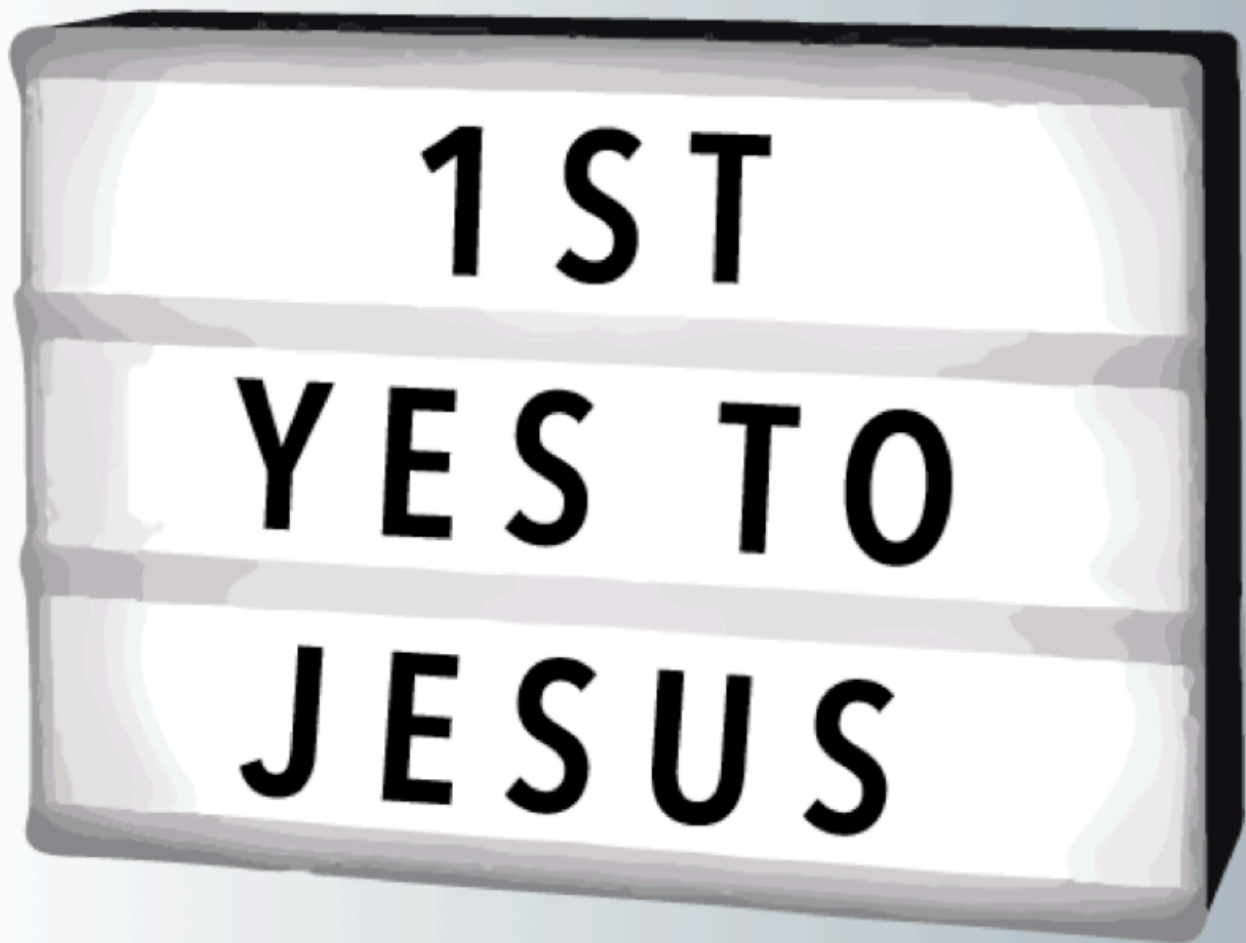




# **NEIGHBORHOOD** CHURCH



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## NOTE FROM MARK

*But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. - Psalm 86:15*

Wow, what a year 2023 was. I have heard it said, your age is your speed limit, which means the older you get, the faster life moves. I don't know about you but another year has passed so quickly. With how quickly life goes, it is good to take a moment to reflect and remember all that has happened and all the ways God has been faithful in and around your life. Over the last year, I have seen God's faithfulness for Neighborhood Church in countless ways from God's provision, empowerment, and protection. God is faithful. May you take time to reflect on God's faithfulness personally and collectively, and may you lean into God's purposes for you and for Neighborhood Church in 2024.

