

# The Vision

March 2021

Volume 6, Issue 3

*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 articles, I have been going through our church's principle purposes as a church, which include worship, edification, and outreach. For the last sermon, we started looking at worship and the preaching part of worship. I am currently looking at different aspects of our worship and we might rearrange a few things and if we do, I'll attempt to address those here in these articles.

In this column though, I want to address what we normally think of when worship is mentioned and that is music. In many churches, worship music is a sore subject. That's because many churches devolve in what is commonly called "worship wars." I'm very thankful that I have never witnessed any of this within Bergen Presbyterian. Personally, I think the whole notion of these worship wars is absurd. Worship is principally about our worship to our wonderful, gracious Savior, and hostile attitudes concerning worship do not have a place within our fellowship.

I honestly see both sides of the so-called worship war. I see the viewpoint that worship should contain the richness of songs from the centuries past, but also have an appeal to the cultural setting. This is one of the many reasons why I value Christin so much is because she finds an amazing way of bringing the two together in a seamless manner, bringing a wonderful unity to the worship services from the past and present. As she is leading us in worship in song, I find it very difficult to think that we would ever devolve into some type of "worship war" simply because the mix of old and modern songs are very good.

However, what if, for some reason, we were not to like some of the songs very much? I find that very hard to believe, but within the pulpit, you have heard me talk about how I really don't like the song "O Worship the King," but it is one of my favorite hymns to sing (or in my case, make a joyful noise) because I love the words so much. You see, there is a very important principle that I have come to understand which is really important and that is that even if I don't like a particular tune, it should in no way take away my joy in singing the words. I had to learn that the difficult way. I have been in churches where I did not like the music very much. One of those is within the church plant where we had to sing to only recorded music. I had to learn to take joy within the words themselves, despite if I really didn't like the music very much.

That lesson has served me well throughout the years. With that understanding of worship, I find my focus is much more on the words and my worship is more centered upon Jesus and His Gospel. Sure, it helps when I enjoy the music as well, but I have learned (honestly, the hard way) in paying much more attention to the words than the music. This is also where I am thankful for Christin and all of our musicians (I have to admit though that my wife is prettier than the rest.) over the past few years as they are obviously taking joy in the words that they are singing which enables me to much more sing with a heart of devotion to my Savior. My hope and prayer is that this would be the case for all of us this year.

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



Happy Anniversary



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

**March Anniversaries**

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

**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



**March Birthdays**

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

**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	

**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.



## 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

## A peek at the Church Calendar— keep an eye on Life in the Church emails for changes!

**\* 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.**

### March

**7- Church 10:30**

**13- American Red Cross blood drive**

**17- Happy St. Patrick's day**

**14- Church 10:30 Day Light Savings!**

**21- Church 10:30**

**28- Palm Sunday / Church 10:30**

### April

**2- Good Friday**

**4- Easter Sunday/Church 10:30**

**11- Church 10:30**

**18- Church 10:30**

**25- Church 10:30**

### Lenten Offering Will Benefit Neighbors in Need



# LENT

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





## Meet our New Missionaries

Here's the second 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 you to Jesse and Deborah von Bergen. Jesse is a grandson of Dick and Shirley. Jesse and Deborah met at Bible college and have been serving for five years on the staff of Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle in Indiana, but this year are focused on raising funds for full-time ministry to the Arab world through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry. They will come to Bergen in December so we can hear from them directly.



Jesse says: Shortly after I was saved the Lord called me in a specific way to be an ambassador for Christ internationally. He gave me a burden and love for Muslim Arabs since my time in Bible college over 10 years ago. God has allowed me to visit seven different Muslim countries as well as study the Arabic language. This summer, I completed my MA from Indiana University in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

Deborah says: Building relationships with several Arabic women in the US, and seeing the Middle East first hand, has put an unquenchable desire in my heart to minister to women who are hurting and need the hope of Jesus Christ. God has opened up many doors over the last several years for me to counsel women, and I look forward to serving Him in these ways alongside Jesse in the Middle East.

Jesse and Deborah have two children, Ezra, 7, and Anna, 5.

If you'd like to learn more about the von Bergen family, here is a link to their latest newsletter. <https://mailchi.mp/cfeb1da53216/servants-of-christ>

If you would like to be added to their email list for regular updates, just let me know and we can make that happen.

Our 2021 mission budget contributes \$500 to the von Bergens. If you have any questions about our E&M budget for 2021 or the missionaries we are supporting, please don't hesitate to give me call. And we always welcome more members to join the E&M Team.

Gregg McAllister 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! We spent our first Youth Group meeting in February discussing addiction and reflecting on the words of the song “Chain Breaker” by Zach Williams. As our activity that day, the teens spent time writing and decorating encouraging cards for adults in rehab who are recovering from addiction. We did not have time to play any kind of game that day, but all of the teens agreed that it was the best use of our time, effort, and love for the evening. The cards came out beautifully, with many teens sharing their artistic gifts and abilities. The struggling adults who received the cards were greatly blessed. COVID-19 protocols and procedures, similar to those in schools, are in place at TAG 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: March 4th and March 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 Writing Encouraging Cards for Recovering Addicts – February 2021*

# *Sewing With a Purpose*

Sewing With A Purpose delivered 4 prayer shawls this month. Thank you to all who have donated their time and talents to create these precious comfort shawls.

