
From the Pastor

I have a lot of heroes of the Christian faith. To name just a few, George Whitfield, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, and Charles Spurgeon. Another one of those is Charles Hodge. He was a Princeton professor from 1851 to 1878. Even today, one of the main books that seminarians use is his *Systematic Theology*. It was one of my favorite books when I went to seminary. Here are just some of his quotes: "To be in Christ is the source of the Christian life; to be like Christ is the sum of his excellence; to be with Christ is the fullness of his joy," "The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches," and "Prayer is the converse of the soul with God. Therein we manifest or express to Him our reverence, and love for His divine perfection, our gratitude for all His mercies, our penitence for our sins, our hope in His forgiving love, our submission to His authority, our confidence in His care, our desires for His favor, and for the providential and spiritual blessings needed for ourselves and others."

Here is what I like about Charles Hodge the most, that he was not only deeply intellectual, but he had a deep sincerity and emotion to his faith. In fact, there was a word that became associated with Hodge and other Princeton theologians of the time: piety, meaning they just didn't mouth the words of theology, but it touched their personal lives as well.

An example of this for Hodge was his love for his wife and children. An article by David Wegener entitled Charles Hodge: the Presbyterian Pope notes, "Hodge loved his family and all but one of his eight children turned out well. He took an interest in those things that interested his children. One child was interested in playing the violin, so Hodge also learned to play the

instrument. Another child was interested in rabbits and so Hodge bought a bunch of them. Paul [a Hodge biographer] and I were amazed that Hodge's children played in his study while he worked."

Hodges' children playing in his study is one of the things that has always impressed me about him. The reason is because it reminds me of how we have access to our heavenly Dad despite the fact our heavenly Father is completely glorious and holy in every aspect of his being. I realize it is not the same, and yet from Hodge's pen came some of the most profound writings about the Christian life that was ever written, and in the background of what was written was little snot-nosed toddlers who, I am sure, marked all over and tore up his finest works (I speak from experience how this can happen.), and yet, the Holy Spirit had touched Hodges life through the Word of God and the power of the Gospel, it seemed almost unfathomable for Hodge to shoo his children out of the room.

Our Heavenly Dad loves us as his children so much that he will never shoo us away as we are His adopted children. As we will see over this next month, this means that we have access to the Father's throne in prayer, we are disciplined by God as a Father would His children, He brings us an amazing sense of peace in this life, He will never leave or forsake us, and we have an everlasting inheritance as His adopted children. Lord willing, we will look at all of these this month on Sunday mornings.

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

Meals List -- We would like to update it !! Perhaps some of you have been blessed by a meal delivered to you in a time of need. The Deacons keep a list of willing suppliers, and it needs to be refreshed to reflect any and all current willing participants. We rotate through the available names, so as to spread the joy and not overburden a few.

Could we include your name on our list ?? Please let Faith Willhoft, or any other Deacon, know of your willingness. Or if you have been called on in the past, and would like to remove your name, just let us know. We appreciate "all hands on deck" supporting our body of Christ.

A big THANK YOU ! to outgoing Deacons Mark White, and Kevin and Chris Hollenbeck -- and -- Welcome to the "new" Deacons for the coming year, Chris Wright and Bruce Partridge. I appreciate all of you for your willing, serving hearts.

Faith Willhoft, Deacon Moderator

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>

Blood Drive

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, April 1 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 is a mission organized by Samaritan's Purse that sends shoeboxes filled with fun and practical items to children worldwide. In preparation for a church-wide shoebox packing party this fall, we are collecting items throughout the year.

Our collection theme for March is crafts. Crafters and artists, would you consider making something to go into the shoeboxes? Ideas include knit or crocheted hats and gloves, wooden spinning tops, beaded necklaces or bracelets, and homemade stationary kits. Ideas for sewing projects include bags, finger or hand puppets, shorts, dresses, aprons, and potholders. If you enjoy fishing, please consider putting together a kid-friendly, introductory fishing kit.

