

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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THE CHAPEL



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# 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 5, 2023

## 1. WELCOME/SCRIPTURE READING/PRAYER

Associate Director of Chapel Women Julie Barclay began the meeting by reading from Philippians 2:1-13, which includes Paul's admonition **"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."**

## 2. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum having been reached, at approximately 4:10 p.m. Board Chairman Gene Amore called the meeting to order.

## 3. MINISTRY UPDATES: FAMILY MINISTRIES (CHAPEL KIDS, CHAPEL STUDENTS)

a. Director of Family Ministries Heather Horn and her team appeared via pre-recorded video. Heather began by interviewing Associate Director of Chapel Kids Bria Gabriele.

- Bria spoke of working to smooth the transition from Chapel Kids to Chapel Students.
- She appreciated the wonderful collaboration amongst the ministry teams.

b. Heather asked Associate Director of Student Ministries Cesar Tapia about his plans for 2023.

- Cesar stated that he wants students to grow in their understanding of what a Christ-centered identity is and for them to grow in authentic community.
- The students will have valuable experiences on the upcoming mission trips.

c. Heather asked Director of Student Ministries Cory Daniels about his plans for 2023.

- Cory is looking forward to introducing a variety of activities in 2023.
- He looks forward to a doubling of the volunteers in this ministry.

d. Bria Gabriele and Chapel Kids Coordinator Tiffany Tilli gave some details about their plans.

- Bria's goal is to guide the slightly older kids into seeing what their place to serve is in our church.
- Tiffany said that even infants and toddlers can learn. She wants to structure the content they receive to enable them to share the love of Jesus Christ.

- e. Pastor Voltmer interviewed Heather Horn.
- Heather said parents ask her, “How do I disciple my kids?”
  - She wants to walk alongside parents, providing helpful tools and resources.

#### **4. REVIEW OF 2022 MINUTES**

Chairman Amore called attention to the minutes of the February 6, 2022, Annual Meeting shown on pages 6-22 of the Annual Report, which had been made available online 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 Bill Sayre, to approve the minutes as written.

#### **5. INTRODUCTION OF ELDER CANDIDATES**

Chairman Amore expressed thanks for the four men whose terms as elder have concluded: Mike Hubner, Raymond Lee, Jackson Min and Levi Schmidt. Chairman Amore then showed a video introducing the four new elder candidates: Larry Heck, Mike Platt, Jeff Dyksen and Dan Schlotterbeck.

- Larry explained how as a young adult he changed from living life on his own to trusting in Jesus. He enjoys serving in a variety of ministry roles including volunteering at Good Shepherd Mission and in the Chapel Prayer Group.
- Mike met his wife-to-be at Houghton, and they have served at the Chapel for thirteen years. They have two boys, ages seven and six. Mike enjoys ministering to boys in Trail Life.
- Jeff has been involved at the Chapel for fifteen years and testified that he made the Christian faith his own during his time at college. He has a strong love for apologetics. His family has three kids ranging in age from six to eleven.
- Dan has been involved in the Chapel for forty-five years. He's been married for thirty-six years and has adult children. He has ministered in a variety of areas including student ministry and looks forward to applying these experiences to his work as a Board member.

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

- Pastor Gustavsen said he's never officiated at so many funerals as he has since 2020.
- He wanted to pay tribute to all these people who have gone home.
- 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.
- They spur us on to live each moment with purpose, faith, hope and love.
- He asked us to stand to honor those we lost, and he read a lengthy list of all their names.

## **7. 2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY GENERAL TREASURER ED FRYE**

- Treasurer Frye began by saying that this is his 57th Annual Meeting, but he's been treasurer for only 53 years. He has attended over 600 board meetings.
- Treasurer Frye referred to pages 23 to 25 of the Chapel 2022 Annual Report to provide background supporting the proposed 2023 budget of \$4,140,000.
- On the screen Treasurer Frye showed the 2022 budget of \$4,020,000. The 2022 actual offerings were \$4,037,000. The proposed 2023 budget of \$4,140,000 represents an increase of \$130,000, which is 3.2% over the 2022 budget.
- Treasurer Frye noted that facilities and office expenses will increase by \$64,000, salaries and benefits by \$46,000, and missions by \$27,000.
- Treasurer Frye said the proposed budget was unanimously recommended by the Board of Elders. He gave thanks for help on the Chapel finances to:
  - a. Pastor Voltmer for putting the budget together.
  - b. Larry Heck for his insight into finance.
  - c. Dina Pedersen, Financial Administrator, who takes care of the day-to-day finances for the Chapel.
  - d. The offering counting crews who count the offering weekly.



## 10. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS BY GENE AMORE.

- Chairman Amore talked about the powerful revival occurring in North America that started in 1857.
  - a. Known as the “Businessmen's Revival” by its contemporaries, a distinctive aspect of this revival was the extraordinary popularity of well-publicized noon prayer meetings started by Jeremiah Lanphier.
  - b. The prayer meetings morphed into a massive revival with hundreds of thousands coming to faith.
- In 1997 Rosario Butterfield began researching the religious right and their politics of hatred against people involved in same-sex relationships like her.
  - a. Ken Smith, a pastor, reached out to her in humility and grace.
  - b. Ken’s loving outreach led to her being born again in 1999.
  - c. She is now an ardent Christian who strongly advocates for hospitality.
- Chairman Amore shared three scriptures: 1 Peter 3:15, Colossians 4:5, 6 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26. These scriptures give several guidelines.
  - a. Our tone is one of gentleness, not of anger and self-righteousness. In our current culture it is easy to view unbelievers as our adversaries. Instead, our conversation should be full of grace.
  - b. The second idea from these passages is preparation. We are prepared, eager to teach, giving gentle instruction. We rely heavily on scripture in doing this.
  - c. We have a responsibility to be witnesses even in hostile zones. We remember that it’s God who changes people’s hearts, not us. God grants repentance, not us.

## 11. MINISTRY UPDATES: SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUSION, CARE, WAYNE CAMPUS

- Pastor Voltmer interviewed Director of Special Needs Inclusion, Ingrid Flannery.
  - a. The upcoming Night to Shine will have 300 volunteers.
  - b. This March, Weekend Adventure will launch. It’s a great overnight camp with one-on-one care.

- Pastor Voltmer asked Director of Care Jamie Longo about her vision for care for this year and beyond.
  - a. She expects counseling and the various care ministries to thrive.
  - b. Care gives help for the present in a time of crisis and hope for the future through the Benevolence Ministry.
  - c. John Diaz has a heart for couples, ministering to both engaged and married couples.
  
- Pastor Voltmer spoke to Pastor Victor Rios about the Wayne campus,
  - a. He looks forward to bringing the congregation together in new and exciting ways.
  - b. He is emphasizing unity in church leadership and intentional oneness for the church members.
  - c. The Wayne welcoming ministry is being rebuilt.

