

---

## From the Pastor

In these articles, we have been looking at the Lord's Prayer. For this article, I want to look what it means to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."

So, what is your favorite meal? What is your favorite place to eat out? What is your favorite dessert? For me, the answer to these questions are my favorite meal is sushi; my favorite places to eat out are Japanese restaurants (which we never go to because they usually don't have a lot for kids). My favorite dessert? That is difficult to answer as there is too much to choose from, but right now, I would have to say yellow cake with chocolate icing.

So, here is what we need to think about, especially in this part of the Lord's Prayer. Just the fact that we can even think about such things shows how far we are removed economically from Jesus's day. In His day, "Meat was rare and in 1st-century Palestine would only have been eaten by the wealthy and most likely would have been goat; beef and lamb would have been reserved for holidays.... The governing authorities arranged for wheat and barley to be stored in silos and rationed, but eventually became susceptible to mold. And there was always the risk of shortages as a result of a bad growing season, drought, disease, natural disaster, or war" (<https://thefivebeasts.wordpress.com/2022/10/10/food-insecurity-at-the-time-of-christ>).

We also don't understand the phrase "Give this us this day our daily bread" rich meaning compared to most people in the world. According to WorldVision: "The World Bank reports that 712 million people, nearly 1 in 11 people globally, live on less than \$2.15 a day....Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rate of children living in extreme poverty, reaching 40% in 2022. Nearly 90% of children living in extreme poverty reside in either sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.... 1.1 billion people, including 566 million children, live in multidimensional poverty, accounting for just over 18% of the world's

population" (<https://www.worldvision.org/sponsorship-news-stories/global-poverty-facts>).

So, what are we to do with this part of the Lord's Prayer? Are we to simply ignore it? Well, of course not!! It is Scripture after all.

So, how are we to apply this? For starters, we need to realize that many in the world face food insecurity where we don't, and so not only should we pray for them, but pray about how we might be able to help them.

However, the other aspect of this is that this part of the prayer shows us a daily reliance upon God. Jesus emphasized a "daily" reliance upon God, much like the Israelites did in gathering only what was needed for that particular day as they were out in the wilderness, so if we are praying this prayer and truly mean it, it shows a daily reliance upon God in all that we do.

This is where some who face daily hunger probably have an advantage over us who are not as concerned about food security. Don't get me wrong. I am thankful that I am not in the spot of facing hunger like most of the world faces, especially for my wife and children, and yet, I can testify that my greatest spiritual growth has come from difficulties in life. For those Christians who face the daily struggle of hunger, they fully understand a daily reliance upon God for the most basic of human necessities.

So, this is where I long to be spiritually in all that I am and hope to be, to wake up each morning, and sincerely say to God, "Lord, I am putting my life and especially the life of my family in your hands. Thank you for how You have provided for me already. Give me and my family the bread and other nourishment that we need today, and help us to rely on you in a deeper way."

*Pastor Brandt*



**Annual Meeting scheduled for  
January 19, 2025**

**Committee Reports are due by  
January 6, 2025**

*Thank you!*

**Winter/Spring Concert Series  
Starts in February**

Following our successful concert series in 2024, we are pleased to present a new series of concerts in 2025. Invite a friend to these free concerts with a light reception following each performance. All concerts will be on Sunday evening at 6pm in the sanctuary.

**February 2**

Roberts Wesleyan University Chorale

**March 16**

Catherine Caton, harp

**April 6**

George Collichio, guitar

**May 4**

Organ recital featuring students from the Eastman School of Music

**May 18**

Small ensembles from the Genesee Valley Wind Ensemble

*“This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!”*



**Sewing With A Purpose**

Sewing With A Purpose is thankful for the support of so many who willingly offer their talents to help others. In 2024, the Team provided:

250 flannel Hearts and 130 eye protections for the Strong Hospital Golisano NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) for tiny newborns.

We also provided 12 port cushions to people having fusion treatments. These small cushions fasten around the seatbelt to offer comfort as the patient is being transported for treatment.

Thank you team

**Christmas Celebration with our  
Eagle Star Friends**

We had six that played Christmas Trivia, sang Jingle Bells and enjoyed our holiday snacks with smiles and laughter.



Bob, Jacob, Alfred, Joe & William in East Pembroke



Eagle Star’s “Joe” celebrating Christmas as Santa.



