

Operation Christmas Child – National Collection Week

'It's All About Jesus!'

The 2025 National Collection Week concluded on Monday, November 24 and the trailers left our parking lot on Tuesday, November 25 bright and early with **15,210 Gospel Opportunities!!**

From here the next stop is the OCC processing center in Baltimore, MD where each box will be inspected and placed into specific age-groups for boys/girls. Then they are on their way around the world to be delivered personally by ministry teams.



be counted and 'cartonized' (placed in shipping cartons). We welcomed individual donors, families, and area churches as they dropped off their packed shoeboxes- a total of 895 for the week.



Our church packed 114 shoeboxes including 39 from the summer Bergen Community VBS and 35 from Sunday School with many items donated by our congregation. We were so blessed to be able to include 70 beautiful drawstring bags that the Sewing with a Purpose group made as well as some hand-held stuffed dolls. I am sure these items will be treasured by children around the world.



The week started with the foyer being transformed into OCC central. Kevin used his skills to build a ramp for the carts to enter the center entrance from the sidewalk. It was used frequently throughout the week as we transported shoeboxes from donor's vehicles into the fellowship hall to





On Sunday and Monday (11/23-24) many strong hands were needed in our parking lot to help unload cartons of shoeboxes from the 14 area collection drop-off locations in the Genesee Valley Region. This year we used a roller conveyor set-up which allowed us to move the cartons more efficiently. Each carton needed to be numbered and tallied before being stacked high in the 3 trailers. On

Sunday, the volunteers were treated with pizza and cookies in the fellowship hall. We were blessed to have the Adams family provide a special time of worship music.

Although we did not meet our original goal of filling 4 trailers, we saw God's hand at work with each shoebox we did pack. The hope and prayer is that with **evangelism**, discipleship occurs, and with **discipleship**, **multiplication** occurs where families and communities will be transformed with the Gospel. An interesting statistic we learned is that God uses these shoeboxes and multiplies each by 8 other people that can learn of the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. That is so amazing.

I am so grateful and truly blessed by the love and support of each one of you who donated items/shipping costs, packed shoeboxes, volunteered during the week, as well as prayed for this life-changing, Kingdom-growing ministry.

'It's All About Jesus'!



From the Pastor:

As I look back on my seven years of ministry here at Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian, there are lots of sermons that I cherish. One of the most important of those was an overview of the book of Revelation. In that sermon, I looked throughout the book to see the number of times that Jesus is referred to. I don't remember the exact number, just that it was a huge number, as in the hundreds, so as I was thinking and praying about what to do this year's Christmas sermon series on, I thought about the book of Revelation.

This really became reality as I was talking with another pastor who talked about the whole idea of advent is preparing our hearts and minds for the future, and so I wanted to take the time out to look at the last few chapters of Revelation and put these chapters in the context of Christ's first coming and why we celebrate Christmas. We will see that Christmas means that the one who will eventually crush Satan for eternity has come, that He who makes all things new has come, that He who will bring heaven to Earth has come, that He who brings eternal life has come, and that He who has come will come again.

This Sunday, we will see that He who will crush Satan (Revelation 20:1-10) has come to Earth. We do not need to put too much stock in Satan (such as saying "The devil made me do it."), but at the same time we do not need to overlook him. Scripture describes him as our adversary who is a liar and comes as an angel of light. He is a major reason for all our difficulties in this life, especially the persecution of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. But the Bible shows us that Jesus has defeated Satan through His death and resurrection, and that one day, this will result in his eventual eternal destruction.

Next, we will see that through Jesus, God the Father will make everything new (Revelation 21:1-8): "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear

from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (verses 3-4). Just picture in your mind if you can what it will mean to no longer have mourning, crying, pain, and more than anything, no more death. Life will radically change for us, and this is all made possible only with the one who we celebrate this Christmas season.

Next, we will see that Jesus will bring Heaven to Earth (Revelation 21:9-27). What this shows is the community we will one day be a part of. I love church families, and I will always cherish Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian. I

love the joy and the love that is there every Sunday. That is just a mere reflection of what our community will be like when the One that we celebrate will bring heaven to earth, bringing perfect peace and harmony to not only those Christians we are with now, but those loved

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:6-7 (ESV)

ones who have gone before us.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without the main reason that Jesus has come and that is to forgive our sins and bring us eternal life (Revelation 22:1-5). We often hear and say things like He was born to die which points towards His death on the cross for us. Of all the things that we should think about Christmas, this should be foremost on our minds and hearts. Of course, following His death was His resurrection which is essential as otherwise we would still be in our sins and without hope in this life and the next. The joy of Christmas consistently reminds us that our joy is complete as we celebrate our risen Savior who was born to save us.

