

From the Pastor

“For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews, I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law, I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law), that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law, I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ), that I might win those outside the law. To the weak, I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

These are wise, powerful words from the apostle Paul, who was so passionate about reaching people for Jesus, and it’s a reminder to us to have that same passion. It shows us that in our passion for sharing the Gospel, we will be very effective when we tailor the Gospel to fit the audience as long as we don’t change the Gospel or any Biblical truth.

What will that look like? For starters, the approach will be different in Bergen, Mississippi than in the South. For starters, it’s not wise to have anything on Saturdays in the fall in any state in the South. I am sure there are other things that are different, but we won’t concentrate so much on those things. It would be a little odd for me as a southerner to tell you what Western New York is like. I have come to know and love the people and the culture, but I am still learning.

However, there is another aspect that we need to consider that is not geographical, but rather has to do with how the culture has changed over time. There are plenty of things to consider when it comes to that, especially technology, but there is something vital that we need to consider.

People who think about such things consider the pre-modern era (1000-1500) to be one in which people thought we know things through both reason and revelation (namely from God), the modern era (1500-1970) in which people thought we know things through

reason and not revelation, postmodernism (1970-2010) in which people thought we can’t truly know either by reason or revelation, and finally metamodernism (2011-present) in which people think they know it all.

We are in metamodernism, but postmodernism still largely affects us. In his book, *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*, Sam Chan lists some characteristics of postmodernism:

- 1) I am shaped by the variables of my culture, history, race, experiences, and education.
- 2) Each truth is free floating, unanchored, and not founded upon a prior truth.... You will have your truth, and I will have my truth.
- 3) All method is biased and subjective.... It’s our presuppositions that determine the outcome.
- 4) Certainty of knowledge is impossible.
- 5) Science itself is now viewed as a biased construal of facts from established authority figures, so its premises and conclusions can’t necessarily be trusted.
- 6) There is no universal truth.

While much of this is not great, postmodernism is not all bad. It appreciates stories, testimonies, creative arts, hospitality, and authenticity. Of course, it’s awful in its approach to truth. To say, as postmodernists say, there is no absolute truth, is itself an absolute truth. However, much of the negative aspects can be overcome when people see our faith as real and we welcome them into our lives.

As we do so, we will make a great impact upon the world as we share the love of Christ with a lost, hurting, and dying world.

Pastor Brandt



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You can also find us on Facebook.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12 - 3:30 pm

Tues & Thurs: 12 - 4 pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 am - noon (flexible)

TAG ~ Teens After God

Service

TAG teens have continued to actively participate in many of the events and activities planned at the church this month. At the most recent Foodlink food distribution (June 15th), many teens showed up to help assist wherever needed. Many teens also came to the baccalaureate graduation ceremony at the church in early June. Several teens shared their musical and technological gifts with the congregation of around 70 people. It was a great time of celebration, fellowship, and food. At the Men’s Prayer Breakfast, held June 15th, three of the TAG teens and their fathers prepared a wonderful meal that consisted of pancakes, fruit, sausage, and baked potato smiles. It was a great morning!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: July 2nd and July 16th. 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!



Men’s Breakfast Preparation – June 15, 2023



Baccalaureate Celebration – June 2, 2023

Sewing With a Purpose

Sewing With a Purpose sent 4 teddy bears to bless children at Domestic Violence Safe House.



BEPC Scholarship

The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for this year’s Memorial College Scholarship awards. Details about the application process, including who is eligible, can be found on the Application Guide, which is available upon request from the church office or by contacting Seth McNear (beccaseth@hotmail.com). **Please note:** A change was made to the application guidelines starting in 2022; the number of times a recipient can receive an award has been increased from 2 to 4, with additional considerations being made for those attending graduate school.

Due to the later posting time for the scholarship this year, the deadline for the submission of all materials is 7/15/2023 rather than 6/15 as listed on the guidelines.

Financial Secretary Job Opening



Mike and Cindy Wilson plan to start travelling to an extent that will make it difficult for Mike to continue to fulfill the duties of Financial Secretary. Consequently, the position will become open and needs to be filled by September 1st. As such, Session has approved the posting of the Financial Secretary position, a part-time job requiring approximately 2 hours per week. Training on the use of the church's financial tracking software will be provided. Packets containing Job information, Application forms and Instructions are available outside the Church Office. Applications will be accepted from June 26, 2023 through July 23, 2023. Please seal and return a completed application in the provided envelope to the church office during office hours or contact Tom Jones via phone call or text at (585) 734-2151 to hand in an application.

Making Lunches for Open Door Mission

On June 8th, a small group of church ladies gathered in the fellowship hall to make 140 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Open Door Mission. Open Door is a faith-based organization, serving homeless individuals in Rochester. The sandwiches were placed two to a lunch bag, along with snacks and a water bottle to make 70 individual lunches. During this pb+j event, we experimented with making the sandwiches on hamburger buns. This was a huge success, as the sandwich-buns were significantly easier (compared to sandwiches made on sliced bread) to be packaged in a Ziploc bag.

