
From the Pastor

As a church family, we have started a sermon series on outreach and evangelization. In the upcoming weeks and months, we will look at different ways of outreach and evangelization and how God can use our personal spiritual gifts and personalities in different ways so that as a church body, we are very effective in carrying out the Great Commission, a responsibility that God has given every church and Christian.

However, before we even begin to think about being effective in our outreach and evangelism, we need to think about something first, and that is, do we even desire to be effective in telling others about Jesus? Sure, we all think that would be nice to be effective in reaching out to non-Christians, but is it a deep-down desire where we driven to share the Good News of the Gospel?

Let's be honest with ourselves. Our deep-down desires are usually for so many other things that are earthly and temporary rather than the things God cares about, namely seeing that the Gospel is proclaimed worldwide, and people come to a saving knowledge and faith in Christ. So, how do we get that holy desire, and even more importantly, how do we maintain it?

Let's start with asking ourselves who in the Bible had the most desire and passion that he (or she) shares the Gospel? I think most Bible scholars would say the Apostle Paul, but how did he get like that? I don't know about you, but every time I read the Apostle Paul's words, his drive to share the Gospel seems to leap off the page. How in the world did he manage to not only attain that drive, but also maintain it? And even more so, how can I do the same thing?

Well, he seemed to be acutely aware of his sin, especially how terrible it was against God, who is all holy and righteous. As a result, his heart's longing was for others to receive the same grace that was given to him through Jesus. Now yes, I get that Paul was once a murderer,

something that always seemed to haunt him. However, when you read his words, you get the impression that coming to the realization of how sinful his persecution of God's people only enabled him to see how sinful he was to his core, and thus how much grace he had been given, and thus how wonderful a Savior Jesus is. This is what seemed to capture every fiber of his being.

There is another murderer in Scripture who also really seemed to grasp the magnitude of his sin. He was an adulterer as well. His name was David. After being confronted about his sin, he wrote Psalm 51, arguably the most authentic confession of sin in the Bible. He doesn't seek to hide, nor make excuses, but he also has an excellent understanding of how sinful he is to his core, the way the Apostle Paul seemed to understand as well. Like Paul, David seemed to be stunned by God's majestic grace, but that's not the most shocking topics in Psalm 51. That belongs to something that I have often overlooked.

Verse 13 states, "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you." I find that utterly astonishing. David was a king who was greatly humiliated before his subjects as his sin was made public before everyone, but before everyone, he also received grace upon grace, and so naturally, he wanted others to understand and know this great grace as well.

I understand that you and I will (hopefully) never commit murder and adultery, but we can learn a lot from both men's words as they grasped hold of how truly evil they were to the core, and as a result, how much grace they had been given. My hope and prayer is that we would do the same, and as a result, be greatly used by God to have sinners return to Him in faith and repentance.

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)

Fellowship

Please join us for a luncheon/mission program with E&M on Sunday, May 21. We will be serving taco salads with beef, chicken, and/or vegetables, all the yummy add-ons that go with it, and ice cream sandwiches as dessert. The program is Douglas Klotzbach (Joan Dermody's nephew) on his work with Muslims.

We served hot dogs at the April Foodlink event. It was a beautiful day and the hot dogs were appreciated by all, volunteers included! If you would like to help with grilling and/or serving hot dogs at the Foodlink events during the summer, please let us know.

We are sorry that the ladies' luncheon did not happen in April, but look for it in the next coming months. We plan to have a 'lunch swap' with a devotional program. More details to follow.

We have been serving homemade treats during coffee hour and are looking for donations of treats. Thank you to those that have brought cookies, etc. so far. Let one of the fellowship team know if you are able to bring any treats in the future.

Fellowship Team:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Helen Hill | Sandy Partridge |
| Marty Hammack | Paula Welch |
| Diane White | Donna Lacey |
| Kevin Hollenbeck | Pam Patmore |
| Delores Seward | |

From the Deacons

In Recognition of Administrative Day in April, the Deacons presented Susan and Sandy with a potted Lenten Rose plant to thank them for ALL they do running the church office.

(Note from Susan: Thank you for the beautiful plant! I cannot wait to get this planted. I appreciate the generosity and grace that this church has granted me these past couple of months--THANK YOU!)



The academic year will soon end for our college students. Please

remember Kyle, Deborah and Emily in your prayers.

Sewing With A Purpose

Sewing With A Purpose Team has been creating eye protections for the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at Golisano Strong Hospital since February. The team each have their own specialty and bring their part of assembly of eye protections to church to pass on for the next person to finish the items. I have now named them my "Dream Team". Strong has requested 200 of these eye protections and we are close to that number now. The 1-2 pound baby receives an eye protection when they are placed under the "Blue Light".



