

Financial Report

September 2020 Financial Update:

The general financial update (as approved by Consistory) is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Regular Offering Income:

Budgeted: \$ 65,000.00 Jan.– Aug. 2020: \$ 43,230.97

Benevolence & Special Offering Income:

Budgeted: \$ 6,775.00 Jan.– Aug. 2020: \$ 1,621.01

Total Operating Receipts:

Budgeted: \$249,712.00 Jan.– Aug. 2020: \$170,302.68

Total Expenses:

Budgeted: \$205,778.00 Jan.– Aug. 2020: \$127,799.16

Offerings Received: 9/20/20 – 9/27/20

Offerings:	\$ 4,300.53
Initial Offering:	\$ -0-
MOM:	\$ 10.00
Flowers:	\$ -0-
Comfort Zone:	\$ -0-
World Hunger:	\$ 40.00
Assessment:	\$ -0-
Building Use:	\$ -0-
Total:	\$ 4,350.53

FRONTSTREETER: OCTOBER 2020

The Reformed Church of Canajoharie

15-19 Front Street, Canajoharie, NY 13317

Phone: (518) 673-2816

Email: office@canjoreformed.org Website: www.canajoreformed.org

"HAVE FAITH
IN GOD"
(MARK 11:22)



Pastor's Page

October 2020

“Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread”. (Isaiah 8:12, ESV) These words were spoken by Isaiah the prophet when the time of the Assyrian invasion was coming. The people knew that things weren't as they should be. The divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah were in conflict, like a civil war. God's people had fallen under domination by larger powers. The leadership was failing. People heard of “wars and rumors of wars”. Fear was running through the land of Judah. They were like rabbits on a windy day, jumping at every cloud that passed overhead.

Sounds like 2020, doesn't it? It's one thing after another. And next month there will be an election and some of the country will rejoice, and some will think that the world is coming to an end. Will there be peace in that time? Before you scoff, understand that in the American revolution it is estimated that only one third of the country were truly invested on either side, Tories and Patriots. The rest of the people were carried along by the events of their time.

Certainly the rhetoric seems extreme, apocalyptic even. We are divided into camps, liberal and conservative, although the policies advanced by either side often do not resemble the concepts represented by those terms. And many are looking for their churches to represent their point of view. Is our church conservative or progressive, right or left? Neither. We are not on either of these sides. We all have opinions, but the church itself is on one side, and that is the side of God. Or that is the way it is supposed to be. But it takes work, all the more in times when people are confused and scared.

In times like these we can fall prey to all manner of conspiracies, rumors, and opinions masquerading as truth. People with a computer and an ax to grind can get people all over the world excited. Many of them are not acting from the best motivations. It would be tempting to tell everyone that they need to turn off their computers and send the elders of the church around to check on everyone, but that wouldn't work. It would probably confirm the worst fears of people. But there is a better way.

Read your Bible. It is time for all of us to return to the Word of God. As we do, there are a few things to remember.

A) Fear is appropriate, but only toward one person. Isaiah 8:13 tells us “make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble.” In the light of the Gospel of Jesus we may want a little nuance when we think of fearing God. The writer to the Hebrews tells us that we have not come to a blazing mountain with a protected perimeter, to cross which is to risk death. Rather we have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, a place where we can dwell in God's presence and in the joyful assembly. So perhaps the better word for fear is “reckon”. We must reckon with God in all we do and say, understanding that his presence is always near and that our thoughts and actions are laid bare before

In Our Thoughts and Prayers



As we remember: David Van Wormer, who went to be with the Lord on Wednesday September 16th. We give thanks to God for his witness and his work, and rejoice through our tears that David is alive in Christ and cancer free.

Prayers for those in need of comfort and healing for: Heather & Cuyle Rockwell and family – as they mourn the passing of Heather's father, Rev. Lester E. Tufts;

John Snyder –receiving physical therapy learning to walk again – notes and cards can be sent to John at his home at: 111 Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY 13317; Kim Lawyer & family mourning the recent death of Kim's cousin Rodney Schrell, Jr.; Emory Luck – health concerns; Jane Hawkins - health concerns; Charles Jones – health concerns; Jessica Eiss – health issues; Cathy Smith – health concerns; Cynthia Clements – health concerns; John Rocas and Janet Rocas –health issues; Bob Mount – health concerns; Melvin Smith – health issues; All who have been affected by the devastation caused by deadly wildfires in Oregon and California, and to those who have sustained damages caused by Hurricanes Sally and Laura along the Gulf Coast..

Prayers for those Homebound or in Healthcare Facilities:; Stan McMillan – Palatine Nursing Home, 154 Lafayette St., Palatine Bridge, NY 13428; Grace Fenno – Arkell Hall, 55 Montgomery St., Canajoharie, NY 13317; Paul Flint – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452; Barbara Draffen (*Pastor Matt's Mom*) now at rehab center in Schenectady; Alice McEwan (*Carol Cechnicki's Mother*) – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452.

