
From the Pastor

For the past articles, I have considered the different ways of evangelizing. We have looked at direct evangelism, apologetics, relationship evangelism, service evangelism, and empathy evangelism. For this article, I want us to consider what I call community evangelism.

What's community evangelism? It is an effort to bring people to Christ through the means of a local church. Those who use this type of evangelism see the local church as vital in terms of showing people what the Christian life is like as lived out in a community of faith. There are several things that those who use this gift consider to be vital.

The first vital aspect to community evangelism is worshipping together, and especially hearing the Bible being preached. As Romans 10:14 and 17 put it: "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

However, this is not all that is important for someone who cares about community evangelism. The second vital important aspect is that the non-Christians that encounter the preached Word experience the love and care of a church family as they sit under the preached Word as well. For them, the words of John 13:34-35 ("A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.") and John 17:21, 23 ("That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.... I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.") are vital Bible verses that they

view as essential in reaching this world for Christ.

There are some weaknesses to community evangelism. One of them is the tendency to think that if new people are coming to church, they have become Christians. Yes, it's great when they come and they hear the Gospel through the preaching and teaching of the Bible, and they see faith being played out before them in a Gospel community, and the likelihood of them becoming Christians increases greatly, but we must never take that for granted.

The second weakness is that the strategy of inviting people to church worked great decades ago, but we live in a different society now. It's a society that has largely left church culture behind, and the chances of someone entering the doors of a church is becoming more unusual. That's difficult for me to write as community evangelism is my favorite way of going about seeking to bring people to Christ. This doesn't mean that we don't need to strive to do community evangelism and we need people who are passionate about it. It just means that other ways might be more productive.

So there is one last thing that we need to understand about community evangelism, and that is people like myself who love this type of evangelism are deeply interested in seeing churches be more and more friendly and edifying to those that are not Christians. That is something that I deeply love about our church as it is a very loving, caring church. Of course, we can always strive to do better and make our church even more open and friendly to outsiders, especially young families, but Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian is a church that I delight in inviting others to because I know they will hear the Gospel and will see the Christian faith being played out in a loving, caring community.

Pastor Brandt



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Tues & Thurs: 12 - 4 pm
Pastor's Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday
9:30 am - noon (flexible)



TAG ~ Teens After God

Place Your Full Trust in God!

TAG Youth Group is thriving and growing, with new teens showing up regularly. Many of our teens also showed up to help at the first 2024 Foodlink distribution at the church on March 21st. The teens fulfilled various roles, ranging from handing out food, to carrying boxes with food to cars, to moving and organizing tables and pallets. Thank you to everyone who showed up to shine the light of Jesus into our community that day. In youth group on March 17th we read, discussed, and reflected on Luke Chapter 8 verses 26-39. In these verses, Jesus casts a “Legion” of demons out of a possessed man. Each week I challenge the teens to come up with an application of the scripture read, which is relevant to them in their own life. The teens found discerning a real-life-application difficult for this particular passage, but in the end decided that this passage reinforced to them the fact that God can overcome anything and you can place your full trust in Him!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: April 7th, and April 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!



*TAG Teens Helping at Foodlink -
March 21, 2024*

Concert Series Continues . . .

Be sure to join us for the final three performances of our spring concert series celebrating the restoration of our church’s pipe organ:

Sunday, April 14, 2024, 6pm: Jaclyn Breeze, flute

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 6pm: George Collichio, guitar

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 6pm: Organists from the Eastman School of Music

Thank you to everyone who has helped set up this series, especially the E&M Committee and the Fellowship Team!

Be sure to check out the organ page on our church’s website, where you can find links to a Penny Saver article about the restoration project, a Genesee Life interview Alden did on WBTA with Lucine Kauffman, and recordings of the first two concerts:

<https://www.epcbergen.org/organ-news>



Fellowship Committee

Thank you AGAIN for the cookies for the concert in March and the upcoming April concerts!!

We hope that you are enjoying the Sunday lunches after the service. If you would like to contribute, we would welcome side dishes and desserts. Please contact Jen White or Sandy Partridge.

We are looking forward to the Ladies Tea on Saturday April 20th at noon. We will be serving quiches. Look for more details in Life in the Church as we get closer to the date.

We will also host a luncheon with E&M on April 21st when Teen Challenge visits with us. Please join us!