Faith and Neva were the sewing team on February 1st when we met at church to start the Eye Protection Project

Nancy Palermo (left) was our guest speaker who shared her Grandson's NICU journey. He is 4 years old now! Marty Hammack (right) holds up the flannel eye protections she was working on.



Thank you Team!!!

TAG ~ Teens After God

Love Everyone

82 hits in a row!!! That is the new TAG teen group record (set April 16, 2023) for consecutive volleyball hits without letting the ball touch the ground. It was very impressive to see the circle of 15-20 teens working together to accomplish such a feat. Prior to our amazing record setting achievement, we were continuing our study through the book of Luke during our time of bible reading and reflection. We read and discussed Luke Chapter 6 verses 27-37. In these verses, Jesus tells us to love our enemies, pray for them and do good for them. Each week I challenge the teens to come up with an application of the scripture read which is relevant to them in their own life. What the teens took away from our evening reflection on April 16th is that we all need to soften our hearts, forgive, and love others, with the same love God has for us, knowing that our treasure will not be Earthly, but in the heavenly realm!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: May 7th, May 21st, and June 4th. 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!



TAG Teens at VBS: 2022

Parkfest - June 10th

Park Fest booth will need volunteers for that day, June 10th. The sign-up sheet will be posted in the foyer the first Sunday in May.

Contact Shirl Harris or Joan Dermody with any questions.

“PB & J to Go” at Open Door Mission

One of the services of Open Door Mission is to provide "to go" simple meals to Rochester's homeless population. Seventy bag lunches are needed daily. Our church provided those lunches on February 28th and April 6th.

Each bag contains two PB & J sandwiches, 2 snacks and a beverage, such as water. A team at church assembles the sandwiches and provides the other items, and then someone drives them into Rochester.

If you would like to help make sandwiches or deliver the items to Open Door, contact the church office. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this mission thus far. We will keep you posted on future dates for this event!

Foodlink Helps Our Neighbors in Need

An estimated 167 families were provided nutritious food at the April 13 distribution at our church. The families represented more than 500 individuals served by our 38 volunteers.

The church Fellowship Committee, led by Sandy Partridge, grilled hot dogs for folks as they waited in line.

Our next distribution is on May 18. We ask volunteers to arrive by 2:45 pm and park in the lot by the Methodist Church across the street. We start to unload the truck at 3 pm and are generally done around 5:30 pm. There are many different roles for volunteers of all ages.

We hope you will join us in assisting our neighbors in need.

Two Local Food Pantries

Two Local Food Pantries are in this area:

(1) North Bergen Food Pantry

** Hours have changed. The updated schedule is as follows:

-- Third Wednesdays, 5pm to 9pm

-- Fourth Saturdays, 9am to 2pm

(2) \+

--Fourth Wednesdays, 4pm to 5pm

Local Community Dinners

(1) Bergen United Methodist Church

--Wednesdays (during the school year) at 5:30pm

(2) Brockport Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

-- 2nd Sunday of each month, 2pm - 3:30pm

(3) Brockport First Baptist Church

-- 3rd Sunday of each month, 1:30pm - 3pm

**The community dinners are open to the public. Donations are accepted, but there is no charge.

Bergen Area Homeschool Co-Op

The Bergen Area Homeschool Co-operative is graced with the use of the classrooms here at the Bergen EPC, and we have been having a wonderful spring semester. We are both grateful for your generosity and work to be good stewards of your facilities, so we want to share some of what we have been doing recently.

This vibrant group of children from birth through twelfth grade enjoy studying, learning, and growing together here in Christian fellowship. The littlest ones play in the nursery while learning their letters and numbers. Music class, art class, and PE happen as a whole group for all ages together, with the oldest children leading the younger ones. On cold days, PE happens in the fellowship hall, but on warmer days, we enjoy PE in nearby Hickory Park.

Academic classes (English Language Arts and Mathematics) are medium-sized groups, organized by ages, where traditional textbooks and worksheets are facilitated by knowledgeable parents, as children work in

cooperative pairs and groups to tackle these meatier subjects.

As our lovely group of homeschool families nears the end of our academic year, we wish to extend this message of sincere thanks for your hospitality.



Mary Underwood is a regular parent/teacher in the nursery with the babies and preschoolers on co-op days.



Four young children are learning musical notation and other principles of music theory in music class.



Just move the tables and chairs aside, and your fellowship hall has ample room for indoor PE on rainy days.

