

YEAR IN REVIEW & MOVING AHEAD

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





South Ridge launched the 2024 fall ministry season with a message series entitled *God in Motion*. It was based on Matthew 28:16-20, which includes what is often referred to as The Great Commission.

The prior summer message series was entitled *God Has a Name*. We explored several names of God in Scripture associated with His personal name LORD.

Both of these series focused on two foundational aspects of God's character:

- The LORD is faithful, strong, secure, and unchanging in character.
- The LORD is moving, working, engaged, and active in our world.

We can be deeply thankful for both of these truths about the LORD. In our constantly shifting and changing world, the LORD is strong and secure. His truth is our foundation. The gospel of Jesus is something we root and anchor our lives to.

At the same time, the LORD being strong and secure does not indicate that He is static and passive. God is not stationary! The LORD is moving both in our personal lives and in our world.

The reality is that this unchanging God is continuously changing us! This steadfast God is constantly moving in our lives, in the lives of those around us, and in our world.

The mission of South Ridge is for people to ***Experience Belonging, Embrace God's Grace, and Extend God's Love.***

We truly desire to be a community of people (*Experience Belonging*) whose lives are anchored in the foundational truth of this unchanging God (*Embrace God's Grace*), and yet we also desire to be a people who are working for the LORD as the LORD works in us and moves in our world (*Extend God's Love*).

We are quite enthused that 2024 was another year of actively pursuing this mission.

Grace and Peace,

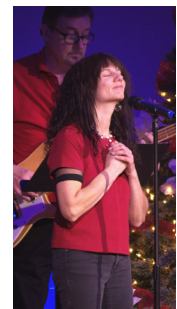
Nathan Tuckey
Lead Pastor

Stephen Sheets
Elder Board Chairman

Ministry, Markers & Milestones

Throughout 2024, South Ridge continued to move forward with its Built Together 2025 focus of strengthening the 3Es of our mission to Experience Belonging, Embrace God's Grace, and Extend God's Love. While there were many steps forward noted in the ministry reports that follow, here are some highlights.

- The membership of South Ridge approved revisions to the Statement of Belief in our constitution. As a church, we passionately desire to be filled with both grace and compassion as well as Biblical clarity related to modern cultural issues.
- Strengthening our Family Ministry was a significant focus of the ministry initiatives outlined in South Ridge's Built Together 2025 plan. In April, Bethany Sytsema joined the South Ridge staff team as the SR Kids Coordinator, and we are looking forward to the continued development of this ministry area.
- Resourcing our congregation for personal spiritual growth and development was another key aspect of Built Together 2025. Six hundred *Unto Us* Advent Devotionals and approximately eighty Family Connect Christmas Kits were distributed to attendees and families. We are encouraged to see personal engagement with God's Word growing!
- The South Ridge congregation participated in congregational Scripture reading, reciting the Apostles' creed, and congregational prayers with increased regularity. Seasonal handouts highlighting opportunities for ministry involvement were also distributed. These initiatives were initiated as part of the Built Together 2025 goal of strengthening congregational participation and involvement.
- While 2024 brought the retirement of some South Ridge Extend Ministry Partners, it also brought the opportunity to welcome new Extend Ministry Partners! We are excited to have "not missed a beat" as some of our newest Extend Partners met our congregation for the first time in 2024!





- The South Ridge campus and facilities not only aid our ministry but also serve some Extend Partners and are utilized by the broader community. Considerable planning for both the replacement of the main building's HVAC system and extensive renovation to the lower level was carried out. We look forward to this project moving forward in 2025.

- Easter and Christmas services and other special events and gatherings throughout the year were strongly attended as these occasions provided opportunities to serve our community.

The above is simply a thumbnail sketch of numerous ministry developments and steps forward. May the Lord continue to strengthen the South Ridge congregation and may His Spirit cause the work of our hands to be fruitful for Him.



