

The Vision

January 2021

Volume 6, Issue 1

*The Monthly Newsletter of
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Bergen, NY
Full color version available online at www.bergenepc.com*



As we come to the end of a year that has been unlike any other in our lifetime, not only for us as individual Christians and families, but also for communities, and especially, as churches. Many churches have closed during this time while others are struggling financially. I wanted to give you an overall picture of how we are doing financially as a church.

This is from Tom Jones: The church will end this year with an annual giving of less than \$180,000 vs. the \$190,000 given in 2019. These amounts both fell well short of the budget target for each year; \$210,000 in 2019 and \$211,000 in 2020, with undoubtedly some of this due to the impact of the pandemic and the constraints it has placed on all of our church's services and programs. That impact will likely continue well into the new year, with the new budget of \$207,000 creating even more pressure on our ability to support all that we need and want to do. Overall, looking broadly at our church's financial position, our investments do continue to do very well and give us confidence that, looking ahead, we should be in good shape. However, they blind us to the recognition that "current support", i.e.; regular giving, is down and down to the point where, this year, an invasion of our investments will be required to pay the total of our operating costs, our staff, and our tithe commitments for the mission and missionaries we support."

As the pastor, I want to reassure that while things do not look the best financially, it could be a lot worse. It is understandable that we feel some type of financial pinch during this time, but many churches have completely closed during Covid-19. So, I want us to see the reality of the situation, but also to be encouraged by it as well.

Here is the most important thing to remember in all of this. I, as the pastor and the session are not asking you to give just for the sake of giving. In other words, there is meaning behind the money that you and I give. As Christians, we don't give our money, time, and effort just so that we can have bigger church buildings, better tools (the new copying machine is really nice, by the way) or a nice sign (it looks very good), or more people on staff. All of these things are nice and worthwhile, but they all serve a purpose. They are not ends in of themselves, but rather they are means to an end. The end is the church's purpose.

so what are these purposes? These are:

The worship of God. This is the church's primary purpose. As human beings, we all have hearts and minds that will worship something and/or someone. Therefore, it is vital for us to have a Christ centered life. Otherwise, we will wreck our lives by worshipping someone or something else. Central to this is the regular, ordinary corporate worship of God.

The edification of the people of God. This is encouraging and strengthening one another in the "grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). One of the things you have heard me talk consistently about is that this is important for both head knowledge and matters of the heart. What is most important is the centrality of the Gospel and how and why the cross of Christ changes everything.

Being a witness of the Gospel. In a sense, this is the church's ultimate goal, sharing the good news of the Gospel with a world that desperately needs it. This is where the worship of God and edification of his people should naturally lead. In my experience, if we do the other two faithfully, it always naturally leads to being witnesses, not that we don't need to be intentional about evangelizing, but it will become much more natural if we are doing the previous 2 steps.

Each of these three purposes are very important in the life of a church, so over the next three months, I hope to take each one and address them separately so that we can better understand the mission that God has given each church, including ours.

With all of the above being said, I cannot emphasize enough these reasons are why we exist as a church and, therefore, it's why we not only seek to give our money (especially when things are a little down), but also our time and energy to the tasks that God has given us. By doing this, we seek to be used by God to accomplish his purposes in our lives, our church, our homes, our communities, and even the world.

Pastor Brandt Hammack



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Pastor Brandt Hammack: Brandthammack@hotmail.com
(585-732-6163) Website: www.bergenepc.com
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



