

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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THE CHAPEL







# TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	OUR MISSION
3	OUR VALUES
4	THE CHAPEL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
11	THE CHAPEL 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT
12	2025 PROPOSED BUDGET
14	2024 BOARD OF ELDERS & CHAPEL STAFF
15	CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY
17	FAMILY MINISTRIES
19	KIDS MINISTRY
21	STUDENT MINISTRIES
23	ADULT DISCIPLESHIP
24	WOMEN'S MINISTRY
25	MEN'S MINISTRY
25	YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY
26	SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY
29	CARE MINISTRY
30	SENIORS MINISTRY
31	GLOBAL MISSIONS
33	MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY THE CHAPEL
34	PRESCHOOL
36	WAYNE CAMPUS
37	BOARD CHAIRMAN AND SENIOR PASTOR

# OUR MISSION

**"Building a Family of Christ-Followers  
who Love God, Love People,  
and Serve the World"**



# OUR VALUES

## **Grace**

Romans 3:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:9;  
Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 5:1

## **Growing Disciples Intentionally**

Colossians 1:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:1-2

## **Reaching Neighbors and Nations**

Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 10:29-37

## **Authenticity**

Matthew 23:1-32; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

## **Commitment to Future Generations**

Proverbs 22:6; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:4-6

## **Expository Preaching**

2 Timothy 4:2-4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12



# THE CHAPEL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2024

## 1. WELCOME/SCRIPTURE READING/PRAYER

Director of Family Ministries Heather Horn began the meeting by reading from 1 Chronicles 17. In this scripture, God is praised, and his promises are remembered.

## 2. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum having been reached, at approximately 4:07 p.m. Board Chairman Gene Amore called the meeting to order.

## 3. REVIEW OF 2023 MINUTES

Chairman Amore called attention to the minutes of the February 5, 2023, annual meeting shown on pages 4 through 11 of the Annual Report, which had been made available prior to today's meeting, and asked if there were any changes or additions. There being no changes or additions, member Knute Hancock made a motion, seconded by member Mike Hubner, to approve the minutes as written.

## 4. INTRODUCTION OF ELDER CANDIDATES

- a. Chairman Amore expressed thanks for the four men whose terms as elder have concluded: Eric Bula from our Wayne campus, Tom Flannery, Bill Wackwitz, Jr., and Andy Watson.
- b. He also thanked outgoing Board Advisor Angie Meyer-Pflug and welcomed incoming Board Advisor Sharon Bale-Pena.
- c. Chairman Amore then showed a video introducing the four new elder candidates: Dave Byrne, Steve Dumke, Andres Gonzalez, and Albert Meyer-Pflug.
  - Dave has been married to Joanne for 33 years. They have four children ranging from age 14 to 25. The heart of the Chapel for Special Needs was instrumental in his family coming to the Chapel after they moved from Georgia in 2012. His special needs son Nick has been well cared for by the Chapel's Special Needs Inclusion ministry.
  - Steve immediately began attending the Chapel eight years ago when his family moved from Ohio to New Jersey. He has three children. He has enjoyed serving in a variety of ministries since coming to the Chapel and is looking forward to serving his first term on the Board.



- Andres, who immigrated from Colombia. His two children are aged 14 and 12. He is actively involved in the Missions Committee and has made many short-term mission trips.
- Albert has been part of the Chapel for over 25 years. He has two children in college and one in high school. His ministries include Trail Life and Men's ministry. He's looking forward to this opportunity to serve another term on the board.

**d.** Chairman Amore asked for a motion to affirm the slate of elder candidates. The motion was made by member Bill Sayre and seconded by member Knute Hancock.

## **5. 2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY ASSISTANT TREASURER LARRY HECK AND PASTOR TED VOLTMER**

**a.** Larry gave a tribute to the many long years that retired Treasurer Ed Frye and Financial Administrator Dina Pedersen served. He expressed appreciation for Finance Ministry Assistant Julie Vander Valk and for the offering counting room team.

**b.** Larry referred to pages 13 to 14 of the Chapel 2023 Annual Report to provide background information supporting the proposed 2024 budget of \$4,140,000.

**c.** A slide on the screen showed the 2023 budget of \$4,140,000. The 2023 actual offerings were \$4,272,000.

**d.** Larry outlined several items whose budgeted amounts increased in the new budget, and several which decreased. The net result is that the proposed 2024 budget of \$4,140,000 is exactly the same amount as the 2023 budget.

**e.** The Chapel is continuing its search to find a replacement for retired Treasurer Ed Frye.

## **6. AFFIRMATION OF ELDERS / VOTE ON BUDGET**

**a.** Chairman Amore asked for a motion to affirm the slate of elder candidates. The motion was made by member Bill Sayre and seconded by member Knute Hancock.

**b.** Chairman Amore asked for a motion to adopt the proposed 2024 budget of \$4,140,000. The motion was made by member Ryan Olsen and seconded by member Knute Hancock.

**c.** The cast ballots were then collected.



## **7. NEW MEMBER INTERVIEW OF MARK AND CATHY DIXON**

- a.** Mark and Tabatha appeared in a video. Mark explained that their first step in being drawn to the Chapel was a thorough website search of all churches in the area.
- b.** They came to see the Chapel as a good environment for raising children. They have two and another is on the way. Their children love worship and Chapel Kids. Mark and Tabatha know that the Chapel will be a good place to train their children in the ways of the Lord.
- c.** Mark and Tabatha are enjoying their opportunities for ministry. Tabatha is actively involved with MomCo.

## **8. MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE PRESENTED BY PASTOR GUSTAVSEN**

- a.** Pastor Gustavsen paid tribute to all the people who passed into the presence of the Lord in 2023.
- b.** He said that God knows each of these people and loves them. They are a reminder of the great hope we have in the gospel, and the promise of eternal life.
- c.** They spur us on to live each moment with purpose, faith, hope and love.
  - He asked us to stand to honor those we lost.
  - Pastor Gustavsen read a lengthy list of over 15 names and prayed for grace on the grieving family members.

## **9. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS BY GENE AMORE**

- a.** He began by recounting several blessings God has given to the Chapel.
  - Many unbelievers have received the gospel.
  - God blessed the 2023 budget.
  - There's an influx of young families with children. In January, Chapel Kids welcomed 10 new families.
  - There's an increase of young adults attending the Chapel.
  - Our ministries are blessed to possess property assets located here in Lincoln Park, at the Hispanic campus in Wayne, and at the Sunset Ministry Center.
  - Special Needs Inclusion exemplifies the Chapel's commitment to implementing innovative ministry.

**b.** Using the scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Chairman Amore explained that we are new creations in Christ who are God's ambassadors with the ministry of reconciliation.

**c.** We shouldn't allow ourselves to get comfortable and complacent. We need to go forward as ambassadors rather than think we can be rewarded for just coasting on what we did in the past.

