
From the Pastor

Micah Erin Hammack. Whenever I think of God's will, that name comes to mind. There are times in our lives when we struggle with submitting ourselves to God's will, and for me, the greatest difficulty came when Marty and I lost our second child to a miscarriage about 10 years ago. I will never forget being in the hospital waiting to hear about the tests and our hearts being broken when we found out we lost a little one.

I always grieve for couples who go through losing a baby to miscarriage because one does not really know how to grieve. It's more than just a doctor's visit to get better. After all, this little one had only been conceived for a month, but the baby still had the imprint of God's image. The baby was still precious in our eyes. We found that naming the little one helped, but we were still left with questioning God's will in our grief.

This is what we are looking at this month, God's will, as we think about the Lord's Prayer. We have already considered Jesus's words of "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom Come." Apart from considering God to be Our Father, this is the first moment in the prayer where it considers us, His children. One might say up to this point, the consideration and the prayer is more about who God is and what he does that does not involve us as much, especially on an intimate basis.

This is much different starting with Thy will be done, because when I pray this, I am submitting myself completely and utterly to God's will. This is displayed because I am praying that God's "will be done as it is in heaven." In other words, I acknowledge that God's will is already being accomplished as we can clearly see in heaven. I think of the book of Revelation, for instance, where much of the book takes place in heaven. There is not any sense of God's will being undermined throughout the book, even though there are attempts, but we clearly see the will of God being accomplished.

So, is that easy in the face of the heartache that we often face in this life? No, it isn't. There are times in our lives in which we are struck down by life's circumstances and to not

be bothered by them would mean that we are unfeeling stoics. However, the alternative is much worse. The alternative would be that what happens to me is fate, or that I am under someone or something else's will, and that will is not guided by a holy, righteous, loving, graceful God.

When I pray, "Thy will be done on earth (including my life) as it is in heaven," I am placing every bit of my life under His control, including the difficult things. The best example of this was when Jesus prayed in the garden as he sweated drops of blood and he prayed "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

Now sometimes, this is actually easier to do with the bigger events in our lives. For instance, when I moved to New York state from the deep South, Marty and I devoted a lot of time to prayer, asking for God's will to be done. We knew it would be different, including moving away from close family, not to mention the change in weather, and so it was an easy thing to pray, "Lord, we want to put this in your hands and your will."

However, it can sometimes be more difficult in everyday life to think in terms of praying, "Thy will be done." What would that look like if you and I lived our lives according to our prayer of being under God's will? Well, it wouldn't mean that we look to him about the irrelevant things like what color of shirt that I wear today, but it would look like that we are more cautious about our words and actions, it would mean that we understand that God's will for our lives is that we understand that God desires that we spend more time in prayer and God's Word, and that God's desire is that we share our faith more.

So, in the large and small things of life, as I am praying this Lord's Prayer of Thy will be done, I pray that I truly mean it with all of heart and mind.

Pastor Brandt



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(585-732-6163)

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Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri: 12:15 - 3:30 pm

Tues & Thurs: 12:15 - 4 pm

Pastor's Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 am - noon (flexible)



Harvest Festival

October 31 was a great evening at BEPC with our annual Harvest Festival this year coordinated by Mitch. There was candy for each person who came and lots of games – both action games and thinking games. Mitch welcomed people and the Fellowship Team provided cider and donuts.

It was the warmest October 31st that most people could remember. Joe built a fire, as we traditionally do, but no one seemed to want to get too close this year. Jocelyn did



hand painting this year and there was even a puzzle and coloring pages for those who came. In case you were wondering, the number of mini-M&Ms was 6278.





Saturday, December 7th, 2024

6:00 PM

**Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church
38 South Lake Ave, Bergen, NY**

Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of the community.

Young and old are welcome to attend. Family friendly, bring all your little ones! Cookies, milk, and cocoa to follow.

Need a ride? Please call (585) 494-1251.

Calling all musicians- please share your talent with our community!

