The Vision

November 2026

The Monthly Newsletter of
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church





2026 Harvest Festival



Phone: (585) 494-1251 email: office@epcbergen.org
38 S. Lake Ave, PO Box 206, Bergen, NY 14416
Website: epcbergen.org

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
12:30 – 2:30 pm

180+ Children at Harvest Festival



To start with, I just have to thank everyone who helped with the preparations and implementation of the Harvest Festival. This church is full of hard workers who can be depended on whenever opportunity arises. May God bless you and may he give you what is needed to continue working in this church for His Kingdom with great joy.

The hope for the Harvest Festival is that God will use simple things like our handouts, games, and candy to get the message of the love of Jesus into the hearts of the people who attend. We gave out tracts written by a friend of BEPC, as well as bracelets, pens, little Jesus, flags, and balls - all of which had words meant to point people to Jesus. Just in case they missed it elsewhere, we had our huge banner displaying a cross and open Bible with the words, "God's Love Story…and you're in it" on the wall as they entered and as they exited the wall was covered with scripture verses being displayed via a PowerPoint with powerful images as backgrounds.

We couldn't do this without the help from four groups who are connected with our church: Teens After God (TAG), the Bergen Area Home School Co-op, Young Lives, and the Scouts. We passed out a flyer that promoted these groups and our church, all in hopes to get kids involved for a longer lasting impact on their lives.







The take home items are meant to be spread around their homes to be tools in the Spirit's hands to lead these kids and their parents toward Jesus. Please keep all this in prayer. The work was just begun last night…the goal is that our little Harvest Festival will impact the lives of these people for all eternity.

Dave Wright

More pictures

Scouts Spaghetti Dinner



In conjunction with the Harvest Festival, the Scouts had a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser from 3 to 6 pm. Their goal was to sell 100 dinners. People picked them up in person, in a drive through, or ate at the church.

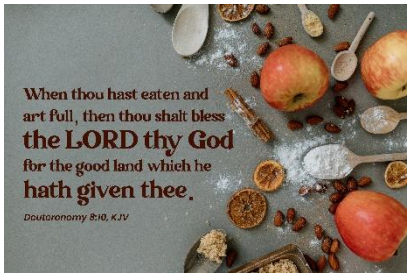


Fellowship News

Psalm 100:4 ***Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.***

The Fellowship Team invites you to our **annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 8, 2026**, following the service. We will be serving ham, potatoes, butternut squash, stuffing, beans, cranberry relish and a pumpkin dessert. Please come and bring a friend. If you would like takeouts for someone that is unable to get out, please let the office or Fellowship Team know. Also, if you are able to help, we could use some people to:

- Cook the squash ahead: there will be squash in the foyer for you to take and cook.
  Please do not season or butter the squash. You can package it in a Ziplock bag and put it in the church freezer.
- Help prep the meal and/or decorate on Saturday, November 7 from 10am-noon. Please let Fellowship know if you are able to help.



Many thanks to all that helped with our October luncheon on 10/11 and those of you that made cookies for the concert reception on 10/18.

We served hot dogs and water to the Foodlink guests again in October. We will also plan to do the same in November, before Foodlink takes a break for the winter.

The Genesee County Health Department inspected our kitchen last month. Thank you to all that helped get the kitchen ready. Let's keep it clean and organized. If you put something in the refrigerator or freezer, please label and date it. Also, if you open packages of paper products, please store the leftovers in the bins in the coffee hour room (located in the lower cupboards). Thank you!

If you are interested in being a part of the Fellowship Team, it's a great way to serve and get to know more of your church family!

Many Thanks,
The Fellowship Team

Upcoming Foodlink Dates

Foodlink
NOURISHING LIVES

This will be our last Foodlink distribution in 2026 before we take our winter break. Save the date of **November 19** to share food and love with our neighbors in need. We take the months of December, January and February off while winter is at its worst.

Christmas Plants

It will soon be that time of year again – time to order your Christmas poinsettia! Keep an eye out in upcoming bulletins for your poinsettia order form. We will again be offering a choice of either 6" red or 6" white poinsettias at a price of $6.95 each (same as last year!) We give you the opportunity to order your plant either "In Honor" of someone and/or "In Memory" of someone.

Poinsettia
ORDERS

Please remember that your order form, along with payment, is to be given to Susan in the church office. That way she will be sure to get your choice in before the deadline.