Discipleship

Discipleship is apprenticeship with our Master, Jesus. As we walk with Him, we're shaped into His likeness by the Holy Spirit. Increasingly, our hearts, lives, and actions look like His, and they bear His fruit. Every ministry of South Ridge aims to help people grow as disciples of Jesus. Discipleship is the ministry area that facilitates SR Groups and spiritual growth gatherings, a significant avenue for people to be shaped into the image of Christ, together, by God's Spirit at work in and through His community.

In 2024, we held an SR Groups Meet & Greet after Sunday services in both January and September, with more than 25 SR Groups represented each time. In addition to the clear and engaging content on South Ridge's website and Church Center app, these Meet & Greet sessions provide a significant opportunity for potential participants to personally connect with SR Group Leaders, ask questions, and "catch a glimpse" of what it would be like to become a member.

Over the course of the year, more than 30 SR Groups met. Some met in homes, a number of them gathered on campus, and others joined together in various community locations around our region. Some groups are quite large, and others fit nicely into a living room. But, regardless of a group's size, they are all structured to promote relationships and intentionally equipped so that members can Experience Belonging, Embrace God's Grace, and Extend God's Love. While there is so much to celebrate when looking back over the year, here are some important highlights:

- Unprecedented membership numbers in several Campus Groups and Interest Groups
- Increased participation from those who aren't yet followers of Christ in several Life Groups and Interest Groups
- A widening breadth of life challenges being addressed: emotional health, finances, addiction, relationships, physical fitness, spiritual struggle/doubt, etc.
- Coordination with Sunday morning Exodus message series in several SR Groups
- A deepening culture of intentional discipleship in a notable number of SR Groups



In addition to our ongoing SR Groups, we also held periodic Next Steps gatherings.

- In April, August, and December, we offered Getting Started to provide newcomers with an accessible forum (concurrent with a Sunday service) to meet each other, ask questions, give feedback, and hear about current opportunities to get involved.
- In February and October, we held Discovering South Ridge to present a “deeper dive” into South Ridge’s history, mission, ministries, and membership pathway.
- In April, June, and October, Understanding Baptism offered attendees the opportunity to explore the significance of baptism, hear more about South Ridge’s convictions, and take next steps for being baptized as a follower of Jesus.

There were also a number of Discipleship events woven throughout the year:

- **Accelerate:** In March, the weekend featured professional counselors Dr. Bob Moore and Dr. Angelina DaSilva. On Saturday, Bob spoke and facilitated interaction on “Walking the Path to Forgiveness,” and on Sunday, both Bob and Angel participated in a panel discussion on “Uprooting Bitterness; Cultivating Kindness.” In November, the focus was “Apprenticing with Jesus,” and featured video content and activities based on John Mark Comer’s book *Practicing the Way*.
- **Women’s Gatherings:** In April, Extend Partner Nicole van Esselstyn explained how to “Bloom Where You’re Planted,” and in October, Extend Partner Nyasha Manyau discussed the topic “Faith Over Fear.”

- **Men’s Gatherings:** In April, Extend Partner Marlin Petersheim spoke about “Discerning Your Unique Calling,” and in October, retired Chaplain to the New York Nets and New York Yankees Willie Alfonso challenged our men on the topic of integrity.

- **Prayer:** For the National Day of Prayer in May, South Ridge partnered with Evangel Chapel to do a guided Prayer Walk through the town of Clinton.

As we move into 2025, our goals are: 1) to continue to facilitate an ever-deepening discipleship culture that shapes people into the likeness of Christ, 2) to continue to provide life-giving environments where people both contribute their gifts and grow as they receive the gifts of others, and 3) to listen well to where God’s Spirit is leading next, as we aim to serve and spiritually impact an even wider breadth of ages, stages, and life challenges.



Family Ministry

SR Kids (Birth–6th Grade)

SR Kids Sunday Morning provides a fun and engaging environment where children through 6th grade can grow in their understanding of the Bible while building meaningful friendships with one another and their leaders. We are dedicated to creating spaces that help them experience God's work in their lives and discover ways they can serve Him. Through intentional care and attention, we aim to show each child how deeply God loves them and help them begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In 2024, our ministry efforts continued to expand, and in April, we welcomed Bethany Sytsema as our new SR Kids Coordinator. Since joining the SR Family Ministry team, Bethany has embraced the responsibility of overseeing SR Kids and works closely with our staff, volunteers and church family.