Finally, after Christmas, we will see that the one who was born, died, rose again, and ascended into heaven will come back again (Revelation 22:6-21), and all that we hope for in this life and the next life will finally be accomplished through Jesus, who has filled us with joy this Christmas season. "Come, Lord Jesus" (verse 20).

Pastor Brandt

Session Report

The Session met on November 12.

- Brian reported that giving is basically keeping up with spending. The budget planning for 2026 will start in the next couple of weeks.
- We talked about future directions for the church.
- We discussed the results of the survey about prayer requests that was given earlier in the year. We talked about trying to find a person to coordinate the prayer ministry of the church.
- Brandt, Brandon, and Dave Wright are working on Kid's Movie Night on December 19. They are planning to show a Christmas movie. Several alternatives were discussed.
- We discussed other upcoming events for the Christmas season: the Christmas concert on 12/6, Christmas Pageant and caroling on 12/21, and the Christmas Eve service.
- The carpet installation in the sanctuary has been moved to the first week of January.
- The Session, over the last month, has decided to not pursue the NYS funding (through Go-Art) for the concert series. Alden is working with Paul Shewan (RWU) on ideas for concerts.
- Brandon and Rob will be attending the Presbytery meeting on November 15. One of the themes of the meeting is Next Gen (children and youth) ministry.

As always, I would like to encourage you to talk with the pastor or any Session member if you have questions.

Rob, Clerk of Session

Sewing With A Purpose

12 hand held dolls were embroidered with simple faces by the Sewing With A Purpose Team and then stuffed and sewn by Marty and her neighbors. These dolls were then added to the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

The Strong Neonatal Intensive Care Unit -NICU will receive 100 flannel hearts and 25 eye protections which should cover the births of 1- to 2-pound babies through Spring 2026. We will check with Strong in March or April regarding further needs.

Fellowship

Many, many thanks to all of you that helped with our annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 9. We welcomed some of the men from Adult and Teen Challenge as our guests. It was a wonderful time of good food and fellowship. We were able to send some of the leftover food back with the Adult and Teen Challenge men.

We served about 85 dinners, including takeouts for those that were homebound. Thanks to all who delivered.

We will be using some of the leftover ham and potatoes to make soup for our next fellowship dinner. More details (including the date) to follow.

We will be providing cookies and cocoa for the annual Community Christmas concert on Saturday, December 6. If you are able and willing to make cookies, please contact the church office or Sandy Partridge. We have so enjoyed all the wonderful goodies that you have provided in previous years!

Thank you,

The Fellowship Team



Saturday, December 6th, 2025 @ 6:00 PM
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church,
38 South Lake Ave, Bergen, NY

Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of the community.

Young and old are welcome to attend. Family friendly, bring all your little ones! Cookies, milk, and cocoa to follow. Need a ride? Please call 494-1251.

Calling all musicians- please share your talent with our community!

Questions about attending or performing?

Contact Jocelyn Rebisz, call or text (585) 369-6043.



TAG – Teens After God

The annual **REVERB** youth event took place in Rochester on the 7 and 8 of November. It was an all-night event that included an Amerks hockey game (Amerks won!), Christian teen rally, awesome team competitions and activities, a phenomenal message given by a nationally



known evangelist, all you can eat pizza, all night Tri-County Sports Complex athletic events, free arcade, go carts, mini golf, and more. Over 2,200 teens and leaders attended this year, and many gave their lives to the Lord for the first time! We had a group of fifty-five teens and leaders attend with our TAG youth group this year. A special thanks to Brandon for coming along to help chaperone. 😊

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!!

Our regular TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: November 30 and January 4. Our **BIG TAG CHRISTMAS BASH** will be held on Sunday, December 21 from 5-9 pm!!! Please keep all the teens of our group, and in Bergen, in your prayers. Continue to pray for God’s protection and guidance in their lives!

Christmas Eve Offering

Christmas Eve Offering Supports Ministry with College Students

Our annual Christmas Eve offering will go to Adrienne Willhoft to provide financial assistance to Juniata College students participating in a mission trip to New Orleans and the 2026 Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the campus ministry CCO, Jubilee is a conference helping college students learn to connect faith with all of life. This connection between faith and vocation is a unique emphasis of this conference. Adrienne expects to have about 45 students from her campus ministry at Juniata attend the February conference.