Honoring All Who Served

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11th. If you see a veteran, be sure to thank them for their service for our country. If you see any of the following BEPC members, be sure to express your gratitude for their service!

- **Ward Bailey**
- **Robert Cosgrove**
- **Fred Ely**
- **Stu Freeman**
- **Dennis Gillett**
- **David Hahn**
- **Joe Heukensfeld**
- **Charles McAdam**
- **Harvey Morse**
- **Robert Shingleton**
- **Rick Stacy**

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Exciting News!! It's Good News, Great Joy!

Where: Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church (BEPC)

What: 3rd year of being a Local OCC shoebox drop-off/collection location AND the Central Drop-off location for the Genesee Valley Region

When: during National Collection Week November 16-23

Why: The heart of OCC (and BEPC) is for the Gospel.

These simple shoebox gifts along with ministry partners all over the world enable children to hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. Each shoebox = a 'Gospel Opportunity'- aka G O boxes

How: Through prayer and training of volunteers, we want to ensure that every person dropping off a shoebox will have a 'transformational' experience, experiencing the love and care of Christ through our team. Without dedicated volunteers and donors, the mission of Operation Christmas Child would not be realized.

Collection Network Volunteer Roles:

Volunteers will show a positive representation of Christ: Volunteers represent Samaritan's Purse and our church.

Central Drop-Off Team Leader: Julie Foeller- develop and lead a team of Collection Network Volunteers to share the hope of Jesus Christ through OCC by meeting the logistical needs of collecting shoebox gifts at the Central Drop-off location (BEPC)

Host/Greeters: People who have the gift of hospitality; warm, welcoming and good with people; serves at the front table welcoming shoebox donors; collects donor data on log-sheets; ensures donors have a 'transformational 'experience, not just transactional; trained to share more information about the ministry of OCC.

Unloaders: Greet donors at the curbside/parking lot; unload shoeboxes from vehicle and transport into the fellowship hall; be able to lift a reasonable amount of weight; ensure accurate count of shoeboxes received.

Cartonizers: A good organizer; efficiently pack shoeboxes into OCC cartons (at least 15 per carton); accurately count and label each carton so they are ready for delivery to the processing center.

Truck loaders: On Sunday, Nov 22 and Monday, Nov 23 the Genesee Valley Team drop-off locations (15) will be transporting their packed shipping cartons to our BEPC site; we will need many strong hands to transfer packed shipping cartons from their trucks to the semi-trucks in our parking lot. It is recommended to be able to lift 50 lbs without difficulty utilizing a 2-person assist.

Prayer Leader: Organize people to lead a prayer time each day of National Collection Week using daily devotions supplied by OCC.

These are some of the main volunteer roles that will be needed during collection week.

Each volunteer will be trained ahead of time and will have the opportunity to choose the days/evenings they are willing to serve.

Please see Julie Foeller with any questions. Be sure to look at updates on the main bulletin board and sign up for times willing to volunteer. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this ministry.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says,

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

It's All About Jesus

Operation Christmas Child-2026

There are a few different ways you can be a part of the shoebox packing experience:

1. **Pack shoeboxes on your own at home.** Stop by the OCC display in the foyer to pick up an empty box; have fun shopping for a child: girl or boy ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. **Bring your packed shoebox back to church by Sunday, Nov 15.** *Please note the recommended donation for shipping is $10 per shoebox. You can include this in the box or pay online. If you pay online you can track where your shoebox is sent.* We would like to encourage everyone/family in our congregation to pack a shoebox. Remember that you have the opportunity to bless a special child with a tangible gift, but most importantly that child will get to hear about the Best Gift of All—JESUS!
2. **Build a Shoebox ONLINE :** You can bless a child around the world *without leaving home* !
   Select fun items from the OCC collection and personalize your gift with a letter and photo. A box will be packed for you and sent on its way for a suggested donation of **$30**. To start building, visit samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. You can help our Genesee Valley team reach their goal of packing 250 online shoeboxes this year. Use the following QR code to get started:

There will be information in the foyer as well.

3. **Donate money toward shipping.** If you would like to contribute to the cost of shipping for the shoeboxes the youth pack in Sunday School, please place your donation in the offering box with the envelope marked/designated for 'OCC shipping'. Thank You!