On Sundays, we had an average attendance of 175 children. In response to our growing church families, we made two major changes. First, we added a second toddler room to better accommodate our kids from ages 18 months to 2 years old. Additionally, in the fall, we launched SR Kids during second service for those from nursery stage through 4th grade. We also ramped up our volunteer recruitment efforts. We were blessed by the response and welcomed 42 new volunteers to our team and welcomed back others who returned after taking a break.

We continued to use The Gospel Project, a Christ-centered, chronological Bible study, which helps kids dive deep into the big story of the Bible: God's plan to rescue His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. After three years of working through this curriculum, we made it all the way through Revelation and began again with Genesis in November.

Before our 5th and 6th graders head off to middle school, we want them to have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of who God is and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We seek to heighten their engagement by also offering off-campus activities for kids to enjoy and increase connection in addition to Sunday morning. In 2024, these monthly activities included game nights, a talent show put on by our students for their families and friends, a pool party and a Christmas celebration.



In December, we encouraged our kids to participate along with their families in the South Ridge Love In Action project, Operation Christmas Child. Through our weekly offering, we continued to support both our Compassion child who lives in El Salvador, Melvin Martinez, and our friends at the Developmental Center by purchasing Christmas Gifts for one of the cottages.

SR Students (7th–12th Grade)

God has continued to pour out His blessings richly on our SR Students ministry. By His grace, SR Students creates an atmosphere where our students can Experience Belonging, Embrace God's Grace, and Extend God's Love. In 2024, we saw our students grow in their relationships with God and one another through a variety of avenues, including Crossover, the Ridge, retreats, and various service projects.

In Crossover, our Sunday morning class for middle and high schoolers, we challenge our students to work toward gaining a deeper understanding of God's Word. Throughout the year, we examined biblical theology and doctrines and the book of Hebrews. Our dedicated team of volunteers did a wonderful job leading our students through these topics.

At the Ridge, our Sunday night youth group, we encourage students to connect relationally with God, their leaders, and each other. We foster this connection in two formats: life groups and community nights. Life groups offer smaller, more intimate groupings for students of specific ages and genders to discuss their questions about faith and life. Community nights offer large group activities where students can build new relationships. In the spring, we continued with the theme of kingdom throughout the Bible, and in the fall, we began discussing



critical thinking when it comes to our faith. We embrace the ability to unite with our students and draw closer to God together.

Each year, we also offer off-site retreats for our students so they can get away from distractions and spend intentional time pouring into their relationships with God. In February, we held our weekend Winter Retreat at Spruce Lake. Our theme was “sharing your story” and focused on exploring how each student has a story they can share to spread the Gospel. For our summer retreat events, more than 100 students were able to come together. Our high schoolers attended the Harvey Cedars Bible Conference, and our middle schoolers spent a weekend at Camp Tecumseh. While focused on discipleship and growth, these events also provided time for our students to have fun and connect with each other.

Family Ministry (cont.)



Another key focus with our students is to instill the importance of service. During the year, we offered multiple opportunities, including a work weekend during the Harvey Cedars retreat. We also served with R-Farm to help them clean out and prepare their old barn for a new project. An added service opportunity this year took place at Camp Lebanon, where we helped repaint some of the cottages.

We are so unbelievably grateful for how God has blessed our student ministry in 2024, and we cannot wait to see what He has for us in 2025!



Family Partnership

We value partnering with parents to equip and support them in discipling their kids. This is done through ongoing connection opportunities, events, milestone celebrations, and frequent communication touchpoints.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): At the end of June, our campus was buzzing with energy as we welcomed nearly 400 kids and more than 200 volunteers for an unforgettable week! This year's theme, SCUBA: Diving into Relationship With God, invited kids to explore the depths of God's love in a fun and meaningful way.

