

From the Pastor

Have you ever become incredibly disillusioned by someone or something? It may be someone, or a media figure you trusted, or a narrative you trusted, but then facts come out and what you were absolutely certain was the case, and to a certain extent even placed your faith in, only to find out later it wasn't true? We all have had moments like this.

For me, one of my biggest disillusionments came after a famous apologist passed away. (I won't mention his name here.) He was an exceptional speaker as well as a writer in showing the differences from the Christian worldview to others. I was blessed by his book on courtship and was instrumental in my life in finding a Godly wife in Marty. He was a man who was able to combine the intellectual with the emotional part of Christianity which, if you know anything about me, you know that I greatly value.

Yet what he preached did not pierce his personal life, or at least much of it. After his death, accusations of sexual abuse that had dogged him in his later years were investigated more carefully and shockingly turned out to be true!

So what was I to make of this guy's ministry? What came immediately to mind was a quote that I remember from Alistair Begg, "The best of men are men at best." What we must remember is that everyone and everything in this world is subject to the effects of the fall. This means that everything we see and hear is corruptible and fallible, meaning that it is all subject to sin and error. This does not mean that everything we hear and see has sin and error, but simply we have to allow for the possibility.

One could see this played out in his ministry. In which his ministry was corrupted by terrible and tragic

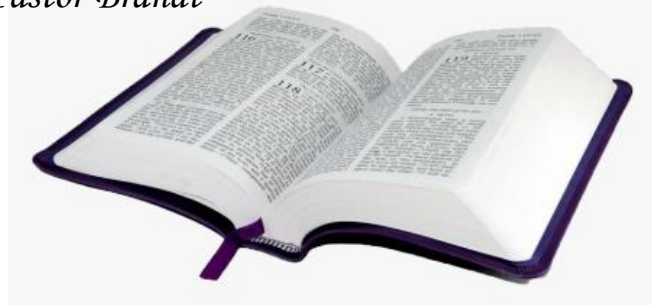
sin, (many websites have scrubbed his sermons and personally I have a difficult time listening to them anymore, even though they contain wonderful nuggets of Biblical truth) and those around him were subject to terrible error as they did not hold him accountable.

So what are we to do? Not only with people, but also with the narratives that we hear from the news, social media, etc.? Is it all sinful and with error? In other words, should we wander around like agnostics thinking that nothing we encounter in this world is true, even from preachers? No, of course not. However, we must realize that all of it has the POSSIBILITY of sin and error.

Like everyone, I have my authors, speakers, sources of news, music, etc. that help shape my worldview. There's nothing wrong with that. In fact, I encourage that for others as well. However, within my mind and heart, I put those things in perspective and allow for the possibility that I might be wrong about not only what I come across, but the worldview that came from that.

However, I have also come to realize that there is one thing that I can see and hear that is infallible (without error) because it was made by someone that is infallible and incorruptible (without sin), and that is the Word of God. We will be talking about this on this first Sunday in May and we will discover what Isaiah 40:8 states: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

Pastor Brandt



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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)

Deacon Notes

Remember to pray for our college students as they finish up another year -- Kyle Foeller, Emily Caccamise and Hannah Catalino.

Faith Willhoft, Deacon Moderator

Sewing With A Purpose

On Thursday, April 7th four members of the Sewing With A Purpose team met in the Fellowship Hall to repair the nylon parachute used during VBS and Sports Camp. Special thanks to Sandy Partridge, Grace Leanen, Faith Willhoft and Debbie McAllister for sharing God's gift for this project.

The team:

- *stitched the side seams closed
- *reattached handles
- *created new handles where they were missing
- *reinforced entire circumference of huge parachute



Teamwork needed for this!



Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church Scholarship

The BEPC 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). **Please note:** A change has been made to the application guidelines; the number of times a recipient can receive an award has been increased from 2 to 4, with additional considerations being made for those attending graduate school. The deadline for the submission of all materials is 6/15/2022.



TAG ~ Teens After God

BEAR GOOD FRUIT!!!!

TAG continues to thrive, with new teens attending regularly! David Catalino's consistent help contributes greatly to how smooth our youth group program runs. I am very appreciative of all the hours (and years) he has poured into the teens of our church, as well as the teens of the Bergen community as a whole. We are continuing to work through the book of Luke during our time of spiritual development and reflection each week. We read and discussed Luke Chapter 3 verses 1-20 at our most recent meeting (take a minute to read through those verses). What the teens took away from our evening reflection is that we all need to repent of our sins and produce good fruit!

