

# The Vision

April 2021

Volume 6, Issue 4

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



Over the past few articles, we have considered worship as we consider the purposes for us as a church. We have looked at the importance of sermons and music. Next, I want to cover Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper. There are different theories of what happens in the Lord's Supper. In order to better explain these views and where we would stand as a church, I copied an essay from Jonathan Griffiths on the Gospel Coalition website:

1. This view is held by Roman Catholics and some others, who believe that in the Mass the elements become the body and blood of Christ so that there is, in some sense, a recapitulation of the offering of Christ. In the Reformation, the Roman Catholic doctrine was rejected, essentially on three key grounds: 1) Jesus is physically now present in heaven, and to suggest that his physical body can be present in multiple locations at once effectively undermines his true humanity; 2) The worshipful adoration of the elements (seen as the body and blood of Christ) which took place in the Mass was idolatrous; 3) The idea of a recapitulation of the sacrifice of Jesus undermines the finality and sufficiency of his work at the cross (cf. Heb. 9:24-26)
2. This was the view held by Martin Luther (although he would not use the label) and still is generally held by Lutherans today. Luther wished to correct the errors of the Roman Catholic view while still taking seriously both Jesus' identification of his body and blood with the elements and the idea that he was truly present at the Supper. Luther's solution was to say that, although the bread and wine did not literally "become" the body and blood of Christ, Jesus is nonetheless spiritually present *in, under and through* the elements (hence the use of the Latin prefix *con*, meaning "with"). Thus, there is a real sense in which Jesus is present at the Supper, even if there is no change in the substance of the elements themselves.
3. This view is particularly associated with Swiss reformer Huldrych Zwingli and is held in some form by many Baptists. Zwingli insisted that Jesus' statement that the bread "is" his body and the wine "is" his blood should be taken figuratively and not literally. After all, Jesus does use the verb "to be" in clearly symbolic ways in the gospels. Not only does he say "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), but also "I am the door" (John 10:7), and "I am the vine" (John 15:5). The sacrifice of Jesus at the cross is complete, once-for-all, and so the Supper is a pictorial reminder, *a memorial*. Although Christ is always present with his people, he is not specially present at the Supper.

*The Reformed view.* This position stems from John Calvin and is the predominant Reformed position, although there is a spectrum of understanding among those who identify as theologically Reformed. Calvin rejected both the idea of a physical change to the bread and wine and the idea of a bare memorial. At the Supper, Christ is present spiritually in a special way but is not present physically. There is a true spiritual communion that takes place between the Lord and his church as it is celebrated. The word "is" retains a symbolic (and not literal) meaning, but at the same time there is a true "sharing" in Christ that takes place.

As a church, we would hold to the reformed view (even though we would be respectful of other views as long as they did not lead people to eternal damnation, such as placing one's trust in taking the sacrament rather than trusting in Jesus). This is the reason why every time that I administer the Lord's Supper, I say something like "Jesus Christ is not physically present, but he is most certainly spiritually present." In the coming weeks, we will consider what exactly that means.

-Pastor Brandt Hammack



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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



## Live-Stream Worship Now on YouTube

Almost a year ago we quickly put together some technology that allowed us to live-stream our services. We initially selected Zoom and Facebook as a two-pronged approach that allowed us to reach the most number of people. Now, based on improvements to the equipment that we are using and a (long needed) upgrade to the church's internet service, we are able to offer high-quality streaming on YouTube.

Each Sunday will have a different link (web address) and Brenda will send this out in the Life of the Church email on Wednesday each week. This link will also be posted on the church's Facebook page. However, the easiest way to access the stream week after week is to use the following link to the church's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCfPG91O6VxAWFzIANB4yDg>

The current week stream will always be at the top of the list on the home page. You can also access the recordings of any of the past services on this page.

The YouTube live-stream doesn't require any sign-on or password to access. However, if you want to "like", comment, or subscribe, you will need a Google sign-on. Just to be clear, this is totally optional.

The YouTube stream includes the lyrics for the songs in the lower-right corner. So, we will discontinue the publishing of the slides for each service on the Google site that I had created.