It is very nice to gather together to work on this mission. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church members to better get to know each other, while helping to feed the homeless. As of the printing of this newsletter, we do



not have another pb+j event scheduled. Stay tuned!

Fellowship

Now that Sunday School has ended, coffee hour will be available in the fellowship hall after Sunday Service. Please join us after church for refreshments and fellowship.

We served hotdogs again at the June Foodlink event. It was another beautiful day and the hotdogs were appreciated by many of the over 200 people attending. If you would like to help with grilling and/or serving hotdogs at the Foodlink events during the summer, please let us know.

We will be cleaning the church kitchen the end of June/early July. If you have any items in the kitchen/coffee hour room, please take them before then. Also, if you have any food in the refrigerator and/or freezer, please label it so that we don't throw it away.

Thank you,
Fellowship Team:
Helen Hill
Marty Hammack
Diane White
Kevin Hollenbeck
Delores Seward
Sandy Partridge
Paula Welch
Donna Lacey
Pam Patmore



Fattening the Flock with Fellowship

Our time of feasting and fellowship after church service has been a wonderful success, one that we plan to continue weekly! (Of course, church breakfasts and special church luncheons will take precedence.) We would like to ask for your help in two ways. We are looking for volunteers to bring food and for volunteers to help with cleanup. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall/dining room. A huge thank you to everyone who has already provided food and cleanup help. It is certainly a team effort!



New Church Website



The new church website is live! You can get to it with <https://www.epcbergen.org/> or by using the QR code at the bottom of the article. We had three goals in creating this new website:

1. To provide effective communication to the church. We want to keep the information on this site current so those attending the church can use it as a reference.
2. To give those attending the church a way to share with friends and family the various activities of the church.
3. To reach out to the community so that people wanting to learn more about the church, and perhaps visit the church, can learn about who we are, what we believe, and the kinds of activities that we are involved in.

We have attempted to provide a very broad view of the activities of the church. We have lots of pictures and hope to add more as we go along. One of the most exciting features of this new website is the News Posts (<https://www.epcbergen.org/news>) These are featured on the main page and can be updated with posts as things happen in the church. This is a blog and people can subscribe to it to get the news as it is added to the site.

We still have a lot of work to complete on the site. Especially, For those visiting from your phone, you might still run into some formatting issues.

Please check regularly to see new News items and to watch for new content as it is added. We have received some excellent feedback and suggestions about the site. Please continue to provide ideas using the contact forms on the site, or by sending Rob Willhoft an email.



VBS

Dates: August 1-3 (Tuesday-Thursday)

new this year August 6- VBS finale -Sunday 'FunDay'- service at 10:30 a.m. with family picnic after

Time: * 5:30 pm - 8pm * - ***new this year*** Family dinner (free) provided each day from 5-5:30 prior to program

Ages: Preschool age 4- High School

new this year Parent/Adult group discussion and fellowship/dessert from 6 pm-7:30 pm each evening. Childcare for children under age 4 can be provided for parents attending the group. Parents are welcome to stay for opening and closing rallies from 5:30-6 and 7:30-8 pm

Register early:

<http://www.epcbergen.org/vbs>



**** We are 1 month away** from this very important child/youth evangelistic outreach event for our community. We want them to know who Jesus is--and that by following Him, it can change everything.

To make this a safe and organized program, we are still in need for many volunteers in many different areas: please sign-up at the VBS display in the foyer. Perhaps you can assist with the family dinner one of the nights. It will be simple prep/tasks.

Your willingness to serve will be such a blessing to our church and community.

Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the VBS team if you are not sure what area you would like to serve in or if you have any questions regarding VBS

VBS team:

Pastor Brandt and Marty Hammack, Bethany Berggren, Judy Bailey, Julie Foeller

Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths. Psalm

Collecting for Shoeboxes

FILL THEM WITH



We are starting to collect Operation Christmas Child (OCC) items! OCC is a mission through Samaritan's Purse that spreads the word about Jesus to children worldwide, through the gifts of items packed in shoeboxes.

This year we plan to have shoebox packing sessions during Sunday School. We will coordinate dates with the Children's Sunday School teachers and advertise well in advance.

We will have a collection box in the foyer for items you wish to donate. For the month of July, we are collecting toy cars, stuffed animals, and decks of cards. Of course, other shoebox related items may be donated at any time.

As our calendar year approaches fall, there will be an OCC shoebox display with shoeboxes for you to pack at home. Thank you to everyone for his or her support in this mission!

