

The Vision

December 2021

The Monthly Newsletter of
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Bergen, NY

From the Pastor

For the Christmas season, we are going through some wonderful, familiar Christmas songs to discover from Scripture what they are pointing towards. In my study, one of my favorites has become “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing,” largely because of how it was first written. It was written by Charles Wesley and first appeared in 1739. However, it was very different from our present version. See if you can see the differences:

Hark how all the welkin rings, “Glory to the King of Kings, Peace on Earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconcil’d!”

Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies, Universal nature say, “Christ the Lord is born today!”

Christ, by highest Heav’n ador’d, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veil’d in flesh, the Godhead see, Hail th’incarnate Deity! Pleas’d as man with men t’appear, Jesus, our Immanuel here!

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, Born—that man no more may die, Born—to raise the sons of earth, Born—to give them second birth.

Come, Desire of Nations, come, Fix in us thy humble home, Rise, the woman’s conqu’ring seed, Bruise in us the serpent’s head.

Now display thy saving pow’r, Ruin’d nature now restore, Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and ours to thine.

Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface, Stamp thy image in its place, Second Adam from above, Reinstat us in thy love.

Let us thee, tho’ lost, regain, Thee, the life, the inner man; O! to all thyself impart, Form’d in each believing heart.

So, the most obvious is that Wesley’s hymn does not contain anything about angels, but instead uses the word “welkin.” In the 18th century, the word, welkin, was more widely known, and it meant, the sky or the heavens. In my opinion, it gave the hymn a richer meaning, pointing to really all of creation singing the praises of Jesus.

However, there is one more major difference, and that is the last line: “Let us thee, tho’ lost, regain, Thee, the life, the inner man; O! to all thyself impart, Form’d in each believing heart.” This line speaks about the life that was lost when sin entered into our lives, even from our births, but how once we come to Christ, the inner self is renewed, and we are new creations. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

One of my heroes of the faith, George Whitefield, changed these lines to the version we sing today, which still captures much of what Wesley was trying to get across. However, once I have seen what Wesley wrote, my heart is overcome with worship of Jesus, who came and crushed Satan’s head. I will dive further into this and other Christmas hymns this Christmas season on Sunday mornings and Christmas Eve. I hope you can join us.

Pastor Brandt



Phone: (585) 494-1251 email: fpcbergen@gmail.com

Pastor Brandt Hammack: Brandthammack@hotmail.com

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You can also find us on Facebook.

Office Hours:
Mon, Wed, Fri: 12 - 3:30 pm
Tue & Thurs: 12 - 4 pm

Pastor’s Hours:
Tuesday – Thursday
9:30 -noon (flexible)

CE News

You are helping share the *GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY* of THE GOSPEL

Thank You to all who have donated items and packed shoeboxes this year.

We are giving 36 children around the world a tangible gift of love and an opportunity to hear the Gospel message and receive

God's Greatest Gift – JESUS !



Ladies Luncheon

What a wonderful time of fun and fellowship we had at our women's luncheon.

We enjoyed beautiful music brought to us by Christin Snell and a great devotional taken from John 10 led by Pastor Brandt. Our lunch menu consisted of a variety of quiche, fruit and green salad. It all was so, so yummy. We ended with making a fun sheep craft.

I personally was blessed by all who attended and for all the helping hearts that lent a hand to make this event another special one in the books. THANK YOU!!!

I very much enjoy ministering to the ladies of our church, and I am always looking for more ways to do that. If anyone has an idea, or would like to help plan future events, please reach out to me.

Many thanks,
Marty H.



Any questions?? See Julie Foeller or email bfoeller@frontiernet.net

Children's Minister

We continue to search for a **Children's Minister** to outreach to children and families both in the church and in the community. Details can be found at:

<http://www.bergenepc.com/employment.html>

Son Risers

The Son Risers ministry enhances men's lives through God's Word, spiritual & emotional fellowship, and corporate & individual prayer.

