

From the Pastor



This coming Sunday (July 31st), we will start a new sermon series on Life within the church. Like other parts in this series, I am using a book to use as a guide. It has taken me a while to find the right book for this part, but I found an amazing one, *Life in the Community: Joining Together to Display the Gospel*. What I like about the book is that it has an end in mind

and that end is that the church is called to be a witnessing community, and the writer (Dustin Willis) uses Scripture to show us what the church should look like so that all churches, like ourselves, might be better witnesses.

To start off, Willis asks the question why there is such a need for churches to build community. His answer is loneliness within this world. I am sure there are other reasons, including building each other up in Christ, but his point on loneliness though I think is key, especially in light of the loneliness of this world.

The book gave some startling statistics. However, the book was written in 2015. I wanted to get more updated statistics. What I found was startling. However, keep in mind that most of these statistics came from 2019, pre-covid.

61% of Americans felt lonely in 2019. In 2018, that number was **54%**.^[1] (US, Cigna, 2020)

52% sometimes or always felt alone in 2019. In 2018, that number was **46%**.^[1] (US, Cigna, 2020)

47% sometimes or always felt that their relationships were not meaningful in 2019. In 2018, that number was **43%**.^[1] (US, Cigna, 2020)

21% have no close friends.^[2] (US, YouGov, 2019)

58% said they sometimes or always felt like no one knew them well in 2019. In 2018, that number was **54%**.^[1] (US, Cigna, 2020)

49% sometimes or always felt as though they lack companionship in 2019. In 2018, that number was **43%**.^[1] (US, Cigna, 2020)

53% say it's difficult to make friends because they are shy.^[2] (US, YouGov, 2019)

As you can see, these statistics were pre-pandemic, but even in 2019, people were getting lonelier in just a year's time.

There are a few other statistics I want to call your attention to. One would think that social media would help loneliness as we are able to connect with people across the world, but looking at the statistics, this is not the case:

73% of very heavy social media users feel lonely. Compare to light users who feel lonely: **52%**.^[1] (Cigna, US, 2020)

In addition to all of this, we live in a society that is increasingly leaving God's design found in His Word for marriage, sexuality, gender, and even about living one's life in general.

So what is God's solution to all of this loneliness. First, there are lots of verses in the Bible like Psalm 68:5, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." These verses show God's care and love for the brokenhearted.



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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)

TAG ~ Teens After God

"THE CHOSEN" IN THE BARN

TAG had an awesome special event in the Seward Barn on July 17th. About 20 teens gathered, along with several younger children and adults, for the event. Dave and Chris Wright provided great snacks and drinks for all in attendance. The popcorn was especially popular! After a song and prayer to open, we proceeded to watch the first episode of the series titled, "The Chosen." "The Chosen" is an excellent series depicting the life of Jesus from the beginning to the end of His ministry here on Earth. After the episode, the teens and adults engaged in a discussion on the biblical characters encountered and the power of experiencing the bible in such a dramatic and realistic way. Then the teens enjoyed some social time while playing volleyball and snacking. Overall, it was a great night, and we would all like to thank Delores for opening up her homestead to us.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00: July 31st, August 14th, and August 28th. 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!



Teens and adults watching "The Chosen" in the Seward's barn - July 17, 2022

Deacons

The Deacons do not have their normally scheduled meetings during July and August, but do not hesitate to contact a Deacon if you have a concern. We will be happy to help.

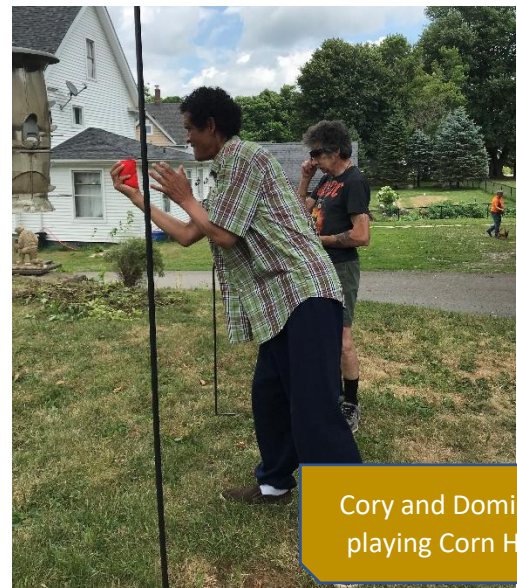
- Joan Dermody*
- Diane White*
- Chris Wright*
- Faith Willhoft*

