
From the Pastor

This was supposed to be a different column. I was in the process of writing about Christ's love for the church as that will be the sermon on the first Sunday in June. However, due to the tragedy that happened at a school in Uvalde, Texas, I got completely sidetracked. I find it difficult to come up with anything that is wise or comforting. What do we do as Christians in times like this when we don't have the answers? I know it sounds simplistic, but we go to the Bible.

There are two passages that come to mind. The first is Psalm 11, which tell us where to turn when the foundations of society are stripped:

¹In the Lord I take refuge.

How then can you say to me:

"Flee like a bird to your mountain.

²For look, the wicked bend their bows;
they set their arrows against the strings
to shoot from the shadows
at the upright in heart.

³When the foundations are being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?"

⁴The Lord is in his holy temple;
the Lord is on his heavenly throne.

He observes everyone on earth;
his eyes examine them.

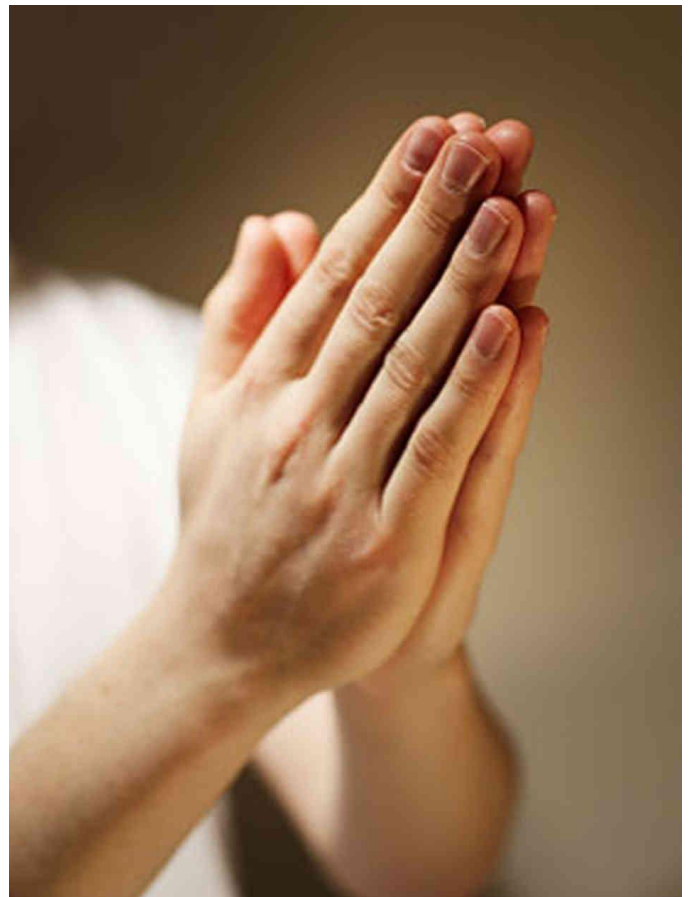
⁵The Lord examines the righteous,
but the wicked, those who love violence,
he hates with a passion.

⁶On the wicked he will rain
fiery coals and burning sulfur;
a scorching wind will be their lot.

⁷For the Lord is righteous,
he loves justice;
the upright will see his face.

The second Bible verse that comes to mind is from 2 Timothy 3:15 in which the Apostle Paul described "the church of the living God" as "the pillar and foundation of truth." In troubling times as this, we need to remember that we have the Words of truth from Scripture, which tell us throughout that mankind is sinful, we all need a Savior and that Savior might only be found in Jesus.

Pastor Brandt



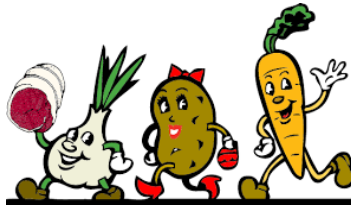
Deacon Notes



- Chicken
- Beef
- Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Salad
- Pie
- Cookies

Thank you to all the women who have

- Baked**
- Stewed**
- Roasted**
- Fried**



to provide meals to those in need in recent weeks.

The Deacons REALLY appreciate your time and efforts. We couldn't take care of the Body without you!! (You know who you are!)

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church Scholarship

The BEPC 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 has been made to the application guidelines; 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. **The deadline for the submission of all materials is 6/15/2022.**

TAG ~ Teens After God

KEEP YOUR SWORD READY!!!!

