



cg midtown fiscal year-end 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

common ground christian church - midtown

Fiscal year-end 2023 began on  
July 1, 2022 and ended on June 30, 2023.



a note from lead pastor  
**jeff krajewski**

The vision of our church is to “join with God in the reconciliation of all things with the sacrificial love of Jesus.” We believe this is what it means to be disciples of Jesus. This past year, we spent time reading the Gospel of Luke to remember the story that shapes us and how God’s story, embodied in the person of Jesus, gives us a model for reconciliation.

The formation and mission initiatives we facilitate flow out of the belief that Jesus forms us by the Holy Spirit as advocates for God’s mission of reconciliation. We took time this past year to think deeply about the places of racial division that still exist in our community and churches. The book *Rediscovering the White Church* was a helpful study in uncovering how the church has historically created systems that perpetuate racial division. We also spent time in worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters at New Era Church, joining with them in the Be the Bridge small group study, as well as in Sacred Conversations on Race.

We continue to find ways to serve those who disproportionately experience the effects of a disordered and broken world. Boulevard Place Food Pantry, Martin Luther King Community Center, and James Whitcomb Riley School 43 are just a few places where we partner with others in the flourishing of our neighborhood. I am excited for what God has done over this past year and am very grateful for your partnership in this gospel work in our city and beyond.



*Jeff Krajewski*

Jeff Krajewski  
Lead Pastor

## **cg midtown elders**

alex overhiser  
clair white  
jeff krajewski  
jim matthies

tim dooley  
david raes  
olivia hawbaker

Learn more about our staff and elders: [www.cground.org/midtown](http://www.cground.org/midtown)



## learning & growing together midtowners

### training and equipping

Being formed in the image of Jesus means doing work to grow in our understanding and awareness through training and equipping (T&Es):

- **Liturgy of the Ordinary** - 12 participants focused on the overlooked moments and routines of our day in an effort to become more aware of God's presence in surprising ways.
- **Discipleship Training** - During Lent, these T&Es educated attendees in the eight "core competencies" of discipleship.
- **The Color of Compromise** - 24 participants looked at the church's historic and, at times, present-day complicity in the area of race and racial injustice through the lens of Jemar Tisby's book and study.

### reconciliation

During the fall of 2022, we went through a series called *The Good News of Jesus and the Justice of God*. As a part of that series, we read *Rediscipling the White Church* with **16 small groups / house churches** with a total of **151 participants**.

Two members of the Racial Justice Task Force, Hazel Owens and Julie Cifuentes, took a transformative trip called the **Sankofa journey**, modeled after the freedom rides of the early 1960s. Participants were partnered with a person of a different race or ethnicity and then spent four days on a bus visiting important places from the civil rights movement, watching videos, processing the experience, and praying in pairs and as a group. The group also sat at the feet of living ancestors of the movement and heard their stories and wisdom.



## being formed in the image of Jesus **midtowners**

### worship & prayer

Cidney Callahan, director of worship, and other congregants led our church to new worship and prayer opportunities. We ignited our creative side with the **Honest Advent Prayer Walk**, based on the artwork of Scott Erickson, and with our **Lent Art Journal**, which invited congregants to express their spirituality through art. We also solicited artwork from congregants and displayed **five original pieces** in the sanctuary.

We held **two joint worship services** with New Era Church called **Worship As One**, where our congregations came together on a Sunday morning for a combined service that celebrated the beauty and unity of both churches. Our prayer ministry also expanded to include monthly **intercessory prayer** and weekly **listening prayer**. And we joyously welcomed **three new members** to our worship team.

**25 young adults** attended a retreat together

**300+ congregants** attended two church-wide potlucks

**27 newcomers** attended the intro to CG Midtown classes

**12 cg men** took a hiking trip to the Smokey Mountains

**7 Porch Stories** gatherings were held for young adults

**36 cg women** attended the women's Refresh retreat



## being formed in the image of Jesus children

Common Ground Midtown values children as uniquely gifted individuals who are integral members of Christ's body. Accordingly, our guiding vision for children is to include them in the life and work of the church so they can encounter Jesus. To fulfill this purpose, we provide children's ministry on Sundays, where our children, newborns through fifth grade, can belong to God and His community, grow to be more like Jesus, and respond to the Holy Spirit.



11 fifth-grade graduates



Served an average of 78 children per week



12+ new families joined children's ministry



19-20 volunteers per week



"THROUGH THE **THOUGHTFULNESS OF TEACHERS** IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, HE HAS SEEN **GOD'S LOVE FOR HIM ILLUSTRATED.**"

- rochelle stephenson  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PARENT



## being formed in the image of Jesus youth

Our approach to youth ministry is to be contemplative and family-based. We work together with parents, small group leaders, and mentors to cultivate an environment where young people can encounter God, strengthen spiritual friendships, and grow in their compassion for others.

