
From the Pastor

Normally, I use this space as a preview of upcoming sermons for the following month. However, I will not be here for much of November, so I decided to take a different route. I wanted to write about a book that I am reading, *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson*. Sadly, I have only read about half of the book, but the first half has been excellent.

Soon after Adoniram entered seminary, he and his wife, Ann, known as Nancy, began to feel the call to be missionaries. At first, he went to India, but he ended up in Burma on July 13, 1813. It was very difficult for he and Nancy, including the loss of a child, Roger at the age of 7 months. They both worked very hard at trying to reach the Burmese people, but it took them seven years before they even saw a single convert.

In Burma, the official religion was Buddhism, and they did not receive much persecution. That all changed in 1820 when they met with the new emperor, Bagyidaw. The Judsons went before the new king to present the Gospel, but when he read these words from a paper they gave him, "There is one Being who exists eternally; who is exempt from sickness, old age, and death; who is, and was, and will be, without beginning and without end. Besides this, the true God, there is no other God," he dropped the paper and eventually ordered the missionaries out of his sight.

The Judsons decided it would be best to leave Burma so they would not receive persecution under the new emperor, and tried to convince their converts (it was up to three now) to leave with them. However, the converts tried desperately to convince the Judsons to stay. After spending time in prayer, they decided to stay.

What was remarkable was the newfound courage of the new converts, which caused the church to expand quickly. They soon had 10 converts and despite the

threat of persecution, they continued to grow.

Sadly, that is where I left off. (I hope to finish the book soon.) But in researching other sources, I found out just how influential Adoniram was, which is felt to this day: "the Myanmar Baptist Convention to be 3,700 congregations with 617,781 members and 1,900,000 affiliates — the fruit of Judson's" labors (<https://www.christianunion.org/the-magazine/3065-the-legacy-of-adoniram-judson>). Looking at a timeline of Judson's life, I can see that it was very difficult, including prison.

So, what happened to Adoniram to make him so bold? What set him off to be a missionary in the first place, knowing he was putting him and his family in danger? I think we are given insight into that when we read of the words that inspired him in the first place to be a missionary. This was a sermon titled "For we have seen His Star in the East, and are come to worship Him" by Claudius Buchanan:

Judson said that the reading of Buchanan's sermon had two effects on him. First, in February, 1810, while walking alone, he arrived at a moment of decision: 'The command of Christ, 'Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,' was presented to my mind with such clearness and power, that I came to a full decision, and though great difficulties appeared in my way, resolved to obey the command at all events.' Thus, at age 21, the Word of God, brought to his mind by the Spirit, solidified his future course. Second, Buchanan's sermon focused Judson's gaze on the East."

As I have been reading this book, and reflecting upon his life and ministry, my hope is that I would follow Christ's command wherever He might put me, just as the Judsons desired to. May I have a heart that not only beats after Christ, but also a heart that beats a desire to share the Gospel with those all around me.



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(585-732-6163) Website: www.bergenepc.com
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)

Annual Reports

It is that dreaded time of year again . . . time for the committees to get their Annual Reports to the Administrative Assistant. The absolute deadline for report submission is December 31! The Annual Congregational Meeting is January 22, 2023. Here are the reports that need to be in:

- “Nominees Names to present” need to be in
- List of Church Staff for 2022
- List of members of Church Leadership for 2022
- Pastor’s Report
- Youth Ministry Report
- Sessions Report
- Deacons Report
- Property Committee Report
- Son Risers Report
- Youth Leader Report
- Worship Committee Report
- Christian Ed Ministry Report
- Personnel Committee Report
- E & M Annual Report (including list of missionaries and groups we supported in 2022)
- Sewing With A Purpose Report
- Young Life Annual Report
- Fellowship Annual Report
- Treasurer’s Report
- Report of the Finance Team
- Memorials
- Invested Funds
- Expenditures VS. Budget
- Auditor’s Report
- Church Budget for 2023

The Annual Meeting is where the election of new officers takes place. It is also the meeting where any questions about the new budget can be asked and where the congregation votes on the new budget’s proposed salary and benefits package for the Pastor. Please mark the date (January 22, 2023) on your calendar and plan to attend.

Children’s Christmas Party

We will be holding a Children’s Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10th at 10 am. There will be games and a gift exchange (we ask that, if able, each child bring in a small gift [under \$5 please!])



