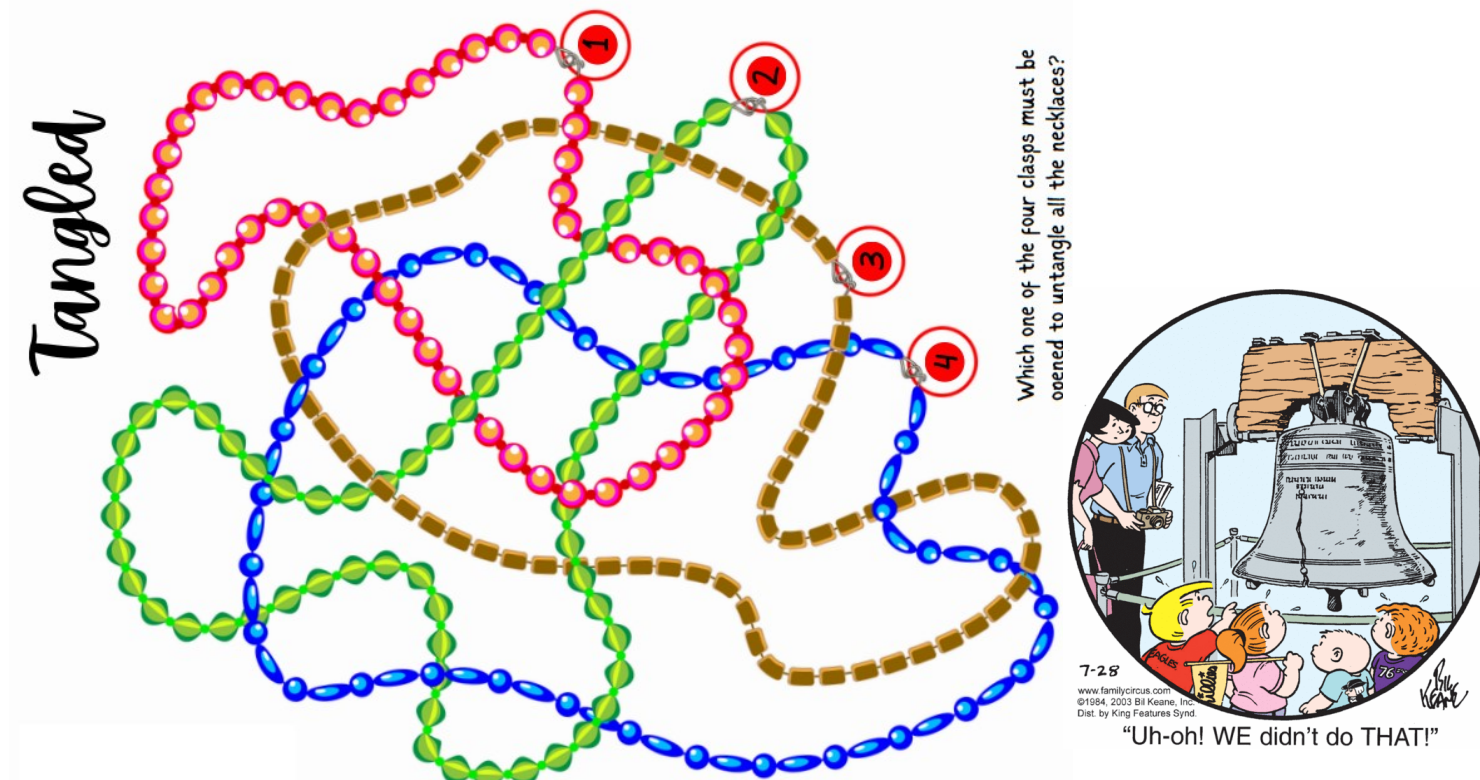
Problem: If there are 20 people in a room and they shake every other person's hand once and only

You probably already know that the expressions  
 $2 + 2$  AND  $2 \times 2$  are both equal to 4.

Can you find a set of THREE different whole numbers whose sum *and* product are equal?



Knowing that there is a logical connection between the temperature and wind direction, which night temperature should replace the question mark?  
 (Hint: It's "time" for some hard math puzzles.)



My friend John and I, determined to see the world, signed on to a Norwegian freighter as deckhands. We were being trained as helmsmen, and John's first lesson was given by the mate, a seasoned but gentle white-haired seafarer. John was holding the heading he'd been given, when the mate ordered, "Come starboard." Pleased at knowing which way starboard was, John left the helm and walked over to his instructor. As the helm swung freely, the mate politely asked, "Could you bring the ship with you?" -

A pastor I know has a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalize each service, he uses the Find and Replace command on his computer to replace the name of the deceased from the previous funeral with the name of the deceased for the upcoming one. Recently, he had to replace the name Mary with Edna. The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the congregation intoned the Apostles' Creed. "Jesus Christ," they read from the preprinted program, "born of the Virgin Edna."

Few people outside the military know what a quartermaster does. So during my aircraft carrier's Family Day, I demonstrated a procedure called semaphore-I grabbed my flags and signaled an imaginary boat. When finished, I pointed to a little girl in front and asked, "Now do you know what I do?" "Yes," she answered. "You're a cheerleader."

I feel inadequate when talking with a mechanic, so when my vehicle started making a strange noise, I sought help from a friend. A car nut, he told me how to explain the difficulty when I took it in for repair. At the shop, I proudly recited, "The timing is off, and there are premature detonations, which may damage the valves." As I smugly glanced over the mechanic's shoulder, I saw him write on his clipboard, "Lady says it makes a funny noise."