The Son Risers will continue to invite brothers to join us to seek God, to know His Word and to pray. Join us! If you need more information concerning the Son Risers ministry contact Rob Willhoft at willhoft@gmail.com or Paul Lattimer (585) 494-6057 or pklattimer@gmail.com.

Eagle Star Home for Homeless Veterans

These blankets were bingo prizes for the winners. They were hand made by Debbie McAllister



Shirley Harris and Joan Dermody visit Eagle Star Housing in Corfu monthly. Here they are with some of the veterans.

Sewing With a Purpose

Wendy Hutchurson had presented her 94-year old Dad a prayer shawl after his hip replacement last summer. Last week, when Wendy took her Dad back to his apartment, he showed Wendy where his prayer shawl resides. Check out the picture Wendy took! She said it was especially sweet to hear him say it keeps his body and soul warm. Wendy picked out the red, white, and blue prayer shawl because he had served in the Navy during WW II. Wendy wants to thank the prayer shawl team and said, "I'm sure you ladies warm many others' bodies and souls!" Thanks for sharing Wendy!



The last of the crocheted scarves from Mindy Mayne were taken to the Women's Center of Hope on the VA grounds in Batavia. The center houses 12 women veterans. Joan Dermody and Debbie McAllister delivered these scarves and other donations before Veteran's Day. Dr. Marie Gear Haugen was very appreciative of the donation.



Joan Dermody, Dr. Haugen, Debbie McAllister

REVERB: TAG~ Teens After God

The annual **REVERB** (formerly “Superbowl”) youth event took place in Rochester on the 5th and 6th of November. It was an all-night event that included a Christian teen rally, awesome team competitions and activities, a phenomenal message given by a nationally known evangelist, all you can eat pizza, all night Total Sports Experience athletic events, free arcade, go carts, mini golf, and more. Twelve hundred teens attended, and many gave their lives to the Lord for the first time. Amen! We had an awesome group of thirty-six teens and leaders attend with our TAG youth group this year. We had so many people sign up we even had to charter our own bus! A special thanks to Jeff Goodenbery, David Catalino, and Emily Caccamise for coming along to help chaperone. You are the best!

Our regular TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: December 5th, December 19th, and January 16th. We will also be planning a TAG party over Christmas break. More details to follow. Please keep all the teens of our group, and in Bergen, in your prayers.



FoodLink

Look for Foodlink distribution to resume at Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church in March or April of 2022.

A Peek at the Church Calendar

Opportunities for Service

Weekly

- Sunday, 9:15-10:15 – Sunday School
- Sunday, 10:30-11:45 – Morning Worship
- Communion on first Sunday of the month
- Sunday, 6:00-8:00 – TAG (see article)
- Thursday, 6:00-7:00 AM – Son Risers (see article)

Other meetings

- Saturday, 12/4 – Community Christmas Concert
- Wednesday, 12/8 - Session Meeting
- Saturday, 12/19 - Christmas Pageant
- Friday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service

Office Hours

Office hours are:

M, W, F - 12 - 3:30 pm; Tue & Thurs - 12 - 4 pm

Community Events

Wednesday night community dinners have resumed at the Bergen Methodist Church. Please call the Methodist church office at 494-1312 to sign up. Take-outs and deliveries start at 5pm. Dine-in begins at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome. If interested in helping make dessert on Wednesday mornings, please contact Dawn at 356-6024.

The LeRoy Rotary Community Kitchen is offering free community meals every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, from 4:30-5:45pm, at the Catholic church on Route 19 in LeRoy. They serve a hot meal and provide a second, take-home meal to all who attend. Everyone is welcome.

Meet Susan Miller, Our New Administrative Assistant: Susan has had more than 20 years of Church Administrative Assistant experience, working for 3 - 4 churches at a time. Coming to us, she has managed to reduce her churches to just 2 (which is a great relief she says). Susan has lived and raised her family in Pavilion. She has a son (who lives with his family in Portageville) and a daughter (who lives in California). She likes to read (Dean Koontz is a favorite), garden and collect rocks. Susan is very excited to begin a new adventure with us!

