



First

CHURCH OF GOD

2024

Annual

Report

LEAD PASTOR REPORT



TOD HUSTON

Our theme for the year was **Your Kingdom Come** and with it the challenge to pray for God's kingdom to come in our lives, our church and in our community. I am grateful for the large and small ways, in the lives of young and old, that God has been at work among us and through us answering that prayer in 2024.

I thank God for evidence of the kingdom in the lives of the three individuals who chose to follow Christ this year in baptism. It was exciting to see God bring new commitments and recommitments to faith. I am thankful for the women and men who have engaged in two new points of connection and growth. There is a men's group meeting every other Saturday morning, and a women's group meeting on Tuesday evenings. I am also thankful for the solid group of senior saints who gather twice a month to grow in their faith.

Those same praises are also evidence of God's kingdom coming in our church. We value authentic and Christlike community here and I have seen God deepening our love and care for one another through these groups and other ministries. The call of the Kingdom has also seen God bring 8 new people to our fellowship. The Lord adds to the body as He sees fit and these new faces are a sign of His work. Another place of gratitude for God's work in our fellowship is in the addition of Isaac Winland as our worship leader. He and his family have been with us now for about a year and a half. God has used his leadership to enrich the worship life of the church, to strengthen and equip those who serve, and to expand our online reach.

I also thank God for the ways that He is using our church to impact our community and beyond with the truth, hope and love of Jesus. We have been able to contribute financially to three Church of God missionary couples and provide ongoing support to Raven Packs, the Christian Cupboard, Loaves & Fishes and more. We have also seen a significant increase in people engaging our online content. I believe God is using us to plant seeds of the gospel far and wide.

As much as there is to celebrate in 2024, I firmly believe God has continued kingdom work for us to do in 2025. I look forward to serving together with you in that kingdom work.

Pastor Tod



STUDENTS & FAMILIES REPORT



ATHENA EDWARDS

It has been a busy year for families in the church and community with opportunities to connect, and grow at our **annual Trunk or Treat** as well as the addition of a **Chili Cook Off** and the **Cupcake Connection**.

- Another key ministry effort was our **Summer Splash**. This year had a different look with the addition of a Sunday morning outdoor worship service with guest speaker RW Moody, our state Next Gen. pastor. As part of the day, we offered a backpack blessing over the school kids in attendance and each received a backpack buddy to remind them that God is always with them at school. A picnic lunch followed worship and families then enjoyed the many water activities including a large inflatable water slide. We were blessed to see over 150 attend.

KIDS MINISTRY

Using our *Grow* curriculum, we aligned our teaching content for parents and kids on Sunday morning. The material offers a theme for the month and a Big Idea each week for the families to focus on as they strive to live out their faith each day.

- In June, we reimagined our Pre-K and Elementary kids' classes and created **JAM (Jesus And Me) and KICK Start (Kids In Christ's Kingdom)**. Kids enjoy bible lessons with music, prayer and engaging activities in these unique new settings.



Prayer Buddies is a way for us to cover our kids with intentional prayer throughout the school year.

Each Fall we choose a magnet with our **Prayer Buddy's name** on it to place on our fridge to remind us to pray for them each day.

Thank you for being a Prayer Buddy for our kids.



Rummage sale income covered the cost of the above events as well as resources for JAM and KICK Start. Because you generously donated your time and treasures, this year we raised **\$10,000**.
Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY



Youth gather after school each week for **Donut Devos** and enjoy sweet treats, a game and a discussion about the Youversion Bible App verse of the day.



This year we welcomed Carson Miller and Owen Shannon to the youth group as well as **Tom Noland** and **Jamie Luli** to our youth ministry team.

The teens attended the NEO Family Camp, Fall Rally, the Ohio State Youth Convention and Winter Retreat.



The teens and their friends attended our annual **Friendsgiving** and the **Ugly Sweater Christmas Party** this year where food and fun were enjoyed by all!



New opportunities in ministry were created to help the youth engage their gifts as they served together.