We were extremely blessed at the Foodlink distribution, which took place at the church on March 17th, to have so many teens show up to help. They worked extremely hard and did a great job of shining the light of God into our community. Whether they were tearing down boxes, carrying food for the elderly, handing out items, or moving tables, the teens all had an excellent work ethic and a positive attitude. I am very impressed!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: May 8th, and May 22nd. 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!



Fellowship

Many, many thanks to all that helped with the **Easter breakfast** this year: those that donated yummy breakfast breads, those that helped set up and serve, and those that helped clean up. It was a wonderful time of fellowship following the Sunrise Service!

COFFEE HOUR has resumed and we have been enjoying the rest of the Easter breakfast breads. We will be providing packaged food for the rest of the Sunday school year, so if you would like to donate packaged treats (cookies, pretzels, cheese, etc.), it would be great to share with each other.

We are planning a **Ladies Tea** event for Sunday May 15, following the Sunday service. Please mark your calendar, invite a friend, and look for your spring finery! More details to follow in Life in the Church and the bulletin.

The Fellowship Team

Young Life Basket Auction

Thanks to all that donated basket items and delicious baked goods, and especially for all that attended this year's 'back in person' event. It was a fun time for community and supporters of the Young Life mission (that our church supports).



We had many beautiful baskets up for auction this year!

Parkfest is Back in Bergen and We'll Be There!

Our church will have a booth at the village's Parkfest on June 11. Shirley Harris and Joan Dermody are organizing the booth, which will feature a game for kids and information about our church.

There will also be opportunities to register for VBS and Sports Camp, which are coming in August.

Watch for a signup sheet to volunteer and contribute items for the booth.

Vacation Bible Study



We are excited to announce that we are looking forward to bringing back our traditional '**BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER**' in Bergen!!!

What ? : Bergen Community VBS 2022

Who ? : Ages 4- Sr. High Youth

When ? : August 15-19 (9 a.m. to noon)

Where ? : BEPC and BUMC churches

Why ? : Because every child needs to know the love of Jesus and how their lives can be built on His Strong Foundation!!!

How ? : Volunteers who love to *WORK for the Lord in Building up Lives for HIS GLORY!*

For more details please see co-leaders : **Julie Foeller** or **Judy Bailey**

More details and Volunteer Sign-up sheets will be posted in the foyer and on the bulletin board.



Blood Drive

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, June 3 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!

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a global mission run by Samaritan's Purse, to tell children about Jesus through shoebox gifts. Our church participates in this mission by packing shoeboxes. Thank you for your donations thus far! We are looking forward to our church-wide packing party this fall.

In May, our shoebox collection theme is personal care items. This includes toothbrushes, toothbrush holders, dental floss, combs and hair brushes, washcloths and hand towels, nail clippers and nail files, band aids (non-medicated), lip balm (solid form, not liquid), stick deodorant, and washable/ reusable cloth menstrual pads. Water bottles or sturdy plastic cups are also a nice addition to the shoeboxes.

Samaritan's Purse does not allow toothpaste, liquids, lotions, vitamins, and medications in the shoeboxes. At present, bars of soap are allowed. This may or may not change due to international regulations. For now, we will collect bar soap that is in its original packaging with expiration dates that extend into mid 2023. If, at a later date, Samaritan's Purse decides not to accept bar soap, we will donate the soap to the North Bergen pantry.

Please continue to keep an eye out for stuffed animals for the shoeboxes. Perhaps there will be some for sale on after-Easter clearance. It would be lovely to be able to put a soft, cuddly friend into every shoebox we pack.

Thank you again for all of your support! Please contact Julie Foeller with any questions.

A Thank You

The church received a Thank You card from Chris Martz. This is what it read:

To everyone at church, Thank you so much for the lovely gift to my personal account! All the cards, visits, little gifts, flowers, etc. have been so appreciated! The Pastor's visits have been so great! I can't believe I've been away almost 5 years!! Hopefully, I can visit sometime soon! I love you all for everything!!

Till I can get back,

Love,

Christ Martz

FoodLink Distribution Helps 138 Families

The April FoodLink distribution at our church helped 138 families. Those families included 101 senior citizens, 188 adults and 139 children -- more than 400 of our neighbors in need!

In addition, food was collected to share with shut-ins in our congregation, and the Methodist church's free community dinners. Five local food pantries received the bountiful leftovers at the end of our distribution time.

Many thanks to the 34 volunteers, which sounds like a big number, but everyone was needed. We have jobs appropriate for some of our junior members, like all the McNear boys, up to some of our most senior citizens.