Christmas 2021

Bergen Community Christmas Concert:

Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 6pm

- 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.
- New this year: 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, 494-6031.

Caroling: Christmas Caroling will be on **December 12th** right after church. Pizza will be provided so no one will have to carol on an empty stomach. For information call Chris Wright at 737-5595.

Pageant: The Christmas Pageant will be held on **December 19th** during the morning church service. If you know of any children, teenagers, or adults that would like to participate, they are invited to contact Chris Wright at 737-5595.

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th at 6:00 PM

Join us for a special time of singing, scripture readings, special music, a Christmas message, and closing with our traditional candle lighting.



Young Lives

Young Lives is a ministry of Young Life. It is a ministry for teen moms through mentorship, community, and a life with Christ.

We are looking for childcare volunteers for a once-a-month evening meeting in Batavia (with the moms and their babies.)

You must be at least 14 years of age. The meetings will last about an hour. Transportation can be provided.

If you are looking for a way to snuggle with babies and help teen moms, please call Sandy Partridge, Young Lives childcare coordinator at 585-414-4593.

Evangelism & Missions

36 Boxes Going Around the World

Our church family has once again rallied to share the love of Jesus around the world through Operation Christmas Child. This year, 36 boxes were prepared by our members. Thanks to all for your generosity.

Tons of Food

From field to kitchens of neighbors in need, the Gleaning Ministry provided literally tons of food to pantries throughout our area. Coordinated by Stu Freeman, volunteers collected, washed or otherwise prepared 7 tons of potatoes, 1 ton of butternut squash, a half ton of onions and 1 ton of cabbage. Some of this bounty has already been shared at food pantries and the rest will be distributed into the winter.

This ministry takes many hands to make it happen, Thanks to all for your assistance.

Poinsettias

Poinsettia plants were purchased by the following:

- Bruce and Sandy Partridge in memory of family
- Eleanor Bater in memory of her husband, Ron
- Tracy and Loretta Miller in memory of Barry Miller and family
- Mark White
- Delores Seward in memory of Gordon Lee Seward and Nancy Lee Seward

Organ Update—December 2021

This organ newsletter update is devoted to what life was like when the organ was installed as part of our church's centennial celebration. In 1907...

Politics

- Theodore Roosevelt was 26th President of the United States
- Charles Evans Hughes was Governor of New York. (He would go on to serve as Secretary of State under Presidents Harding and Coolidge and was appointed 11th Chief Justice of the United States by President Hoover.)
- Oklahoma was the 46th state admitted to the Union.

Sports

- The Chicago Cubs won the World Series! (The New York Yankees were still known as the Highlanders at this time.)

Church Music

- "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," sung to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" was published.
- "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" made famous by the Carter Family in the 1930s, was first published in 1907.

Please continue to spread the word about the organ restoration pledge drive, and let Fred Ely, Tom Jones, Alden Snell, or Rob Willhoft know if you have any questions.



Anniversaries & Birthdays

December Anniversaries

21 – Tom & Cindy Jones 49 yrs

December Birthdays

1 – Brandt Hammack
 3 – Isaac Buckland
 4 – Donna Lacey
 5 – Bethany Salvia
 11 – Wesley McNear
 11 – Sandy Partridge
 16 – Joe Rebisz
 19 – Rena Wilson
 20 – David Brownell
 21 – Cindy Baker
 23 – Wendy Caccamise
 30 – Peyton Goodenbery
 31 – Bev Wooton

January Anniversaries

1 – Chad & Wendy Caccamise 29 yrs
 5 – Stu & Gail Freeman 60 yrs
 8 – Brandt & Marty Hammack 11 yrs

January Birthdays

1 – Jim Wilson
 4 – Collin McNear
 7 – Rose Wilson
 8 – Luke Hollenbeck
 11 – Bruce Partridge
 12 – Shirley Harris
 13 – Bruce Glucksman
 15 – Alvin Shaw
 23 – Eleanor Bater