Again, if you have any ideas for lunch menus or fellowship events, or would like to help, please contact any of us.

The Fellowship Team

Missions Updates

Adult & Teen Challenge Coming April 21

Rochester Teen Challenge is our Mission of the Month for April. They will attend and participate in leading portions of our service on April 21.

Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge is a faith-based solution for the drug epidemic. Taking a holistic approach, we provide services designed to help with the spiritual, mental, emotional, social and physical wellness of those struggling with addiction. Through proven solutions for life-controlling issues, the hope is for lives to be transformed, where graduates flourish as contributing members of a family, church, workplace, and community—free from addiction.

The Rochester facility 160 Northaven Terrace provides 12 months of care and support. The benefits of the long-



term residential, discipleship program are many. The students enter a loving, supportive, Christian community and are mentored by others who have walked the same path to freedom. They are given the opportunity to cultivate the life practice of personal prayer, daily devotions and so much more.

When the team visits our service, there will be between 20 and 25 participants who will provide personal testimonies, special music and a scripture-based message. Afterward, the Fellowship Committee will offer a special lunch when we can speak with the participants and get to know them better.

Our church supported Teen Challenge in Rochester many years ago, and now we are back providing financial support in the Evangelism and Missions budget. The Rochester program is offering tours of their facility. We may be organizing a trip to visit and see the facility. Check out more about Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge at www.rochesteratc.org.

Foodlink Resumes on a Chilly March Afternoon

Thank you to all the brave volunteers who came to distribute food in March as we resumed our monthly distributions. It was a blessing for the clients who came to receive items. Foodlink is reporting some of the highest demand for food in recent years.

Our next distribution is Thursday, April 18. Volunteers of all ages are needed. Volunteers should show up by 2:45 as we begin to unload the truck at 3 pm. Volunteers are asked to park in the Methodist Church parking lot.

E&M Committee Meets April 14

The meeting will be after the worship service. If you are interested in knowing more about what the Evangelism and Missions Committee does, please join us. All are welcome.

Uli Sends Prayer Requests from Mexico

Uli, our missionary in the Mexico City region, has sent a newsletter. Look for it on the missions bulletin board. He ended with prayer requests:

- The Lord's provision to continue the building project.
- For the church's outreaches to continue have a great impact in our community
- God's grace with local authorities

Uli in Mexico:

There are so many things to share, so I decided to share with you an experience while teaching in a Rehab center. Often, we must deal with young people that needs to be send a rehab center. Unfortunately, it is becoming more common these days. Therefore, we decided to visit one of these rehab centers and I was invited to share the gospel with them.



We decided to go there and give them clothes and make several "Mexican Torta" for them. As you can see in the picture below, is bread with refried beans and ham, and of course hot peppers! They felt so blessed!



Ulianov & Dina

Eagle Stars Ready for Eclipse Event



Calendar **Online calendar:** tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr

Weekly/Monthly

- First Sunday of the month - Communion
- First Sunday of the month – Salvation Army Food Collection
- Sundays, 9:15 am - Sunday School for All Ages
- Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am – Morning Worship
- Sunday following worship (unless there is a committee luncheon) is “Fattening the Flock” coffee & snack time.
- Mondays, 1 pm - Tech Class
- Tue & Thurs - Homeschooling Co-op
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – Prayer
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 5 pm - Preaching Class
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers
- Thursdays, 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts
- Saturdays, 2 pm – Kid’s Quest (meeting at the local park if weather permits)
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25th of each month
- Last Saturday of the month – Door of Hope Coffee House @ 6 pm (April 27 this month)

Other Events in April

- April 1 - Office closed for Easter holiday
- April 7 - Fellowship Committee meeting @ 12:15 pm
- April 7 - TAG @ 6 pm
- April 8 - Solar Eclipse - office closes at 1:30 pm, NO Technology Class this day.
- April 10 - Session meeting @ 7 pm
- April 11 - Brandt @ Reformation Society
- April 12 - Younglife Wyldlife Club @ 7 pm
- April 14 - Concert Series featuring Jaclyn Breeze on flute @ 6 pm
- April 17 - Library Pre-K Show @ 8:30 am (Momma Goose on the Loose)
- April 18 - Foodlink @ 4 pm
- April 20 - Ladies Tea @ noon
- April 21 - Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge join us for worship - Lunch to Follow
- April 21 - New Member Class @ 6 pm