**d.** Chairman Amore recalled the mature couples who befriended him and his wife Ann decades ago when they were new at the Chapel.

**e.** He used the example of those couples as a springboard to a Charge:

- Introduce genuine friendship to someone you meet at the Chapel, and you don't know. Even go as far as inviting these new friends to your home.
- Be ambassadors outside the church too. We meet people who do not have God as a priority in their lives. Indeed, with 113,000 people in the towns near to the Chapel, only 1% of them are here in the Chapel on a Sunday.
- Show intentional love for others, even those you don't especially enjoy being around.
- Be extra helpful to your co-workers and be a mentor to your younger co-workers.

**f.** If someone asks you why we do all this, explain that because God reconciled you to himself through his son Jesus Christ, as a result you can do nothing less than be his ambassador.

## **10. LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD BY PASTORS GUSTAVSEN AND VOLTMER**

### **LOOKING BACK**

- Pastor Gustavsen began by discussing the significant worship ministry changes. He thanked those who trusted in the decisions made by Chapel leadership, even if they didn't fully agree with the changes.
- He sees growth and vitality in the Chapel springing off from this. We trust each other.
- He thanked Lauren Tapia, her team, and all who volunteer for the worship ministry.
- Chapel Seniors was another new ministry that successfully launched this year.



- On Chosen Sunday we launched a partnership with World Vision. We expected 300 to join – but 450 did!
- Pastor Voltmer continued by noting that after 10 years, we stopped doing Trunk or Treat. It was replaced by the Family Block Party, in which over 2,000 participated. There will be another family block party this year.
- The Chapel Women had a Staytreat which was on campus instead of offsite. Three hundred and fifty attended.
- Last year marked eight years that Special Needs has been a dedicated ministry. One highlight was partnering with Jill's House to have the first weekend adventure overnight camp at Shiloh. Another highlight was our first ever Inclusion Sunday in November.
- The Chapel had numerous baptisms throughout the year.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Pastor Gustavsen said 90 people showed up when we had the first J-Term course on Big Idea Devotions in January. There will be a session on a new topic in June.
- Pastor Voltmer noted that Student Ministries is our most challenging ministry area. Up to 50% of youth group graduates walk away from faith upon graduation. Developing relationships is a good antidote to this. He expressed appreciation for the work of Pastor Cesar Tapia, who has organized student Mission trips to Texas and Kentucky.
- Pastor Gustavsen noted that the Great Falls Center has started a thrift store which has been blessed by its many Chapel donors.
- A Mission trip to the Dominican Republic will happen with Pastor Charles Salinas is being planned.
- Pastor Gustavsen has now been in ministry for 28 years. He noted that ministry is a lot different now than when he started. Due to radical secularization, it is now strange and offensive to be a follower of Jesus.
- Pastor Gustavsen is looking forward to his first sabbatical in April and May. He'll attend a writer's workshop and work on his first book. He is looking forward to having a time of refreshment and renewal and anticipates coming back from sabbatical stronger.
- Pastor Voltmer is looking forward to his own six-week sabbatical starting in July.

- The pastors noted that the Chapel is not simply focused on special events. We will keep doing what we are doing to build God's kingdom week in and week out, with all our strength. They concluded by thanking the congregation for letting them be our pastors.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS WITH PASTORS GUSTAVSEN AND VOLTMER, BOARD CHAIRMAN GENE AMORE AND BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN ANDY WATSON**

**a.** Member Jim Harven asked whether the Chapel would support someone who wants to be a chaplain for an organization like a hospital or fire department. The reply was that the Chapel has no formal program for that but that Director of Care Jamie Longo would be glad to provide help and support.

**b.** Kristen Watson read a question from Nicole Reid, asking whether Chapel Students could have a separate dedicated worship across the street. Pastor Voltmer replied that we have intentionally moved away from that because intergenerational worship is our goal. We want our youth to worship alongside older generations.

**c.** A member asked whether there are follow-up plans for the Love First event. Pastor Voltmer replied that we will follow up on how to better engage the LGBTQ community, but we don't yet know what the best next step will be.

**d.** Wayne Kretzing asked about the results of the worship change. He wondered whether the goals have been met and whether there is a better attendance balance between the services. Pastor Gustavsen replied that we have only had eight months of experience so far, but there is indeed more balance than before and Chapel Kids attendance has increased at the 9 a.m. service. Going forward, the Chapel will continue to speak the same message even though we will change the methods when needed.

**e.** Member Dave Sarkisian asked whether the acoustic service will return at the Impact Center. Because of the requirement to recruit an entirely new worship team for an acoustic service, its resumption is not feasible at this time. Instead, the focus remains on maintaining exceptional worship experiences in the two main sanctuary services every Sunday.

**f.** A member raised a question regarding the timing of the needed repair work at the Sunset parking lot. It was confirmed that the repair work will take place during the upcoming spring or summer.



**g.** Member Karen Koenig asked whether the Chapel plans to reintroduce a third service. The leadership team responded that we don't see a need for a third service now, because we still have not reached capacity with the two services we now have.

**h.** A member asked why we discontinued the Christmas cantata. Pastor Gustavsen explained that dwindling attendance over the years made the cantata less effective as an outreach tool. Consequently, the decision was made to discontinue it. Pastor Gustavsen noted that our Christmas Eve services have been a powerful alternative.

**i.** Chairman Amore announced the results of the two votes that were taken earlier in the meeting.

- The vote for the elder slate was 239 yes, four no, and one abstention.
- The vote for the 2024 budget was identical to the elder slate vote, with 239 yes, four no, and one abstention.

## **12. CLOSING PRAYER**

- Pastor Gustavsen made the motion to adjourn, and Pastor Voltmer seconded it. The meeting adjourned at about 5:31 p.m.
- Chairman Amore offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kenneth Baker**  
Board Secretary

## THE CHAPEL 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

**\$'s in Thousands**

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS	BALANCE 1/1/2024	BALANCE 12/31/24	NET CHANGE
Chapel Ministries Fund	\$1,356	\$1,460	\$104
Special Missionary Needs Fund	86	80	(6)
Global Missions Fund	288	239	(49)
Benevolence Fund	166	112	(54)
Youth Scholarship Fund	68	69	1
Inheritance Fund	1	1	0
Multiply Fund	147	128	(19)
Construction & Improvements	209	293	(84)
John Rumeau Scholarship Fund	5	8	3
Contingency Fund	113	119	6
Other	12	8	(4)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,451</b>	<b>\$2,517</b>	<b>\$66</b>

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Jehovah Jireh! God once again delivered in a mighty way. Because of the abundant blessings we received in 2024, our gospel-centered ministries are positioned to bring glory to King Jesus.
- Our consolidated offerings exceeded budget by 3.8%, or \$159k, through the Chapel family's generosity. We continue to bring our offerings into God's storehouse to advance the good news of Jesus Christ, showing that we are fiercely missional in bringing hope to our community.
- We underspent our budget by \$186k by carefully managing our spending while still caring for our precious ministries and staff.
- We improved our Lincoln Park facility by repaving the western half of the parking lot.
- We replaced the air conditioning systems in the Impact Center and the Gymnasium.
- We replaced the roof on the Sunset parsonage.
- We painted and refreshed the Chapel Kids Basement and the Parker House.
- We supported over thirty missionaries and three short-term mission trips this past year:
  - Dominican Republic, with our friend from Paterson, Pastor Charles Salinas
  - Barranquilla, Colombia
  - Among the Maasai people of southern Kenya
  - We also supported people on non-Chapel sponsored trips
- In Matthew 10:8, Jesus sends out his disciples and says "Freely you have received; freely give." Our Chapel family embodies that same spirit through the selfless giving of time and resources every day and every year, and God sees our heart in all of this and is pleased.