*"Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me." - Psalm 103:2*

## GOALS

*-Top Goal - Praying and trusting God to see 10 people saying yes to Jesus and 10 people baptized*

In 2023, Neighborhood Church was able to join God in celebrating seven individuals saying their first "yes" to Jesus and eight individuals taking the step of baptism.



*-20 people sharing on Sundays how they are sharing Jesus with others*

Eighteen stories were shared during the Sunday Gatherings with many more stories shared in different Neighborhood Church venues.

*-Weekly prayer for the lost to better engage the whole church in seeing others say yes to Jesus for the first time*

Each month, during the Sunday Gatherings, the church was encouraged to pray through the use of helpful visuals as reminders: the unlit lightboxes, the county and world maps in the foyer, signs in the seatbacks of empty chairs, and small cards to write names of people that have yet to say "yes" to Jesus.

*-Laying the foundation for a discipleship path for Neighborhood Church and developing the first two modules*

The staff took time during the weekly staff meeting to pray, plan, and formulate a tangible discipleship course using a variety of resources from Neighborhood Church and other trusted authors and speakers.

## NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

Neighborhood Kids launched its fourth class at the beginning of the new year: Tiny Kids (birth-2 years), Little Kids (3-5 year olds), Big Kids 1 (1st-2nd grade) and Big Kids 2 (3rd-5th grade). The spring started off with our Global Encounters weekend where the kids had an International Parade complete with international outfits and flags from different countries. The kids also participated in parades for Palm and Easter Sundays. During the annual Spring Carnival, over 840 people were welcomed onto the property. It was a great day with great weather! In the summer, Karin Sauder, the Neighborhood Kids Director, hosted the kid's tent at the Derwood Farmer's Market. She met a bunch of great kids and their parents from our community. The summer was wrapped up with a big ice cream social for all Neighborhood Kids and volunteers to celebrate! In the fall, parents received their first parents' email newsletter called, "The Park Bench: Where Parents Go to Get News from the Neighborhood." It's a great resource that keeps parents in the loop with all things Neighborhood Kids! This fall also included a discipleship group for older elementary students who have accepted Jesus and are ready to go deeper in their life with him. This group also took over November's MCCH Bagged Breakfast as a service project. The fall Global Encounters included another international parade, a terrific kid's program with Miss Bonnie & Chialin, as well as the annual Fall Festival. The trunk-or-treat and petting zoo were big hits as always! As the year came to a close, we had our fun Advent Event with our church family where we made Advent Wreaths, ate Christmas cookies, and even had a visit from St. Nicholas who taught us about the meaning of Christmas.



Throughout the year, Neighborhood Kids learned more about Jesus and the Bible. Some biblical themes that were taught included "knowledge" (knowing God and knowing the truth can help you make good choices), "respect & forgiveness" (treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves), and "humility" (putting others first). The Little Kids also learned the Fruit of the Spirit and were introduced to a new curriculum called "The Story for Little Ones" which taught them God's Big Story for all of us. The Big Kids took time to memorize the books of the Bible and learned from, "What's in the Bible," a curriculum



designed to give them a deeper understanding of what's in God's Story. The kids also had many memory verses throughout the year including Proverbs 2:6, Luke 6:31, Colossians 3:13, Philippians 2:3 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

Neighborhood Kids had lots of reasons to celebrate this year. In February, we welcomed our newest Neighborhood Kid, Elijah Allen. Simone Tisdale, Jean Carlos Zendaya and Drew Patton said their first "yes" to Jesus. Four kids were also baptized. Congratulations again to Gigi Drumm, Maggie Drumm, Jean Zelaya, and Emily Patton.