There are about 4 preselected yarn bags upstairs in the Sewing With A Purpose room, ready for someone to take and create a prayer shawl.

Sizes for shawls could be 13" - 15" by 48" - 50"  
Any questions Contact Sandy Partridge





**The American Red Cross honors Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church for our participation in their blood drives! Thank you Pastor Brandt for receiving the award!**

### 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.



**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 countries leaders and their advisors.

## Deacon Notes:

### Deacon Doings

A huge THANK YOU to all the Deacons who gifted Rob Willhoft with a gift card to a favorite restaurant -- in grateful recognition of all his technological efforts and improvements in recording and broadcasting our services during the past year.



### Deacon Dossier

#### **Spotlight on Ron Harmon**

- Grew up in East Pembroke, NY
- Member of BEPC for 35 years
- Was Vice President at a construction company in Batavia, working there 50 years
- Has travelled to Italy and Hawaii, but his favorite place to go is their cottage on Silver Lake in Perry, NY
- Favorite snack is anything with cheese - followed by a cholesterol pill !!



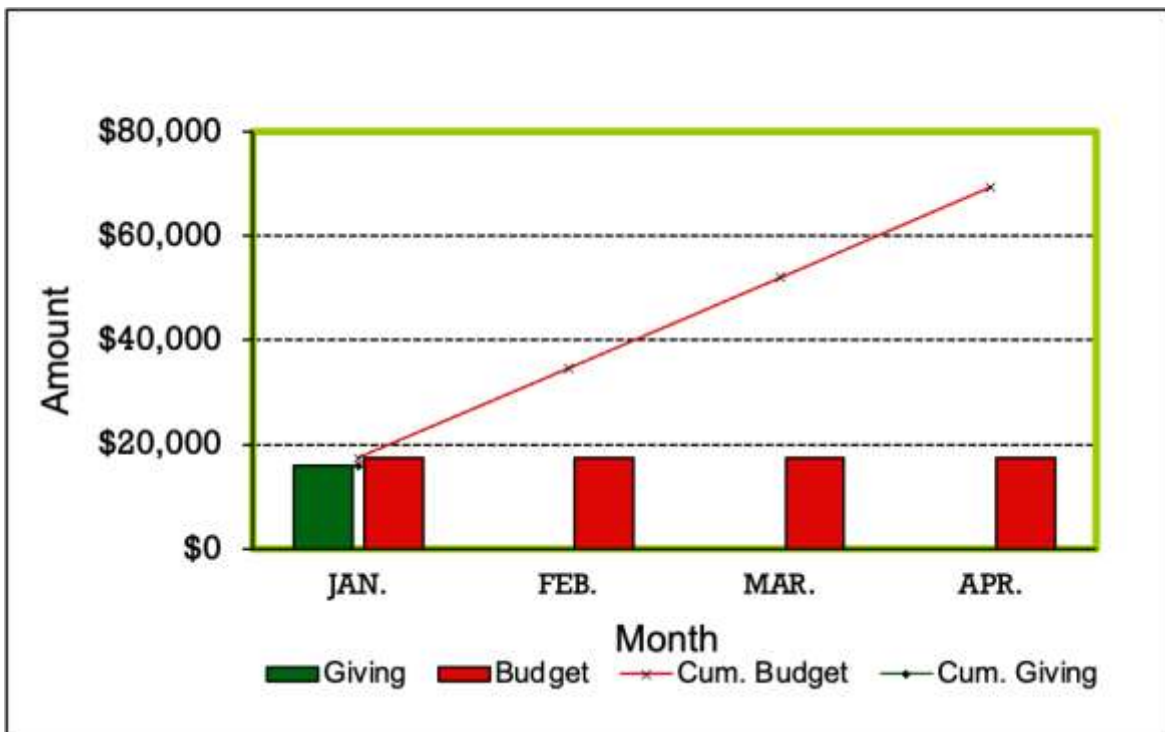


# Church Finances January 2021

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage"*

*Psalm 33:12*

The giving for January of \$15,920 was below the budget target of \$17,331 but was much higher than for the three previous Januarys when the totals were under \$13,000. Expenses were low, and only \$1,000 was needed from our Accumulated Income Fund (AIF) to pay the bills. Speaking of that, these early months of each year is when the annual gifts to the AIF are received. These gifts are some family's choices to give their annual support to the church's budget in one lump payment at the start of each year. So far in 2021 those early gifts have totaled \$32,500.



# MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JANUARY 2021

## OPERATING FUND

### Income

Sunday offering:	\$11,164.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,052.82
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$60.86 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>\$15,916.82</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$360.16</i>
<b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b>	<b>\$16,276.98</b>

### Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$13,772.01
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
Churchville Fire Equipment (property)	\$167.00

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<b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b>	<b>\$13,605.01</b>
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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	\$1,700.00

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE** **\$971.97**

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## DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$12,457.65
New Designated Receipts	\$1,049.78
Total Designated Expenditures	\$972.12
<u>44,832.31</u>	

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** **\$12,535.31**

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**TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)** **\$13,507.28**

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### OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

#### Accumulated Income Fund

January expenditures	-\$1,000.00
January Deposits	\$32,500.00
<b>Current Balance (1/31/2021)</b>	<b>\$44,832.31</b>

#### Memorial Fund

January Deposit (Adriane)	\$150.00
<b>Current Balance (1/31/2021)</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>