
From the Pastor

There are several exciting things happening at our church over the coming months. We are having the back-to-school bash on September 10th and we hope to start redesigning the downstairs area into an amazing children's ministry area.

I wanted to go into a little more details about one thing that we as a session are seeking to do, and that is replacing the NIV pew Bibles with ESV Bibles. One of the reasons for this was that I noticed that there were several people telling me that their NIV Bibles seemed totally different than the one I was reading. This is not surprising as the NIV has gone through many changes over the years, and so it makes it confusing when we are attempting to carefully dissect a passage.

Another reason is that the Bible was written in Greek and Hebrew. We believe that these texts were Divinely inspired, without error, and completely sufficient to gaining salvation and living the Christian life. The NIV is a "thought for thought" translation of these texts whereas the ESV is more "word for word" of them. This is important, because when you read the NIV, you are often getting the viewpoint of how the translators interpreted the verse rather than forming your own interpretation from.

I wanted to give you a few examples of this. They include (but not limited to):

- In Romans 2:13, it reads "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous." This is very confusing because being declared righteous is the language of being justified by the blood of Christ. In fact, the NIV contradicts itself in the very next chapter when it reads in verse 20: "Therefore no one will

be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." The point of Romans 2:13, and in fact, all of Romans 2 is that only those who follow the law COMPLETELY (in other words, never sin) will be considered righteous, not declared righteous as we are In Christ. The ESV does a better job of this as it takes out declared and just leaves justified: "For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified."

- The NIV leaves out the word propitiation in Romans 3:25 and 1 John 2:2. This is important because there really is no English equivalent. One theologian, R.C. Sproul had this to say about the Greek word propitiation: "The prefix pro means 'for,' so propitiation brings about a change in God's attitude, so that He moves from being at enmity with us to being for us. Through the process of propitiation, we are restored into fellowship and favor with Him." So, in the original inspired language the Bible is written in, it's very clear that we were once enemies of God, and that through the blood of Christ, God, the Father, has a changed attitude towards us, so that we are no longer enemies, but dearly loved children. Propitiation gets this across (and so it's good that we as Christians understand the word) but ask yourself if these verses get across the definition of this word: "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—" (Romans 3:25) and



Phone: (585) 494-1251 email: fpbergen@gmail.com
38 S. Lake Ave, PO Box 206
Bergen, NY 14416

Pastor Brandt Hammack: brandthammack@hotmail.com
(585-732-6163) Website: www.bergenepc.com
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)

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

Back to School Bash



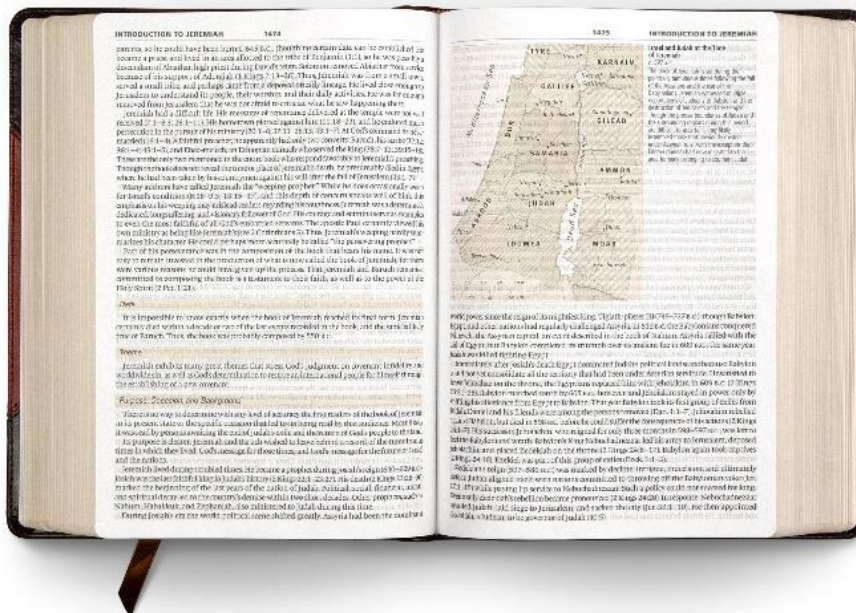
There will be a Back-to-School Bash held at 11 am on Saturday, September 10 for kids ages K-6th grade.