## 12. LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD BY PASTORS GUSTAVSEN AND VOLTMER

- **Looking Back.**
  - a. Pastor Gustavsen began by thanking the Chapel for our love for serving. We completed the first full year of 12-Mile Bridge. Three hundred fifty took part in We Serve in November. The crisis response team just got back from hurricane relief in Florida.
  - b. Pastor Voltmer said we have two more We Serve events planned for 2023.
  - c. Post-pandemic we are grateful people are continuing to come back. Today we had 1,000 in-person Chapel attendance and 500 online.
  - d. Worship ministry at the Chapel is thriving. Pastor Gustavsen complimented Lauren Tapia for her great worship ministries leadership. Pastor Voltmer is looking forward to the planned Night to Worship events.
  - e. Pastor Gustavsen began a radio ministry on WMCA 570 am from Monday to Friday at 6:30 p.m. It's a great tool to get the gospel out.
  - f. The Chapel continues to enjoy a good reputation for the loving care we provide for special needs people.

- **Looking Forward.**

- a. Coming up in March and this fall the Weekend Adventure for special needs kids will start up at Camp Shiloh.
- b. With the pandemic receding, Night to Shine will be live and in person for the first time in three years.
- c. The Common Ground theme this fall will be Faith of a Child.
- d. A video about a new World Vision program was shown. It's called Chosen and it features a child choosing their donor instead of the donor choosing their child. The Chapel will introduce this program in September. The African nation of Malawi is where these children reside.
- e. Dina Pedersen has been Financial Administrator for almost 20 years and Louise Denos Ministry Assistant for 15 years. Both plan to retire after their many years of exemplary service on the Chapel staff.

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

- a. Lauren Ramkowsky asked if people in the congregation can serve at the Camp Shiloh Weekend Adventures. Director of Special Needs Inclusion Ingrid Flannery said they can, and if interested, they can contact [ingrid@thechapel.org](mailto:ingrid@thechapel.org).
- b. Scott Crosta asked at what age is a child no longer eligible to be in the World Vision sponsorship program. Pastor Gustavsen replied that the age limit is 18.
- c. George Brewster asked whether the practice of passing the plate for the weekly offering could be reinstated. Pastor Voltmer replied that eliminating that extra time keeps our focus on worship. Pastor Gustavsen added that passing the plate can lead visitors to think that we are out to shake people down for money.
- d. Dan Trolaro said he missed the Chapel 5K. Board Secretary Baker, who has stepped down as Race Director, said he would be glad to mentor Dan on what he'd need to do to step into the Race Director role.
- e. Someone asked when the Sunset parking lot would be redone. Pastor Voltmer replied that it would cost \$100,000. It is on our five-year plan but is not a high priority.

f. A member asked whether the welcome desk would come back. Pastor Voltmer replied that the welcome desk caused a space bottleneck in the lobby. In addition, the host team is doing a fine job and is better than the welcome desk.

g. Pastor Gustavsen answered a question about having more collaborative events with the Wayne campus by saying that it is difficult to pull collaborative events off. Language is a key barrier.

h. A member asked whether the Christmas Village would come back. Pastor Gustavsen replied that it would not, due to how it is a tremendous additional burden for the staff during an already-busy Christmas season.

i. A member asked whether there was a way to follow up with any of the 500 weekly unique views that the online service gets. Pastor Voltmer explained that that is very difficult. It is not easy to achieve the goal of getting them into small groups. It is hard unless they come forward first. Also, our priority is to invest in the in-person services.

j. A member said she and her husband would like the live greeting to come back, viewing it as a nice way to welcome new people. Pastor Gustavsen said the greeting is the introvert's nightmare. For the time being it won't be coming back.

k. John Diaz appreciates the minute of silence before the sermon starts. He hopes it continues.

l. Scott Moss expressed thanks for the Chapel, saying he's lasted longer at the Chapel than at any church he has ever attended.

m. An update was requested on the Multiply Fund. Pastor Voltmer explained that during the pandemic it was basically on hold. Now some of the fund is being used for radio ministry. Any usage of the money for a church plant is years away.

n. Charles Schmidt said that he sits on the board for Good Shepherd mission, and he gave thanks for the Chapel's support of Good Shepherd.

o. Pastor Gustavsen concluded by telling the Chapel family what a joy it is to serve them and to follow Jesus with them.

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

q. The vote for the elder slate was 249 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention.

r. The vote for the 2023 budget was 246 yes, 4 no, and 1 abstention.

### **13. CLOSING PRAYER**

- Chairman Amore offered a closing prayer.
- Chairman Amore then asked for a motion from a member to close the meeting. Ed Frye made the motion and Knute Hancock seconded it. The meeting adjourned about 6:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kenneth Baker**

Board Secretary

## THE CHAPEL 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

**\$'s in Thousands**

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS	BALANCE 1/1/2023	BALANCE 12/31/2023	NET CHANGE
Chapel Ministries Fund	\$1,033	\$1,356	\$323
Special Missionary Needs Fund	85	86	1
Global Missions Fund	254	288	34
Benevolence Fund	132	166	34
Youth Scholarship Fund	70	68	(2)
Inheritance Fund	43	1	(42)
Multiply Fund	210	147	(63)
Construction & Improvements	429	209	(220)
John Rumeau Scholarship Fund	2	5	3
Contingency Fund	107	113	6
Other	0	12	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,365</b>	<b>\$2,451</b>	<b>\$86</b>

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- God has wowed us once again by posturing our gospel-centered ministries to bring more glory to King Jesus based on our strong financial condition despite these uncertain days.
- Our consolidated offerings exceeded budget by 3.2% or \$132k through the generosity of the Chapel family. We continue to bring our offerings into God's storehouse to advance the good news of Jesus Christ, showing that we are fiercely missional to bring hope to our community.
- We underspent our budget by \$261k by carefully managing our spending while caring for our precious ministries and staff.
- We improved our main Lincoln Park facility by replacing the Main Building roof at a cost of \$140k which should serve us for another 20+ years.
- We invested \$50k in Jill's House to show our support for the Special Needs ministry in Northern Jersey.
- Lastly, your generosity is fulfilling the Acts 1:8 mandate, being His witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (e.g., Malawi sponsorships). In a word, we exemplify God's heart by our "generosity."

## 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Board of Trustees has unanimously recommended a consolidated budget of \$4,140k for 2024, which is unchanged from our 2023 consolidated budget.

