

# Christian Community Church

## Vision 2024



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH



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## *A note from our Elders...*

Let us begin with a word of honesty...

Sometimes we wonder if yearly themes are just a gimmick and lack any real substance. Are we just throwing buzz words at people and hope, at best, for some added excitement and an uptick in engagement? Are we functioning more as social media influencers than we are as leaders of God's people which demands greater responsibility and integrity than mere hype?

Our theme of 'GROW' for 2023 had us on this edge of hype vs reality. As leaders, I knew what the elders desired...true growth in the Lord, to find ourselves in a deeper place spiritually at the end of the year than when we had begun. We also knew that the disruption to life due to covid and lockdowns still had a lingering effect on the church and that the physical, financial growth of our congregation had been stunted, for a time, just like in so many other churches and places.

So let us tell you, God's plan for our church in 2023 was indeed GROW. God proved faithful! (*As if there was any doubt.*) It wasn't hyped, forced, faked, or manipulated. Genuinely, God produced both organizational growth and spiritual growth in Christian Community Church in 2023. Our attendance increased considerably, giving was up, ministries expanded their reach, our online platform continued to reach a bigger audience and most importantly, so many of you can tell stories of significant personal growth over the past year. We're blessed, more than most, to have the opportunity to hear and come alongside your vulnerabilities...and that is exactly the place where true growth is formed. We stand in awe of God's work in your life and in the life of our church in 2023.

The growth we experienced in 2023 has presented us with a new challenge in 2024 and thus our theme for the new year. We are now faced with how we RESPOND to this growth. What steps do we take in and through growth that honor God's work in our life and spur us on in continued growth?

As your elders, and alongside church leadership, we are committed to responding to what we believe will be an ongoing pattern of growth. You will see several projects identified in this vision report that point to the commitment of our leadership to make sure that our campus accommodates the growth God continues to bring to our church family. You will also see that our leadership and elders are doubling down on our commitment to preach the Bible as absolute truth, to spend time in prayer for our church and to continue our deep commitment to world missions.

We recognize that the church is not the sum of its leaders or the personality of its pastor (*though important and influential*), but that we are a body...all who are born again and call CCC their home are significant and vital to what God has called us to do. Therefore, our leadership has identified that it is the responsibility of all of us at Christian Community Church to RECOGNIZE and RESPOND.

At the heart of RECOGNIZE and RESPOND is the development of a Discipleship Path to Spiritual Maturity, which you will find printed in this vision report. It serves as a road map, if you will, of the steps to spiritual maturity that one is called to take as a believer and follower of Christ. We are calling on all parties to use the Discipleship Path to first prayerfully RECOGNIZE where they are in spiritual maturity and then RESPOND obediently to what God is calling them to do.

We are so excited about the Lord and our church. We love and appreciate you so much and highly value the privilege that it is to continue to serve this wonderful congregation as your elders.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 is our absolute favorite thing about you.

*"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."*

*-Pastor Dan, Jim Kennedy, Eric Schuelke, & John Wright*

**Our theme for 2024 is...**

**RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND**

**1 Thessalonians 2:13 NASB**

<sup>13</sup>For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of *mere* men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which also is at work in you who believe.

**2023 Review:**

Ephesians 4:11-16 NASB (Our theme verses for 2023)

<sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, some *as* prophets, some *as* evangelists, some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *that is*, Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



**GROW**  
**20 23**

**Financial Growth:**

2019	215,566
2020	239,365
2021	255,591
2022	222,394
2023	261,090

**Attendance Growth:**

2019:	124
2020:	94
2021:	77
2022:	93
2023:	105

\*Please note that in 2020, we began to offer services online.

**Livestream Growth:**

2020:	45 subscribers
2021:	80 subscribers
2022:	111 subscribers
2023:	160 subscribers

**Spiritual Growth:**

- Ecmen participation
- Family Life Night campaign
- Increase in adult Sunday school attendance & women's Bible Studies.



## 2024 Objectives:

- Discipleship Path to Spiritual Maturity.
- Address the needs of a growing church including expanded seating in the worship center, consulting a sound engineer, installing acoustic paneling and purchasing additional sound equipment.
- Address some maintenance needs on campus including exploration of boiler replacement, solving the odor issue associated with the hot water system and replacing some tables and chairs as needed for ministry.
- Reaffirm our commitment to teach the absolute truth of God’s Word, to pray boldly with and for one another and to support missions generously in the pursuit of our mission to love God, love each other and love the world.