These are wonderful verses even in the NIV which show Christ’s sacrifice for us, but where is the understanding of our placement from enemies to dearly loved children that is shown in the original verses which were divinely inspired? Once you really understand this word propitiation, it can really transform your Christian life as you become eternally grateful for God, the Father’s change in attitude towards us through the blood of His Son, and the ESV does that so much better in interpreting the verses for us once we understand what the word propitiation means: “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins” (Romans 3:25) and “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

I have at least a dozen other examples to share with you at some point, but for the sake of space those will have to wait. (I didn’t even go into how recent NIV translations have changed genders in some passages.) I will say that the NIV is not a terrible translation, and you shouldn’t throw out your NIV Bibles. However, in the life of our church, we seek to rightly divide the Word of Truth, especially on Sunday mornings, and the ESV is better tool in order for us to accomplish that purpose than the NIV.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Community Picnic “On the Green”

The Bergen United Methodist Church, located at 27 S. Lake Ave. in Bergen, has invited us to attend and participate in their Community Picnic ‘On the Green’. It is scheduled for Sunday, September 11 at 11:45 am. Food, beverages, Christian music and fun are all provided free of charge to whomever wishes to attend. Tent, tables and chairs are available, but you may want to bring a comfy lawn chair for the music program. Hope you will attend!



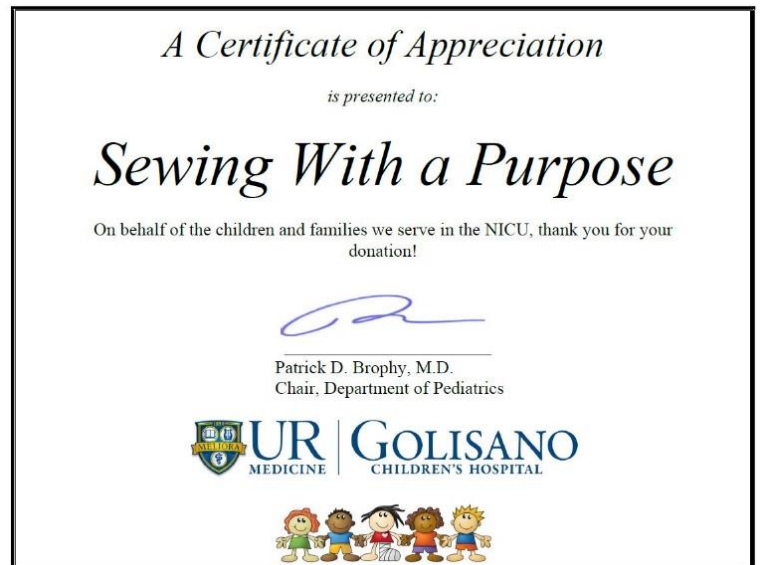
Sports Camp



Some of the participants at the Christian Sports Camp held at Hickory Park on August 14, 15, 16 & 17. A good time was held by all. Thank you to all who helped make this ministry a success again this year!

Sewing With a Purpose

Sewing With a Purpose received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Pediatrics’ chair at the Golisano Children’s Hospital for our assistance in creating 50 eye protections for the 1 and 2 pound babies being cared for in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). Congratulations Team!



Sewing With a Purpose Days for Girls, led by Neva Lattimer, completed 90 feminine hygiene kits and they were delivered safely in three suitcases to Rwanda in August.



Front row, seated (l-r): Joyce Coxeter, Shirl Harris, June Wood, Baby Lydia
 Standing (l-r): Faith Willhoft, Shirley VonBergen, Sandy Partridge, Grace Leanen, Marge Accardi, Neva Lattimer, Pam Patmore, Debbie McAllister, Marty Hammack

Vacation Bible School - 2022



I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1: 6

We wrapped up an exciting VBS week at our 'construction site' where kids worked on building a strong foundation on the love of Jesus.