TAG is going great! Many of the teens are growing in their faith and their relationship with God. We are continuing to work through the book of Luke during our time of spiritual development and reflection each week. We read and discussed Luke Chapter 4 verses 1-12 at our most recent meeting. Take a moment to read through those verses. Each week I challenge the teens to come up with a real-life application of the scripture read which is relevant to them in their life. What the teens took away from our evening reflection is that in this world, we will all be tempted, but we need to stand strong with God and keep our Sword handy! Of course, our "Sword" being the word of God!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: June 5th and June 19th. 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 Social Time - May 15, 2022



Parkfest is Back in Bergen and We'll Be There!

Our church will have a booth at the village's Park Fest on June 11. Shirley Harris and Joan Dermody are organizing the booth, which will feature a game for kids and information about our church.

There will also be opportunities to register for VBS and Sports Camp, which are coming in August.

Watch for a signup sheet to volunteer and contribute items for the booth.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

During the month of **June**, we will be collecting new, quality **TOYS**. Please keep in mind the age groups for boys and girls: age 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 yrs.

Some suggestions:

small musical instruments - harmonica, woodwind recorder; balls - foam ball, tennis balls, kickball, soccer or football (make sure to include manual air pump so that the ball can be re-inflated); baseball/mitt; hacky sack; small kite; finger/hand puppets; Slinky; Etch-a-sketch; small puzzles; interactive toys that include push buttons; lights and noise (include extra batteries); dolls with extra clothes, accessories; costume items to play dress-up, such as crowns and jewelry; yo-yo; jump rope; small Frisbee; plastic toys/figurines (NO war related items); play cars, trucks, boats.

Thank you to all who continue to donate items. We do not need any more prescription bottles or bags. Any questions, see Julie Foeller

Blood Drive

BEPC will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, June 3 from 1 pm until 6 pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment, or you can just stop in the day of the drive.

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood!

1 bag of blood can help save the lives of up to 3 people.



Vacation Bible School - 2022

BEPC and BUMC and the Bergen community will be

Under Construction August 15-19



The 'youth builders' will begin their work of building a

STRONG FOUNDATION ON JESUS!!!

BUT... in order for that to occur, we need to assemble an adult construction crew ahead of time to help make this an efficient and safe 'job site'.

That's where you come in.... We offer a great benefits package... Pay: endless Rewards: eternal

There are many positions available including:

PRESCHOOL games and crafts, helpers

GUIDES who travel with specific age groups to all sites

CROSSING GUARDS, GAMES LEADER, CRAFTS LEADER, BIBLE STORY ASSISTANTS

FRIDAY KITCHEN HELP & HOT DOG COOKER, NURSERY, REGISTRATION, DECORATION, PUBLICITY.... AND MORE!

Please sign-up in the foyer as soon as possible. Any questions? See Julie Foeller or Judy Bailey.

Our hope is to make this the best week of the summer to spread the Gospel to as many children in the community as we can.

Come see us in the Bergen Park Day Parade

Saturday, June 11 at noon. We will be having a VBS float- anyone who would like to walk with us in the parade is welcome- See Julie

Women's Tea Party - 2022

What an absolutely wonderful ladies spring tea/lunch we had today. The fellowship was so special as well as the games and devotional time. Thankful for each lady that attended and all the wonderful helping hands that brought the yummy food and worked so hard to make it a great success. THANK YOU!



Fellowship

Many of the ladies of our church family enjoyed a wonderful **Spring Tea Luncheon** on Sunday, May 15, following the Sunday service. We brought our favorite tea cups, viewed many beautiful teapots that were shared, and sampled a variety of teas along with a lunch of chicken salad with croissants, vegetable trays, fruit salad, and many yummy desserts.

Faith Willhoft shared some fun games (with prizes!) and Amy Stacy spoke and led us in a devotion entitled "Renewing of our minds".

Special thank you's to Marty Hammack for the idea and vision, Marty and Renee Berggren for the beautiful tables and decorations (see photos below), Faith and Amy for our entertainment and teaching, and all that helped set up and clean up and provided the food.

Coffee hour has resumed. We will be providing packaged food for the rest of the Sunday school year, so if you would like to donate packaged treats (cookies, pretzels, cheese, etc.), it would be great to share with each other.