Additionally, we are continuing to collect crafting materials to make items for the shoeboxes. There is a display of a few crafts near the shoebox collection bin in the church foyer. Ideas of materials to donate include:

- *Jewelry/bead kits: beads, cording/boondoggle.
- *Clothesline kits: clothespins, clothesline.
- *Sewing kits: needles, straight pins, safety pins, thread, buttons, scissors.
- *Handmade memory game: blank index cards, stickers (in duplicate). A sample is on display.
- *Marble game: marbles.
- *Notebooks: copy paper, cardstock, fronts of greeting cards.
- *Pencil kits: Wegmans plastic prescription bags for keeping school supplies together.
- *General supplies: sandwich or snack size Ziploc bags for memory games, clean prescription bottles (washed, with labels and gum removed) for bead, marble, and sewing kits.

Thank you, thank you to everyone for their donations thus far! Thank you also to some at home families who have made notebooks. Please contact Julie Foeller with any questions or ideas for this mission



TAG ~ Teens After God

“Tell Everyone About Jesus!!!!”

Our TAG group is growing, with new teens attending regularly. The time of biblical reflection and discussion in group on Sunday nights have been extremely thoughtful and insightful. Our group is reading through the book of Luke, and the teens are coming up with a statement of "Life Application" for each section of scripture.

After reading Luke 1: 39-80, the teens agreed that, "God will prepare you and provide for you in order to help you accomplish the mission he has for you." When we read Luke 2: 1-21, the teens agreed that we should all, "Tell everyone about Jesus, just like the shepherds did." After our reflection time, the teens always enjoy our competitive group games and activities.

On March 6th we will be having a "Winter Festival" with our youth group. It will take place from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM that evening. Our party will include pizza, snacks, games, and a time of reflection and learning.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Teen Room: March 20th and April 3rd. 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!



TAG - Nuke 'em!!!

Evangelism & Missions

Missionary of the Month: Sarah Speer, Kimia Leprosy Center, Congo



Sarah Speer's heart is knit to the people of Congo. She serves God at the Kimia Leprosy Center in the Congo, dedicated to the Lord to bring healing (physically and spiritually) to people affected by leprosy. Many Aka Pygmies living in the tropical rain forest of the northern region of Congo are plagued by this ancient destructive disease and other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). American Leprosy Missions is partnering with MissionGO to make a difference in these peoples' lives.

Sarah's work at the Kimia Center is vital, as it is the only leprosy center in the region -- and these people would have no other way of getting this treatment. Serge and Sarah teach the Word of God every Sunday at the Kimia Center using Lingala and the Aka (Pygmy) languages. What a joy it is to bring lasting physical treatment coupled with lasting eternal hope for a neglected people.

Sarah and Serge see both physical and spiritual results. In an email sent to our church in late January, Sarah said: **Today we had a church service in the Aka language and our whole group raised their hands to give their hearts to Jesus (10). Please pray for these new babies and their growth.**

The Kymia Center is a respite for those suffering with a horrible disease. The Center has a capacity for 28 residents, where they administer treatment for leprosy. Treatment may last from 6 months to a year depending on the stage of the patient's leprosy. It is important that they are treated at the Center, as the concept of taking the treatment in a timely manner is not well understood in their culture.

Untreated bacteria destroys the skin and nerves over time. Leprosy can cause deformity, crippling, and blindness. With treatment, tremendous effects will occur as the medicine halts the process completely. As it will not repair past cellular damage, Sarah and her co-worker train residents and their families on how to take care of affected limbs (such as wearing socks, using rolled up leaves as a potholder to grab a hot pot to protect nerve damaged hands, etc.) Sarah and Serge proactively take medical trips deep into the tropical rain

forest on a regular basis to find individuals with signs of leprosy and others who need medical attention for various tropical diseases. Sarah and Serge often have to cut out infections, repair broken bones and practice wound care.