CAROLING

Join us as we go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 11th! After worship, we will have a light lunch of pizza and subs after which we will go Christmas Caroling. If you are interested, please contact Chris Wright at (585) 737-5595, or just show up!



Eagle Star Homeless Veterans



We will be collecting WINTER socks for the Eagle Star Homeless Veterans. We need 20 pairs for the Christmas bags. There will be a labeled box in the lobby for the collection.

Thank you for caring for our Veterans!

Sewing With a Purpose

Sewing With a Purpose is recruiting knitters to make hats for the Veteran Ministry. It is a simple pattern (knit 2 purl 2). If anyone is interested, please talk with a knitting team member -- Shirley von Bergen, Helen Hill, Barbara Fasoldt, Shirl Harris, Jan Harris, or Debbie McAllister. SWP can provide the yarn for your project. We need 12 hats by Christmas. Here are some sample hats



Deacons

Ron and Kay Harmon are long-time faithful members of our church, but were perhaps not often seen or heard. Both of them have huge servant hearts, and are very caring of others. With Ron now with the Lord, Kay has stepped down from Deacon duties. All the present and past Deacons who served with them are so grateful for the Harmons' giving hearts. They left a big hole in our Deacon board this year, but the Lord has provided!! Ruth Morse has agreed to step in to fill the gap, and was recently approved by congregational vote to be a Deacon. We appreciate Ruth's willingness, and if you know her at all, you know she has been quietly serving others in our church body for many years.

Thank you, KAY, for your years of service ----- and Thank you, RUTH, for stepping up to serve in an official capacity.

Coming Up -- Plans are in the works for the Deacons to minister to our college students as well as our shut-ins. Stay tuned.....

Fellowship

Save the date for the **Harvest Dinner**, Sunday, November 13, 2022! (following the service).

We know that there is a Bills game scheduled for that day, but the action never starts until the second half anyway 🏈 🏈, so you'll have plenty of time to catch the rest of the game!

We are looking for a group of people that would be willing to help with clean up following the dinner (putting away tables and chairs, sweeping the floor, and helping with dishes). Please let Sandy Partridge know if you are able to help.

More details to follow in Life in the Church and the bulletin.

We have re-started coffee hour this fall. If you have any suggestions and/or are willing to help setup or clean up, we would welcome the help.



Thank you,
The Fellowship
Team

TAG ~ Teens After God

REVERB!!!!

The annual **REVERB** (formerly "Superbowl") youth event takes place in Rochester on the 4th and 5th of November. It is an all-night event that includes a Rochester Americans hockey game, awesome group activities on the ice after the game, a phenomenal message given by a nationally known evangelist, all you can eat pizza, all night Tri-county Sports Complex athletic events, glow in the dark bowling, go-carts, arcade games, and more. Almost 1,300 teens will be attending this year and many will give their lives to the Lord for the first time. We will be traveling by bus with 48 teens and leaders from our TAG group. Please pray for all the teens, leaders, and volunteers who will be attending the event.

Many of the teens attending with our group this year are non-believers and will be hearing the gospel message for the first time. I tell all the TAG teens that I will cover the full cost of the event for any non-Christian friends they invite. Amazingly, this year we have so many friends attending that I could really use help covering the cost of their tickets. Their tickets cost \$25.00 each and we have almost 20 non-Christians attending. So, in addition to prayer for all of these kids, it would be awesome if you would prayerfully consider sponsoring a teen (or several) for this event. Checks can be made out to Joe Rebisz and put in my church mailbox. If you would like to know the first name of the teen(s) you are sponsoring, so you can pray for them and their salvation that evening, please call or text me (Joe Rebisz) at 585-794-8295 and I will give you that information. Thank you for your continued generosity, support, and prayers for TAG teens, leaders, and friends.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00: November 20th and December 4th. 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!



Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox packing season is here! We have four tid-bits to share this month.

(1) Our church-wide shoebox packing party will be on November 6th, directly after the church service. There will be pizza to follow. We hope to see you there! Thank you to everyone for your donations throughout the year toward this mission! If you would like to donate money to offset the shipping costs for the shoeboxes we pack at church, please mark your offering envelope "for shoeboxes" and place your donation in one of the white offering boxes located at the sanctuary entrances.