## Christian Education News

### Sunday School Resumes January 5, 2025 Weekly 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

We will continue to study through the Bible using the Gospel Project curriculum. Each age-group- Elementary, Jr-Sr High, and the Adult class studies the same lesson each week.

The theme for the next 13 weeks is **From One Nation to All Nations** -digging deep into the book of Acts.

Jesus's ministry on earth began with the Jews, His chosen people, and He reached out to bless Samaritans and Gentiles as well. This same pattern was reflected in His church. At first, they proclaimed the Gospel to the Jews in Jerusalem and Judea, and then they expanded their ministry, as the Spirit led them, taking the Gospel to Samaritans and Gentiles. As people from other nations heard about Jesus crucified and raised for the sins of the world, they humbled themselves in repentance and faith and were joined to the church, becoming **one nation, one people, one kingdom unified in Jesus Christ.** (Taken from Lifeway Publishing)

- Elementary class led by David and Chris Wright
- Jr/Sr High class led by Chad Caccamise, Mitch Johnson, and Pastor Brandt
- Adult class led by Rob Willhoft

## Fellowship News

Happy New year to all of our church family!

We had a busy month in December. Many thanks to all the wonderful cookie bakers that supplied us with delicious treats for Chris Martz's memorial service reception, for the Community Christmas concert and for our fellowship luncheon.

Our next fellowship luncheon will be Sunday, January 19, 2025 following the service and before the Annual Meeting. Please join us for pizza, salad, and ice cream sandwiches. Also, please join us for the Annual Meeting to share what has happened with our church in 2024 and the plans for 2025.

As always, if you have suggestions for events to bring us all together, please let any of us know.

Thank you, Fellowship Team

## Mission of the Month for January

### All Babies Cherished is Mission of the Month

All Babies Cherished is a nonprofit Christian Pregnancy & Parenting Assistance Center in Batavia. It provides parents, grandparents, & guardians of all backgrounds and income levels with spiritual, educational, & material assistance. Our church has provided financial support to this agency since its formation several years ago.

Sue Sherman, the executive director, will be our guest during the Jan. 12 worship service and bring us up to date on expanded services and programs that are offered. "We are here to help you know that you are chosen by God and LOVED! He has a plan for you and your child/children. Our goal is to help you make Godly choices for both your future and child's/children's. This is the basic message we share with our clients," she said.

They put this into action by providing Parenting and Personal Development classes, Spiritual Development classes and guidance, and by meeting material needs. Learn more by hearing Sue's presentation and chat with her after the service.



---

## **Sarah Speer Has Returned to the Congo**

Sarah Speer, the missionary we support at the Kimia Leprosy Center in the Congo, has returned to her post after spending time in Canada caring for her sister with cancer and also visiting supporters like us. Please continue to pray for Sarah and her sister, who is still undergoing cancer treatment. Sarah has purchased an airline ticket that will allow her to return home if her sister's situation changes.

Here are some excerpts from Sarah's most recent newsletter and correspondence she sent directly to our church family:

"Please pass on my Greetings to all the wonderful, compassionate people at Bergen. If all goes well, I will show your pictures and that of my time at Bergen to our Congolese family.

"Jesus loves small numbers to accomplish His purposes and to show forth His honor and glory. Amongst the 18 on treatment at the Kimia Center, there are 15 who are preparing to be baptized on December 24. What does that mean? They are beginning to learn about God and the wonderful gift of Jesus, who brings life and healing to their hearts, minds, and bodies. Join us in prayer that they will become "Salt and Light" in their communities—demonstrating in word and in deed that they have been healed in body and in spirit; the chains of Satan have been broken, and they are free. Thanks so much for being a vital part of this life-giving ministry.

"Recently, I was informed that with the extra Outreach Missions (12) to screen and distribute the leprosy medicines, the funds in the Kimia Center account have been depleted. Now the whole ministry has to be reinforced. So, I am appealing for an extra-special response from you, our loyal supporters. The amount required over and above the current provisions would be \$7,000 for the next several months, to bring everything back in line.

"Support for me and all aspects of the ministry in Congo is being reevaluated. This will be communicated shortly. Let's keep working together by prayer and giving, to see lives saved for His honor and glory. Praise God that "a little in the hand of God is much," just like one kernel of corn then produces lots of corn cobs loaded with new kernels! Our God is great! Rejoice and be glad!