Questions about attending or performing? Contact Jocelyn Rebisz, (585) 494-6031.

Veterans Outreach is November's Mission of the Month

Every month our church has contact with the residents of Eagle Star Housing, a temporary home for homeless veterans in East Pembroke. Shirley Harris and Joan Dermody coordinate this tangible example of Jesus's love with baked treats and games, plus conversation that often leads to spiritual topics.

You can learn more about this ministry on Sunday, Nov. 10, during our worship service. Joan and Shirley have created a video including an interview with one of the residents. It's a fitting feature on the Sunday before Veterans Day.

November is Veterans Month

Why Do We Acknowledge Veterans Day?

Veterans Day originated in the Armistice Day holiday commemorating the November 11, 1918 Armistice at 11:00 am (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). On that day, active hostilities were suspended and ended World War 1.

Listed below are veterans in BEPC who have served our country in courageous ways. Please add them to your prayer list.

We Honor our Veterans: Ward Bailey, Robert Cosgrove, Fred Ely, Stewart Freeman, Dennis Gillet, David Hahn, Joe Heukensfeld, Christie Komarek, Charles McAdam, Larry McCracken, Keith Marshall, Harvey Morse, Paul Rider, Robert Shingleton, Rick Stacy.

Active Duty - Jesse Craig - Air Force

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be acknowledging our veterans the second Sunday (Nov 10) in November.



Eagle Star Veterans



Fellowship Report

In October, we enjoyed getting to know Sarah Speer and her mission to the Congo with a coffee hour after church. It was a wonderful program and time of fellowship.

On October 13, we also shared one of our favorite meals of loaded baked potatoes, and celebrating having Mitch Johnson as our youth minister.

Many thanks to all that helped with our October events.

This coming November, we will celebrate our annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 10, following the church service. We will welcome Teen and Adult Challenge, and maybe some other surprise guests, as we share a meal. We will offer takeouts for those that may not be able to get out. Please contact the deacons or fellowship team, if you have someone that you would like to take a meal to. And thank you to those who have already been cooking ahead and freezing butternut squash to use at our dinner. We can use some more if anyone else wants to donate.

In December, we will provide cookies and cocoa for the annual Community Christmas concert on Saturday, December 7th. We always welcome cookies from you for this event. Please contact one of the fellowship team, if you are able to bring cookies.

We will also have another fellowship lunch on Sunday, December 8th, following the service.

Please use any of these fellowship events as an opportunity to invite friends, family, and those in the community to share with us.

Thank you,

The Fellowship Team

Susan Is Back In The Office

I am very happy to be back in the office and am very grateful for everyone's prayers and concerns for my health. Your graciousness has been greatly appreciated. I have missed everyone and it feels very satisfying to be back in my office. Maya is extremely happy to be back as well! I am doing well, thank you very much!



TAG ~ Teens After God

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD AND REVERB!!!!

At one of our recent TAG nights we were asked to help fold the "Operation Christmas Child" boxes (see picture below). The teens had a fun time competing to see who could fold the most boxes. Due to the competitive spirit, the boxes were all folded in about 4 minutes 😊 The annual **REVERB** (formerly "Superbowl") youth event takes place in Rochester on the 8th and 9th 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, Nerf wars, go-carts, arcade games, and more. Over 1,300 teens will be attending and many will give their lives to the Lord for the first time. We will be traveling by bus with around 50 teens and leaders from our TAG group. Please pray for all the teens, leaders, and volunteers who will be attending the event.

Our TAG youth group will be meeting on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00: October 27th, November 24th, and December 8th. 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!



Teens Displaying "Operation Christmas Child" Boxes - October 2024

Good News! Great Joy!

November OCC update:

It's almost here! Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week is November 18 - 25.



Important dates to be aware of:

Sunday, November 3: Youth SS classes will pack shoeboxes with items donated by the congregation. Thank you for your generosity.