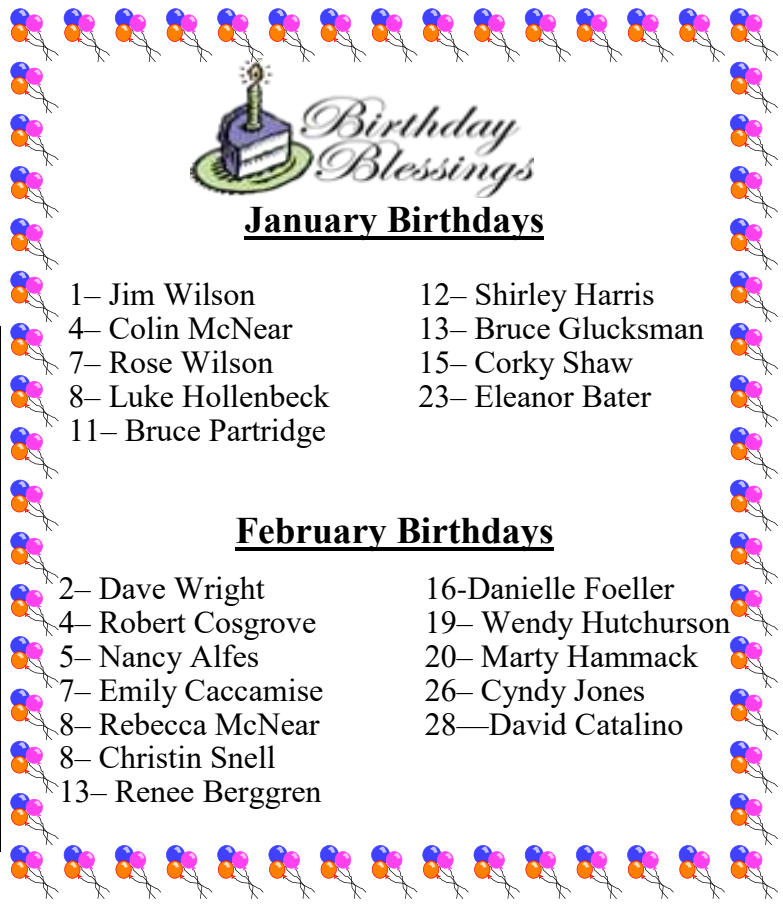
(For every 5 Yrs. there is a ♥ for extra congratulations)

January Anniversaries

- 1- Chad & Wendy Caccamise 28 yrs
- 5- Stu & Gail Freeman 58 yrs
- 8- Brandt & Marty Hammack ♥ 10 yrs

February Anniversaries

- 16- David & June Hahn 58 yrs



January Birthdays

- 1- Jim Wilson
- 4- Colin McNear
- 7- Rose Wilson
- 8- Luke Hollenbeck
- 11- Bruce Partridge
- 12- Shirley Harris
- 13- Bruce Glucksman
- 15- Corky Shaw
- 23- Eleanor Bater

February Birthdays

- 2- Dave Wright
- 4- Robert Cosgrove
- 5- Nancy Alfes
- 7- Emily Caccamise
- 8- Rebecca McNear
- 8- Christin Snell
- 13- Renee Berggren
- 16- Danielle Foeller
- 19- Wendy Hutchurson
- 20- Marty Hammack
- 26- Cyndy Jones
- 28- David Catalino

Job Announcement

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 Willhoft 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 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!

*** During this time of quarantine,
Son Risers will meet through zoom every
Thursday at 6am.**

**TAG will meet at Church every other Thursday
in the Fellowship Hall.**

January

1- Happy New Year!

3-Church 10:30

10-Church 10:30

17-Church 10:30/ *Annual Meeting 12:45

24-Church 10:30

31-Church 10:30

February

7- Church 10:30 Church 10:30

14- Church 10:30/ Happy Valentines Day

15- Presidents Day

21- Church 10:30

28- Church 10:30

THANK YOU from the DEACONS

To our generous congregation --
the Deacon board is grateful for your generosity in
supporting the Deacon Benevolent Fund this Advent
season. As of mid-December, over \$750 has been
contributed to
this fund to help those in need throughout the year.



*****Mike Wilson will be taking over as Financial Secretary this month. Contact Mike
if you want to continue to use envelopes or if you no longer wish to receive them.**

You can reach Mike at mike@managethebooks.com

**Mike and Cindy Wilson have a new address: 122 Battle Green Dr.
Rochester, NY 14624**

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 IS BACK ON!!!!

In-person TAG Youth Group is back up and going strong! We have been averaging over 20 people at each meeting. Due to the size of our group, we have been meeting in the fellowship hall to maintain social distancing guidelines. At our most recent youth group teens shared something that they know about God. This led to great discussion, as teens wanted to respond to and discuss each other's responses. For our game, we had a very competitive round of Marshmallow Olympics! Winners received their choice of candy! COVID-19 protocols and procedures, similar to those in schools, are in place to keep everyone safe and healthy. We practice social distancing and wear masks when not seated six feet apart. 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 6:30-8:00: January 7th and January 21st. 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 Hickory Park Summer Youth Gatherings 2020

Sewing With a Purpose

The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Sewing With a Purpose were given a beautiful ornament for our support of the YWCA and Domestic Violence Safe House Program. Millie Tomidy Pepper delivered it personally and was very thankful for our support.