- Deb McAllister*
- Bruce Partridge*
- Kay Harmon*

Eaglestar Veteran Visit



Dave working on refurbishing his antique find



Cory and Dominick playing Corn Hole

Sewing With A Purpose

July 2022 brought a new project to our Sewing With a Purpose team, who created 48 eye protections for the 1-2 pound babies born in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at Golisano Strong Hospital.



Days for Girls team also was busy creating components for the feminine hygiene kits, which will be going to Africa in August. We are working on 90 kits!!

This was our largest meeting, drawing additional first-time volunteers with several team members working from home.



Evangelism & Mission: Largest Foodlink Distribution So Far This Year

The FoodLink distribution on July 21 attracted the largest number of families that our church has experienced. The 39 volunteers served nutritious food selections to 164

families. At some points during the distribution, the line started in the parking lot behind the church building and curved the width of the parking lot to the manse, then all the way to the street.

The total represented more than 540 recipients, including 150 seniors, 236 adults and 154 children. Thanks to all the volunteers who came to help, including some teens and families who are not members of our church congregation. Everyone was needed on such a hot day!

Food that remains at the end of the distribution is divided among seven local food pantries, so the blessing is spread throughout the community beyond those who come to our particular event.

Remember the words of Jesus: *For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat... 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* Matt 25:34 and 40

Batter Up! It's Sports Camp Time!

You can help with one of the most popular events at the Bergen village park when our church sponsors Sports Camp once again. Head Coach Joe Rebisz can use all types of volunteers for duties ranging from water boy (girl/woman/man), to snacks, to group leaders, to registration. Yes, you athletic types might be asked to teach one of the actual sports. Folks to lead a devotional each evening are also needed.

Dates are Sunday, Aug. 14 through Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 6 to 8 pm. Extra registration help is always needed the first couple of nights.

Please let Joe (585) 794-8295 or Susan in the church office know if you can help. The synergy between this event and VBS is an amazing thing that God orchestrates. Kids burn lots of energy in the coaching sessions and hear about the love of Jesus.

Be sure to sign up your kids and have them bring their friends.

"Teams" run up to age 12. Each night promises fun for all.



Congo



The team from the Kimia Leprosy Treatment Center about to leave on a 7-day trip upriver in search of lepers in need of treatment. It rained six straight hours before they left. This is why they needed the tent that was funded through our Lenten offering. This is the team that works with Sarah Speer.

Prayer Request from Sarah in the Congo

This email was received from Sarah Speer, the missionary we support who is working with the lepers in the Congo:

We hope and pray that this finds you well and enjoying summer!

We are so excited to let you know that God has opened His door and given us the leprosy medicines that we have been lacking for more than 2 years. Now Guy Serge and his team left this morning for a week-long river trip to find the people who are signed up to receive this medicine. We desperately need your prayers for this work.

Here are some specifics:

Please pray for the team :

1. That they will successfully find the patients in their villages rather than in the forest gathering caterpillars! (These caterpillars are an excellent source of protein and are also a source of income).

2. That the rainy season will not hinder their work.

3. That the Word of God will be shared in the power of the Holy Spirit and touch many hearts and bring them to Jesus.

Please pray for those who will be transferred to the Kimia Center for supervised care of their wounds and the administration of their medicine.

Thank you for sharing our burden! It strengthens our hearts and spirits.

