

# The Vision

June 2021

Volume 6, Issue 6

*The Monthly Newsletter of  
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Bergen, NY  
Full color version available online at [www.bergenepc.com](http://www.bergenepc.com)*



One of my favorite stories of Scripture is the story of David and Mephibosheth. It's a wonderful story of King David who took in Saul's grandson and invited him into his home and sit at his table. In the story, David showed great love and grace, especially because there were those who would have wanted Saul's grandson on the throne. Also, Mephibosheth was a cripple in both of his legs. The story shows us how God's grace can change a man so much that he is willing to show love and grace to one whom the world would see as his enemy. In fact, it is so illustrative of how God loves us and brings us as his own children to his heavenly home, it was used in our (Marty and I) wedding. The pastor knew that we wanted the Gospel shared and he used it as invite to all to come to God's table, as beggars come to the king's table.

Speaking of sitting at the King's table, I had the amazing opportunity to dine with royalty. When I was in seminary, I was able to go to tour Buckingham Palace. When it was found out that I was going into the ministry, they gave me an invite to eat with the Queen of England.

There were great particulars that I was told I had to pay attention. For starters, I could not sit until the queen sat. Secondly, I could not eat until the queen had eaten. Third, of course, the napkin was to go into the lap, but I had to fold the napkin in half and I could only eat with the inside of the napkin. Fourth, I had to make sure I used the proper utensils. Fifth, the fork always had to be in my left hand and the knife in my right hand. Sixth, I had make sure the utensils did not squeak. Finally, once the queen was done eating, I had to stop eating.

Ok, truth to be told, I have never eaten with the queen or even been to England, but if I were able to do that, I would have to follow all the protocols, which is to be expected. When one eats with royalty of any nation, there are sure to be certain rules to follow. This is true for all kings and queens; all of them, except for One.

There is one King who does not expect any of that stuff, although He is the mightiest, holiest One of them all. It would be understandable if He would require certain clothes or to hold our utensils a certain way, but the God of the universe does not require any of that. None of this is seen in the Biblical passages when Jesus sits down with people, nor is it required when communion is celebrated in the Bible. The only two requirements are that we know for certain that we got an invitation (by trusting in Christ) and that we not eat in an unworthy manner. (We will look more closely at that next month.)

But think about it for a moment. The God of the universe, who created all things, provides for us a meal in which we can sit down with him and enjoy His fellowship, and as broken and sinful as we are, He will never turn us away. There are no weird extreme rules to follow, showing us how much better He is than us (even though He would be completely justified in doing so), He just beckons us to come sit down with Him as a child would with his Father, much in the same way David did with Mephibosheth. The words of Revelation 3:20 (one of the verses we looked at last week) echo in my heart: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

-Pastor Brandt Hammack



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You can also find us on Facebook.

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
8:30am - 1:30 pm

**Pastor's Hours:**

Tuesday- Friday  
9:30-12:00 flexible



Happy Anniversary



(For every 5 Yrs. there is a ♥ for extra congratulations)

**June Anniversaries**

- 6- Kevin & Chris Hollenbeck 34 yrs
- 8- Fred & Eunie Ely 64 yrs
- 14- Seth & Becca McNear 18 yrs
- 24- Jim & Stacie Bridge 21 yrs
- 25- Tracy & Loretta Miller ♥ 60 yrs
- 26- Ken & Nancy Alfes 45 yrs

**July Anniversaries**

- 4- Gregg & Debbie McAllister 34 yrs
- 19- Alden Christin Snell 18 yrs
- 28- Dan & Debbie Sheldon 4 yrs



**June Birthdays**

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

**July Birthdays**

- 2- Kathy Cosgrove
- 8- Gail Freeman
- 10- Cambria Goodenbery
- 10- Gregg McAllister
- 11- Tracy Miller
- 14- Celeste Brownell
- 24- Eunie Ely
- 27- Dan Sheldon
- 30- Jonah Hammack
- 30- Jeremiah Hammack
- 31- Shirley vonBergen

**Job Announcement**

**Administrative Assistant Job Opening**

Session has approved the posting of the Administrative Assistant position. Packets containing job information, application forms and instructions are available outside the Church Office. Applications will be accepted from May 17th through June 7th. Please seal and return a completed application in the provided envelope to Seth McNear’s mailbox by the church office or copies of the necessary documents can be emailed to him at beccaseth@hotmail.com.