Sewing With A Purpose would also like to thank God for direction for our projects and the entire congregation for their support of sewing with a purpose from each team member, to the children who rip bandages, to people who have collected donations for repurposing, to people who have even purchased material. Wishing everyone blessing for a great 2021.

Fellowship News

Dear church family,

We hope that you all had a wonderful and safe celebration of our Savior's birth!

It was certainly different this year, but the reason is still the same-Jesus!!

As we start a new year in this different 'normal' that we are all in, let's all make it a priority to stay in touch with each other with cards, phone calls, errands run, etc. Again, if anyone wants some homemade cards to send out, please let the office know and we can get them to you.

Please continue to stay safe, healthy, and warm this season and keep praying for our church family, our community, and the world. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

The Fellowship Team



BEPC Bike Ministry (Winter coats & shoes too!)

If anyone is interested in helping to repair bikes, donating bikes, and helmets, see Stu Freeman. Stu is also collecting winter coats and gently used shoes! If you are cleaning out your closets or see a deal at a garage sale, bring in winter coats and shoes in all sizes!

Stu recently came into the office and told me about a man he gave a bike to. He had no means of transportation. Stu gave him a bike which he uses to get to work everyday! The bike meant the world to him! It is great to see what the donations you give are doing for people! Each bike donated comes with a card that has our information on it as well as a Bible verse!

Coffee Hour snacks needed

We all like to enjoy snacks for coffee hour before and after church. Please consider helping out by supplying something from this list:

baked items, fruit,
vegetables,
cheese & crackers,
chips.



The committee also accepts monetary donations towards the purchase of snacks.

Contact Eunie Ely if you can help in any way.

*Ink Cartridges
needed
for Young
Life*



Don't throw away your empty ink cartridges! There is a box in the coffee hour foyer near the long table where Young Life collects them. This is an ongoing fundraiser for them.

They are able to get credit for empty ink cartridges at one of the local office stores towards purchases when they return them.

You can even bring in empty toner cartridges from copy machines.

Don't forget to check out the bulletin board, when church resumes, to signup!

*Nursery help & KFC
*our to do list
*Snack signups





This month, please pray for:

Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

Chris Martz, Aggie Redinger, Delores Seward, David Hahn, Adriane Broadbooks, Bob and Kathy Cosgrove, Nancy Alfes, Janice Langdon's mother (Jo Files), Susan Brownell's grandmother; Hazel Newsom - 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, family of Michael O'Brien, the family of Don Thorp, and the Roche family

The Youth of our church and our community.

Those serving as Missionaries:

Joseph Harvey in; Uli Fernandez in Mexico; Berti Berhami with Campus Crusades for Christ in Albania; Mark Randall with CRU; Scott Crosby now in the states but still dealing with missions in the Far East, Tim Riley with Young Life, and Kelsey Hill, and John Gay.

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 countries leaders and their advisors.

Deacon Notes:

Deacon Doings

Many thanks to Deacon Diane White for her time and effort in blessing a family from the Byron/Bergen school. Diane shopped for, wrapped, and delivered Christmas gifts for two local boys, ages 9 and 13. Each Christmas, the Deacons are happy to help a community family in this way with funds from the Deacon Benevolent Fund.

Thanks for all your support !!