As a result of each shoebox packed and sent, a child will be blessed with the Gospel of Jesus Christ- families will be reached, churches started, and communities will be transformed by the power of the Gospel…. *Now that is GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY !*

TAG ~ Teens After God

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD AND REVERB!!!!

At our most recent TAG gathering, we were once again asked to help fold the "Operation Christmas Child" boxes (see picture below). The TAG group has been folding these boxes for many years, and it is definitely the official kick-off to the holiday season for many of us. The annual **REVERB** (formerly "Superbowl") youth event takes place in Rochester on the 6th and 7th of November. The BEPC TAG group is chartering a bus with over 50 teens and leaders and will be traveling as part of a convoy of buses along with Genesee Country Church of Oakfield. Reverb is an all-night event that includes a Rochester Americans hockey game, awesome group activities on the ice after the game, a phenomenal message given by a nationally known evangelist, all you can eat pizza, all night Pinnacle Athletic Campus and Event Center athletic events, Nerf wars, go-carts, arcade games, and more. Over 2,200 teens and leaders will be attending this year, and many will give their lives to the Lord for the first time. Please pray for all the teens, leaders, and volunteers who will be attending the event.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: November 15th, November 29th, and December 13th. 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!



Teens Folding "Operation Christmas Child" Boxes – October 2026

Session Report

The Session met for its normal monthly meeting on October 14 with all members present.

- Chad led the Session in a devotion from 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 asking the question, “What is the purpose of worship?”.
- We reviewed three documents from the Pastoral Search Committee that will be shared with all applicants – a cover letter, a position description, and our Church Information Form (CIF).
- We approved a budget for the Pastoral Search Committee for expenses such as listing our position on websites. etc. Additional money will be required next year to cover the travel expenses for candidates.
- We reviewed the church finances with Brian. In the later part of the year, giving is up some, but still below what would be needed if we were paying expenses for a pastor.
- We discussed some basic items regarding the 2027 budget, especially the parts of the total compensation package for the pastor. The Finance Team will be putting together the budget over the next couple of months.
- We discussed and approved ideas for a Thanksgiving worship service on November 22 and for a series of five Advent sermons on November 29 through December 24. All of the Advent messages will be brought by people in the church, i.e. we will not have any outside speakers during Advent.
- Rob shared a thank you note from Maya Lynch for money that was given to her from the Scholarship Fund.
- The Property Committee presented final plans for a ramp at the front of the church between the two buildings. The Session approved a final cost of not more than $22,990. Money for the ramp has been provided by several special gifts to the church.
- The Property Committee also presented a proposal for insulating the attic to help prevent icicles forming along the gutters. The total cost will most likely be around $20,000. Money could be taken from one of the endowment funds.
- Sunday School started on September 13. Youth and adults are studying the Gospel of John. We discussed the need for a class for younger children.
- We talked about the E&M report that included information on Foodlink and the Harvest Festival. Both of these events require lots of people to be involved. We need to keep encouraging more people to be involved.
- We are not going to do the Christmas Pageant this year. Session approved loaning the costumes for the Christmas Pageant to the Batavia Assembly of God Church.
- We are having more meal events than we should with our certificate. Dave is working with the Health Department to figure out the right certificate.

As always, if you have any questions, please talk to any of the elders.

Rob Willhoft, Clerk of Session

Using Our Gifts to Serve

As our Nominating Committee begins the important work of seeking Elders and Deacons to serve our church, we are reminded of the words of 1 Peter 4:10: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace"

God has given each of us different gifts, and sometimes He calls us to use those gifts in ways we never expected. If you are approached about serving as an Elder or Deacon, we encourage you to prayerfully consider it. Listen for that tug on your heart and be willing to step outside your comfort zone. God may be opening a door for you to serve Him in a way you never thought possible.

We also ask the congregation to pray for our Nominating Committee, that God would clearly lead us to those He is calling to serve. Please pray as well for everyone who may be asked to step forward, that they would have wisdom, courage, and an open heart to God's leading.

Finding people willing and able to serve is not always easy, so your prayers truly matter. May we trust that God has already provided the gifts our church needs and may we all be willing to use them for His glory.

Chad Caccamise, Nominating Committee, Chair

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Pastoral Search Committee continues to make good progress in our search for our next pastor. Since completing our Church Information Form and developing the criteria that will guide our search, we have posted the opportunity through multiple sites and ministry resources.

