

GRACE ROAD CHURCH

Annual Report 2022

440 EAST AVE | ROCHESTER, NY

INTRODUCTION

DEAR GRACE ROAD,

At the end of 2022, I'm amazed and grateful at all the Lord has done for us. It seems that this was a year of massive restoration at church, of settling into new rhythms, and of beginning to plan and dream again about our future in this community.

Over the course of this year, most of our church family returned to worshipping with us in person. Most weeks we've seen tear-filled reunions as people are reconnecting after long periods of isolation during the pandemic. God got us through it, and the almost normal months that most of us have been experiencing are welcome after some difficult years.

Our staff has also been growing as we have added some support and counseling staff, a new Care Director (Nicole Dumas) and a Deacon to head our mercy ministries and coordinate our needs in the new building (Kim Gagarinas). Their ministries are taking off, and the mercy and counseling ministries at church have become strong.

We've also now spent an entire year at our new building at 440 East Ave. Our ministries are growing and thriving here, and we are so thankful to have a place that is ours. This year our counseling ministries have expanded, our Grace Road institute has grown in enrollment and in its course offerings, our quality of sermon videos has improved, our groups have multiplied, new believers have been baptized, dozens of children have been dedicated, and we've shared the joy of so many weddings and grieved as we've hosted funerals to say goodbye, for now, to some of our friends.

"WE'VE ALSO NOW SPENT AN ENTIRE YEAR AT OUR NEW BUILDING..."

Though our building is a beautiful landmark, our prayer is that it will continue to grow into a hub for ministries and church planting in the years to come.

As our space is filling up again, we are again beginning to plan for a future where more churches are multiplied around our community, where more children and teens are reached with the Gospel, and where everyone in our region has opportunities to hear the Gospel from people who believe it and can invite them to a nearby church.

In 2023, we plan on investing more prayer, staff time, and funds into church multiplication in our region. We also plan on expanding our kids ministry space (we believe

our 800 sq. ft. basement area with high ceilings should accommodate another large classroom.) We will be supporting

more ministry staff, more ministries in our region, and more church planting endeavors than ever before.

"...WE ARE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON HIM FOR MORE GOOD TO BE DONE IN THE FUTURE."

We are praying for God to do this, knowing that all the good that has happened

at Grace Road has been His work, and that we are completely dependent upon Him for more good to be done in the future.



Lead Pastor

YOUNG ADULTS

In 2022, we extended our ministry reach to different age demographics. The **Young Adults Group** was created to connect the young adults at Grace Road further into existing ministries. The Midlife Group is for all approaching empty nest years through early retirement. These groups will be an added source of fellowship for those in the different seasons of transition that life brings.

The Young Adults group hosted **ten events**, spanning from worship, trivia, camp fires, discussion panels, bowling and meals; all with the intention to glorify Jesus.

MORE THAN

300

young adults were reached!

The fruit of this ministry is evident and we are looking forward to 2023 and are expectant for what God has for this ministry.

Big thanks to the leadership team and volunteers that have helped keep this ministry running.

Leadership Team: Katie Loch, Maddie Jensen, Brad Yoder, Tabitha Gould, John Gould and Jessie Hartley

Shoutouts: Rusty Pagenkemper, Kula Maganti, Abbey Sitterley, Kirk Adams, Clay Bailey, Josiah Marzano and Jed & Andrea Burke.

MIDLIFE

The Midlife Group was started by Renee and Scott Chamberlain. As Renee and Scott were navigating this season of life, they realized that there were several hundred Grace Roaders in the **midlife demographic** (mid 40's through mid 60's) — many who would benefit from having close fellowship and openness to share struggles with other

believers and be strengthened and encouraged. There is also a long term goal to honor the biblical precedent for those older to lead and teach those who are younger.

The Midlife Group has had two events this year with a mixture of teaching and group discussion. Renee shares,

“Too often our culture has this **warped view** that by **middle age** you have it all together; it's easy; you've figured it **all out** - not even close. Divorce, estranged family, elderly parents, vocational shifts, empty nests, marital problems, financial issues, spiritual stagancy, etc. - the list is long but not unfamiliar to those in the middle of it.”