Monday, November 4 @ 6:30 pm: Volunteer training in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in volunteering during National Collection Week at our church drop-off location. Important information will be relayed during this time. If you are unable to make this date, reach out to Julie Foeller. To allow our collection site to run smoothly it is necessary to be trained prior to November 18. See the bulletin board for information on roles.

Sunday, November 17: Shoeboxes are due back to church.

Monday, November 18- November 25: BEPC will be a shoebox donation drop-off location. See posted hours on the bulletin board or the online church calendar. Tractor-trailers will be delivered to the church parking lot mid-week.

Sunday and Monday, November 24 and 25 mid-afternoon: BEPC is the Central Drop-Off location for the Genesee Valley team comprised of 13 different churches that serve as drop-off locations during the collection week. They will be transporting the 'cartonized' shoeboxes that they received at their location during the collection week. Many volunteers will be needed to load the cartons onto the tractor-trailers. We will have a special time of prayer as we pray over the shoeboxes and trucks.

Tuesday, November 26: The tractor-trailers will leave our parking lot, transporting to one of the OCC National Collection regional processing centers.

Much time, effort, and coordination go into making Operation Christmas Child a truly transforming ministry of Samaritan's Purse. What a privilege it is to be a part of this ministry- *To God Be The Glory!* As we use our hands and feet to pack, count, and load shoeboxes during National Collection Week, let us not lose sight of what each shoebox represents- *It is a Gospel Opportunity.*

These gifts bring joy to children all over the world and each child who receives a shoebox will have the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. The lives of children, families, and communities will be transformed.

Now that is Good News- Great Joy!
EVANGELISM- DISCIPLESHIP- MULTIPLICATION

Sewing With a Purpose

When Sewing With a Purpose learned of Sarah Speer, missionary to the Aka people of the Congo, surprise- pending visit to our church on October 6th, we sprang into action. In one of Sarah's past emails, she had indicated she would love to have a lightweight quilt. Sewing With a Purpose was able to quickly create two light- weight quilts, and seven members of the Sewing With a Purpose Team were able to meet at church and knot these quilts. Neva Lattimer, Shirley vonBergen, Jan Harris, Sandy Partridge, Candy Kent, Linda Johnson and Debbie McAllister quickly knotted the two quilts and Pastor Brandt arrived just in time to pray upon these blessings for Sarah.



The quilts (pictured below) were presented to Sarah on October 6 during her visit to our church.



Teen Challenge Coming Nov. 10

Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge will lead the service on November 10. They were originally invited to share the Harvest Dinner with us. Then we learned that Pastor Brandt will be on vacation, so it seemed natural to invite them to lead the service as they have in the past.

We will hear testimonies, a song from their choir and a message from Director James West. They are staying for the Harvest Dinner, so we can have more conversations with participants in this Christ-centered ministry.

It's a Sunday you won't want to miss.

An Opportunity to Support Adult & Teen Challenge

Rochester Adult and Teen Challenge is hosting its first fundraising banquet at 5:30 pm on Saturday, November 16, at Greece Assembly of God Church, 750 Long Pond Road. Our church is sponsoring a table of eight. You can attend by letting Susan know in the church office by Wednesday, Nov 6th. Keynote speaker will be Russ Lee, the lead vocalist of New Song, the popular Christian music group.

"Join us as we gather to celebrate the transforming power of Jesus Christ through Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge. The evening will include a delicious dinner and dessert, a silent auction, the New Creation Choir, and powerful testimonies," said Director James West.

Please let Susan in the office know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Foodlink Helps More Than 550 of Our Neighbors

On a clear, crisp Thursday afternoon, October 17, Bergen volunteers distributed food to more than 550 of our neighbors. There was plenty of fresh produce, including cabbages, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes and squash. Milk and eggs were also available.

There is one more distribution on November 14 before we take a three-month break during the coldest winter months. We will resume distributions in March.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make the distribution go so smoothly.