Adrienne is the daughter of Rob and Faith in our church family. A couple of years ago she spoke to us about her ministry with college students.

To contribute to this mission, you can contribute online or put your offering in the boxes by the church entrance. Mark your contribution for Christmas Eve.

Salvation Army

Food Collected Each Month for Salvation Army

The first Sunday of each month we continue to collect food for the food pantry at the Salvation Army in Batavia. They welcome non-perishable items such as pasta, sauce, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, other canned items. We need volunteers to take the items to Batavia. They can be taken after worship service and delivered to the Salvation Army the next day. Please see the signup sheet on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.

Open Door Mission

Need for Emergency Services Hits Historic High at Open Door Mission

Open Door Mission is the December Mission of the Month. Since 1952, Open Door Mission has provided emergency services and hope to those in Rochester who need a new start. Their success in providing emergency care has been made possible through the dedicated support of faithful donors such as our church.

2025 brought in cold weather for many months. The number of guests in Open Door Mission's emergency shelters are the highest they have been in its almost 75-year history. The increase is the result of many factors including: an increase in individuals battling addiction; untreated mental illness; the adverse effects of New York State's changing laws; decreased supply of independent, safe affordable housing; and decreased funding for emergency beds.

We will learn more about the work of Open Door Mission on December 14 when Chris Scribani from the Open Door staff comes to our worship service to speak to us.

Foodlink

2025 Foodlink Distributions End; Will Restart in March

Our final Foodlink distribution for 2025 brought more than 111 families seeking food that will serve more than 330 individuals. Thanks to all the volunteers who efficiently served our neighbors in need. Any surplus food is taken to local food pantries here in Bergen, Brockport, Churchville and Batavia.



We take a break during December, January and February. Our next distribution will be March 19. Other dates in 2026 are April 16, May 21 and June 18. We will get dates for the remainder of 2026 in the spring.

Veterans Ministry

Pastor Brandt was able to join Joan and Shirley for their November visit to Eagle Star Housing in East Pembroke. Their November visit ended with two veterans asking for Bibles. Thank you, Brandt, for the Bibles.

There are several pictures (at the bottom of this page) from the Eagle Star website to give a little more feel for the facility in Pembroke.

Much gratitude to Ward Bailey for his "Missing Man" display at our Harvest Dinner



Calendar

Online calendar: epcbergen.org/calendar

(Please note the change in the calendar location)

Recurring Weekly/Monthly

- Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am – Sunday School
- Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am – Morning Worship
- First Sunday of the month -- Communion
- First Sunday of the month – Salvation Army Food Collection
- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -- Kids Quest during worship time
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers
- 25th of each month – Newsletter deadline

Other Events in December

- December 3, 7 pm – Special Session meeting
- December 6, 6 pm – Community Christmas Concert
- December 7, noon – Fellowship Committee meeting
- December 10, 7 pm – Session meeting
- December 19, 6:30 pm – Christmas Movie Night
- December 21 – Christmas Pageant (during the worship service)
- December 21, 12:15 pm – Fellowship Lunch
- December 21, 1-3 pm – Christmas Caroling
- December 24, 6 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

January 21, 2026 – Annual Meeting

Join us for a fellowship lunch after the service and then we will gather for our annual meeting. All are invited to attend as we look forward to our new church year.

Please have all reports for the Annual Report submitted to the church office by December 15. If your report must be submitted later, be sure to talk with Susan about timing.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

December Birthdays

December 1 – Brandt Hammack
 December 3 – Isaac Buckland
 December 4 – Donna Lacey
 December 10 – Chaz Newmark
 December 11 – Wesley McNear
 December 11 – Robbie Newmark
 December 11 – Sandy Partridge
 December 12 – John Jessop
 December 16 – Joe Rebisz
 December 19 – Rena Wilson
 December 20 – David Brownell
 December 23 – Wendy Caccamise
 December 27 – Sandy Gillett
 December 31 – Bev Wooton

December Anniversaries

December 21 – Tom and Cyndy Jones (53 years)

January Birthdays

1 - Jim Wilson
 3 - Debby Newmark
 4 - Collin McNear
 7 - Rose Wilson
 8 - Luke Hollenbeck
 11 - Bruce Partridge
 12 - Shirley Harris
 13 - Joe Heukensfeld
 23 - Eleanor Bater
 26 - Michael Welch
 28 - Denny Gillett
 30 - Lydia Hammack