Here is our rationale for the 2024 Budget:

- We adjusted the budget to cover cost of living adjustments for our staff and missionaries along with higher health insurance costs for our personnel.
- We will continue to operate with a lean organization—adding only one additional headcount even though other positions have been vacated.
- We factored in higher operational costs for outsourced accounting costs plus higher payroll administrative expenses.
- Mainly offset by overall decrease in Salaries and Benefits, as well as in Special Projects and Communications.
- We made a few sacrifices—e.g., forgoing the expense of hosting an offsite women’s ministry retreat and curtailing our investment in Jill’s House beyond satisfying our initial two-year pledge.

**Note:**

See the Proposed 2024 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 2024 as we do all of it in the powerful name of our risen King Jesus.

**\$’s in Thousands**

CONSOLIDATED	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2023 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2023 ACTUALS	% OF 2023 BUDGET	% OF 2024 BUDGET
A-SALARY & BENEFITS	\$2,477	\$2,283	\$2,418	-2.40%	5.90%	59.80%	58.40%
B-MISSIONS	\$470	\$466	\$491	4.50%	5.40%	11.40%	11.90%
C-FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION	\$913	\$919	\$1,002	9.70%	9.00%	22.10%	24.20%
D-MINISTRIES/PROGRAMS	\$280	\$211	\$229	-18.20%	8.50%	6.80%	5.50%
E-TOTAL EXPENSE	\$4,140	\$3,879	\$4,140				
F-TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$4,140	\$4,272	\$4,140				

## 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET (cont'd)

\$'s in Thousands

LINCOLN PARK	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2023 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2023 ACTUALS	% OF 2023 BUDGET	% OF 2024 BUDGET
A-SALARY & BENEFITS	\$2,326	\$2,134	\$2,256	-3.00%	5.70%	60.50%	58.70%
B-MISSIONS	\$447	\$447	\$467	4.50%	4.50%	11.60%	12.10%
C-FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION	\$826	\$829	\$918	11.10%	10.70%	21.50%	23.90%
D-MINISTRIES/PROGRAMS	\$247	\$175	\$204	-17.40%	16.60%	6.40%	5.30%
E-TOTAL EXPENSE	\$3,846	\$3,585	\$3,845				
F-TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$3,846	\$4,012	\$3,845				

WAYNE	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2023 BUDGET	% INCREASE / (DECREASE) OVER 2023 ACTUALS	% OF 2023 BUDGET	% OF 2024 BUDGET
A-SALARY & BENEFITS	\$151	\$149	\$162	7.30%	8.70%	51.30%	55.00%
B-MISSIONS	\$23	\$19	\$24	4.30%	26.30%	7.80%	8.10%
C-FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION	\$88	\$90	\$83	-5.70%	-7.80%	29.90%	28.10%
D-MINISTRIES/PROGRAMS	\$32	\$36	\$26	-18.70%	-27.80%	11.00%	8.80%
E-TOTAL EXPENSE	\$294	\$294	\$295				
F-TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$294	\$260	\$295				

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	
SALARY & BENEFITS % OVERALL	58.30%	57.30%	57.30%	59.90%	60.40%	59.80%	58.40%

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



## 2023 BOARD OF ELDERS

Gene Amore, Chairman  
Andy Watson, Vice Chairman  
Ken Baker, Secretary  
Ed Frye, Treasurer

Erick Bula  
Jeff Dyksen  
Tom Flannery  
Larry Heck  
Dion Morreale

Ryan Olsen  
Michael Platt  
Bill Sayre  
Dan Schlotterbeck  
Bill Wackwitz, Jr.

**Advisors:**  
Nancy Knaus  
Angie Meyer-Pflug

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## THE CHAPEL STAFF

**Dave Gustavsen**  
Senior Pastor

**Ted Voltmer**  
Executive Pastor

### LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

- **Adult Discipleship & Chapel Women Team**

Susan Breitz, Director  
Julie Barclay, Associate Director  
Jackie Van Hook, Adult Discipleship

- **Care Ministries Team**

Jamie Longo, Director of Care  
John Diaz, Associate Director  
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  
Kelly Smith, Ministry Assistant  
Guian Zomera, Ministry Assistant

**Student Ministries Team**

Cesar Tapia, Pastor  
Kelly Smith, Ministry Assistant

- **Special Needs Inclusion Team**

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

- **Worship Arts Team**

Lauren Tapia, Director of Worship  
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

### WAYNE CAMPUS

Victor Rios, Campus Pastor

### OPERATIONS

Cathy Wackwitz, Office Manager  
Julie Vander Valk, Ministry Assistant,  
Finance and Executive Pastor

- **Maintenance Team**

Josh Horn, Facilities Director  
Mike Laauwe, Maintenance Assistant

### INTERNS

Toni Ramundo, Care  
Nicole Voltmer, Chapel Students

## THE CHAPEL

### LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

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*. So 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. Through music and teaching—under the leadership of Dave Gustavsen, Lauren Tapia, and the rest of our staff—we are inspired to celebrate the glory of Jesus and equipped to carry out His mission...in our families, communities, and world.

This year we made the music style at both of our morning services identical. While we are extremely grateful for the historical ministry of our choir and orchestra, we decided to align our services around a more modern style to continue reaching the next generation, while continuing to honor the classic hymns and choruses of our faith. Early results have been encouraging, as we've seen increasing attendance overall, as well as a fuller and more age-diverse 9:00 AM service.

With the pandemic becoming smaller in our rear-view window, it has been encouraging to see more and more people return to worship services in person, and at the end of the year we are seeing approximately 80% of our pre-pandemic attendance, with a substantial number of people still opting to join us online.

The preaching of God’s Word is a central part of our worship services, and in 2023 we proclaimed the gospel through series on 1 John (“Walk in the Light”), a Lent series called “Lead me to the Cross,” Jonah, 1 Corinthians 13 (“Agape”), Ruth, the life of Jacob (“Molded”), and series on worship and the teaching of Jesus to “Freely give.” Our Common Ground theme was the Faith of a Child, which drew the Chapel family together in unity and provided fruitful discussion for our small groups. We finished the year with our Advent series, “Emmanuel.”

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 Teams**, who fill the stage and lead our congregation in joyful worship. Our **Tech Team**, under the leadership of Tech Director Brandon Kingry, has done their usual top-notch job. 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.

One final word: we want to say a special thanks to the members of our Chapel choir and orchestra, and to John Boronow who led them faithfully for so many years. God used our choir and orchestra powerfully and fruitfully for many years, and we are forever grateful for all who served in those ministries.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

**“I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.  
Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.**

**I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands”**

**Psalm 63:2-4**

As I look back on 2023, I am in awe of God and all that He is doing at The Chapel through our worship ministry. This year, we said goodbye to John Boronow after his many years here at The Chapel, and we greatly appreciate him and his service to the church. Though we had many changes, the Lord has blessed The Chapel with special moments of worship.

