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## From the Pastor

So, we have been talking about evangelism for a few months now, and my question is, how many people have you witnessed to? Surely, all of you have gone out and shared your faith at least a few times?

Now, I hope that we all have done that, but let's be honest, most of us haven't witnessed more during this time, and I don't want you to feel guilty about that. Why? Because in my view, God uses each of our own unique personality and spiritual gifts in different ways. In my view, there are at least six different ways to share our faith: directly, apologetics, relationships, service, empathy, and community.

There are four things that we need to understand before we start looking at each one in detail:

- 1) It's important to note that I say, "in my view". I cannot go to certain Bible passages and say that this is how God uses us in all these different ways like one can say about spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4). It's more about my observations, reading and hearing what others are saying, and making sure that my view, while it cannot be proved from Scripture, it at least can agree with the Bible.
- 2) Our tendency is to look down on people who share their faith in different ways than we do, much like the way we tend to do with spiritual gifts. Like spiritual gifts, we love our approach, but we often fail to consider how others are effective in their own unique ways.
- 3) While I might recognize that I tend to evangelize in one or two of these areas more than others do (For me, that is community and to a less extent, empathy.), my goal should be to share my faith in all of these six different areas, and that depends on the situation that I am in.

For example, as I talk about direct evangelism, for those that know me, they would know that this is not my preferred style, mainly because direct evangelists do everything fast and as my wife will tell you, I don't do anything fast. So, it's helpful to know that and think more in terms of the way it is easier to share my faith. At the same time, there are times that I need to share my faith in a more direct way, or use another method, and I should care so much about the person that I am talking to, that I get out of my comfort zone and share my faith in a way that I prefer not to. After all, Christ died for me. I should be more than willing to be a little uncomfortable.

- 4) Finally, it's important to note that relationships are the basis for all these different ways. There are some who seem to have exceptional abilities to share their faith in relationships, and they will have stories to tell about how God used relationships in their lives to bring people to Christ, but all these methods have relationships as the key.

For instance, I would say that relationships are not the easy way to share my faith. Why? Because in my value of the relationship, I tend not to bring up the subject of Christianity (even though I should). However, within the context of that relationship, if I know the person is going through a difficult time, it's easier for me to share the hope that is within me, or if the church is doing something that I think the person would find value in, it's easier for me to invite them to church where they will hear the Gospel. I hope you see that within the method you find most comfortable, relationships are what's key.

Lord willing, we will take a look at each one of these methods in the following months. My hope and prayer is that as I do so, we will not only take note of the methods that we find easier, but we also seek to develop our skills in other areas as well.



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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

### Summer Fun!!!

TAG teens enjoyed a special presentation from Hannah Catalino at youth group on June 2nd. She shared pictures, money, and stories from her mission trip with the Houghton volleyball team to Nicaragua. It was awesome to see and hear how God has led Hannah as she continues to grow and mature in her faith.

Summer is a busy time for Bergen kids and teens. Upcoming events include continued Foodlink distributions at the church, VBS, and Sports Camp.

- VBS is August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> this year, from 5:30 - 8:00PM. It is a family oriented VBS, with teens meeting daily in the teen room for scripture study, prayer, and games.
- Sports Camp is Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at Hickory Park. Camp will run from 6:00-8:00PM each day. I am still in need of volunteers, so please reach out to me if you are willing and available to help with this awesome event! No sports experience necessary 😊  
There is also a sign-up sheet in the church foyer.

Our TAG youth group will begin meeting again as usual on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:00 - 8:00PM in the church teen room. 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!



*Christian Sports Camp 2022: Thank you to all teen and adult volunteers!*

## VBS



Dates: August 1 - 3 (Tuesday - Thursday)

**\*New this year\*** August 6 - VBS finale -Sunday 'FunDay' - service at 10:30 am with family picnic after

Time: \* 5:30 pm - 8 pm \* - **\*New this year\*** Family dinner (free) provided each day from 5-5:30 pm prior to the 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 pm - 6 pm and 7:30 pm - 8 pm

Register early:

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

**\*\* We are only a few weeks 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*



## New Financial Secretary

Starting August 6, 2023, Dave Wright will be acting as our Financial Secretary. Thank you, Dave, for stepping up to fill this role. We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Mike Wilson for being the church's Financial Secretary for all these years! Mike has done a wonderful job and we wish him and his wife, Cindy, all the best in their future endeavors.