Blessings,

Sarah

A Peek at the Church Calendar

Weekly

- Sunday, 9:15-10:15 – Adult Sunday School beginning July 10 through August 28
- 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)
- Fridays, 3:30 am - Kid’s Quest

Other Goings-Ons

- August 12 - **Blood Drive** in the Fellowship Hall from 1 - 6 pm
- August 13 - **Informal Hymn Sing** at Delores Seward’s “Hay Mow” (7500 Maple Ave, Bergen) at 6:30 pm
- August 14 - 17 - **Sports Camp** in Village park from 6 pm to 8 pm daily.
- August 15 - 19 - **Vacation Bible School** from 9 am till 12 noon each day.
- August 21 - **Worship Committee** meeting from 12 to 1 pm
- August 25 - **Newsletter deadline** at noon



Anniversaries & Birthdays

August Birthdays

- 2 - Janae Genna
- 5 - Elizabeth Snell
- 8 - Jonathan Snell
- 9 - Pam Patmore
- 10 - Sally Thomas
- 14 - Mark Kobel
- 20 - Brian Foeller
- 22 - Jan Harris
- 22 - Anne Waldruff
- 23 - Kyle Foeller



August Anniversaries

- 5 - Dan & Pam Patmore (22 years)
- 14 - Charlie & Elaine McAdam (51 years)
- 19 - Ward & Judy Bailey (55 years)
- 25 - David & Cindy Baker (22 years)
- 25 - Rick & Amy Stacy (38 years)
- 30 - Ricard & Shirley vonBergen (69 years)

September Birthdays

- 3 - John Wise
- 15 - Janet Wise
- 17 - David Hahn
- 18 - Duncan McNear
- 19 - Corissa Goodenbery
- 22 - Keith Marshall
- 25 - Neva Lattimer
- 27 - Tom Jones
- 28 - Rob Willhoft
- 28 - Cheryl Saville
- 29 - Amy Stacy

Please remember Ron & Kay Harmon as their 60th Wedding Anniversary would have been Sept. 28th. They were high school sweethearts.

September Anniversaries

- 1 - Jim & Amanda Wilson (21 years)
- 2 - Paul & Neva Lattimer (55 years)
- 6 - Rob & Faith Willhoft (42 years)
- 9 - David & Susan Brownell (33 years)

Blood Drive

The next Red Cross Blood Drive that will be held at the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Friday, August 12 from 1 to 6 pm. Stop in and donate blood or platelets. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment, or you stop in the day of the drive.

You may still donate after receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Knowing the name of the manufacturer is critical in determining your blood donation eligibility.

The Red Cross follows a high standard of safety and infection control. The Red Cross will continue to socially distance wherever possible at our blood drives, donation centers and facilities. While donors are no longer required to wear a facemask, individuals may choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason. The Red Cross will also adhere to more stringent facemask requirements per state and/or local guidance, or at the request of our blood-drive sponsors.



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>

Bergen Community Vacation Bible School



August 15-19

9 a.m.- noon

Preschool age 4 (by 8/15) – high school youth

Register online:

www.myvbs.org/bergenvbs22

Hosted by: Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian (*daily drop-off/pick up*)
& Bergen United Methodist Churches

All welcome to a fun-filled week full of faith, food and friends AND best of all.... It's FREE!

