



"But blessed is the one who trusts  
in the Lord, whose confidence is  
in Him. They will be like a tree  
planted by the water that sends  
out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of  
drought and never fails to  
bear fruit."

(Jeremiah 17:7-8)

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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

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There are few things I enjoy as much as being with those who are closest to me. Whether it is my family or close friends or the family of God here at Eastbrook, it is such a gift to be with those who welcome me, accept me, and love me. While I do enjoy the chance to return the favor, I know in these sorts of relationships I do not have to *do something* to earn favor, but I can simply be accepted and loved for whom I am. Any *doing* overflows out of the *being* of the relationship.

The message about Jesus as Messiah is one of the most powerfully relational messages that exists. The message is not really about doing something for God but about receiving what God has done for us and then living a grateful response to that.

I love this description of the early followers of Jesus that we read in the book of Acts. After working a miracle in Jesus' name and then being imprisoned for their good deed, Peter and John boldly testify to the rulers about who Jesus is in a way that shocks them. *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus"* (Acts 4:13).

I love that phrase: *"these men had been with Jesus."* It was certainly a statement of fact: Peter and John had followed Jesus around. But when I read this statement it carries more meaning to me than that: Peter and John had been companions of Jesus and that had changed their lives.

The disciple life is a deeply relational life. We have the tremendous gift through faith in Jesus as Messiah to be invited into a relationship with God where we are welcomed, accepted, and loved because of what God has done. All of our *doing* overflows out of the *being* of that relationship.

Looking back at this last year, we can see so much that God has done within us and through us. Yet all of it reminds me that the first work was God's work of creation and redemption which we enjoy. As we look at page after page of this annual report, I hope we see it all as a grateful response to God, and I hope it tells the story of who we are as a redeemed people through Christ for God's glory.

As I reflect on this, I also ponder what it means to live more firmly rooted in that relationship with God through Jesus the Messiah. How might God be inviting us more deeply as individuals and as a Church family to be with Him and to find our life in His life? Where might God be leading us in the future as a response to who He is to us and in us?

Looking toward this coming year as a church family, I have high anticipation of the voice of God opening a pathway to the deeper life with Him both individually and as a church community. Please take time to prayerfully read over these pages, giving thanks for how God is at work among us, and asking God to continue growing us in ways that bring Him the greatest glory.

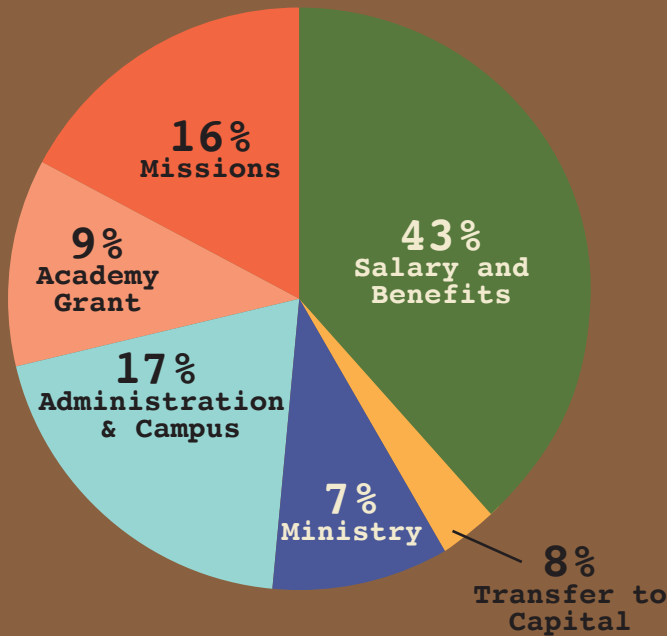
In Christ,

Matt Erickson  
Senior Pastor

## FISCAL YEAR AT A GLANCE

Budget	\$3,850,000
Receipts	\$4,034,757
Expenses	\$3,699,656

## 2024-2025 EXPENDITURES



“The financial report indicates the truth of Jeremiah 17:7: ‘Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him!’ In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, giving increased from the previous year, providing over \$3.3 million dollars for our general fund, a 6% increase over last year. Plus, your generosity provided over \$700,000 dollars for our mission fund, a 25% increase over last year. Your generosity was 2.7% over projections for General Fund giving. Thanks to all who contributed to God’s work through Eastbrook Church. Our fruit that never fails is evident in the 2024-2025 Annual Report. Over and over again, lives in and around Eastbrook are changed for the better.”