## THE CHAPEL 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Board of Trustees has unanimously recommended a 2025 consolidated budget of \$4,247k for 2024, which is an increase of \$107k (2.6%) over our 2024 consolidated budget.

Following is our rationale for the 2025 Budget:

- We included cost of living adjustments for our staff and missionaries.
- Our primary staffing focus in 2025 is backfilling three critical vacancies.
- We will continue to operate with a lean organization but will add resources where critically needed. As our ministries continue to grow, we need to add administrative and hands-on support through additional Ministry Assistants.
- We are fortifying our Construction and Improvements capital budget in order to prepare for some critical projects in 2025, including the completion of the paving work at Lincoln Park, the paving and lighting at Sunset Ministry Center and some equipment and roof repairs at Wayne.
- We factored in higher facilities costs to account for increases in insurance, maintenance and utilities.
- We made a few sacrifices—e.g., still hosting our women’s ministry retreat onsite in 2025 as we did the last two years and discontinuing our Star99.1 broadcasts.

**Note:**

See the Proposed 2025 Budget page which shows the breakdown by campus with additional supporting details.

As always, the Chapel leadership is grateful for the continued support of the Chapel family as we advance God’s kingdom. Your leadership is excited and “bullish” about our ministry opportunities in 2025, especially growing in our ability to share our faith both with our friends and through mission trips. We do all of it in the powerful name of our risen King Jesus.

**\$’s in Thousands**

CONSOLIDATED	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUALS	2025 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2024 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2024 ACTUALS	% OF 2024 BUDGET	% OF 2025 BUDGET
<b>SALARY &amp; BENEFITS</b>	\$2,418	\$2,298	\$2,393	(1.0%)	4.1%	58.4%	56.4%
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$491	\$432	\$491	0.1%	13.6%	11.8%	11.6%
<b>FACILITIES &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$1,002	\$1,034	\$1,054	5.2%	1.9%	24.2%	24.8%
<b>MINISTRY PROGRAMS</b>	\$229	\$190	\$309	34.5%	62.8%	5.5%	7.3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	\$4,140	\$3,954	\$4,247				
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	\$4,140	\$4,299	\$4,247				



## THE CHAPEL PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET (cont'd)

\$'s in Thousands

LINCOLN PARK	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUALS	2025 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2024 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2024 ACTUALS	% OF 2024 BUDGET	% OF 2025 BUDGET
SALARY & BENEFITS	\$2,256	\$2,146	\$2,323	2.9%	8.3%	58.7%	58.0%
MISSIONS	\$467	\$417	\$479	2.7%	15.0%	12.1%	12.0%
FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION	\$918	\$934	\$953	3.7%	2.0%	23.9%	23.8%
MINISTRY PROGRAMS	\$204	\$171	\$247	21.4%	44.5%	5.3%	6.2%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$3,845	\$3,667	\$4,002				
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$3,845	\$4,061	\$4,002				

WAYNE	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUALS	2025 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2024 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2024 ACTUALS	% OF 2024 BUDGET	% OF 2025 BUDGET
SALARY & BENEFITS	\$162	\$153	\$70	(56.5%)	(53.9%)	54.9%	28.7%
MISSIONS	\$24	\$16	\$12	(49.9%)	(23.6%)	8.1%	4.9%
FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION	\$83	\$100	\$101	21.3%	1.0%	28.3%	41.3%
MINISTRY PROGRAMS	\$26	\$18	\$61	138.0%	232.8%	8.7%	25.1%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$295	\$287	\$245				
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$295	\$238	\$245				

YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FTE	28.8	28.3	25.7	27.2	24.7	24.2	23.5
ATTENDANCE	1,708	1,633	1,063	1,322	1,586	1,834	1,712
SALARY & BENEFITS -% OVERALL	58.3%	57.3%	57.3%	59.9%	60.4%	59.8%	58.4%

\*Attendance includes both in-person attendance and online attendance (based on number of unique viewers)

## 2024 THE CHAPEL BOARD OF ELDERS

Gene Amore, Chairman  
Dan Schlotterbeck, Vice Chair  
Ken Baker, Secretary  
Joe Berberian, Treasurer

David Byrne  
Steve Dumke  
Jeff Dyksen  
Andres Gonzalez  
Larry Heck

Albert Meyer-Pflug  
Dion Morreale  
Ryan Olsen  
Michael Platt  
Bill Sayre

**Advisors:**  
Sharon Bale-Pena  
Nancy Knaus

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## THE CHAPEL STAFF

**Dave Gustavsen**  
Senior Pastor

### LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

- **Adult Discipleship & Chapel Women Team**

Susan Breitz, Director  
Julie Barclay, Associate Director  
Jackie Van Hook, Adult Discipleship  
Kelly Abrams, Young Adults Intern

- **Care Ministries Team**

Jamie Longo, Director of Care  
John Diaz, Associate Director  
Toni Ramundo, Care Intern  
Kathy Petonak, Ministry Assistant

- **Family Ministries Team**

Heather Horn, Director  
Kelly Smith, Ministry Assistant  
Guian Zomera, Ministry Assistant

**Children's Ministries Team**

Bria Gabriele, Associate Director  
Tiffany Tilli, Chapel Kids Coordinator  
Jen Beato, Childcare Coordinator

**Student Ministries Team**

Heather Horn, Director (Interim)  
Nicole Voltmer, Chapel Students Intern

- **Special Needs Inclusion Team**

Ingrid Flannery, Director  
Iliana Abaunza, Ministry Assistant  
Kelly Smith, Ministry Assistant

- **Worship Arts Team**

Litthya Baez, Interim Worship Leader  
Guian Zomera, Ministry Assistant

- **Creative Arts Team**

Brandon Kingry, Technical Director  
Steven Janowicz, Technical Coordinator  
Andrea Fasciolo, Ministry Assistant