Thanks From Missionary Sarah Speer



We were blessed on October 6 to have Sarah Speer, a missionary working with lepers in the Congo, as our guest. Sarah shared about her work with the Aka Pygmies at the

Kimia Leprosy Center in Congo. Sarah was home in Canada to help take care of her sister, Sharon. Sarah took the time to travel to WNY to visit with our church family.

While she was here, the Sewing with a Purpose team presented her with two quilts to assist with her mission work and prayer shawls for both herself and her sister.

Here is a note she sent immediately after leaving WNY.

My heart is overjoyed to give you this brief report:

1. My sister Sharon has been benefitting from your prayers and from your gifts. She says THANK YOU VERY MUCH! This coming week she will be going into her 18th round of chemotherapy. Then she will have a CT scan to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment on the cancer - caused sores in her liver.

2. Papa Serge and his team made it back from their trip to 21 villages and treatment of 32 people with leprosy! The patients have a major problem to keep their medicine from becoming moldy. Also, since the treatment is a full year, please pray that those on treatment will faithfully take their medicine once a day.



3. He brought three new patients to the Kimia Center plus one of the patient's wife.

4. The family with leprosy from the Mokili Sango village were in the forest when Serge arrived to treat them.

5. The obstacles that they met this time were fallen trees on one of the access roads to reach an important area. One huge tree near their destination took 5 hours to cut. The men of the village helped but they only had machetes to cut the tree, no axes or chain saws! One machete of a Mama broke. God moved Serge to give her the ONLY machete from their trip's equipment. After that, they met NO MORE OBSTACLES to the end of their trip! Hallelujah!

Thank you for blessing us with your prayers and your giving! May God continue to strengthen and bless you.

With hearts full of gratitude, Serge and Sarah

And here is another email that was received on Oct. 27 including information directly from Serge, a resident of the Congo who was converted to Christianity and has become a staunch worker at the Kimia Center:

Greetings in the name of our Blessed Savior and Lord. We pray that you had a wonderful time of fellowship today and that God will lead and guide you in this new week of activities.

Here is a report directly from Serge regarding this question: How many churches and/or pastors are assisting/participating in the outreach NTD (Neglected Tropical Diseases) work?

We have 12 who are from the churches. Three are from other evangelical churches and nine are from the EECC (Evangelical Christian Church of Congo, with whom we have worked since the 1980's). We also have 14 who are village chiefs, village secretaries, and health workers. The total is 26.

I (Serge) have trained many people but the need to train is continual. If I had one missionary, we could organize training sessions on leprosy and other NTDS in the health centers for the nurses and the healthcare workers. We could also instruct the village leadership and general population in regards to NTDs. It is essential that we have a portable projector with good amplifiers.

At the present time, I am trying to analyze the pros and cons of recruiting Pastor Lobilo (Bantu) who is gifted in evangelism and Pastor Bokodi (Aka). Both are with the

EECC and could be useful in our screening/ treatment missions for NTDs.

Morning and evening, I am following the care of our Aka Pygmy lady, Therese, with the Buruli ulcer on right arm. She is being treated at the government hospital.

Thank you for your prayers.

In hope and in prayer, Serge and Sarah



*Serge &
his wife,
Sylvie*

Calendar Online calendar:

tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr



Recurring Weekly/Monthly

- Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am – **Morning Worship**
 - First Sunday of the month -- **Communion**
 - First Sunday of the month – **Salvation Army Food Collection**
- Sundays, 9:15-10:15 - **Sunday School**
- Tuesdays, 2 pm – **Ladies Bible Study** (generally every other week but this month – meets 11/12)
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – **Son Risers**
- 25th of each month - **Newsletter** deadline
- Last Saturday of the month – **Door of Hope** Coffee House at 6 pm

