

# The Vision

February 2021

Volume 6, Issue 2

The Monthly Newsletter of  
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Bergen, NY  
Full color version available online at [www.bergenepc.com](http://www.bergenepc.com)



For these next few columns, I am covering the main purposes for us as a church. I am doing this in the mist of a very difficult past year in the hope that we would all recommit ourselves to Christ and to Bergen Presbyterian, including financial, but not just money, but also our time and efforts. So, we are looking at worship, edification, and outreach.

The first and primary purpose for any church is worship and the chief thing that should happen within worship is the preaching of the Word, especially within Reformed and Presbyterian churches. This might surprise or even shock you, but from Scripture (most importantly), from church history, and from my own experience, I want to show the importance of preaching within worship.

Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:1-2: “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” The first thing that the early Christians were devoted to in Acts 2:42 was the disciples’ teaching. This is clearly seen within the rest of the book of Acts showing us the importance of preaching within the early church.

Secondly, if you were to pick up any church history book, you would see the importance of preaching and how God has used it to bring about great revivals. The reformation and the two Great Awakenings were all sparked by wonderful, amazing preaching. When one looks within church history, one can see how God used Martin Luther, John Calvin, George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd Jones, and so many others to see how God has used preaching to change individuals, churches, and even the world.

Finally, I can tell you the importance of preaching from my own experience. I had the opportunity to be under many wonderful preachers, but one was very crucial to me. Like most people, college was pivotal in my life. It greatly shaped my personality and who I wanted to become in life. Thankfully, during that time, I attended Trinity Presbyterian and sat under the ministry of Michael Ross, who had the amazing ability to bring forth the truth of Scripture and applied it intellectually and emotionally.

Now, you might be asking yourself, what does this have to do with worship? Should not preaching be more in line with edification? My answer is to describe what happened to me as Mike Ross was preaching and afterwards. Some of my fondest memories in college was sitting in the pew listening to Ross preach, and then afterwards singing the closing song and walking out in the hot, hot, hot Mississippi sun (Y’all think I’m exaggerating. Obviously, you have never been to Mississippi.) and deeply reflecting on the sermon, which really meant that I was reflecting on Scripture itself, and my heart and mind was absolutely filled with worship and devotion to my Savior. I can honestly say those Sundays changed my life. I was already a Christian and headed towards the ministry, but after hearing Ross preach the Word of God, I strove with every fiber of my being to live for Christ. If I have an inkling of worship and devotion to Christ, a love for God’s people, and an excitement for bringing people to Jesus, it is largely due to sitting under the preaching of God’s Word in Trinity Presbyterian.

So when I preach, that is what I am after, not just a good understanding of God’s Word (It’s not meant to be a lecture.), nor a sense of, “oh, that’s nice,” but our hearts, minds, and, in fact, every fiber of our being (including my own) filled with awe, love, devotion, worship, and praise of Jesus because we hear from God’s Word about the wonderful Gospel. It is the type of love and devotion that when it is in the fullest, it will radically change our lives. That love and devotion then becomes very dangerous. Dangerous for Satan that is. It is the type of love and devotion that has and will continue to change the world. That is why preaching is the primary center of worship.

That is why as a church, we must all continually devote ourselves to the preaching of God’s Word.

Pastor Brandt Hammack



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(585-732-6163) Website: [www.bergenepc.com](http://www.bergenepc.com)  
You can also find us on Facebook.

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
8:30am - 1:30 pm

**Pastor’s Hours:**

Tuesday- Friday  
9:30-12:00 flexible



Happy Anniversary



(For every 5 Yrs. there is a ♥ for extra congratulations)

**February Anniversaries**

16– David & June Hahn 58 yrs

**March Anniversaries**

19– Bruce & Cathy Glucksman 38 yrs  
29– Dave & Chris Wright 13 yrs  
30– Marty & Jean Mucher 46 yrs



**February Birthdays**

- 2– Dave Wright
- 4– Robert Cosgrove
- 5– Nancy Alfes
- 7– Emily Caccamise
- 8– Rebecca McNear
- 8– Christin Snell
- 13– Renee Berggren
- 16–Danielle Foeller
- 19– Wendy Hutchurson
- 20– Marty Hammack
- 26– Cyndy Jones
- 28—David Catalino

**March Birthdays**

- 4– Nancy Charcholla
- 4– Debbie McAllister
- 5– Delaney Baker
- 5– Agnes Redinger
- 8– Susan Brownell
- 10– Stewart Freeman
- 18– Kay Harmon
- 21– Faith Willhoft
- 24– Leah Catalino
- 24– Sue Kobel
- 26– Jacob Buckland-Seward
- 26– Matthew Foeller
- 29– Paul Lattimer
- 29– Al Ruge

**Job Announcement**

The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church seeks a Christ-centered, Bible-believing musician open to the Holy Spirit’s leading, to serve as Assistant Music Coordinator. This person will work closely with the Music Coordinator and Pastor on all music-related activities at the church, including weekly musical participation in the worship service and leading the worship service once per month.