- April 21 - TAG @ 6 pm
- April 23 - Deacons meeting @ 7 pm
- April 26 - Younglife Wyldlife Club @ 7 pm
- April 27 - Bluhm/Schrenker Wedding Shower @ 11 am
- April 27 - Special Door of Hope concert featuring local guitarist, George Collichio
- April 28 - Worship Committee meeting @ 12:15 pm

Anniversaries & Birthdays

April Birthdays

- 12 - June Hahn
- 14 - Mason Buckland
- 14 - David Snell
- 15 - Jebidiah Buckland-Seward
- 18 - Alden Snell
- 21 - Christine Martz
- 22 - Sean McNear
- 23 - Julie Foeller
- 28 - Bev Rogers



April Anniversaries

- 4 - Ruth & Harvey Morse (54 years)
- 7 - Michael & Paula Welch (23 years)
- 12 - Garry & Wendy Hutchurson (55 years)
- 16 - Dale & Diane White (36 years)
- 23 - Bob & Kathy Cosgrove (58 years)

May Birthdays



- 13 - Justin Newmark
- 13 - Susan Miller
- 15 - Richard Saville
- 21 - Barb Fasoldt
- 22 - Paula Welch
- 23 - Ann Johnson
- 24 - Helen Hill
- 25 - Ward Bailey
- 30 - Joyce Coxeter
- 30 - Charlie McAdam
- 30 - Mark White

May Anniversaries

- 13 - Joe & Jocelyn Rebisz (24 years)
- 23 - Erik & Renee Berggren (42 years)
- 25 - John & Janet Wise (50 years)
- 27 - Bruce & Sandy Partridge (46 years)
- 29 - David & Sonya Catalino (30 years)