Other Events in November

- **Pastor Brandt on vacation** - Nov 3 - Dec 6
- **Daylight Saving Time ends** - November 3 (so don't forget to Fall Back one hour on Saturday)
- **ELECTION DAY** - November 5
- **REVERB Superbowl** - November 8 & 9
- **Veteran Remembrance Day** - November 10
- **Teen Challenge Sunday** - November 10
- **Harvest Dinner** - November 10 @ 12:15 pm
- **Veteran's Day** - Nov 11 (Office closed)
- **Session meeting** - November 13 @ 7 pm
- **Foodlink** - November 14 @ 4 pm
- **VBS Meeting @ Methodist Church** - Nov 17 @ 12 pm
- **OCC National Collection Week** - Nov 18 - 25 (please note times for each day:
 - **Nov 18 - 22:** 10 - 2 pm & 5 - 7 pm
 - **Nov 23:** 9 - 3 pm
 - **Nov 24:** 1 - 5 pm
 - **Nov 24:** 9 - 6 pm
- **Worship Committee meeting** - Nov 24 @ 12:15 pm
- **OCC Super Sunday** - November 24
- **TAG** - November 24 @ 6 pm
- **Christmas Flower Order Deadline** - Nov 25 @ 12 pm
- **Deacon meeting** - November 26 @ 6:30 pm
- **Thanksgiving Holiday** - Nov 28 & 29 - office closed

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Garry Hutchurson
- 5 - Richard Stacy
- 7 - Fred Ely
- 11 - Loretta Miller
- 12 - Marianne Newmark
- 15 - Deb Heukensfeld
- 19 - Kevin Hollenbeck
- 27 - Seth McNear

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 27 - Brian and Julie Foeller (31 years)
- 29 - Joe and Deb Heukensfeld (54 years)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Brandt Hammack
- 3 - Isaac Buckland
- 4 - Donna Lacey
- 10 - Chaz Newmark
- 11 - Wesley McNear
- 11 - Robbie Newmark
- 11 - Sandy Partridge
- 12 - John Jessop
- 16 - Joe Rebisz
- 19 - Rena Wilson
- 20 - David Brownell
- 23 - Wendy Caccamise
- 27 - Sandy Gillett
- 31 - Bev Wooton

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 - Tom and Cyndy Jones (52 years)