**2023 Membership:**

Batykefer, Chuck	King, Annie	*Denotes new members in 2023
Batykefer, Sill	King, Jim	
Covaleski, Andrew	Kramer, Bill	
Covaleski, Beth	Kramer, Tracy	
Covaleski, Dave	Lemcheck, Denny	
Cox, Carla	McNeish, Adam	
Cox, Steve	McNeish, Rebekah	
Craft, Brian	Miskevich, Charlene	
Craft, Nicole	Mubel, Chris	
Dietz, Carol	Mubel, Nikki	
Fabian, Tina	Muehlbronner, Sandy	
Ferguson, Debbie	Muehlbronner, Scott	
Ferguson, John	Piette, Bethany	Walker, Matt
Gilson, Dave	Piette, Timothy	Weikal, Adam
Gilson, Dawn	Rabold, Joyce	Weikal, Stacy
Graham, Pat	Rabold, Sharon	*Whitehead, Alan
Grusofski, Jerry	Rabold, Steve	*Whitehead, Pat
Grusofski, Sharon	Rostron, Diane	Wicker, John
Haight, Anne	Rostron, Jeff	Wicker, Nola
Hewett, Dave	Salsgiver, Carol	Williams, Darlene
Hewett, Karen	Salsgiver, Will	Williams, Guy
Higgins, Cindy	Schuelke, Eric	Wright, John
Higgins, Tom	Schuelke, Kim	Wright, Nicole
Icenhour, Molly	Schuster, Brandon	
Jones, Anne	Schuster, Katie	
Jones, Nick	Shaffer, Don	
Kennedy, Alex	Shaffer, Patti	
Kennedy, Becky	Sipko, Craig	
Kennedy, Courtney	Sipko, Mandy	
Kennedy, Jim	Sloan, Court	
Kennedy, Karl	Sloan, Traci	
Kennedy, Lauren	Turney, Carissa	
Kennedy, Sandy	Turney, Daniel	
Kennedy, Sean	Walker, Dorothy	
Kennedy, Theresa	Walker, Jessica	

## **Organizational Leadership:**

### **Staff:**

Andrew Covaleski: Worship Director  
\*Gavin Mack: Youth Director  
Dan Turney: Pastor  
Diane Rostron: Bookkeeper  
Nicole Wright: Administrative Assistant

### **Elders:**

Jim Kennedy  
Eric Scheulke  
\*Dan Turney  
John Wright

### **Deacons:**

Nick Jones  
Matt Walker

## **Facilities:**

### **Facilities:**

Chuck Batykefer: Trustee  
Dawn Gilson: Lawn maintenance and landscaping  
Becky Kennedy: Building Decorations and Kitchen Manager

### **Finance:**

\*Diane Rostron: Bookkeeper  
Katie Schuster: Treasurer

## **Family Ministries:**

### **Men's Ministry:**

\*Bill Kramer  
Eric Schuelke

### **Women's Ministry:**

\*Denny Lemchak

### **Family Life Night**

\*Kim Schuelke

### **Unhindered:**

\*Nola Wicker (Chairperson)

## **Children's Ministry:**

### **CMT:**

\*Becky Kennedy (King's Kids)  
\*Bethany Piette (Chairperson)

### **Nursery:**

\*Shannon Mack

### **Study Hall:**

\*Carla Cox

## **Service/Outreach/Fellowship:**

### **Social Committee:**

\*Molly Icenhour (Chairperson)

### **Missions:**

\*Lauren Kennedy (Chairperson)

### **Worship Director:**

Andrew Covaleski

### **Prayer Ministry: Selah Hour**

Dave Gilson (Wednesday)  
Bill Kramer (Sunday)

### **Guest Care:**

Mark Bramble (Chairperson)

### **Communion:**

Jim King

### **Worship Host:**

Tim Piette

### **Attendance:**

Will Salsgiver

### **Funeral Luncheons:**

Charlene Miskevich

### **Card Ministry:**

Sill Batykefer  
\*Lori Rysak

### **Church Photography:**

Don Shaffer



**Church Photography:**

Don Shaffer

**Church Growth Team:**

\*Tim Piette (Chairperson)

