

GENEROSITY. GRATITUDE. IMPACT.

2023 – 2024

At River West Church, we're

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

OF CHRIST

FOR THE WORLD.

Along the Way

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Pastor Adam**
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For the Church**
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For the City**
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***Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.***

ISAIAH 43:18-19

“We ... give thanks to God for you, brothers [and sisters] ... because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith”

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

When I read a comment like this from the Apostle Paul, the word that sticks out to me is the word “boast.” It’s not simply that Paul gave thanks to God for their continued growth in mutual love, steadfastness, and faith. He and his companions bragged about the Thessalonians to the other churches! This is fascinating.

I imagine Paul felt about the Thessalonian believers the way I and the other pastors, staff, and elders feel about you, the people of River West Church. We’re blown away by the evidence of God’s grace in your lives. It comes through as astounding love for one another, breathtaking generosity, constant growth in faith, and devotion to King Jesus (as you’ll see in the report to follow).

As I write this, the pastors and elders are preparing to go away for a prayer retreat. We have a stack of hundreds of prayer cards,

filled out by all of you. The thing you don’t realize is the immense privilege and eternal weight we feel at the notion of lifting our congregation up in prayer. We’ve been talking about it for weeks. That’s because we recognize who is really behind all of this Gospel momentum. And we intend to praise God and ask for more.

Paul begins and ends his letter to the Thessalonians by acknowledging the grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s not a formality. It demonstrates his conviction that the Enthroned Christ was the source of all the love, faith, steadfastness, and impact spilling out of the Thessalonian church. As you read, I trust you will recognize the same source in our church.



*All Glory to King Jesus,
Adam*

Journeying together through the Gospel of John

Men's and Women's Bible Studies

River Westers Kirk and Marsha Davis deepened their individual faiths and strengthened their relationship through the tandem Men's and Women's Bible Studies.



The Men's and Women's Bible Studies at our church are enriching faith and building community. Kirk and Marsha Davis experienced this firsthand through their study of the Gospel of John. Kirk shared, "I was overwhelmed by the power of the WORD," noting how Jesus' obedience inspired him to be more faithful. Marsha added, "I was impacted by John's urgency and desire for ALL persons to accept the gospel and come to saving faith in the Jesus he knew

intimately and loved deeply." Their time together deepened their individual faiths and strengthened their relationship, with Kirk stating it "provided a rich time of sharing." Similarly, Nathan Pennock and Michael Jordan found great value in the men's Bible study. Nathan expressed his realization that "we don't have to be perfect" in our faith and felt reassured that "God knows where I'm at." Michael emphasized the importance of connection, saying, "It reminded me of how intense and eternal the love of Christ is for each of his children." Both Nathan and Michael have deepened their relationships within the church, with Nathan noting he now knows more people and looks forward to weekly meetings. These experiences are just a taste of how Bible studies nurture personal faith and foster community.

[Click here to see Nate's full interview.](#)

OVER 750 men and women participated in the Men's and Women's Bible Studies last year.



Pastor Tiffany leads a discussion at the first Young Adults Winter Retreat in Pacific City.

Young Adults Ministry

We follow the Holy Spirit's prompting to build a community of post-college young adults in our local church to **journey the way of Jesus, form friendships, and be sent out to serve the church and the world.**

One highlight was our first-ever winter retreat to Pacific City. Pastor Tiffany served as our guest speaker and led us through great teaching and spiritual disciplines. This retreat was a catalyst for many of those who

were new to our ministry, and even our church, to connect on a deeper level. At the end of the ministry year, some of those young adults took the next step and formed their own community groups!

Community Groups, Baptism, and Formation

236 people attended
formation classes

We celebrated
30 baptisms

“The Equip class helped both Paige and I realize certain truths about ourselves and the way we’re wired, allowing us to make more informed decisions about our careers, our lives, and our mission as a couple. It also helped us match our personalities with ways that we can serve both in a volunteer capacity and in our daily lives.”