(2) There are empty shoeboxes, located at the two sanctuary entrances, for those who would like to pack shoeboxes at home. Please remember to also pick up the tri-folded handout. It contains a boy/girl label for your shoebox and an envelope for the suggested \$10 donation per shoebox. Shoeboxes packed at home need to be returned to the church by November 20th.

(3) For those who are online savvy, Samaritan's Purse (the organization that runs Operation Christmas Child) has several additional options. For example, you can pack a shoebox at home and pay the \$10 shipping cost online. Alternatively, you can pack a shoebox entirely online. These online options allow you to link your email to the boy/girl label on your shoebox. This will allow you to track your shoebox to its destination country. More information about these online options may be found in the tri-folded handouts at church or online at <https://samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

(4) Please join us in prayer. We are praying that the children receiving these shoeboxes will find joy in the items they receive. We are also, most importantly, praying that these children and their families will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus and accept him as their Savior.

Please contact Julie Foeller with any questions.



Poinsettias

The time is fast approaching when the Poinsettia order forms will be distributed in your worship bulletins. The deadline for orders this year will be December 4th. More information to come.



Request for Paper Bags

Our supply of plastic bags for food distribution is running low. Foodlink no longer provides these bags to us for free. If you have extra paper bags, would you please consider bringing them to church? We will collect the bags in a bin located in the church foyer, near the water fountain. Thank you!



November Mission Focus: Veterans Outreach

Honoring our veterans is the focus of the church family's missions in November. Shirley Harris and Joan Dermody coordinate a monthly visit to Eagle Star Housing in East Pembroke, which is a residence for homeless veterans. They share fellowship, love and care for the men who reside there for six-month periods as they are assisted with finding permanent housing.

Veterans' Day is celebrated in November and will be the focus at our Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 13, after the worship service. We will be honoring those in our church family who served in the military, plus, we hope to be joined by some of the Eagle Star residents.

The church supports the veterans' outreach through the E&M budget. Sewing with a Purpose is knitting hats for each resident for Christmas. Shirley and Joan are also receiving donations for socks and toiletries. They always welcome others who want to visit the veterans with them.

This year, the team has made an initial contact with the women veterans who are in temporary housing on the VA Medical Center campus in Batavia.

Feminine Hygiene Kits Delivered!

Some stories begin with a flourish, slowdown in the middle and then have a surprise ending. This is one such story.



In 2019, Sewing with a Purpose, with financial support from E&M, began making feminine hygiene kits for HIV positive teens

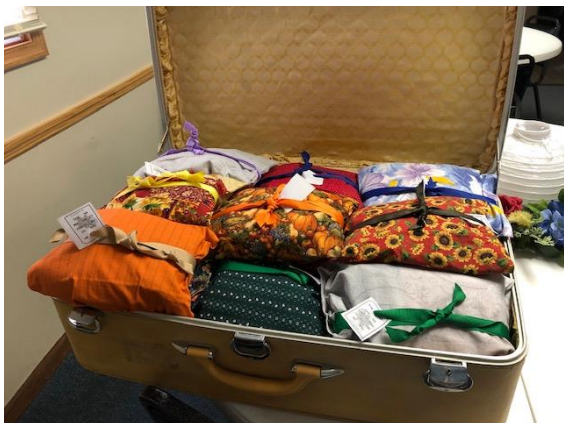
in Kenya. Women from SWP, their friends, and a group of snowbirds in Florida, began sewing all the pieces (12 per kit) and collecting other needed items.

A total of 90 kits were sent to Kenya from October 2019 – April 2021. Then progress slowed. Although we had lots of sewn pieces

ready to go, we could no longer send them to Kenya. The boxes of items sat for over a year.



Then in July 2022, we learned “accidentally” that a team from Northgate Church in Batavia would be going to a village in Rwanda in August. They wanted to take feminine hygiene kits to the girls in an elementary school of 1200 children but they had no source for the kits!



From a casual driveway get together in Hidden Meadows, SWP and friends swung into action. In less than a month, many hands and hearts worked together to complete and assemble 90 kits!

The three suitcases filled with the kits passed through customs and were taken to the village where they have now been distributed to the girls, and SWP has now used all the items that were sewn for the kits! It has been amazing to see how God works in surprising ways! Many thanks to all who helped with this project!



Kits received!

