

From the Pastor

Immanuel

Matthew quotes [Isaiah 7:14](#): “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” ([Matt. 1:23](#)). The name Immanuel is pregnant with meaning. It literally means, “God with us”—which may or may not be good news. For sinners under the judgment of God, “God with us” could be devastating (cf. [Isa. 8:9-10](#)). However, when God comes in mercy, his presence is the highest blessing. In the case of Jesus, the eternal Son came not to condemn the world but to save it ([John 3:16-17](#)). His impoverished, uncelebrated birth was part of the grand plan to save poor, lost sinners.

Yet Jesus did not save the world in his birth. It was in his life, death, and resurrection that he was declared the Son of God ([Rom. 1:3-4](#)). Indeed, he became a servant and offered himself as a ransom for many ([Isa. 53](#); [Matt. 20:28](#)). [Isaiah 57:15](#) tells us God dwells in a high and holy place, but also with the lowly and contrite. In the Incarnation, the exalted Son took the form of a lowly servant, and died the death of a criminal. Therefore, the Father exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name ([Phil. 2:5-11](#)).

So as we read the birth stories, hang ornaments, and tell our children the mesmerizing account of baby Jesus, let us not forget that he’s the eternal, omnipotent Son who upholds the universe and rules with a rod of iron. The magi recognized these truths; we must do the same. May we not fawn over him with mere sentimentality this Christmas, but bow low and adore him as our Savior and King.

This article was taken from Gospelcoalition.org. & is by David Schrock (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as pastor of preaching and theology at Occoquan Bible Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. He is a visiting professor of theology at Indianapolis Theological Seminary.

Advent Calendar

NAMES OF JESUS

NAME	REFERENCE	ADYENT READING
1. Glory of the Lord.....	Isaiah 40:5.....	Isaiah 40:1-5
2. I AM.....	John 8:58.....	Malachi 3:1-6
3. Alpha and Omega.....	Revelation 1:8.....	Isaiah 44:6-8
4. Lamb of God.....	John 1:29.....	Romans 5:1-11
5. Root of David.....	Revelation 22:16.....	Psalm 89:1-4
6. Good Shepherd.....	John 10:11.....	Ezekiel 34:11-16
7. The Word.....	John 1:14.....	John 1:9-18
8. Branch.....	Isaiah 4:2.....	Isaiah 11:1-10
9. Prophet.....	Luke 24:19.....	Deuteronomy 18:15-19
10. Morning Star.....	Revelation 22:16.....	Genesis 15:1-6
11. Light of the World.....	John 8:12.....	Isaiah 49:6-7
12. Arm of the Lord.....	Isaiah 51:9.....	Isaiah 40:9-11
13. Servant.....	Isaiah 52:13.....	Isaiah 52:13-15
14. Man of Sorrows.....	Isaiah 53:3.....	Isaiah 53:1-12
15. The Way.....	John 14:6.....	Isaiah 35:8-10
16. Redeemer.....	Isaiah 59:20.....	Psalm 130
17. Horn of Salvation.....	Luke 1:69.....	Psalm 85:1-7
18. The Gate.....	John 10:7.....	John 10:7-10
19. Mediator.....	1 Timothy 2:5.....	1 Timothy 2:1-7
20. Cornerstone.....	Isaiah 28:16.....	Psalm 118:18-24
21. Bread of Life.....	John 6:48.....	John 6:44-51
22. Immanuel.....	Isaiah 7:14.....	Isaiah 7:10-14
23. Son of God.....	Luke 1:35.....	Luke 1:26-35
24. Prince of Peace.....	Isaiah 9:6.....	Isaiah 9:2-7
25. Messiah.....	Daniel 9:25.....	Matthew 1:18-25
26. Savior.....	Luke 2:11.....	Luke 2:1-20
27. King of the Jews.....	Matthew 2:2.....	Matthew 2:1-2
28. Jesus.....	Matthew 1:21.....	Luke 2:21-35



©Kaylene Yoder 2015 www.kayleneyoder.com



Phone: (585) 494-1251 email: office@epcbergen.org
38 S. Lake Ave, PO Box 206
Bergen, NY 14416

Pastor Brandt Hammack: brandthammack@hotmail.com
(585-732-6163) Website: www.bergenepc.com
You can also find us on Facebook.