We hope you will mark your calendar for our May distribution -- May 19. Plans remain the same. If you can volunteer, we appreciate you arriving by 2:45 pm. We unload the truck beginning at 3 pm and open the line for our clients by 4 pm. We are generally done by 6 pm.

If you forget how good God is, please note that on our April date, the weatherman was calling for rain. But we prayed that any rain would be over by 2 pm. We didn't have a drop of rain on our distribution. God is good!

May Mission of the Month: Open Door Mission

In 2022, Open Door Mission is celebrating 70 years of serving the Rochester community! Since 1952, they have provided for the emergency needs of the homeless and provided hope to those who need a new start. Their success in providing emergency care has been made possible through the dedicated support of faithful donors, which includes our church.

Their kitchen prepares nearly 100,000 meals each year. In 2021, they distributed over 315,000 pounds of food to those in need and collected nearly 300,000 pounds of clothing. Their programs provided over 13,000 nights of shelter to those in need. Their Samaritan House Crisis Center kept its doors open 24 hours a day from November to March to keep people safe from frigid temperatures.

We will receive an update during our worship service on May 15 when a representative of Open Door Mission visits us. The Mission has continued to expand and is completing renovation of a building to provide more long-term housing for the homeless in Rochester.

Their programs include:

- Emergency Housing & Meals
- Clothing and Food Distribution
- Addiction Recovery
- Special shelters during extreme cold and heat
- Coldwater Women's and Children's Home

All of their programs are based on the foundation of spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus's death on the cross and resurrection. As Anna Valeria-Iseman, the executive director, says, "It's a great day when a person who came to us beaten down by life is lifted up by our risen Lord."

For more information, visit their website at opendoormission.com

Samaritan's Purse Sends Thanks for Gift to Support Efforts in Ukraine

Our church sent \$1,000 from our Tithe Fund to assist the work of Samaritan's Purse in the Ukraine. Here is their note of thanks:

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Our teams are on the ground in Eastern Europe, caring for the suffering as war rages in Ukraine. Samaritan's Purse is meeting the emergency needs of refugees, working in Jesus' Name to care for women and children who have fled from the fighting. We set up our Emergency Field Hospital in Lviv, as well as other outpatient medical facilities in Ukraine, to care for patients who were unable to leave the country. We are working with a network of local churches to minister to hurting people.

Franklin Graham, director of Samaritan's Purse, recently returned from the hospital in Lviv, where they have 100 doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. The city suffered missile strikes while he was there. Many services are provided in the train station, which is a hub for refugees. As he said, "In everything we do, we proclaim the Gospel, obeying Jesus' command: You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8)

Anniversaries & Birthdays

May Birthdays

13 - Susan Miller
 15 - Richard Saville
 18 - Jonathan Langdon
 21 - Barb Fasoldt
 22 - Paula Welch
 23 - Ann Johnson
 24 - James Berggren
 24 - Thomas Berggren
 24 - Helen Hill
 30 - Joyce Coxeter
 30 - Charlie McAdam
 30 - Mark White



We missed Michael & Paula Welch's Anniversary! They just celebrated 21 years of wedded bliss on April 7th!

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)

June Birthdays

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

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!

June Anniversaries

6 - Kevin & Chris Hollenbeck (35 years)
 8 - Fred & Eunie Ely (65 years)
 14 - Seth & Becca McNear (19 years)
 24 - Jim & Stacie Bridge
 25 - Tracy & Loretta Miller (61 years)
 26 - Ken & Nancy Alfes (46 years)

Prayers

Those fighting cancer:

Kris - breast cancer
 Monique - lung cancer
 Barbara Fraser - pancreatic cancer
 Ella Richards
 Dianne Hammack
 Bryan Dzbja
 Wendy Buckland
 Amy - breast cancer
 Nathan Longenecker - brain cancer



Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

All those who have contracted COVID

Harriet Young has been moved to the Jewish Home in Rochester, following a two-week hospital stay at Highland Hospital. Harriet will remain at the Jewish Home for the foreseeable future. Thank you for continuing to pray for Harriet's health and continuing adjustments to many changes in her life.