**Sunday Hospitality:**

Cindy Higgins

**Tech Team:**

**Audio:**

Dave Covalleski

Craig Sipko

**Visual:**

Beth Covalleski

Mandy Sipko

**Livestream:**

Bob Cross (Chairperson)



## Finance Report:

**Thankful.** “To be conscious of benefit received; to be pleased about something good that has happened, or something bad that has not happened” (Merriam Webster and Oxford Learning Dictionaries)

**Gratitude** “A positive response to experiencing God's goodness and grace.” (Biblical notion of gratitude)

Today I am **thankful** that our finances grew last year from net losses during the first quarter to over \$67,000 in net income by year's end! But I am **grateful** for God's goodness and grace in moving people to pray for the church and in answering those prayers.

I am **thankful** for people's tithes and offerings, which sustain our ministries throughout the year. But I am **grateful** for God's goodness and grace in moving people to an attitude of generosity and unselfish giving, and increasing their trust in Him to provide for their needs.

Let me explain. During the first quarter of 2023 our giving was down and we were seeing net losses each month. Some members of the finance committee met with the elders to discuss the numbers and try to determine the best way to proceed. We came up with some general ideas, but the best and most important idea was to PRAY, make the need known to our church family, and ask others to PRAY. Shortly after people began praying, God answered our prayers in a big way.



But the answer to those prayers is about more than just the income. It is about praying people following God's call with regard to their finances. It's about people desiring to be good stewards, as directed in the bible. It's about an attitude of gratitude and understanding that **gratitude helps us sense God's presence, His personal care and His perfect timing.** “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the

Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

(James 1:17 NIV)

The finance team would like to thank you all for your prayers and financial support of CCC, including above and beyond when asked to give to a specific ministry. Please pray for us to be good stewards of all that God has provided. It is my hope that as you support CCC with your prayers and tithes and offerings, you will see the provision of God in your own life and respond with gratitude.

Please help us welcome our new Treasurer, Katie Schuster, to our team. Committee members Molly Jo

Icenhour, Diane Rostron, Jeff Rostron, Kim Schuelke and Adam Weikal are excited to have Katie join us and we look forward to serving in this ministry together. Jeff will remain a vital part of the committee as he hands the role of Treasurer off to Katie. We thank him for his 12 years of humble leadership.

You can see specifics of our finances in the Profit and Loss Statement and the 2024 Budget, which will be available for the Vision meeting. Feel free to contact Diane with any questions about the report.

-Diane Rostron

## The Anthem Report:

This year has been a crazy year for our youth group. As some of our older leaders seemed to move away from youth group, and new ones came. CCC's Anthem Youth group has been trying to get its footing. To figure out what it is, and who its participants want to be.

I've watched so much growth this last year. Reading books the teens have written, or listening to songs they wrote with a rock band. We have all even watched them slowly get on stage and use their musical abilities for God's glory. There is so much more that has been happening, and it's all so beautiful. I thank God for a great year, and a wonderful group of people.

This next year we are planning on focusing on applying that growth in the teens, and our own lives. The hope would be that through teaching, preaching, and the slow introduction of missions that these young men and women would be knowledgeable about their faith. Then from that be bold in their faith. I find you have to have true knowledge and passion before you can try to grow either in others. After all, not only are the older men and women of the church called to disciple, but these young men and women are called to disciple each other, especially those that are younger than them in the youth group.

The trick is knowing that God is the one growing that knowledge and passion in us, and in others that we reach out too.

I ask that you would be praying for spiritual maturity in our Youth Group. That they would be a light in a dark and confused world. Let's push and encourage and pray for them to be exactly what God is calling them to be. After all, the youth are the church now! Not the church of the future. As Paul says to Timothy in *1 Timothy 4:12-16: 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

Thank you for being such a loving and caring body of believers. I'm so excited for what God has in store!



**-Gavin Mack**

## Men's Ministry Report:

The theme for the year at CCC was "Growth" and it was evident in the Men's Ministry. We experienced personal spiritual growth in so many areas and so many hearts.

In January we hosted the Christ Life Ministries Men's Prayer Advance virtually on the CCC campus and the teaching was excellent. The technology presented many challenges and on Saturday morning when everything seemed to draw to a halt, God stepped in and drew the men into a spontaneous time of prayer that has not been forgotten.