Deacon Dossier



Spotlight on Joan Dermody --

-- Born in Batavia and has lived her whole life in this area

-- A teacher at heart -- taught 1st, 2nd and 4th graders AND adult Sunday School

-- Favorite color is yellow

-- Favorite thing to bake or do in the kitchen -
- open a can

-- Flew to Luxembourg to visit a lifelong friend





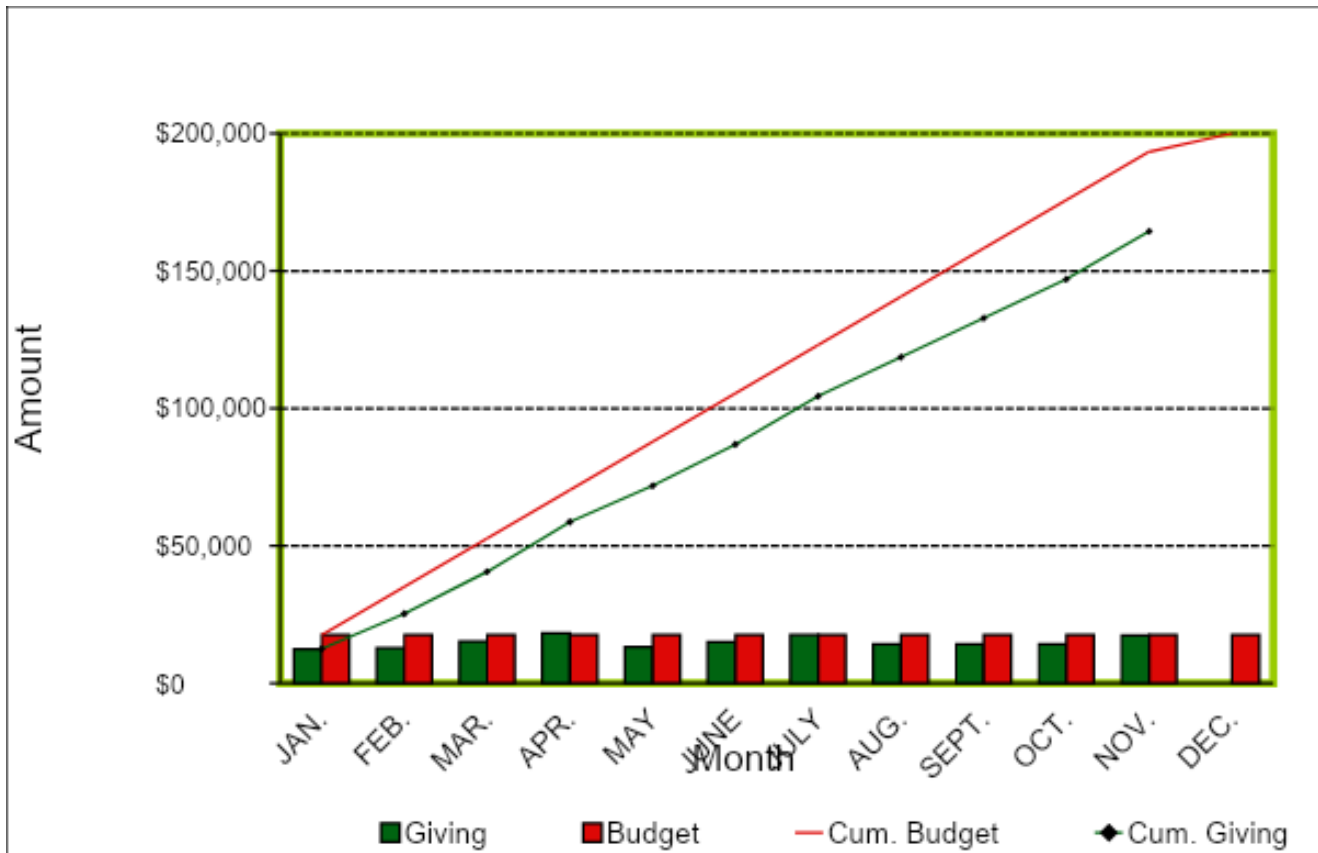
Church Finances November 2020

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT)

The church giving for November was very good, \$17,447; essentially matching the monthly giving goal, and third highest for the year. It also clearly broke us out of the giving rut we had been in since August when the giving had been in the low \$14,000 range! Praise the Lord.

Expenses were normal for this time of year at \$14,653. Compared to recent months, very little had to be withdrawn from the AIF to pay the bills, only \$1,000. If, hopefully December's giving will be as good, we should end the very challenging year of 2020 with continuing good financial support of our church from you, its members and friends.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$12,550.00
Net Online Offering:	\$1,446.59
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$43.72 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$3,450.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$17,446.59
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$183.66
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$17,630.25

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$14,653.33
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$14,653.33
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$1,000.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$2,450.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$526.92**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$12,912.29
New Designated Receipts	\$433.50
Total Designated Expenditures	\$3,314.57

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$10,031.22**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$10,558.14**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

For November expenditures	-\$1,000.00
Current Balance (11/30/2020)	\$23,498.05

Technology Reserve

November expenditures	-\$280.98
Current Balance (11/30/2020)	\$313.61