– Isaac Rush



Community Groups
increased by 35 percent

“During the end-of-the-year Community Group Leadership Gathering, we heard stories from leaders about the past year ... stories of encouragement, answered prayers, people cared for, growth, and many tangible ways that people in groups served one another ... This gathering ended up becoming a worshipful evening where we prayed together prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving for all that Jesus did in our Community Groups!”

– Pastor Derrick



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

At River West Church, we offer classes that help our community grow in their discipleship to Jesus. These classes aren’t just something to check off a list; they provide a warm, welcoming space for Jesus followers to learn and grow together. **Our core values for discipleship classes are Word, Doctrine,**

Spiritual Practices, and Mission. Classes are designed to deepen understanding in these areas. Recently, we held two 300-level classes on Christian Doctrine: *The Apostles’ Creed* and *Atonement*. High enrollment in these classes demonstrates a hunger to learn and live out the rich truths of our faith.

Nurturing the Next Generation

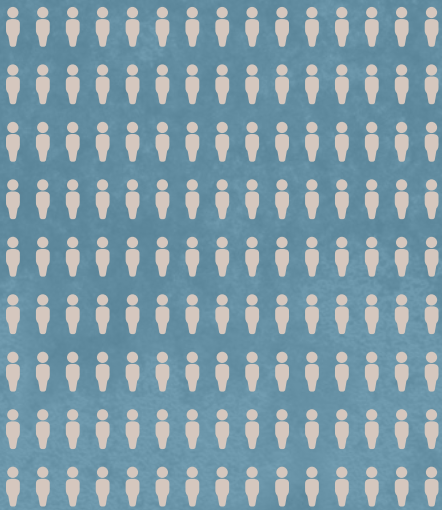
River West Kids partners with parents to nurture the next generation of Christ followers. We're thrilled to see our Disability Buddies ministry grow, offering support to five kids who need a little extra help on Sundays.

Suzanne Conrad and her daughter Aubrey have experienced firsthand the benefits of the Disability Buddies program. Suzanne shared, "Having a buddy means that she can join in at any point," which has made a significant difference in Aubrey's experience, especially during activities like the pumpkin patch visit. Suzanne views the buddies as "the hands and feet of God," appreciating their commitment to understanding autism and providing genuine support. This has helped Aubrey become less reliant on her parents.

Through programs like the Disability Buddies Ministry, children and families at River West are building connections, growing in faith, and experiencing God's love in meaningful ways.



[Click here to see Suzanne's full interview.](#)



Thank you
to the 135 leaders
who served with
River West Kids
last year!



Riley (second from left) and friends work alongside Students International staff members to meet needs through various occupational ministry sites in the Dominican Republic.

Student Ministry: Faith through Friendship

At River West Church, Student Ministry is all about helping students connect with a living God. Riley Rubey, a high school sophomore, has found incredible growth in this supportive community. He shares that it has strengthened his relationship with Christ, saying, "Having friendships with others who share the same goal of growing in faith gives you more opportunities to develop." Riley loves the resources for Bible study and the friendships he's built

along the way. With guidance from leaders, he's formed great habits around attending church and deepening his faith. In August 2024, he joined RW students on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, working with Students International to serve those in need while spreading the love of Jesus. This experience has truly enriched Riley's journey of faith!

[Click here to see Riley's full interview.](#)

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Through Local Ministry Partnerships

The Father’s Heart
The Singles’ Group, led by Kathleen Turner, initiated a local partnership by cooking quarterly meals for *The Father’s Heart Street Ministry*, which addresses homelessness, hunger, and addiction. Kathleen noted, “Even though preparing food for 100 people is a lot of work, working alongside each other to do something meaningful is really satisfying.” This hands-on service aligns with their goals of fostering fellowship and mission, allowing members to bond over shared challenges and joys.