—GARY SWICK, Church Council Treasurer

## 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

### RECEIPTS

	FY 2024-2025 (ACTUAL)	FY 2024-2025 (BUDGET)	FY 2025-2026 (BUDGET)
General			
General Fund	2,976,087	2,900,000	3,100,000
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	708,671	600,000	625,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>4,034,757</b>	<b>3,850,000</b>	<b>4,075,000</b>

### EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024-2025 (ACTUAL)	FY 2024-2025 (BUDGET)	FY 2025-2026 (BUDGET)
General			
Salary & Benefits	1,724,540	1,820,220	1,818,832
Ministry	299,805	338,600	337,550
Administration & Campus	667,199	658,900	691,600
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	658,112	600,000	625,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	335,101	82,280	252,018
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>4,034,757</b>	<b>3,850,000</b>	<b>4,075,000</b>

## BAPTISM

Last year, we held 2 baptism services at the Lakefront and 1 inside during the cold Milwaukee winter! 33 Eastbrookers chose to be baptized! We celebrate with:

**ABIGAIL, ANDREW, BENJAMIN, BIANCA, CAROLINE, CHARLIE, CHRISTOPHER, CINDY, ELENA, ELI, ELISE, ELIZA, EZRA, GLENN, HARRISON, KARINA, LAYLA, LAZARIAH, LEIGH, LOGAN, LUCAS, M., MARK, MORGAN, NAOMI, NOAH, RUDOLPH, SAMUEL, SHIVA, STEPHANIE, STEPHEN, THOMAS, AND TRICIA.**



## ATTENDANCE

The average weekly attendance in person in the Worship Hall was 860 people. We hosted 1217 people in person on Easter Sunday and 1370 people in person on Christmas Eve. Online, we saw an average of 359 screens tuning in each week through various platforms, with 858 screens on Easter Sunday and 225 screens on Christmas Eve.

# 2024-2025 BY THE NUMBERS

## INTERNS/RESIDENTS

This past year, we had 1 year-long ministry resident serving in Missions and 4 summer interns serving in Worship, Communication, and Student Ministry. Let's continue to pray for these young adults:

**BLESSING, LILLI, MARY, JOHN, AND SARAH.**

## ACADEMY

Eastbrook Academy had 69 new students from 40 new families and 19 new staff last year. We celebrate with the 15 seniors who graduated from the High School!



## MEMBERS

As a part of Eastbrook 101, 25 adults chose to become members of Eastbrook, for a grand total of 767 members overall. Welcome to:

**AMY, BETH, CAMERON, CASEY, CHAROLETTE, DAVID, ERIC, GABBIE, GABE, HARVEY, LISA, LYN, MAKAYLA, MAUREEN, MIKE, MYKIE, OPEYEMI, RICK, SANDY, SEAN, SEAN, SUSAN, TARYN, THEODORE, AND TY.**

## EASTBROOK APP

2024-2025 was our first full ministry year with our new app. 621 people downloaded the app last year for 1634 downloads overall. The most frequently visited sections were the Live Stream, Giving links, Bible, and Discipleship/ Evangelism Resources!

## THANKSGIVING

Each year, we take a special offering at our Thanksgiving service. In 2024, you gave \$23,412 to be distributed to support the efforts of Eastbrook members to privately sponsor refugees from various parts of the world who have been impacted by persecution and war.

## GENEROSITY

We had 116 new givers and 313 Eastbrookers who are signed up for recurring gifts—thank you!



## DIGGING DEEPER

23 Eastbrookers wrote the 2024 Advent devotional and 49 wrote the 2025 Lenten devotional on the book of Leviticus. We launched a new "Behind the Sermon" podcast, recorded 11 episodes, answering questions from Eastbrookers about God and the Bible!

**"This past year was a big one for communication at Eastbrook as we focused on building discipleship tools for our church like the Eastbrook App. This allowed us to rethink & rebuild eastbrook.org to be more focused on evangelism and reaching out to newcomers!"**

**-LIZ CARVER, Director of Communication**

"2024-2025 was a year of putting new twists on long-standing ministry practices.

