
From the Pastor

The message of the Cross as our focus. The Bible as our only rule of faith and practice. Listening to the preaching of the Word (sometimes long). The right administration of the sacraments (communion and baptism). Church discipline. Church attendance. Worship that is pleasing to God. Christian Education that edifies the saints. Evangelizing our community. Local missions. World missions. Stewardship. Giving of our money and our talents to the local church. Rightly dividing the truth of Scripture. Spiritual gifts. Elders. Deacons. Living together in the Body of Christ. Iron sharpening iron. Asking forgiveness. Granting forgiveness. Taming the tongue. Speaking the truth in love. Loving the truth. Standing up for the truth found in Scripture, especially against heresy. Loving the Body of Christ. Carefully studying and teaching God's Word while learning the tone from which we should approach each subject. Called out of the world but loving those that are lost within the world. Confronting the world's sin. Being citizens of the world while our main citizenship is in heaven. Confronting our own sin. Telling the world of the Gospel. Ministering to the hurting and less fortunate. Praying. Singing. Being salt and light to a lost, hurting, and dying world.

All of the above is about the life within the church in no particular order. I could probably add more. It's what we will cover after Easter. Now, let's be honest. Much of this is not easy. In fact, much of it is rather difficult. Sometimes, church life can be exhausting, stressful, and even heartbreaking.

I will give you an example in my own walk. For me, one of the most difficult things to do in the life of the church is to confront someone about their sin. Just ask my wife, and she will tell you that is one of my biggest weaknesses. There are probably at least a hundred other things that I would prefer to do than to confront someone about their

sin. Now I am not really talking about the big types of sin that one would need to take to my fellow session members, such as if someone was committing adultery, but more about smaller issues that often I see in my fellow Christians, especially if I see it and others don't. However, we are called to sharpen each other as "Iron sharpens Iron," and that is something which all of us as Christians are called to do.

Why am I being so brutally honest? Because there are things for all of us within the life of the church that even though you know you should, you really don't want to do certain things, even though you might feel strongly called that you need to do them. You might be like me, and avoid certain confrontations, or you avoid witnessing to people, or some other thing within the life of the church that you tend to avoid despite a conviction that you are feel called to take certain actions.

So what should we do with such things? Well, I have found Romans 12:1 to be very helpful in my walk in dealing with these issues: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

As I have said several times from the pulpit, if we were saved by works, there would be a limit as to what God might call us to do. One can be only so good. However, because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, there is no limit as to what God might call us to. Because I am saved by the precious blood of Christ, I am (or at least should be) eternally grateful and want to serve him with every fiber of my being.

So if that means if God were to call me to serve as a missionary to war-torn Ukraine (which I feel confident that He does not), then it should be my strong desire to go. Or if he wants me to serve in some capacity at church,



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Office Hours:
Mon, Wed, Fri: 12 - 3:30 pm
Tue & Thurs: 12 - 4 pm

Pastor's Hours:
Tuesday – Thursday
9:30 -noon (flexible)

then by all means, I should follow the Holy Spirit's leading. Or when I feel convicted to tame my tongue or forgive my fellow church member, then I should. You see the point is that within the life of any church, we may often go through times when we don't get our way, or are called to endure hardship for the body of Christ, or even long sermons. However, Christ died for us, so shouldn't I be willing to give him everything that I have? In short, shouldn't I be willing to offer up myself as a living sacrifice?

Pastor Brandt

Deacon Notes

One of our aims as Deacons is to encourage the congregation to welcome new people attending our church. Have you met the Welchs and the Baileys, or any other new faces, yet?? Please stop and say "Hi" to Michael and Paula Welch, Ward and Judy Bailey, Paul Rider and Jan Harris. We are grateful for their presence worshipping with us.

Faith Willhoft, Deacon Moderator

Fellowship Team News

Happy Spring to all!

Hopefully, you have noticed that we have resumed coffee hour (drinks only for now). We would like to add food soon, so if you would like to donate packaged treats (cookies, pretzels, cheese, etc.), it would be great to share with each other.