Thank You to the many volunteers who serve in our kid and youth ministries. Each month over 30 of you pour your time and talents into the hearts of our kids and teens to encourage a relationship with Jesus and to challenge them in their faith. Thank you for connecting with each child who walks through our doors on Sunday and at all of our events. You are making a difference in the life of the future leaders of our church.

Pastor Athena

PLACES of CONNECTION and GROWTH for ADULTS

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young adults meet monthly for food and fellowship in a relaxed space to ask questions and share their story of living out their faith. See George Reese to connect with this group.



ADULT MINISTRY

On Sunday mornings at 9:30am, adults are gathering in the Parent Pit Stop and the classroom off the FLC to study God's Word.

On the first Sunday of the month, from 9:45-10:15am, Isaac Winland is offering **Kingdom Fellowship** as another connection point for adults to gather and learn together.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women are gathering Tuesday evenings with Mary McCracken for **3Gs**- growth, grace and gratitude as they study and memorize scripture and enjoy a light meal together. The **REFRESH Moms** gather on the second Saturday of the month with Cassie Bergman and Athena Edwards to experience emotional, physical and spiritual refreshment to help them meet the demands of being a mom.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Men gather every other Saturday with Pastor Tod for a time of accountability and conversation about living out their faith.



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Billie White organizes the Sr. Adults gatherings inside and outside the church. They meet once a month for Bible Study and once a month for a luncheon. Connect with Billie for details of this ministry.



WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT



ISAAC WINLAND

What a wonderful year it has been for our worship ministry! This was my first complete year here and I'm excited for what the future will hold for our church. This past year has seemed to fly by, but here are a few highlights from our worship ministry and worship team:



To go along with our 2024 theme, we began the year by creating a **creative video reading** of “The Lord’s Prayer” which is now featured on our webpage and Facebook.

This year saw the addition of “**Worship Sundays**” as well as an “**Evening of Worship**” which included longer times of corporate singing as well as more elements of worship including scripture readings, skits, prayer, and communion.



In December we introduced our **Holiday Band**. The group was made up of musicians of all ages sharing their collective gifts with our congregation. The hope is continue to grow this group and share in worship throughout the year.

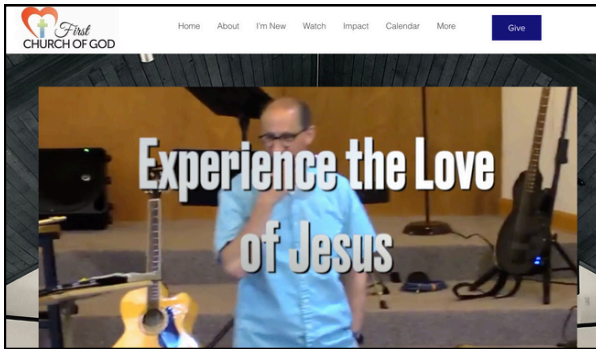
I'm grateful for how God has worked in 2024 and I'm really excited to see how our worship will grow throughout 2025. I also want to invite you to consider being part of our wonderful worship team!



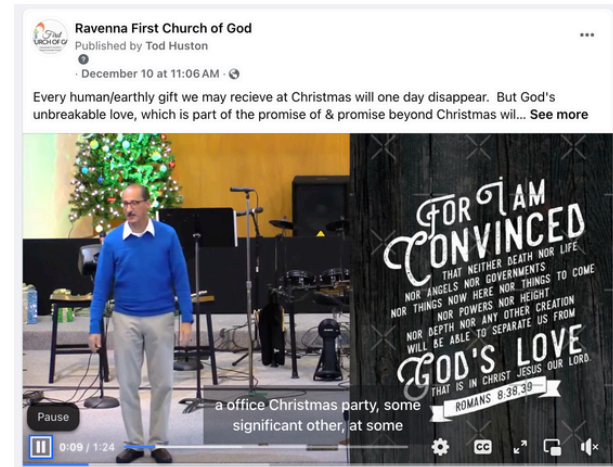
WORSHIP MINISTRY

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

In the past year, we worked to increase our online engagement by designing a new website as well as expanding our presence and reach on our social media platforms. In the coming year, we will continually seek the best ways to share about our church and to share Jesus with the world!