Thanks for Supporting Campus Ministry

Our Lenten Offering raised \$720 to assist Adrienne Willhoft with her campus ministry at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. Adrienne, the daughter of Rob and Faith, visited us in early April to talk about her outreach to college students who become our next generation of leaders.

Continue to keep Adrienne in your prayers as she leads a group of college students on a mission and self-discovery trip to Guatemala this summer.

Please Pray for our Missionaries



All of our missionaries, both local and those serving in other countries, need prayer to support their work. As we heard when we talked with Berti Berhami during a recent worship service, here are some specific requests for his work with young adults through CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ):

- Finances. Berti and his wife, Andelina, have been in the mission field for many years. Our church has been contributing to them for decades. He shared that some of their other long-time supporters are no longer able to continue. Please pray that Berti and Andelina will be able to attract new supporters to fill the shortfall.
- Both of their adult daughters are involved in mission work of their own. Please pray for Sara, who got married this year, and Klea, who is involved in short-term mission work while finishing college.

Special May Evangelism Program: How to Love Your Muslim Neighbor

We have a unique opportunity in May to learn more about ministering to Muslims. While divisions in the world seem to involve Muslim countries in the Middle East, there are many Muslim people in the U.S.

Our special guest speaker on Sunday, May 21, is someone who grew up in Genesee County and now works closely with the Muslim population in a Northeastern city. He uses the opportunity to witness and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

While we may not see many Muslims in Bergen, the estimated Muslim population in Rochester is between 20,000 and 25,000 people.

The E&M Committee thought it would be useful for us to understand more about this growing ethnic group and how we can open dialogues that could lead to sharing the gospel.

Our guest speaker will share briefly at the end of our worship service on May 21 when we are not broadcasting our service. The Fellowship Committee will provide a lunch after the service, then our speaker will present "How to Love Our Muslim Neighbors."

There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation. The whole program may be about an hour.



We are in need of volunteers to help with our Children's Ministries.

If you would like to help,

Please contact Pastor

Brandt at 585-732-6163 or at brandthammack@hotmail.com

or contact the office



Church Calendar

Online calendar:
tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr



Weekly

- Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am – Sunday School
- 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 – Kidsquest
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25th of each month
- First Sunday of the month – Food Collection
- Last Saturday of the month – Door of Hope Coffee House @ 6 pm

Other Events in May:

- Sundays, 5/7, 5/21, & 6/4, 6-8 pm – TAG
- Tuesday, May 10 - Session @ 7 pm
- Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day
- Thursday, May 18 - Foodlink
- Sunday, May 21 - E&M Mission Luncheon @ 12:15 pm
- Tuesday, May 23 - Deacons @ 7 pm
- Thursday, May 25 - Young Life Wyldlife Club @ 7 pm
- Sunday, May 28 - NO Sunday School
- Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day - No office hours



Anniversaries & Birthdays

May Birthdays

- 13 – Susan Miller
- 15 – Richard Saville
- 21 – Barb Fasoldt
- 22 – Paula Welch
- 23 – Ann Johnson
- 24 – Helen Hill
- 25 – Ward Baily
- 30 – Joyce Coxeter
- 30 – Charlie McAdam
- 30 – Mark White

May Anniversaries

- 13 – Joe and Jocelyn Rebisz (23 years)
- 23 – Erik and Renee Berggren (41 years)
- 25 – John and Janet Wise (49 years)
- 27 – Bruce and Sandy Partridge (45 years)
- 29 – David and Sonya Catalino (29 years)



June Birthdays

- 1 - Michelle Buckland Seward
- 9 - Garret McNear
- 14 - Erik Berggren
- 15 - Jodi Engle
- 24 - Elaine McAdam
- 26 - Chris Wright
- 28 - Noah Hammack
- 29 - Shirley Cudney

June Anniversaries

- 6 - Kevin and Chris Hollenbeck (36 years)
- 8 - Fred and Eunie Ely (66 years)
- 14 - Seth and Becca McNear (20 years)
- 25 - Tracy and Loretta Miller (62 years)
- 26 - Ken and Nancy Alfes (47 years)