It was a great year for Neighborhood Kids! We are grateful for the way God blessed this ministry, the leadership of Karin Sauder and for all the wonderful volunteers - we so appreciate all you do to serve the Lord and our kids!

## NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH

Over this past year, Neighborhood Youth has had many great study series that led to great group conversations. The first was a series called "Questions" where the students submitted questions they would like to ask God. Next, the group took a look at the characteristics of God based off of the passage from Exodus 34:6 (compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, loyal love and faithfulness). The next series, "Soundtracks," explored God's creativity where each student and leader took turns sharing songs that God had used to speak to them. In the fall, a handful of the Neighborhood Youth leaders shared their Jesus stories. This also included two of our student leaders & international worker, Chia-lin. And right before an advent study in December, the youth explored the challenging passage of 1 John 2:16-17. This gave space for honest reflection and discussion.



2023 was also packed with lots of fun! In the spring, 15 students attended the annual District Youth Retreat in Goshen, VA. There were a little over 300 students in total at the retreat and for many in our group, it was their first time at DYR! This summer, we took time to simply hang out with one another and build connections to include a dinner out at Five Guys, water wars at the Neighborhood Church villa, a movie night, a game night, and a fun end-of-the-summer pool party at the Neely's. Neighborhood Youth also had an awesome fall kick off. The youth and students enjoyed water games, a food truck, and the opening of the new patio and youth room!

The youth group concluded the year with the church-wide Advent Event and a cookie decorating Christmas party!

We're really excited about what God has been doing in the lives of our Neighborhood Youth! As leaders, we continue to pray for Jesus to reveal His love for each student and for Neighborhood Youth to be a place where they can meet Jesus, know Jesus, and learn to share Jesus.



## WORSHIP & PRODUCTION TEAM

This past year, the Neighborhood Church Worship & Production team continued to lift high the name of Jesus through the in-person and online services. Along with the dedicated team of instrumentalists and vocalists, many led worship including Mel Neely, Tim Allen, Adaora Nwokoye and Joseph Villacis. The team also had the opportunity to collaborate with Grace Community Church and their worship team. The team was able to introduce a handful of new songs to Neighborhood Church too to include "Firm Foundation (He Won't)", "Jesus Does," and "Anthem."



On Thursday evenings, the Worship and Production team meet to practice the songs for the following Sunday Gathering. In May, the team had a training specifically about mixing and they also began to implement click tracks. Also, as part of the weekly practice, the team engaged with devotionals that corresponded with the Sunday

morning message series including, "40 Days of Prayer", "The Great Community", "Stories of Transformation", "Nehemiah", and "Anchored". Many members of the team took turns leading this time of group devotionals, and they also shared praises and prayer requests, praying for each other and over Neighborhood Church.

Throughout the year, the Worship and Production team engaged in a lot of special events including the Derwood Farmers Market, Global Encounters, Soul Care conference, an Evening of Worship and Prayer, and the Chain-Breaking concert with Adaora. It was great to see how God used the team at these different events. At the market, the team prayed for the vendors and guests and sang Jesus over our Neighborhood, and celebrated the work God did at Chain Breaking Worship. He brought freedom, healing and wholeness in Jesus's Name.

The team welcomed a handful of new team members as well as said a few goodbyes as members made moves to different states. Our production team continues to thrive under the leadership of Jeff Geraci. We are thankful to have a truly multigenerational team with middle school, high school and adult volunteers working together to make our Sunday services in person and online possible.



BECAUSE of God's faithfulness, our Worship Team is living on mission as a multi-ethnic, multigenerational team being transformed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit and inviting the Neighborhood Church family to be launched on mission with them!

## NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Neighborhood Groups are vital to who we are becoming and where we are going as a church. For the winter semester, there were a total of five Neighborhood Groups meeting with over 50 adults, plus children. During the summer months, the groups took a break but many connection points were made like the Summer Socials and a women's book club. Neighborhood Groups picked up again in the fall where each group discussed the sermon series, "Anchored: Basic Beliefs and Practices for Following Jesus in a World Adrift." Over each semester, many people made new relationships, deepened established friendships, and engaged with God in the discussions. It was exciting to see God at work in the different groups.

## MISSIONS TEAM

The missions team oversees all things missions and outreach related including our local and global missional partnerships. This past year, Neighborhood Church continued packing breakfasts and serving hot meals for the clients of MCCH. The missions team also decided to add a monthly hot breakfast as one of our commitments to this local partnership. 2023 also included the sixth season of the Derwood Farmers Market. Thank you to Susan Scott who served as the market coordinator and all the amazing volunteers who shared and showed Jesus to our neighborhood this season. Both Global Encounters this year were great weekends to hear about and engage in what God is doing around the world. In the spring, Tony Roos from Envision France visited Neighborhood Church and in the fall, Chialin, who is



serving in Congo, was the visiting international worker. The missions team also took time to review Neighborhood Church's ongoing support of international workers and fields. At the end of June, Tony and Reani Roos transitioned from Envision France and accepted a position at Crossway Church in Germantown, WI. Due to this transition, they no longer needed to be supported by the church. At the same time, Clint Musser had taken a position with FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) in Ohio. The team made the decision to begin supporting him financially. It was also decided to support Alliance workers who come to speak at

Neighborhood Church through their following term on the field.

Neighborhood Church has a desire to see people transformed by Jesus, empowered by His Holy Spirit, and launched on mission from the neighborhoods to the nations. The missions team certainly did a great job leaning into God's leading and helped Neighborhood Church pursue this mission.

## WELCOME TEAM

Neighborhood Church welcomed over 80 new individuals this past year! And under Rose Uchieng's leadership, the Welcome Team did a wonderful job providing a warm welcome to both guests and regular attenders. The team also grew this past year with two new volunteers to help provide coffee, refreshments and a smiling face. May God continue to create a spirit of hospitality at Neighborhood Church.

## STAFF

The Neighborhood Church staff met on a regular basis for planning, prayer, and pursuing God's mission of seeing people transformed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and launched on mission. After Jen Ashby's transition to the C&MA Metro District at the end of 2022, Pastor Mark began to evaluate the future staffing needs. Susan Scott was hired as the Neighborhood Church's Market Manager for the 2023 Season and she did a great job in this role. Erica Johns, who interned one summer with the church in 2021, was hired to work virtually to manage much of Linnea's job while she was away on maternity leave. We are also grateful for her time in this capacity of communications and marketing.

Throughout the year, the staff continually reviewed the goals for 2023 to evaluate how the people of Neighborhood Church could more strategically be disciplined. It was exciting to see all the people God had connected with the church and the staff shared the desire to help them grow holistically in their life and faith. In addition to the staff setting goals for 2023, they also took time to try and make the church's values more memorable:

- Worship - Life Surrendered
- Love - Heart Open
- Prayer - Eyes Up
- Humility - Knees Bowed
- Generosity - Hands Extended
- Diversity - Arms Wide
- Community – Lean in
- Creativity - Image Bearing

Additionally, the staff reviewed plans for remodeling the church to better serve both the needs of the ministry and community. A base plan for remodeling was formed but it was decided to put a hold on these plans in order to invest in more personnel additions. God willing, the staff is looking forward to welcoming a few new faces to the team in 2024 along with Karin Sauder moving into a full time position.

## ELDERS

Throughout the year, the Elders met on a monthly basis for prayer and spiritual care of the people of Neighborhood Church. At the Annual Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, Evan Homan, Steve Beardsley, Mark Neely, Jeff Geraci, Solomon Jack, and Eric Peacock were elected as Elders of Neighborhood Church. Keith Luse continued his term to serve as an Elder until later making the decision to step off the elder board. Thank





you Keith Luse for your faithful service and to all these men of integrity and faith who carefully shepherded the congregation in 2023.