Many of you came out to our Night of Worship on May 23, and what a great time of worship it was! We opened the floor for prayer requests, and prayed over each other right there; our church is truly a family. Our Thanksgiving Eve service was a night full of worship and gratitude. We also had a special Advent season! We were joined by our Concert Band, and Pam Struble and Diana Roth-Fili led our Chapel Kids Christmas Choir on December 17 of over 30 kids! Our worship team also welcomed a handful of new volunteers who are excited to serve. We love leading you all in worship every Sunday! One cherished moment of this past ministry year was introducing “Holy Forever” on Vision Sunday. Many of you have told me just how much that song has blessed you in your personal times of worship and corporately. I look forward to more Spirit-led opportunities like that one.





Finally, our Christmas Eve services with “O Holy Night” and candle lighting is an event I look forward to every year.

We could not do any of this without our worship and tech teams, so thank you Brandon Kingry, Steve Janowicz, Guian Zomera, and others for your commitment to God and our worship experience each Sunday!

It is an honor and privilege to lead our worship ministry and to lead this family in worship. It is both encouraging and a great blessing to look out from the platform as I hear you all sing out to give our Lord the glory He deserves. Each week, we have the privilege of seeing you all connect with God in a deep and meaningful way, and it’s simply beautiful to witness. I’m so thankful for your support this year, and to God for allowing me to be your Director of Worship.

I am looking forward to how God is going to reveal himself to us in 2024 and how He is going to move in each of our hearts and in this church. I’m constantly praying for The Chapel; that we would grow closer and closer to God each week, and that we would grow as worshippers of our worthy God in the year ahead. Please join me in praying that God is glorified by everything He sees and hears as we worship Him together in spirit and truth.

**Lauren Tapia**

Director of Worship

## **ADULT DISCIPLESHIP**

### **GOAL 1: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP.**

#### **STRATEGY: SMALL GROUPS (WITH SPECIALIZED MATERIALS).**

*Story: "Our couples' small group has been truly enriching to our faith, marriage, and friendships as we spend intentional time in God's Word and getting to know one another more deeply. We've grown individually and together while studying God's Word praying with and for one another, and bearing each other's burdens. Being a part of a small group has given us a Christian family – brothers and sisters in Christ who are there for each other, care to meet each other's needs, encourage growth, and help one another thrive." - Cathleen and Dan Foster*

### **GOAL 2: CONNECT NEW PEOPLE IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY.**

#### **STRATEGY: "BEGINNINGS"**

A guided six-week small group experience for everyone in any life stage who desires to connect in biblical community! The group used the Common Ground workbooks.

*Stories: "It's hard to find words to express how welcomed I felt. The leaders often would ask me about something I had shared the week before. It is rare to feel seen, heard, valued, and appreciated. After attending the Beginnings Group, I decided to join The Chapel. I have attended the Chapel for ten years. The Beginnings group was a transformative experience, prompting me to break down my walls and allow my faith community to get to know me, just as I would like to know them, flaws and all." - Kim Sheppell*

*"I was new to the church, attending Sunday services and loving the entire experience, but something was missing – the connection of fellowship. I decided to try the Common Ground Beginnings Group. I met amazing people that I now refer to as friends and family. I've gotten so much more from the sermon messages, by first spending time alone in His Word and in prayer, and then with our group. I've found myself concentrating not only on Sunday, but all week long on each teaching and making choices with more intentional thought – how should I as a child of God handle this. I am so grateful this group helped me to grow personally and to build relationships that now make me feel like part of The Chapel family." - Susan Heffernan*

### **GOAL 3: PROVIDE DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFICALLY FOR MEN.**

#### **STRATEGY: MEN'S SMALL GROUPS**

Stories: *“Chapel Men has truly been a blessing in 2023. The year challenged our family with a house fire and a pancreatic cancer diagnosis. My being part of the Battleground Men’s Group allowed me the comfort to turn to others for prayers and support. Having men around me who have gone through their own battles and care enough to offer their support, prayers, love, and kindness helps make these circumstances bearable. I greatly appreciate John Diaz for his current leadership and God for putting all of these men together.”* – Jim Brady

*“I’m so thankful that I heard about the Young Men’s Group since moving back home this past summer. I was welcomed with open arms and felt comfortable as soon as I walked in my first time. It’s been a great way for me to strengthen my relationship with God while also building a bond with others aspiring for the same goals as me.”* – Paul Filipow

*“The Young Men’s Group at The Chapel is a place where I can meet with other believers who are like-minded to bounce ideas off each other in ways where I feel heard and accepted. I am glad to have an opportunity to speak about our Lord and Savior Jesus. I feel this group has helped me on my faith walk with Christ and with dealing with things I couldn’t recognize on my own.”* – Jonathan Galante

### **GOAL 4: GUIDE, PROTECT, AND TRAIN SMALL GROUP LEADERS AND THEIR GROUP MEMBERS**

Strategy: Shepherds. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who desires that every sheep in His flock have a Shepherd so each will mature and thrive. The Adult Discipleship Shepherd Team consists of Ken and Nancy Baker, George and Denise Brewster, Jim and Ginny Nichols, Ron and Mary Lynne Pisano, Paul and Bonnie Postma, Les and JoAnn Wilson, Marc and Connie Centrella, Jim Brady, and Ken Canali.

Each of these men and women care for a few small group leaders as their own little flock. In this way, each of the 40 men's and mixed groups have a Shepherd who provides them with encouragement, communication, and accountability. We believe healthy groups make a healthy church.

Thank you Small Group Shepherds, Leaders, and Sermon Question Writers for your love for Jesus and people! Thank you Chapel Board, Pastor Ted, and Pastor Dave for your constant support and guidance as we seek to love and serve The Chapel family!

With our love and gratitude,

**Susan Breitz**

Director of Chapel Women

**Jackie VanHook**

Associate Director of Adult Discipleship







## **SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

2023 was The Chapel's eighth year of strategically supporting people with special needs and their family members. We were pleased to see supports continue, new families join us, volunteer teams grow, some very joyful special events, a more inclusive atmosphere spread, and a few important initiatives thrive! We are closer than ever before to being that 1 Corinthians 12 church, understanding the diverse giftedness of all its members with none who are indispensable – as we love God, love people, and serve the world.

### **SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY SUPPORT**

The Chapel's Sunday Ark class, providing an in-person and virtual experience for those who need a different environment and specialized support, saw another year of growth in attendance and in its dedicated volunteer team. Most of the families who made use of this for their loved ones were very regular attenders. Although originally intended for children, the class now includes participants who span into adulthood. Wise changes will be needed in the future as our population will continue to grow into adulthood and younger children will also need the care this program provides.