October FoodLink Serves Large Crowd

More than 500 of our community neighbors were served during the October FoodLink distribution as numbers of people seeking food continues to grow. Our efficient team of volunteers served 176 families, which represented 582 individuals. That number includes 198 children, 234 adults and 150 senior citizens.

The November distribution is Nov. 17. We thank the 30 volunteers who work to make the event a success. A FoodLink representative will attend to observe our distribution.

November is our last distribution of the year. We are not having a distribution outside in December, January and February. We anticipate starting again in March.

Kid’s Quest Upcoming Events

- Christmas Party - December 10th @ 10 am
- Christmas Pageant (tbd)
- Sledding Party - January
- Elementary Age Basketball League (Nerf) - Late February to March
- Easter Activities
- Spring Field Trip

Tent Makes first Step of Journey to Congo

The tent that was purchased with funds from our church's Lenten offering has been purchased and shipped to Kentucky. While it may seem that sending it to Kentucky is the opposite direction from the Congo, there is a person living in Kentucky who is a volunteer with Mission GO. He will travel to the Congo in January and carry the tent with him. That can better assure its arrival to the Leprosy Center, where it is intended to be used.

The tent was requested by Sarah Speer, the missionary we support through the E&M budget. It is used as a team that works with Sarah goes into the jungle in search of lepers who are in need of treatment. Often the conditions during the week-long trips are difficult, including heavy rains, so the tent will greatly improve conditions for the team.

Here's an update from MissionGO about work from the mission field. Guy Serge is a co-worker with Sarah:

Guy Serge works with MissionGO's Kimia Leprosy Center in the Congo. This summer, an outreach team from the Center took a river trip to find and treat individuals with leprosy and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). In one village, they found many children and adults with Yaws disease. Unfortunately, they did not have medication on hand to treat them, so he promised to return later with medicine.

Upon his return from the river trip, Guy Serge requested medicine from the National Coordination for the Fight Against NTDs. When he went to the government hospital to follow up on his request, the General Secretary asked Guy Serge if he would instead lead a team to vaccinate individuals against measles. Despite the promise of being well paid for his efforts, Guy Serge prayed and felt the Lord calling him to return to those suffering from Yaws disease, as he had promised.

The outreach team was given 480 boxes of medication for Yaws disease, which can treat over 500 people! Guy Serge has been able to keep his promise and deliver hope and healing to many in these neglected river communities. Through their outreach trips, the team also was able to share the good news of salvation through Jesus and celebrated several baptisms.

Please pray that the outreach team in the Congo will be able to continue to receive medications and funding to continue their work of sharing the love of Christ to help with various diseases and health concerns.

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)
- 2nd & 4th Sundays - TAG from 6 - 8 pm

Other Goings-On in November:

- **Pastor Brandt and family will be on vacation from November 8 through December 2**
- November 4 & 5 - REVERB
- November 6 - Daylight Saving Time ends! (Fall back 1 hour)
- November 6 - Communion Sunday
- November 6 - Food Drive Sunday
- November 6 - OCC Shoebox Packing Party following worship
- November 9 - Sessions @ 7 pm
- November 11 - Veteran's Day - No office hours
- November 13 - Harvest Dinner following worship
- November 17 - Foodlink @ 4 pm
- November 22 - Deacon Meeting @ 7 pm
- November 23 - Newsletter Deadline (just for this month because of Thanksgiving holiday)
- November 24 & 25 - Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday



Anniversaries & Birthdays



November Birthdays

- 3 - Gary Hutchurson
- 5 - Richard Stacy
- 7 - Fred Ely
- 11 - Loretta Miller
- 15 - Hannah Berggren
- 19 - Kevin Hollenbeck
- 27 - Seth McNear

November Anniversaries

- 27 - Brian & Julie Foeller (29 years)

December Birthdays

- 1 - Pastor Brandt
- 3 - Isaac Buckland
- 4 - Donna Lacey
- 4 - Bethany Salvia
- 11 - Wesley McNear
- 11 - Sandy Partridge
- 12 - John Jessop
- 16 - Joe Rebisz
- 19 - Rena Wilson
- 20 - David Brownell
- 21 - Cindy Baker
- 23 - Wendy Caccamise
- 30 - Peyton Goodenbery
- 31 - Bev Wooton



Birthday Blessings

December Anniversaries

- 2 - Tom & Cyndy Jones (50 years)



Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered in grains and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we got to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it is rained down from heaven, at our very doors.