Our church will be hosting **Easter breakfast** this year, **April 17 at 7:30am**, following the Sunrise Service. We will be serving scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit, pastries, and drinks.

We are looking for cooks, helpers, and donations of baked goods (coffee cakes, breakfast breads, etc.). We will be hosting not only our church family, but also those from the other churches in Bergen, so we welcome your help!!

We would like to have another ladies event later in the spring, so look for more details.

The Fellowship Team



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday - 7 pm @ Bergen United Methodist --
Pastor Brandt brings the message

Good Friday - Bergen United Methodist @ 7 pm (a
community service)

EASTER SUNDAY:

Sunrise Service on the Hill at 6:30 am - Pastor David Fish

Breakfast at 7:30 am at Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian
Church

Easter Service @ 10:30 am at Bergen Evangelical
Presbyterian Church



Blood Drive

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, April 1 from 1 pm till 6 pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.

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

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

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES IN
THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. SOME OF YOU
HAVE MAIL THAT HAS BEEN THERE FOR
QUITE SOME TIME. Thank you!**

TAG ~ Teens After God

TAG had a great “Winter Party” on March 6th! Over 20 teens attended and we spent an enjoyable evening playing group games, hanging out, continuing our reflection on the gospel of Luke, and feasting. We read and discussed Luke Chapter 2 that evening. We spent time reflecting on the response of the shepherds after being visited by the angel and seeing the baby Jesus. Luke 2:17 “When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” The teens felt that our response to this scripture should reflect that of the shepherds: Tell everyone about Jesus!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00: April 3rd and April 24th. 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!



Winter Party!!! – March 6th, 2022



Basket Auction - IN PERSON!

**Saturday, April 23 @ Byron Fire Hall
(Rt 262, Byron, NY).**

Genesee County Young Life will host and offer the finest selection of theme baskets anywhere! View the baskets from 4-5 pm, and get ready for the bidding to begin at 5 pm. We are very much looking forward to being back together for this year's event! Hot dogs and drinks will be served.



18TH ANNUAL YOUTH BENEFIT AUCTION

LIVE AUCTION! LIVE AUCTION!

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD

VIEWING 4-5p BIDDING @ 5p!

BYRON FIRE HALL – RT 262, BYRON, NY



If you are interested in donating baked or canned goods and/or donating new items for the auction, please contact the church office (585) 494-1251 or Sandy Partridge (585-414-4593).

Christian Education News

It is hard to believe it's SPRING and we are nearing the end of the Sunday School year. Our two children/youth classes, as well as the Adult class, continue to study the Bible using The Gospel Project curriculum (Lifeway Publishing). Since January we have been digging deep into 1-2 Samuel, Psalms, 1 Kings and Ecclesiastes studying Samuel and Kings Saul, David (in-depth) and Solomon. We will finish the unit prior to Easter and resume The Gospel Project curriculum in the FALL.

Beginning *April 24 to mid- June* we will have each Sunday School class study the book of *Proverbs* in depth.

Proverbs- Purpose: to teach people how to attain wisdom, discipline, and a prudent life, and how to do what is right, just, and fair- in short, to apply divine wisdom to daily life and to provide moral instruction (taken from the NIV Life Application Study Bible)

As we study Proverbs, we will understand that *knowing God is the key to wisdom.*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Proverbs 1:7(NIV)

Navigating this earthly life is hard!!! So many choices and decisions to make. Can you trust that you know best??

All are welcome - Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Operation Christmas Child

We are moving right along in our shoebox material collection.

The theme for April is **Stuffed Animals**. What child do you know that wouldn't love something soft and cuddly that they could call their own? Don't underestimate the sense of comfort, companionship, and security a child can feel when they receive a stuffed animal.

Just remember.... All donations of stuffed animals need to be **NEW** and be able to **fit inside a shoebox**. Often a stuffed animal is considered the **'WOW' gift** that many people pack their box around.

We continue to collect crafting materials to make items for shoeboxes.

Ideas: jewelry/bead kits; clothesline kits; sewing kits; stickers or handmade memory game; marbles; clean

prescription bags, bottles. Please see samples outside the church office.