1:1 Buddy and Assistant care for children and adults to attend our typical Sunday and weekday programs continued to be offered, as well as personal support arrangements. Live captioning of services was provided this year in our Facebook and YouTube service options, while ASL interpreting was offered upon request by The Chapel's Kelley Nelson.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**

In February, the Tim Tebow-sponsored Night to Shine event, dedicated to communicating the love God has for those with special needs and connecting them to the church, was back in person to everyone's excitement.

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, serving a team of over 300 who carried it out. The efforts of key volunteers and many staff members are more than noteworthy and too many to all be mentioned by name. Jackie Van Hook and her small groups team was especially appreciated in taking over the care of guests' family members during the event.

Jackie also spearheaded the Chapel's Rides and Meals Ministries. These are open to any in need, and support several individuals and families affected by disability who need rides to church and meals when care needs are challenging or chronic. It is my earnest prayer that in the coming year, more will take note and join in serving these very significant, basic needs!

Pastor Paul Klouse led another great season of our Sunset Community Garden with SN individuals and families, and this fall saw the addition of an adjacent fruit tree orchard.

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

Besides supporting individuals with special needs from The Chapel, these each provided rich community outreach! With more families connected to us than ever, we had some of the largest numbers of participant-hopefuls being waitlisted for Night Out and Night to Shine, in spite of growth in volunteer teams.

### **PARENT AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT**

Night Out was held in person 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.

After years of planning with Jill's House of Virginia to start a NJ location for their Christian camp-like "Weekend Adventures," we were excited about the hiring of a Local Program Manager at the end of 2022. This led to a successful first year of Weekend Adventures which provided overnight respite for children with intellectual disabilities nearby at Shiloh Bible Camp. A few Chapel people served as volunteers, a Chapel RN was hired as part of their staff, and a family or two from The Chapel (among others) was able to benefit. 2024 plans include doubling the number of families to be served.

Also serving families, our Chapel moms' support group resumed meeting this fall, led by Chapel mom Jen Beato.

## **GOALS**

Cultivating a climate of acceptance and inclusion continues to be an ongoing goal, so necessary to future ministry success. The Chapel's first "Inclusion Sunday" on November 19 was a significant step in this direction. Our guest speaker, Sib Nafziger-Charles from the Joni & Friends ministry, provided wisdom from her professional and personal experience in a message she called, "Belonging - A Place at the Table." She emphasized the importance of belonging, how challenging it can be for those affected by disability, and how we can all play a part in making this happen at church. The active participation of Chapel people throughout the service, leading prayer, featured in a moving video by Andre Frueh, and providing personal reflections in the café mini-expo that followed, was memorable.

A continuing goal will be seeking God's will in supporting people with disabilities and special needs in housing, work, meaningful activity, and especially, belonging at church. Along this line, perhaps the biggest goal for 2024 is continued steps forward in our long-standing goal of supporting our growing teen/adult population. Please join us in praying for the ministry's direction and future, and especially, for its people.

## **Ingrid Flannery**

Director of Special Needs Inclusion



## FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Ministries encompasses all ministries for families with kids, from infant to 12th grade. Chapel Kids and Chapel Students are a part of the Family Ministries.

Well, it would be an understatement to say a lot went on for our **Family Ministries Team** in 2023! **Louise Denos**, Ministry Assistant, retired in February. I (**Heather Horn**), Director of Family Ministries, went on a sabbatical for February/March. **Bria Gabriele**, Director of Chapel Kids, and **Tiffany Tilli**, Chapel Kids Coordinator, BOTH went on maternity leave in May. **Tracey Dangelmajer**, was hired as Temporary Coordinator for Chapel Kids. **Cesar Tapia** became our Pastor of Chapel Students after **Cory Daniels**, the Director of Student Ministries, moved to a different church position in June. We are so grateful for the four years that Cory was with us; he is missed. Many changes but God was faithful through all of them.

**Trail Life**, the ministry for boys Kindergarten through 12th grade, had a wonderful year, continuing to disciple boys in their faith and in activities including appreciating the outdoors, working with their hands, and just having a good time together. **Chapel Girls**, the ministry for girls, 1st through 8th grade, started as a trial last fall. It was so well-received that they continued! So grateful for parents and volunteers willing to give of their time to disciple these young boys and girls.





We decided to do a little “re-inventing” with some events in Family Ministries this year. We rebranded the Egg Hunt to **Easter Jam** and the Trunk or Treat to **Chapel Family Block Party**. Our vision was to make more time for conversation and getting to know families. In addition, we had our annual Chapel Kids Camp and our Chapel Students were encouraged to help anywhere in CKC but specifically took on the role of running the games portion. It was a great way for our students to get some training in serving others.

We dedicated 21 children during our **Family Dedications** this year. We also saw a great group of children and youth come forward for **Baptism!**

I taught a six-week parent class called, “**Passing on the Faith**”, that I built off of our Family Dedication passage in Deuteronomy 6. How to continue to pass on the faith to your children as they grow.

Volunteer Litthya Baez, ran a wonderful **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox collection. We collected and shipped 760 boxes to Samaritan’s Purse to be delivered to children all over the world.

What a full year 2023 was! We are blessed by God’s faithfulness to Family Ministries and The Chapel.

### **Heather Horn**

Director of Family Ministry



## KIDS MINISTRY

2023 was an exciting and busy year for Chapel Kids! As Bria Gabriele and Tiffany Tilli both welcomed new babies to their families in May and were off on maternity leave, we hired Tracey Dangelmajer to fill in as Temporary Coordinator of Chapel Kids from May through early August. Upon their return, Tiffany continues as Chapel Kids coordinator and Bria as Director of Chapel Kids. Jen Beato continues in her role of Childcare Coordinator.

Chapel Kids on Sunday mornings continues offering classes for infants - 5th graders during both the 9:00 and 10:30 AM services. In the summer, we began to “mirror” our Chapel Kids services which involved opening up a separate 2 year olds class and preteen class during the 9:00 AM service. Since January, we have had over 100 new kids join us. We’ve also had over 30 new volunteers join our team. We continue to have many parents and elders step up to serve as subs as needed. We currently are using Orange Curriculum for all of our classes, preschool – 5th grade.

511 finished out the 2022/2023 school year, as our 5th grade mid-week small group. In September we re-launched this group, and partnered with Chapel Students. Bria Gabriele and Cesar Tapia currently lead this group. The vision for 511 is to blur the lines between Chapel Kids and Chapel Students and to create a space for our preteens to be completely who they are as they seek and discover what a personal relationship with Jesus looks like. We currently have 13 students joining us at 511 weekly.

Chapel Kids Camp (CKC) was another highlight of the year! We had 300 kids register with over 100 volunteers. We partnered with Chapel Students, who hosted the 1st - 5th grade games portion (with many students also volunteering as coaches, on the music team, and with our crafts team).

