
From the Pastor

By the time that you are reading this, I will have preached or about to preach a really important sermon. It's a sermon that I have preached several times in other places and it is one whose ideas have been swirling around in my head for years now, and it deals with seeking primarily to take part in growing the Kingdom of God rather than growing a local church (not that seeking to grow a local church is bad or something we shouldn't strive for, but it's just not our primary goal).

Now, as I am preparing this, part of me is a little uneasy about it, because that sounds as if I am against growing the local church, and hence, the Great Commission. Far from it. What I hope we understand is that the scope and importance of the Great Commission is far more important and worthy of our money, time, and effort than we usually imagine, and that includes the growing of Bergen Presbyterian, but I hope to show you how much larger and even more important is the need to seek the growth of God's kingdom.

If the Great Commission is more important than we usually think about, then that means the importance of people coming to Christ is more important than we usually think about. That means that we should be thinking about what we can do to reach people for Christ, but also what we might be doing that would serve as a hindrance to people coming to Christ.

In a Lifeway poll of people aged 23-30 who stopped attending church, 32% said it was due to "church members seemed judgmental or hypocritical." Now, part of this is unavoidable, as the culture goes further and further away from Biblical Christianity. However, let's be honest. The perception of being judgmental or hypocritical often has basis in reality.

In my experience, one of the biggest turnoffs to attending church are Christians fighting among

themselves, especially within the same church. Even outsiders seem to realize that the church is meant to be a church family, and nothing sours them to Christianity more than to see needless infighting with the Body of Christ. They often think (understandably so), why would I want to join that family if all they do is argue with each other?

Therefore, over the next month, we will look at how relationships should be formed within church families such as ours. We will look at how love should be genuine, how we should hate what is evil, how we should examine our own lives before we confront others, how we actually confront others, and not grow weary in doing good to others. We will take a break for Christmas, after which we will start back at the first of next year looking at other relationship subjects such as praying for each other and offering forgiveness.

Now, here's the thing. I know that I will feel like I am "preaching to the choir," because by and large, I think that solid Christian relationships is one of our biggest strengths as a church. However, sadly, all it sometimes takes is one or two quarrelsome words that are not a Biblical approach and it can tear a church apart, and thus be a terrible witness to the community.

One final note, and that is think about the way about our culture is right now. Everything about it seems contradictory to the way the Bible shows the way relationships should be. The largest example of this is there is absolutely no grace for those who go against cultural norms. We need to show the world the Bible offers the way of joy and peace in relationships so that we may truly be around each other. When we follow God's commands in our relationships, we are truly the city on a hill that Jesus referred to (Matthew 5:14), and really make a difference in this world.



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(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)

Soup Luncheon

Join us on Sunday, October 2 following worship for a Soup Luncheon! The Fellowship Team would like to invite the church family and friends to share a meal. Soup, bread, veggie tray and drinks will be provided (hotdogs will be available for the kiddos). It would be wonderful if the congregation could bring a pan of your favorite brownies or bar cookies to share.



Meet & Greet Your Neighbors at the Harvest Festival

Save the date of **October 31 at 6 pm** 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!

Our annual Harvest Festival brings more of the community inside our church than almost any other activity. Many hands are needed to make the evening fun and attractive to our neighbors, plus share the love of Jesus.

You can help by making and serving hot chocolate or apple cider, leading a children's game (they're fun!) or helping to pack goodie bags. Let Susan know in the office if you're available to help.

We also need donations of cider, hot chocolate, donuts and candy. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall.

TAG ~ Teens After God

REVERB!!!!

TAG teens continue to multiply, with new kids coming almost every meeting. On September 25th we had over twenty teens and spent the evening discussing the salvation message and God's ultimate plan for all of us. The annual **REVERB** (formerly "Superbowl") youth event takes place in Rochester on the 4th and 5th of November. It is an all-night event that includes a Rochester Americans hockey game, awesome group activities on the ice after the game, a phenomenal message given by a nationally known evangelist, all you can eat pizza, all night Tri-county Sports Complex athletic events, glow in the dark bowling, go-carts, arcade games, and more. Over 1,000 teens will be attending and many will give their lives to the Lord for the first time. We will be traveling by bus with over 40 teens and leaders from our TAG group. Please pray for all the teens, leaders, and volunteers who will be attending the event. For more information about a teen attending Reverb please call or text Joe Rebisz 585-794-8295.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00: October 9th and October 23rd. 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 preparing for "Hide and Seek" - September 25, 2022

Sewing With a Purpose



Calling All Knitters!!!

Sewing With A Purpose will collaborate with the Veteran Ministry to make simple hats for the veterans. If you can knit you can do this! I can even teach you to just do the knit stitch. Email Debbie at debmca@verizon.net or text/call her at (585) 813 - 8614. Don't delay. Call now! Thank you in advance for your help.