Summer 2023 Schedule for Kid's Quest

- **July 1st** Splash Pad in Brockport
- **July 5th** Movie Night
- **July 8th** Strong Museum of Play
- **July 15th** Bricklab
- **July 29th** Christmas in July
- **August 1-3** VBS
- **August 5th** Movie and Chill!!
- **August 12th** Superhero Olympics
- **August 19th** Kid's Quest Party
- **August 25th** Scavenger Hunt
- **August 30th** Movie Night
- **September 2nd** Seneca Park Zoo
- **September 9th** Back-to-School Bash
- **September 15th** Game Night

Calendar

Online calendar:
tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr



Weekly/Monthly

- Sunday school is done for the season. Will resume in the fall
- Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am – Morning Worship
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – Prayer for Door of Hope
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers
- Saturdays, 11 am – Kid's Quest
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25th of each month
- First Sunday of the month – S A Food Collection
- Last Saturday of the month – Door of Hope Coffee House @ 6 pm (July 29)

Other Events in July:

- Sunday, July 2 - Fellowship meeting @ 12:15 pm
- Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day - No Office Hours
- Wednesday, July 12 - Session meeting @ 7 pm
- Sunday, July 16 - E&M meeting @ 12:15 pm
- Monday, July 17 - Monday, July 24 - Pastor Brandt on vacation
- Thursday, July 20 - Foodlink Event @ 4 pm
- Tuesday, July 25 - Deacons meeting @ 7 pm
- Friday, July 28 - Young Life Wyldlife Club @ 7 pm
- Sunday, July 30 - Worship meeting @ 12:15 pm

Anniversaries & Birthdays

July Birthdays

- 2 - Kathy Cosgrove
- 5 - William Walker
- 8 - Gail Freeman
- 10 - Gregg McAllister
- 11 - Tracy Miller
- 24 - Eunie Ely
- 27 - Daniel Sheldon
- 30 - Jeremiah Hammack
- 30 - Jonah Hammack
- 31 - Shirley vonBergen

July Anniversaries

- 4 - Gregg and Debbie McAllister (36 years)
- 19 - Alden and Christin Snell (20 years)
- 28 - Dan and Debbie Sheldon (6 years)

August Birthdays

- 5 - Elizabeth Snell
- 8 - Jonathan Snell
- 9 - Pam Patmore
- 10 - Sally Thomas
- 14 - Mark Kobel
- 20 - Brian Foeller
- 22 - Jan Harris
- 22 - Anne Waldruff
- 23 - Kyle Foeller

August Anniversaries

- 5 - Dan & Pam Patmore (23 years)
- 14 - Charlie and Elaine McAdam (52 years)
- 19 - Ward and Judy Bailey (56 years)
- 25 - Rick and Amy Stacy (39 years)
- 30 - Richard and Shirley vonBergen (70 years)

Foodlink is July 20th

As always, we need a full supply of our faithful volunteers to serve our neighbors in need. Please arrive by 2:45 pm to be ready to begin unloading the truck at 3 pm. Volunteers, please park in the Methodist Church parking lot across the street.

Thanks to all who make this event possible.

Park Fest

Our church once again participated in Bergen Park Fest, including a float in the parade inviting the community to VBS, and a tent in the vendor area where people could learn more about our church ministries. We rented a second space this year to allow children to play more games, including games that will be played at VBS in early August. Many thanks to all who helped!



Open Door Mission

One of Our Congregation's Mission Partners

3rd ANNUAL
Hope Lives
BREAKFAST



Open Door Mission is excited to be hosting famed NFL player and coach, Mike Singletary, at their Hope Lives Breakfast. For more information see www.opendoormission.com.

This Fall, Open Door Mission opened 24 permanent supportive housing units for formerly homeless individuals. The new apartments are fully furnished but some of our residents are lacking some basic items. If you can help provide some basics, please go to the website and click on [AMAZON WISH LIST](#). Your help will ensure the residents will get off to a great start in their new home!

Here are some items from the latest newsletter that you can pray for:

1. Pray for the salvation and restoration of all those we serve with emergency shelter, food, clothes, addiction recovery, transitional housing, life skills and job readiness programs.
2. Pray for peace and health to all of our staff and their families.
3. Pray for the families that just came into the Coldwater House and for those who recently moved out into their own permanent housing.
4. Pray for continued success for the men who recently graduated from our addiction recovery program and for those just entering the program.
5. Pray for the Mission's permanent supportive housing apartment residents.
6. Pray for the necessary resources to maintain our daily expenses.