We are encouraged to have received interest from several prospective candidates and are currently gathering the necessary materials from them as we prepare for the review process.

Please continue to pray for the committee, the candidates considering this opportunity, and for God's continued guidance as we seek the pastor He has for Bergen.

Chad Caccamise

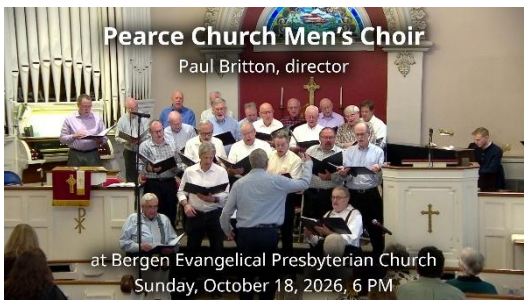
Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday, November 22 this year, we will have a special service with the opportunity for people of the church to share thanks together. Individuals, couples, and families are invited to share things they are thankful for in about 2-3 minutes. Those speaking will also be encouraged to share a reading of Scripture and to recommend to Christin a song to be included in the service.

Please talk to or email Rob Willhoft (willhoft@gmail.com), on or before 11/15, if you are interested in participating in the service.



2026 Concert Series



The Pearce Men's Choir provided the last of our 2026 Concert Series. The concert, featuring four-part harmony, provided a night of delightful & inspiring music!

Click the QR code to listen to the concert.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

November Birthdays

3 – Garry Hutchurson
5 – Richard Stacy
7 – Fred Ely
11 – Loretta Miller
12 – Marianne Newmark
15 – Deb Heukensfeld
19 – Kevin Hollenbeck
27 – Linda Johnson
27 – Seth McNear
30 – Don Kent



November Anniversaries

27 – Brian & Julie Foeller (33 years)
29 – Joe & Deb Heukensfeld (56 years)

December Birthdays

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



December Anniversaries

21 – Tom & Cyndy Jones (54 years)



Calendar

Online calendar: www.epcbergen.org/calendar

Recurring Weekly/Monthly

- Sunday School – 9:15 am
- Sunday Worship – 10:30 am
- First Sunday of the month – Communion
- First Sunday of the month – Salvation Army Food Collection
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers
- Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm – Cub Scouts
- Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 pm – Scouts
- 25th of each month – Newsletter deadline

Other Events in November

- Deacon of the Month – Diane White
- Mission of the Month – Eagle Star Housing/Veteran's Outreach
- Fellowship Committee meeting – Nov 1 @ noon
- TAG Youth Group - Nov 1 @ 6:00 pm till 8:00 pm
- Property Committee meeting – Nov 4 @ 6:30 pm
- Harvest Dinner – November 8 @ noon
- Prayer Meeting – November 10 @ 6:30 pm
- Veteran's Day – November 11 – No office hours
- Session Meeting – November 11 @ 6:00 pm
- TAG Youth Group – November 15 @ 6:00 pm
- Susan on Vacation – Nov 16 – 20
- Operation Christmas Child Collection Week – Nov 16 – Nov 23
  - Nov 16 – 10 am to 12 noon AND 5 to 7 pm
  - Nov 17 – 5 pm to 7 pm
  - Nov 18 – 12 noon to 2 pm
  - Nov 19 – 12 noon to 2 pm
  - Nov 20 – 12 noon to 2 pm
  - Nov 21 – 9 am to 3 pm
  - Nov 22 – 1 pm to 5 pm
  - Nov 23 – 9 am to 6 pm
- Foodlink – November 19 @ 4:00 pm
- Deacon meeting – November 24 @ 6:30 pm
- Thanksgiving – November 26 – church office closed Thursday and Friday
- Worship Committee meeting – Nov 29 @ 12 noon