- **Connections and Assimilation**

Paul Klouse, Pastor  
Iliana Abaunza, Ministry Assistant

- **Pre-School**

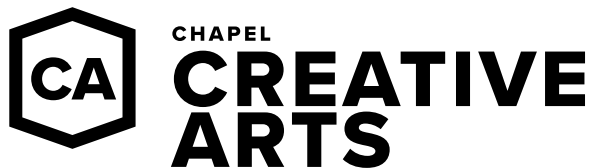
Jasmine Knaus, Director  
Becca Curcio, Admin. Assistant

- **Operations & Administration**

Josh Horn, Facilities Director  
Mike Laauwe, Maintenance Assistant  
Cathy Wackwitz, Office Manager  
Julie Vander Valk, Ministry Assistant,  
Finance & Executive Pastor

### WAYNE CAMPUS

Victor Rios, Campus Pastor



## WORSHIP MINISTRY

**“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” Psalm 95:1-2**

Jesus said that of all the commandments in Scripture, one rises to the top: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. As followers of Christ, we are called to honor God above all else—with all that we are and all that we have—every moment of our lives. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 10:31, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

The primary place where we help people love God is our worship services. It is our prayerful, passionate desire that every service will lead people into the presence of God. Each week, our people desperately need to be reminded of God’s greatness, the overwhelming grace He gave us at the cross, and His personal love for us.

The preaching of God’s Word is a central part of our worship services, and in 2024 we proclaimed the gospel through series on The Gospel of Mark, Nehemiah, the life of David, and a series for election season called “Seek First the Kingdom of God.” We finished the year with our Advent series, “Cured by Christmas,” featuring testimonies of Chapel people who have experienced the healing of Christ in their lives.







This year, we said goodbye to Lauren Tapia, who served faithfully for the past three years. We greatly appreciate Lauren and all that she brought to our worship ministries, and we trust that God will guide her steps as he continued to lead The Chapel forward.

Throughout the year, we added many new volunteers to our worship ministry, including several of our Chapel students. Thanks to our strong volunteer team, we have not missed a beat since Lauren's departure. Litthya Baez, who has been a faithful volunteer for years, stepped up to the part-time role of Interim Worship Leader, and she is assisted by other strong volunteers like Levi Schmidt, Katie Egan, and many others.

It was a joy to once again incorporate a Christmas Choir on December 15, thanks to the leadership of volunteers Pam Struble and Diana Roth-Fili, who led over 30 kids in joyful Advent worship. And of course, our Christmas Eve services capped off the year with "O Holy Night" and candle lighting to celebrate the arrival of our Savior.

Helping people to love God through worship services and special events involves a lot of preparation and a lot of passionate, gifted staff, and volunteers. We are so grateful for our **Worship Team**, who fill the stage and lead our congregation in joyful worship. This year our **Tech Team**, under the leadership of Technical Director Brandon Kingry and Technical Coordinator Steve Janowicz, put together our first full length Live Worship Album adding to the ways The Chapel Family can connect with worship throughout the week. Our **Welcome Team**, under the leadership of Pastor Paul Klouse, help create a warm, welcoming environment for everyone who walks through The Chapel's doors. And our entire worship ministry receives excellent support from Andrea Fasciolo and Guian Zomera.



## FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Ministries encompasses all ministries for families with kids, infant to 12th grade (Chapel Kids and Chapel Students).

We had a huge change on our **Family Ministries Team**, but I am so grateful for faithful employees like **Bria Gabriele**, Director of Chapel Kids and **Tiffany Tilli**, Chapel Kids Coordinator. Ministry Assistants, **Kelly Smith** and **Guian Zomera**. And interns **Nicole Voltmer** (full year) and **Madison Trout** and **Emma Smith** (summer). What a wonderful team that supported each other through a difficult season.

I am also grateful for **Stuart Hall** who has come on as a consultant to help us through this difficult time. Stuart has helped me with next steps for student ministry and training our volunteers.

**Trail Life**, the ministry for boys Kindergarten through 12th grade, continues to disciple boys in their faith and teach them in many activities including appreciating the outdoors, working with their hands, and just having a good time together. I meet with the Trail Life Committee once a month. They pull off wonderful campouts, hikes and other outings. **Chapel Girls**, the ministry for girls, 1st through 8th grade, also continues to reach young girls for Christ. The older girls give back by helping with younger girls. They had a great retreat this year as well.







As a Family Ministry Team we banded together to pull off **Easter Jam, Chapel Kids Camp** the **Chapel Family Block Party** for our Chapel Kids and **Fall Kickoff**, weekly **Youth Group** and events for our Chapel Students. We really needed to come together this year to make it all happen.

We dedicated 14 families during our **Family Dedications** this year. There were also many children and students who chose to be **Baptized** this year. I was grateful to be a part of these special moments with many of our families this year.

I put together a church profile and job description for our **Student Pastor/Director search team**. I have reached out to area churches plus colleges and seminaries to get the word out about our open position. We have been holding interviews. We ask that you join us in praying for the right person for this role.

We certainly had unexpected challenges in 2024, but we continue to look to the Lord for strength and wisdom.

**Heather Horn**

Director of Family Ministry





## KIDS MINISTRY

2024 was a year of adjustment and adaptation in Chapel Kids. However, our team has remained consistent with Bria Gabriele in her role as Director of Chapel Kids alongside **Tiffany Tilli** in her role as Chapel Kids coordinator. **Jen Beato** continues in her role of Childcare Coordinator. High school student **Emma Smith** came on as Chapel Kids intern over the summer.

Chapel Kids on Sunday mornings continues offering **classes for infants – 5th graders** during both the 9:00 and 10:30 AM services. Our early childhood classes have experienced great growth during both services. Our 4th and 5th grade classes have also seen much more consistency and higher numbers than in recent years. Over the summer, we spent significant time exploring various curriculums to find one that best suits our church. Brite curriculum rose to the top and we have been trialing it out since September for our K-5th grade classes. We also trialed a few different curriculums for our early childhood classes but have decided that FirstLook continues to be the best fit at this time.

**511** finished out the 2023/24 school year, as our 5th grade mid-week small group. After 10 years of the same format, we felt it was time for a shift in the structure of the group. We found a curriculum called “Team ION” that focuses on discipleship and leadership and in September, we launched “511 - Team ION” as our 5th grade mid-week small group. This group is led by Bria Gabriele and high school student, Emma Smith. We have 10 5th graders committed to deepening their relationship with God and exploring their God-given gifts and how they can use them to serve the church.

**Chapel Kids Camp (CKC)** was a team favorite this year! We had 343 kids registered with over 150 volunteers. Our Chapel Students 6th-12th graders were once again a great help as volunteers in all the areas of CKC. This year's theme was "Start the Party" and focused on helping kids see how Jesus is the greatest gift and because of what He's done for us, why we should celebrate and share the Good News! We partnered again with The Chapel family to support New Destiny Family Success Center in Paterson. We collected nine large bins full of school supplies and raised \$2,096.49.