We will share photos of the **Church Picnic** from Sunday, May 29 in the next newsletter.

The Fellowship Team

Sewing With A Purpose

After a recent teddy bear donation to the YWCA Domestic Violence Safe House, a picture of 2 YWCA administrative Assistants, each holding a teddy bear, was posted on the YWCA Facebook page on April 22, 2022. Check it out.

Future project – Sewing with a Purpose has been asked to further assist the preemie babies at Golisano (Strong Hospital) NICU by making special eye coverings for these 1 – 2 pound babies in incubators. More to follow.

Samples of our SWP projects will be on display at Park Days. Stop by our church booth to take a peek.



FoodLink: Helping Our Neighbors and Beyond



More than 116 families were served by our FoodLink distribution in May. God smiled on us again by sending beautiful weather in the afternoon. We were blessed with many volunteers who helped us set up, unload the truck, distribute the food, help carry it to client's cars, and clean up. Some families who are not members of our church are coming just to help. It's wonderful to have the teenagers working beside our more seasoned volunteers! Total volunteers of all ages were 42.

Of the families served, they included 100 senior citizens, 191 adults and 141 children. We know that some folks collect for more than one family, so the numbers would definitely be higher. Also, "leftover" food is taken to seven local food pantries where it is distributed to persons in need.

You can help next month, when our distribution date is June 16. We ask volunteers to come by 2:45. We hope you can stay until all is distributed and cleanup is complete. We are generally done by 5:30.

Parkfest: Telling the Community What We're Doing

Saturday, June 11, our church will have a booth at the community's annual Parkfest in Hickory Park. Thanks to Shirley Harris and her faithful sidekick Joan Dermody, we will have a booth that represents the many activities occurring in our church during the year.

There is a signup sheet for donation of some supplies as well as opportunities to help. Please contact Shirley if you can help.

The booth will feature registration opportunities for VBS and Sports Camp. We also offer band aids in case of park "boo-boos" plus sunscreen. Gospel tracts share the good news offered through Jesus.

If you're coming to Parkfest, stop by the booth to say hello.

Prayer: The Most Effective Way to Support Our Missions



Open Door Mission in Rochester was our mission of the month for May. Please keep them in

your prayers during this month, too. Here is a list of specific prayer requests in their May newsletter:

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 future completion and opening of the Open Door Mission's permanent housing apartment building this coming fall.
6. Pray for the necessary resources to maintain our daily expenses.

In addition, Kate Munzinger from Open Door Mission shared one more when she was at our worship service a few weeks ago: Please pray for the staffing situation at Open Door. There are several open positions. Pray that God sends the right people to fill the various positions.

A Heart for Service. A meditation from the E&M Committee

The following meditation was shared at our recent Evangelism & Mission Committee meeting. The committee believes that a heart for service underlies all that it strives to do, so wanted to share this meditation with our church family. Our prayer is that you will find ways to exercise your heart for service through the various activities sponsored by E&M, and that through these activities, our neighbors will learn the love of Christ and experience salvation.

A ministry in Carlsbad, NM, supports their community by offering more than 24,000 pounds of free food each month to local residents. The leader of the ministry shared, "People can come here, and we will accept them and meet them right where they are. Our goal is to meet their practical needs to get to their spiritual needs." As believers in Christ, God desires for us to use what we've been given to bless others, drawing our communities closer to Him.

How can we develop a heart for service that brings glory to God?

We develop a heart for service by asking God to show us how to use the gifts He's given us to benefit others (1 Peter 4:10). In this way, we offer "many expressions of thanks to God" for the abundance He's blessed us with (2 Corinthians 9:12.)

Serving others was an important part of Jesus's ministry. When He healed the sick and fed the hungry, many were introduced to God's goodness and love. By caring for our communities, we're following His model of discipleship. God's wisdom reminds us that when we demonstrate God's love through our actions, "others will praise God" (vs. 13). Service isn't about self-gratification but about showing others the extent of God's love and the miraculous ways He works through those who are called by His name.

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God.

2 Corinthians 9:13.

A prayer you can offer:

Heavenly Father, I desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Please give me a heart for service. May it be an act of praise and gratitude to You.