Prayers for our Missionaries: Felipe & Janelle Silva – serving in Romania; Mark, Deb & Zach Wilson – serving in Cambodia.

Prayers for those who are incarcerated: Scott Cole – DIN# 15B2351, Great Meadow Correctional Facility Box 51, Comstock, NY 12821-0051.

Prayers for: Dan Cauwenberghs – (*Bobbi's son*) who is working in Kosovo.

him. We must take him into account, and understand that he is beyond our control, and beyond our understanding. Read with respect, looking for his will. If we fear God, we need fear nothing else, because the believer already knows the end of their story.

B) Secondly, do not come to the word with an idea or a belief and look for confirmation in the pages of scripture. Much of what represents itself as righteousness, or statements about the character of Jesus does not match up with the word of God. There are examples of this reading into the Bible what we want it to say on all the sides that are so prevalent in this country. Read the word, lots of it, and allow it to speak into your life.

C) Right now, in this society, searching for truth is like going to a buffet. People pick and choose what they think the truth is, generally what makes us most comfortable or seems to help us through the day. As Christians, the choice we need to make is that the Word of God is the truth, and if it seems foreign or strange or mistaken to us about certain things then we need to change our conception of truth. We think truth is the same thing as "Historical" or "Real" or "Verifiable". These are relatively new concepts in human history, and to say that God's word needs to match our constructs of truth in order to speak to us is arrogant at best. Start from the idea that the Bible is revealing God's truth to you, and then seek out the truth it is communicating, paying attention to the style of the writing.

D) Get a Bible study tool, a physical Bible, an online program or the like. Spend your time in that, not in reading the conspiracies that you can find online. The internet is democratic, and one can say what one wants to say on it, without a lot of regard about whether it is true. And you can mask your sources for what you post. Take the time you spend in the internet and devote at least a portion of it to reading the word of God or a classic, faithful uplifting writing by a faithful author. Read one that has stood the test of time. I can loan you one, and the church has a library.

Brothers and Sisters, there is such a thing as objective truth. It comes from God. All truth is God's truth, or it isn't truth. Do not fear or react to the latest post you read on the internet. Measure it all against the Word of God. God's truth is the truth to live by. And remember "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against ...the principalities and powers of the air." (Ephesians 6:10-12) Get into the word and stay in the word. And do not fear the conspiracies of those who are seeking to profit from your unease.

Pastor Matt

TRAINING UP OUR CHILDREN

When we had our children baptized, we made a covenant with God and the church to raise our children up to know the Lord to the best of our ability. The final result of this, the entering into a living and saving faith, is up to God, working through his Spirit. We, however, have a part to play. In order to fulfill this covenant promise in these times when we cannot have Sunday School, I have a resource that I highly recommend to parents of children middle school age and up, and for adults. Look up "The Bible Project" on the internet. It contains a series of animated clips, lasting 5 to 10 minutes each, that explain how to read the Bible, books of the Bible, and themes in the Bible. It is very accessible and interesting. The two men who put this resource out are very engaging. I listen to their podcast on Spotify when I walk. It is also called "The Bible Project" and is a conversation about a book of the Bible or a Biblical topic. I look forward to when we can bring back in person Sunday School. In the meantime, I hope you find this resource to be helpful in fulfilling our vows and for your personal spiritual growth.

WILSON FAMILY UPDATE — SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Friends and Family- We *were* are headed back to Cambodia with only one last hurdle, that we know of - getting our Covid-19 test results within 72 hours of our departure as required by the Cambodian government. Saturday September 26th was to be the day. But our (negative) test results came back too early for the requirement and *too late* to get another test in time for our flight. So, our next target is October 8th and we are trying not to unpack too much. We are excited about being able to go back home to Cambodia and continue working with our local partners.

Please pray for us to get the next round of test result in a timely manner. As just happened, if the results come in later, they will not allow us to fly out. Cambodia will also require us to quarantine on arrival for at least two weeks (and an additional 14 days if anyone on our plane tests positive on arrival). Thankfully, we were able to use frequent flyer miles to get on the same flights! (when Deb came in March to be with her Dad, she took the next available flight which was different from the airline that Mark used to join her using frequent flyer miles).

It has been an unexpectedly long "exile" in the US; we returned in March because of Deb's Dad's critical condition. We are so thankful to God that Deb *was* able to spend some time with her Dad in his last days, and also for Mark and Zach to be able to join Deb and the immediate family for his funeral.

As Covid-19 cases increase throughout the US, Cambodia denied entry of Americans into the country for a time. And, even after the travel ban was lifted, we did not feel that it was safe enough to travel to Cambodia until recently.