And, for those who have been attending in person, we will no longer need the phone and related hardware in the middle of the sanctuary. MANY thanks to David Snell (and Jonathan as backup) for the many months of faithfully running this camera. David has joined me in working on all of the equipment for the YouTube streaming along with sound for the live service.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Rob Willhoft



**Kids For Christ** (KFC Jr. Church) will be starting back up Sunday, April 11 during the 10:30 worship service. All children Pre-K -5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited. We will be meeting in the downstairs KFC room. Through Bible stories, singing, and games we will be exploring how we are all **“Created by GOD-Built for a Purpose”**. Please contact Julie Foeller if you are able to help out 1 or 2 times over the next 3 months or you have ?'s. (bfoeller@frontiernet.net)



Happy Anniversary



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

**April Anniversaries**

- 4– Harvey & Ruth Morse 51 yrs
- 12– Garry & Wendy Hutchurson 52 yrs
- 16– Dale & Diane White 33 yrs
- 23– Bob & Kathy Cosgrove 55 yrs

**May Anniversaries**

- 23– Erik & Renee Berggren 39 yrs
- 25– John & Janet Wise 47 yrs
- 27– Bruce & Sandy Partridge 43 yrs



**April Birthdays**

- 2– Rachel Kobel 18– Sonya Catalino
- 9– Josiah Haas 18– Alden Snell
- 11– Cathy Glucksman 21– Chris Martz
- 12– June Hahn 22– Sean McNear
- 14– Mason Buckland 23– Julie Foeller
- 14– Marty Mucher 28– Bev Rogers
- 14– David Snell

**May Birthdays**

- 3– Jean Mucher 24– Helen Hill
- 14– Richard Saville 30– Charlie McAdam
- 18– Jonathan Langdon 30– Mark White
- 21– Barb Fasoldt
- 23– Ann Johnson
- 24– James Berggren
- 24– Thomas Berggren

**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><b>* During this time of quarantine, Son Risers will meet through zoom every Thursday at 6am.</b></p> <p><b>TAG will meet at Church every other Thursday in the Fellowship Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u></p> <p>2- Good Friday 4- Easter Sunday-10:30, Sunrise service-6:30 11- Church 10:30</p>	<p>18- Church 10:30 25- Church 10:30</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>May</u></p> <p>2- Church 10:30 9- Church 10:30 16- Church 10:30 23- Church 10:30 30- Church 10:30 31- Memorial Day</p>
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## Lenten Offering Will Benefit Neighbors in Need



The E&M Committee is collecting the annual Lenten Offering to support local missions that are facing specific needs due to the pandemic. We will combine this with our on-going COVID Relief Fund. This is an appropriate, loving response to the world around us in this unique year.

We will continue to work with our local missions to discover their needs that have been created due to the pandemic. The needs are a wide variety. For example, All Babies Cherished needs two toddler-sized car seats, valued at \$300 total. Open Door Mission has specific needs for personal care and some clothing items. Open Door Mission has opened a women and family shelter as they expand their ministry. Batavia City Schools is creating its own food pantry because of increased demands from students' families. The food pantry at the North Bergen Presbyterian Church is also in need of personal care items.

We haven't had a chance to check with some of our other local missions, but you get the idea of what types of things we might be supporting. Where specific items have been identified as needed, Julie has volunteered to shop for those things.

If you want to contribute to the Lenten Offering, you can write a check and mail it to the church or contribute electronically. Be sure to mark the check or envelope as Lenten Offering. We will be collecting funds throughout Lent.

Thanks for your love and support for our neighbors in need,

The E&M Committee

## 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



# E&M news

## **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 von Bergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry; Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations; Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life.

Also, in the section about folks who have lost loved ones, you can remove the Family of Michael O'Brien.

## **Meet our New Missionaries**

Here's the third installment introducing new missionaries who are receiving funding through our church's annual Missions Budget, which is created by the Evangelism & Missions Committee.

This month we Introduce EduNations. We have supported special programs at EduNations before, but this is the first year that they are in our annual Missions Budget. Here is background information about this Christ-centered ministry.