Lenten Offering to Support Sarah's Mission Work

In order to assist Sarah in her life-changing work, the Evangelism and Mission Committee has named Sarah and the Kymia Leprosy Center to be the recipient of our annual Lenten Offering. Here are some of the things suggested by Sarah that can be purchased for her work:

- A tent to provide some shelter when they have to go into the jungle in search of lepers. The Aka people are shy and often hide those suffering from leprosy.
- Special (VERY EFFECTIVE) dressings for the very difficult foot ulcers that we have to deal with.
- Purchase of leprosy medicine. Ordinarily the World Health Organization supplies this medicine free of charge to Congo, but we have been without it since 2019.

Prayerfully consider what you want to contribute during Lent to support this mission in the Congo. Contributions may be made online or by check in the offering boxes in the church lobby or by mailing a check (just like our regular tithes and offerings). Note on the contributions "Lenten Offering" or Sarah Speer.

Special Covid Relief Funds for Mission in Albania

Our church has been supporting the mission work of Berti and Adelina Berhami in Albania for several decades. Berti continues to advance in leadership of the Eastern and Western European teams spreading the gospel in many of the countries throughout Europe.

Berti was invited to be part of the European Leadership team. Beside Albania and Kosovo, now he is providing leadership to Bosnia and Montenegro as a country coach. "I hope and pray that you will be supportive of such extended territory and stretch with me for an impact beyond Albania," he says.

Ministry priorities:

As a new team he and the other leaders came together to seek God concerning their next strategic steps. Considering the exodus of Albanians toward Western Europe these thirty years, the potential of

Campus Churches, and the changes in their culture, here are 3 of their priorities:

- Targeting Albanian Diaspora in Europe (by networking, empowering, & mobilizing alumni)
- Building vision & strategy for Church Planting Hubs on every major campus (6 hubs)
- Cultivating a culture of diversity in the way they do ministry (by recognizing and employing gifts, talents, & expertise to reach ministry goals)

But Covid has disrupted contributions to support the Berhamis and their ministry, forcing limitations on some of the programs that have been successful in sharing the gospel in the past. In order to help with this, the Evangelism and Missions Committee has authorized sending \$1,000 from our church's Covid Relief Fund to the Berhamis to help restore some of the programs.

Foodlink

Foodlink Distributions Resume March 17, Thursday

FoodLink distribution will resume on Thursday, March 17, in our church parking lot. Distribution will be similar to prior years. The truck with food will arrive at 3 pm. We will unload and begin serving our clients about 3:45.

We need volunteers! Please mark your calendar and arrive about 2:45. All ages are welcome.

We will be hosting food distributions the third Thursday of each month through June.

Please mark your calendars for March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16. We hope you will volunteer and join us as we help feed our neighbors in need.

Buffalo and Brandy Show

Join the Byron-Bergen Library for our Annual Pre-K show

April 6th at 9:30 am

at the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church
as we host

Buffalo and Brandy's Musical Storytelling Show!
Children will be swept into an imaginary 'storybook world' while being encouraged to sing, dance, and play musical instruments. A fun event for all!!

Athletes in Rochester Say "Thanks!"

Gary and Jhan Sauer of Athletes in Rochester were the recipients of our Christmas Eve offering. Gary and Jhan spread the gospel and minister to college athletes in the Rochester area, including on the Brockport campus. Here's what they said:

Dear BEPC,

We want to thank you for your continued support of our ministry. You blessed us again with your Christmas offering to us. Your sacrifice will make it possible for us to continue ministering to these athletes. God bless you for being a blessing!

Gary & Jhan

Parkfest is Returning This June

Plans are underway for the return of the Bergen Parkfest on Saturday, June 11. We will have a church booth again to feature some of the programs we offer, such as VBS and Sports Camp. Shirley Harris and Joan Dermody already have plans underway. Watch for more information as spring approaches

VBS Brings Good News to Community. Volunteers Needed!