## Collecting for Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child, a mission through Samaritan's Purse, sends shoeboxes filled with fun and practical items to children in need throughout the world. During the distribution, children have the opportunity to learn about our Lord. Each year our church participates in this mission. This November we plan to have the children's Sunday School classes pack shoeboxes.



To this end, we have started collecting items for the shoeboxes. In August we will collect school supplies. Items such as pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, small notebooks, and erasers are all very welcome in the shoeboxes. We are not allowed to pack liquid glue, but glue sticks are allowed. There is a collection bin in the church foyer. Thank you, everyone, for your help in this mission.

## Summer 2023 Schedule for Kid's Quest

- August 1-3 VBS
- August 5<sup>th</sup> Movie and Chill (Super Mario Bros.)
- August 12<sup>th</sup> Superhero Olympics
- August 19<sup>th</sup> Kid's Quest Party
- August 25<sup>th</sup> Scavenger Hunt
- August 30<sup>th</sup> Movie Night
- September 2<sup>nd</sup> Seneca Park Zoo
- September 9<sup>th</sup> Back-to-School Bash
- September 15<sup>th</sup> Game Night



## Sewing With A Purpose

Sewing With A Purpose is saddened with the loss of Grace Leanen. Grace passed away July 1st at her home in Stafford. Grace was always willing to share her God-given talents for sewing, crocheting, knitting, teaching, fixing things, helping others and caring for anyone in need. The word "No" was not in her vocabulary.



Grace operating the sewing machine repairing the VBS huge parachute

Sewing With A Purpose will miss Grace's smiling face, fellowship, and willingness to lend a hand with any of our projects.

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## Foodlink: We Are Lucky to Have You as a Partner

Once a year Foodlink staff visit distributions sites. Our turn was July 20. Four members of the staff interviewed clients, volunteers and helped with food distribution for the day. Here are their comments at the end of the day:

"You guys do an amazing job! Thank you so much. We are very lucky to have you as a partner."

Those comments wouldn't come without the approximately 40 volunteers who faithfully come to make our distribution happen smoothly and efficiently. Volunteers smile and welcome the clients while demonstrating the love of Jesus. Each month, volunteers go down the line to share information about our church activities and offer to pray for the clients. Thank you to all!

For July, food was distributed to more than 180 families, representing more than 450 children, senior citizens and adults.

Our next distribution dates is Aug. 17.

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## Thank You from Sarah Speer

Many "thanks to God" for your participation in our lives and in our ministry. Due to your enthusiastic response to a recent letter from MissionGO, we have funding for a dugout canoe large enough to carry staff and patients, 4 mud tires for our Land Cruiser to navigate impassable roads to reach the villages where our patients are, and funding for several major river and road trips. Thank you for helping us to move forward to care for those who have lost all hope. Now is their opportunity to regain it and live in praise to God.

### They're Shooting at Us!

My phone rang. "Hello! They're shooting at us! What should we do?", shouted my friend from the Kimia Center. Our center is a half mile from the military base. Their ammunition storage building caught fire and explosions started. Within minutes, all of Impfondo was on the move -- school children abandoning their bags and running, mothers with babies on their backs and small children holding both hands, the elderly who could hardly walk moving quickly and fired up with adrenaline.

It was like a stirred-up anthill! Our friends and patients at the Center were sure that it would be the death of them.

Then it became quiet. In the late afternoon, Serge and I took food to our friends. We found them all packed up and ready to move out. Serge reassured them that it wasn't necessary to leave. He stayed the night with them. God protected everyone in the town. No one was killed by the explosions, or even injured, even though pieces of artillery fell close to them.

