



abundant **life**
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SHANE

Dear Abundant Lifer,

As I read through this report, my heart swelled with gratitude to Jesus! Our Lord has been extremely faithful to us through a really challenging year. He continues to provide us with the financial resources to serve many different people. He also continues to provide us with many humble servants, like you, who quietly give their time and talents to bless others through our ministries. I hope that as you read through this report it brings you the same joy. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship! He is truly on the move. I can't wait to see who He allows us to impact in this new year!

Happy to labor alongside of you!

Pastor Shane

SUNDAY MORNING

WHAT DOES THE SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY DO?

Brandon and Hailey Jurkovich oversee the different teams that are experienced on Sunday mornings during the services; from the greeters, to those running the technology, to the MC's, to the breakfast team, to the music team. The team is blessed to get a chance to serve every person who comes through the doors on Sunday mornings. One of the team goals is that each person who attends the services, or even watches them online, grows in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and experiences transformation by the power of God's Spirit. And beyond that, the even bigger, more important goal is that God would be greatly glorified and honored in what we do and that people could see His greatness as they experience or re-experience the gospel through the different elements of the morning and the service.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Over the last year, God did some beautiful things on Sunday mornings! One highlight was the Christmas season that occurred, Breaking the Silence! As the church partnered with Rahab Ministries, it was beautiful to see everyone coming together to provide the ministry with the resources they need to continue to do the good work they are doing to break the silence in the lives of human trafficking victims! It was also so encouraging for the church to learn how, in seasons of waiting and doubt, we can lean into God's great love and empathy that He has! And who knew that we would need that desperately just 3 months later? Of course, our gracious and kind Heavenly Father did!

Another noteworthy highlight was the fact that we held our first ever online service at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, and then many consecutive online services to follow! It was amazing to see that God's work and kingdom growth does not stop when all else seems to. He still used us to bless those in need as we rallied together as a church to serve those on the frontlines!

And lastly, it was a beautiful, encouraging, and emotional time to come back together in person on June 16th, in the form of 2 services, which is also new to the church and quite a feat to accomplish! Later we were able to all meet on our land 3 different times this Summer. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, joy, and celebration with each other!

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY?

God showed Himself through our volunteers as we had multiple people on the music team step up and be willing to fill in gaps that we had and by all of them being willing with grateful and glad hearts to consistently, week in and week out, lead 2 services, traveling between buildings!!!

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

The team plans to integrate the theme through the music that we sing, the different series that we go through, including stage designs that help to supplement the messages. We are hoping to provide clarity on Sunday mornings and the direction that God wants us to go with the current pandemic. We are planning to cover different themes and topics around which we feel our congregation needs clarity as well, as Pastor Shane shared on vision Sunday. We are planning to continue singing songs of hope that glorify God and inspire us and we are praying for growth! We plan to pray our theme passage for the year, Ephesians 1:15-23 over the congregation and expect God to bring clarity on who He is and on who we are in Him! And as we do all that, we expect to see God growing our people through His Spirit.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

We are incredibly grateful to Jerry Shackle for filling the greeting ministry role over the last 10+ years! Having said that, Eric and Rachel Robinette will be heading up the newly developed Hospitality Team, which seeks to help others experience a sense of belonging and generosity and to see and feel Christ in the tangible aspects of the Sunday morning experience. We are excited to see what God is planning to do through them and in our church!

We are also excited about Shane and Bethany Tyus, who will hopefully in the next year be starting a prayer ministry on Sunday mornings. This will provide a way for people who want and need prayer during and after the service, as they feel Holy Spirit's leading, to receive it.

CARE TEAM

WHAT DOES THE CARE TEAM DO?

The Care Team, led by Brenda Kurzen, prays for and makes monthly contact with those in the ALCF family, who are not being supported by a Life Group through conversations, letters, calls, texts, cards, and visits. We are 5 team members who support Pastor Shane's care of the 90 plus ALCF attendees without the support of a Life Group. We meet quarterly as a team with Pastor Shane for prayer, updates, and encouragement.

OUR GOAL

Once a month, we assure folks that they are remembered, they are prayed for and cared about. If we are made aware of needs we are not able to meet, we make this known to Pastor Shane and/or the deacons.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Our team (and others) provided food and care for funerals, expectant moms, illnesses, surgeries, moves, and a past member who had a house fire.

A STORY OF GOD SHOWING HIMSELF THROUGH THE MINISTRY

HIS TIMING. He knew COVID was coming and had this ministry in place so hopefully nobody fell through the cracks or felt isolated.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

By showing people that we care, we will be shining "the light of Jesus" into their lives and that can give them hope.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

More folks would like to join us in caring for others.