We are so excited for the potential of this ministry and pray it will yield stronger inter-generational relationships that will serve the church, marriages and families for decades to come.

GRACE GROUPS

2022 was an encouraging year for our community as we continue the Gospel-centered rhythm of fellowship. Christian fellowship doesn't happen by accident or without intention.

We are so blessed to have more than **90 group leaders** who are not only faithfully meeting regularly but living their lives together outside of the group. Our groups have met all around the region, from Brockport to Ontario and Irondequoit to Canandagua, we are seeing Kingdom work happening we are seeing Kingdom work happening. In response to the Great Commission, we seek to shine the light of Christ into a dark world. At times that is volunteering to aid the work of a ministry and at other times it is inviting a neighbor to join in a group cookout.

Grace Groups are not for perfect people to gather and remind one another of their goodness. They are gatherings of broken people with the aim of living out Gospel-centered fellowship marked by prayer and care. The best fellowship is born from wanting to make much of God above and trusting His work in our midst.

"...WE SEEK TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO A DARK WORLD."

Our community doesn't happen without those willing to be vulnerable and engage. Even with over 40 couples leading groups and hundreds of members, the desire continues to grow for others to join in fellowship.

Answered Prayer

From the Moore/Williams Grace Group: "We are so grateful for the safe arrival of baby Samantha Grace. Dan and Jess Ferner have waited a long time for a child and Jessica was extremely ill during this pregnancy. Baby Samantha arrived two months early and we praise God that she was able to come home before Christmas!"



For more information about our Grace Groups, go to: www.graceroadchurch.org/groups

INSTITUTE



In 2022, we had 197 people register for Institute classes. We cycled through our three "Core Classes:" Biblical Theology, Hermeneutics, and Systematic Theology. This summer we also ran a Preaching and Teaching Cohort with the goal of training and developing others to possibly preach and teach in the future. Further, this fall we introduced a new advanced track of study called the Saints & Scholars Program. Nearly thirty people signed up for this 29-week program of reading, discussion, and reflection all with the goal of spiritual formation. We are grateful that the Lord continues to grow our church in both mind and heart.

03 CORE CLASSES



BIBLICAL THEOLOGY



HERMENEUTICS



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Our Grow Groups continued to thrive in 2022 as we studied the books of Galatians, Revelation, and Judges. We had 13 (mostly full!) groups that gathered around our region weekly to pray together, memorize scripture, and study God's word.

13 GROUPS

These groups continued to be a means of prayer and care for our church community, and we've seen them become a connecting point for men and women who are new to Grace Road or new to studying the Bible entirely.

GROW GROUPS

SAFETY TEAM

For nearly 7 years,

the Grace Road Safety Team has faithfully served our church each week behind the scenes. Whether it's helping usher folks inside, praying with those in need, engaging in conflict resolution, or helping people feel seen, these men and women offer their time and talents to be a resource to our congregation.

Led by Matt Scally, the team has expanded to 37 members this year and aims to embody the Biblical principles of vigilance and shepherding that are foundational to the ministry philosophy. He sees the role as "providing safety to ensure that those who are willing to listen to the Gospel can hear it, receive it, and grow under its teaching."

As the Safety Team has watched over our church, many connections have been made — with congregants and each other. With hearts for others, they work together to meet people and be proactive at our Sunday gathering and during events throughout the week. "One thing is consistent amongst everyone on the team," Matt explained, "We all love the Lord, His church, and we have a deep-seated desire to serve the flock."

“ We all **love the Lord**, His church, and we have a deep-seated **desire** to serve the flock. ”

REWIND

Rewind 2022 was a year full of God's grace! Throughout the year we saw more than sixty students participate in Rewind, some of which we also saw get baptized on a Sunday morning! Opportunities throughout the year included weekly Wednesday gatherings, a winter retreat, Flower City Work Camp, summer night meetups, Seabreeze fun, Word of Life Reverb, and more!

A special thank you to the Rewind Leaders who served in 2022 including Joe, Valerie, Karis, Najara, Lisa, Kaylie, Kula, David, Lindsay, and Bradley.