Church Finances

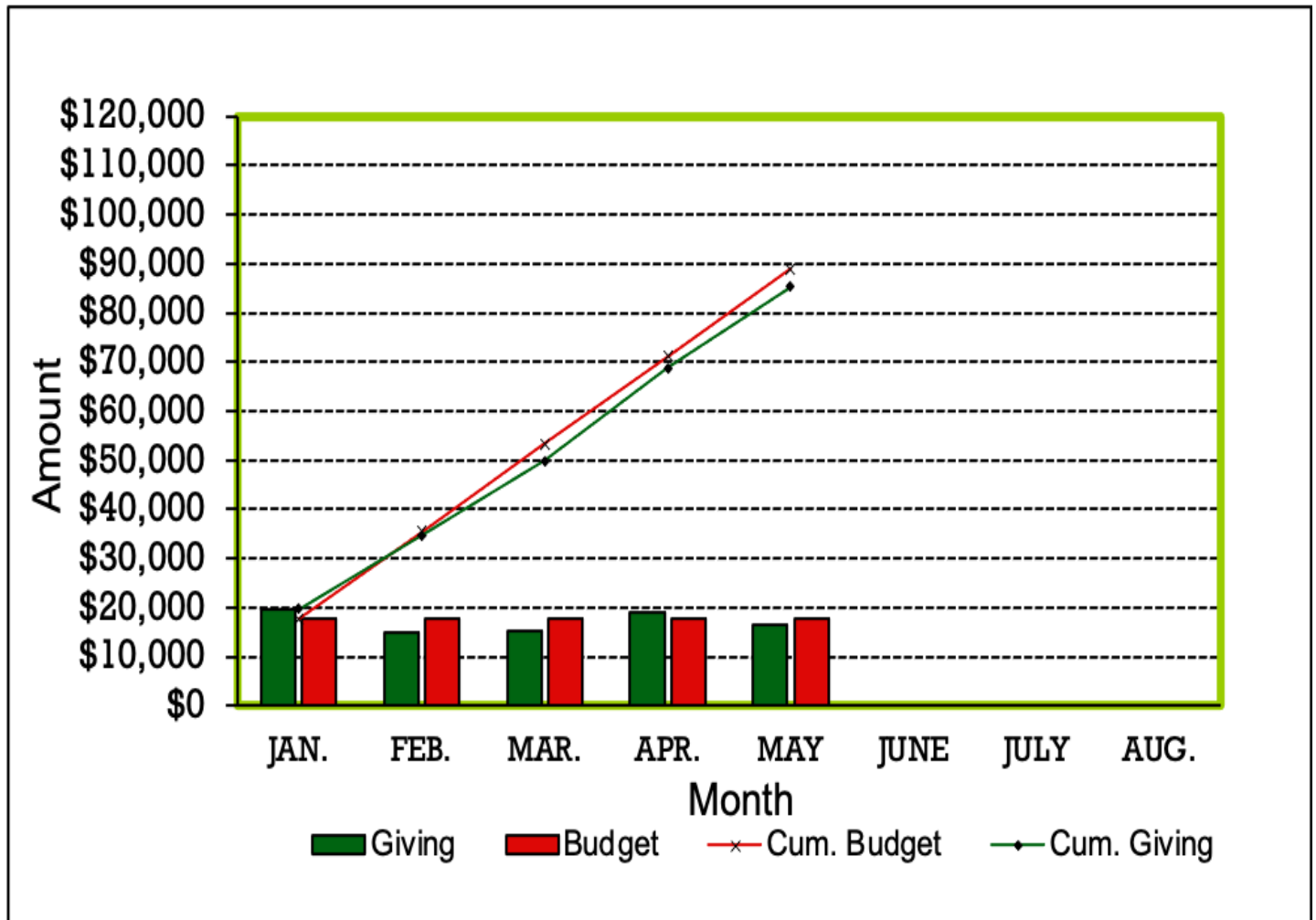
May 2023

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

Malachi 3:10

Giving for May was \$16,521, \$1,000 less than the monthly giving goal and about in the middle of the five months so far this year. Expenses were higher than for April, thus we needed \$2,000 from the AIF to pay all the bills.

With the scheduled June completion of the Organ Fund Drive upon us, it was wonderful to see additional gifts for the Organ, which totaled \$9,300. That brings the current total in the Organ Fund to \$43,670, and just about all that will be needed when the final bill on the organ renovation will need to be paid. With some pledges for the Organ Drive still to come, we clearly will exceed the goal when the Drive is completed!



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – May 2023

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$12,259.10
Misc. – Building Use	\$100.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,154.62
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$35.07 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$3,007.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$16,520.72
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$530.27
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$17,050.99

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$15,368.51
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$15,368.51
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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	\$1,007.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$675.48**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$14,002.99
New Designated Receipts	\$10,300.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$16,566.52

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$7,736.47**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$8,411.95**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• May Withdrawal	-\$2,000.00
Current Balance (5/31/2023)	\$26,828.85

Henry/Hill/Dawe/Claus Fund

• Young Life Camp Withdrawal	-\$2,831.00
Current Balance (5/31/2023)	\$25,293.28

