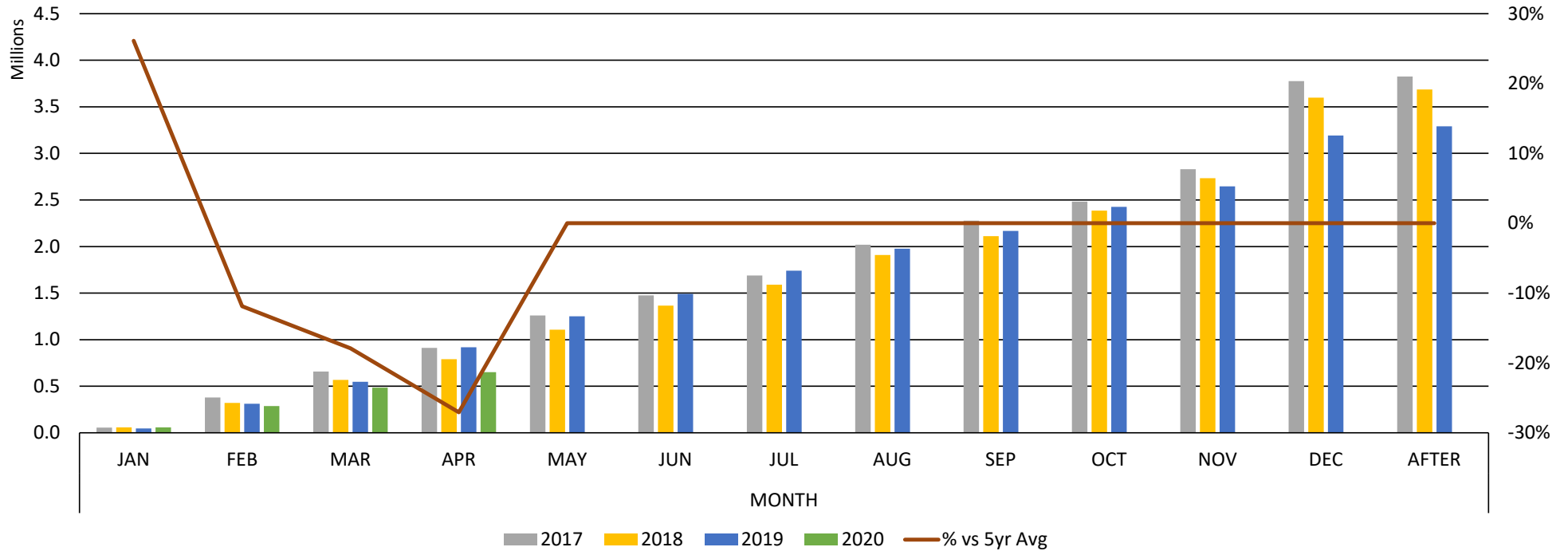


Year-to-Year Analysis



Interesting times. Talk about a weird year. I'm very appreciative of the churches giving out of faith to apportionments through this difficult season. I want to specifically lift up Piedmont Grace, Gettysburg, and Dickinson who have been a great encouragement to those of us serving in the Conference. Approximately half of our churches have applied for and received Paycheck Protection Program loans. I've directly helped several dozen churches discern whether or not to apply and/or guided through the application process. Indirectly, hundreds of churches have accessed our videos and resources to navigate the PPP loans, electronic giving, and the like.

This crisis was a reminder to me of the importance of connection. I had a church that is currently withholding apportionments call in asking for help with the PPP loan process. Actually they called in three times. There was the initial struggle of hurt feelings (yes, accountants have feelings) and desire to punish. After about a minute or so, I remember that I love and respect the church and want the best for them so I served them the best I knew how. Maybe there'll be a time when our relationship changes, and it won't be right to serve them freely, but that time is not now.