Right from the start, we welcomed a new Preschool/K4 Coordinator, Courtney Bryan, who began mid-August and carried us into the Fall Kick-off seamlessly.

We partnered with EBA to offer all of our families a new version of the Fall Festival. Then, in November, we put a station-based "sleuthing" twist on our favorite annual tradition—Family Advent Night! We closed out the school year with a new event, a Family Night potluck, bringing together students, kids, and their families to give thanks for all God had done in our Wednesday nights.

But, perhaps the biggest new twist was the hiring of a part-time NextGen Accessibility Coordinator, Tom Thoburn. Since he started, Tom has tirelessly built relationships with families who have kids with special needs, equipped our sensory classroom with new furnishings and tools, and recruited new volunteers to serve this growing area of ministry."

**NextGen  
Pastor  
LAURE  
HERLINGER**



## FAITHMARKERS

Faithmarkers are a Discipleship Pathway for our kids—they are part of how we recognize our children's spiritual milestones. This past year, we had 8 Preschoolers at our 2-year-old Faithmarker; 12 4-year-olds at Living Forever; 16 2nd Graders learned about Prayer; and 9 4th Graders learned about Scripture.



# KIDS & FAMILY

## FOSTER/ADOPTION

Our FAST (Foster/Adoption Support Team) Ministry met 24 times this past year for care and support...and they witnessed 4 new children adopted into Eastbrook families!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays are a busy time for Eastbrook Kids! 116 volunteers poured into our Kids at Sunday School. We had an average of 161 Kids at 9:30 am Sunday School, and an average of 61 were also involved in weekly Kids' Choirs at 8 am.

## RETREATS, CAMP, MUSICAL & MORE!

Retreats are a great place to meet with God! 13 kids in grades 3-4 attended our Winter Retreat and 16 Families went to Family Camp 2025. 32 kids were involved in our 2025 Kids' Musical, *Danny and the Shacks!*, and we had 12 volunteers serving in our Accessibility ministry.

## SUMMER CAMPS

In 2025, Summer Camps took over our campus for 4 weeks as we had 216 campers attend 29 different camps. They were led by 30 students leaders, and we had 18 middle schoolers who served as our VBS crew members during Vacation Bible School.

## CHILD DEDICATION

17 children were dedicated to the Lord this past year in our Sunday worship services. As a Church, we commit to praying for these beloved kids and their families:

**AMELIA, EDEN, GABRIEL,  
GRACE, GRAYSON,  
GREGORY, ISA, ISAAC,  
ISAAC, JOSIAH, KOJO,  
LYDIA, MALIYAH,  
MARTIYAH, NI-IMAH,  
SIMON, AND SOPHIA.**

"Eastbrook has laid a solid foundation for the accessibility ministry. Awareness has grown and Eastbrook families have provided clear input for the ministry going forward. We are eager to see what God builds next year!"

—TOM THOBURN, NextGen  
Accessibility  
Coordinator

# STUDENTS



## RETREATS

Retreats are a great place to get away from the busyness of school and life and focus on time with God. On our 2024 Fall Retreat, 56 students and 20 leaders went to Phantom Ranch to learn about the family of God. On our 2025 Winter Retreat, 125 students and 38 leaders went to Fort Wilderness to learn about the Beatitudes. It was a blast!

## GRADUATES

7 high school seniors graduated this past year and went off into the world. As a Church family, we commit to praying for:

**CLARA, ELOISE, KAIDEN, LEAH, MARY, MOLLY, AND SAWYER.**

## STUDENT NIGHT

Student Night for grades 5-12 on Wednesday nights is our main touchpoint with students each week. This past year, we had an average of 57 students at Student Night with an average of 26 leaders.

## SUNDAY AM

On Sunday Mornings, 17 Students in grades 7-12 attended Adonai Singers each Sunday at 8 am, led by 2 leaders. At 9:30 am, an average of 81 Middle & High School Students attended SundayAM with 87 volunteer leaders.



## WILDERNESS TRIPS

The main discipleship venue for students at Eastbrook is, believe it or not, the wilderness! Each year, we take two trips: one for High School (grades 9-12) and one for Middle School (grades 5-8). In summer 2025, 24 High Schoolers went to Holy Cross Wilderness in Colorado with 13 leaders. 12 Middle Schoolers went to the Boundary Waters in northern Wisconsin with 7 leaders.

