

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



A budget is much more than a myriad of line-items. A budget communicates values. It calls out priorities - what's important - and gives direction. Specifically, our 2024 budget gives details that help us as Graceland Church see our mission to "put Jesus first in our lives for our neighbors" gain more and more traction where we live, work, and play.

Every person who calls Graceland home matters, whether you've been here for 60 years or for six months. In the same way, every dollar given matters, whether you've given thousands or hundreds. I am grateful for the generosity of our Graceland family that has facilitated a multitude of discipleship movements in people's lives, marriages, and families; brought on key staff; continued to develop mission partnerships, both here in the States and around the world; as well as brought us to a place where we are one church, multiple locations.

I really believe this: Jesus-willing, great days ahead. So, let's keep our eyes on Him, the author and perfecter of our faith and in so doing, be all-in with Him!

Pastor Nate

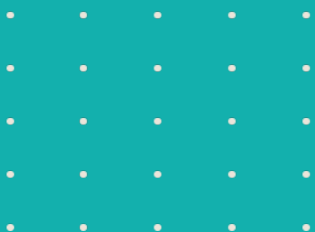
328,551

**Population ⁽²⁰²¹⁾
of Southern Indiana's
Six Counties**

- Floyd County**
- Clark County**
- Jefferson County**
- Harrison County**
- Scott County**
- Washington County**

19.7 percent

Claim to be Evangelical Protestant



60.6 percent

Claim to be religiously unaffiliated



WORSHIP



Sunday Morning

Weekly Average attendance by Campus

1129

New Albany



95

Memphis



Palmyra

49



38

Dearborn

Salem
60



Numbers

in the digital space

6,192+

Live Sunday Services Watched

Live Services Watched Weekly Average - 135

Total Services Watched on YouTube - 30,984+

17,765+

Graceland Worship Music Videos Watched

Graceland Worship Spotify Listens - 13,403+

Graceland Worship Apple Listens - 6,800+

Graceland Podcast Listens - 9,483+

25,905

Website Visitors

New Albany Google Maps Interactions - 12,045+

Memphis Google Maps Interactions - 640+

Palmyra Google Maps Interactions - 770+



Easter

*Number of people
at each campus*

New Albany - 1,858

Memphis - 226

Palmyra - 152

On Easter Sunday, we *launched a campus in Memphis* and it was amazing.

Graceland's third campus, Graceland Memphis, launched on Easter Sunday with a standing-room-only crowd. "At one point close to the beginning of service, as people were still coming in, I felt like a seating hostess finding seats for people!" said Campus Pastor Ben McLain.

Starting a new campus requires the church to gain by losing. Ben and Amy McLain along with a dedicated core team launched out of Graceland New Albany after preparing for over a year. "Ben and Amy have been such a blessing to Graceland," said Lead Pastor Nate Millican. "They are loving on people and creating a Graceland environment in Memphis where people are welcomed and empowered to ask questions and seek a closer walk with Jesus."

Located in a rural, growing area of Southern Indiana, Graceland Memphis is ideally located to reach the communities in the Memphis area with the Good News of Jesus. The church launched offering Worship and Kids Ministry at 10:30am; but the strong opening and subsequent growth led to the addition of a 9:00am service on Sunday mornings starting November 12. "Now we can invite even more people to explore a relationship with God," Ben said. "Graceland is one church with multiple locations in order to reach more and more people. Jesus willing - GREAT days ahead!"



COMMIT



Baptisms



29



people who decided to go public with their faith

Starting Point

225

people who went through Starting Point



182 - New Albany
3 - Palmyra
11 - Memphis

20 - Salem
9 - Dearborn
16 - Online

Meet Jayme.

Jayme grew up in a nominally Catholic home and by high school had endured abuse, a series of hurtful religious experiences, and believed in Greek mythology and astrology. At 18 years old she was pregnant and went to get an abortion. Outside the abortion clinic were Christians pleading with women going inside to reconsider and offering to adopt their unwanted child. God protected her and her unborn son that day and Jayme did not get an abortion.