Anniversaries & Birthdays



Church Finances

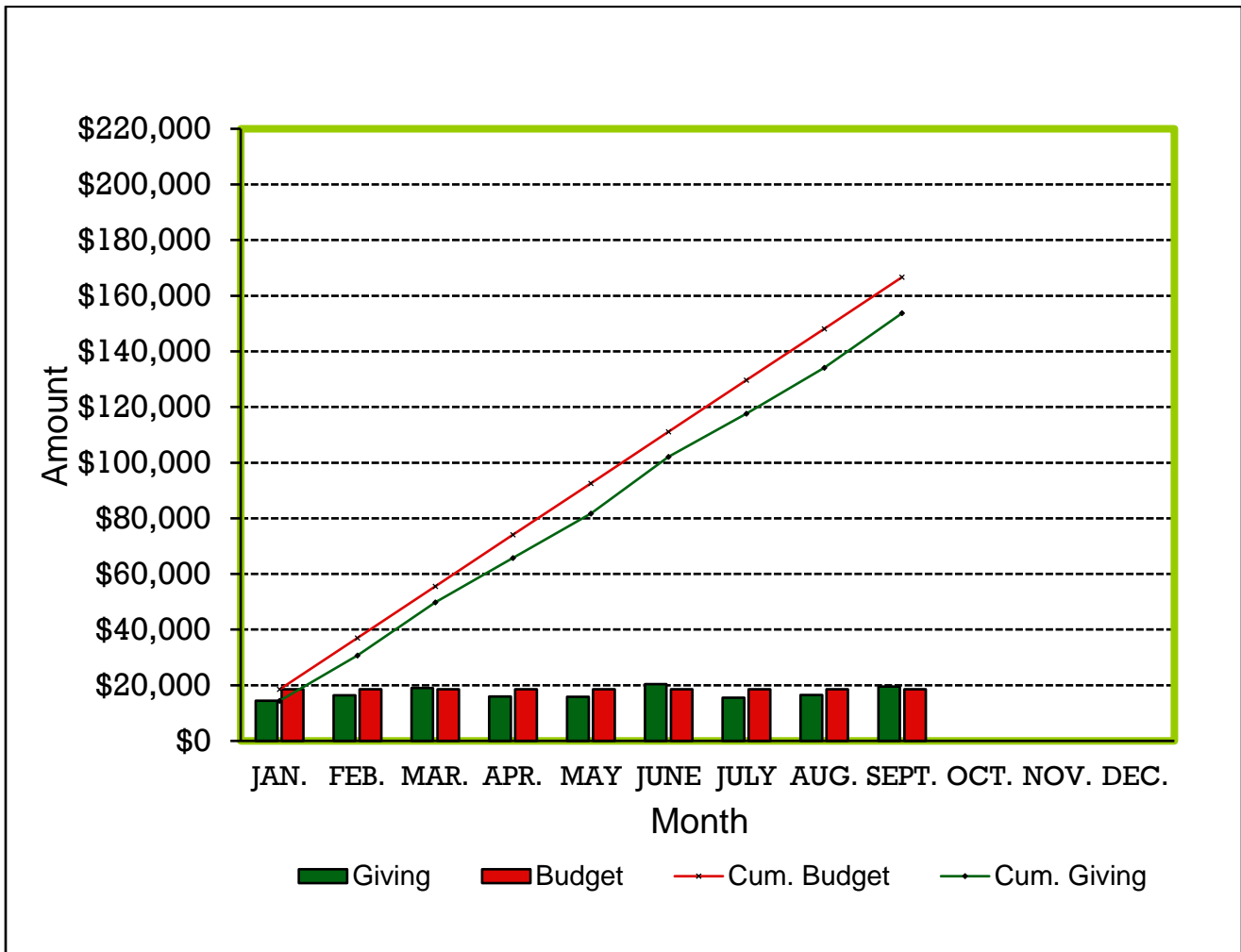
September 2024

"Bring the full tithes 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

September's giving was \$19,569 for the monthly financial support of the annual budget. This was higher than an average because it was a five Sunday month. Based on the approved 2024 annual budget, the monthly support needed is \$18,521 per month. September expenses were slightly higher due because it is an end of a quarter and our missions get paid quarterly. Overall, giving remains slightly lower than actual spending for the entire year by about \$6,500.

With three months remaining in the year, there is still time to make this up.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2024
OPERATING FUND**Income**

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Sunday offering: | \$16,395.00 |
| Transfer from Dedicated Fund | \$1,662.12 |
| Net Online Offering: | \$243.86 |
| <i>*note – online offering reflects \$6.14 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i> | |
| Amortized one-time gifts: | \$2,931.00 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>Total New Receipts</i> | \$21,231.98 |
| <i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i> | \$473.09 |
| Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts) | \$21,705.07 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Gross Expenditures for the month | \$23,316.64 |
| Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses | |
| • None | \$0.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Net Expenditures for the Month | \$23,316.64 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|

| | |
|---|------------|
| Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures | \$2,931.00 |
| Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF | \$2,069.00 |
| Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund | \$0.00 |

OPERATING FUND BALANCE**\$457.43****DESIGNATED FUND**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance (from previous month) | \$17,093.42 |
| New Designated Receipts | \$2,266.25 |
| Total Designated Expenditures | \$3,271.11 |

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE**\$16,088.56****TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) \$16,545.99****OTHER FUND ACTIVITY****Accumulated Income Fund**

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • September withdraw | \$5,000.00 |
| Current Balance (9/30/2024) | \$12,883.85 |



Poinsettia Order Form

Last day to order is November 25, 2024

Every year at this time, you are given the opportunity to purchase a Poinsettia plant in memory or in honor of a loved one. These flowers are then used by the church to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season. After the Christmas Sunday morning service, you are encouraged to take your plant(s) home with you.