Thank you to everyone for all the donations. If you have any questions? Please contact Julie Foeller.

Sewing With A Purpose

Other Groups Contribute to our Church's Sewing Ministry

March has welcomed Spring to our community and Sewing With A Purpose has welcomed several donations received from outside our church congregation for our sewing ministry, which illustrates how others in Genesee County are contributing items for our sewing mission.

Resurrection Parish Quilt Ministry of Batavia, who have made flannel hearts in the past, delivered 39 flannel hearts to us during March. These flannel hearts will be sent to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Golisano Center at Strong Hospital. Thank you Resurrection Parish Quilt Ministry!

Jackie Blank, from St Paul's Lutheran Church Quilt Ministry in Batavia, delivered a large bag of children's flannel material for our heart project. Thank you St Paul's Quilt Ministry! We are happy to report that we currently have sufficient hearts ready for delivery through October 2022! Fifty flannel hearts are delivered every other month for these 1- or 2- pound babies in the preemie unit.



Anniversaries & Birthdays

April Birthdays

2 - Rachel Kobel
 9 - Josiah Haas
 11 - Cathy Glucksman
 12 - June Hahn
 14 - Mason Buckland
 14 - David Snell
 15 - Jebidiah Buckland-Seward
 18 - Alden Snell
 21 - Christine Martz
 22 - Sean McNear
 23 - Julie Foeller
 28 - Bev Rogers



April Anniversaries

4 - Ruth & Harvey Morse (52 years)
 12 - Garry & Wendy Hutchurson (53 years)
 16 - Dale & Diane White (34 years)
 23 - Bob & Kathy Cosgrove (56 years)

May Birthdays

15 - Richard Saville
 18 - Jonathan Langdon
 21 - Barb Fasoldt
 23 - Ann Johnson
 24 - James Berggren
 24 - Thomas Berggren
 24 - Helen Hill
 30 - Charlie McAdam
 30 - Mark White

May Anniversaries

13 - Joe & Jocelyn Rebisz (22 years)
 23 - Erik & Renee Berggren (40 years)
 23 - Gabe & Elizabeth Minniear (7 years)
 25 - John & Janet Wise (48 years)
 27 - Bruce & Sandy Partridge (44 years)
 29 - David & Sonya Catalino (28 years)

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!

Prayers

Those serving as Missionaries:

- Sarah Speer at the Kimia Center for Lepers in the Congo
- Jose Ulinov "Uli" Fernandez in Mexico
- Arber "Berti" Berhami with Campus Crusade in Albania
- Jesse vonBergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry
- Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations
- Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life

Those fighting cancer:

Kris - breast cancer

Monique - lung cancer

Barbara Fraser - pancreatic cancer

Ella Richards

Dianne Hammack

Diane & Joe

Bryan Dzbia

Wendy Buckland

Amy - breast cancer

Nathan Longenecker - brain cancer



Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

All those who have contracted COVID

Harriet Young

Cora Canzano (infant with medical issues)

Virginia (90 years old, medical issues)

Chris Martz (eye issues)

Henry and Diane Hammack (Pastor Brandt's parents)

Gary Shaw (Marty's father)

Rusty Breton (ALS)

Scott Reding/wife Amanda (42-year old son ill since 2020)

Ritchie (Bruce Gluckman's brother-in-law)

Kate & baby Sophia

Other:

Our Church

Our Session & Deacons

Youth Leader, Joe Rebisz, and the youth of our church and our community

Worship Leader, Christin Snell, and those who minister in music each Sunday

Christian Education, Evangelism & Missions, Finance, Nominating, Personnel, and Property Committees

Pray for the other local churches in our area (and your area too!)

The service members of the United States, as well as our veterans and their families

Our country's leaders and their advisors

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

- April 1 - Blood Drive from 1 - 6 pm
- April 3 - Communion Sunday & Food Drive & Deadline for Easter Flower Orders
- April 6 - Byron-Bergen Library Annual Pre-K show at 9:30 am
- April 10 - Palm Sunday / Skype with Berhamis'
- April 14 - Holy Thursday (see Holy Week on pg. 2)
- April 15 - Good Friday (see Holy Week on pg. 2)
- April 17 - Easter Sunday (see Holy Week on pg. 2)
- April 19 - Office Closed for Easter vacation
- April 23 - Young Life Basket Auction
- April 24 - E&M Meeting
- April 25 - Newsletter Deadline

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>

Buffalo and Brandy Show

Join the Byron-Bergen Library for their Annual Pre-K show

April 6th at 9:30 am

at the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church as they host

Buffalo and Brandy's Musical Storytelling Show! Children will be swept into an imaginary 'storybook world' while being encouraged to sing, dance, and play musical instruments. A fun event for all!!



FoodLink Serves More than 100 Families

The FoodLink free food distribution to our neighbors in need served 122 families on March 17. It was a beautifully warm spring day, just perfect for our outdoor distribution in the church parking lot.

Statistics show the families who received food represented 217 adults, 92 senior citizens and 151 children.

Many thanks to the more than 36 volunteers who came to help. It takes that many folks to efficiently distribute the food and help the clients carry what they receive. In particular, we were blessed to have many teenagers from

TAG and the home-school group to help us carry food and unload the towering pallets of vegetables and fruit.

The next distribution date is Thursday, April 21. We are also scheduled for the third Thursday of the month for May and June. Dates beyond June have not been confirmed by FoodLink at this time, but are also expected to be the third Thursday of the month.

Volunteers are needed for each of those dates. Volunteers should arrive before 3 pm. At 3 we begin the process of unloading the food and setting up for the distribution. We are usually done by 5:30 pm.

Financial Support Sent for Ukraine War Victims

We are all familiar with what is happening in Ukraine. The Evangelism & Mission Committee approved \$1,000 from the church's Tithe Fund for Samaritan's Purse to help fund their relief efforts in the Ukraine.

Samaritan's Purse, as you know, runs Operation Christmas Child, but also does much work in emergency situations around the world. It is passionate to help needy people in many difficult locations, but keeps the teaching of the gospel of salvation as central to all that it does. Karl Phelps, a former member of our church, is on the Samaritan's Purse staff in North Carolina that coordinates logistics for emergency situations like this response in Ukraine.

In the Ukraine, it has already sent a jet to Eastern Europe with emergency supplies as it is setting up a 30-bed emergency field hospital and additional outpatient medical clinics. It has teams on the ground in Poland, Moldova and Romania to care for those refugees who are desperate for help. They are arranging to send additional supplies and equipment. They have been asked to set up the hospital inside the Ukraine border to care for those who have been unable to leave. Many of the nation's hospitals were damaged in the fighting, so there is a desperate need for medical care.

The church's Tithe Fund was established to care for others outside our congregation. The funds represented 10% of money we were spending on ourselves in the church when we remodeled, expanded and otherwise improved our church building several years ago. The E&M Committee has been charged by the Session to

appropriately administer the funds to meet the objectives of the fund.

Missionaries of the Month: Berti and Adelina Berhami in Albania

Our church has been supporting the mission work of Berti and Adelina Berhami in Albania for several decades. They are affiliated with CRU, formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ. Berti continues to advance in leadership of the Eastern and Western European teams spreading the gospel in many of the countries throughout Europe.

Berti was invited to be part of the European Leadership team. Besides Albania and Kosovo, now he is providing leadership to Bosnia and Montenegro as a country coach. "I hope and pray that you will be supportive of such extended territory and stretch with me for an impact beyond Albania," he says.