A few ways that we have enhanced our content:



1. Pastor Tod has started making **weekly social media video posts about the upcoming Sunday.**
2. Every week at least one **service highlight video** of around 1 minute is posted to Facebook and Instagram.
3. Increased intentional **“boosting” of posts and events.**
4. Added with a click of a button, **the ability to share sermon video content** straight from our website to your social media page.
5. We have created **a resource page on our website** providing info on various activities, for church volunteers, and other beneficial content.

Below are some stats that show the increase in our **reach, content interactions** and **site visits** just on Facebook over this past year.

<p><u>Reach</u></p> <p>32.4K</p> <p>88% ↑</p>	<p><u>Content Interaction</u></p> <p>2.8K</p> <p>54.3% ↑</p>	<p><u>Visits</u></p> <p>10.7K</p> <p>78.2% ↑</p>
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TRUSTEES REPORT



JEFF WHITELY

It has been my pleasure to serve you this year as Chairman of Trustees and I am grateful to all who serve as part of trustee team. Below are just a few highlights from 2024:

- With the help of our bookkeeper, changes were made to our financial reporting that enabled us to better track our monthly profit and loss which has given us a clear and accurate picture of the financial health of the church.
- Your generosity in 2023 helped us make long-needed repairs to our church parking lot and, with your continued generous giving in 2024, we were able to replenish our building fund. Our current Building Fund balance rests at \$19,175.18
- With a significant decline in use, the trustees made the decision to sell the red church van and put the proceeds into the building fund.
- To encourage and give focus to building fund support **new pew rack cards** were created. In addition, to aid overall giving, **new offering envelopes** can be found in the pew rack and are available to any who wish to use them. See Renee Noland or Robin Rich if you would like to have some.
- We had many volunteers on our annual **Spring workday** and were able to address needs inside and outside the church including rebuilding the cross in front of church and encase it with cedar wood. Hopefully it will last for a very long time.
- We have some key projects for 2025 that we are planning so stay tuned for ways you can help.

Again, it has been a privilege to serve as trustees chair. I would also like to thank you the congregation, for your faithful support our 2024 budget. We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation.

Jeff

<p>Trustees Jason Mingo, Jim Smith Bob Luli, Dan Underwood Terry Crowder</p>	<p>Secretary Alicia Mingo</p> <p>Asst. Secretary Jamie Luli</p>	<p>Treasurer Renee Noland</p> <p>Asst. Treasurer Renee Noland</p> <p>Bookkeeper Gina Conway</p>
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Working Together in the Kingdom

Benevolence

Pam Luli, Linda Martell, Wendy Huston,
Diane Kehner, Alicia Mingo, Chelsea Rich,
Liz Davis, Rance Robenstine,
Debbie Miller

Providing for the needs in the body of Christ through funeral meals, cards of encouragement or sympathy, and caring for shut-ins

Ordinance

Mick & Cindy Chrin, Mandee & Joe Scott,
Renee & Tom Noland, Dodie Morff,
April Winland

Assisting with the preparation and serving of communion for worship throughout the year, including Maundy Thursday and helping with baptism celebration

Christian Education

Athena Edwards, Cassie Bergman,
George Reese, Holly Shannon,
Jaime Phillips, Leah Ratchford

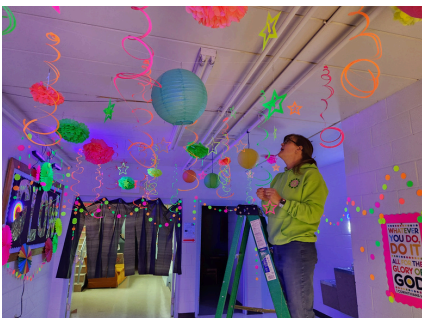
Providing vision and oversight for the discipleship ministry for students and adults

Council

Pam Luli, Athena Edwards, George Reese,
Mark Miller, Cassie Bergman,
Mary McCracken, Renee Noland,
Alicia Mingo, Jeff Whitely