## FAITHMARKERS

Faithmarkers are a Discipleship Pathway for our kids—they are part of how we recognize spiritual milestones. This past year, 51 students in grades 5-6 completed the Communion Faithmarker and 11 students were baptized!



“Student ministry is a place where many foundations of faith are laid and strengthened. This year was no different! I saw hundreds of students from many different schools, districts, and backgrounds come through our doors each week. And you know what—each one of those students heard that God loved them. What an amazing thing to hear as a teenager (or at any age). Knowing we are loved is essential to growth.

This year we went deep into discipleship on our Winter Retreat as we studied the Beatitudes and learned how they point us to a life well lived in Christ. On the Wilderness Trips (yes plural!) I was blessed to see the results of years of work come together to form a beautiful community of students and leaders that learned to notice God in an active way. This noticing taught us all to see God in others, His creation, and in our inner lives.”

**Students  
Pastor  
NIC  
FRIDENMAKER**



“As I reflect on our year, I’m thankful for so many moments: moments of ‘light bulb’ growth, moments of our community expressing Christ to one another, and moments of laughter and chaos that remind me of our God-given joy and energy.”

—JORAN WEITZER, Middle School Coordinator

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

## DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

This year, our Adult Discipleship team developed a Discipleship Pathway for Eastbrook: a tool that is designed to help us see different stages of discipleship. Our Pastors and staff now use this tool to help them ensure that Eastbrook is a place where anyone and everyone can grow in their discipleship to Christ! Look for this tool this year as it pops up everywhere from sermons to classes to your app!

“Rejoicing over ongoing growth in our neighborhood Small Group, now with 10 on the leadership team; in our Men’s Group, 11 on the leadership team; in Educators’ Prayer, 4 on the leadership team. As our roots go lower, God’s fruit grows higher.”

—TOM MEYER, Volunteer Recruitment

## CLASSES

27 Explorers attended Alpha last year, both at Eastbrook and on the East Side of Milwaukee. On Sunday mornings, we offered 11 Sunday Classes for Adults all along the Discipleship Pathway, with an average weekly attendance of 56 people.

## WOMEN

263 women met for weekly Bible Study, whether on Friday mornings or Wednesday evenings.

## MEN

86 men went on a retreat in Fall 2024 and an average of 46 met for breakfast each quarter!

## SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are groups of about 10 people who meet in homes around the area. They continue to be the heartbeat of discipleship here at Eastbrook. This past year, we saw 509 Eastbrookers involved in 50 Small Groups. 11 of those groups were formed with 99 people who attended Small Group Launch events.

## OLDER ADULTS

Approximately 81 older adults meet monthly at Improving with Age for encouragement, prayer, and discipleship.

## YOUNG ADULTS

Approximately 27 young adults in their 20s & 30s meet weekly at Holy Grounds for worship, prayer, and discipleship.

“The 2024-2025 ministry year was one of transition and growth for the Adult Ministries of Eastbrook. Even in the midst of several staff changes, the faithfulness of God’s people in rising up to serve has been an incredible thing to witness.

One aspect of the Adult Ministries I want to celebrate is the number of new leaders rising up to lead in a variety of ways. Whether it is leading the discussions for Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies, leading some aspect of their small group, teaching Sunday Adult Bible Classes, helping to welcome people to Eastbrook, serving communion (a new team of over 70 people!) or joining in one of the many Care Ministry opportunities, Eastbrook adults are moving from observers to participants in a number of ways!

I am especially excited by our leaders that have made an emphasis of inviting others to serve alongside them. Raising up new leaders (discipling disciples) is crucial to us seeing God’s kingdom grow and it is a lot of fun to see my team embracing that important concept.”

Adult  
Ministries  
Pastor  
JIM CALER



## WELCOME !

Our welcome ministry was busy last year. 37 greeters and ushers, 15 Connecting Point and Info Desk volunteers, and 9 Coffee Team members welcomed people to church on Sundays. 12 Safety volunteers kept us safe, while 70 people served communion!