We are hoping to return to our traditional form of Vacation Bible School this summer. School-age children through high school are welcome. Past years have brought kids totaling nearly 100 to learn about Jesus in August.

In order to plan for such an important event, we need volunteers. At this point, it is essential to identify a chair or co-chairs to coordinate the event. If you feel God prodding you, please let the office or Pastor Brandt know. This is the first of the volunteer positions that need to be filled so planning can proceed.

There will be many other volunteers needed. If you are at all open to the possibility of helping, please let the church office or Brandt know. Of course, dates and details will need to be confirmed, but this will give us a sense of numbers of volunteers we may have. We will need everything from teachers to group escorts.

And, similar to earlier years, Sports Camp will return to the Village Park with similar dates as VBS. Watch for more details and be ready to volunteer.

Sewing With a Purpose

It amazes me how God is moving with this Sewing With a Purpose ministry. I'd like to share this short story:

I received a call in late December 2021 from a 29- year young engineer explaining how at a loss he was for what he experienced at work.

On December 28, a female employee came to his office and stood in the doorway. Several minutes passed and she still said nothing..... The young engineer was uncertain what was happening, but waited. She crossed her arms feeling uncomfortable, but not leaving..... It seemed like 20 minutes went by and the middle aged female said, "My son died on Christmas Day"..... Nothing else was said. She wanted her employer to know, but didn't want to talk about it.

This hurting employee lost her son 3 days ago on Christmas Day! The sympathetic manager wanted to give the employee a hug, but of course with Covid numbers rising that was not possible. But he did say, "I would like to hug you". She just wanted to share this with him. He felt so helpless. You aren't taught this in your engineering courses at college.

She also did not go to Human Resources. She came to her supervisor, because she wanted him to know. This demonstrated that the supervisor was approachable. She came to him to share this sad news.

A few weeks ago, this supervisor was on the production floor at the plant and intentionally stood next to the employee who lost her son. She knew why he was there even though no words were spoken.

I have been reading the Stephen Ministers book, "Don't Sing Songs to a Grieving Heart" by Dr Kenneth Haugk. It talks about just being present with the person who has lost someone, sometimes not even uttering any words. Being present with them helps more than one realizes. I shared this with the engineer reassuring him that he had done exactly what the author suggested we do.

This morning I received 2 texts from the engineer. The first one read, "Spoke with the employee who lost her son for some time today. She told me she cries all the time and staying busy at work helps." The second text said, "Can you make a prayer shawl for her?"

This is not the first time people from our Congregation have looked around the office, or workplace or thought about a relative experiencing difficulty. We all need to be attuned to those suffering around us and look for ways to help. Just being there is the first step.



Stitching Helps People in Need

Sewing With a Purpose continues to create items for people in need, and the efforts of many talented seamstresses in our church are attracting support from other churches as well.

Resurrection Parish Quilt Ministry (St. Mary's Church) in Batavia has provided flannel hearts to our church's SWAP efforts to go to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Strong Hospital in Rochester. With their most recent contribution, the Resurrection Parish folks donated 175 total hearts to us to give to the hospital.

During the past month our church's SWAP team has offered prayer shawls, port cushions, and has teddy bears on hand for the county's domestic violence program. They have also partnered with the veteran ministry team and made fleece blankets for the homeless veterans at Eagle Star Housing

Anniversaries & Birthdays

March Birthdays

- 4 - Nancy Charcholla
- 4 - Debbie McAllister
- 5 - Delaney Baker
- 8 - Susan Brownell
- 10 - Stewart Freeman
- 15 - Janice Langdon
- 18 - Kay Harmon
- 21 - Faith Willhoft
- 24 - Sue Kobel
- 26 - Jacob Buckland-Seward
- 26 - Matthew Foeller
- 29 - Paul Lattimer
- 29 - Allen Ruge
- 30 - Elizabeth Minniear



March Anniversaries

- 19 - Bruce & Cathy Glucksman (39 years)
- 29 - Dave & Chris Wright (14 years)
- 30 - Marty & Jean Mucher (47 years)