Church Finances

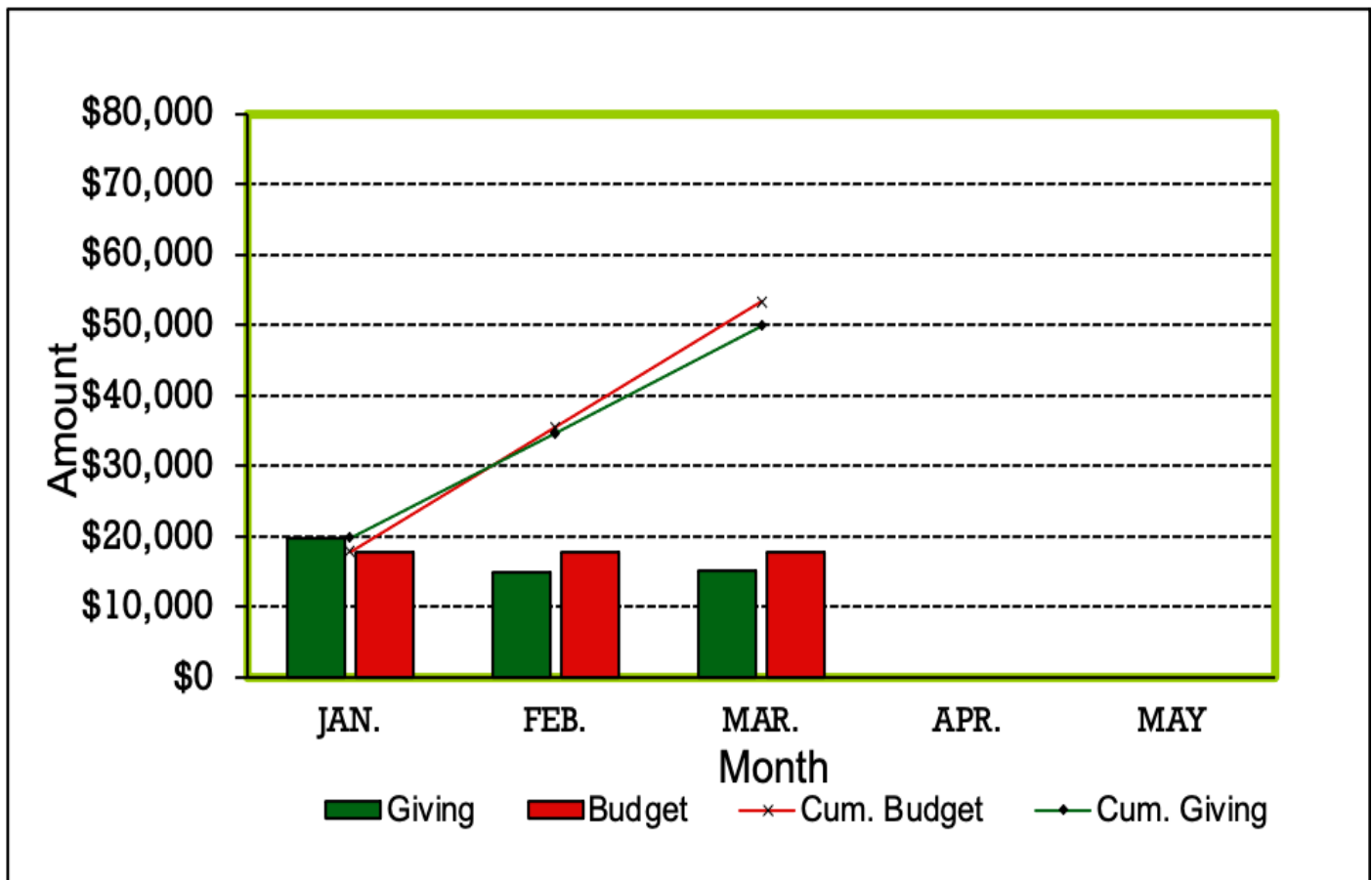
March 2023

"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 March was \$15,173, better than for February but not up to the monthly goal of \$17,777. For the year through the first quarter we are running \$5,000 behind the budget goal; however, that is \$2,500 *ahead* of last year at the same time. All in all, this is a good start for the year compared to all past years.

Gifts continued to be received for our Organ Fund, and the total received to date is over \$60,000. Since these monies have been invested along with all our other funds, there has been growth, and the total Organ Fund money in hand is now just over \$69,000.



Monthly Financial Report – March 2023

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$10,650.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,516.40
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$45.85 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,007.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$15,173.40
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$1,889.57
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$17,062.97

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$20,283.96
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$20,283.96
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$3,007.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$3,993.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE \$772.01

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$14,741.75
New Designated Receipts	\$2,489.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$3,054.81

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE \$14,175.94

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) \$14,947.95

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• March Deposit	\$750.00
• March Withdrawal	-\$7,000.00
Current Balance (3/31/2023)	\$29,561.87

Memorial Fund

• AED purchase	-\$1,930.00
Current Balance (3/31/2023)	\$9,870.87