This year's theme was "Ready, Set, Move" and focused on helping kids discover a love for Jesus themselves, and in turn understand that we are called to share the love of Jesus and the gospel with others. We partnered with The Chapel family to support New Destiny Family Success Center in Paterson. We collected seven large bins full of school supplies and raised \$4,756.50!

Other outreach events we held this year included the annual Easter Egg Hunt which we rebranded as "Easter Jam". We changed up the format and started inside with a "show" and gospel presentation, and then headed outside for the Egg Hunts. This year's Trunk or Treat was also rebranded as "The Chapel Family Block Party". The goal was to offer a better space for families to fellowship together, while still having the fun of Trunk or Treating. This was a great success and something we look forward to hosting again! Both events were partnered with Chapel Students, giving our students more opportunities to serve. They were fantastic assets at all of our events this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Bria Gabriele**

Director of Chapel Kids





## **STUDENT MINISTRIES**

Chapel Students exists to grow, inspire, and send out students to be culture changers for Christ.

This past year was packed with transitions and growth for Chapel Students. The biggest change was our bittersweet farewell to Cory Daniels as he transitioned out from his role as Director of Student Ministries in July. We are so grateful for the time that Cory had invested into leading Chapel Students, and our prayers go with him and his family as they move toward the next assignment that God has in store for them. Here are some great things that happened in 2023:

### **2023 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **BAPTISMS**

Events, small groups, and regular programming are great, but seeing students make the decision to follow Christ is unbeatable. God is moving in the hearts of our students, and we celebrated 16 student baptisms in 2023. In a time where culture is so clearly against God, it is beyond a blessing to witness God's power as He captivates the hearts of His children.

#### **LEADERS**

This year, we have had an amazing team of men and women that have poured their time and energy into the students in our community. Throughout the year, volunteer leaders/parents helped run some great activities for our teens. Sky Zone, pool parties, sleepovers, and more could not have been done without these wonderful people.

#### **INTERNS**

We hired two interns in 2023, Nicole Voltmer and Madison Trout. I am truly grateful for them both! With Nicole running our social media and Madison helping me in multiple ministerial ways, they both have helped me carry the beautiful burden of spreading Christ to our students.



## **MS/HS FOUNDATIONS CLASS**

Our Sunday morning Foundations Classes were designed to give students a different opportunity to engage in the teaching time of our Sunday services. With a great rotation of gifted volunteer teachers, we have seen these classes grow at a healthy rate.

## **MS/HS YOUTH GROUP**

In late September, we made a significant shift in our weekly programming to set Sunday nights as our Youth Group time. Change isn't easy, but the results of the shift have been superb. Between students and volunteer leaders alike, the friendships that have been formed, and invested in, have been priceless.

## **SUMMER 2023**

From Middle School Summer Camp at Hume New England, to the High School Kentucky Mission Trip, and volunteering for Chapel Kids Camp, it was a summer to be remembered. Students were able to engage with their faith alongside others in special ways.

## **HS FALL RETREAT**

With a band of three, led by Lauren Tapia, students and leaders worshipped our Lord freely without the fear of judgement. The topic of the weekend was simply the Gospel, and God met with our students in a mighty way. As a result, four students desired to be baptized as soon as they could. Praise God!

## **2024 AND BEYOND**

Chapel Students is all about creating "Kingdom Culture" in an anti-God world. We do this by faithfully walking with Jesus, and investing in relationships that enhance our walk with Christ. We are specifically excited about this year's opportunities as we serve alongside Touch the World, Hume, Servant's Heart Ministry, and Street Hope Alive.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

**Cesar Tapia**

Pastor of Student Ministries



## MEN'S MINISTRY

2023 was another great year of ministry for us at Battleground. We started the year with a study called “**Messy Grace**”, where both believers and non-believers shared their experiences with same-sex attraction and how the Lord has worked and continues to work as they battle with this sin.

February 18th we had our **Annual Chili Bowl**, with Bill Nye as a very animated MC for our Football Trivia Game! Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place were given. Men signed up for the following study on “**Spiritual Warfare**” by Dr. Tony Evans, which went through the end of April. This was a very powerful series.

On May 6th a few Battleground men joined in the “**We Serve Day**” in Patterson. It was a great way to serve together! On May 20th we took a break for the summer.

On July 8th , about 20 Battleground guys got together at the Reservoir Tavern for a time of fellowship. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to see each other and catch up with what everyone had been up to.

On September 23rd, we kicked off our Battleground meetings with coach Jerry Palmieri who shared a bit of his faith journey with us and told us about his involvement with “**Stand Courageous Men's Ministry**” and invited us to join their conference which will be taking place on March 23, 2024 at Liquid Church in Parsippany.

The following weekend we had our 2nd “**Men's Retreat**” at Shiloh Bible Camp with Bruce Dower leading us through three sessions from the life of David. We had 60+ guys in attendance. Again, Jim Harven offered to roast a pig for us and also brought his own smoker and made us some delicious smoked ribs. This was a very good time for the guys to be together. I'm considering asking Sam Ingrasia to be our speaker for the 2024 retreat... if we have one.

In October through mid-November we studied the “**Awe of God**” series with John Bevere. It was very good for us to consider what it means to fear God as believers and stop using the love of God as a license to sin.

In November, a few of us took part in the “**We Serve**” Chapel Day and joined others, serving in the different Paterson locations.

On December 2nd we started a new series “**The Testing of your Faith**” with Bruce Wilkinson. I am very excited to continue this series through the 1st few months of 2024. We’re seeing how God packages His great love for us in the testing of our faith through the different trials we encounter.

I want to mention Laurissa Telish, and the way she so willingly serves us by making breakfast for us at least twice a month!

Thank you Lord for this great group of men and for allowing me to lead them with Your help. May 2024 be another great year as we continue our journey in becoming passionate followers of Christ!

In & for Him,

**John Diaz**

Associate Director of Care





## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Three words that could describe this year in Chapel Women are **Simplify**, **Shepherds**, and **Stories**. Our goal was to execute strategies and create events that would “focus on the fruit”. Enjoy the few stories of fruit below. We wish we could share many more of them!

### SIMPLIFY

The Chapel Women Retreat was changed to a “Staytreat” this year. The goal of learning, fellowship and inspiration was met by using “in-house” speakers and musicians, which dramatically reduced the cost for each woman. Attendance increased by 150 women! We are grateful for the support of Chapel Staff and many volunteers that made this a fruitful event. The “Christmas Connection” event was added as guest-friendly large-group experience. Potluck food, simple activities, sing-along music, and a devotion by Kelly Baum accomplished the goal on a very low budget and with very few volunteers. Hundreds of women attended and cherished the time of community and inspiration!