Other outreach events we held this year included the annual Easter Egg Hunt - "**Easter Jam**". This year's **Chapel Family Block Party** was even more fun than last year! With over 20 Trunk Hosts and 10,000 pieces of candy, 1,000 hot dogs, donuts, and cups of apple cider, plus bounce houses – the campus was alive with fellowship. Many of our Chapel Students served as volunteers at these events and were such a great help. Our students are eager to serve and be the church and it's been so awesome cheering them on and giving them opportunities to explore their gifts.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Bria Gabriele**

Director of Chapel Kids





## STUDENT MINISTRIES

To say this year was difficult in Chapel Students would clearly be an understatement. It's in these difficult times that we see God at work through His nearness and comfort during the darkest moments, how people rally in support and all the good that can come when we keep our eyes on the Lord and persevere. Below are a few of those highlights.

We had a **Spring Day-Treat** to Shiloh. It was a great touch point with God and our group during the busy spring

Summer was filled with the **Touch the World Mission Trip** to Texas, students volunteering at **Chapel Kids Camp** and the **Middle School HUME Camp**. Also, our parents went above and beyond this summer to open their homes to backyard get-togethers and pool parties.

After a huge change on staff, I took on leading Student Ministry and was grateful for the quick support of elders and other staff to get an **expanded volunteer team recruited** for the fall. Many wonderful, faithful volunteers returned, and we added 15 brand new volunteers. They were trained and put to work quickly!

We held a very difficult but important **Parent Meeting** explaining what had occurred and answering questions. We also held **listening sessions** for our students to process through their feelings and all that occurred.

Due to many of the changes, we decided to continue **Middle School Foundations** but to allow high school students to stay in the service. This was the best use of resources and volunteers.



In September we held an awesome **Kickoff** for **Youth Group**! **Nicole Reid**, parent and volunteer, became integral in pulling off many events but this kickoff was above and beyond. We were able to have hibachi chefs prepare us dinner, and we held a Back to School Night-style event where parents and students could take some time to meet and get to know volunteers. I also did my best to lay out the vision for the next several months.

We were able to hold a six-week **Bible study** on Ephesians in the fall on Wednesdays for our high school students.

It was great to see so many students be **baptized** throughout the year as well. It is a real sign of growth throughout the entire Chapel Family.

As the year came to a close, we ended with three fun and engaging events. Our **Friendsgiving**, where everyone brought food to share, and we did karaoke. We had a **Wrapping Party**, where we wrapped presents for Street Hope Alive to hand out at their Christmas event. Then we had our **Christmas Party** where each student brought cookies to share, played games and high school students exchanged gifts.

Looking forward to what God has for Chapel Students in 2025!

### **Heather Horn**

Director of Family Ministries



## **ADULT DISCIPLESHIP**

### **CHAPEL WOMEN, CHAPEL MEN, YOUNG ADULTS**

Jesus was an extraordinary leader. There will never be another like Him, but His unmatched leadership style and relational approach continue to teach and inspire us today.

Our Adult Discipleship, Chapel Women, Chapel Men, and Young Adults ministries aim to follow Jesus' model of relational and spiritual leadership. Jesus understood that relationships make disciples. While He couldn't personally connect with the masses, He invested in a small group of 12, equipping them to bring others to faith in Him.

Following Jesus' example, we are committed to spiritual growth and multiplication—His command and our calling. The structure below outlines how these ministries seek to accomplish that mission.

- Each Ministry is made up of many Small Groups (87).
- Each Small Group has a Leadership Team of 2-5 leaders (over 200).
- Each Leadership Team has a Shepherd or Shepherd Couple (20).  
Collectively, we call this the Shepherd Team.
- Each Shepherd or Shepherd Couple shepherds 2-5 Small Groups.

You might want to think of it as the Small Groups are the disciples out in the towns representing Jesus to the rest of the world. The Shepherd Team is a little bit like the 12, and out of the 12 there were three who spent the most time together. On this earth, that would be Julie, Jackie and I. And of course, since Jesus is no longer in bodily form on this earth, the three of us better be dependent on his Spirit and his Word before we attempt to have anything worthy to share with our Shepherd Team!

So the question we have to ask is, "Are people growing and coming to faith in Jesus because of the witness of people in our small groups?" To answer that question, we asked our Shepherd Team, all of our small group leaders, and all group members to do a little self-check quiz. The assessment measured the health of Small Groups based on five characteristics of the first small group in Acts 2. We use that example because we know that God kept adding to their numbers those who were being saved. We are happy to say there is evidence of spiritual health in most categories! But, out of all the characteristics that caused growth, our Small Group members, Leaders, and Shepherds rated themselves lowest in the category of evangelism: sharing their faith with others.

That's why we are starting new groups and encouraging existing groups to take a few weeks in the new year to focus on becoming more confident and passionate when it comes to sharing our faith! Jesus said we should go and make disciples and become fishers of people, so let's do this! We are excited to kick off our emphasis on sharing our faith with a showing of the movie, "The Forge" on January 24. We hope everyone 12 and up will join us in the auditorium for this special Chapel Movie Night!

### **ADULT DISCIPLESHIP HIGHLIGHTS**

- Our third Beginnings group brought together men and women who were not yet connected. They learned to study Scripture using "Big Idea Devotions". Several continued meeting beyond this group and took steps of baptism and membership.
- Many groups served together at The Chapel, in their communities, and their own groups throughout the year.
- J-Terms: Strong attendance at both sessions January 2024: Big Idea Devotions and June 2024: Deepening Your Prayer Life revealed that many people have a passion for deeper learning. The topic for J-Term in January 2025 is "Living Out Loud, Exploring the Why and How of Sharing Our Faith".



### **CHAPEL WOMEN HIGHLIGHTS**

- Women's groups use Sunset Ministry Center almost every day and night of the week!
- New groups for moms and senior women were added this year.
- A wider variety of women in different life stages have been sharing their testimony and speaking at large gatherings.
- Large numbers of women came to Christmas Connection (150) and StayTreat (450).



### CHAPEL MEN HIGHLIGHTS

- Young Dads wanted to grow in their relationship with God and in their role as husband and father. Older men stepped up to lead this NEW group!
- Five men are ready and willing to step out and lead new groups in 2025
- Powerful biblical studies, attending the “Stand Courageous” and “Husbands Love Your Wives” conferences and fun events like the Chili Bowl and Pancake Breakfast made 2024 a great year for our Chapel men.



### YOUNG ADULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Young Adults has become a full ministry including thriving young men’s bible study, young women’s bible study, and combined gatherings.
- There is evidence of deep community forming among Young Adults (impromptu social events, group chats).
- Young men and women are regularly and publicly expressing their new and deepening commitments to living for Jesus through their baptisms and faithful service in several other Chapel Ministries.
- Chapel Young Adults have demonstrated a passion for studying Scripture together. They even started their own off-campus study on Sundays in addition to the one on Tuesday nights.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to our Board and our Staff for their care and encouragement this year. It was also a privilege to have the talented Kelly Abrams join our team as a Young Adult Intern. We are truly blessed to serve at this wonderful and vibrant church!