A special shout out as well to all the Rewind seniors who graduated High School in June We love and miss you!

As we head into 2023, our prayer is for the youth to continue to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." - 2 Peter 3:18

"MAY THE LORD DIRECT YOUR HEARTS TO THE LOVE OF GOD AND TO THE STEADFASTNESS OF CHRIST."

- 2 Thessalonians 3:5

"I THANK MY GOD IN ALL MY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU."

- Philipians 1:3

**LAURYN
BEYER**

**SIMONE
CLOUTIER**

**ARIEL
HAAK**

**LYDIA
MALONEY**

**ISABELLE
MOHR**

**PETER
MCAULIFFE**

**NOAH
CRAWFORD**

**CHRISTIAN
DURAN**

**2022
GRADS**

G KIDS

Our GKids program continues to be an exciting part of our weekly ministry. We averaged more than **160 kids each Sunday** from newborns through 5th grade. We grew in numbers with new families, visitors, and the baby boom of 2022

32 NEW BABIES
AT CHURCH LAST YEAR

Our teaching team has solidified and meets monthly to coordinate lessons, activities, and skits. To run our Sunday services, we require **50 adult and teen volunteers**. We are continually thankful for those that put on the yellow t-shirts to serve.

The kids have learned from **26 books** of the Bible in 2022: Exodus to Daniel. The addition of GKids live worship has grown the heart for worship in the Wanda Room. Have you heard their loud voices when the kids sing with us in the auditorium on Baptism Sundays?

There is a fierce opinion that Welch's fruit snacks are superior to Mott's - and they've proven it by consuming almost 2,000... per week! We love your families, and our volunteers go above and beyond each week to welcome, love, and train your littles.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIES

“ Volunteering in GKids has made an enormous impact in my walk with the Lord and my daily life. There is nothing quite like going through the doors upstairs only to be greeted by hundreds of smiling faces happy to be in their space to learn about God. I have built relationships with volunteers that allow me to go deeper in my faith, am constantly learning new things about God and His love for us, and most importantly, seeing the development of a faith that can grow in each of the children that visit us on a Sunday morning. It is incredibly special to feel the warmth and love of a child who feels safe, loved, and heard. The impact that GKids is having on these students is evident throughout the morning — whether it is how they immediately bring in new students to participate in their games,

worship loudly regardless of who is standing next to them, or engage freely in their large group lessons and small group time. How special it is that we have created a space that any child, whether it is their 500th Sunday or their first Sunday, can feel comfortable enough to participate, learn, grow, and connect with others. ”

- Shelby Triglianos



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In 2022, our women were invited to attend several **Wool and Flax events**. Our first event of the year featured a panel of faithful Grace Road women who openly shared their wisdom and insight about many different issues. We celebrated the spring with a brunch and this fall invited the women back for a morning of teaching, worship, and bagels. More than **23 people, including staff and volunteers helped run these events**. Our women's ministry also supported other study groups in our church and met with women in crisis.

MEN'S MINISTRY

This year was a big one for our men's ministry. As we have moved into a new space, experimented with new food options (seems like breakfast pizza and donuts are still the winners), and seek to encourage space to slow down and spend time together. We were encouraged in discussions of repentance and holiness from Kevin and Cody. It has been truly amazing to see the willingness of the men in attendance to lean into these conversations and to carry that knowledge with them into prayer. We have also seen more fathers bringing their sons than ever before. Our last men's prayer breakfast had a 50% increase in attendance from the beginning of the year.

CARE MINISTRY

Caring for our members is vitally important to us and we believe it is one of the benefits of being involved in the local church. We desire to be a safe place where care is led by the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Word. One way we can push back darkness is by meeting the tangible needs of those in our community. We hired a Care Director, Nicole Dumas, this year and we are thankful for the impact she has already had on the day-to-day ministry. Nicole has partnered with staff members and volunteers to organize elder-led prayer, hospital visits, meal trains, extended-care for longer medical needs, proactive follow-up, and financial support.