**The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church seeks a Christ-centered, Bible-believing musician open to the Holy Spirit’s leading, to serve as Assistant Music Coordinator.**

This person will work closely with the Music Coordinator and Pastor on all music-related activities at the church, including weekly musical participation in the worship service and leading the worship service once per month.

This is a part-time position (approximately 5 hours per week). A complete job description is available upon request.

If interested, please submit a letter of inquiry to <fpcbergen@gmail.com>; include “Assistant Music Coordinator Search” in the subject of the email. Questions about the position may be addressed to Rob Willhoff at (585) 293-1304.



Young Lives is a mission of Young Life, a mission that our church supports, that mentors and provides support to teen-aged moms. We have about 7 young women in the Genesee County area that are either pregnant or are raising young children.

We are establishing a ‘baby closet’ to help these new moms. We would welcome gently used baby items (clothes, car seats, cribs, strollers, etc.), as well as new diapers, and maternity clothing. We have received some maternity and baby clothing. Thank you for your generous support. You may contact Jessica Maskell – Young Lives Genesee County Coordinator at 585-409-7261, [gcyounglives@gmail.com](mailto:gcyounglives@gmail.com) and/or Sandy Partridge (committee member) at 585-414-4593.

## A peek at the Church Calendar— keep an eye on Life in the Church emails for changes!

<p><b>* During this time of quarantine, Son Risers will meet through zoom every Thursday at 6am.</b> <b>TAG will meet at Church every other Thursday in the Fellowship Hall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>June</u></p> <p>5- Blood Drive 6- Church 10:30 13- Church 10:30/ Teen Challenge</p>	<p>15- Deadline for Scholarship application 20- Church 10:30/ Father's Day 22- Piano Tuned 27- Church 10:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>July</u></p> <p>4- Church 10:30/ 4th of July! 11- Church 10:30 18- Church 10:30 25- Church 10:30</p>
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### Hear from our Missionaries

Teen Challenge will present at our worship service on June 13th. Come to hear the life-changing stories from those who are overcoming addiction with the power of Jesus. If you know someone who is struggling with addiction, or has a friend or family member who struggles, this is an ideal time to invite them to a Sunday service.



With the wonder of technology we will talk with Uli in Mexico City during our worship service on June 20th. Hear the exciting story of how God is using the pandemic and technology to have his gospel message go even farther than was previously possible. Get an update on the impact of covid in Mexico. We anticipate having Uli speak with us live from Mexico that Sunday. Another great opportunity to invite a friend.

### Church repairs

**We are looking for help in completing some projects that need to be done at Church. Please contact David Hahn if you can help!**

**Thanks!**

- \*Paint the front foyer of the sanctuary
- \*Repair SW wall of west stall of downstairs large ladies room
- \*Repair front steps
- \*Repaint outside lower windows and trim
- \*Make an enclosure for the dehumidifier
- \*A cover needs to be built over the pipes in the corner of the nursery- See Julie Foeller or Neva Lattimer with questions
- \*General painting



## TAG ~ Teens After God

### YOUTH GROUP (AND JOE) GOING STRONG...AGAIN!!!!

Joe is Back! After suffering a stroke on Easter morning, I am back and doing great. During our first youth group this month I shared my story with our teens. We had a great discussion about God, miracles, and our purpose in this life. At our most recent youth group, Hannah Catalino shared her experiences while attending college this year at Houghton, as well as the challenges of keeping strong in the faith while at college and away from home. We ended both nights in a time of fellowship and fun playing a very competitive game called "Nuke-'em." COVID-19 protocols and procedures, similar to those in all public places, are in place at TAG to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are also asking any teens (or families) who are sick, or exhibiting any Covid-19 symptoms, to please stay home.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Thursdays from 6:00-7:30pm: May 27th, June 10th, and June 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!