Prayer

Those serving as Missionaries:

- Sarah Speer at the Kimia Center for Lepers in the Congo
- Jose Ulinov "Uli" Fernandez in Mexico
- Arber "Berti" Berhami with Campus Crusade in Albania
- Jesse vonBergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry
- Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations
- Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life

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:

Helen Hill's sister-in-law Dorcas Arbach

June Hahn's niece Ann Crone

Joan Miller

Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

Henry and Diane Hammack (Pastor Brandt's parents)

Delores Seward

David Hahn

Bob and Kathy Cosgrove

Nancy Alfes

Susan Brownell's grandmother - Hazel Newsom - and her caretakers - Susan's parents

Paul and Sandy Harris

Melanie Glucksman

Evelyn Pangrazio - friend of Tom and Cyndy Jones

Rusty Breton

Those who have lost loved ones:

The family of Aggie Redinger

The family of Steve Baker

The family of Max Jessop

The Coxeter family

The Slavin family

Other:

Our Church

Our Session & Deacons

Youth Leader, Joe Rebisz, and the youth of our church and our community

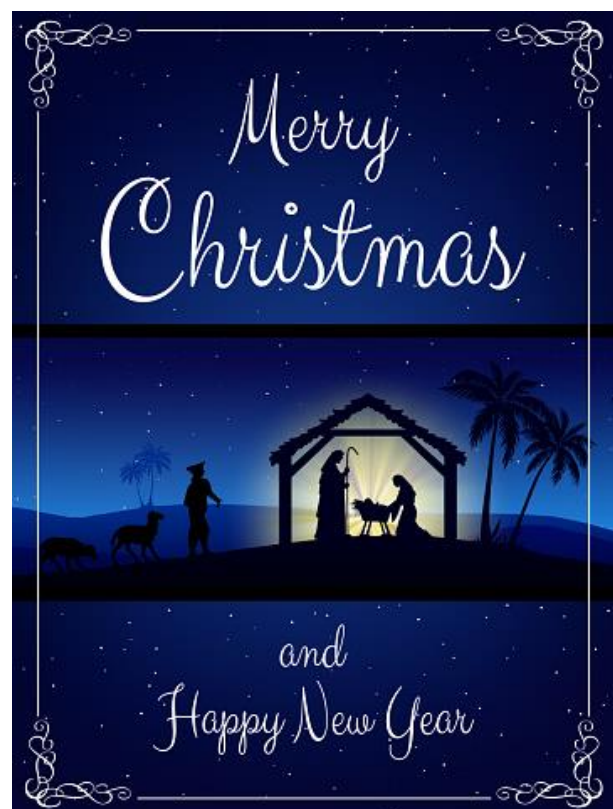
Worship Leader, Christin Snell and those who minister in music each Sunday

Christian Education, Evangelism & Missions, Finance, Nominating, Personnel, and Property Committees

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 country's leaders and their advisors



Church Finances

October 2021

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. [...] Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.”

1 Chron. 29:14, 16

As September was a poor giving month following a good giving month, October was the reverse – giving was \$19,750 vs. September’s \$13,593! Actually, October’s giving was the best of the year! Expenses were low; thus we did not need any funds from the AIF at all. In fact, we received a \$750 gift to the AIF!



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2021
OPERATING FUND**Income**

Sunday offering:	\$14,822.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,777.95
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$33.67 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,150.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$19,749.95
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$310.71
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$20,060.66

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$13,789.93
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$13,789.93
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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	\$3,150.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$3,120.73**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$16,341.12
New Designated Receipts	\$321.30
Total Designated Expenditures	\$0.00

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$16,662.42**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$19,783.15**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY**Accumulated Income Fund**

• For October expenses	\$0.00
• New deposit	\$750.00
Current Balance (10/31/2021)	\$40,849.99

Tithe Fund

• Gleaning	-\$200.00
Current Balance (10/31/2021)	\$27,084.85