Questions? OR to register by phone (585) 943-9155

CONCRETE & CRANES™ PRAYER CALENDAR

<p>1. Thank God for providing all we need to abound in His good work. <i>2 Corinthians 9:8</i></p>	<p>2. Ask God to grant His favor and honor on all those who are serving in VBS. <i>Psalms 84:11</i></p>	<p>3. Thank God for carrying on the good works He has started in us. <i>Philippians 1:6*</i></p>	<p>4. Pray for the VBS director and all workers involved with the preparation and planning of VBS.</p>	<p>5. Ask God to give strength to the workers when they are weary and power when they are weak. <i>Isaiah 40:29</i></p>	<p>6. Ask God to place a hedge of protection around your church's VBS and all those who attend.</p>	<p>7. Thank God in advance for the blessings and opportunities He will provide through VBS.</p>
<p>8. Thank God for loving us and ask Him to help us remain in His love. <i>John 15:9*</i></p>	<p>9. Ask God to give energy and stamina to workers who will lead kids to worship Him through music and drama.</p>	<p>10. Pray for those who are leading missions. Ask God to give them a heart and passion for the missionary families they will teach about.</p>	<p>11. Ask for physical safety and energy for those who are leading recreation during the week.</p>	<p>12. Pray a blessing on all the snacks that will be prepared for VBS and the workers who will prepare them.</p>	<p>13. Thank God for the creativity and passion of those leading crafts. Ask God to give them patience and compassion for the children with whom they work.</p>	<p>14. Pray for the Bible Study leaders to effectively communicate God's love to the children they teach. <i>1 John 4:19</i></p>
<p>15. Ask God to help everyone serving in VBS to do everything with kindness and love. <i>1 Corinthians 16:14</i> VBS</p>	<p>16. Thank God for His gift of eternal life and for the children who will receive that gift at VBS. <i>Romans 6:23</i> VBS</p>	<p>17. Pray for the pastor as he builds relationships with the kids and shares the gospel with them. VBS</p>	<p>18. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to provide forgiveness of our sins even while we were still sinners. <i>Romans 5:8*</i> VBS</p>	<p>19. Pray for students and adults who may be attending VBS. Ask God to open their hearts to hear His Word in a fresh and new way. VBS</p>	<p>20. Ask God to help kids know that His plan is for them to have a relationship with Jesus.</p>	<p>21. Praise Jesus for choosing to die for us and provide for the forgiveness of our sins. <i>John 15:13*</i></p>
<p>22. Pray that the VBS Celebration provides a witnessing opportunity with parents and the community.</p>	<p>23. Ask God to help kids know that Jesus is with them always and will always love them. <i>Matthew 28:20b*</i></p>	<p>24. Pray that children will continue to increase in wisdom concerning God's Word. <i>Luke 2:52</i></p>	<p>25. Thank God for all He has done and will continue to do through your church's VBS.</p>	<p>26. Pray that all those involved in VBS will continue to seek God with all their hearts and grow in their relationship with Him.</p>	<p>27. Pray that all involved in VBS will continue to build their lives on what they have learned and believe. <i>2 Timothy 3:14*</i></p>	<p>28. Pray that your church's VBS will continue to bear fruit and glorify God. <i>John 15:8</i></p>
<p>29. Ask God to bless the follow-up efforts to contact all prospects and invite them to join other church activities.</p>	<p>30. Pray for those making follow-up visits to clearly share the gospel.</p>	<p>31. Ask God to provide a time of rest and refreshment for all those who served in VBS. <i>Matthew 11:28</i></p>	<p>NOTE Scripture references marked with an asterisk come directly from the passages children will study during VBS.</p>			



Young Life's Tim Riley and family at our church farewell dinner on Tuesday, July 26th.