Serving together,

**Susan Breitz**  
Director of Chapel Women

**Jackie VanHook**  
Associate Director  
of Adult Discipleship

**Julie Barclay**  
Associate Director  
of Chapel Women





## **SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

After almost a decade of focused effort on the meaningful inclusion of individuals who have special needs and disabilities and their families, this has become increasingly a more natural part of what we do at The Chapel. One way this was apparent was on Inclusion Sunday in October. It was seen through the people of this community actively involved in the service, whether in person or video, and in responses to the message. Most of all, it showed up in hearts, with many individuals and families feeling encouraged that we're moving in the right direction. God was honored as his works were "on full display," as one Chapel dad commented afterward. In 2024, we were thrilled to have new families join us, volunteer teams grow, joy-filled special events continue, and the hope of next steps take shape.

**Sunday and Weekday 1:1 Support** – Buddy and Assistant care for children and adults was available, and new families joined us in both our typical and our special (Ark) settings on Sundays. In the unique environment of the Ark class, which provides an in-person and virtual experience for those who need specialized support, we saw a remarkably dedicated volunteer team help families flourish, and sometimes accompany participants between this option and typical classes to support individual needs. As this population continues to expand and grow older, we are making plans for a separate teen/adult Sunday morning option sometime in 2025 in addition to continuing the original Ark class for kids. We were also happy to become aware of adults with special needs, connected to us through our Night to Shine event and word of mouth, newly attending services with family members. In other areas of Sunday support, live captioning of our typical services was provided this year again in online options, while ASL interpreting was offered upon request.

**Special Events and Programs** – In February, the prom-like Tim Tebow-sponsored Night to Shine event, celebrated the love God has for those with special needs, and further grew our connections to families in the community. We were so thankful for the committed NTS planning team including Ministry Assistant Iliana Abaunza, and dedicated volunteer leaders – Sarah Siroka, Cynthia and Jim Harven, and Dinah Krenitski, plus a team of over 300. The efforts of key volunteers and many staff members were more than noteworthy and too many to all be mentioned by name. Jackie Van Hook and her small groups team was especially appreciated in continuing the care of guests’ family members during the event and pursuing relationships throughout the year. Thousands of dollars’ worth of material goods were donated to make the cost minimal considering the benefits of this event that has far from lost its steam.

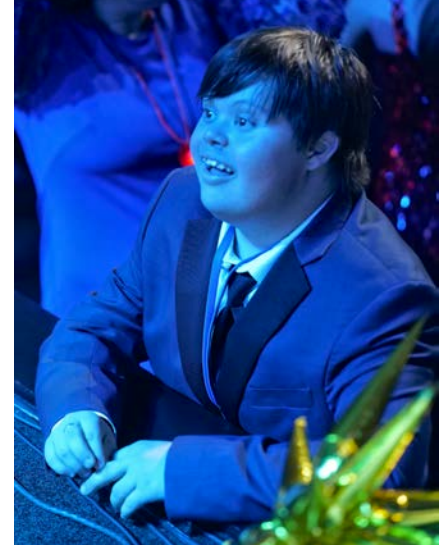
The Chapel’s Rides and Meals Ministries continued to support several individuals and families who need rides to church and need meals when care needs are challenging or chronic.

Pastor Paul Klouse led another great season of our Sunset Community Garden with SN individuals and families, with the addition of last year’s adjacent fruit tree orchard. One of the areas of service at the We Serve volunteering event this fall was at the newly expanded garden.

Overall at The Chapel, we are becoming more attuned to thinking about typical events becoming inclusive. Examples once again included the Chapel Kids “Easter Jam” with SN-Accessible hunt options, Chapel Kids Camp with supports, the Family Block Party where many kids and some very excited adults in the special needs community participated, and our Christmas Eve services.

**Parent and Caregiver Support** – Night Out was held three times this year, once again including many from the surrounding community in this appreciated respite program, the majority of whom were teens and adults.

We again partnered with Jill’s House of Virginia in their NJ location at Shiloh Bible Camp for Christian, camp-like “Weekend Adventures.” They completed a second year of successful weekends providing overnight respite for children with intellectual disabilities, with a few families from The Chapel (among others) benefiting. In 2025 their goal is to increase sources of funding to continue to grow the number of families who can be served in a sustainable way.



**Goals** – Along with maintaining essential programs and supports, cultivating a climate of acceptance and inclusion continues to be an ongoing goal, so necessary to future ministry success. The Chapel’s two first “Inclusion Sundays” were a significant step as they reach the whole Chapel family. Another is planned for the fall of 2025.

As mentioned, a Sunday morning program for teens and adults with special needs is being planned.

We are excited about a parent connection event in early spring with the promise of helping Chapel parents traveling a similar journey find and support one another and connect for further support.

Please join us in praying for the ministry’s direction and future, and especially, for its “indispensable” people (1 Cor. 12: 22), where the works of God are displayed.

With gratitude,

**Ingrid Flannery**

Director, Special Needs Inclusion



## CARE MINISTRY

As I reflect on this past year, I am reminded that the Care Ministry isn't a program—it's a living, breathing expression of God's love and is committed to walking alongside our church family through every season of life.

Whether it's holding the hand of someone in grief, offering hope to someone battling addiction, or providing practical support to those facing extraordinary challenges, the Care ministry helps individuals navigate through some hard stuff.

None of this could happen without the faithful volunteers who bring their unique gifts to serve in different but equally vital ways.

Please continue to pray for them and the various Care groups below:

**Benevolence** - provides financial, physical, and emotional support to those who are facing hardship due to extraordinary challenges.

**GriefShare** - providing comfort and encouragement for people grieving the loss of someone close.

**LifeGivers** - provides support and encouragement for those living with illnesses and for their caregivers.

**Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry** - assists the community and families from The Chapel every week with basic food and household necessities.

**More Than Conquers (MTC) Addiction Care** - provides encouragement and support to those struggling with addiction.

**Prayer Team** - committed to praying for individual prayer requests as well as for The Chapel family, Chapel leadership, and surrounding community.

**Visitation Team** - provides prayer and encouragement to individuals who are in the hospital, nursing and assisted-living facilities, and those who are homebound.



## 2024 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### VISITATION MINISTRY

This team has always been a lifeline for our congregation. They've spent countless hours visiting those who are ill, offering prayer and encouragement to those who needed it most. In 2024, under the leadership of Toni Ramundo, the ministry has expanded to visiting local care facilities on a consistent basis every month. Bringing music, puppet shows, compassion and lots of smiles!

### CHAPEL CARE HUB

In addition to Erin Bennington, this year we have expanded our on-campus counseling referral network to include Marielle Franey. Marielle is a licensed professional counselor (MA, LPC), who is dedicated to helping individuals navigate life. We are very glad to have them both as a resource here on campus.