### SHEPHERDS

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who desires that every sheep in His flock have a Shepherd who will guide and protect it so each will mature and thrive. **The Chapel Women Shepherd Team** consists of Sandy Purnell, Nancy Knaus, Carolyn Bakker, Iliana Abaunza, Natalie Crosta, Lauren Curasco, Jen Beato, and Donna Gartside (MOPS) Each of these women cares for a few small group leaders as their own little flock. In this way, each of the 25 Chapel Women groups have a Shepherd who provides them with encouragement, communication, and accountability.

In 2024, our Shepherd/Leader Training will focus on the Five Purposes of a Healthy Group: Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Evangelism, and Worship.



Each shepherd, leader, and member of a group will participate in the assessment process and develop a group and individual health plan. We are excited to make the foundational training practical for everyone. We believe healthy groups make a healthy church.

**STORIES:** *“MOPS has been a lifeline for me as a new mother to three children under two years old. It gave me a supportive community of fellow God-fearing women who understand not only the responsibility but also the challenges and joys of raising tiny young humans. Being a part of this sisterhood has given me a sense of belonging, friendship, and invaluable advice that has positively impacted my new journey as “Mom”...It’s been everything.” - Tabatha Dixon*

*“I have been a Single Mom pretty much from the start, but always had my mom as support. About two years ago she was diagnosed with cancer. Six months later, the Single Moms group formed, and I am so thankful! Throughout our year and a half together, we have supported one another, laughed, and grown in our faith as a family. My Mom went home to the Lord at the end of October, and shortly thereafter, I gained full custody of my son. Without the love and support of my Single Moms, I would be very isolated and overwhelmed. But God knew long before I did that I was going to need these ladies!” - Kristen Wright*

*“The Single Mom’s Group has meant a lot to me. It’s so great to be in a group where other moms know exactly what you’re going through and how hard it is. Everyone is there for each other physically, emotionally, and even financially. We pray for each other all the time and communicate all week to each other. I am very thankful to God and The Chapel for this group and for our leader, Litthya.” - Jill Anderson*

*“My daughter, Ivy, was two months old when I became a Single Mom. I began to search for groups that could help and lead me closer to God at the same time. I knew that both my daughter and I would need that more now than ever. We have been coming to the group for over a year, and we have made friends and have been taught by this group. How important it is to have a village that truly cares and has the same core values. God led us here, and I am so, so grateful for it.” – Summer and Ivy Reign*

*“Since joining the Girls’ Room this past semester, I have been able to grow in my faith since becoming part of this strong community. I have developed a new boldness about sharing my faith with others since stepping into the role of discussion group leader. This group has helped to deepen my heart to serve others and fostered many new connections within the church and community.” – Catherine Sundholm*

We are thankful to be in God’s Kingdom work, with a unified team and passionate volunteers. We are so grateful to Pastor Ted and our Chapel Board for the wisdom, resources, and flexibility that make ministry possible and enjoyable!

With love and gratitude,

**Susan Breitz**

Director of Chapel Women

**Julie Barclay**

Associate Director of Chapel Women





## SENIORS MINISTRY

Chapel Seniors is a new vibrant ministry for men and women, over 60, interested in sharing God's word, grace, and love with one another in a social setting!

PrimeTime is an opportunity for seasoned adults (60+) to refresh and refuel. Activities will include worship, fellowship and discussion, day trips, special events with guest speakers and so much more!

It has been a great time to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. We enjoyed 'Brats n' Knocks,' music, and fellowship at our Oktoberfest kickoff. While December brought a Christmas cookie contest and our special guest speaker Ron Hutchcraft.

For the new year, we are thinking about "Longevity 2024 and Beyond." Fitness and nutritionist professionals will join us at our PrimeTime meetings to educate us and provide us with demonstrations in their fields. This was the number one interest of our Chapel Seniors.

We are so grateful for the volunteers who generously give their time and gifts to the Chapel Seniors Committee. The love they have for God and others has allowed this ministry to flourish.

We are excited to see how God will work through Chapel Seniors in 2024. We can look forward to special events, a service project, and intimate worship as we grow together in the Lord.

Please join us on the last Wednesday of every month, from 1 to 3 pm, in the Impact Center.

We look forward to our time together!

**Jamie Longo**  
Director of Care



## CARE MINISTRY

The Chapel Care ministry plays such an important role in fulfilling God’s vision for the church to, *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ.”* – Galatians 6:2.

None of this could happen without the amazing volunteers who serve in the various care groups The Chapel provides. They walk alongside people through all sorts of seasons and transitions that happen in life—through times of grief and hardship, as well as joy and new beginnings. Always pointing to Jesus, the One who restores and redeems.

We are so thankful for their faithfulness!

This year we welcomed our new Care Intern, Toni Ramundo. What a blessing it has been to watch God use her as an instrument of His grace and love in the lives of so many this year.

God continues to use Toni in so many ways, including the oversight of the Visitation Team - spending time with those in our congregation who are ill and in need of prayer and encouragement. She also has a desire to minister to folks one-on-one, providing biblical counseling, direction, and care to individuals navigating the various challenges they may be facing. What a blessing it is to serve alongside Toni.

In addition to the day-to-day counseling, equipping, and support that the Care Team provides throughout the year--please pray for the various ministries below that continuously extend the hope and grace of Jesus Christ to so many all year long!

**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.

Gratefully,

The Care Team

**Jamie Longo**  
Director of Care

**John Diaz**  
Associate Director of Care

**Kathy Petonak**  
Care Ministry Assistant

**Toni Ramundo**  
Intern

**And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

**Galatians 6:9–10**



## CHAPEL PRESCHOOL

- This is our 44th school year! We have 128 students in our 10 classes- this is approximately double the amount of students that we had when we reopened in Fall 2020! There are currently 20 two-year-olds, 42 three-year-olds, 52 four-year-olds, and 15 five-year-olds.
- The staff consists of 16 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, & Bonnie Postma (Former Preschool Teachers), Rebecca Curcio & Jessica Dumke (Parents of children who attended The Chapel Preschool)
- In October 2023, we lost our dear friend and colleague, Flor Chaux. Flor taught two-year-olds at The Chapel Preschool for 23 years. Her sudden passing was a shock to all of us, and we miss her so very much. We continue to pray for peace for her husband, Jairo, and their daughters Nicole and Natalie. With Flor's passing, many changes to the 2-year-olds' classes were necessary. Margaret Albanese, who was Flor's assistant, is now the lead teacher. "Coach Dan" Reid has now joined our staff as the assistant teacher. We are grateful for God's provision in this way!