CHURCH FINANCES

JUNE 2022

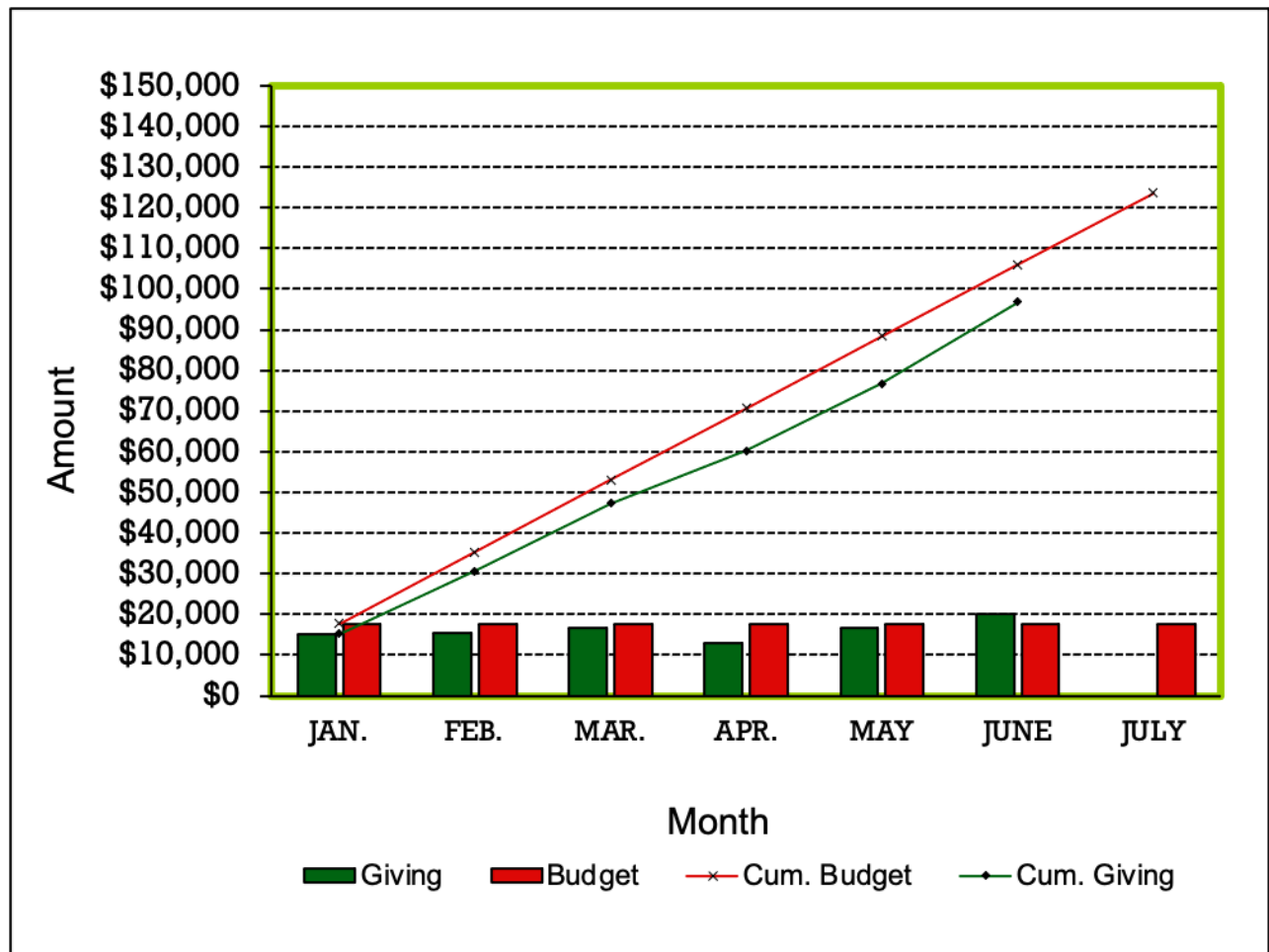


“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. [...] Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.”

1 Chron. 29:14,16

Giving for June was very good at \$20,035, by far the highest of the year and about \$2,500 above the monthly goal for the year. Expenses were also high, \$21,595, as is the last month of every quarter since we catch up on our mission commitments at that time.

Our appeal for the Organ Fund received \$11,380 more in donations and now totals \$54,579 received to date.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2022

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$13,590.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,655.16
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$47.65 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$3,790.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$20,035.16
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$391.28
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$20,426.44

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$21,594.76
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$21,594.76
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$3,790.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$1,210.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$41.68**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$11,883.52
New Designated Receipts	\$16,600.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$11,448.13

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$17,035.39**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$17,077.07**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• June expenditures	-\$5,000.00
• June Deposits	\$5,750.00
Current Balance (6/30/2022)	\$23,525.93

Organ Fund

• June Deposits	\$11,380.00
Current Balance (6/30/2022)	\$54,579.29

Herry/Hill/Dawe/Claus Fund

• Young Life Camp	-\$3,100.00
Current Balance (6/30/2022)	\$26,434.01

College Fund

• College Scholarships	-\$2,000.00
Current Balance (6/30/2022)	\$26,135.56