Throughout the week, we shared God's Word and worshiped Him through songs, dynamic teaching, games, and hands-on activities — all designed to help kids grow in their faith. But the impact didn't stop there. We joined together with our Extend Ministry partners, the Temples, to challenge our kids to put their faith into action by raising money to provide meals for children in need.





God moved in a powerful way! Not only did our kids surpass their giving goal, but they raised an incredible \$10,000 to help fight hunger. Praise God for the way He worked in their hearts and for the kingdom impact made through VBS in 2024!

Sunday Morning Family Worship: Also during the summer, 1st-12th graders once again joined their families for a season of worship in the auditorium, which created a special time to seek God together. For many, this intentional moment of worship as a family was deeply meaningful, allowing parents and kids to experience God's presence side by side. As we look ahead, we remain committed to creating opportunities for families to grow in faith, worship together, and glorify God.

Family Connect Christmas Kit: Because we desire to partner with parents in the discipleship of their kids, we developed this resource to equip families with meaningful ways to grow in faith together. The kit included devotionals, object lessons, and interactive activities — all centered on seeking the Lord as a family. More than 80 families participated and several shared how, in a busy season, God used this resource to bring them together and help them focus on what truly matters. We are grateful for opportunities like this!



Child Dedication Celebration: This is the first spiritual milestone that we have the privilege to celebrate with our families. We held dedication services in April and October. These gatherings include worship and scripture reading, and the highlight is parents sharing a brief prayer of blessing or word of testimony about why they are dedicating their child. Afterward, there is a time of fellowship with refreshments. We are thrilled that 25 children were dedicated to the Lord in 2024. It's always exciting to witness families who desire to honor God in their homes and their parenting.

Communication Touchpoints: It is our privilege to communicate and connect with families! Each week we send out the Info Hub, a weekly email that includes a Family Ministry calendar, details about upcoming events, and resources that will provide prompts and talking points to promote conversation during the week. We also continued using a texting service to send out more time-sensitive reminders (registration deadlines, cancellations, etc.).



Extend Ministries

Extending God's love to others is a value that's woven into the very fabric of South Ridge's mission. While every ministry seeks to intentionally extend God's Love, South Ridge "Extend Ministries" are especially focused on extending God's love beyond our four walls through strategically identified partnerships, projects, and initiatives.

To kick off 2024, we allocated a generous portion of the 25% contributed to Extend Ministries as part of 2023's Year-End Giving. \$30,000 was contributed to both Samaritan's Purse and World Relief to meet basic needs and provide Christ-centered counseling to many in the war-torn areas of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, and Chad/Sudan. Allocations of Year-End giving funds also included financial gifts to:

- Assist Resurrection Church (in Belarus) in completing fellowship hall renovations
- Sponsor missionaries serving in highly stressful environments to have rest and spiritual renewal
- Scholarship students to attend Foundations First Christian (a hybrid learning community that meets on the South Ridge campus)

A number of impactful congregation-wide projects also took place. For our Easter Giving Project in March, the South Ridge congregation gave financially to help develop a base of operations in Cambodia, designed to function as an "equipping hub" to reach and disciple Southeast Asians. Just under \$20,000 was contributed, which is the highest total on record for any Easter Giving Project! In November, for our annual *Love in Action* project, the South Ridge community participated in *Operation Christmas Child*. We packed shoeboxes full of toys, school supplies, and personal care items for children around the world, many of whom live in regions that are under-resourced. These shoebox gifts tangibly demonstrate the gospel and open doors for it to be proclaimed. Justin Thomas, who received a shoebox gift as a child while growing up in a closed country, joined us on a Sunday morning leading up to the project kick-off. He shared about how, through this simple gift, God was at work to provide for Him and express His love.



We also collaborated with our Extend Partners. In April, Nicole van Esselstyn spoke at our Women's Gathering on the topic "Bloom Where You're Planted." That same month, Marlin Petersheim spoke at the Men's Gathering about "Discerning Your Unique Calling." In June, Sean and Erin Templeton were our missionaries for the week of Vacation Bible School. Sean shared with the children each day, and families gave generously to support the Templetons' ministry with Children's Relief International. In October, another one of our partners, Nyasha Manyau, spoke about "Faith Over Fear" at our second Women's Gathering.