This is a part-time position (approximately 5 hours per week). A complete job description is available upon request.

If interested, please submit a letter of inquiry to <fpcbergen@gmail.com>; include “Assistant Music Coordinator Search” in the subject of the email. Questions about the position may be addressed to Rob Willhoft at (585) 293-1304.



Young Lives is a mission of Young Life, a mission that our church supports, that mentors and provides support to teen-aged moms. We have about 7 young women in the Genesee County area that are either pregnant or are raising young children.

We are establishing a ‘baby closet’ to help these new moms. We would welcome gently used baby items (clothes, car seats, cribs, strollers, etc.), as well as new diapers, and maternity clothing. We have received some maternity and baby clothing. Thank you for your generous support. You may contact Jessica Maskell – Young Lives Genesee County Coordinator at 585-409-7261, [gcyounglives@gmail.com](mailto:gcyounglives@gmail.com) and/or Sandy Partridge (committee member) at 585-414-4593.

## A peek at the Church Calendar—

**keep an eye on Life in the Church emails for changes!**

<p>* During this time of quarantine, Son Risers will meet through zoom every Thursday at 6am. TAG will meet at Church every other Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. <u>February</u></p> <p>7- Church 10:30 14- Church 10:30/ Happy Valentines Day 15- Presidents Day 21- Church 10:30</p>	<p>28- Church 10:30</p> <p><u>March</u></p> <p>7- Church 10:30 14- Church 10:30 21- Church 10:30 28- Church 10:30</p>
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**\*\*\*Mike Wilson will be taking over as Financial Secretary this month. Contact Mike if you want to continue to use envelopes or if you no longer wish to receive them.**

You can reach Mike at [mike@managethebooks.com](mailto:mike@managethebooks.com)

**Mike and Cindy Wilson have a new address: 122 Battle Green Dr.**

**Rochester, NY 14624**



### Church repairs

**We are looking for help in completing some projects that need to be done at Church.  
Please contact David Hahn if you can help!**

**Thanks!**

- \*Paint the front foyer of the sanctuary
- \*Repair SW wall of west stall of downstairs large ladies room
- \*Repair front steps
- \*Repaint outside lower windows and trim
- \*Make an enclosure for the dehumidifier
- \*A cover needs to be built over the pipes in the corner of the nursery- See Julie Foeller or Neva Lattimer with questions
- \*General painting



## Meet our New Missionaries

The Evangelism & Missions Committee spent quite a bit of time at the end of the year reviewing the missions we support from our E&M budget. We have added some new missionaries to our annual contribution, including Sarah Speer, who is a medical missionary in the Congo; Jesse and Deborah von Bergen, who are raising support to travel to the Middle East (and yes, Jesse is the grandson of Dick and Shirley); and a teacher in a school sponsored by EduNations in Sierra Leone.

We will tell you a little more about each of these missionaries in the next few newsletters. As they send us reports from their work, we will share those as well.



Here's our first report:

Sarah Speer's heart is knit to the people of the Republic of the Congo. She calls them her friends. On September 19, 2017, the Kimia Center (a leprosy center) was dedicated to the Lord to bring healing (physically and spiritually) to people affected by leprosy. Many Aka Pygmies living in the tropical rain forest of the northern region of Congo are plagued by this ancient destructive disease and other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). American Leprosy Missions is partnering with MissionGO to make a difference in these peoples' lives.

Sarah was serving in the area prior to the establishment of the Kimia Center, treating physical needs and spiritual needs of these people who are among the poorest in the world. John and Elizabeth Gay worked with Sarah when they were missionaries to the Congo. Sarah continues to love and serve these people, often searching in remote parts of the jungle to find lepers who are ashamed of their disease. John and Elizabeth have told us of Sarah's devotion to serving the medical needs of the people of the Congo and introducing them to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Several of the bandages and other items prepared by our church's Sewing with a Purpose team were used by Sarah when John took them over last year.