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

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

Annual Reports

It is that dreaded time of year again . . . time for the committees to get their Annual Reports to the Administrative Assistant. The absolute deadline for report submission is December 31! The Annual Congregational Meeting is January 22, 2023. Here are the reports that need to be in:

- “Nominees Names to present” need to be in
- List of Church Staff for 2022
- List of members of Church Leadership for 2022
- Pastor’s Report
- Youth Ministry Report
- Sessions Report
- Deacons Report
- Property Committee Report
- Son Risers Report
- Youth Leader Report
- Worship Committee Report
- Christian Ed Ministry Report
- Personnel Committee Report
- E & M Annual Report (including list of missionaries and groups we supported in 2022)
- Sewing With A Purpose Report
- Young Life Annual Report
- Fellowship Annual Report
- Treasurer’s Report
- Report of the Finance Team
- Memorials
- Invested Funds
- Expenditures VS. Budget
- Auditor’s Report
- Church Budget for 2023

The Annual Meeting is where the election of new officers takes place. It is also the meeting where any questions about the new budget can be asked and where the congregation votes on the new budget’s proposed salary and benefits package for the Pastor. Please mark the date (January 22, 2023) on your calendar and plan to attend.

Children’s Christmas Party

We will be holding a Children’s Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10th at 10 am. There will be games and a gift exchange (we ask that, if able, each child bring in a small gift [under \$5 please!])



CAROLING

Join us as we go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 11th! After worship we will have a light lunch of pizza and subs, after which we will go Christmas Caroling. If you are interested, please contact Chris Wright at (585) 737-5595, or just show up!



Harvest Fest Thanks

They are way too many people to thank for the successful Harvest Festival!!! We had more folks stop by this year than ever! We even had to make more bags for candy. We started with 150 bags and had to make at least 30 more bags!!!....Once again, thank you again!!!

Update From The Congo

We have received word that the tent purchased for Sarah Spear's work with AKA Pygmy lepers is on its way to the Congo. It is being hand carried by a short-term missionary from Mission GO, which is assuming operation for Pioneer Christian Hospital.

The Kymia Center for treatment of leprosy and other tropical diseases is also supported by Mission GO. The tent was purchased with funds from our church collected during Lent. The tent is used as teams from the Kymia Center go out into the bush to seek and treat the lepers.

Veterans

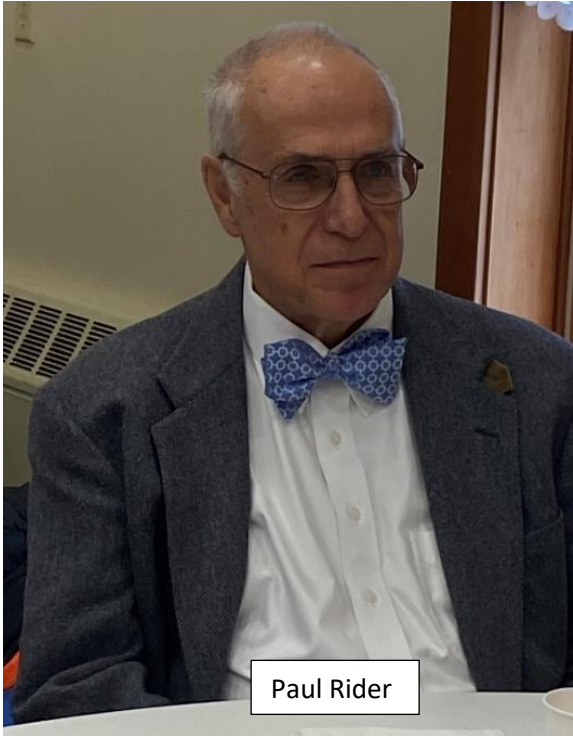
Veterans

Fred Ely
 David Hahn
 Paul Rider
 Rick Stacy
 Ward Bailey
 Robert Cosgrove

Harvey Morse
 Christie Komarek
 Charles McAdam
 Stewart Freeman
 Keith Marshall
 Jesse Craig



Ward Bailey



Paul Rider



David Hahn



Rick Stacy

Harvest Dinner



Fellowship

Hello winter (a little early)! As we head into the holiday season, take time to meditate on thankfulness and celebration to our God and Savior.