In February we attended the ECMen Forged Men's Retreat in Ligonier, PA. We had a good number of men from CCC attend and Pastor Dan Turney was the main speaker.

In March we endeavored into a new relationship with Tiger Pause Youth Ministry (TPYM) in Beaver Falls, PA. A group of volunteers travelled to Beaver Falls on a Saturday morning and got dirty working on a construction project. The group was introduced to Oram's Donuts which made it easier to get people to sign up when we went back in June to do it again!

We had a Buddy Breakfast in April that was well attended, several youth attended for the first time.

ECMen Labor Day Cookout was at the Hewett's home in Butler. We had a great turnout, great hosts, great food and fellowship. Matt Nance, TPYM Director, was our speaker and this presented an opportunity to get to know him and more about TPYM. Through this event, we met Pastor Matt Lower from Butler, and opportunities to serve God became obvious as new friendships were cultivated.

November started off with an official English Breakfast and speaker as we welcomed Alan Whitehead to our family of Brothers in Christ. We had several speakers that morning, Alan was the oldest and Greyson Weikal was the youngest and we were blessed by both. ECMen Monday Night study started in November for 8 weeks and was well attended.

All year long the Men's Thursday Morning breakfast met at the Grand Avenue Grille in Mars. The Saturday morning Men's group has added a few more regulars to the list and meets at 7:30 AM in the Prayer Room at CCC. The group meets at various restaurants for breakfast the last Saturday of each month.

For 2024 we are hosting the CCC MPA January 26, 27, 2024 on the CCC campus.

ECMEN is Hosting a Men's Retreat February 23-25, 2024 at the Ligonier Retreat Center Ligonier PA.

We are planning to serve TPYM with several work days as the Lord leads.

We have witnessed men selflessly serve and their heart's grow; therefore, we are energized by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue to serve!



**Men's Ministry Leaders:**  
**Bill Kramer**  
**Eric Schuelke**

## Women's Ministry Report:

Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”

Ladies Ministry has seen growth in 2023. We had a May event focused on being grounded in Christ in all seasons using content from previous Revive Our Heart sessions. We had 2 Bible studies in the spring. In September we had a Bible study kick off focusing on the 4 different studies that cover a range of preparation and depth.

We strive to serve all women in the church, whatever season of life you are in. We invite you to come as you are, answer the call of God in your life to learn and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Our Ladies Ministry Leadership Team is Carissa Turney, Nicole Wright, Denise Lemchak, Tina Fabian, and Mandy Sipko. You can call the church office and talk to Nicole, or reach out to any of us.



-Denny Lemchak

## Unhindered Report:

With the conclusion of another great year of ministry to our Unhindered families, I have the following goals in mind for 2024:

- Hold a fundraiser to acquire functional mats for the sensory room, some new shelving to support our inventory of toys, some new toys/sensory items and a rug.
- Communicate our need for volunteers and the blessing that it is to serve in this ministry. Would like to see some videos created that showcase our ministry, our amazing volunteers and our sweet families.

With several of our core families transitioning children into young adults, I would like to survey parents to find out how the Unhindered ministry can evolve to meet their shifting needs.



-Nola Wicker

## King's Kids Report:

### What we Teach

In 2023 our King's Kids (Children's Church) Ministry has continued chronologically through the Bible with The Gospel Project Curriculum. This curriculum does a fantastic job leading children through the big picture of Scripture as well as pointing all of Scripture to Jesus. This is done with weekly reviews of all we have learned, a "Big Picture Question" and a segment called "Christ Connection". The Christ Connection is especially helpful in teaching children how all of Scripture (whether Old or New Testament) ultimately brings us back to our redemption in Christ. Our students are learning these valuable truths and are asking amazing questions. This year, we will complete the third year of this three-year program so the Children's Ministry Team will be searching for something new for fall of 2024.

### Prayer Requests

Pray as we select a new curriculum for fall 2024.

Pray for more children with whom to share the Good News of Jesus.

I feel more and more urgency to prepare our elementary kids to be faithful followers of Christ in an increasingly hostile world. We do this by discussing how what we are studying applies to our world today and by encouraging curiosity and tough questions. We don't have all the answers, but we talk through them with Scripture as our lens. Pray for wisdom for our volunteers as we engage in these conversations.

### Volunteer Blessing

Last year, we were asking for four new volunteers, and the Lord blessed us with five! If you feel called to this ministry, don't hesitate to talk with me. Even though our roster is full (see below), we will find a place for those with a passion and calling to serve. Please contact me for more information: [bjk317@zoominternet.net](mailto:bjk317@zoominternet.net).

### Joy of Serving

I personally love serving in this ministry and feel so invested in CCC's vision because I serve. I often leave class so excited about the questions and discussions we had that I can't stop talking about it on the way home. It's also thrilling to witness the "light bulb" moments when a kid understands a spiritual truth with the help of the Spirit. I have realized how important the work of training this next generation of leaders is and am blessed to be part of it.

Thank you,

Becky Kennedy

King's Kids Coordinator

Submitted January 2024

	PreK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Teacher	PreK-2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Teacher	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Assistant
<b>Week 1</b>	Stacy Weikal	Molly Jo Icenhour	Anne Jones	Nick Jones
<b>Week 2</b>	Carissa Turney	Debbie Bramble	John Wicker	Nicole Wright
<b>Week 3</b>	Heidi Cross	Brianna Jones	Becky Kennedy	Steve Cox
<b>Week 4</b>	Anne Haught	Annabelle Cox	Tim Piette	Bethany Piette

## Vacation Bible School Report:

At Keepers of the Kingdom, VBS 2023, 40 volunteers helped equip 30 kids with the armor of God so that they can stand strong in today's battle for truth. It was a great week as we watched the Lord work in the lives of the kids and volunteers alike. This year we will continue to use Answers In Genesis curriculum as we embark on a jungle cruise, stopping at 7 ports to discover the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. On "The Great Jungle Journey" kids will journey from Genesis to Revelation to discover how these events have shaped our world and how to reconnect the Bible with their everyday lives. We hope to see you there!



Mark your calendars for **June 24th-28th, 6:00-8:30** to join us. Volunteer sign-up will be coming soon!

**-Bethany Piette, VBS Director**

## Family Life Night Report:

In this second year of Family Life Night, it's been exciting to walk through the book of Acts with our young learners. Our attendance is up by 12%, and some of our children have never been in a church before. This year we're also contributing to Operation Christmas Child, Annabelle's Collections and Women's Choice Network. We covet your prayers on behalf of this ministry.

**-Kim Schuelke**

## Nursery Report:

The nursery is booming with babies, and I am so excited to see it fill up! In the year 2023, we added two babies and two toddlers who regularly attend! In 2024, we have at least two more little ones joining us! It has been such a joy to see all the new faces and to have our hands full!

While our staffing during worship is great, we are looking for more volunteers to help during the Sunday School hour! If anyone is interested in joining our team to love on these young hearts, please let me know and I am positive we will find a place for you!

We are looking forward to this year of watching our little ones grow!

*"But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."*

**-Shannon Mack**

## **Study Hall Report:**

We meet on Mondays (10am-2pm) and Wednesdays (2-6pm) in order to learn and grow together. Each time we meet we have devotions together. On Monday's we are reading through the book of Revelation with the focus of "Are you Ready" in mind as we learn and prepare for The Second Coming of Christ. Pastor Dan is teaching us a 20 minute recap of what he teaches on FLN nights to the adults. Please join us in prayer for growth as we are holding steady at about 12 students.

**– Carla Cox**

## **We can all be Heroes (Annabelle's homeless project):**

It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this program and we have collected more items than we can count and your generosity has been noticed. In 2024 we would like to arrange for a service project to feed the homeless so be on the lookout for a date to serve.

2024 Calendar is as follows:

January-March: Winter Gear (Coats, gloves, hats), Blankets

April – June: Spring/Summer Clothing, Sheets, Shoes

July-Sept: Hygiene products, Socks, Underwear

Oct-Dec: Blankets, Shoes, Socks, Underwear

\*Foster care collections – Please see Carla Cox or Nicole Wright

## **Social Committee Report:**

This past year the social committee hosted some returning events and some new events. Classic returning events were the church picnic, trunk or treat, and the turkey bowl chili cookoff. Each of these events always include some friendly competition, lots of laughter, conversations, and of course food. This year we kicked off First Friday Fellowships which looked a little different each month but always brought great fellowship in smaller group settings. We also hosted new events such as a Murder Mystery event and a spring ladies craft day, which both brought in large crowds. Be on the lookout for more returning and new events this year! As always, if you ever have ideas, please let us know. Lastly, if you've never attended an event, I'd like to personally invite you to come and see what they are all about.