We averaged 68 kids/teens per day with a total of 83 different kids/teens registered throughout the week. The teen group was well attended with a high of 26 on Friday. In the opening/closing segments, kids learned high-energy songs that tied in with our main scripture verse-Philippians 1:6 and daily bonus scripture verses. Each age group rotated through the Bible Story, Games, Bible Verse/Snack, and the Craft sites, where each elementary age participant built and painted a toolbox. Sites were held at both BEPC and BUMC locations.

In keeping with our building theme, our main Mission of the Week was collecting money for Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County. Kids/families were so generous throughout the week with a total of \$589.39 collected (we rounded up to \$600). A giant 'tape measure' measured our daily progress. We also collected 253 non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army in Batavia.

Our Friday closing ceremony highlighted what the kids learned throughout the week. Each elementary child was given a devotional to take home to encourage spending time in the Bible and learning more of Jesus' love for them. Families were treated to a hot dog picnic in the fellowship hall on Friday after the closing.

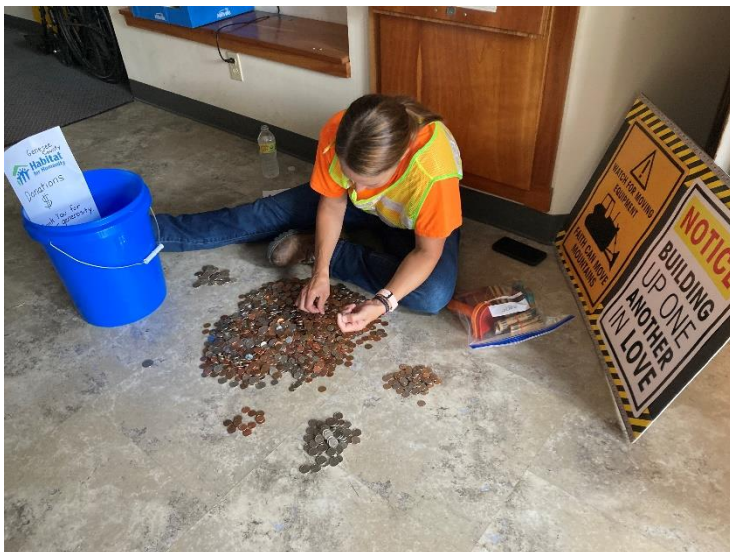
VBS could not have run as smoothly as it did without the 46 volunteers who offered their time and gifts before and during the week of VBS. We are so grateful and blessed with how our 'traditional' VBS came together after a few year's hiatus. We give God all the Glory!



VBS - Genesee Co Habitat for Humanity



Pictured above are leaders (l-r) Michelle Buckland-Seward, Liz Mundell, Pam Patmore, & Bethany Berggren, with some of the children, helping with the tape measuring how much was collected for Genesee Co. Habitat for Humanity. In all, the children attending VBS donated \$600 for this mission. The director of the Habitat office said the gift was "incredible" and will buy a new front door for the house they are currently building.



Each day all the change collected toward Genesee Co Habitat for Humanity needed to be counted and rolled.

TAG ~ Teens After God

Bergen's Best Week (-:August 14th-19th:-)

In my opinion, the best week in Bergen each year is the third week in August. That is the week when Bergen comes alive for God! The week for the TAG teens began the evening of Sunday, August 14th. That was the first day of the Bergen Christian Sports Camp at Hickory Park. The sports camp ran for four nights and almost 80 kids attended over the course of the week. Many of the younger TAG teens attended the camp, and many older teens volunteered to help out as group counselors and station leaders.

Monday, August 15th was the start of VBS. Over 26 teens attended the VBS, making the teen group the largest group! We had a lot of fun singing songs, learning more about God and his plan for our life, snacking, and sharing our faith walks.

On Thursday, August 18th many teens volunteered their time to help feed people in need at the BEPC Foodlink distribution. Even during such a busy week, with VBS in the morning and Sports Camp in the evening, the teens were willing to give up their free time to help those in need. What a blessing!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Teen Room: August 28th, September 11th, and September 25th. 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!