Many, many thanks to all that helped and donated for the Harvest Dinner in November.

We were blessed with our new team member Paula Welch and her kitchen expertise!

She organized the menu and us! We also received donations of squash, potatoes, and rolls.

We were able to help the deacons provide takeouts for many in our church family that were unable to attend. It was a great time of food, fellowship, and remembrance of our veterans.

The annual Christmas Concert is coming soon! Save Saturday, December 3rd at 6pm for what has always been a wonderful celebration of music for the advent season. The fellowship team will provide refreshments following the concert. We are looking for cookie donations, so if you are able and willing, we would welcome homemade Christmas cookies. You can contact Eunie Ely or the church office to let us know.

Stay warm and please let us know of any other fellowship ideas for events that you would like to see.

Thank you,

The Fellowship Team

Deacons

Because of the wonderful Harvest Dinner put on by the Fellowship Committee, the Deacons were able to bless our shut-ins with a delicious take-out meal. Much appreciation goes to Sandy Partridge and her hard-working crew. There are currently 6 members of our church family considered as shut-ins, along with other seniors in our body that we are reaching out to.

As well as our older members, the Deacons minister to our college students with a note of encouragement, and a Dunkin gift card to treat themselves and a friend. Remember to pray for our college students Kyle Foeller, Emily Caccamise and Hannah Catalino. Also remember in prayer Jessie Craig, a former church attender in military service.

Bergen Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 3 at 6:00 pm
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church
38 S. Lake Ave, Bergen, NY

Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of our community!

Young and old are welcome to attend
Family friendly - bring all your little ones!

Cookies, milk and cocoa to follow the concert.
Need a ride? Please call 494-1251.

Calling all musicians - please share your talent with our community!

Questions about attending or performing? Contact
Jocelyn Rebisz at 494-6031.



Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us at 6 pm for a special time of singing, scripture readings, special music, a Christmas message, and closing with our traditional candle lighting.

Request for Paper Bags

Our supply of plastic bags for food distribution is running low. Foodlink no longer provides these bags to us for free. If you have extra paper bags, would you please consider bringing them to church? We will collect the bags in a bin located in the church foyer, near the water fountain. Thank you!

Kid's Quest Upcoming Events

Christmas Party - December 10th @ 10 am

Christmas Pageant - December 18

Sledding Party - January

Elementary Age Basketball League (Nerf) -

Late February to March

Easter Activities

Spring Field Trip

Operation Christmas Child

104- That is the number of children around the world who will be blessed by a shoebox gift thanks to the love and generosity of our congregation. These children will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ- the Greatest Gift Ever!!

Thank you to those who have donated items throughout the year as well as their time by making crafts and assisting with the packing party. We had ~ 25 excited youth and adult 'packers' that carefully selected just the right gifts to fill a box full of love for a special child. Each person had the opportunity to pray over his or her box and the child that will be receiving it, all in the name of Jesus. Eighty-two boxes were packed at the party. A pizza lunch with Christmas cookies was enjoyed by all who attended.

We wish to thank all who filled individual boxes as well as generously donated money to offset the \$10 shipping cost per box. Additional money needed was provided by the E & M budget.

Thank You once again for sharing your hearts, hands, and feet in this meaningful mission project.

"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE CREATION" Mark 16:15 ESV

Serving Him with Joy,

Julie Foeller and Jennifer White (Operation Christmas Child Co- Chairs)





- Dec 10: Children's Christmas Party @ 10 am
- Dec 11: Christmas Caroling following worship
- Dec 14: Sessions @ 7 pm
- Dec 18: Christmas Pageant
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service TBD
- Dec 26: Office closed for Christmas
- Dec 27: Deacons meeting at 7 pm
- Dec 31: Deadline for Annual Reports

Anniversaries & Birthdays

December Birthdays

- 1 - Pastor Brandt
- 3 - Isaac Buckland
- 4 - Donna Lacey
- 4 - Bethany Salvia
- 11 - Wesley McNear
- 11 - Sandy Partridge
- 12 - John Jessop
- 16 - Joe Rebisz
- 19 - Rena Wilson
- 20 - David Brownell
- 23 - Wendy Caccamise
- 31 - Bev Wooton