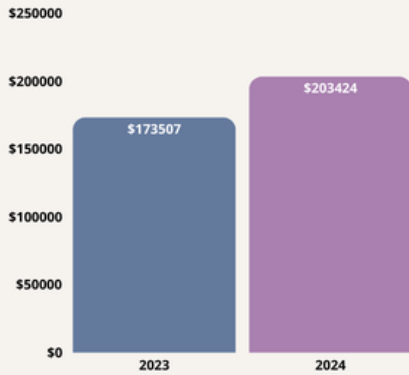
Providing oversight of the overall ministry of the church as well as aiding in yearly strategic planning

In addition to our standing leadership teams, we are blessed by the 10+ people who serve in worship ministry, the 38 people who staff our Sunday student and adult classes, the many ushers and greeters, our prayer team members, as well as the 60+ folks who support our yearly rummage sales.



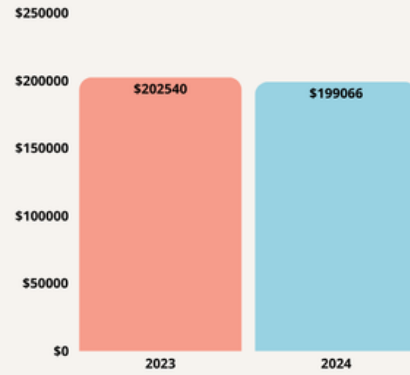
FIRST CHURCH FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

BUDGETED INCOME 2023 vs 2024



Includes: • Tithes & offering

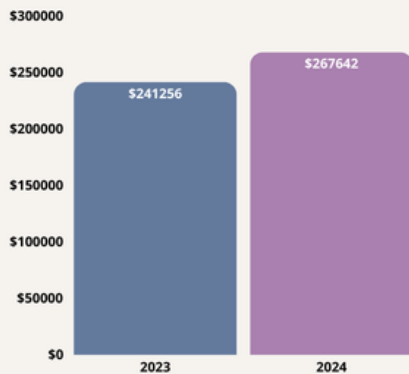
BUDGETED EXPENSES 2023 vs 2024



Including (but not limited to):

- Salaries, wages
- Utilities, building maintenance, Insurance
- CE, Youth, Worship, Benevolence, Outreach
- Office supplies, equipment

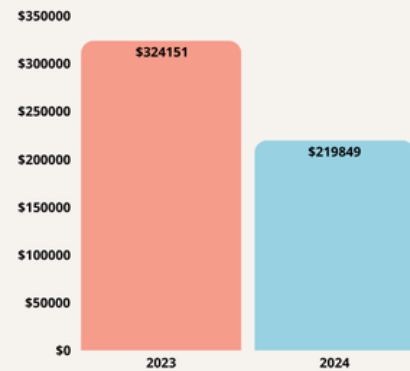
ALL INCOME 2023 vs 2024



Including (but not limited to):

- Tithes & offering
- Missionary Support
- Building Fund, Facility Rentals
- CE & Youth
- Christian Cupboard, Special Offerings

ALL EXPENSES 2023 vs 2024



Including (but not limited to):

- Salaries, wages
- Utilities & building maintenance (parking lot)
- CE, Youth, Worship
- Church of God ministries, Missions
- Benevolence & Outreach

If you would like a detailed 2024 financial report, or a 2025 budget breakdown, please let us know.

WAYS TO GIVE:



ONLINE

Make a donation through our website
www.fcogravenna.com



OUR APP

Make a donation through the Church Center app



MAIL

Mail to:
First Church of God
237 New Milford Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266



OFFERING PLATE

Donate as a part of our weekly Sunday worship

KINGDOM IMPACT LOCALLY & GLOBALLY

Our Partners in Missions

**JOHN & GWEN
JOHNSON**
AFRICA



Annual support
\$3000



**ALFONSO & ELIZABETH
AYALE**
BELIZE

**TIMOTHY & ANGELITA
DOWNING**
ECUADOR



Over 1200 food items
donated and 800+ food
bags delivered to West
Park Elementary



A monthly opportunity to
bless the staff with hot
beverages, treats and
words of encouragement



Over \$5000 given in
support of their
Christian Cupboard
food pantry



Serving 150 meals to the
needy of our community
four times a year.

Making disciples
Everywhere
Loving God & people
Always

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