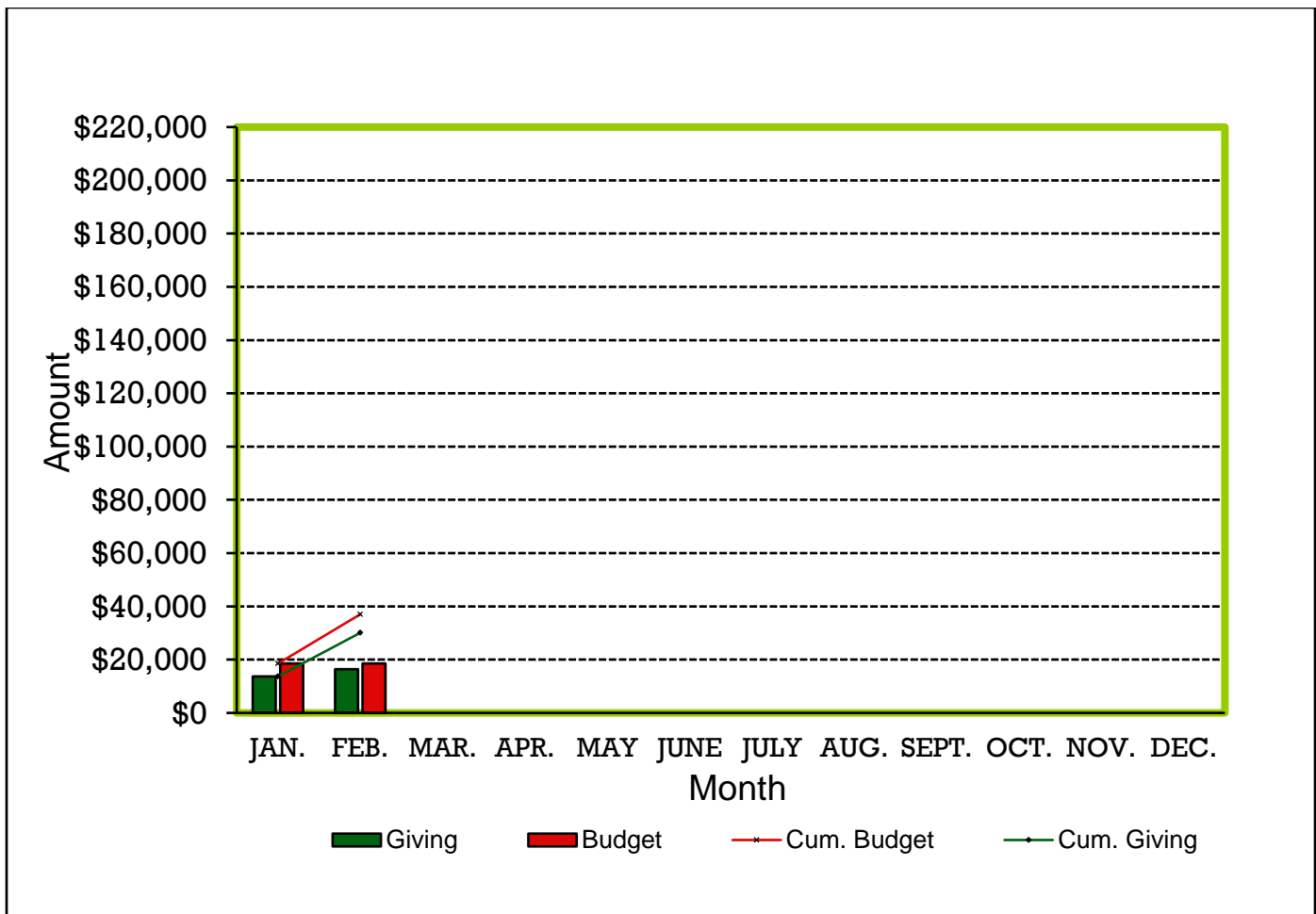
Church Finances

February 2024

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

Malachi 3:10

February's giving was \$16,355 for the monthly financial support of the annual budget. Based on the approved 2024 annual budget, the monthly support needed is \$18,521 per month. This is about \$2,166 less than what is needed monthly. Expenses were as is expected for a typical February; nevertheless, no funds from the AIF were needed to pay the bills.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$12,727.00
Net Online Offering:	\$687.53
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$17.28 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,940.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$16,354.53
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$650.64
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$17,005.17

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$13,805.03
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$13,805.03
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$0.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$0.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$2,940.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$260.14**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$10,719.81
New Designated Receipts	\$229.31
Total Designated Expenditures	\$96.45

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$10,852.67**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$11,112.81**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• February Deposit	\$2,000.00
Current Balance (2/29/2024)	\$39,485.00

Tithe Fund

• Care Net Center of Greater Orleans (Organ Fund Tithe)	\$2,000.00
• All Babies Cherished (Organ Fund Tithe)	\$1,786.69
Current Balance (2/29/2024)	\$ 42,449.00



PUZZLE



Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection, and each one offers important details.

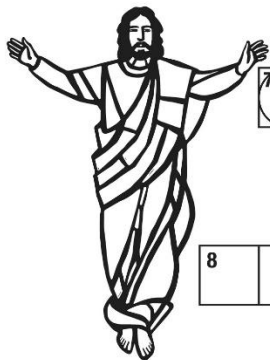
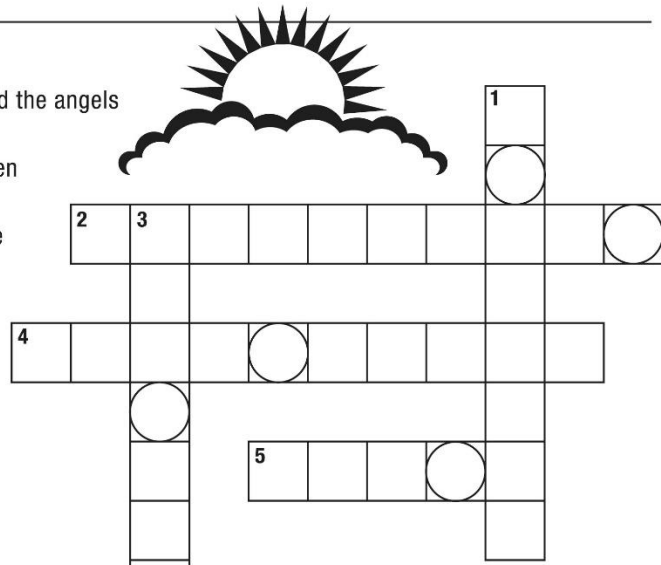
Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.

ACROSS

- 2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
- 4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
- 5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
- 7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
- 8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

DOWN

- 1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
- 3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
- 6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?

"I _ m ascen _ ing _ o my Fat _ er and your Fa _ her, to _ y _ od and your God."
Joh _ 20:17, NIV

Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen; DOWN 1. gardener, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17, NIV