December Anniversaries

- 21 - Tom & Cyndy Jones (50 years)

January Birthdays

- 1 - Jim Wilson
- 4 - Collin McNear
- 7 - Rose Wilson
- 8 - Luck Hollenbeck
- 11 - Bruce Partridge
- 12 - Shirley Harris
- 13 - Bruce Glucksman
- 23 - Eleanor Bater
- 26 - Michael Welch
- 30 - Lydia Hammack

January Anniversaries

- 1 - Chad & Wendy Caccamise
- 5 - Stu & Gail Freeman
- 8 - Brandt & Marty Hammack



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)
- 2nd & 4th Sundays - TAG from 6 - 8 pm
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25th of each month

Other Goings-On in December:

- Pastor Brandt and family will be on vacation from November 8 through December 2
- Dec 3: Community Christmas Concert @ 6 pm @ BEPC
- Dec 4: Deadline for Poinsettia orders
- Dec 4: Fellowship meeting



Teens

After

God

2022 Reverb
Highlights



Foodlink Distribution Goes Smoothly - God Does It Again With Clear Weather

Our final FoodLink distribution of the year was Thursday, November 17. If you recall, that was the day when the severe lake-effect snow was to begin here in WNY. There was some snow early in the day in Genesee County, but by the time our volunteers gathered in midafternoon, there was no snow, and the church parking lot was clear. The snow held off all afternoon until well after the food distribution was complete. Praise God!

Once again, demand for the food was high. We served more than 150 families representing more than 500 individuals. Special thanks to the numerous volunteers who came out on a cold day. Our neighbors in need really appreciate your loving support.

We are taking a winter break for the next three months. There will be no distribution hosted by us during December, January or February. Though dates are not confirmed, we expect to resume with a distribution in March 2023.

Christmas Eve Offering to Benefit Byron-Bergen Backpack Program

Each year the offering from our Christmas Eve service benefits a local charity. This year the Evangelism & Missions Committee has designated the funds from that service to go to the Byron-Bergen School Backpack Program.

The program provides a backpack of food for children in families who are among the neediest in our community. Often, there is no food in the house over the weekend. During the week, the kids rely on meals at school. Over the weekend, they often go hungry. The food in the backpack provided at the school on Friday each week, provides important nourishment over the weekend.

Volunteers who organize this program reported that more students than ever were recommended as needing the weekend food. Usually the number is lower in the fall, but this year the number is higher than the number of participants at the end of the school year.

Food is also more expensive. Volunteers say their funds on hand, all from donations, are in danger of running out. Our contribution from the Christmas Eve offering will make a difference to our hungry neighbors.

If you are led to make a donation, you can do so online, in the mail or in the offering boxes near the church entrances. Please note on the envelope you use or the check to designate your gift for the Christmas Eve offering so our treasurer will know to credit it appropriately.

Sewing With a Purpose

Sewing With A Purpose has collaborated with the veteran ministry to make knit hats for the veterans at Eagle Star Housing. A sample of the hats and the various stages of making a knit hat were on display at the Harvest Dinner in November.



Sewing With A Purpose has also been asked to create more of the protective eye coverings for the 1 -2 pound babies born in the NICU at Strong hospital.

The original eye protections were a huge success and Strong has requested lots more....