### Farming God's Way

The Kimia Center has been able to purchase eight plots of land surrounding the center and is developing gardens. Two agricultural experts came to teach and demonstrate the principles of "Farming God's Way." Thirty-five people came for the training. The teaching was like cool water on dry, thirsty ground. "Farming God's Way" is a system of agriculture that makes use of all God's resources for protecting the soil and its nutrients, increasing production with practices like making compost.

Corn, peanuts and sweet potatoes were the first crops planted. They are flourishing because everyone is working very hard to make this garden successful. The produce is to boost the nutritional intake of the patients who are fighting for recovery of their health from the ravages of leprosy. The staff is hoping to receive funds to purchase 11 more plots to expand the gardens.

*Our congregation supports Sarah Speer through our evangelism budget.*

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## Genesee Valley Comfort Care You're Invited!

### Help Develop a much-needed local resource

If you watched a loved one move through the last three months of life, you know the pain, sorrow, and sense of helplessness. If your loved one has been under Hospice and in a Comfort Care Home, you also know the special places Comfort Care Homes are

### Help us build a Comfort Care Home in Bergen.

To see how you can be a part of this much-needed resource, please contact:

- Frank: (917) 796- 2527
- Kevin: (585) 590-4186
- Jamie: (585) 483-9167

## Fellowship

We served hot dogs and cold water for the July Foodlink event. Thank you to all that have helped, both this month and last.

Feeding the Flock expanded coffee hour is continuing, with Jen White organizing. If you would like to help provide food or help with set up or cleanup, please contact Jen.

VBS will be providing suppers to families attending the program the first week of August. If you can help, please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!!

The Fellowship Team.

## Organ Field Trip to Parsons Pipe Organ Builders



On Monday morning, July 24, a group of 18 from church travelled to Bristol to visit Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, where our organ is being restored.

The first part of our tour took place in their conference room where we learned Parsons' process for designing and building new instruments.

Next, we walked through their workshop and spent time in the voicing room, where we saw our organ's pedalboard, both manuals, and some of the organ mechanism.

Finally, we saw parts of the organ they are currently building, including a demonstration of how different pipe materials sound and how the pipes are tuned.

Following the tour, many stopped at Tom Wahl's in Avon for lunch. We may try to make one additional trip to

Parsons in late August. If interested, let Alden Snell know at 585-590-0129.



## Update from Guatemala

Adrienne Willhoft was supported with our Lenten Offering this year. When she came to speak to our church family about her ministry with college students on the Juniata College campus, she talked about leading a trip to Guatemala with students. They completed the trip this summer. Here is a response to the trip from one of the students. The student's reflection demonstrates the tremendous impact of the program that changes kids' lives for Christ.



*"I learned that God loves all the parts of me that I hate. He sees them and is continually redeeming them"*

– K, student on Experience Guatemala

Adrienne says, "There are a few different stories or quotes I could have included to capture this last semester and the three-week student trip I had the privilege to lead to Guatemala in May. The words above, however, captured my heart. There is so much I long for students to learn, know, and fall in love with, but this is at the very top: 'That [they] may know the love of Christ that is beyond all comprehension; in order that [they] may be filled with all the fullness of God.' (Ephesians 3) Amen."

Thank you all for your care and support of me, the students, and this ministry!

## Congratulations Dick & Shirley!

You are all invited to Seward's Farm on Sunday, Sept 3 from 3 - 5 pm to help Dick and Shirley celebrate 70 years of marriage. Light refreshments will be served.



## Calendar

Online calendar:

[tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr](https://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 (August 26)

### Other Events in August:

- VBS from August 1 - Aug 3 from 5 - 8 pm
- August 5 - 10 am is Kid's Quest "Movie & Chill" (Super Mario Bros. Movie)
- August 6 - Salvation Army Food Collection
- August 6 - Fellowship Meeting @ ~12:15 pm
- August 9 - Sessions @ 7 pm
- August 12 - Kid's Quest Superhero Olympics
- August 13 - August 16 - Sports Camp @ 6-8 pm
- August 17 - Foodlink @ 4 pm
- August 19 - Kid's Quest Party
- August 20 - E&M Meeting @ ~12:15 pm
- August 22 - Deacons Meeting @ 7 pm
- August 25 - Kid's Quest Scavenger Hunt
- August 25 - Young Life Wyldlife Club @ 7 pm
- August 27 - Worship Meeting @ ~12:15 pm
- August 30 - Kid's Quest Movie Night @ 6:30 pm