—Tryon Edwards

Technology Class

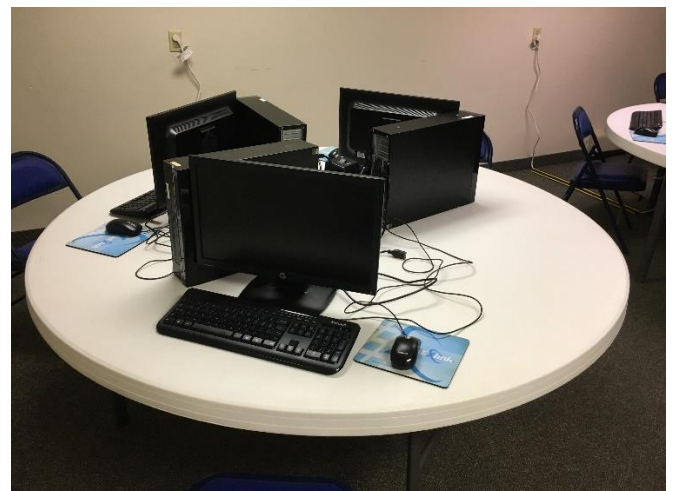
Rob Willhoft is teaching a Technology Class in conjunction with the Bergen Homeschooling Coop group. Meeting on Thursday afternoon for an hour and a half each week, the class explores computer programming and other applications with students in junior and senior high school. During the class the students will learn how to program in Python (a popular computer language); will learn about computer application for editing pictures, audio, and video; and create and print 3-D objects. The students will also learn about connecting small single board computers such as the raspberry pi (shown to the left) to real world devices like lights, switches, sensors, and motors.



<https://pixabay.com/photos/raspberry-pi-rpi-microcontroller-950490/>

The Session has allowed Rob to use one of the downstairs rooms, and several different people and organizations have donated equipment. Currently there are two tables, similar to the one in the picture below, with three computers each. This provides a computer workstation for each of the five students in the class. Enough equipment has been donated to add another computer to each table, making a total of eight systems. Rob hopes to offer other learning opportunities including possibly a class for younger students and perhaps workshops for adults, along with making the room available for other subjects like math and science.