Please fill out this form and give, along with your payment for your flower(s), to the administrative assistant or place it in her mailbox. If paying by check, please make out to BEPC and put "flowers" in the memo line.

Name: _____

CHOICES:

| My Choice is (please check): | How Many | Total Due: |
|------------------------------|----------|------------|
| 6" Red @ \$ 6.95 ea | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 6" White @ \$ 6.95 ea | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 8" Red @ \$16.00 ea | _____ | \$ _____ |
| 8" White @ \$16.00 ea | _____ | \$ _____ |

In Memory of:

In Honor of:



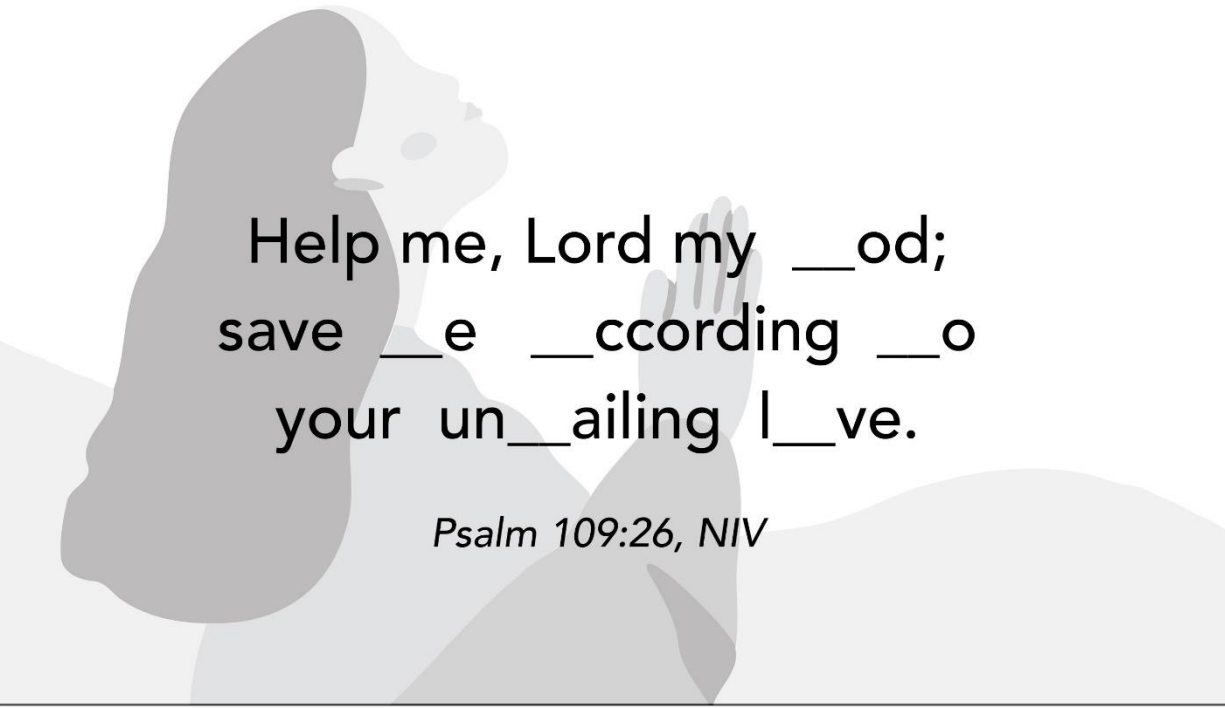


BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| Psalm 145:8 | SGAICURO | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Job 36:5 | HGIYMT | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Psalm 90:2 | LTAVREENISG | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2 Peter 3:9 | INETTPA | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:24 | FUFHIATL | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Isaiah 40:25 | OYHL | _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ |



Help me, Lord my ___od;
 save ___e ___ccording ___o
 your un___ailing l___ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV