



2023
2024

ANNUAL REPORT



We meet you where you are and walk alongside you in your spiritual journey to a life with greater meaning.



Dear members and friends,

Three words describe this past year for me. Joy. The joy of seeing a 93-year-old member cut the ribbon with a 4-year-old member! That I will never forget. The joy of seeing 350 folks laughing and playing together in Centennial Park. The joy of welcoming so many first time visitors seeking and finding God's grace and welcome in our midst. The joy of fall and winter concerts that made the heart soar with hope.

Resilience is my second word. As key beloved staff leaders retired and followed God's call into new areas of service, the congregation relied on its deep reservoir of strength and so many of you stepped up to serve on search committees or fill in the gaps in leadership. Wow! In terms of our physical campus, the chaos of construction continued. I recall the weekend two major parlor receptions beautifully unfolded with unpainted walls and only a plywood floor but with gorgeous cookies and flowers and a room filled with the delightful buzz of friendship.



The third word is Spiritual. I am in awe of your spirituality: the wise questions uttered by 6th graders in Pastors' Class; the eagerness of two new young adult groups actively studying scripture and serving our city; the devotion of our high school seniors on the youth mission trip; the elders and deacons who stepped up as Buddies to our homebound members; the passion for justice exhibited on our Human Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama and partnership trip to Ecuador.

In you, I glimpse God's joy, God's resilience, God's spiritual presence and vitality. Thank you Church, for being the body of Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Carla

Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Minister



BY THE NUMBERS



1598

Worshipped on Christmas Eve



700

Pie slices for Micah Ministries' Thanksgiving Dinner



350

Attendees at the Community Block Party



200+

Flower arrangements delivered to sick or homebound



160

People serving at Grace at Work Partnership Days & Micah Ministries



39

Members receiving buddy visits



32

New Members



158

Weekly average of people attending Virtual Worship



1400+

People attending Easter Services



66

Grief Notes sent to member families



2149

Check-ins for Youth and Adults in Sunday School



33%

Increased in-person attendance at Christmas Eve Services

OUTREACH / SERVICE

DOLLARS TOWARDS



Grants

\$100,600



Service / Learning

\$32,412



Christmas Offering

\$24,929



Easter Offering

\$22,412



Partner Agencies

\$13,773



Virginia Reed Food Drive & Souper Bowl of Caring

\$11,246

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

1 Develop reimagined new member program

- Corey Scott, Director of Church Life, joined the staff and along with Rev. Bryce Bowers, created a plan for an intentional guest and new member program that includes small group gatherings with clergy and members over four months.
- Guests began receiving a coffee mug displaying our church logo, a current events calendar, and a pocket prayer.



2 Invite church-unaffiliated and engage younger families and individuals



- To accommodate for the building being closed during the summer of 2023, staff came up with "Summer Pop-Ups". The all-generational activities were held in an area park and in the front yard of the church.
- In September, the Sanctuary and Parlor reopened, and we celebrated with a brunch between services.
- Summer Pop-Ups continued in summer '24 and were held in our new Centennial Park. Over 65 attendees, ages 2 to 92, attended each event.

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN continued...

- Our Preschool/PreK and Parents Day Out programs welcomed a new Director, Jennifer Dye. Renovations from the Next 100 allowed us to open a new classroom for infants and a new classroom for toddlers. This in turn allowed for increased enrollments: 109 students in the school year; 110 in the first summer session.
- In December, a free concert featuring KC Symphony's Brass Quintet and Organist Jan Kraybill hosted over 250 members and guests.
- The annual Christmas Festival provided families an opportunity to hang out with a camel, snap a family photo in front of our giant Christmas tree and take the photo framed in an ornament, home. Over 200 warmth packs were assembled to be distributed to our partner agencies.



- On Christmas Eve, our doors were open for the usual three services and a daytime fourth service was added which facilitated an increase in overall attendance.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was back and hosted over 100 children on Palm Sunday.
- The Next 100 Ribbon Cutting was held in April. Over 200 people toured the new spaces while taking part in a scavenger hunt for all ages which included sweet treats at each tour stop.
- In June, the new Centennial Park was christened with a Community Block Party. Neighbors, members and their families made up over 350 people taking part in photo booth fun, food trucks, carnival games, live music and more.



3 Create sustainable “Small Group factories” to foster relationships

- Two new groups for those in their 20s and 30s were launched. The Young Professionals group focuses on spiritual growth and service. The Branches Class meets on Sundays with an intentional focus on scripture.
- In March, the “Buddy Program” was introduced to our Elders and Deacons with 33 volunteering to be a buddy to 39 members who could benefit from a monthly connection in-person or via a phone call.
- A “Prayerful Practices” element was added to the 2024 Summer Pop-Ups. The free offerings invited all ages to participate in a unique experience designed to enhance our prayer lives.
- The Minister of Congregational Care began hosting coffee socials for members residing in retirement homes onsite to come together for fellowship.
- This year’s Lenten small groups focused on Rev. Dr. Mike Graves’ book, *“Jesus’ Vision For Your One Wild and Precious Life.”* Seven groups met weekly and discussed each chapter of the book. One group even met virtually with members from around the country!

4 Strengthen Inclusivity

- We hosted the Spire Chamber Ensemble for two performances of “Considering Matthew Shepard” in honor of one of America’s most notorious anti-gay hate crimes. The music took the nearly 400 audience members on a journey of Shepard’s story inviting all to come together as a community and expand our care and empathy.



- We began providing space to Prairie Sky Counseling to increase their reach for their services to the community. Prairie Sky provides one-on-one counseling for individuals aged 13 and older.

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN continued...

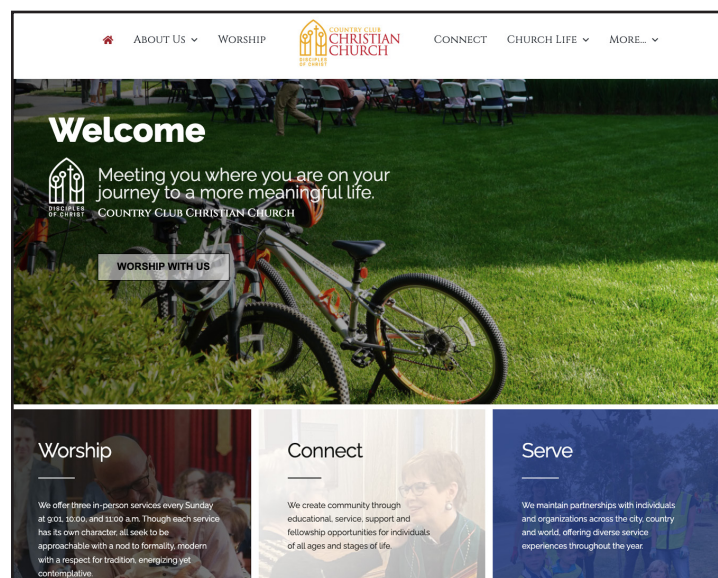
Strengthen Inclusivity continued...

- Over 24 members from CCCC and Swope Parkway United Christian Church traveled together on a Human Rights Pilgrimage. The goal of the trip was to serve as an educational and relational journey to better understand racism in our country and to consider ways to work toward dismantling it.
- In May, the church's newly appointed Open and Affirming Implementation Team met for the first time and continues to move forward.
- We hosted two combined worship services with Swope Parkway United Christian Church. The morning included brunch and fellowship in the Parlor with worship following.



5 Enhance ministry through communication and technology

- The updated website (cccckc.org) was revealed and features a more modern design. The new platform works in tandem with our new church software, Church Center, to display current groups, registrations, and calendar events.



- The live stream continues to be an important method of outreach with a majority of first-time guests and new members saying it is what motivated them to walk through our doors.
- Staff and members manned an "IT Help Desk" on Sunday mornings to assist members in using Church Center.
- Elders and Deacons have been successfully using Church Center for sign-ups to serve on Sundays.

FINANCIAL REPORT*

INCOME / EXPENSES

Total Income \$3,052,414

- Donations/Contributions \$1,521,382
- Other Income \$97,159
- Early Childhood Programs \$822,075
- Fundraising \$50,079
- Cellular Lease \$49,705

Total Expenses \$3,075,131

- Adjusted Net Income \$-13,353*

ENDOWMENT FUND

- Beginning Fund Balance \$8,506,092
- Contributions \$418,137
- Gains (loss) \$1,167,926
- Grants \$862,553
- Ending Fund Balance \$9,229,602

THE NEXT 100 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Total Commitments: \$13,596,382
- Contributors: 304 Families / Individuals

* All numbers are unaudited