**-Molly Icenhour**



## Missions Committee Report:

2023 was a year of learning and encouragement for our team and our missionaries. We have continued to support our 11 Missionaries. The year found us again positioned to care for our missionaries' needs through monthly giving, special projects, prayer support and personal relationships.

We supported 11 missionaries and their families in 2023 with a Gospel reach in several different countries. We have been excited to hear their stories of the Gospel bringing salvation and hope in many places and through various means. It's both a challenging and exciting time in world missions, and here are some of the exciting things CCC was able to be a part of in 2023:

2023 also saw missionary visits throughout the year this included: the Kennedy's, the Harrison family, the Combs, and Steph P.

With a Generous donation from Marlene Mast CCC was able to gift each of our missionaries with an additional financial gift during the Christmas season.

We will continue to support our missionaries in 2024 and are excited to hear how God continues to bring the Gospel to the world through the obedience of those who answer the call to serve in missions.

**In 2024 we will continue to support our missionaries with prayer, financials and personal relationship. If you feel called to come along or share ideas on how we at CCC can better do this please reach out to any member of our team!**



**-Lauren Kennedy**

*on behalf of the Missionary Committee Members*

Pastor Dan

Dave and Dawn Gilson

Dave Hewett

Nick and Anne Jones

Jim King

## Caring Cards:

This was a new ministry for 2023. Throughout the year, 211 cards were made and 107 cards were sent out to various individuals. On December 1, our First Friday Fellowship was devoted to card making, and 37 kids cards were made. I'm praying for the opportunity to send out more cards in 2024.

**-Lori Rysak**

## Church Growth Team

### Vision Report - 2024

Mission Statement: *"Building relationships with the community resulting in visitors transitioning into disciples."*

The Church Growth Team began 2023 with goals to engage in community events, adopt a specific neighborhood for targeted outreach, and continue to improve our online presence. This focus coincided well with the elders' "Grow" vision for 2023. Through a lot of prayer and hard work, the whole church body came together to do some exciting things such as:

- Community event participation
  - We sponsored a potato bowling and craft booth at Pine Township Day, handing out Family Life Night invitations and copies of the Gospel of John.
  - We also served at the Mars AppleFest.
- Laurel Grove Neighborhood Outreach
  - We talked with residents and handed out Easter service invitations.
  - We also went caroling and invited residents to our Christmas Eve service.
- YouTube Channel Improvements
  - Our YouTube channel is now much more organized, making it easier for both members and visitors to find content.

Although it's difficult to tie any specific outreach to a particular visitor, our church has experienced growth in average attendance in Sunday services, increasing from around 93 in 2022 to around 105 in 2023. We've also had significant attendance during the Sunday School and Family Life Night gatherings, providing people the opportunity to grow in their relationship with God together as the church body.

We're excited to see God continue to grow our body in many ways as we launch into 2024, and here are some ways you can be part of that:

- Join us in community outreach opportunities and service projects.
  - We're planning to participate in at least 3 community events in 2024.
  - The more of us willing to join, the more people we can engage with the love of Christ and invite them to join what God's doing at CCC.
- Greet visitors as they come to Sunday service and other events.
  - All the outreach to get someone to come isn't worth it unless they feel welcomed and loved when they're here.
  - Be intentional about displaying Christ's love for folks both inside and outside the walls of the church.

- Engage with social media posts and videos.
  - The more shares, comments, reviews, and likes, the more people view the messages and have an opportunity to come to an event or service.
  - We're also planning some updated welcome videos and photos, and we may need some smiling faces willing to participate!
- Help us as we highlight specific ministries both internally to increase participation and externally to draw in more people from the community.
  - Our different ministries can reach different segments of our community, and for outreach-oriented events, we can help extend that outreach.
- Pray for our community to come to Christ and for wisdom and focus for our team.
  - The more we pray and act in faith, the more we'll see God move in people's lives.

**-Tim Piette**