## Anniversaries & Birthdays

### 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)

### September Birthdays

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

### September Anniversaries

- 1 - Jim and Amanda Wilson (22 years)
- 2 - Paul and Neva Lattimer (56 years)
- 6 - Rob and Faith Willhoft (43 years)
- 9 - David and Susan Brownell (34 years)

## Foodlink is August 17

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 these events possible.



## Moments for Mission

We heard ministry updates from two organizations during the July 23rd worship service.

Todd Rapp of the Salvation Army gave us an update on their work in Batavia and the surrounding area. He told us about the food distribution supported by the collections we take on the first Sunday of each month. He talked about God providing food through many organizations and some of the specific needs they regularly have. He also offered a description of some of the other ministries that the Salvation Army provides.



You can listen to his presentation on the BEPC YouTube channel by clicking on the following link:

[Salvation Army - Moments for Missions](#)

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Gary Sauer, who also brought a message on evangelism from Daniel chapters 1-4, provided an update on their ministry to College Athletes in various Rochester schools. He told of the various ways that they build relationships with the young people through prayer, food, and Bible studies. He shared stories of several students who had put their faith in Jesus and have been baptized. He also updated us on his family, including two new grandchildren.

[Athletes in Rochester - Moments for Missions](#)





# Church Finances

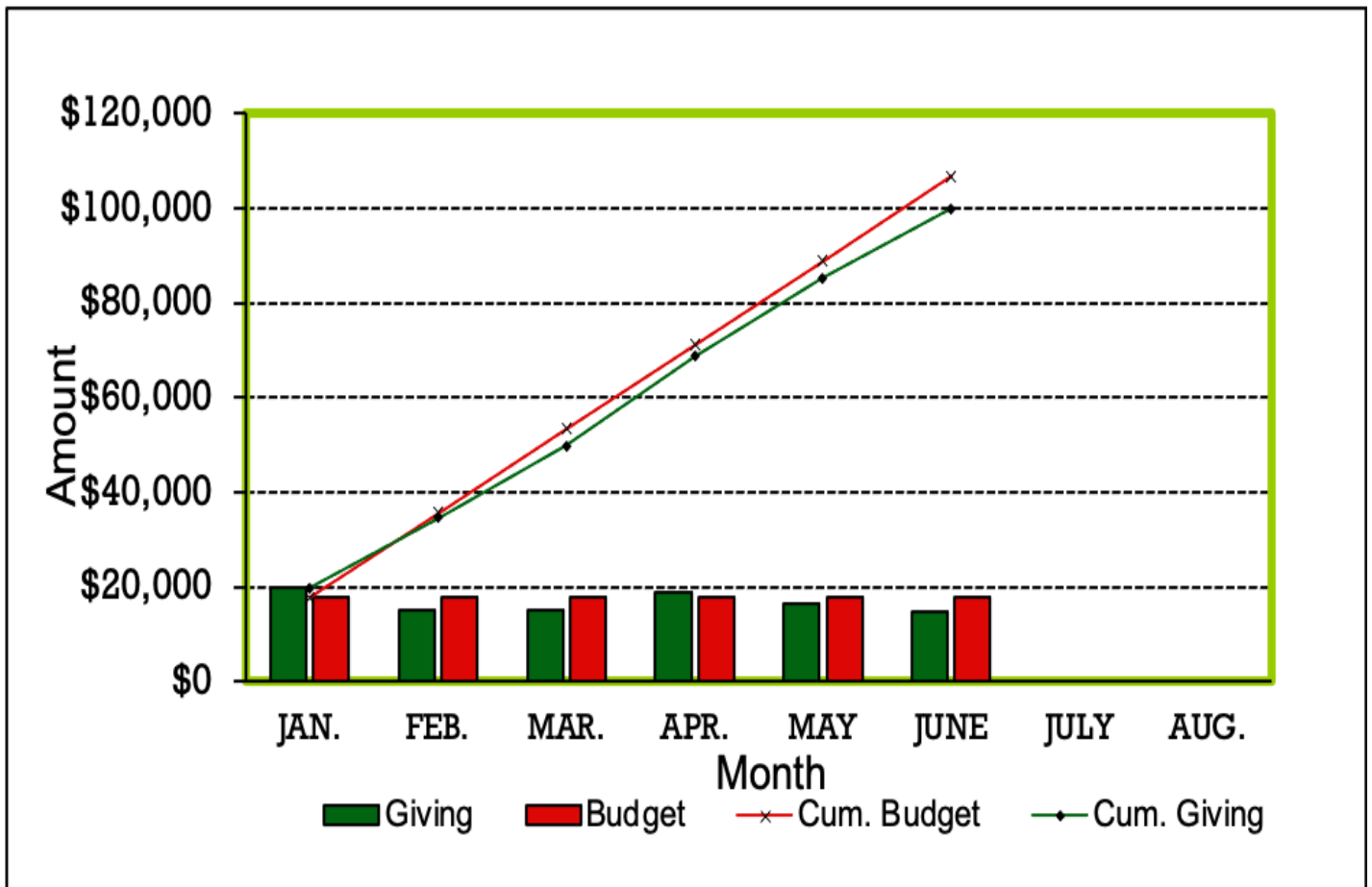
## June 2023

*"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*

June giving was \$14,716; lower than most of the other months this year. Also, since June was the end of a quarter, expenses were especially high at \$19,911 with several quarterly payments due, including most of our mission commitments. This led to the need for nearly \$5,000 from the AIF to meet all our expenses. We continue to run ahead of the 2022 giving at this point of the year, however, now by about \$3,000.

June was a very good month for the Organ Fund as \$4,348 was received. This brings the current total in our Organ Fund to \$49,689, and more than sufficient to pay the expected remaining Parsons bill of about \$45,000. In fact, we have a head start on funding the customary "tithe" we collect and put away for mission needs whenever we successfully run a capital campaign. This campaign was aimed for a total of \$90,000, thus creating a \$9,000 goal for the Tithe.





## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2023

### OPERATING FUND

#### Income

|                                                                                                               |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday offering:                                                                                              | \$10,310.00 |