Ministry priorities:

As a new team he and the other leaders came together to seek God concerning their next strategic steps. Considering the exodus of Albanians toward Western Europe these 30 years, the potential of Campus Churches, and the changes in their culture, here are three of their priorities:

Targeting Albanian Diaspora in Europe (by networking, empowering, & mobilizing alumni)

Building vision & strategy for Church Planting Hubs on every major campus (6 hubs)

Cultivating a culture of diversity in the way they do ministry (by recognizing and employing gifts, talents, & expertise to reach ministry goals)

But the war in Ukraine is changing some of their immediate mission work. There has been a major impact on the Albanian economy. Commodity prices, especially grain and oil, have raised 50% and 30% respectively, since Albania imports from Russia 47% of their grain needs and 12% of oil. A small number of Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Albania, but CRU is sending teams to help with the refugee camps in Romania, Hungary and Moldova. CRU has a ministry presence in the Ukraine, and the Berhamis expect some Ukrainian CRU staff to come, stay and serve with them in Albania during this time.

Berti is traveling in the US for the next several weeks for a trip that was planned before the Ukraine war began. We will Skype with him during the moment for mission in our April 10 worship service. Be sure to attend to hear live about the current events in Eastern Europe as they impact CRU's ministry in that part of the world, as well as the big picture of what God is doing there. Berti will also share specific prayer needs for his family and their ministry.

Their family includes: Adiel is their son in second grade. Klea has finished high school and is taking a gap year to decide where she wants to go for college. She has gotten involved with the worship team at church, playing the piano, and with our campus movement in Tirana. Sara is in her last year of her graduate certificate. She is making plans to get married next June. Her calling to full time ministry is getting even stronger.

Please pray that the staff and our family will grow in love, unity and sacrifice for the fulfillment of the Great Commission!

Live from the Congo! An Interview with Sarah Speer

Through the wonder of technology, we were able to connect live with missionary Sarah Speer during our worship service on Sunday, March 27. Sarah is part of the team at the Kimia Leprosy Center in the remote Congo. We support Sarah's work through the church's mission budget, and the Kimia Center is earmarked to receive the annual Lenten Offering this year.

It was wonderful to see Sarah live. She was joined by her co-worker Guy Serge. She shared with us their efforts to treat leprosy and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) that affect the residents there, especially the AKA Pygmies. Leprosy is very treatable, but requires regular medication, plus the wounds that it causes need special dressings and sometimes surgery to heal.

There is often a stigma for the lepers, so Guy Serge and Sarah go out searching for the suffering. The medication requires regular application, so they must often return to the remote locations to make sure the medicine is taken.

For our Lenten Offering, Sarah has indicated a need for a tent that can be used when going on these healing trips into the jungle. The Kimia Center is also in need of the special medicinal dressings and the leprosy medicine. Depending on the amount that is contributed, we will be able to purchase the tent and still have money for the some of the medicine.

Sarah is not just concerned with the health of the AKA Pygmies; she is committed to introducing them to salvation through Jesus. In one of her earlier letters, she described a church service where 10 of their patients gave their lives to Jesus.

Specific prayer needs for Sarah's ministry at the Kimia Center:

Medicine. They haven't been able to get medicine for two years.

Financial support and additional missionaries.

Prayer for the souls of the AKA Pygmies.

Additional funds to purchase land around the Kimia Center and construction of a treatment building.

If you would like to contribute toward purchasing the tent, dressings and medication, you can do so through the regular offering channels: online, in the offering boxes near the sanctuary entrances, or by mail. Just mark your contribution for the Lenten Offering or Sarah Speer.

Please remember to keep Sarah and the Kimia Center in your prayers.

Many thanks to Rob Willhoft who set up the technology so we could see and talk with Sarah live.