ROOTED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WHAT DOES THE ROOTED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DO?

The Rooted Children's Ministry, under the leadership of Lori Hewitt, serves around 50 children from ages nursery up through 5th grade on Sunday mornings. During class, we do a lesson and fun things with the kids for them to learn more about Jesus. Our goal as a ministry is to help children grow closer to Jesus and to plant seeds of faith in them at a young age so that when they grow older they can foster relationships with Jesus. We also want to help foster the relationship between the child and their parents.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

At the beginning of the year, we got to hold our Character Awards. At this event, we get to celebrate how God created each child and the special attributes that they were created with. During the year we made the addition of a new class to split the 3rd - 5th grade class in half due to the large numbers in that age group.

Another highlight is the new kids that have been coming to Rooted throughout the year. A lot of these kids are coming with their grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. We are so excited about this as this is many of these children's first time hearing about who Jesus is.

The last highlight was the Drive-By Easter Egg Hunt that we got to put on as a ministry during the beginning of the pandemic. We had a great time seeing all the children's faces as they completed the hunt!

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE ROOTED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY?

We have about 25 volunteers who serve in the nursery and in the classrooms through Rooted Children's Ministry. We could not do what we do without our volunteers. One volunteer who really stepped up this year was LeAnne Hartman. When we split the 3rd - 5th grade class, she was all about it! She said she would teach every week even when we didn't even have a room for this class yet. She dove right in and had a great attitude about it.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

As far as this year goes, we do not know what the Rooted Children's Ministry is going to look like but we are planning some activities that will help foster hope and light especially during the Christmas season. Throughout the whole year, we want to help our children share the light and hope that they have. Children are so resilient and have a hope, happiness and joy in them that no matter what happens that they are able to share. We want to foster that.

As soon as we get to come back together in person, the curriculum we are going to be started is on the basics of the faith. Our prayer is that this creates clarity for our kids that come on Sunday mornings.



UPRISING

YOUTH MINISTRY

WHAT DOES THE UPRISING YOUTH MINISTRY DO?

Uprising Youth Ministry is for kids in and outside of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship from grades 6th - 12th. Our goal is to come alongside teens in their journey with Jesus. That may be introducing them to Jesus or coming alongside those who have already made that commitment to help them grow deeper in their faith.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

This year was the relaunch of the youth group at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship! It has been an awesome year of getting to know the kids that come to Uprising and to build relationships with them. We have been able to create lasting memories with these teens in the first year that we have been together.

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE UPRISING YOUTH MINISTRY?

During the pandemic, our leaders did a great job contacting the teens on a regular basis to make sure that the connection and relationships did not disappear.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

This year, we are latching onto the overall theme of the church while creating a simple theme specifically for the youth group. The theme for Uprising for the year is going to be Welcome Home. We want to show kids that they are welcome in our home which is found in Jesus. Our goal is to show the kids that come that at Uprising they can also find a home that is safe, trustworthy and they can be their authentic self.

THRIVE MINISTRY

WHAT DOES THE THRIVE MINISTRY DO?

Thrive does what its name suggests: it seeks to encourage and spur believers on to thrive in their understanding of who God is and what He has created us to do through the study of Scripture. Thrive classes are for anyone who is looking to grow in their walk with Jesus.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

After working with Jim Kurzen for the last few months of 2019, I, Sarah Senften, was honored to take over as head of the Thrive team at the beginning of 2020 and to have Justin Shackle join the team as a fellow leader.

From September of 2019 to the beginning of June, we were able to go through 5 different video series together, taught by a variety of Christian teachers, including Tim Keller, John Piper, Kyle Idleman, and Francis Chan. We discussed topics ranging from how to remain faithful in an increasingly godless culture to how to love as Jesus did, to the grace of God as displayed in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We also studied two books of the bible: 1 Peter and Mark.

When the pandemic forced a shutdown of in-person gatherings, we were able to still meet weekly over Zoom. The 10+ weeks that we met together virtually stand out as some of the most encouraging moments of fellowship that I had during what was a very difficult time. It was a blessing to come together on Sunday mornings, enjoy fellowship, and dig into God's Word together.

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE THRIVE MINISTRY?