A few years later, her friend Ashley began inviting her to Graceland. Although hesitant at first because of the bad experiences from her childhood, seeing people get baptized and hearing their testimonies caused her to investigate faith and Jesus. God faithfully worked in Jayme's heart and this year she committed her life to Christ. "I came to the realization that I was a sinner in need of a Savior and chose to make Him Lord of my life," she said.

Shortly after, Jayme attended Starting Point and learned what baptism is – and what it is not. "Growing up Catholic, I was taught something different about baptism. In Starting Point, I learned about baptism and church membership, and I knew immediately I wanted to be baptized and join the church," she recounted. And on Sunday, November 12th, Jayme was baptized in the 9am service at New Albany.

Jayme is excited for the months and year ahead. God has given her both peace and graciousness she did not have prior to salvation as well as a desire to serve kids enduring tough situations. Jayme said, "I feel that if I had someone in my life during my early years, things would have been different. Still, I know God will use those trials and tribulations for the good of others."





GROW





Groups

974

People attending a community group

59%

Percent of church membership
attends a community group

48

Number of groups across 5 campuses



Serving



number of people
serving in each
ministry:

Preschool → 112

Kids → 65

Students → 33

Groups → 74

Guest Services → 183

Gatherings → 80



Soul Care

80

people served
through Soul Care

850

hours serving people



RECESS

ministry

Perhaps you've heard of the 10/40 Window, where the majority of the world's unreached people groups live. Yet one of the largest unreached groups of people is not just in North Africa or the Middle East; they are in our neighborhoods and schools. Children with any kind of disability are less likely than their peers to attend church, and children with autism are nearly twice as likely to never attend. These children have parents and siblings, resulting in entire families remaining unchurched.

This year, Graceland Church launched Recess, a new ministry that serves families and children of varying abilities, bridging an important gap for the 13% of the population who live with a disability. Greg Smith and a team of 29 volunteers host a monthly respite night for parents who do not have many childcare or babysitting options otherwise. While mom and dad experience a much-needed date night, kids of all abilities get to experience community in the body of Christ. Recently, Recess moved to Sunday morning where each child is provided a buddy to be with them in their class. Altogether, we are serving 16 children and their families.

But it's not only these families who benefit. Greg Smith, the ministry's leader, says, "Recess helps Graceland be a better body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 12 tells us that "those parts of the body that seem weaker are actually indispensable." When families who often experience rejection enter our church's door and hear, "You are not only welcome here, but wanted," we know God is pleased. In the years to come we hope to see Recess expand its impact to include teenagers and young adults who can experience friendship, learn life skills, and find their place in the body of Christ.



DISCIPLE



Jesus was a master leader who saw something in people and patiently walked alongside them to transform their character and abilities. Through SEND Graceland, our church's disciple-making initiative, we invite people who lead themselves to consider leading others by taking on an elevated role within the church.

While it's a newer initiative, here's what's happened in the past 18 months:



30 Cohorts
comprised of **56** individuals
leading others in Community
Groups, D-Groups, Kids, Students,
Soul Care, and Guest Services.

SEND Graceland

We went on **5** mission trips with
34 participants.



Our care team made **132** nursing home
visits and calls each month.

Our food pantries served **38**
families each month.



There are **70** people that bake for
jails, baking a total of **2,400**
cookies every month.

Erick's Story

God desires all of us to make disciples. Campus Pastor Erick Sessions had no idea that God would lead him to make disciples of people in Salem when he started attending Graceland just over four years ago. A former staff and lay youth pastor in Florida, he had no thought of preaching when he and his wife, Jen, moved to southern Indiana so he could attend Southern Seminary in 2019. Graceland was the first church they visited. "We knew the first week that this was going to be our church," he said.

Quickly the Sessions moved from exploring to committing and soon began serving with kids and college-age students. By the Fall of 2021, Erick joined Graceland's staff as the College Minister. Then earlier this year Erick heard talk about the possibility of a church in Salem. Erick and Jen immediately began praying about the opportunity. Six weeks later Lead Pastor Nate Millican approached him and asked if he would pray about leading Graceland Salem. After successfully completing an assessment process with the North American Mission Board this Fall, Erick was ordained as a pastor and began leading the Salem campus as their Pastor.