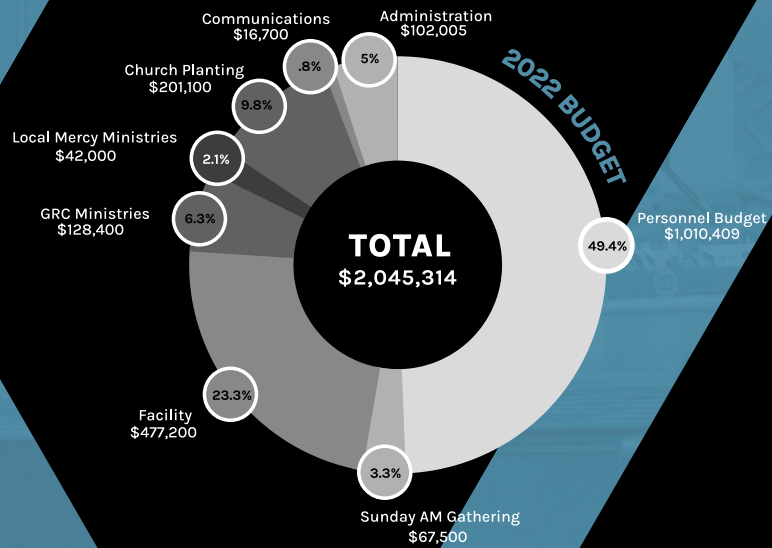
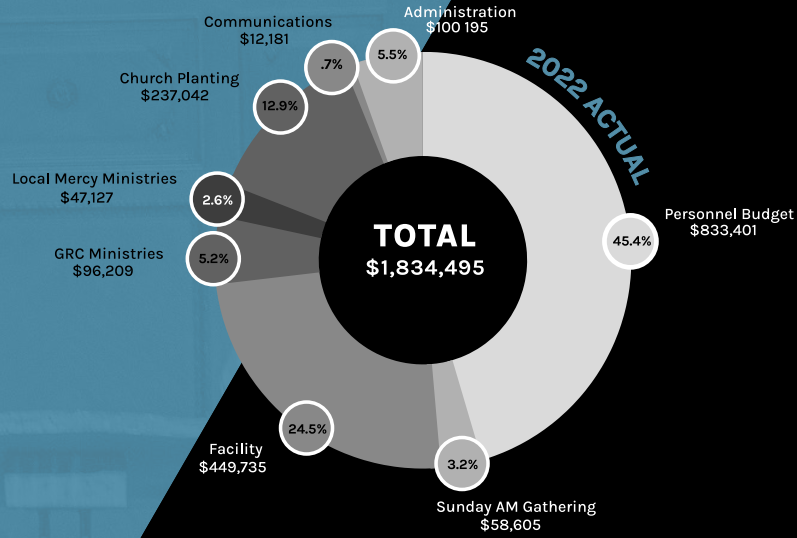


For more information on our care ministry
go to: www.graceroadchurch.org/Care

BREAKFAST HAD A

50%

**Increase In
Attendance**



GRACE ROAD FINANCIALS

ECFA: Grace Road Church is accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which requires high standards of biblical accountability, board governance, financial transparency and integrity, and proper use of resources.

FINANCE TEAM

We have a team of volunteer accountants, and staff members that meet monthly to review bank statements, invoicing, payroll, and our budget to actual. This team geeks out on accounting lingo and cares deeply about the needs of our church members as well as the ministries we support. The time they dedicate is invaluable to move the ministry forward while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Offering Actual: \$2,383,978
Offering Budget: \$2,300,000



FOOD PANTRY

We partnered with Crossroads Church in October to support their monthly food pantry. The donations were overwhelming—we filled four mini-vans! Through this partnership, 30 families in need were fed and connections to Crossroads church were made.

PICNIC

The Grace Road Picnic is an opportunity to kick back and have fun with friends, new and old. It's a rare opportunity to have our entire church in one place, at one time. This year we all returned to Ellison Park with our lawn chairs and picnic blankets for a day out in the sun with our church community. We had organized games, popcorn, cotton candy, inflatables and pumpkin painting for the kids. The food trucks were a hit and kept us fed while we talked and laughed and chased after our kids. We can't wait for next year!