Justin Shackle joined our little team at just the right moment. At a team leader meeting, I mentioned that my prayer request for Thrive was adding another team member to help share the job of leading discussion on Sunday mornings. Within seconds, Justin volunteered, and my prayer was answered before we even had a chance to pray together. God's provision and encouragement through Justin has been further proof that He goes before me and gives me everything I need to do the job He's asked me to do.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

At this point, the Thrive ministry is on an indefinite hiatus because of the "new normal" that COVID-19 has pushed us into as a church. However, we can see all three elements of our Let There Be Light theme at play: God is providing time off for the Thrive team to seek clarity in what He wants from our ministry moving forward. He's allowed us to consider reimagining and redesigning our current way of doing Thrive, and to determine if doing things differently is needed at all. God has given us such a hope for what He can and will do through a gathering of believers who seek Him first and are committed to surrender and obedience to Him. We are so hopeful for how He will use this ministry to equip and encourage in the future! Growth. That's the end goal of Thrive – that we would thrive in our relationship to God so that we might multiply. Whatever comes in our uncertain future, I know that God will use it for our growth.

LIFE GROUPS

WHAT DOES THE LIFE GROUP MINISTRY DO?

In a small, more intimate setting, Life Groups operate as a support system to the church and its members in their spiritual maturity and meeting the physical and emotional needs of life group members. Our goal is to ultimately improve on both the quantity and quality of disciples being made for Jesus.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Over the last year we saw around 80 people participate in 7 life groups. During the pandemic, life groups become a critical ministry. They became the heart of the church keeping people connected when we could not meet regularly on Sunday mornings. Life Groups are also the first rung of care for their members and our leaders did a fantastic job making sure their members were taken care of during the pandemic.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

For the new year our main focus will be growth. Now more than ever, people are desiring connection with each other and applying biblical truth in their life. We will be doing this by connecting the sermon series to Life Group materials, recruiting and training new leaders and launching new groups.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

We are excited to have Justin and Kylie Shackle step into leading our Life Group Ministry. They are going to do a fantastic job continuing to build on the foundation that was set. We look forward to seeing God grow these groups both numerically and in depth as the people that are participating in Life Groups grow deeper in Christ together. We are also looking forward to seeing some of the individuals that attend a service on Sunday Mornings get plugged into a group.

CITY SERVE

WHAT DOES THE CITY SERVE MINISTRY DO?

God's plan for the City Serve's ministry has always been to love on the community of Massillon & beyond by using us in any way He can. He opened our eyes to not only the physical needs but the spiritual needs of our community. The Lord has provided so many talented and servant-minded people in our body who were and are willing to share their time, talents, and love of their Savior with anyone who walks through the doors.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Over the past year, the three large events we did were the Fall Giveaway, the Trunk or Treat Block Party and the Realm of the Reptile Show in January. All of these events brought in new people for us to connect and share the love of Jesus with them.

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE CITY SERVE MINISTRY?

One good example of a willing heart even when it hurts was from the November event titled Fall Festival. We decided to have musical chairs as an activity for the little ones. We asked Bill Slater if he would not only provide the music for the game but also monitor it and of course he slowly agreed. Mary came to his rescue during the event, but Bill never abandoned his post! I also can't begin to say enough about the Life Groups who faithfully provided food for each event as well as volunteered to serve it.

Kate Gingerich did another amazing cupcake decorating class this year in February which was perfect for our Valentine theme event. She went above and beyond and her willing heart blessed many people that day.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

This year, we are going to be taking a year to reevaluate and praying for where God has the City Serve ministry going. We have a team that will be meeting on a regular basis to pray, seek direction and put together a plan for the upcoming year.

FACILITIES TEAM

WHAT DOES THE FACILITIES TEAM DO?

The Facilities team works together to create safe, clean and welcome facilities for our areas of ministry to thrive in.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

At the end of 2019, we had a successful fall work day primarily cleaning and organizing the storage area at the Demmer Building. Some other highlights of the year was completing the tuck pointing on the east wall and painting the rear of building at the Demmer Building and new carpet being installed in the nursery rooms.

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE FACILITIES TEAM?

COVID didn't stop the grass from growing, so there was mowing and weeding at the land and Church. We are so grateful for those who have helped in this area and a big thanks to Chris King for his faithful mowing of the land. Rose bushes and flowers were planted in the front of the church building by a group of ladies that did a fantastic job.