--From *Our Daily Bread*, May 4, 2022

Mission of the Month for June: EduNations in Sierra Leone, Africa



EduNations is a mission that educates and evangelizes

students and their families in a remote region of Sierra Leone, Africa. EduNations currently operates 15 schools in six villages. They are devoted to building and operating schools making education free and accessible to children who otherwise would not receive one.

In Sierra Leone, many families go without food, or children are forced into prostitution or become petty thieves, to pay school fees. The school buildings also serve as a foundation for development projects within many of their communities.

The schools currently serve 3,405 students with 148 teachers.

The key to the development of under-resourced communities is comprehensive education. When boys and girls learn, the lives of their families and communities are transformed. EduNations is committed to educating the whole child in mind, body, soul and spirit. This comprehensive education plan is supported by four core pillars of development: intellectual development, physical development, psychosocial development, and spiritual development.

EduNations was founded several years ago by families in the Buffalo and Pittsburgh area that adopted young people from Sierra Leone. As the families became more aware of the needs in Africa, they focused on assisting by building schools and spreading the gospel. Many of EduNations' leaders are active members of our Presbytery.

We are planning to bring a representative of EduNations to speak at a worship service in Bergen during June. Watch the Life in the Church emails to confirm the date.

Learn more about EduNations at their website www.edunations.org.

(the following pictures were captured from their FB page)



Anniversaries & Birthdays

June Birthdays

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

If you should notice an omission or error in the birthdays or anniversaries, please be sure to call Susan in the office so that it can be remedied ASAP. Thank you!

June Anniversaries

- 6 - Kevin & Chris Hollenbeck (35 years)
- 8 - Fred & Eunie Ely (65 years)
- 14 - Seth & Becca McNear (19 years)
- 24 - Jim & Stacie Bridge
- 25 - Tracy & Loretta Miller (61 years)
- 26 - Ken & Nancy Alfes (46 years)

July Birthdays

- 2 - Kathy Cosgrove
- 5 - William Walker
- 8 - Gail Freeman
- 10 - Cambria Goodenbery
- 10 - Gregg McAllister
- 11 - Tracy Miller
- 16 - Kristin Bailey
- 20 - Steve Baker
- 20 - Lennon Baker
- 24 - Eunie Ely
- 27 - Daniel Sheldon
- 30 - Jonah Hammack
- 30 - Jeremiah Hammack
- 31 - Shirley vonBergen

July Anniversaries

- 4 - Gregg & Debbie McAllister (35 years)
- 19 - Alden & Christin Snell (19 years)
- 20 - Janice & Scott Langdon (38 years)
- 28 - Dan & Debbie Sheldon (5 years)

Children's and/or Youth Minister

We are continuing our search for a children's and/or youth minister. This person would have a lot of freedom to create ministry for young people the way he or she envisions it. Our hope is that this person will use their gifts and abilities to be involved in the community (possibly within the school system) getting to know young people and families, and thus making connections with Bergen Presbyterian. This is meant to be a part-time position, but we are open to the position being full-time. If you know of someone who would fit this role, please email (brandthammack@hotmail.com) or call or text the pastor at (585-732-6162).

Details can be found at:

<http://www.bergenepc.com/employment.html>

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
- 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

- June 3 - Blood Drive from 1-6 pm - Stop In!
- June 5 - Pentecost
- June 11 - Wedding of Jennalyn Long @ 2 pm
- June 11 - ParkFest from 8 am - 3:30 pm
- June 15 - Deadline to apply for the Scholarship
- June 16 - Foodlink serving @ 4 pm; volunteers please arrive at 2:45 pm
- June 18 - Amy Stacy Baby Shower
- June 19 - Father's Day
- June 20 - Juneteenth observance-no office hours
- June 25 - Newsletter Deadline
- June 25 - Door of Hope @ 6 pm