Learn more on Rob's website: <https://willhoft.net>





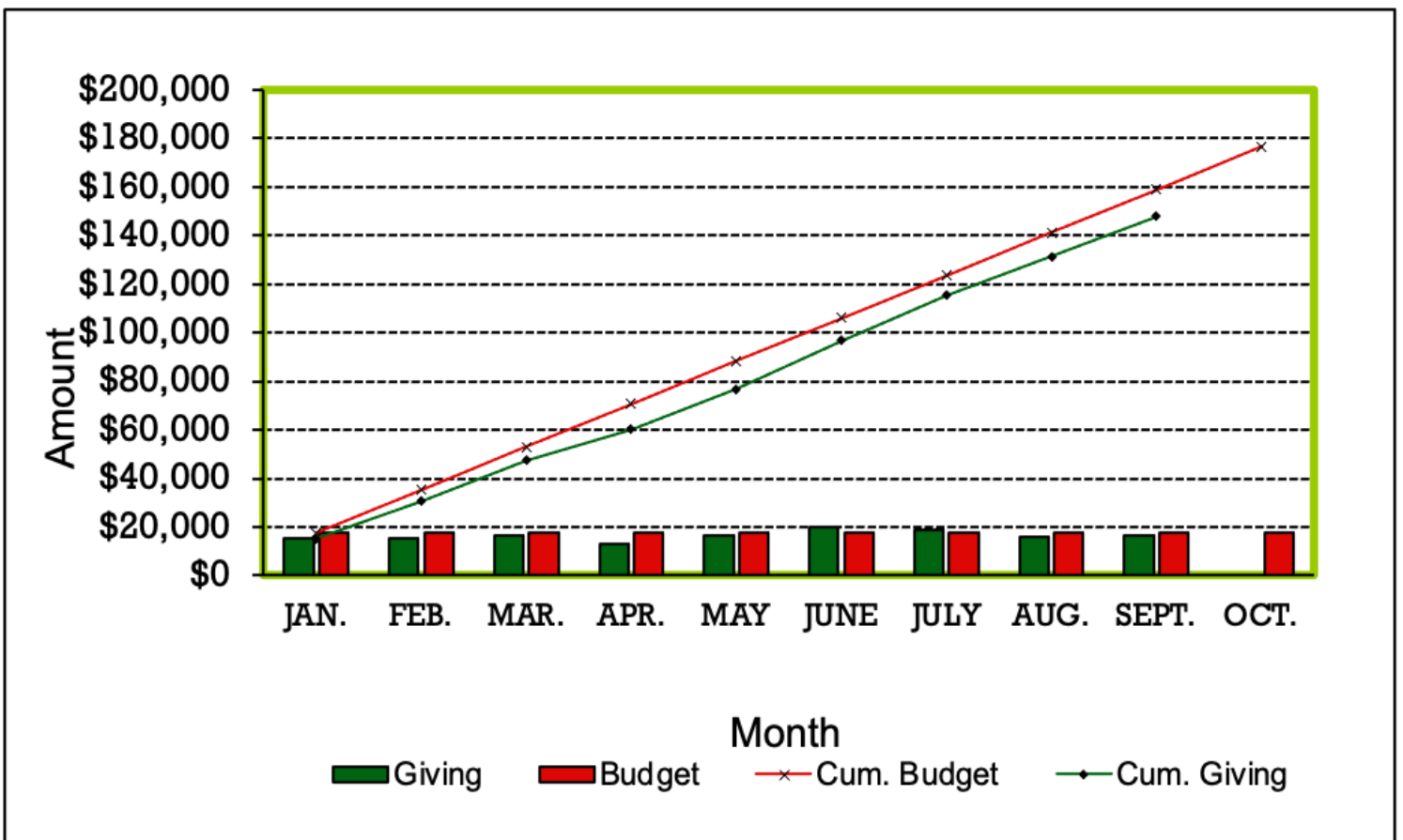
CHURCH FINANCES

SEPTEMBER 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 September was \$16,326, almost identical to August and right on the average for the year. Expenses were very high, \$19,885, as they are for most end-of-quarter months. This total of expenses is particularly high, including operating expenses where the current inflation is clearly having an impact on our numbers.

To pay the bills we needed \$7,000 from the AIF, one of the highest amounts required this year. That has drawn the value of the AIF down to a very low \$10,420. Hopefully, the last three months of the year will yield good giving, as they often do, and we can avoid emptying the AIF of its funds.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2022

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$10,355.80
Net Online Offering:	\$2,216.54
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$43.42 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$3,790.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$16,362.34
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$364.97
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$16,727.31



Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$19,884.67
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$19,884.67
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$3,790.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$3,210.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE \$52.64

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$16,964.80
New Designated Receipts	\$1,200.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$2,256.03

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE \$15,908.77

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) \$15,961.41

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• September expenditures	-\$7,000.00
Current Balance (9/30/2022)	\$10,419.87

Organ Fund

• September Deposits	\$1,200.00
Current Balance (9/30/2022)	\$53,008.35



Puzzle!

Although the Bible doesn't mention turkey feasts, the gospels do describe a miracle dinner that made thousands of hungry people thankful (see Matthew 14:13-21). Fill in the words to complete a poem about that meal.

Hint: Each pair of line endings should rhyme.

	ate	faces	quest	then
	began	late	ran	ton
	bunch	lunch	rest	true
	done	men	spaces	you

Jesus was tired and went to find _____.
 So away from the crowd he started his _____.
 It came to an end before it _____.
 The crowd followed Jesus; they walked and they _____.
 His boat pulled ashore, and he looked at their _____.
 Five thousand men, plus families, filled all open _____.
 And so Jesus spoke, and he taught until _____.
 The disciples told him it was time they all _____.
 Jesus said, "Yes, that is certainly _____.
 And feeding this crowd is now up to _____."
 Feeding five thousand! It could not be _____.
 What would they do? They'd need a whole _____.
 But then a young boy came and offered his _____.
 Five loaves and two fish to feed this big _____?
 Jesus gave thanks and blessed it and _____ ...
 it fed all the women, the children and _____.

Answer: rest, quest, quest, began, ran, faces, spaces, late, ate, true, you, done, ton, lunch, bunch, then, men