January Anniversaries

1 - Chad and Wendy Caccamise (33 years)
 8-- Brandt and Marty Hammack (15 years)

Church Finances

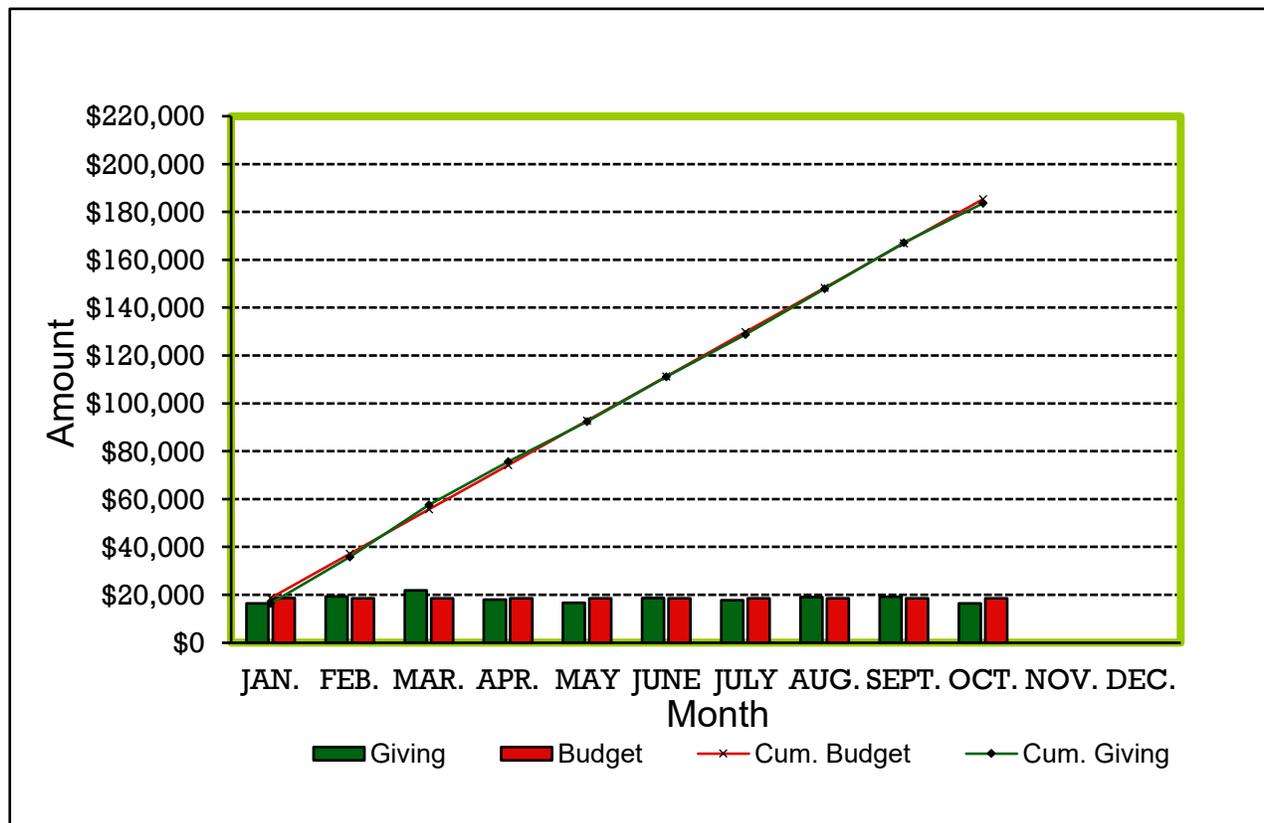
October 2025



"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

Malachi 3:10

October's giving was \$16,415.63 for the monthly financial support of the annual budget. Based on the approved 2025 annual budget of \$223,865.00, the monthly support needed for this budget is \$18,687.35 per month. October's giving was slightly less than the budgeted amount needed.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2025

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$11,758.00
Net Online Offering:	\$687.53
<small>*note – online offering reflects \$14.19 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</small>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,970.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$16,415.53</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$290.72</i>
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$16,706.25

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$13,582.70
<i>Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses</i>	
None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$13,582.70
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$1,000.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$2,970.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE \$153.55

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$12,183.19
New Designated Receipts	\$100.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$410.75

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE \$11,872.44

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) \$12,025.99

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

October Withdraw	-\$1,000.00
Current Balance (10/31/2025)	\$9,355.00

Tithe Fund

September Activity – None	-\$0.00
Current Balance (10/31/2025)	\$51,140.56