"Jesus prayed this to the Father about us: 'My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one' (John 17:15). Our discipleship in Jesus does not exempt us from trouble! May we always point people to Jesus and help them deal with reality.

This past year we have focused on two areas: helping our many caregivers, who are often as homebound as the persons they care for, and strengthening our marriages. We held a seminar for caregivers, and have since formed a monthly caregiver support group. We took couples to a marriage weekend in Madison, and then offered a 6-week marriage class.

Let's continue to be a church that helps when life is rough—in sickness, death, or any other trouble. The Lord is there for us no matter what, and we need to be there for each other as well!"

**Congregational  
Care  
Pastor  
RUTH  
CARVER**



## ON CALL HOURS

Our Eastbrook Pastors spent 2,080 hours last year "On Call," responding to the needs of those who call, come in to the office, or reach out in some way.

## VISITATION

This past year, hospital visits were made by staff and lay leaders to every single hospital in the Milwaukee, Mequon, and Waukesha area, as well as many homes and care facilities.

# CARE & SUPPORT



## MARRIAGE

This past year, 11 couples attended a Marriage Retreat in Madison (above) and our summer Sunday class, The Art of Marriage (at right), had an average of 36 couples each week...and even some unmarried folks joined in on the fun!

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Our Support Groups continued to be places where Eastbrookers can receive care, support, and healing from the Lord during difficult seasons of life. 30 Eastbrookers received care from 3 leaders at GriefShare this past year. 4 adults and 1 child were helped to heal emotionally in Jesus this past year through DivorceCare and DC4K. 4 leaders serve in this vital ministry to those dealing with the pain of separation and divorce. Living Waters saw 9 people and 7 leaders meet on Tuesday nights for healing.

## ONE TO ONE CARE

12 hurting people received care from 18 trained One to One Care Givers this past year. One to One Care is a ministry that pairs a trained Care Giver with a Care Receiver, so that they can walk together through whatever difficulty is happening in the life of the Care Receiver. Anyone can benefit from this ministry!



## NEW SUPPORT GROUP!

In May 2025, 30 people gathered for a Living Well Seminar specifically designed for caregivers. Out of this seminar grew a new support group for caregivers that meets monthly.

**Note: in July 2025, Pastor Ruth Carver retired and handed over the reigns of the Care Ministry to Joanna Jotterand.**



**"Congregational Care is one of the places where faith has to be lived out in real life scenarios. From crises to ordinary life, it is a privilege to walk alongside people, and to encourage them in these everyday moments of becoming closer to God and becoming more like Him."**

**—JOANNA JOTTERAND,  
Director of  
Congregational Care**

# MISSIONS



## DISCIPLESHIP

The Missions Prayer gathering at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings continues to be the heartbeat of discipleship in the Missions department of Eastbrook Church. This past year we saw an average of 60 people attend Missions Prayer each week.

This past year brought exciting updates to the Food Pantry at Eastbrook Church.

We're especially grateful for the faithful leadership of Chris Herlinger and others who continue to guide this vital ministry. Renovations were completed, allowing us to transition to the Choice model, which offers greater dignity to our guests. We also launched a new app to streamline guest intake and free up time for deeper connections. Brian Dressner, our Food Pantry Coordinator, led both the Choice transition and software project—thank you, Brian!

We're already seeing the fruit of these efforts and look forward to what God has next.



## FOOD PANTRY

This past year, we served 1411 households in the 53209 zip code. We also distributed approximately 325 Bibles to pantry guests. 110 volunteers keep this vital ministry running as we serve around 1140 individual people per month.

## ICC

82 volunteers at the International Community Center (ICC) served 273 adult students and 22 children last year from 29 nations.



## BOXES OF LOVE

Eastbrookers donated 655 Thanksgiving meals to families around Milwaukee last Fall through Boxes of Love.

## INTERNATIONALS

Our ministry to international students saw an average of 60 students from 45 nations represented at Friday Night Dinners. The Tour of Milwaukee saw 47 drivers and 8 hosts providing a friendly welcome to 125 new international students from 26 countries!