### CHAPEL SENIORS

As we celebrate the incredible work of our Care Ministry, 2024 has also been a year of connection and joy for our Chapel Seniors Ministry. Along with some special events and service projects, our Primetime meetings have been a consistent source of connection, happening on the last Wednesday of every month. The fall marked the second year of Chapel Seniors Ministry, kicking off with a memorable Oktoberfest event with over 130 people in attendance. We look forward to another year of growing together in the Lord, supporting and uplifting one another.

In Closing, to the Care Team—Kathy, John and Toni—and to every volunteer who has served selflessly this year: Thank you. You have been instruments of God's grace and love, bringing hope, healing, and restoration to so many.

Let us continue to carry each other's burdens, reflecting Christ's love in our community.

God bless,

**Jamie Longo**

Director of Care



## 2024 MISSIONS PROFILE

**Supported Missionaries: 31**

**Newly-Supported Missionaries: 3**

**Missionaries Retired from the Field: 3**

**Chapel Short-Term Mission Trips: 3**

2024 was a busy year for the mission committee with lots of changes, many good but a few bittersweet. Starting with the not-so-pleasant adjustments, several dear friends and co-laborers in ministry retired from the committee. We grudgingly said goodbye to Sang and Soonja Kim, Linda Kolmodin, and Ben Samuel. All of them were incredibly hard-working on the committee and will be extremely missed. A special shout out to Linda who supported me very closely and was a wealth of knowledge as I stepped into the chair role two years ago. She has been on the committee for over 30 years and was steeped in knowledge for our committee's "institutional memory"!

For the happy changes, we have added five **new members** (Susan Forshay, Andres Gonzales, Lexi Koeman, Diana Roth, and Barry Wright) this last year, and I am excited for the energy and passion for missions they bring to the committee.

One of the key tasks the committee accomplished this year was to update our **Mission Manual**, which outlines the policies that guide our ministry. One key change we made was to allow for a rotating membership on the committee, where two new members from the congregation will come on each year, while two depart after serving a three-year term. Another major change was to come up with a method to measure the effectiveness of the long-term missionaries we support, so that we can be good stewards of the resources God has blessed us with. I am happy to share that manual with anyone interested.

I continue to be proud to serve on the mission committee because our congregation is mature enough to provide a generous portion of our budget to missions. As believers, we need to be faithful in our discipline of tithing to the church, and the Chapel in turn models that to us in giving to local and global missions. In addition to that and because of your generous giving over the last few years, our Special Missionary Needs Fund and our Global Missions Fund continues to run at healthy levels! We were blessed to assist a number of initiatives this year due to the bounty of giving.

We were able to support three **short-term mission trips** this past year: 1) Dominican Republic, with our friend from Paterson, Pastor Charles Salina; 2) Barranquilla, Colombia; and, 3) among the Maasai people of southern Kenya. We also supported some folks on non-Chapel sponsored trips. We are looking to do more short-term trips this coming year and encourage you to pray about whether God is calling you to join one of them. With that in mind, we are planning a Short-Term Mission Fair early in 2025 so that our congregation can better understand what is involved and become familiar with the trips we will offer in 2025. Please consider joining us even if you feel a short-term mission trip is not for you.

Thank you to the congregation for your prayers, financial support, and service in short-term missions. It is because of your prayers and financial giving that The Chapel can continue faithfully serving our King in serving in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth!

Respectfully submitted,

**Bill Sayre**

Chairman, Missions Committee



## MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY THE CHAPEL 2024

MISSIONARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
Mr. and Mrs. Al Armijo	Central Missionary Ministries	Chile
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Barone (ended May)	Table in the Wilderness	Wyoming
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Brickley	PTL/Families Set Free	USA/Pakistan
Mr. and Mrs. Mike DeLorenzo	AIM	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Nate Dorka	Servant's Heart	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dower	Shiloh Military	USA
Ms. Debbie Dower	Teach Beyond	Germany
Mrs. Renee Fanok	Street Hope Alive	Paterson, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. George Gartside	Shiloh Bible Camp	NJ
Rev. Ovidiu Ghita	Holy Trinity Galati	Romania
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Echols (ended Dec)	Christian Miss. Alliance	Chicago
Mr. and Mrs. Dom Gonino	Biblical Missions WW	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Howard	Narrow Road	PA
Rev. Ron Hutchcraft	RHMinistries	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Hutchcraft	RHMinistries	USA
Rev. and Mrs. Sam Ingrassia	E3 Partners	USA/Colombia
Undesignated	New City Kids	Paterson, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kim	Team Healthcare	Mali, Africa
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin King	International Project	New York City
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mastin	Caribbean Network	Bahamas
Pastor Greg Mergian	Good Shepherd Mission	Paterson, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Nelson	Solid Rock Ministries	Florida/Cuba
Ms. Linda Schramm	Child Evan. Fellowship	NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rundquist	Inner City Impact	Chicago
Mr. Antonio Sanchez (ended Sep)	Word of Life	Mexico
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Scott	CRU	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Travis Skinner	IVF	USA
Mr. Chris Studley	Northern Frontier	NY
Rev. and Mrs. Raphael Thomas	Annotto Bay Gospel Chapel	USA/Jamaica
Mr. Tim Tosch	Camp Elim	Haiti
Mr. and Mrs. Chris West	CRU	USA
Mr. Rick Whitmer	How to Life	USA
Mr. Jordan Whitmer	How to Life	USA
Mrs. Lisa Whitmer	RH Ministries	USA





## CHAPEL PRESCHOOL

**We are celebrating our 45th school year!**

We have **145 students** in our **10 classes**! There are currently 24 students in our two-year-olds classes, 58 students in our three-year-olds classes, 47 in our four-year-olds classes, and 16 students in our PreK class for five-year-olds.

The **staff** consists of 18 teachers, the Administrative Assistant Becca Curcio, and the Director, Jasmine Knaus. There are 10 members on the Preschool Advisory Committee who help make important decisions about the school. We are thankful for the godly wisdom and leadership of the following Board members: Jasmine Knaus (Director), Pat Barone (Founding Director), Nancy Knaus (Former Director), Ruth Biczak (Committee Chairman), Danny Mathew (Preschool Treasurer), Lynne Talaga, Christie Vanaria, and Bonnie Postma (Former Preschool Teachers), Rebecca Curcio, and Jessica Dumke (Parents of children who attended The Chapel Preschool)

In 2024 we used grant money that we had received during the pandemic, to completely renovate our **playground**! We dedicated it in honor of former staff member **Flor Chaux**, who passed away unexpectedly last year.





In memory of Chapel Elder **Sal Dolfi**, we started the Sal Dolfi **Scholarship Fund** for The Chapel Preschool in 2022. Sal loved our preschool, and his son Joseph attended here for three years. So far, \$11,913.66 has been given out as tuition assistance to families in Sal's honor! There are six families currently receiving a tuition scholarship.