April Birthdays

- 2 - Rachel Kobel
- 9 - Josiah Haas
- 11 - Cathy Glucksman
- 12 - June Hahn
- 14 - Mason Buckland
- 14 - David Snell
- 15 - Jebidiah Buckland-Seward
- 18 - Alden Snell
- 22 - Sean McNear
- 23 - Julie Foeller
- 28 - Bev Rogers

April Anniversaries

- 4 - Ruth & Harvey Morse (52 years)
- 12 - Garry & Wendy Hutchurson (53 years)
- 16 - Dale & Diane White (34 years)
- 23 - Bob & Kathy Cosgrove (56 years)
- 24 - Ernest & Sally Thomas (51 years)

Prayers

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 vonBergen ministry to the Middle East through Arabic Bible Outreach Ministry
- Teachers in Sierra Leone with EduNations
- Tim Riley with Genesee County Young Life

Those fighting cancer:

- Monique - lung cancer
- Barbara Fraser - pancreatic cancer
- Ella Richards
- Dianne Hammack
- Diane & Joe
- Bryan Dzbia
- Wendy Buckland
- Amy - breast cancer
- Nathan Longenecker - brain cancer



Dan Forno
 Stacy Cline
 Elaine Malkani
 Sharon - colon cancer

Those with ongoing challenges and needs:

All those who have contracted COVID
 Harriet Young (still in ICU, off ventilator but still facing several medical issues) (Neva Lattimer’s aunt)
 Cora Canzano (infant with medical issues)
 Virginia (990 years old, medical issues)
 Christ Martz (eye issues)
 Henry and Diane Hammack (Pastor Brandt's parents)
 Marty’s father, Gary Shaw
 Rusty Breton (ALS)
 Scott Reding/wife Amanda (42-year old son ill since 2020)
 Ritchie (Bruce Gluckman’s brother-in-law)
 Kate & baby Sophia

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

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. SOME OF YOU HAVE MAIL THAT HAS BEEN THERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. *Thank you!*

Don’t Forget To Set Your Clocks Ahead by 1 Hour on Saturday, March 12th

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

- March 1 - Susan into the office late
- March 2 - Ash Wednesday
- March 6 - Communion Sunday
- March 6 - TAG youth “Winter Festival” @ 4 pm
- March 6 - Food Collection Sunday
- March 12 - Don’t forget to Spring Forward 1 hour
- March 13 - Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 17 - Foodlink Distribution @ 4 pm
- March 20 - Missions Sunday
- March 22 - Deacons @ 7 pm
- March 25 - Newsletter Deadline
- April 1 - Blood Drive 1-6 pm