Because of the generosity of the South Ridge congregation, our Extend Ministries Team was able to take significant steps in applying our current strategic priorities:

1. Serve and spiritually impact displaced or persecuted people
2. Strategically reach closed countries, unreached people groups, and regions where the gospel is marginalized or in the minority
3. Shape and impact youth, young adults, and families
4. Reach and disciple the local Hispanic community
5. Strategically reach and disciple people in our local region

In addition to the previous examples, here are a few additional "snapshots" of ways that our Extend Ministries Team acted on our current strategic priorities during the year:

- Famine relief in Zimbabwe through TEAM
- Slaves freed in Pakistan through Global Christian Relief
- Refugee resettlement in Baltimore and winterization in Ukraine through World Relief
- Bibles for Muslim students in West Africa through CRU
- Increased support for ministry on college campuses through CRU
- Increased support for local addiction recovery through R-HUB
- Ongoing support of vulnerable children in Zimbabwe (Rugare Orphan Care) and India (Mukti)
- Partnership with International Temple of Restoration, a Hispanic church pastored by Will Gonzales
- Support for ministry to local U.S. veterans through Project Horses for Forces

Moving into 2025, our Extend Ministries Team aims to continue to increasingly: 1) make proactive and prayerful decisions, 2) collaborate and connect with partners, 3) resource Kingdom expansion by stewarding well our congregation's generous gifts, and 3) provide opportunities for the South Ridge community to be inspired, equipped, and mobilized to live as expressions of God's love, *both* across the street *and* around the world.

Care & Support

In 2024, SR Care continued to meet needs and provide support through a variety of avenues, including ePrayer, Helping Hands, and personal interaction. Through a listening ear, prayer, financial assistance, volunteerism, and other resources, we continued to walk with those in the SR congregation and local community as they experienced life changes, challenges, and loss.

We have aimed not only for our staff to be a resource, but also to mobilize our congregation to serve one other. One significant way this happens is through meal sign-ups. In times of crisis or celebration, Helping Hands volunteers provide meals to individuals and families and serve as a powerful, tangible way the love of God is communicated through His people.

Throughout the year, as economic challenges continued to increase nationally, we saw a corresponding increase in material need within our region as well, especially for those in need of housing. With rent so high and options so few, this has often required much discussion and prayer as we aim to guide and equip those in need to find the right solutions.

The mental health support of our congregation was another continual area of focus. This included checking in regularly with those struggling; helping with the cost of mental health care; and creating safe environments for people to process their challenges. Given the rising need to respond to mental health struggles, we continued to hone our approach through our Care & Support Groups.

- During the winter/spring ministry season, “Group Counseling for Forgiveness” was offered and led by Dr. Angelina DaSilva, Certified Christian Counselor, and Amy Webb, SR Care Coordinator.

- SR Care facilitated a six-week “Trauma Healing Group” as created by the American Bible Society’s Trauma Healing Institute.
- In the fall, Dr. DaSilva and Amy also led the well-attended “Group Counseling for Grief.”
- We created a new long-term trajectory for our Group Counseling offerings by developing a two-part pathway of foundational help. “Group Counseling: First Steps” was offered in the fall and is now followed by an application style support group, “Group Counseling: Next Steps,” which is being offered in the current 2025 winter/spring ministry season to anyone who has attended one of the past Group Counseling offerings.

Additionally, SR Care thoughtfully partnered with SR Discipleship to create a “culture of care” within the SR Groups community. We continued to equip and collaborate with the Elder Board in maintaining meaningful connection with our most seasoned congregants as well as those whose personal situations make it difficult or impossible for them to attend South Ridge in person. By sending out weekly ePrayer requests and updates, we also resourced our congregation to embrace the power of prayer.

In 2025, SR Care aims to continue to: 1) communicate needs with clarity, 2) walk with people faithfully, 3) resource people well, 4) make Christian mental health resources more accessible, and 5) mobilize the SR community to care for and support others, both in our congregation and our local region.