The Veteran's Ministry has requested we finish our hats by December

Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox collection continues in

'Sock'-tober

That's right, we are requesting donations of socks for boys and girls ages 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14.



This will be the last month we will have a general collection. Thank you for your generosity in donating items to help fill the boxes. If anyone would like to make a monetary donation of \$10 to be used for the shipping fee per box, please place in the offering collection box in an envelope marked for 'shoebox shipping fee'

**SAVE THE
DATE.....**

**Sunday, November 6
after the worship
service**

**We will be having a SHOEBBOX Packing Party
In the Fellowship Hall**

**ALL are Welcome- youth as well as many adults
are needed to pack our boxes full of LOVE.**

**A Pizza lunch will be provided for our packers and
volunteers.**

See Julie Foeller if you plan on attending.

FoodLink Continues to Draw Big Crowds

The line stretched from the back of the church around the perimeter of the parking lot and to Lake Avenue as our church sponsored the FoodLink distribution on Sept. 23. Our team of volunteers served 200 families.

God was faithful to keep the rain away until about 20 minutes after we had served and cleaned up.

Thanks to all who assisted and blessed our neighbors in need. Remember to mark your calendar to help with the next distribution on Oct. 20.

The number of persons coming to the distribution has continued to grow over the last three months. Many children, adults and senior citizens need the food that is being provided.

Support offered to Family serving in Vietnam

David Kuehl and his family are the newest persons receiving support from the E&M budget.

With the retirement of the Leightons in Thailand, and Kelsey Hill shifting her work in the past two years, we were not supporting anyone working in Asia. We have found David and family through contacts at the General Assembly of the EPC.

More to come in the future about their work and family. Stay tuned...

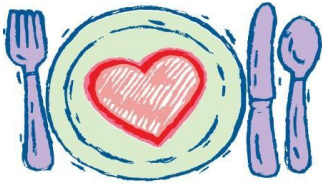
Can You Take Food to the Salvation Army?

Looking for a volunteer or two to take the food that is collected the first Sunday of the month to the Salvation Army in Batavia. We can get folks to help load it into your vehicle. The SA volunteers will unload it. We just need someone who is willing to drive the food items there early in the week after it is collected.

Please let Gregg McAllister know if you can help. Thanks.



Wednesday Night Community Dinners



The free Wednesday Night Community Dinner held at the Bergen United Methodist Church (27 S. Lake Ave) has resumed.

Home deliveries are available by calling (585) 494-1312 no later than noon on the Tuesday before. Eat-in dinner is at 5:30 pm each Wednesday evening and does not require a prior reservation; however, a head count is helpful for the cook to prepare sufficient food. There is no cost for these dinners, but if you wish to contribute to the ministry, there is a collection jar on the counter in the Fellowship Hall or you may send a check to BUMC, PO Box 216, Bergen, NY 14416 and include on the memo line of your check "Wednesday Night Dinners".

New addresses

Tim and Mel Riley
110 Magnolia Drive
Franklin, TN 37064

We're back!! Our new address is:
Susan and David Brownell
90 Woodside Drive
Bergen, NY 14416



I'd like to attend church, but I am employed at the Batavia VA medical center now and am usually working on Sundays.

David moves here permanently around October 1st. He will be working per diem for his company.

Celeste was married September 18th to Nicholas Golda. They are currently honeymooning in Bar Harbor Maine!

Life has been busy since we moved here at the end of July, but it is nice to be home and living so close to my parents!

Luke 13:34I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings...

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!



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)
- Saturdays, 11 am - Kid's Quest
- 2nd & 4th Sundays - TAG from 6 - 8 pm

Other Goings-Ons in October:

- October 2 - Communion Sunday & Food Drive Sunday
- October 2 - Soup Luncheon following Worship
- October 10 - Columbus Day - No office hours
- October 12 - Sessions @ 7 pm
- October 20 - Foodlink @ 4 pm
- October 25 - Newsletter Deadline @ 12 noon
- October 25 - Deacon's Meeting @ 7 pm
- October 29 - Door of Hope @ 6 pm
- October 31 - Harvest Festival @ 6 pm



Anniversaries & Birthdays

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)

November Birthdays

- 3 - Gary Hutchurson
- 5 - Richard Stacy
- 7 - Fred Ely
- 11 - Loretta Miller
- 15 - Hannah Berggren
- 19 - Kevin Hollenbeck
- 27 - Seth McNear



November

Anniversaries

- 27 - Brian & Julie Foeller (29 years)

Kid's Quest Upcoming Events

- Fall Festival - October 31st
- Christmas Party - Early December
- Christmas Pageant (tbd)
- Sledding Party - January
- Elementary Age Basketball League (Nerf) -
Late February to March
- Easter Activities
- Spring Field Trip

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn . . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn . . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn . . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn . . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn . . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn . . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn . . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn . . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn . . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn . . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn . . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn . . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.	He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph . . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph . . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph . . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph . . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph . . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.