EduNations builds and operates 15 schools in the rural, northeastern districts of Sierra Leone, West Africa. For the past 16 years, they have provided free education from nursery age all the way through grade 9. This year, with the completion of a brand new Senior Secondary Boarding School, they started educating students all the way through the end of high school! Each of their schools offers the opportunity for both individual and community development by providing not only a free education, but also working with their partners to provide clean water, sanitary facilities, solar power, churches, and sustainable community development projects. EduNations is on a mission to empower people and communities by igniting hope through education.

Motivated by compassion for “the least of these,” EduNations gives forgotten children tangible reasons to hope. More than teaching the ABCs, they create schools in Sierra Leone, Western Africa, that become self-supporting beacons of growth and learning. Rescuing one child enriches a community, which strengthens a nation. By helping to educate forgotten children today, we help create a brighter future for this nation tomorrow.

EduNations is supported by our Presbytery. In addition, several of the people who serve on its Board of Directors are active leaders in our Presbytery. Our church is providing \$500 in the annual Missions Budget this year. You can learn more by going to [www.edunations.org](http://www.edunations.org).



# TAG ~ Teens After God

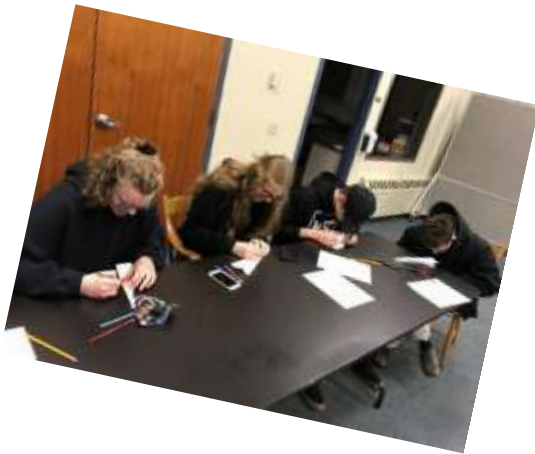
## YOUTH GROUP GOING STRONG!!!!

**Matthew 7: 13-14** “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”


**Hebrews 3:1** “Therefore, holy brothers, partners in a heavenly calling, keep your focus on Jesus.”

TAG (Youth Group) spent our first meeting in March meditating on, and discussing, these two verses. We had an excellent discussion and finished the evening by making paper airplanes and attempting to fly them on the straight and narrow path, keeping our focus on Jesus. Of course, we also held a very competitive paper airplane beauty contest (you can’t make airplanes without having a beauty contest)! COVID-19 protocols and procedures, similar to those in schools, are in place at TAG to keep everyone safe and healthy. 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: April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and April 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 Designing, Building, and Decorating Paper Airplanes – March 2021*



# *Sewing With a Purpose*

Thank you to all who have projects ongoing for Sewing With a Purpose.

Some people are making:

-prayer shawls either knit or crochet

-flannel hearts for the NICU of Strong Hospital and the Batavia hospital



A new outreach is the Foster Program in Genesee County. This program is known as Genesee County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Each child placed in a foster family receives a quilt or blanket so they have something that belongs to them. Most of the material is donated to keep costs at a minimum. Three people working on some of these smaller quilts are: Shirley VonBergen, Grace Leanen and Debbie McAllister . These presently are works in progress and a picture will appear in a later newsletter. These quilts bless children in our local county.

If anyone is looking for a way to join our team to be a part of blessing others, please reach out to us.

Thank you to all who have projects ongoing for Sewing With a Purpose.



The Little Hands Preschool, located in the Bergen United Methodist Church at 27 S. Lake Ave in Bergen, will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 17th from 8 - 10:30 am. This will be a Carry-Out Only Breakfast. The proceeds are to benefit the Barry Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund. Adults are \$7.50 and Kids 10 & under are \$5.00. Join us!



### 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.

**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.**



### **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!

### **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, 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, 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 country's leaders and their advisors.

## Deacon Notes:

### Deacon Doings:

-- The Deacon board did not have any personnel changes this year. Thank you to the 4 Deacons who agreed to serve another 3 years.

-- We met in February to re-group and organize ourselves for the coming year.