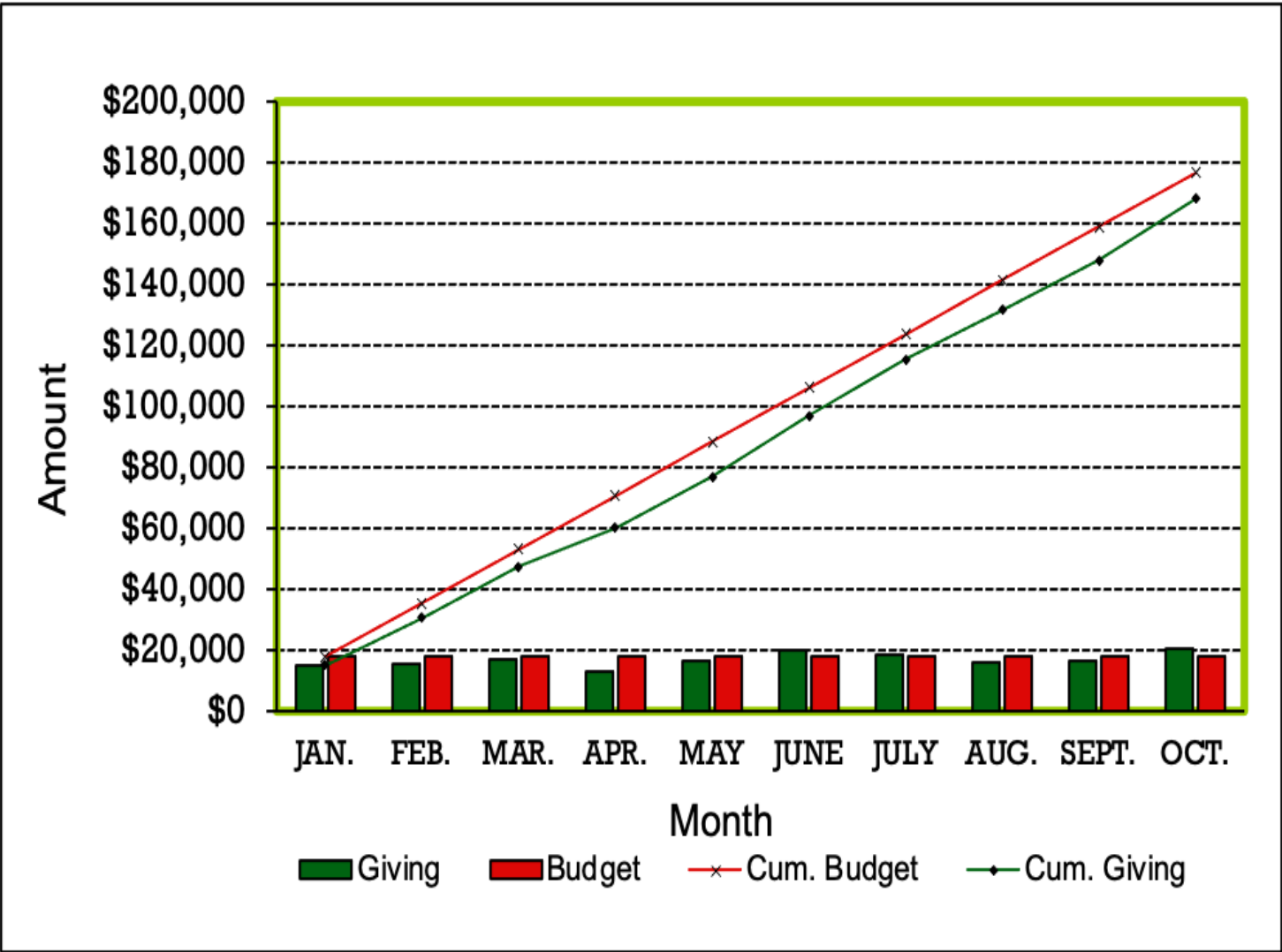
CHURCH FINANCES

OCTOBER 2022

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:32-34

With the recent lower monthly giving, we had concern last month that the needed use of the Accumulated Income Fund was going to threaten the positive balance we have usually had at the end of a year. However, October’s very good giving of \$20,321 was the highest for the year and nearly \$3,000 above the monthly goal! Expenses were low, and thus we needed no funds at all from the AIF. In addition, \$900 was received for the Organ Fund.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2022

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$14,040.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,491.37
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$73.69 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,790.00

Total New Receipts	\$20,321.37
Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$52.64
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$20,374.01

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$13,121.61
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$13,121.61
---------------------------------------	--------------------

Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$0.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$3,790.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$3,462.40**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$15,908.77
New Designated Receipts	\$990.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$2,226.65

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$14,672.12**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$18,134.52**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September expenditures 	-\$0.00
Current Balance (10/31/2022)	\$10,869.92

Organ Fund

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September Deposits 	\$900.00
Current Balance (10/31/2022)	\$56,197.87