Welcome Back to Sunday School!

September 11 - 9:15 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.

Classes available for all: Children to Adult

We will be continuing our study in the Old Testament using **the Gospel Project** curriculum. The Gospel Project is a weekly Bible study that helps all ages dive deep into the big story of the Bible—God’s plan to rescue His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. The title of the series this Fall is **‘From Rebellion to Exile’** where we will be exploring Sin as Idolatry, Repentance, and the Image of God in Humanity.

*Elementary Age in KFC room with Chris and Dave Wright

*Pre-teen/Teens in upstairs Youth room with Chad Caccamise

*Adults in Fellowship Hall with Rob Willhoft-lead facilitator

Maybe you haven’t attended a Sunday School class in a while or ever... All are welcome to come weekly as we dig deep into God’s Word.

Please contact Julie Foeller if you have any questions.

Operation Christmas Child

Each year, Operation Christmas Child passes out gift-filled shoeboxes to children throughout the world. During the distribution events, children have an opportunity to learn about Jesus. Our collection theme for September is games. This includes puzzles, cards (for games such as Solitaire, Memory, Old Maid, or Go Fish), UNO, Jenga, Etch-A-Sketch, wooden peg games, jump ropes, and small Frisbees.

By collecting items each month based on a theme, we are striving to gather a wide variety of items to then pack well-rounded shoeboxes. Please know that items from any category are welcome at any time. If you would like to continue shopping back-to-school sale items, for example, that would be great. (We do have a good supply of pencils.)

Thank you to everyone for their donations thus far!! We will have our church-wide shoebox packing party in early November. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Foeller.

Wednesday Night Community Dinner to Resume



The Wednesday Night Community Dinner held at the United Methodist Church is set to resume on Wednesday, September

14. There is no set cost for the dinner. A donation container is available for those who want to contribute to the ministry. Home deliveries are available by calling (585) 494-1312 no later than noon on Tuesday, September 13. Eat-in dinner is at 5:30 pm and does not require a prior reservation, however, a head count is helpful for the cook to prepare sufficient food. The first dinner of the season will be Tater Tot Casserole with Green Beans. Hope to see you there!

Foodlink Numbers Continue to Grow

Our August food distribution served 160 families. The total number of people in those families is 583, including 195 children, 243 adults, and 145 senior citizens.

The number of folks coming to our monthly food distribution continues to grow. We appreciate the more than 30 volunteers who are necessary to make these distributions go smoothly. Thanks to all who come to help!

In addition to serving the individuals who come to the church, leftover food is distributed to local food pantries so nothing goes to waste. This month we passed food on to 11 food pantries.

Deacons and other congregation members also take food to shut-ins or a few families who otherwise can't attend the actual distribution.

In September, our date is a little different. In September, we will distribute food on Sept. 22, **the fourth** Thursday of the month instead our usual third Thursday. Please mark your calendar so you come on the correct date. Times are still the same: volunteers please come about 2:45 pm. We're done by 6 pm, often sooner.

Request for Paper Bags



Our supply of plastic bags for food distribution is running low. Foodlink no longer provides these bags to us for free. If you have extra paper bags, would you please consider bringing them to

church? We will collect the bags in a bin located in the church foyer, near the water fountain. Thank you!

Harvest Festival is Right Around the Corner

Save the date of October 31 for this year's Harvest Festival. Fellowship, food and games create a great family atmosphere and welcome folks from the community into our church.

Invite your friends. Plan to come and help run a game or serve hot chocolate.

Join Us

October 31st!



Salvation Army Says Need for Food is Acute

The first Sunday of each month we collect food for the Salvation Army food pantry in Batavia. The Salvation Army has had dwindling donations while the number of persons seeking food has increased. Your donation to our collection this month is especially needed.

Here are the foods the Salvation Army says are particularly needed:

- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta meals
- Pasta
- Soup

Remember to bring your food to church on Sunday, September 4.

School Supplies Provided for Needy Families

Three families in need at Byron-Bergen Central School are receiving help from our church to purchase school supplies. The school counselor provided the info about the families' needs through an anonymous system. The three families have a total of five children.