When the church re-opened there were a group of people that cleaned, moved furniture, helped set-up and clean-up and continue to do those things. We could not have reopened without the help of all of those volunteers.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

As Tom Skelley steps down from the Facilities Team Leader, we are pleased to announce Gary Howell has stepped up to fill this role.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

The goal for the year with regards to clarity is to create an all encompassing review and documentation of the church's real property assets and a readily available itinerary for all routine maintenance, inspections and repairs. The overarching goal being that any of the church leadership will be able to receive in a single folder, a complete, well organized snap shot of the current status of all maintenance, repairs and inspections as well as upcoming dates, budget and processes required for all of the real property assets associated with church. The team wants to arrive at a place where any elder, deacon or pastor can, with a single glance, have a complete understanding of the current status of all facility management at the church.

COMMUNICATION TEAM

WHAT DOES THE COMMUNICATION TEAM DO?

The communications team focuses on creating effective communication tools that compels members and others to become interested in participating in the church for the transformation of the world through Jesus Christ!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

The main highlight for the year was completing a newly designed church website! We are excited to have a space online where visitors can get a clear understanding of who we are as a church and for those in the church to have a place to easily get any information they are looking for.

HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE COMMUNICATION TEAM?

With creating a completely new website, a lot of time and energy was spent behind the scenes creating. Our small team of three did a fantastic job working together to create a visual representation of what Abundant Life Christian Fellowship looks like to those who may be looking for a church to call home.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

With taking a large portion of the last year creating a new website, we are excited to really look at what communications should look like at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship in this upcoming year. In the year 2020, we have learned that communications in a very important aspect of our church life and we want to make sure we are communicating well to those inside of the church and those outside as well.

FINANCIAL TEAM

WHAT DOES THE FINANCIAL TEAM DO?

The Financial Team manages the church finances of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship in conjunction with the Board of Directors. This includes developing and monitoring a church budget, financial recording and reporting, and providing education on finances to the congregation.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

This past year, the financial team really began to form. Throughout the year, we were able to look at what the church finances currently look like and where we can grow into becoming better stewards of the money God has graciously given the church. With doing so in the past year, we took a hard look into our investments and started to create new policies and procedures. This year we also implemented online giving. God knew this was something we were going to need to start allowing this year and before the pandemic even hit, we were already researching the best way to do this. God's timing was amazing in the sense that right when the pandemic hit, we were ready to start allowing members to give online.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT THE THEME, LET THERE BE LIGHT, INTO YOUR AREA OF MINISTRY?

This year, the financial team's goal is to continue to bring clarity to the finances of the church. We want to continue to look at ways we can be best stewarding the money that God has given us to use for His ministry. We also would like to potentially offer classes on personal finances for members of our congregation to grow in this area personally.

FOOD SERVICE TEAM

WHAT DOES THE FOOD SERVICE TEAM DO?

The Food Service team provides food assistance for other team leaders that are needing food for their ministry. This may be ordering, picking up, and/or serving the food at gatherings. The Food Service team is also responsible for purchasing all of the kitchen products for the church.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

We are excited to add a few more members to the Food Service Team this year.

OFFICE TEAM

WHAT DOES THE OFFICE TEAM DO?

The church office team assists in supporting the church leadership in office tasks. They handle a wide range of tasks that need done weekly at the church.