Our 2021 budget contributes \$1,000 toward Sarah's support.

Here's a newsletter update Sarah sent at Christmas:

Update on Kimia Center – December 2020

Dear Precious Praying Friends,

A Blessed Christmas and Special New Year to you. Thank you for your prayers which sustain us. We would like to inform you that 9 of our patients on leprosy treatment have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They were baptized on December 24 by the Evangelical Christian Church (E.E.C.C.) leadership.

Serge and Sarah teach the Word of God every Sunday at the Kimia Center using Lingala and the Aka (Pygmy) languages. Since March and until 2 weeks ago, our patients have not attended a formal church service. On December 13, Serge and Sarah presented them to the E.E.C.C. church at Gangania. What a miracle, that the Bible lesson was about the healing of the 10 people with leprosy and the one person who returned to get thanks. He was a Samaritan. Serge teaches that the Samaritans in the Bible are the Akas. Our Akas from the Kimia Center heard the preaching with joy!

Serge attended a seminar for COVID-19 and a training for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) organized by FAIR MED, a non-governmental organization (ONG). Shortly afterwards he started his travel to the patients with leprosy who are on treatment in their river and road villages. He invited the Supervisor of NTDs at the government hospital to join him. Unfortunately, he was not available.

Our Prayer Request is that Serge will find the patients in their villages. The Akas are nomadic. He will visit 16 villages before the end of January 2021 to cover their leprosy treatment.

Thanks again for your love and support.  
Many Blessings of the Lord be upon you,  
Serge Ngalipe and Sarah Speer

If you have any questions about our E&M budget for 2021, please don't hesitate to give me call.

Gregg for the E&M Team



# TAG ~ Teens After God

## YOUTH GROUP GOING STRONG!!!!

TAG (Youth Group) continues to be a great blessing to all involved, and has been very well attended since we began meeting in-person again. We have new teens showing up almost weekly, and God continues to do a great work through the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church and our teen program. We recently had two teens attend TAG who stated that they did not necessarily believe in God, but came because they were invited by a friend. Both of the teens returned for our most recent youth group. During youth group that night, one of them asked for prayer for teens who live in toxic homes, and the other teen is now attending Cornerstone Christian Academy in Brockport. God is Good! COVID-19 protocols and procedures, similar to those in schools, are in place to keep everyone safe and healthy. We practice social distancing and wear masks when not seated six feet apart. We are also asking any teens (or families) who are sick, or exhibiting any Covid-19 symptoms, to please stay home. Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Thursdays from 6:00-7:30: February 4th and February 18th. 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 spending time reflecting on their 2020 blessings – January 2021*

# *Sewing With a Purpose*

## **Sewing with a Purpose....Going...Going....almost Gone!**

Three suitcases, representing months of work by Sewing with a Purpose participants, are packed and ready to fly.

Two suitcases are filled with bandages, boys' britches, pillowcase dresses and small dolls. They will go to Congo for use at the Kimia Leprosy Care Center as soon as a travel date is set for the mission representative who has offered to take them. Sarah Speer will use the bandages in caring for the leprosy patients, and the children in this isolated community will be blessed with the other items.

The third suitcase is filled with Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits destined for Kenya. Missionary Hope Carter (Neva Lattimer's sister) will take the suitcase when she returns to Kenya on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The kits will be distributed to the Positive Teen girls. These are HIV positive teens who are orphaned and have very few resources.

Many of you have helped prepare the items being sent. Thank you for your willingness to use your talents to bless others! Please pray that the suitcases will arrive safely at their destination and that the items sent will be used to show the love of God.

There are more opportunities for volunteers to bless others in our local area in a variety of ways. There are project materials set out on the table in the Sewing with a Purpose "Upper Room" at the church. The projects include material for making prayer shawls and flannel hearts for babies in the NICU. Anyone may take a project to work on or complete.





\*The following is a link to a Bible study that people can work on at their own pace from Pastor Brandt. The book costs \$12.74. If you need help ordering the book or any other questions please email Pastor Brandt or Brenda. Pastor Brandt is available to meet with you over zoom to go over the Bible study at your own convenience.

<https://www.seejesus.net/store/united-christ-participants-manual>

## Coffee Hour snacks needed

We all like to enjoy snacks for coffee hour before and after church. Please consider helping out by supplying something from this list:

**baked items, fruit, vegetables, cheese & crackers, chips.**

The committee also accepts monetary donations towards the purchase of snacks.