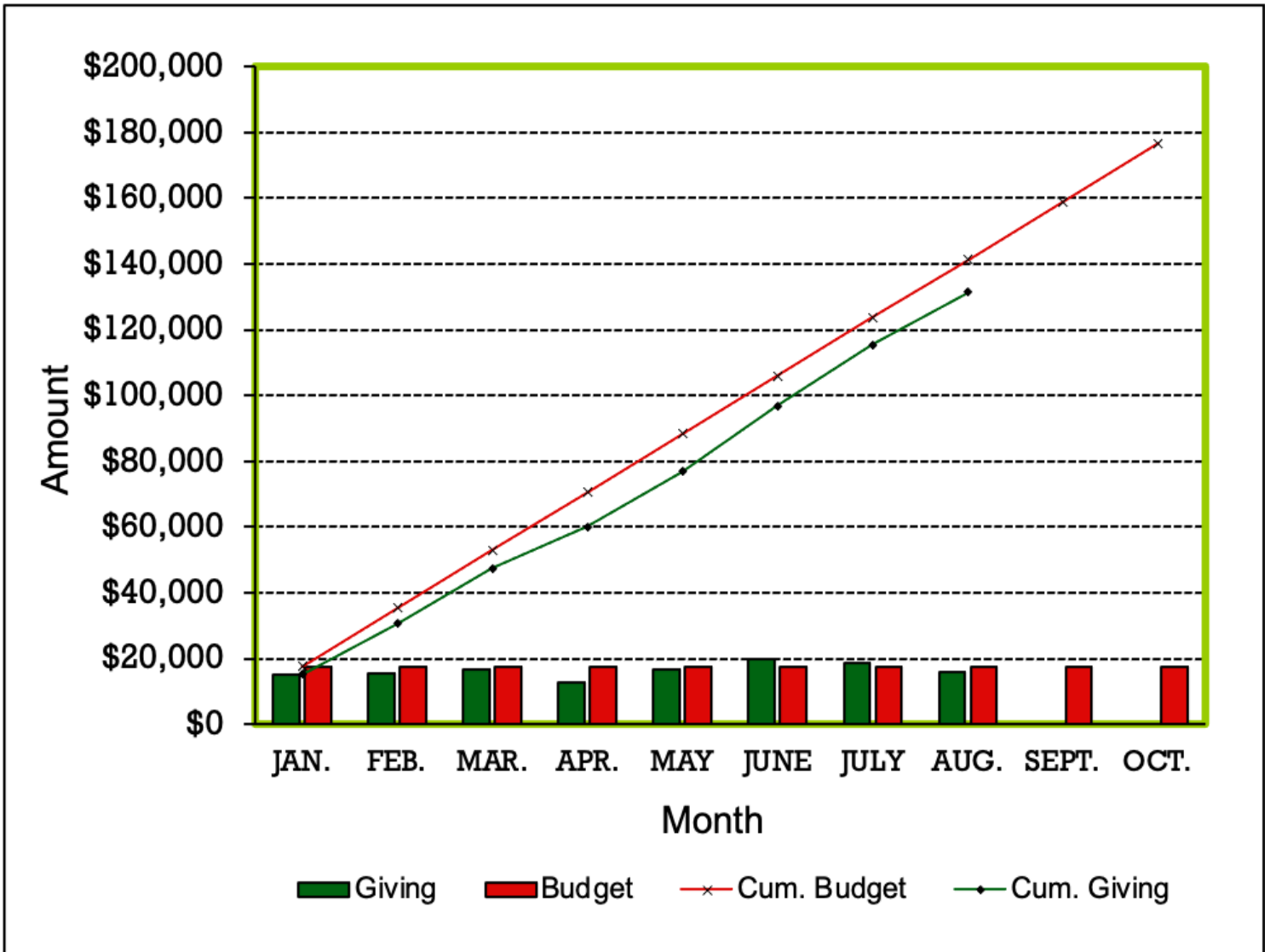
CHURCH FINANCES

AUGUST 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

Giving for August was \$16,088, about the monthly average we have seen so far this year. Expenses were low, \$14,212, thus we did not need any extra funds from the AIF to pay the bills. Special gifts were received for Ron Harmon’s memorial, which totals \$1,150.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – AUGUST 2022

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$11,206.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,051.86
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$31.64 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$3,790.00

Total New Receipts	\$16,047.86
Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$319.08
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$16,366.94



Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$14,211.97
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$14,211.97
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,000.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$1,790.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$364.97**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$17,027.16
New Designated Receipts	\$100.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$162.36

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$16,964.80**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$17,329.77**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• July expenditures	-\$2,000.00
Current Balance (8/31/2022)	\$19,484.96

Organ Fund

• July Deposits	\$100.00
Current Balance (8/31/2022)	\$55,458.13

Memorial Fund

• Ron Harmon	\$500.00
Current Balance (8/31/2022)	\$1,150.02

