

HIGHLIGHTS

DISCOVERY *Early Childhood Ages 0-5*

On a typical Sunday morning after our Preschool Worship service (3-K), I overheard a 4 year old boy say to his mom while being picked up; "Mom, did you know that Jesus loves me even more than you do?", and "Jesus loves me no matter what!" This blessed my heart to hear that our youngest worshipers are getting it. They know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.
- Pastor Wendy Eaton

CENTRAL KIDS *Children Grades 1-5*

It's been a joy to serve Jesus and His kids this year! I love to witness our kids in worship. One Sunday had been a challenging morning. My heart was heavy, and my brain was tired. I felt rushed to get into the message so we wouldn't run out of time. Normally when we transition from our time of worship with music into our message, I would invite kids to pray around the altar, much like adults do in "big church." But on this Sunday, rather than inviting the kids to pray around the altar, I just started praying. When I finished praying, I was surprised to see kids lining both altars on both sides. The child running tech, without being asked, put on a soft worship song. I went and sat in the back row and simply soaked in the moment as kids continued to pray. I'm thankful that when we are spent, God is at work. I'm thankful that kids are responsive to the Holy Spirit. I'm thankful that God is speaking into the hearts of our Central kids. And I'm so thankful to have a front row seat to see all that God is doing in our kids. To God be the glory! - Pastor Janet Benjamin

HIGH SCHOOL *Youth Grades 9-12*

This year we had many Jesus Changes Everything moments in our High School Ministry. We had 9 high school students profess their faith through baptism, 2 students received a call to ministry, and many students who took steps closer to God. I've seen more students this year stepping up in leadership, praying out loud, opening up in small groups, and inviting friends. I am so thankful and blessed to see this growth and depth happening in the lives of our students.
- Pastor Amanda Ballmer

WORSHIP ARTS

There are times now and then in a service when you just aren't sure what to do next. Not because you forgot the order of service, or you failed to plan, but because the Holy Spirit is moving and people are responding. It's important to tread carefully into those holy moments. We had a few services like that this past year. Services where you didn't know quite what to do next. I loved it, and I'm hoping to feel this uncertainty more and more in the coming year. - Pastor Joel Close

MISSIONS

One of the major initiatives of our IMAGINE campaign was to pay off our mortgage so that we could do more with our mission engagement. Your generosity has allowed us to increase our missions budget by over \$90,000. One component of that is a significant increase in our support of our local mission partners. These organizations are on the ground floor of ministry in the city of Flint and we are proud to continue partnering with them.
- Pastor Tyler Sauer

PASTORAL STAFF

Rob Prince *Lead Pastor*
Jon Gildner *Executive Pastor*
Tyler Sauer *Executive Pastor*
Amanda Ballmer *Pastor to Sr. High Youth*
Tyler Baker *Pastor to Mid. High Youth*
Janet Benjamin *Pastor to Children & Families*
Wendy Eaton *Pastor of Early Childhood*
Emily Sauer *Director of Young Adults*
Don Phillips *Pastor of Senior Adults*
Joel Close *Pastor of Worship Arts*
Nate Degner *Choir Director*

CHURCH BOARD

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Board Secretary & Policy Committee Chair

Dean Weir
Treasurer

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Building Committee Chair

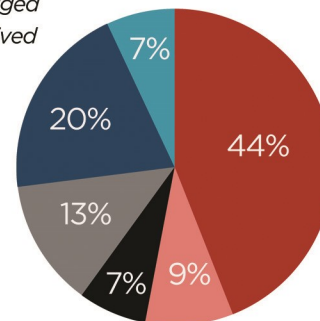
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Mark Heidel
Mike Katerberg
Matt Lobban
Alisha MacKay
Carolyn Mansfield
Adam Schlusler
Greg Streff
Cyndi VanSteenburg
Norm Wing

FINANCES

\$2,680,174 *Tithes & Offerings*
\$3,000,000 *Imagine Initiative Pledged*
\$3,044,522 *Imagine Initiative Received*