At the end of FYE 2023, we said goodbye to our longtime pastor Jeff Reichanadter and welcomed new youth ministry pastor, Tony Hart Jr.



9 high school graduates



100+ children participated in youth retreats



21 incoming sixth graders



20+ participants in the Revolution curriculum

“MY SMALL GROUP HAS BEEN ONE OF VERY **FEW CONSTANTS IN MY LIFE**—THEY ARE ALWAYS **A BIT OF PEACE** IN MY UNCEASINGLY OVERWHELMING LIFE.”

- linnea anderson  
**YOUTH MINISTRY STUDENT**



# our mission partners highlights



## mission partners

circle city fellows      yfc lebanon  
PATH International      mlk center  
restoration gateway



## missionaries

kelly kaiser  
santee falk  
seth mcmanus

We believe every person is invited to be on mission with God. At CG Midtown, **our vision** is *“to join God in the reconciliation of all things with the sacrificial love of Jesus.”* We join with God in the following ways:

- Caring for the marginalized
- Participating in the flourishing of our neighborhood
- Sending church planters and missionaries

These three categories influence the selection of our mission partners, mission trips, and volunteer opportunities.



**\$31,380** given during  
redistribute 2022

**Redistribute** is our annual Advent tradition of REDISTRIBUTING our resources to those most deeply in need. During Advent 2022, we focused on the theme of bringing the peace of Christ to a hostile world, contributing funds to three organizations: Stop the Violence, Coburn Place, and Center for Global Impact.





# our neighbors highlights

During Lent, our church hosted weekly generosity drives to benefit **Boulevard Place Food Pantry**. We donated over 1,000 lbs of supplies that were distributed to people facing food insecurity.

We also built and replaced two raised beds for the **Shared Harvest Project (SHarP) Garden**, replacing 13 total over two years. We grew 28+ lbs of organic produce in our two community beds, which were donated to Boulevard Place Food Pantry during the 2022 growing season.

On fifth Sundays, our congregation practiced **Faith Beyond Four Walls**, finding various ways to give back to the community and serve others.

**\$83,062\*** given to missions  
during FYE 2023

\*does not include Redistribute 2022 funds

### *Other FYE 2023 highlights:*

- Two CG Midtown congregants participated in the 2022 Circle City Fellows cohort.
- We hosted Edwin Arrison from the Desmond Tutu Center in South Africa for a lunch and dialogue about peace and reconciliation.
- We supported two trips to South Africa led by Pastor Hazel Owens and intern Seth McManus to explore future student ministry.
- In April 2023, we hosted the exhibit, "Unwelcomed: A Fair Housing History of Sales & Lending Discrimination" from the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana.



# cg midtown financials

FYE 2023 was a good year, and we are in a financially healthy position with relatively low debt and three months of operating cash on hand. We used excess cash to pay down our mortgage principal, setting us up well for the future by reducing our interest and end-of-loan balloon payment.

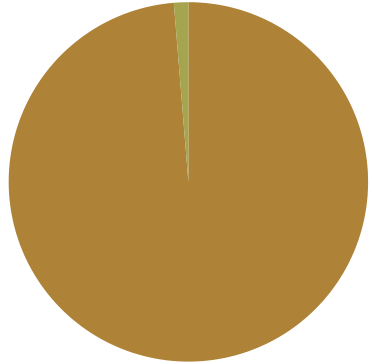
We'd like to celebrate **23 new donor households** who partnered with us financially this year, as well as **70 recurring donor households** for their ongoing support. Thank you! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to our **many volunteers** who serve with their time and gifts across various areas and ministries in the church.

## revenue

### FYE 2023 ACTUAL

Tithes & Offerings	\$943,533
Rent & Other Income	\$12,362
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$955,895</b>

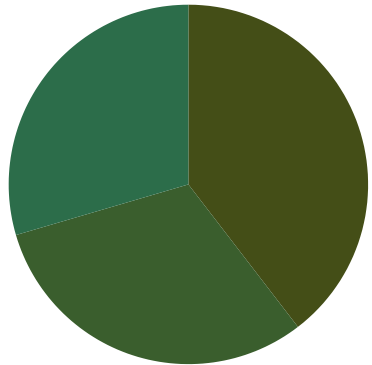


*Thank you for your generosity  
of time and resources.*

## expenses

### FYE 2023 ACTUAL

Spiritual Formation for All Ages	\$376,464
Loving Our Neighbors	\$293,863
Spirit-Filled Worship & Fellowship	\$281,114
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$951,441</b>



Please note that a detailed, line-item budget is available on our website:  
[cground.org/stewardship-mid](http://cground.org/stewardship-mid)



Our **mission** is to call people of all ages to be formed in the image of Jesus, so we can love our neighbors in Indianapolis and around the world.

Our **vision** is to join with God in the reconciliation of all things with the sacrificial love of Jesus.



4550 N Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208  
[www.cground.org/midtown](http://www.cground.org/midtown) | 317-251-1494