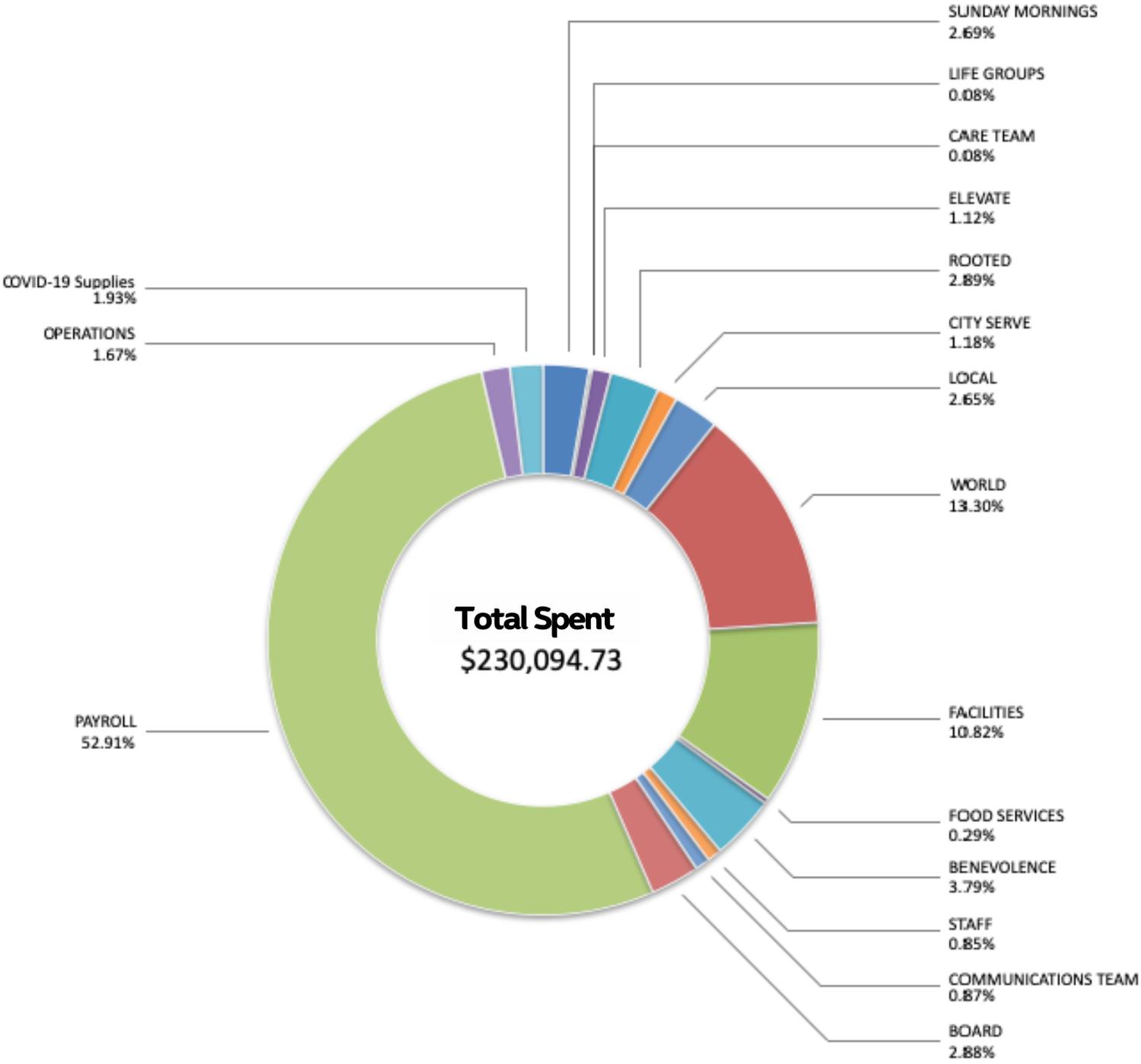
HOW DID GOD SHOW HIMSELF THROUGH THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE OFFICE TEAM?

The office team has been a huge blessing to the church leadership as they are able to help assist in getting major projects and weekly tasks done behind the scenes freeing up valuable time for those leading to do other projects they are needing to get done.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE NEW YEAR?

As the pandemic hit, the office team was not able to come in and help around the church as much as they would have liked to. We are excited to slowly start to have them return to start working on new projects for the church this year.