Contact Eunie Ely if you can help in any way.




 **BEPC Bike Ministry**  
**(Winter coats & shoes too!)**

If anyone is interested in helping to repair bikes, donating bikes, **and helmets**, see Stu Freeman. Stu is also collecting winter coats and gently used shoes! If you are cleaning out your closets or see a deal at a garage sale, bring in winter coats and shoes in all sizes!

Stu recently came into the office and told me about a man he gave a bike to. He had no means of transportation. Stu gave him a bike which he uses to get to work everyday! The bike meant the world to him! It is great to see what the donations you give are doing for people! Each bike donated comes with a card that has our information on it as well as a Bible verse!

**Ink Cartridges**  
*needed for Young Life*



**Don't throw away your empty ink cartridges!** There is a box in the coffee hour foyer near the long table where Young Life Collects them. This is an ongoing fundraiser for them.

**They are able to get credit for empty ink cartridges at one of the local office stores towards purchases when they return them.**

**You can even bring in empty toner cartridges from copy machines.**

**Don't forget to check out the bulletin board, when church resumes, to signup!**

- \*Nursery help & KFC
- \*our to do list
- \*Snack signups





***This month, please pray for:***

**Those with ongoing challenges and needs:**

Chris Martz, Aggie Redinger, Delores Seward, David Hahn, Adriane Broadbooks, Bob and Kathy Cosgrove, Nancy Alfes, Janice Langdon's mother (Jo Files), Susan Brownell's grandmother; Hazel Newsom - and her caretakers Susan's parents Paul and Sandy Harris, Malanie Glucksman, and Evelyn Pangrazio-friend of Tom and Cyndy Jones, Colton Ely, Rusty Brenton

**Those fighting cancer:** Dan Forno, Stacy Cline, Elaine Malkani-Cyndy Jones' sister. Corky's friend, Sharon, fighting colon cancer, Rosemary Utz-friend of McAllisters, vonBergen's grandson, Joe

**Continued healing** for Helen Hill's sister-in-law Dorcas Arbach, June Hahn's niece Ann Crone, & Joan Miller

**Those who have lost loved ones:**

The family of Max Jessop, the family Rob Charcholla, The family of Willard Pengelly, family of Michael O'Brien, the family of Don Thorp, and the Roche family

**The Youth of our church and our community.  
Those serving as Missionaries:**

Joseph Harvey in; Uli Fernandez in Mexico; Berti Berhami with Campus Crusades for Christ in Albania; Mark Randall with CRU; Scott Crosby now in the states but still dealing with missions in the Far East, Tim Riley with Young Life, and Kelsey Hill, John Gay, and Sarah Speer

Our Session, Deacons, Youth Leader Joe Rebisz, Worship Leader Christin Snell, Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee, CE Committee and the many more committees and ministries that help run the church. Pray for the other local churches in our area (and your area too!)

The Servicemen & Women of the United States, as well as our Veterans and their families.

Our countries leaders and their advisors.

## Deacon Notes:

### Deacon Doings

THANK YOU to all the generous hearts in our church family -- about \$2000 was added to the Deacon Benevolent Fund from the special Advent offerings.



### Deacon Dossier

Spotlight on Chris Hollenbeck -

-- Grew up in Bethany, New York

-- Attended Keuka College for nursing and has worked as a nurse for 35 years -- currently as a dialysis nurse

-- Loves the Adirondacks and has hiked Mt. Marcy, the highest peak !!

-- Loves to play with her two granddaughters, Kaitlin (age 3) and Cara (10 mos.)