"I will take my pictures from Bergen to Congo and show them to Serge. Maybe we will be able to do a ZOOM before Easter. The very best to everyone for the Christmas Season! We have the most joyous time because we know Jesus. Greetings to the Bergen Family.

Love and Prayers, Sara

---

## **Welcome, Little One**

Gregg and Debbie McAllister are rejoicing in the arrival of Clayton Samuel Komarek on Dec. 23. He was born to Tim and Christie McAllister Komarek in Fort Collins, CO. He joins big brother Grant (4) and Sloane (18 months). Everyone is doing well.




---

## **Deacons**

The Deacons had a busy November and December. We decorated the sanctuary for the start of the Advent season. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped decorate.

During December, we shopped and wrapped Christmas gifts for a needy BBCS family, mailed cheer cards, packed and delivered cheer bags to shut-in members of our church family.

The Deacons will un-decorate the church on January 4th. Thank you for your support and prayers throughout 2024. Happy New Year!

Blessings from the Deacons



**Calendar** Online calendar: [tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr](http://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**
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – **Son Risers**
- 25<sup>th</sup> of each month - **Newsletter** deadline
- Last Saturday of the month – **Door of Hope** Coffee House at 6 pm

**Other Events in January**

- January 1 - New Year's Day - No Office Hours
- January 5 @ 12:15 pm - Fellowship meeting
- **January 6 @ 12 pm - Annual Reports due to Susan**
- January 7 @ 2 pm - Ladies Bible Study
- January 8 @ 7 pm - Session meeting
- January 12 @ 12:15 pm - E&M meeting
- January 12 @ 6 pm - TAG
- January 19 @ 12:15 pm - Fellowship Luncheon
- **January 19 following lunch - ANNUAL MEETING**
- January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No office hours
- January 21 @ 2 pm - Ladies Bible Study
- January 26 @ 12:15 pm - Worship Committee meeting
- January 28 @ 6:30 pm - Deacon meeting



**Anniversaries & Birthdays**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 - Jim Wilson
- 3 - Debby Newmark
- 4 - Collin McNear
- 7 - Rose Wilson
- 8 - Luke Hollenbeck
- 11 - Bruce Partridge
- 12 - Shirley Harris
- 13 - Joe Heukensfeld
- 23 - Eleanor Bater
- 26 - Michael Welch
- 29 - Denny Gillett
- 30 - Lydia Hammack



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 - Chad and Wendy Caccamise (32 years)
- 5 - Stu and Gail Freeman (62 years)
- 8 - Brandt and Marty Hammack (14 years)

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 - Dave Wright
- 2 - Bill Engle
- 4 - Robert Cosgrove
- 7 - Emily Caccamise
- 8 - Rebecca McNear
- 9 - Joan Edwards
- 13 - Renee Berggren
- 16 - Danielle Foeller
- 18 - Christin Snell
- 19 - Wendy Hutchurson
- 20 - Marty Hammack
- 26 - Cyndy Jones