■ PERSONNEL
■ DENOMINATION
■ MISSIONS
■ DEBT
■ BUILDING
■ CENTRAL MINISTRIES



\$184,176 *Missions*

\$648,338 *Paid on Indebtedness*

\$0 *Still owe on Mortgage*

2023 Annual Report

Central Church is all about connecting people to Jesus

We believe that Jesus changes everything

We believe in growing together

We believe in being the best neighbors



My phrase to describe Central Church in 2023, is: "ACCOMPLISHED but NOT DONE."

We ACCOMPLISHED so much in 2023. We ACCOMPLISHED our plan of building Central Park (minus the pavilion). We ACCOMPLISHED renovating a space for ONU @ Central-- the Central Commons is used by our students and many others. We ACCOMPLISHED establishing two new scholarships to Olivet Nazarene University (the Billy and Jean Robertson Scholarship and the John and Dianna Zofko Scholarship). WE ACCOMPLISHED renovating the café and painting the Chenoweth Family Center. WE ACCOMPLISHED improving the signage throughout the building. After 28 years of debt, we ACCOMPLISHED the big, big deal of paying off our mortgage. Hooray!! All of that was ACCOMPLISHED in 2023, but...

We are NOT DONE. Our mission as a church is not to build a park or pay off our debt. Our mission is seeing people and our community transformed by Jesus.

As long as there are brokenhearted, lonely, troubled, hungry, empty, lost, consumed, worried, and any-other-anxious-filled-adjective people around-- our job at Central Church is NOT DONE. Hurting people are everywhere. We are NOT DONE.

As such, in 2024, WE NEED YOU! We need your support of time, talents, and treasure. There is so much to do and Central Church is praying, working, and serving to see God's will ACCOMPLISHED. We believe that can happen, so we are NOT DONE!

Anticipating Great Days Ahead,

Pastor Rob

IMAGINE

GOAL: \$3.2 Million
Received to Date: \$3,044,522

The mortgage was officially paid off on December 16.

Central Park's Grand Opening was August 25, 2023. Since then many Central families, families from the neighborhood, and ministries from Central have enjoyed Central Park!



"Central Park is so nice! It's great for older and younger kids, it's safe, and has inclusive play elements. We love that we can come here whenever we like." - Clarice McCulley, Neighbor of Central Church

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

2023 Total Giving for Olivet Nazarene University

- Chenoweth Scholarships: \$17,200
- ONU Scholarships: \$6,500
- Faris Scholarships: \$1,000
- Robertson Scholarships: \$1,000
- ONU Apportionment: \$56,798
- Total ONU Support: \$82,498

ONU at Central had 4 students enrolled for 2023-24 and 2 High School Early Scholar students.

WORSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

2 Worship Services

9:30 & 11:00 AM

1523 Average Weekly Attendance

39 New Members

29 Baptisms

235 Average Sunday School Attendance

255 Average Wednesday Discipleship Attendance

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB:

Both after-school & Summer Programs



H.I.S. MINISTRY: Multiple families served every week. Many faithful volunteers serving



EASTSIDE MISSION:

Youth sponsored for camp



DILLON ELEMENTARY: Faithful Volunteers, School Supply Bags, Food Bags every week, Many families sponsored at Christmas, and lunches provided for teachers during parent-teacher conf.



RE-CONNECTIONS: Many returning citizens served. Faithful life coaches & other volunteers



FORGE GARAGE: Providing automotive repairs for low-income families on their road to flourishing.

MISSIONS

PANAMA PARTNERSHIP



Three teams went to Panama in 2023 and three teams are going in 2024. Missionaries Central Church supports around the world on a monthly basis.

- Jessica Roland, Indonesia
- Jeff & Kelsey Hendrix, Georgia (country)
- Robert & Kolene Hintz, New Zealand
- Elie & Tammy Soto, Panama