-- Was invited to this church by Larry Crosby and has been a member for 30





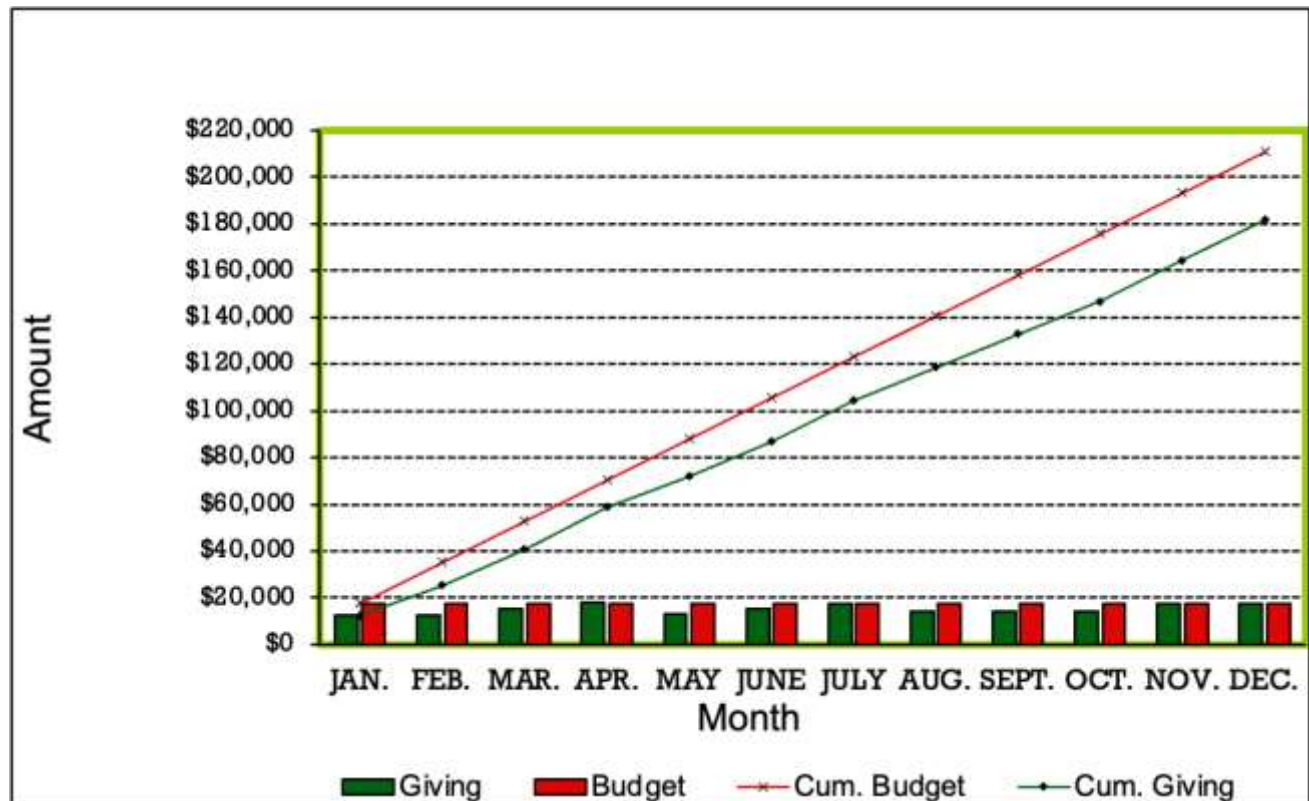


# Church Finances December 2020

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!*

*Malachi 3:10*

The church giving for December was \$17,332, about equal to that of November, and essentially matching the monthly giving goal of \$17,575. For the year the total giving was \$181,754. That fell below the total giving in 2019 of \$190,453, about a \$9,000 shortfall and very likely due to Covid-19 and what the pandemic did to our Sunday church services and the significant cut-back in all church activities. Expenses were very high at \$190,444. This gap in giving compared to expenses required that we dip deep into our Accumulated Income Fund to pay the bills, and we needed to withdraw \$11,000 from the AIF.



# MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

## OPERATING FUND

### Income

Sunday offering:	\$12,490.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,391.90
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$42.04 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,450.00

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<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$17,331.90</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$526.92</i>
<b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b>	<b>\$17,858.82</b>

### Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$24,048.66
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
None	\$0.00

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<b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b>	<b>\$24,048.66</b>
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$3,450.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$6,550.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE** **\$360.16**

## DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$10,031.22
New Designated Receipts	\$4,455.62
Total Designated Expenditures	\$1,029.19

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** **\$13,457.65**

**TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)** **\$13,817.81**

### OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

#### Accumulated Income Fund

December expenditures	-\$10,000.00
<b>Current Balance (12/31/2020)</b>	<b>\$13,455.13</b>

#### Technology Reserve

December expenditures	-\$719.39
<b>Current Balance (12/31/2020)</b>	<b>\$1,483.33</b>

#### Tithe Fund

December deposit	\$1,000.00
<b>Current Balance (12/31/2020)</b>	<b>\$37,798.10</b>

#### Gillette Fund

December expenditures	-\$3,000.00
<b>Current Balance (12/31/2020)</b>	<b>\$207,795.40</b>