30
Families Fed

SPECIAL EVENTS

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

COMPASSION

We partnered with Compassion International to host our first Compassion Sunday Event. We welcomed Gerald Lorenzo, a young man born in poverty in the Dominican Republic, to share his testimony of how he was released from poverty in Jesus' Name through Compassion international.

Compassion arranged for the profiles of multiple children needing sponsors in Mexico to be reserved for Grace Road during the weeks of partnership. Individuals and families prayed together about sponsoring and establishing a relationship with one or more children.

Congregants who have or currently sponsor children through Compassion International were an added resource for those starting their journey. To God be the glory, **90 children were sponsored!** Staff member, Bruce Plummer, who spearheaded the event, emphasized, "That's 90 kids and their families, along with their local church forever changed by the Gospel relationship and discipleship provided by and through the Grace Road community. So good!"

"...Forever changed by the gospel..."

90 SPONSORED KIDS
BY PARTNERING WITH COMPASSION
IN 2022

JARED WILSON

CODY WILBANKS

KEVIN MALONEY

CHUCK MANCINI

ANDY TRAHAN

VERNON MOORE

MEN'S CONFERENCE

In 2022, we hosted Grace Road's largest Men's Conference with 250 men in attendance! Jared Wilson, author and assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and director of the Pastoral Training Center at Liberty Baptist Church, was our guest speaker. We were also encouraged by faithful church staff & members during break-out sessions and Q&A: Rusty Pagenkemper, Cody Wilbanks, Kevin Maloney, Andy Trahan, Chuck Mancini, and Vernon Moore.

Men from around the Northeast region gathered to be edified in discussion with other believing men, sit under the teaching and discussion panels, check out the new building, and come back for seconds on brisket. The men were encouraged to remember to image Christ, that faithfulness is greater

than success, and that theology must lead to worship. Jared Wilson served our men all weekend long with a pastor's night before the conference and preaching Sunday morning. After the conference, men gathered at different locations around the city to strengthen bonds and create new ones.

GOSPEL Updates

Every job that this represents is important to us—from the monthly cleaning team, communion preparation, community group hosting and everything in between. We think we have the best crew of volunteers on the planet.

BAPTISMS

26

We were able to celebrate new life in Christ with 26 baptisms this year.

NEW MEMBERS

95

95 new members joined our church this year. We are thankful to partner in the Gospel with you!

VOLUNTEERS

441

Our volunteer team this year included 441 people. Our church would not run without the entire church body.

Follow us on socials @Graceroadchurch.
We livestream every Sunday!

Attendance
PER WEEK
940

ADVENT VIDEOS

Each year during advent we share videos that highlight people from our church that coincide with the traditional Advent themes: hope, peace, joy and love. This year we were encouraged by the stories of Nkiruka Nnamani, Sarah Collins, the Forte Family, and our Grace Road kids. We are so thankful for their willingness to vulnerably share and glorify God by what He has done in their lives through the power of their testimony. We thank Josiah Moore for another year of amazing filming and directing.

advent

CHECK OUT OUR ADVENT VIDEOS ON OUR BLOG; www.GraceRoadChurch.org/blog

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF

2022 was an exciting year for our team. We added many new staff members to help us with the growing ministry and to support our church body.

Kim Gagarinas, Building Facilitator: Kim takes lead on space and grounds needs at the church. She also heads up initiatives for local missions and volunteer coordination. Kim also serves as Kevin's assistant.

Nicole Dumas, Care Director: Nicole leads our Care Ministry and coordinates our member care initiatives.

Kula Maganti, A/V Assistant: Kula assists in the sound booth as video/media tech for our Sunday morning gatherings and ministry events.

Danielle Marzano, Communication Assistant: Danielle provides the weekly announcements, and other social media creativity.

Jessie Hartley, Ministry Assistant: Jessie lends support to the Admin team by helping with back-end administrative tasks and event planning.

Jenna Farley, GKids Coordinator: Jenna helps facilitate our Sunday morning Gkids program.

Bruce Plummer, Counselor: Bruce assists as a part-time counselor, particularly in the area of premarital and marital counseling.



2022

Ministries

Finances

Special Events

Gospel Updates

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE 2022 SPECIAL

Produced with the help of

PHOTO & DESIGN

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