| Net Online Offering:                                                                                          | \$1,399.16  |
| <i>*note – online offering reflects \$42.53 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i> |             |
| Amortized one-time gifts:                                                                                     | \$3,007.00  |

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|                                                               |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Total New Receipts</i>                                     | <i>\$14,716.16</i> |
| <i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>                  | <i>\$675.48</i>    |
| <b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b> | <b>\$15,391.64</b> |

#### Expenses

|                                                             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Gross Expenditures for the month                            | \$19,911.17 |
| Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses |             |
| • None                                                      | \$0.00      |

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|                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b> | <b>\$19,911.17</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|

|                                                               |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures | \$8,000.00 |
| Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF           | \$4,993.00 |
| Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund        | \$0.00     |

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE \$473.47**

### DESIGNATED FUND

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Opening Balance (from previous month) | \$7,736.47 |
| New Designated Receipts               | \$9,348.00 |
| Total Designated Expenditures         | \$4,392.50 |

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE \$12,691.97**

**TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) \$13,165.44**

### OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

#### Accumulated Income Fund

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • June Withdrawal                  | -\$8,000.00        |
| • June Deposit                     | \$750.00           |
| <b>Current Balance (6/30/2023)</b> | <b>\$19,855.62</b> |

#### Rogers Music Scholarship

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Alexandria Schuck                | -\$1,000.00        |
| • Cordan Zimmerman                 | -\$1,000.00        |
| <b>Current Balance (6/30/2023)</b> | <b>\$40,232.58</b> |

#### Property Reserve

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • To Property Designated           | -\$4,000.00       |
| <b>Current Balance (6/30/2023)</b> | <b>\$5,032.54</b> |