- The Preschool Advisory Committee recently approved a complete renovation of our playground, thanks to a Covid grant that we received. Once finished, our new playground will be dedicated to Flor Chaux.
- In memory of Chapel Elder Sal Dolfi, we started the Sal Dolfi Scholarship Fund for The Chapel Preschool in 2022. Sal loved our school and his son Joseph attended here for three years. So far, \$8,229.91 has been given out as tuition assistance to families in Sal's honor.
- Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now taking place. We can't wait to celebrate our 45th anniversary!

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!

**Jasmine Knaus**

Director of Preschool



# **THE CHAPEL**

## **WAYNE CAMPUS - En Español**

**See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the wasteland.  
Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)**

We are starting 2024 believing this verse from the prophet Isaiah. Last year we put in place and strategy designed to train new leaders, better equip existing servers, and expand our ministry base. In 2023 all the pieces started to fall in place. It is amazing to see how God anticipates everything to make our work more efficient.

In 2023, 19 people were baptized. We praise the Lord for that.

Dozens of people came to know Jesus while participating in the worship services or in one of the small groups.

Several important activities took place in 2023 that resulted in great spiritual blessings, including the distribution of more than 200 Bibles in November. As a result, we heard of people coming to the Lord and lives being rebuilt.

We have seen God working in every ministry, especially in the Youth and Worship groups. It is very clear that the Lord is up to something, and He himself is making sure the church is fit to embrace all the things he has for us in 2024.

As always, we are very thankful for the help and support from Lincoln Park Campus. Besides God, we had you along the way to help us get to the end of another year.

God bless The Chapel.

**Victor Rios**  
Lead Pastor of Wayne Campus

## **BOARD CHAIRMAN AND SENIOR PASTOR**

The Chapel's mission is building a family of Christ-followers who love God, love people, and serve the world. By God's grace, we were able to pursue that mission fruitfully in 2023. Here are some highlights...

### **LOVING GOD**

- Attendance. Our worship services continue filling up! We are seeing 80-85% of our pre-pandemic attendance, with 1,000 - 1,100 people attending each Sunday. We are grateful for the many new people God continues bringing to us. In addition, we are still seeing about 500 people participating in our online services each week.
- Worship. This year we made the music style at both of our morning services identical. While we are extremely grateful for the historical ministry of our choir and orchestra, we decided to align our services around a more modern style to continue reaching future generations, while continuing to creatively incorporate the classic hymns and choruses of our faith. Early results have been encouraging, as we've seen increasing attendance overall, as well as a fuller and more age-diverse 9:00 AM service.
- 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.

### **LOVING PEOPLE**

- Small Groups. Our small group ministry continues to thrive under the leadership of Susan Breitz, Director of Discipleship, with about 75% of Chapel attendees currently involved in a group. Whether co-ed, women's, men's, or life-phase groups, people are experiencing discipleship and fellowship in powerful ways.
- Chapel Preschool. Under the leadership of Jasmine Knaus, our preschool is serving more students than we have in many years. We continue to have a strong reputation in the local community, and we regularly see pre-school families become Chapel attendees.

- Membership. After welcoming the largest membership class in The Chapel's history last fall, with nearly 60 new people, this fall we welcomed another large class of about 40. It is so encouraging to see so many people formally making The Chapel their church home!

## **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.
- Chosen. In September we partnered with World Vision to sponsor children in Malawi, Africa. Our goal was to sponsor 300 children, so it was a joy to see the Chapel family step up and sponsor about 450 children!
- Block Party. In October we sponsored our first-ever 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.

There is so much more that happened in 2023 that can't be contained in a short report. We said goodbye to John Boronow and Cory Daniels, thanking them for their service. We brought onto our staff a new special needs ministry assistant, Iliana Abaunza, and a Care intern, Toni Ramundo. God continues to build our team and supply our needs, for which we are so grateful.

The Chapel is a family, and by God's grace we became an even stronger family this past year. We are looking ahead to 2024 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



## 2023 MISSIONS PROFILE

Supported Missionaries: 31

Countries Represented: 8

Chapel Short-Term Mission Trips: 3

**Missionaries retired from the field in 2023: 1**

**Missionaries deceased in 2023: 0**

Well, I just finished the first year chairing the committee, and let's just say that former chair Jackson Min left some pretty big shoes to fill. We can't thank him enough for his decade of service to Chapel missions prior to his departure! Also, my new service in the role highlighted the great support that Linda Kolmodin and Kathy Petonak provide to the role, and their attentive care to ministry is indispensable to me!

I am especially proud to serve on the mission committee because our congregation is mature enough to provide over 10% 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! These funds are separate from our annual budget and are carefully distributed by the Missions Committee. The Special Missionary Needs Fund is used to take care of personal and special needs that arise from our active Chapel missionaries and their families, ranging from minor, simple expenses to more serious needs such as special medical procedures or major home repairs. And the Global Missions Fund is used to support short-term mission trips from The Chapel, and for funding ongoing partnerships with other mission organizations. Please contact The Chapel office for more information about contributing to these funds.

We were able to support three short-term mission trips this past year: 1) Bernal, Mexico; 2) Barranquilla, Colombia; and, 3) among the Maasai people of southern Kenya. We received great reports of how the Lord moved through all those trips! Looking forward to 2024, we may have the opportunity to support up to seven trips. This can't happen unless we get great response from the congregation to the Lord's calling to serve in that capacity. I ask that you be in prayer about these trips as we announce them and that the response is robust. Our committee would be ecstatic to support dozens of people responding to the call.

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 of the Missions Committee



## MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY THE CHAPEL

MISSIONARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
Mr. and Mrs. Al Armijo	Central Missionary Ministries	Chile
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Barone	Table in the Wilderness	Wyoming
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Brickley	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	Cadence Int.	USA
Miss Debbie Dower	Teach Beyond	Germany
Mr. and Mrs. George Gartside	Shiloh Bible Camp	NJ
Mr. and Mrs. D. Gonino	Biblical Missions WW	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Howard	Narrow Road	PA
Rev. Ron Hutchcraft	RHMinistries	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Hutchcraft	RHMinistries	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Hutchcraft	RHMinistries	USA
Rev. and Mrs. Sam Ingrassia	E3 Partners	USA
TBD	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	NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Chip Nelson	Solid Rock Ministries	FL
Miss Twyla Pellegrino	Child Evan. Fellowship	NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rundquist	Inner City Impact	Chicago
Mr. Antonio Sanchez	Word of Life	Mexico
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Scott	CRU	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Travis Skinner	Inter Varsity	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Strong	Avant Ministries	USA—semi-retired
Rev. and Mrs. Raphael Thomas		USA/Jamaica
Mr. and Mrs. Chris West	CRU	USA
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Whitmer	RHMinistries	USA
Mr. Jordan Whitmer	How to Movement	USA







# 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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