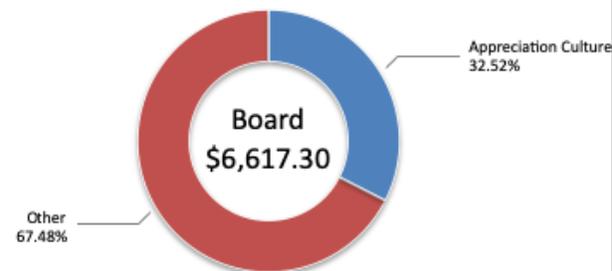
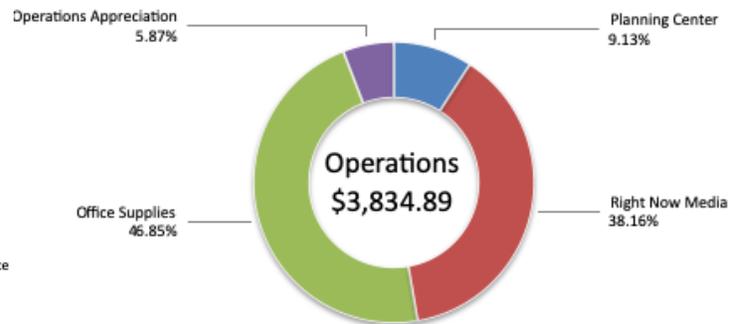
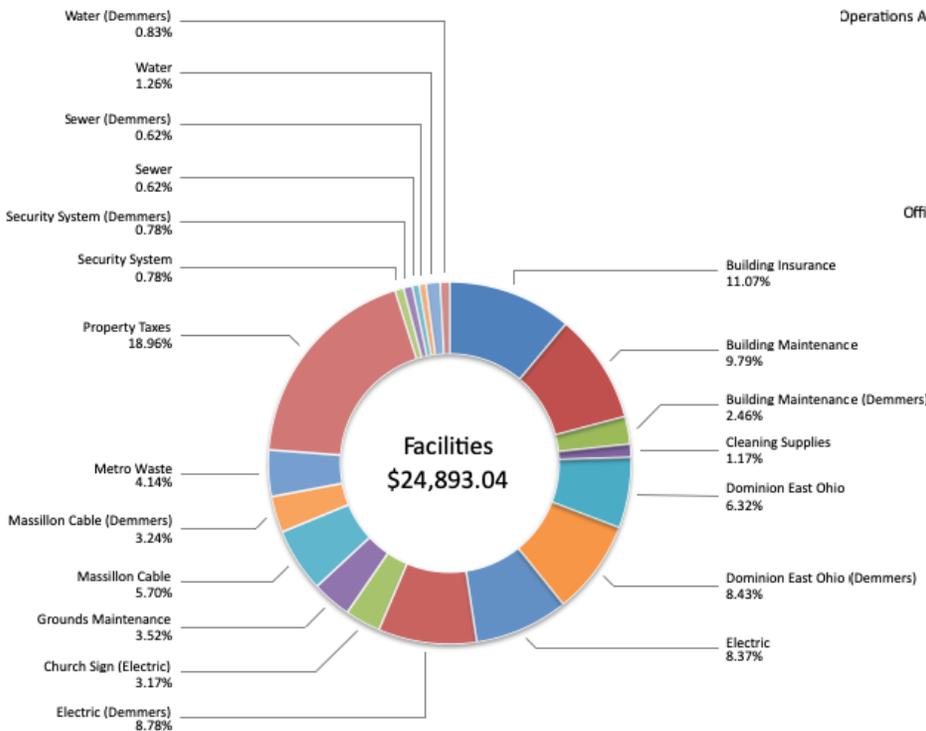
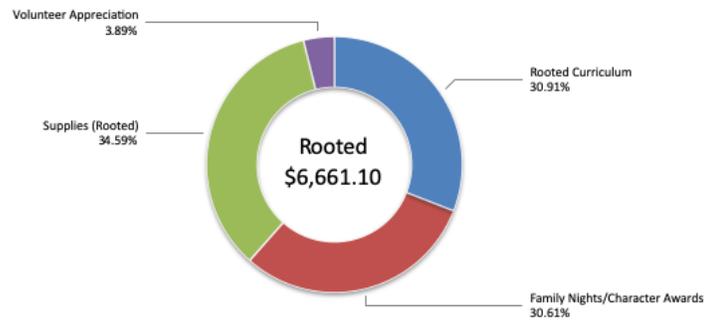