While not everyone will pastor a campus, or serve on a church staff, each of us can take a next step. It's our hope in 2024 that each of us will respond to Jesus' call to follow Him and make disciples.





MINISTRY IN ACTION



Kids

VBS!

400

kids in attendance

52

decision cards
filled out

100

volunteers

\$2,000

raised for missions

52

Families at the
Father-Son Nerf War

71

Families at the
Mommy-Daughter
Tea Party



Students

45 students and leaders
went to camp

21 students went on
mission trips

104 students were at
The Weekend

College Age Ministry

12 students and leaders
went on mission trips

40 students attended the
college fall retreat

22 people is the average
number of students at GCAM
Sunday nights

GraceLand Mission Giving

\$35,000

Choices Life Resource Center

\$77,000

Grace Station has donated to ministry partners

\$47,000

IMB - Mile One and Lottie Moon

\$25,000

NAMB - Annie Armstrong

\$10,500

Ukraine

\$18,425

State Convention

\$15,000

Mosaic Church (Virginia)

\$12,000

New York

\$12,000

Phoenix Church Planting

\$4,141

Eastern Kentucky

\$8,000

Honduras - Sonreis Y Suenos

\$7,500

Small Church USA

\$8,847

Ireland

\$3,000

Local Association

\$3,000

Newfoundland



Uptown Youth Collective

Highest Attended Week

59

Weekly Average Attendance

36

Volunteers This Year

37



Grace Station Thrift Shoppe

A storefront on Grant Line, formerly known as "Smoke Station," underwent a transformation in 2015. Today, that storefront has a new name – Grace Station – and is a source of community transformation now in its eighth year. Grace Station is a thrift store with a purpose. All proceeds from sales are used to benefit local organizations that help families in Southern Indiana.

Pastor Jon Pearce had the original idea to start a thrift shop to fund local ministry. Rather than raising prices to increase margins every year, Pastor Jon says, "we intentionally keep prices low so we can serve the public." Not only do all proceeds go back into the community, but Grace Station also provides free clothing to foster care children and people who have recently been released from jail. Customers have the opportunity to submit prayer requests, which are sent out to the church's prayer team as well.

The store is managed by two dedicated individuals, along with the support of two dozen volunteers. Pastor Jon emphasizes, "From the beginning, it's been volunteer-driven." The wide support from the church – both in volunteers and in donations – keeps this community store operating each week. In 2023, the store is expected to close with over \$200,000 in sales. Proceeds have been distributed to Choices Life Resource Center, Graceland's food pantry, Silver Heights Christian Camp, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Scarlet Hope, Jacob's Well, and more. As the year ends, we give thanks to God for the ministry of Grace Station including the men, women, and children who have been blessed by the church's generosity, and the various Christ-based organization's continuing God's work throughout Southern Indiana.



LOOKING AHEAD



Putting

Jesus first

**in our lives
for our neighbors.**

Proposed 2024 Budget

\$3,655,357.25

→ *Total Budget*
11.26 percent increase

\$1,175,735.69

Lead Pastor - \$57,000
Membership - \$20,650
Campus Teams - \$20,000
Gatherings - \$165,500

Worship - \$48,000
Communication - \$106,000
Tech - \$11,500

Discipleship - \$159,705

Nursery & Preschool - \$10,000
Kids - \$39,750
Students - \$35,360
College - \$7,700
Discipleship - \$28,045
Soul Care - \$5,350
Care - \$33,500

Administration - \$291,832

Operations - \$461,048.69

Utilities - \$175,505.54
Maintenance - \$135,880.36
Various Operational Expenses - \$149,662.79

Ministry Operations

32.17 percent

\$1,984,451.56



Staffing

54.29 percent

\$154,870

Dearborn - \$38,045
Memphis - \$35,970
Palmyra - \$44,870
Salem - \$35,985



Campuses

4.24 percent

\$340,300

SBC - \$127,500
International Partners - \$72,000
North America Partners - \$48,000
Funds & Trips - \$66,000
Outreach - \$10,500
Uptown - \$16,300



Missions

9.30 percent

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 **GRACELANDCHURCH**