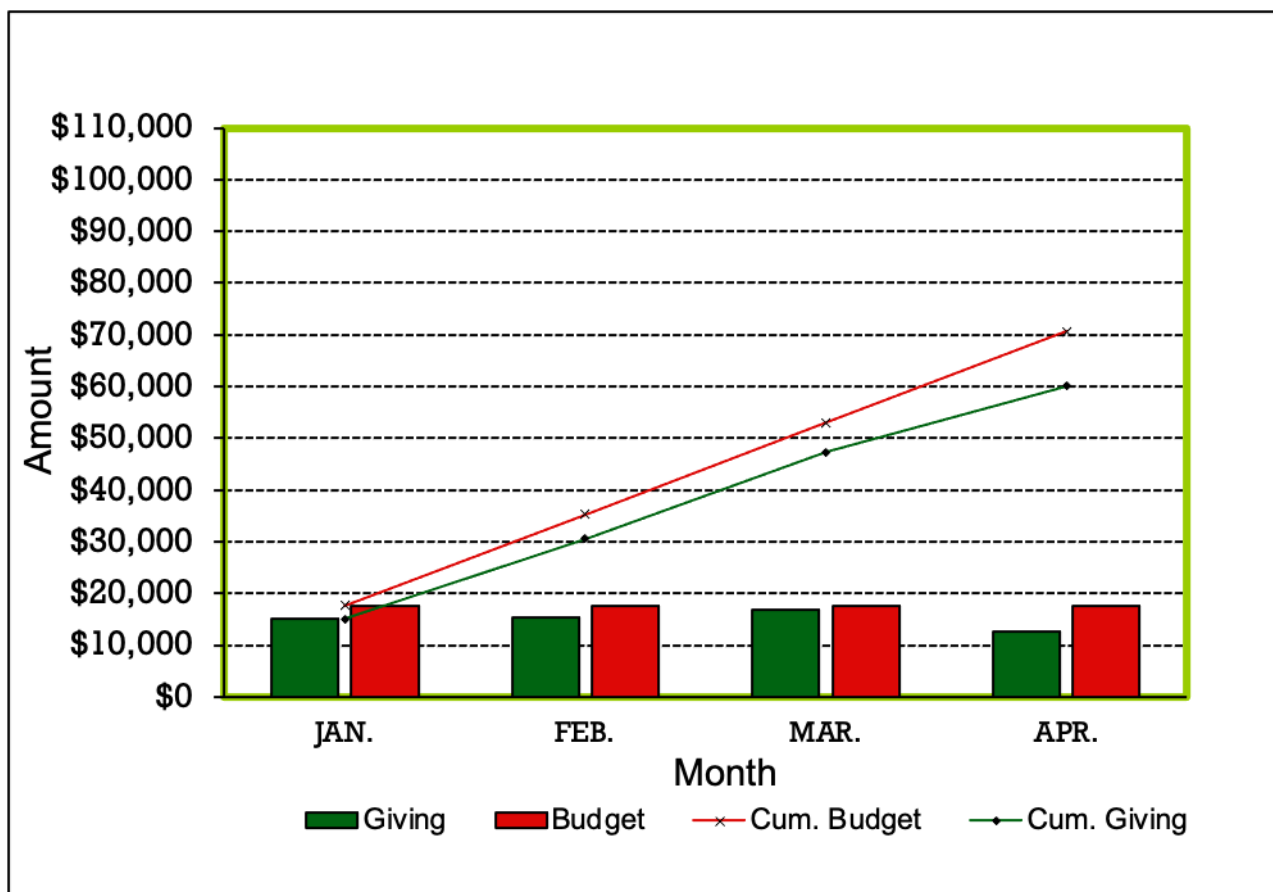
Church Finances

April 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.”

1 Chron. 29:14,16

The giving for April was very low, \$12,783, and especially disappointing compared to the very good giving for March of \$16,783 (an even \$4,000 drop!). Expenditures were a little above the monthly target, and thus we needed to use \$9,000 from the Accumulated Income Fund to pay the bills.. In spite of the overall low level of giving in April, the Organ Fund continues to grow, and received a gift of \$5,000 to give a new total-to-date of \$44,488.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – APRIL 2022**OPERATING FUND****Income**

Sunday offering:	\$7,895.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,922.96
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$39.35 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$2,965.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$12,782.96
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$372.93
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$13,155.89

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$18,905.91
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$18,905.91
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,965.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$6,035.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$284.98**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$14,234.32
New Designated Receipts	\$25,448.50
Total Designated Expenditures	\$5,395.32

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$34,287.50**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$34,572.48**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY**Accumulated Income Fund**

• April expenditures	-\$9,000.00
Current Balance (4/30/2022)	\$25,095.77

Organ Fund

• April Deposits	\$5,000.00
Current Balance (4/30/2022)	\$44,488.21