### Deacon Dossier

#### **Spotlight on Diane White**

-- Born in Buffalo, NY  
-- With majors in Elem. Ed. and Home Econ., she worked for Cornell Coop. Ext. for many years.

-- 4H leader for 25 yrs.



-- Life-long horse lover, she loves tending her horse named "Go Wild Cupid"



-- Favorite family vacation was to Alaska

-- Hates raking leaves



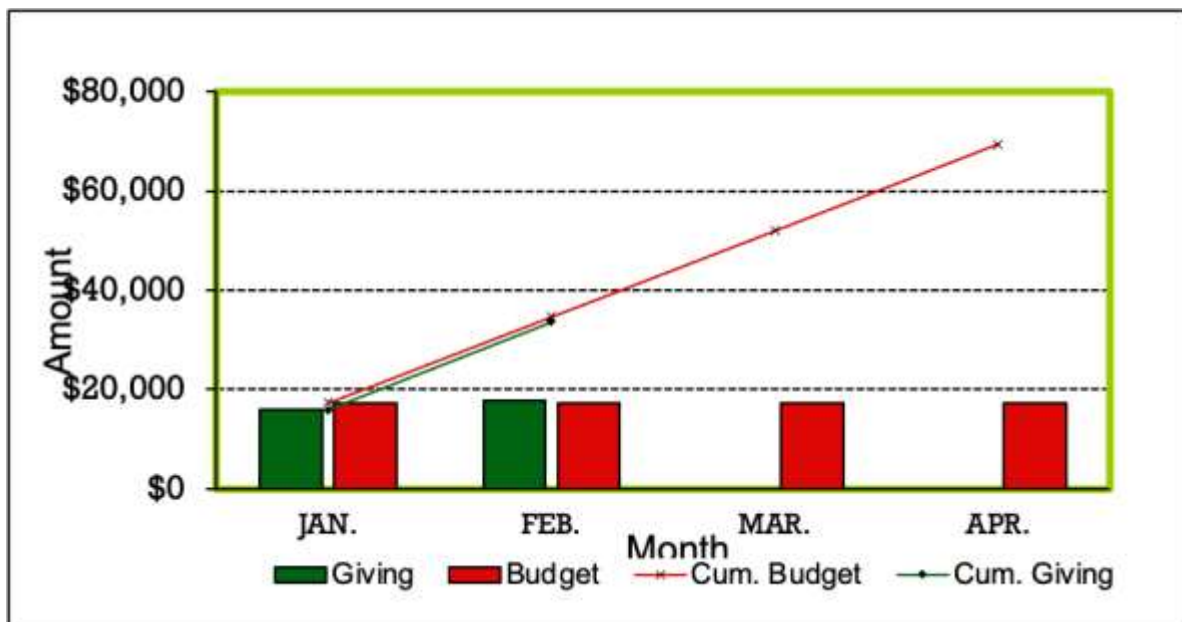
# Church Finances February 2021

*For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT)*

The giving for February was exceptionally good, \$17,696, higher than the budget goal by about \$300! With the giving for January of \$15,917, the total for the first two months of 2021 is about \$33,600 – much higher than any combined January and February for at least twelve years. Typically, these months show the lowest monthly giving of any months of any year; not so in 2021, however. See the chart below. Clearly, we are blessed, and the congregation has responded with support and generosity to the financial challenge of the pandemic.

Expenses were typical of a February, and no funds at all were needed from the AIF. Another blessing!



# MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021

## OPERATING FUND

### Income

Sunday offering:	\$12,899.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,096.96
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$53.70 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,700.00

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<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$17,695.96</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$971.97</i>
<b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b>	<b>\$18,667.93</b>

### Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$15,250.88
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
None	\$0.00

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<b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b>	<b>\$15,250.88</b>
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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	\$2,700.00

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE** **\$717.05**

## DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$12,535.31
New Designated Receipts	\$7,769.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$10.75

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** **\$20,293.56**

**TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)** **\$21,010.61**

### OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

#### Accumulated Income Fund

January expenditures	-\$0.00
<b>Current Balance (2/28/2021)</b>	<b>\$45,120.37</b>