## FIELD WORK

This past year, we sent out 40 people on 6 short-term trips and supported 33 Field Workers serving in 18 counties:

**A\*, ABDI, ADAM, ANNE, CHERLIE, DAVID, FARIDA, FRANCIS, GHADA, GREGG, JEFF, JENNY, JOHN, JOHN, K, KATIE, KAWSER, L, LISA, LON, LOUISE, MARK, MARSHALL, MELODY, NAZYM, Q, RAWDA, SHAHRAZAD, SHARON, TERRI, TERRI, TJ, AND ZACH.**

\*Some Field Workers' names are kept confidential for security reasons

"When I reflect on how God designed plants to be fruitful, it's not about the plant striving in its own effort. Instead, if a plant is rooted in good soil, receives sunlight and rain, fruit naturally follows.

Often, as we engage in God's mission, we can drift from partnering with Him to feeling like the work depends solely on us. We push harder, strive more, and feel discouraged when the fruit doesn't appear as we expect.

Yet, I've found that the greatest fruit comes when I slow down and allow God's plan to unfold, when I stay in step with Him. Looking back on this past ministry year, it's no different. We've been blessed by the fruit God has brought to our ministry, and we praise Him for His work among us!"

Missions Pastor DAN RYAN



## BREAD OF HEALING

This past year, our clinic site served 255 patients and had 43 volunteers.



# WORSHIP & PRAYER

*"Magnify the Lord with me.  
Let us exalt his name together.*

We thank the Lord for what He did this past ministry year with worship and prayer. The Lord showed Himself strong in the various ministries under the worship area.

Dance Eternal and Dance Eternal 2 reached out to the community by ministering through dance at the Joy House, a safe house for women, several times this past year, bringing hope and the joy of the Lord to women and children who have lost so much.

The Worship Choir also reached out to the men at the Rescue Mission, sharing the hope and peace found in Jesus through music.

Eastbrook Church remains a house of prayer for the nations by offering avenues of prayer where people can connect, serve, and grow. The prayer walks this summer provided us with the opportunity to connect with our neighbors and share the love of Jesus in the process, making roots that we pray will develop into fruit in the future."

**Worship &  
Prayer  
Pastor  
FEMI  
IBITOYE**



## PRAYER

29 Prayer Ministers prayed over people after every Sunday service last year. Our online prayer team prayed for 92 online prayer requests during services. During Missions Fest, we prayed for 24 hours straight—that's 1440 minutes!



## WORSHIP CHOIR

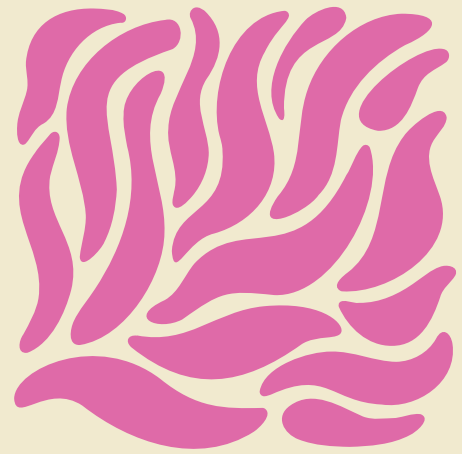
Our adult Worship Choir had 58 members last year and sang 22 songs as they led us in worship. They also participated in 2 outreach events at the Rescue Mission.

## OUTREACH

In addition to the Worship Choir outreach (above), Dance Eternal ministered to Joy House, and our Hymn Ensemble brought joy through music, as well as communion, to homebound Eastbrookers.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

38 Worship Leaders led us in worship last year in 156 services. We sang 125 different songs, 14 of which were new! The song we sang most often was *Firm Foundation*. We studied Acts, Isaiah, James, Leviticus, Luke 24, and the life of David in 8 different sermon series and heard 5 God Stories.



## BECOMING 7

We leaned into our vision to become a Revelation 7 Church, where people from "every tribe, tongue, and nation" gather to worship through Global Gateways. Last year we had 6 Global Gateway celebrations and also recognized Black History in February.

## PRODUCTION

8 Production volunteers provided light, sound, live streaming, and video for 156 services last year.

*"Every Sunday when we worship God through different avenues, it reminds us that we are not alone. This past ministry year reminded me that we are a family worshipping our great God together."*

**—GABRIEL DOUGLAS,  
Director of Music &  
Production**

OUR MISSION:

**PROCLAIM  
& EMBODY  
THE LOVE OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
IN THE CITY &  
IN THE WORLD**