As many of you know, we have both been working remotely from Oregon at Mark's Aunt's ranch. Living in an RV on the ranch has given us joy being in a beautiful environment, being close to Zach and Mark's extended family, and learning a little bit about cattle ranching. Attached to the email is a brief video to give you an idea of what it is like for us here and for Mark to continue teaching at Phnom Penh Bible School albeit from his "barn office" in Oregon. The school year has finished now and the next year starts the first of November.

Deb is also trying to do whatever she can via internet to coordinate the Garden of Life team with counselling training and offering counselling services. Deb is part of the Executive Committee and they have been meeting via Zoom through these past months. Our team put on a training program last month, for Cambodian counsellors, on working more effectively with children. The trainer taught via Zoom from Australia and the students were all together in Phnom Penh but socially distanced. However, students were still able to interact and practice some of the skills together. We are offering another training in late September on Cognitive Behavior Therapy. We have just been told by our landlord that we must move out of the building we have been renting so the team must quickly search for, and move into, a new place. **Please pray** for the team to implement the training well AND to find a wonderful and affordable place for the counselling center. It is difficult to be "displaced" here in the US not being able to help *on the ground*.

This month we were challenged by the wildfires here in Oregon. Our son Zach and Mark's mother had to evacuate and came to the ranch to shelter from a fire which destroyed the towns of Talent and Phoenix and parts of Medford and Ashland Oregon.

In this one fire along 600 homes and 100 businesses were destroyed. **Please pray** for those affected. The air quality here was at hazardous levels for weeks. Please pray for gentle ocean winds to thin out the smoke & for rains without lightning to help contain & put out the fires. Please pray for strength and safety for the firefighters and first responders.

Lastly, while we are excited to return, we are also torn about leaving Zach, extended family, friends, our community that is recovering from such devastation from the wildfires. However, we were deeply encouraged by the message this Sunday to *present ourselves as living sacrifices - in view of His mercy - which is our spiritual act of worship*. And so, we present ourselves to serve the Lord in Cambodia by His strength and your ongoing support and look forward to seeing what God will do in & through us - For His glory alone.

Thank you for going with us on this journey. Your prayers, support and care mean so much to us.

-Deb & Mark Wilson

Comfort Zone News!

Beginning this month, we are making a change.

Comfort Zone will be held on Monday Oct 26th at 6 pm and Nov. 23 at 6 pm here at church. Please help spread the word.

- Drive-thru or walk-up in front of the church.
- Gift bags and large items will be handed out.
- Diapers will be available.
- Social distancing and masks will be required and enforced for car passengers and walk-ups.

Announcements

Congratulations to Bret & Jaci Robinson on the birth of their twins - a son, Stone Anthony and a daughter, Stella Rae who arrived September 2nd.

Best Wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Mark Davidson on their Saturday September 26th Wedding!
May God richly bless your marriage for years to come.

In the Mail

Thank You:

Pastor Matt, and the Congregation of the Canajoharie Reformed Church,
We truly thank you for years of kindness, acceptance and devotion to our cousin – your brother, David Van Wormer.
He dearly loved you all, and certainly your love of him gave him strength throughout his health struggle. Peace be with you.

Love,
Scott Dillenback
Colleen Sieme
Janine Nelson



**Regional
Food Bank**
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 to the Regional Food Banks BackPack Program. Your gift is greatly appreciated and will be utilized to fund the specific school program of your designation.

Our current focus is to feed and bring comfort to our neighbors whose livelihoods and communities have been devastated by Covid-19 pandemic. Your generosity will make a real difference in their lives, as they strive to endure and recover from this unprecedented health and economic crisis.

The food and other resources we provide would not be available without the support we receive from so many caring people. Thank you for your kindness and concern for your fellow New Yorkers.

Yours truly,
Mark Quandt; Executive Director

October Birthdays

&

Anniversaries

- 1 Pat Prime
- 2 *Cornell & Sahoutah Lanier (1991)*
- 6 Gayle Spraker
- 8 *Robert & Roberta Rocas (1994)*
- 15 Suzanne Aldi
Holly Blacker
- 17 Kelly Prime
- 19 Kristen Post
Carrie Shineman
- 20 David Spraker
- 22 Rick Borden
- 25 Olivia Tomaszewski
- 26 Sam Sunderland
- 31 Barton Leneker



Berean Bean News

Bread Give Away

Tuesday's at 10AM

Knit & Stitch

Knit & Stitch meet at the Bean
Tuesday mornings at 9AM.
Come join us even if you don't hook!

Men's Breakfast

Will meet for breakfast at the Bean on
Saturday October 3rd @ 8AM! All are welcome!

Save the Date

Haven of Hope is coming to Berean Bean
Thursday, Oct. 22nd from 10AM -12 Noon where they will host a bake sale.
Come down, buy some delicious bake goods
and help support Haven of Hope!

Haven of Hope Farm & Residence provides transitional housing to homeless women and children in Fulton and Montgomery counties.