We have grown the **extra-curricular activities** that we offer during the school day. We now have Music class twice a month, Gym class with "Coach Dan Reid" twice a month, Tumbling class twice a month, and an additional Art class once a month for the 4-year-old students.

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now taking place!

**Please pray faithfully that our school will continue to thrive, and that God's love will be felt by every family whose children attend here! May He be glorified in all we do!**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jasmine Knaus**

Director

## **WAYNE CAMPUS - EN ESPAÑOL**

**Lamentations 3:21-23: Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.**

Dear family:

As you all know, after ten years working as part of the staff, as Campus Pastor, now I will be transitioning as Teaching Pastor for the new independent church: Capilla Hispana Nueva Vida de Wayne.

There is not sufficient space on this page to express everything I would like to say. So, I will only say: thanks to God for the privilege.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunities and support provided to me during my time at the Chapel. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a talented and dedicated team. I've grown spiritually, professionally and personally, and I owe a great deal of that to the supportive and collaborative environment here.

I am confident that the best for both churches is yet to come.

God bless you all!

God bless The Chapel!

God bless His church!

Blessed New Year!

**Victor Rios**

Lead Pastor of Wayne Campus

## BOARD CHAIRMAN AND SENIOR PASTOR

Life is hard...but God is good. We experienced some hard things in 2024, most notably the departure of three staff members. But in spite of the challenges, God showed his goodness in many ways. Here are some highlights of the year...

### LOVING GOD

- *Attendance.* Our worship services continue filling up! We are seeing 1,100-1,200 people attending each Sunday, with many new visitors every week. In addition, we are still seeing hundreds of people participating in our online services each week.
- *Baptisms.* We continue to baptize people nearly every month. It has been awesome to see God continuing to draw people to himself as we preach the gospel and celebrate new life in Christ! Thanks to Pastor Paul Klouse for his leadership of this ministry.
- *Seek First.* During the fall, our sermon series equipped people to represent Jesus well during election season by exploring Jesus' teaching to "seek first the kingdom of God."

### LOVING PEOPLE

- *Young Adults.* Our young adults community is seeing remarkable health and growth. Whether they meet as separate men's and women's groups or all together, there is an energy and momentum happening. They are growing spiritually, developing deep friendships, and serving together.
- *J-Term.* In 2024 we started J-Term: an opportunity for people to go deeper in their study of God's Word. In January Pastor Dave taught "Big Idea Devotions," and in June Pastor Paul and Julie Barclay taught "Prayer." It has been a great success, and we're looking forward to the January 2025 J-Term course on evangelism, "Living Out Loud."
- *Chapel Students.* Despite the difficulty of losing our Pastor of Student Ministries, we had a very encouraging fall with our students. Volunteerism is up, student attendance is up, and parental engagement is up. We have begun the search for our next pastor, but in the meantime God is doing good things in the lives of middle school and high school students. Thanks to Heather Horn for leading this crucial ministry in the interim.



## SERVING THE WORLD

- *12-Mile Bridge*. It is a joy to join with our ministry partners in Paterson, just 12 miles away, to further God's kingdom. Throughout the year we mobilized hundreds of people to serve the homeless, mentor kids, minister to those in recovery, clean up parks, and much more.
- *Block Party*. In October we sponsored our second annual Chapel Family Block Party, combining our traditional trunk or treat with kids' games, food, photo booth, and other fun elements. Around 2,000 people from our community experienced a demonstration of God's gracious generosity as they enjoyed this free event.
- *Spanish Church*. This year we made a strategic decision to plant our Spanish-speaking campus as an independent church. As they gain full independence in 2025, we are excited to see how God will use them to spread the gospel throughout the Hispanic population of North Jersey.

There is so much more that happened in 2024 that can't be contained in a short report. Our Chapel preschool saw record attendance. Our Chapel Seniors ministry continues to thrive. We sent short-term mission teams around the world. We had fantastic "Staytreats" for both Chapel Women and Chapel Men. Our Chapel Kids Camp is once again booming. As mentioned above, we saw the departure of three key staff members: Ted Voltmer (Executive Pastor), Cesar Tapia (Pastor of Student Ministries), and Lauren Tapia (Director of Worship). We are grateful to each of them for the service they provided, and we are confident that God will lead them forward while continuing to meet our needs.

The Chapel is a family, and by God's grace we became an even stronger family this past year. We are looking ahead to 2025 with strong faith that Jesus will continue using us to build his church!

***Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.***

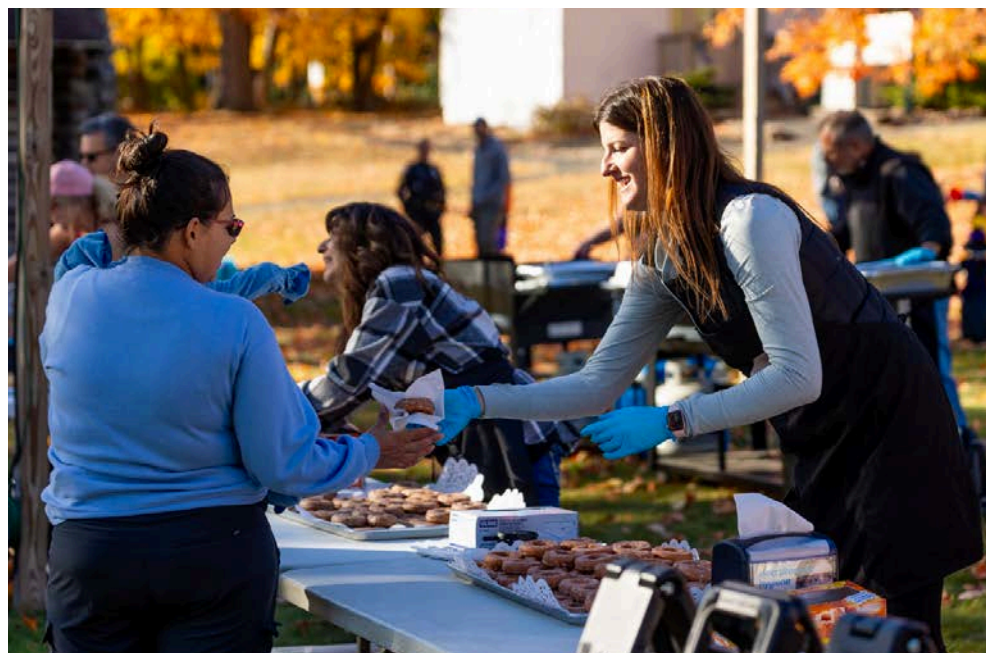
*(Ephesians 3:20-21)*

Yours in Christ,

**Gene Amore**  
Board Chairman

**Dave Gustavsen**  
Senior Pastor









# A PLACE TO GROW

At the Chapel you will discover a grace-oriented, authentic place that connects the relevancy of the Bible to our day-to-day lives as we live with others in community.

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973-334-6657



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