Business Operations Team

2024 was another amazing year in the ongoing story of South Ridge Community Church! We are blessed to serve as part of a community of believers who desire to have an impact that will last beyond our lifetimes here on earth. For most of us, that lifetime may include about 4,000 precious Sundays. May we always be a congregation that thoughtfully invests our God-given time, talent, and treasure with a sense of gratitude and joy!

In 2024, we were blessed with \$2,970,352 in total income, which is 25.5% higher than the prior year. This allowed us to fully cover all our expenditures, support our Extend Ministry partners and projects, and take a significant step forward in securing the funding needed for the Built Together 2025 Capstone Project. This project includes the replacement of the HVAC system and major improvements and renovations to South Ridge's main building.

The Business Operations Team continues to focus on doing our best to be faithful stewards of every gift given to South Ridge. Cash reserves set aside for the upcoming capital project continue to be invested in safe US government securities and generated more than \$70,000 in

interest income. We also completed the first annual Financial Review with our new accounting firm and have implemented some recommended changes. As an example, beginning in 2025, the amounts collected for student retreats and similar items will be included in our revenue as opposed to being netted against expenses.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our congregation in 2024, which allowed South Ridge to confidently execute our mission to ***Experience Belonging, Embrace God's Grace, and Extend God's Love***. While this mission is about so much more than the physical campus and buildings where we meet, we are humbled by your enthusiastic response to the Capstone Project and desire to invest in a highly functional and welcoming facility for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who sacrificially gave gifts of all sizes throughout the year to support the ongoing work that God is doing through this His people.

Dan Dietz, Business Operations Team Chairperson

Financial Activity Summary

Income: January through December 2024

INCOME

General Offering	\$2,431,884
Other Income (Solar, Interest income, Facility use, designated, etc)	\$538,467
Total Income	\$2,970,351

EXPENSE

Building and Planning (Capital) (Building & Grounds, Large Facility Projects, etc)	\$261,700
Church Administration (Ministry Assistants & Coordinators, Maintenance/Cleaning, Office Operations, Professional Services, Technology, etc)	\$729,959
Congregational Growth & Development (Groups, Family Ministry, Care Needs, etc)	\$52,828
Executive Operations (Pastors, Ministry Directors, Insurance, Benefits, etc)	\$586,825
Extend Ministries (Community Outreach, Local & Global Partnerships & Projects)	\$327,535
Programming & Media (AV Equipment/Maintenance, Programming Resources, Guest Services & Marketing Communications)	\$46,839
Property Operations (Utilities, Equipment, Small Facility Projects, Service Contracts, etc)	\$199,703
SR Kids (Sunday am, Vacation Bible School, Outreach, Training, etc)	\$24,866
SR Students (Retreats, Group Life, Outreach, Training, etc)	\$30,899
Designated Expenses (SR Kids, SR Students, Extend Ministry, etc...designated gifts)	\$27,489
Total Expense	\$2,288,643

* An additional \$37,247 was set aside from 2024 offering income and will be disbursed in 2025 consistent with our 15% target

**Numbers have been rounded

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Cash & bank accounts	TD Bank General Fund Checking	\$255,223
	TD Choice Card Account	\$858
	Vanguard Brokerage Account	\$1,447,297
	Other Current Assets	\$356,806
	TOTAL CASH & BANK ACCOUNTS	\$2,060,185
Fixed assets	Real Property	\$2,450,000
	Other Assets	\$5,000
	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$2,455,000
Total Assets		\$ 4,515,185

LIABILITIES

Designated funds & reserve accounts	Accounts Payable	\$43,677
	Credit Cards	\$4,929
	Accrued Expenses	\$4,855
	Prepaid Income	\$10,000
	Miscellaneous Restricted	\$232,544
	Designated & Passthrough Accounts	\$1,440,471
	Payroll Liabilities	\$21,154
	TOTAL DESIGNATED & RESERVE ACCOUNTS	\$1,757,628
TOTAL LIABILITIES & RESERVE ACCOUNTS		\$1,757,628
NET WORTH		\$2,757,557

**numbers have been rounded*