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)

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

Kate & baby Sophia

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
- Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations
- Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life

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

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>

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

- May 8 - Mother's Day // TAG will meet @ 6 pm
- May 11 - Sessions meeting @ 7 pm
- May 15 - Ladies Tea following worship
- May 19 - Foodlink @ 4 pm (volunteers please arrive at 2:45 pm)
- May 22 - E & M meeting following worship
~New Members Class @ 5 pm
~TAG will meet @ 6 pm
- May 25 - Newsletter deadline by 12 noon
- May 30 - Memorial Day - Office closed
- June 3 - Blood Drive from 1-6 pm





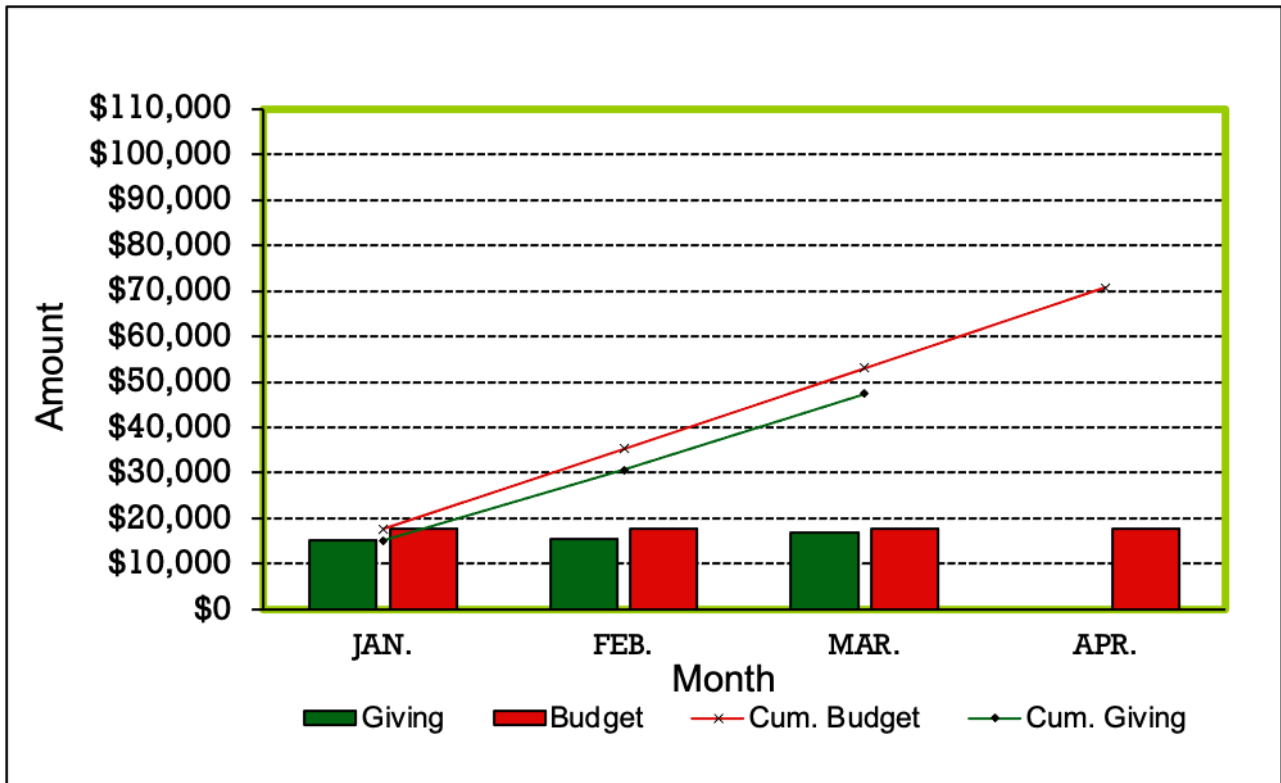
Church Finances

March 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

The giving for March was \$16,782 and about \$1,500 more than the giving from either January or February. However, the three-month total for this year is running \$2,500 behind the three-month giving for 2021. Each month’s giving for this quarter is below the budget target of \$17,658. Expenses were greater for March, as they are for the last month of any quarter, and funds were needed from the Accumulated Income Fund. Nevertheless, the generous giving to the Organ Fund continued in March and another \$15,536 was given, giving a total of \$42,500 thus far received for our organ renovation .



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

Sunday offering:	\$11,763.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,053.84
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$42.78 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$2,965.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	<i>\$16,781.84</i>
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	<i>\$233.64</i>
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$17,015.48

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$21,177.55
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$21,177.55
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,965.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$4,535.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$372.93**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$13,242.03
New Designated Receipts	\$16,658.31
Total Designated Expenditures	\$15,666.02

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$14,234.32**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$14,607.25**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY**Accumulated Income Fund**

• March expenditures	-\$7,500.00
• March Deposits	\$750.00
Current Balance (3/31/2022)	\$36,696.01

Organ Fund

• March Deposits	\$15,535.81
Current Balance (3/31/2022)	\$42,499.69

Tithe Fund

• Samaritan's Purse (Ukraine)	-\$1,000.00
Current Balance (3/31/2022)	\$36,495.78