Church Finances

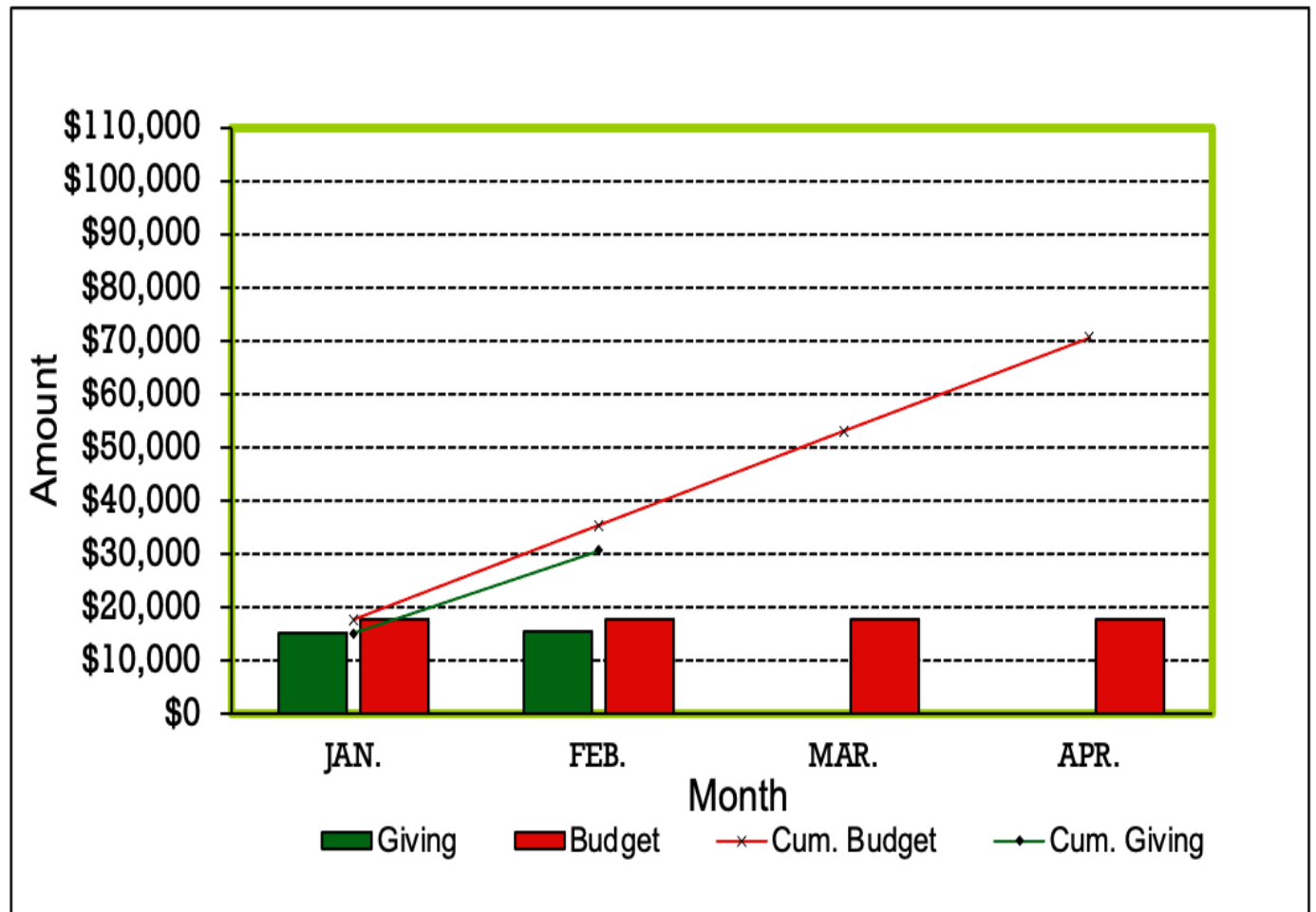
February 2022

“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

The giving for February was \$15,442 and almost identical to that of January. Both are below the budget target of \$17,658 and continue the amount of giving typical for these early months of every year. Expenses were similar to those of January as well, centered around \$16,500. To cover expenses \$610 was needed from the AIF.

Another \$1,200 was received for the Organ Fund, which brings the total given to date to \$28,180.



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

Sunday offering:	\$11,419.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,132.53
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$33.65 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,890.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$15,441.53</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$448.90</i>
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$15,890.43

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$16,266.79
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$16,266.79
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,890.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$610.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$233.64**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$14,306.99
New Designated Receipts	\$1,200.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$2,264.96

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$13,242.03**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$13,475.67**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• February expenditures	-\$3,500.00
• February Deposits	\$2,000.00
Current Balance (2/28/2022)	\$43,295.54

Organ Fund

• February Deposits	\$1,200.00
Current Balance (2/28/2022)	\$26,870.50