  TAG Youth Group – November 29 @ 6:00 pm

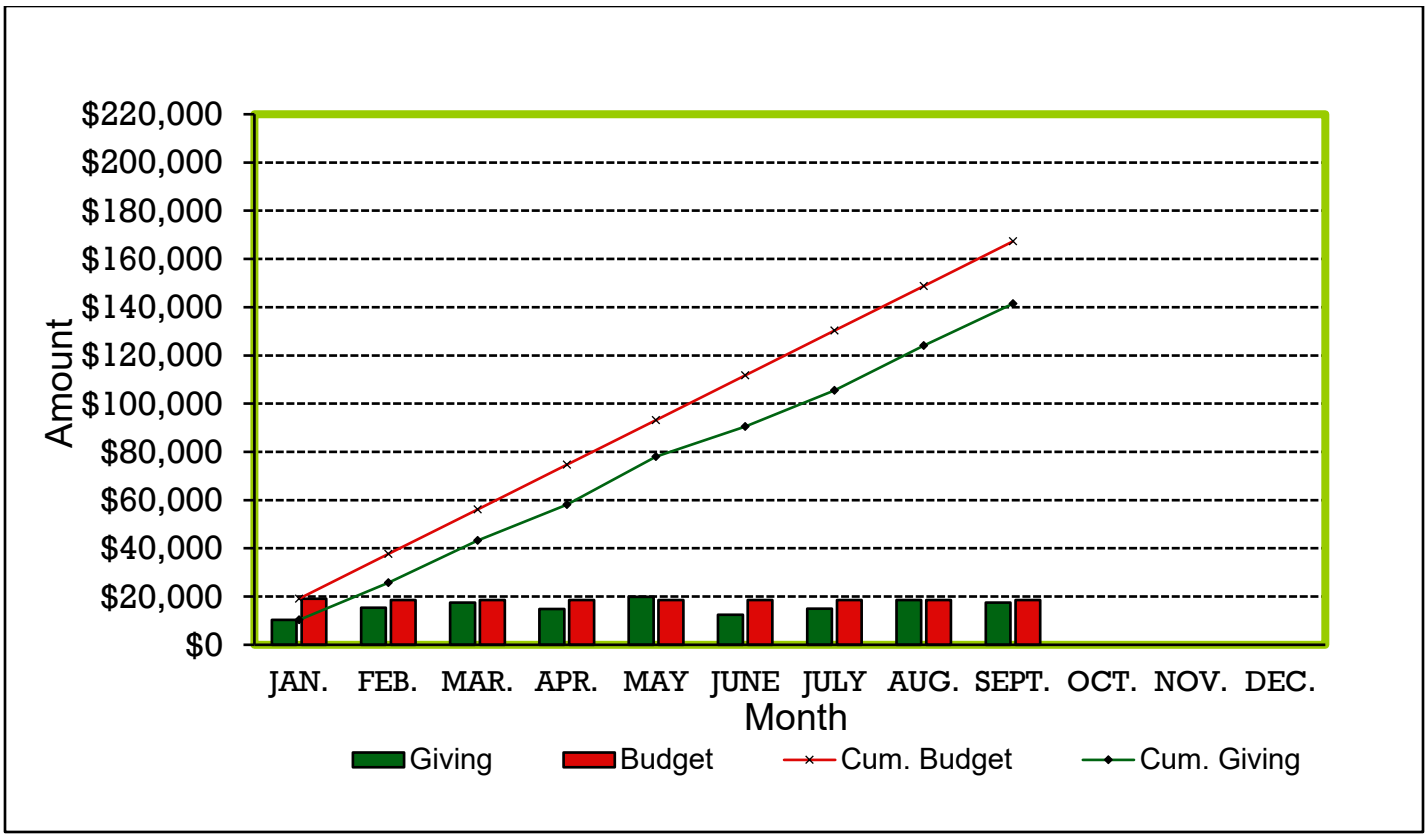


Church Finances
September 2026

"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

September's giving was $17,474 for the monthly financial support of the annual budget. Based on the approved 2026 annual budget of $229,430, the monthly support needed for this budget is $19,119 per month. The average giving per month this year has been $15,718.





MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2026

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	$14,072.00
Net Online Offering:	$121.91
*note – online offering reflects $3.09 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit	
Amortized one-time gifts:	$3,280.00
Total New Receipts	*$17,473.91*
Opening Balance (from previous month)	*$7,537.49*
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	**$25,011.40**

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	$15,525.25
Line-Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	$0.00
Net Expenditures for the Month	**$15,525.25**

Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	$0.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	$3,280.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE $6,206.15

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	$13,212.50
New Designated Receipts	$20,250.00
Total Designated Expenditures	$150.00

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE $33,312.50

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) $39,518.65

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

August Withdraw	-$0.00
Current Balance (9/30/2026)	2,088.00

Property Reserve Fund

September Deposit from Budget	$750.00
Current Balance (9/30/2026)	$3000.00