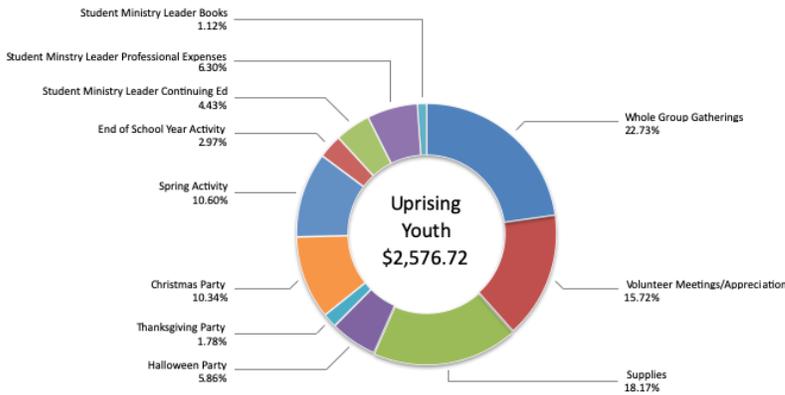
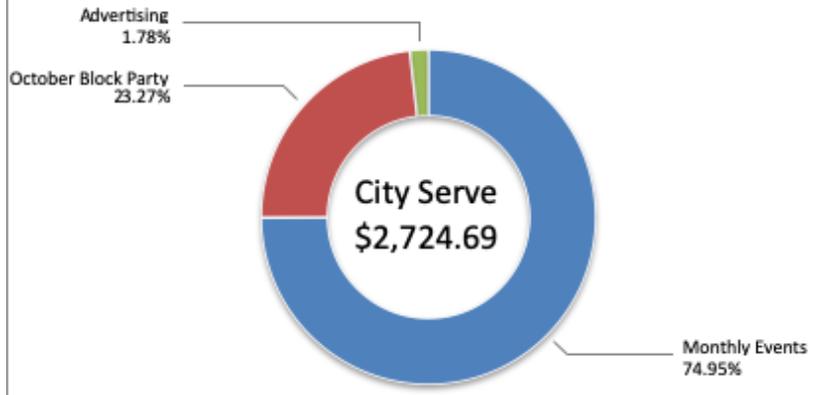
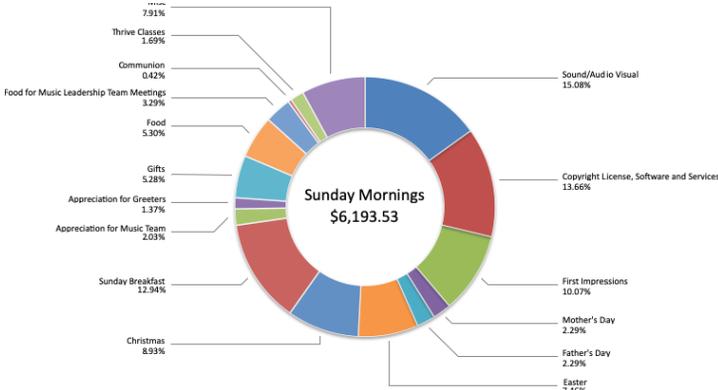
BUDGET REPORT