*Remembering Youth Group Long Ago (Before Social Distancing).  
Yes...we were all hiding in the tiny bathroom downstairs! – May 2017*

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**\*\*The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church Scholarship 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) The deadline for the submission of all materials is 6/15/2021. Please email the office if you need more information.**

# *Sewing With a Purpose*

Sewing With a Purpose would like to thank God for this ministry of sharing his love with others through this ministry.

Ashley Green, Director of the Genesee County CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate, accepted 6 quilts/blankets from Sewing With A Purpose in May. These blankets are given to children placed in the Genesee County foster program. Shirley Von Bergen, Grace Leanen and Debbie McAllister created these treasures for the children.



Sewing With A Purpose would like to thank everyone who helps contribute to this ministry. Thank you all who share your talents, and gifts for God to bless others.



***This month, please pray for:***

**Those with ongoing challenges and needs:**

Aggie Redinger, Delores Seward, David Hahn, Bob and Kathy Cosgrove, Nancy Alfes, Janice Langdon's mother (Jo Files), Susan Brownell's grandmother; Hazel Newsum -and her caretakers Susan's parents Paul and Sandy Harris, Malanie Glucksman, and Evelyn Pangrazio-friend of Tom and Cyndy Jones, Colton Ely, Rusty Brenton

**Those fighting cancer:** Dan Forno, Stacy Cline, Elaine Malkani-Cyndy Jones' sister. Corky's friend, Sharon, fighting colon cancer, Rosemary Utz-friend of McAllisters, vonBergen's grandson, Joe

**Continued healing** for Helen Hill's sister-in-law Dorcas Arbach, June Hahn's niece Ann Crone, & Joan Miller

**Those who have lost loved ones:**  
The family of Max Jessop, the family Rob Charcholla, The family of Willard Pengelly, and the Roche family

**The Youth of our church and our community.**

**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 von Bergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry; Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations; Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life.

Our Session, Deacons, Youth Leader Joe Rebisz, Worship Leader Christin Snell, Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee, CE Committee and the many more committees and ministries that help run the church. Pray for the other local churches in our area (and your area too!)

The Servicemen & Women of the United States, as well as our Veterans and their families.

Our country's leaders and their advisors.

## Deacon Notes:

### Deacon Doings:

This spring, each Deacon is hoping to be in contact with a small number of our congregation.

We want each of you to know you are a valued member of our body of Christ here in Bergen.



### Deacon Dossier

#### **Spotlight on Kay Harmon**

- *Born in Batavia, NY*
- *Besides being a homemaker, Kay has worked in a dental lab, and on the Election Board for the town of Byron*
- *Her relationship with Ron started when she met him in 6th grade!!* ♥
- *She loves BBQ ribs, and hates ironing*
- *She has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 4 step-grandchildren*
- *Dream destination is to go to Greece (the country, not the town)*