**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 16 - Dave and June Hahn





# Church Finances

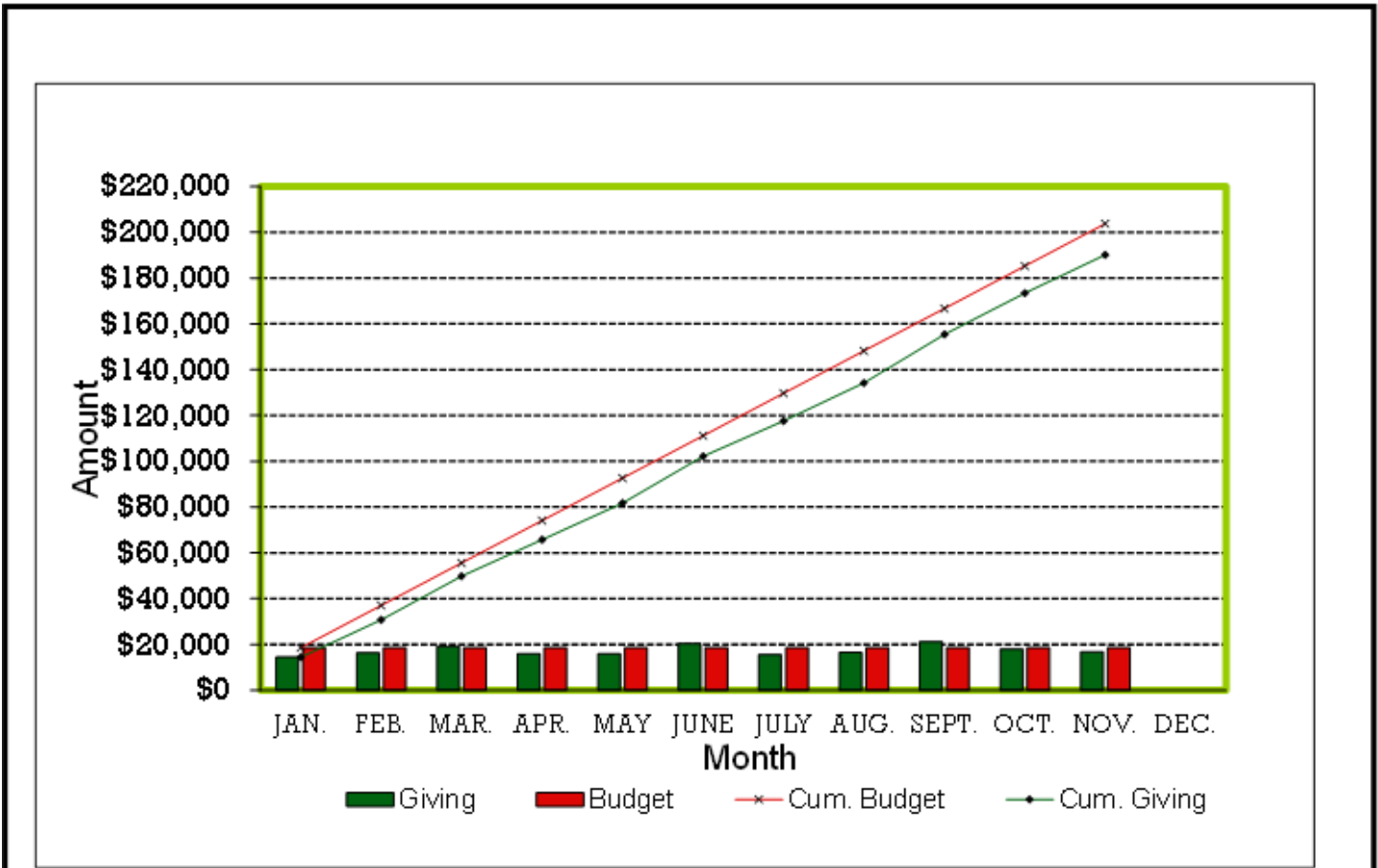
## November 2024

*"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*

November's giving was \$16,737.13 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. The giving has remained steady all year long but we are still not meeting the monthly budget goal each month.

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024



**OPERATING FUND****Income**

Sunday offering:	\$13,515.00
Net Online Offering:	\$ 283.79
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$7.34 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one-time gifts:	\$ 2,931.00

---

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$16,729.79
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$ 1,587.84
<b>Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)</b>	<b>\$18,317.63</b>

**Expenses**

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$18,802.82
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• Drews Mission/Richards Best Youth Support	\$2,500.00
• Tech Reserve – Sweetwater Sound (3/24)	\$925.00
• Woman’s Bible Study Dedicated – CE	\$633.00

---

<b>Net Expenditures for the Month</b>	<b>\$14,744.82</b>
---------------------------------------	--------------------

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	\$2,931.00

**OPERATING FUND BALANCE** **\$641.81**

**DESIGNATED FUND**

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$16,927.82
New Designated Receipts	\$296.75
Total Designated Expenditures	\$2,510.84

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** **\$14,713.73**

**TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund)** **\$15,355.54**

**OTHER FUND ACTIVITY****Accumulated Income Fund**

• November withdraw	\$ 0.00
<b>Current Balance (11/30/2024)</b>	<b>\$13,098.00</b>

**Drews Mission/Richards-Best Fund**

• November withdraw	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Current Balance (11/30/2024)</b>	<b>\$125,474.00</b>
<b>Current Balance (10/31/2024)</b>	<b>\$123,686.00</b>



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			



- The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The last Monday \_ \_
- The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- One day before the 20th \_ \_
- The day before the first Friday \_ \_
- The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- The day after the 20th \_ \_ \_
- The day after 18th \_ \_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_ \_ \_
- The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.