Armed with a list of needed supplies, Julie Foeller from the E&M Committee went shopping to purchase the necessary items. Funds to cover the expense come from the Covid Relief Fund.

The families receiving this assistance are also helped by the Backpack Program that provides food for needy families over the weekend during the school year.



A Peek at the Church Calendar

Weekly

- Sunday, 9:15-10:15 – Sunday School
- Sunday, 10:30-11:45 – Morning Worship
- Food Collection on first Sunday of the month (most needed this month are: cereals, canned fruit, Mac'n Cheese, pasta, pasta meals, soup)
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm - Prayer for Door of Hope
- Thursday, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers (continuing to meet on alternating Thursdays for breakfast and on ZOOM)

Other Goings-Ons in September:

- September 4 - Communion Sunday & Food Drive Sunday
- September 5 - **Labor Day - No Office Hours**
- September 10 - Kid's Quest Back-to-School Bash at 11 am (K-6th grades)
- September 11 - Sunday School for ALL ages begins
- September 11 - Community Picnic @ 11:45 am at Methodist Church (All are welcome!)
- September 12 - Home Schooling resumes M, T, Th from 9 am to 12 pm
- September 14 - Free Community Dinner @ 5:30 pm at Methodist Church
- September 14 - Sessions at 7 pm
- September 17 - Kid's Quest begins meeting on Saturdays at 11 am
- September 22 - Foodlink (yes, on the 4th Thursday of this month) at 4 pm
- September 24 - Door of Hope at 6 pm
- September 25 - **Newsletter deadline** at noon
- September 27 - Deacon's Meeting at 7 pm



Anniversaries & Birthdays

September Birthdays

- 3 - John Wise
- 15 - Janet Wise
- 17 - David Hahn
- 18 - Duncan McNear
- 19 - Corissa Goodenbery
- 22 - Keith Marshall
- 25 - Neva Lattimer
- 27 - Tom Jones
- 28 - Rob Willhoft
- 28 - Cheryl Saville
- 29 - Amy Stacy



September Anniversaries

- 1 - Jim & Amanda Wilson (21 years)
- 2 - Paul & Neva Lattimer (55 years)
- 6 - Rob & Faith Willhoft (42 years)
- 9 - David & Susan Brownell (33 years)

October Birthdays

- 6 - Debbie Sheldon
- 13 - Delores Seward
- 15 - Joan Dermody
- 16 - Chris Hollenbeck
- 17 - Jeff Goodenbery
- 18 - Mandy Wilson
- 25 - Richard vonBergen
- 25 - Dale White
- 26 - Maddie Buckland
- 30 - Ruth Morse
- 31 - David Baker
- 31 - Chad Caccamise
- 31 - Diane White



October Anniversaries

- 1 - Jake & Michelle Buckland-Seward (6 years)
- 9 - Jeff & Corissa Goodenbery (17 years)
- 10 - Keith & Barb Marshall (13 years)
- 26 - Dick & Cheryl Saville (48 years)



CHURCH FINANCES

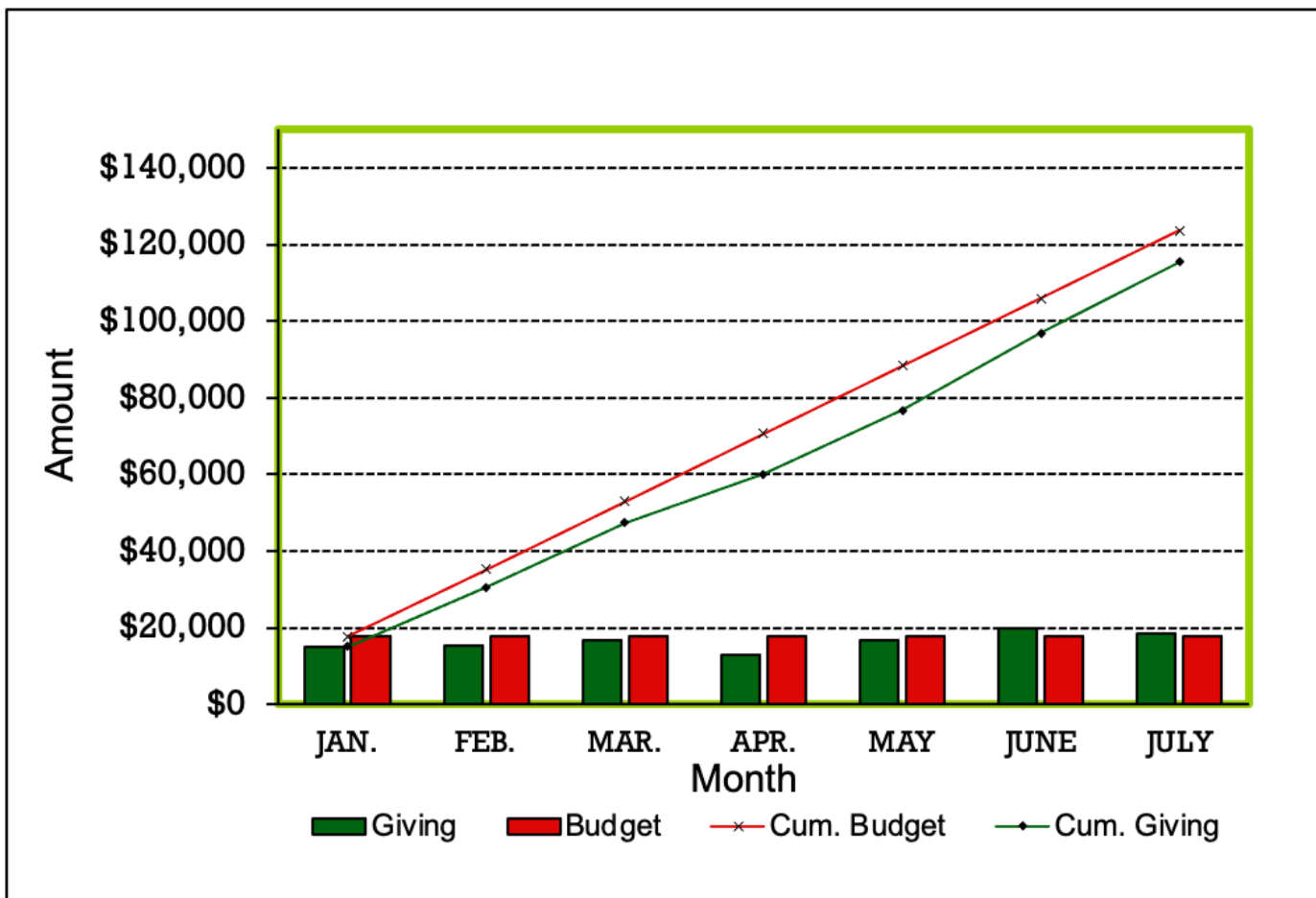
JULY 2022

“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.”

I Chron. 29:14,16

July’s giving of \$18,624 was the second month in a row with giving that exceeded the monthly goal of \$17,658; June and July are the only months this year to accomplish that. For the year, to-date total giving is running ahead of last year’s very good results by over \$5,000. Our church is indeed blessed with wonderful financial support from the congregation.

Our appeal for the Organ Fund received \$500 more in donations and the Fund’s total is now \$57,163.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY 2022

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$12,497.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,336.81
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$51.87 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$3,790.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$18,623.81
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$41.68
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$18,665.49

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$16,134.93
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• Towneplace – EPC Travel	\$78.52

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$16,056.41
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$1,500.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$2,290.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$319.08**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$17,035.39
New Designated Receipts	\$550.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$558.23

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$17,027.16**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$17,346.24**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• July expenditures	-\$1,500.00
Current Balance (7/31/2022)	\$22,145.25

Organ Fund

• July Deposits	\$500.00
Current Balance (7/31/2022)	\$57,162.51

Memorial Fund

• Ron Harmon	\$670.00
Current Balance (7/31/2022)	\$670.00