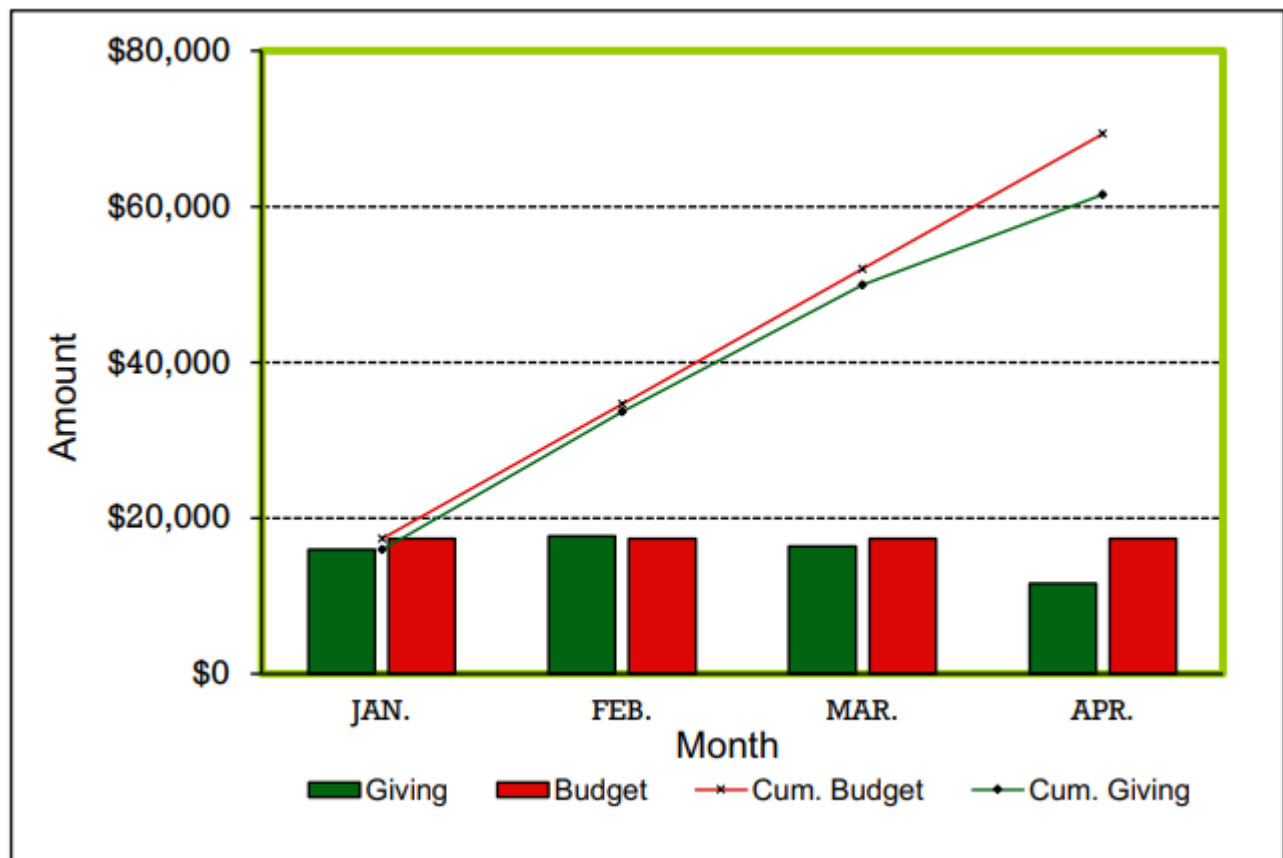
# Church Finances

## April 2021

*"Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."*

*Psalm 50: 14-15*

*Our streak of very good giving for the first three months of 2021 ended in April with \$11,574 received compared to the January, February March giving of \$15,917, \$17,696 and \$16,353. Some of this fall-out was caused by some of the mailed-in giving received the last week of the month not getting collected and deposited in time for the April report. Nevertheless, with expenses in the normal range, we needed \$7,000 from the AIF to pay the bills*



# MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – APRIL 2021

## OPERATING FUND

### Income

Sunday offering:	\$6,820.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,953.52
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$51.09 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,800.00

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<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$11,573.52</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$135.03</i>
<b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b>	<b>\$11,708.55</b>

### Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$15,124.46
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
None	\$0.00

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<b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b>	<b>\$15,124.46</b>
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,800.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$4,200.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE** **\$784.09**

## DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$22,597.12
New Designated Receipts	\$649.55
Total Designated Expenditures	\$175.08

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** **\$23,071.59**

**TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)** **\$23,855.68**

### OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

#### Accumulated Income Fund

March expenditures	-\$7,000.00
<b>Current Balance (4/30/2021)</b>	<b>\$37,387.36</b>

#### Property Reserve Fund

April expenditures – Triple O (manse meter)	-\$809.00
<b>Current Balance (4/30/2021)</b>	<b>\$12,759.35</b>