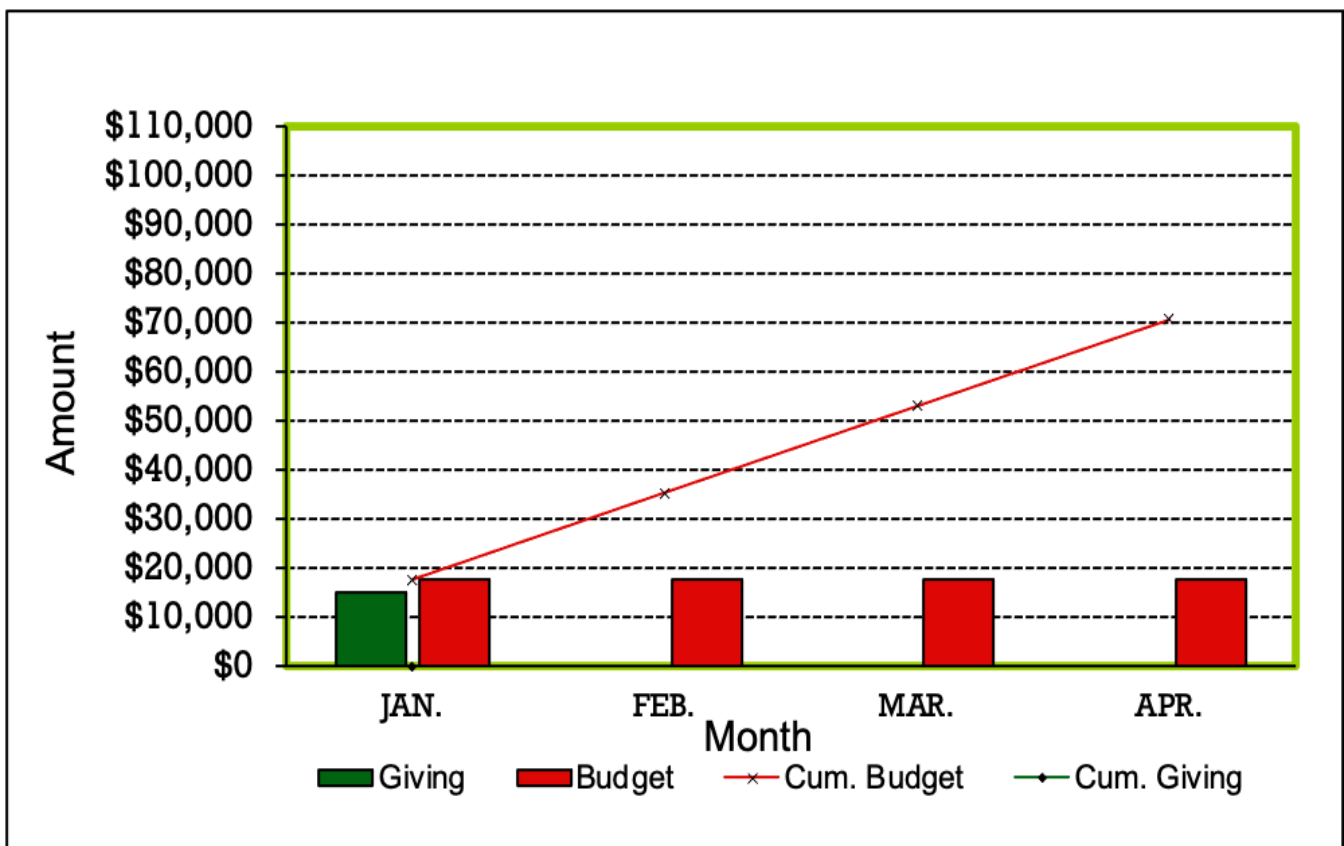
Church Finances January 2022

“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.”

I Chron. 29:14,16

The giving for January of \$15,117 was below the budget target of \$17,658 but was in our typical January giving for the past few years. Expenses were higher, closer to the budget goal and we had to access the Accumulated Income Fund for \$790. Giving to the AIF by those who choose to make a one-time lump sum payment for the year was significant, giving a total of \$32,500 in January.

We have already seen some significant monetary support of the Organ Renovation Fund Drive - \$13,080 was received late in 2021 and so far this year we have received \$13,390 to give a total of over \$26,000.



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

Sunday offering:	\$10,365.00
Net Online Offering:	\$2,042.05
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$42.19 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,710.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$15,117.05
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$1,089.09
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$16,206.14

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$16,547.24
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$16,547.24
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,710.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$790.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$448.90**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$24,990.24
New Designated Receipts	\$4,575.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$11,358.25

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$18,206.99**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$18,655.89**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• January Expenditures	-\$3,500.00
• January Deposits	\$32,500.00
Current Balance (1/31/2022)	\$45,659.59

Organ Fund

• Transfer from the designated fund	\$14,697.20
• Transfer from the Seward Memorial	\$2,283.07
• Transfer from Rogers Music Fund	\$10,000.00
Current Balance (1/31/2022)	\$26,165.65

Memorial Fund

• Seward transfer to the organ fund	-\$2,283.07
Current Balance (1/31/2022)	\$13,722.19