

**GRACE RIVER CHURCH**

# **2025 Annual Report**





# Thank You

In 2025, we watched God move in powerful ways at Grace River. We celebrated **66 salvations** and **108 baptisms**, and our small groups grew to **386 small group participants**. We also welcomed **966 first time guests** this year, and saw overall attendance grow by **18%**. Every number is a name, every name is a story of someone meeting, knowing, and following Jesus.

One of the biggest joys for me this year was what we saw God do through our kids and student ministries. GraceKids kept growing with an average of **157 kids** per week. Our student ministry took real steps forward too, with an average of **79 students** each week and 43 students going public with their faith. God is building something special in our kids and teens, and we are just getting started.

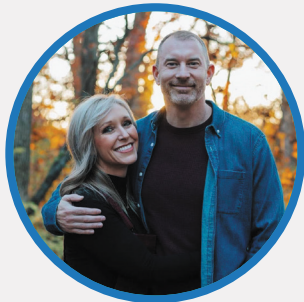
Another huge win this year is that we met **101%** of our Generations Building Initiative goal of 1.2 million dollars. Because of your generosity, we are creating space for generations of men and women, boys and girls to meet, know, and follow Jesus.

We also had the opportunity to take a missions trip to the Dominican Republic this year. Watching our church serve, love, and share Jesus across borders reminded me again that the Gospel is for everybody, everywhere. I am grateful for everyone who went, gave, prayed, and made that trip possible. I am proud of you.

As I look back on the year, I feel overwhelming gratitude for this church. Thank you for serving, inviting, giving, and praying. Thank you for creating space for people who are far from God to find a home here. Thank you for being the Church.

Acts 1:8 still drives us to be witnesses and to make disciples who make disciples. I know that the best days of Grace River are ahead of us, and I cannot wait to see what God does in 2026.

**With so much gratitude,**  
Chris Highfill



Lead Pastor  
Grace River Church

# Life-Change Stories



**Josh Johnson**

I surrendered my life to Jesus in early August 2025. Prior to that I had been on a weight loss/workout regimen for about a year. Then, Spring 2025 Katelyn, our daughter, started coming to youth nights and introduced us to Grace River. I believe those were God's building blocks to break my addictions and he used Katelyn to open my heart and guide me to Jesus. Life after saying "Yes" to Jesus has given me more clarity and hope every day. Like Jacob says, "Life is just better with God in it." I want to give a special thank you to Katelyn for having an open heart that led our family to Grace River. And to my wife, Kris, who has always been my best friend and stood by me.



**Emily Heal**

I've struggled with my mental health for most of my life, and after a suicide attempt at 13, my faith was shaken and I drifted into a rebellious, empty lifestyle. After my miscarriage in March 2024, grief and depression pushed me to one of my darkest moments. Almost a year ago, while contemplating suicide again, God spoke to me clearly and told me to get up and trust Him with my story. That moment led me back to Grace River Church, where consistent Sundays, small group, and baptism helped me build real faith. Life isn't perfect, but now I face hard days with hope instead of hopelessness. Today I'm lighter, growing in joy, and surrounded by a community that walks with me as God continues to heal my heart.

# Grace Kids



- **156 Kids**, on average, attending each week
- **4** Kids said **YES** to accepting Jesus as their Savior
- **8** Kids went public with their faith through **Baptism**
- 123 **Volunteers** are serving; 45 are Students
- **Added paras** for special needs children in all three Sunday services
- New Software program (Planning Center) provides **new ways to ensure student safety** within the classrooms by providing attendance in real time

# Grace Students




- **79 Students**, on average, attending each event
- 178 **First-Time Student Guests** attended
- 38 Students **said YES** to accepting Jesus as their Savior
- 43 Students went public with their faith through **Baptism**
- **125 attended camp** (23 more than last year)
- **43% growth** Fall Semester, **28% growth** for 2025

# Highlights

**108**   
went public with their faith through **Baptism**, which grew from **60 ('24)**.


 Sunday average attendance grew from **633 ('24)** to **747**


**66**  **Yes**  
said  
to making Jesus Lord of their lives

First-time Guests grew from **882 ('24)** to **966**

 **386**  
Reached **highest participation** in **17** Small Groups

 First-time Givers grew from **100 ('24)** to **161**

 Students Camp attendance grew from **102 ('24)** to **125**

 Thursday Student average attendance grew from **62 ('24)** to **79**

**122** **NEW**  
Weekend Service Volunteers

 Grace River celebrated its **10th Birthday**

**18**   
participating in the **Leadership Development Program**



**NEW  
GraceKids  
Wing**

# generations

EXPANSION INITIATIVE

Met our

# \$1.2M GOAL!

Total Given \$1,227,243 (101% to Goal)

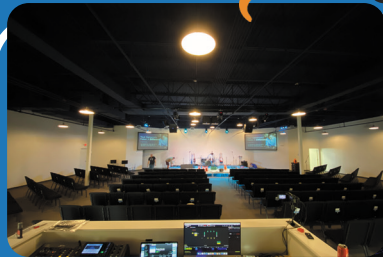


After

**Expanded Lobby**



**Expanded Parking Lot**



After

**Expanded  
Auditorium**



After



After

# Outreach- Local & Global

## BACKPACK DRIVE

- Donated 300 backpacks to Fort Zumwalt School District



## BLESS INITIATIVE (\$30K)

- **SERVE SATURDAY** \$15K
- **MISSIONS** \$15K

## SERVE SATURDAY

170 Volunteers Served

### Food Drive (25 Volunteers)

- Distributed 150 Thanksgiving Meal Prep Kits & Turkeys to local families in need



**Salvation Army** (25 Volunteers)

- Organized donations



**Mission Thrift Store** (20 Volunteers)

- Processed donations to be added to the floor



**Kids Against Hunger** (100 Volunteers)

- Purchased & packaged 50K meals for kids local and around the world



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP**

- 17 volunteers traveled to Dominican Republic
- Put a brand-new roof on a church
- Purchased sound system for 2 Haitian churches
- Provided medical care for over 200 patients



# Giving

In 2025

General Fund	\$805,319
Generations	\$336,873
Bless Offering	\$33,408
Make Room Offering	\$51,643
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$1,227,242</b>

# Budget

For 2026

<b>Operations Budget</b>		
Operations / Staff	\$585,144	51.6%
Ministry / Missions	\$306,000	27.0%
Facility	\$242,933	21.4%
<b>Total Operations Budget</b>	<b>\$1,134,077</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Thank You**  
**For Your Support**