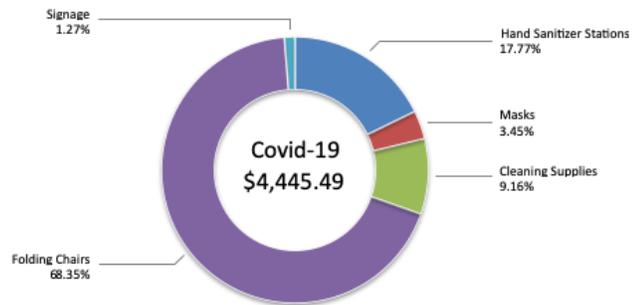
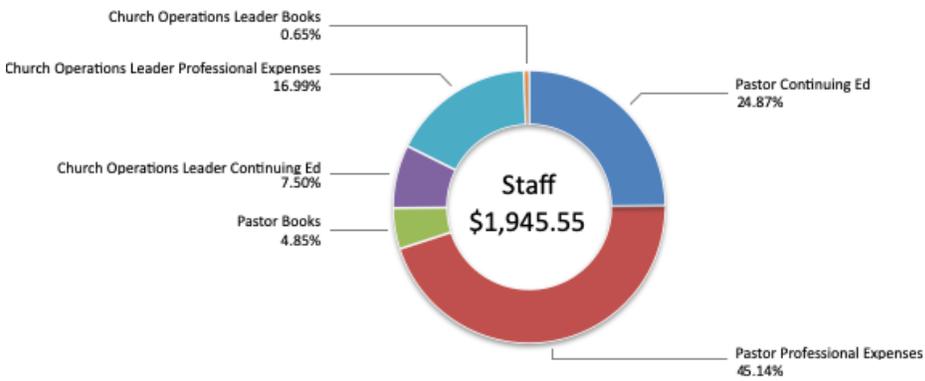
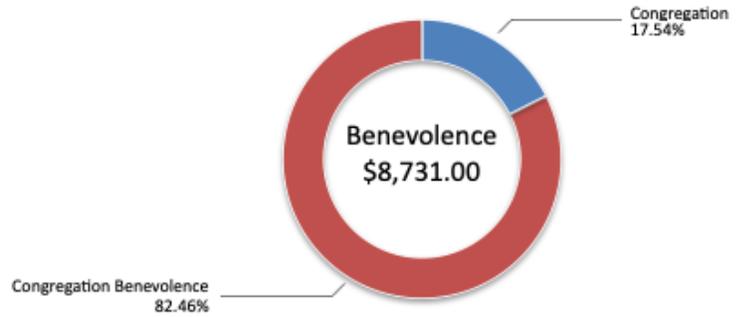
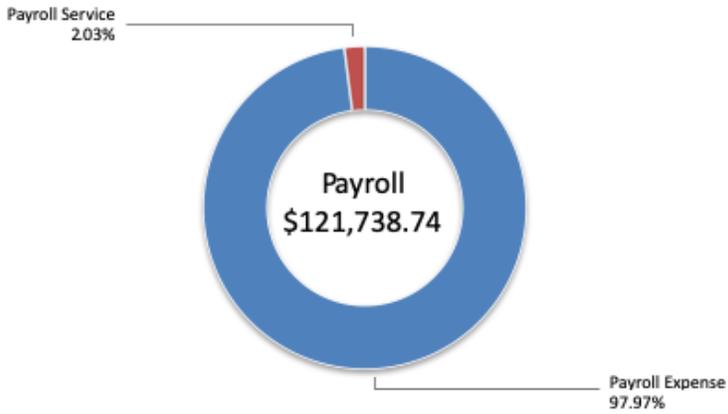
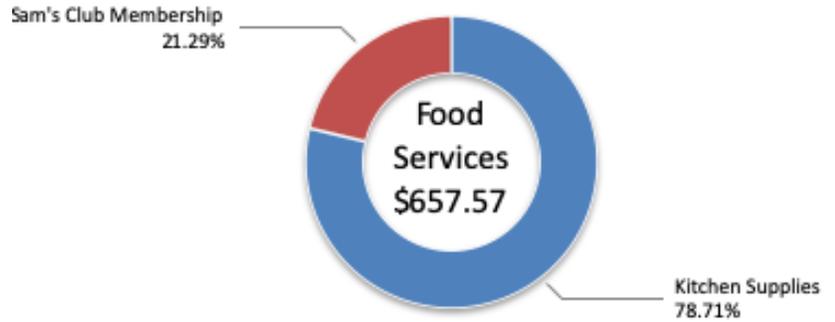
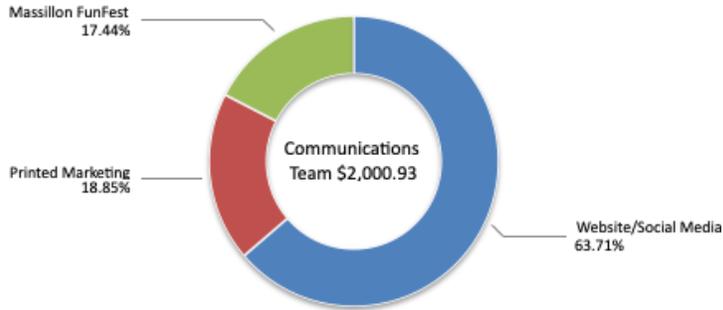
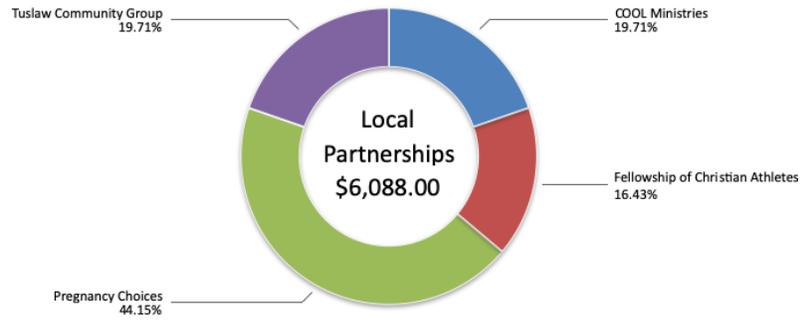
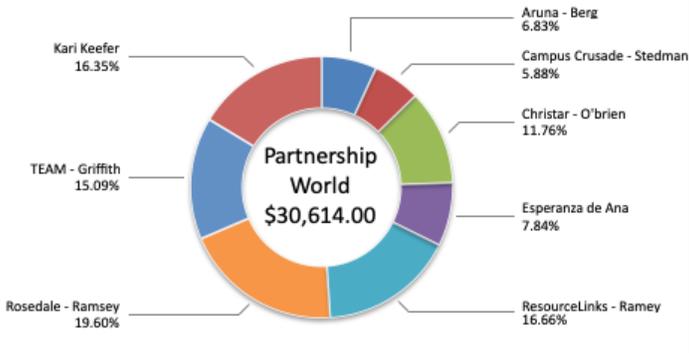


TOTAL AMOUNT BUDGETED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR: \$236,380.00
 TOTAL GIVING: \$228,790.24

ASSETS AT THE END OF THE YEAR
 CHECKING ACCOUNT: \$20,434.83
 INVESTMENTS: \$109,372.28

BUDGET BROKEN DOWN





LIFE GROUPS - \$180.80

Spent on training, appreciation, childcare & celebrations

CARE TEAM - \$191.38

Spent on stamps, cards, meals, & gifts