## BOARD OF GOVERNANCE (BOG)

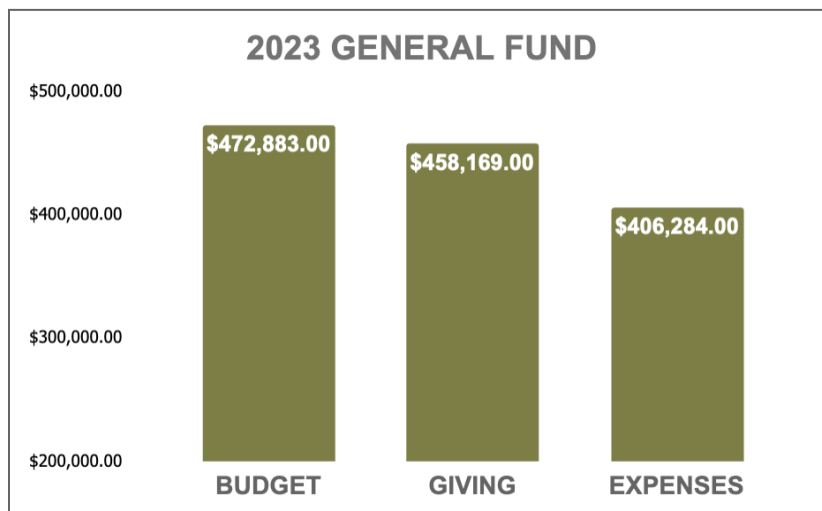
In 2023, the Board of Governance welcomed Eric Peacock as the newest member. Altogether, the BOG met quarterly throughout the year. In their first meeting, they talked about many things including the community, organizational documents, budget, and more. In June, the group talked about updating Neighborhood Church's Guiding Principles. They also began looking at remodeling the church to better serve both the church and community needs. As part of this, the Board approved the replacement of the three boilers to heat the building, an addition of a patio, replacement of emergency exit doors with glass doors to create a new entrance, and the remodeling of classrooms 109, 110 & 111. In the Board's third meeting, they approved the first step to draft plans for remodeling the church. While it was later decided to put these plans on hold, a few more building improvements were approved in the meantime. Finally, in December, the BOG approved the 2024 budget and reviewed the 2024 goals set by the staff. Throughout the year, the Board was able to witness God continually blessing Neighborhood Church with unity and provision.

## FINANCIAL

Neighborhood Church has always been blessed with members who generously give to support the Church. At the end of 2023 we ended with a surplus as a result of your giving and careful management of expenses to keep within the budget. This surplus has been added to our reserves to support our underlying objective of ensuring that Neighborhood Church remains financially stable.

The Board of Governors spent time in December reviewing the proposed budget for 2024. The approved budget for 2024 is ambitious and is focused on having the staffing resources to move where we feel God is leading us. As such the budget includes bringing the Director of Children's ministry into a full time role and allocating funding for an intern position. While the budget does provide for basic maintenance for the building a decision was made to hold off any extensive renovations unless additional funds became available.

Thank you for your faithfulness as we continue to invest into the kingdom.



MISSIONS GIVING: \$45,944.00

RESERVE FUNDS: about \$360,00

## STATISTICS

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Members Total</b>	63	67	54	56	64	66	61	59	57	54	60
<b>Morning Attendance</b>	93	87	98	109	125	127	127	131	80	100	127
<b>Conversions Child</b>	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	2	6	3
<b>Conversion Youth</b>	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0
<b>Conversion Adult</b>	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	5	1	4
<b>Conversion Total</b>	3	1	0	1	0	7	0	6	8	7	7
<b>Baptisms</b>	2	3	2	4	8	14	0	0	3	0	8