[Click here to see Kathleen’s full interview.](#)



[Click here to see the full list of our local ministry partners.](#)

Left: Volunteers wrap gifts to distribute to low-income families. Above: Dinner is delivered to houseless folks across the Portland Metro area.



Dinner and a Movie
Our second annual Christmas Outreach with local ministry partner Dinner and a Movie brought out over 200 River Westers to wrap presents and prepare food for low income families. More than 800 people were served a Christmas dinner and received new coats, hats, and gloves.

For the World

God is moving through our congregation, beyond the borders of our nation.

Rwanda: Africa New Life

"We are so grateful to River West Church for partnering with Africa New Life to launch a new church and sponsor hundreds of students in the community of Gashora, Rwanda. It is beautiful to see so many young people who otherwise would not

have had the opportunity to get beyond elementary school, but now, because of River West's partnership, are able to dream about finishing high school—or even college! And this tangible support sends a powerful message to the community surrounding

New Life Bible Church Gashora about the power of Jesus to transform lives, both physically and spiritually. We could not have done this without you!"
— Africa New Life

Pictured above: Construction at the Gashora Church plant.



Pastor No Pum baptizes 18 new believers.



Children at the boarding home in Myaungmya eating one of their daily meals.

River West Church has been sending monthly funds to Pastor No Pum in Myanmar for the last seven years to support over 65 children in a boarding home in the southern region. This support provides food, medical care, and teaching to these

Myanmar: Pastor No Pum

children. In 2021, civil war broke out and the people of Myanmar are continuing to experience extreme hardship, persecution, and food insecurity. Our church was able to send \$10,000 of additional support this year to Pastor No Pum's church to help purchase

food and provide for some of the additional needs of their church members and neighbors. During all this hardship, Pastor No Pum continues to preach the Gospel, make disciples, and baptize new believers.

Ecuador: Prosperina Mission

Our partnership with Prosperina Mission has profoundly impacted vulnerable young girls and mothers in Ecuador, providing them with care, education, and spiritual support after experiencing sexual abuse. Prosperina Board Member and fellow River Wester, Carlene Elliott, emphasizes the mission's success, stating, "You see that transformation and how it's

giving them a new path in life." Together we are witnessing healing and creating lasting change for these families. Thank you for being an essential part of this mission, empowering young women to embrace brighter futures filled with hope and the love of Jesus.

[Click here to see Carlene's full interview.](#)



A young mother receives medical care for her child through Prosperina Mission.

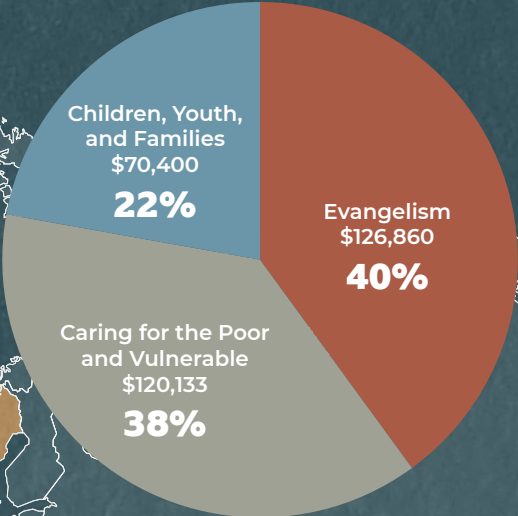
Your Gifts, Global Impact

Through your generosity, River West is able to support **50 ministry partners**, made up of individuals and organizations focused on Gospel work all over the world.

Last year we were able to provide additional support of **\$154,000** to our ministry partners both locally and globally!

Impact by Country				
North America	Central America	South America	Europe	Asia
United States	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Hungary	Cambodia
Idaho	El Salvador		Iceland	India
Oregon		Africa	Lithuania	Malaysia
		Kenya	Sweden	Myanmar
		Rwanda		Türkiye
				Australia + Oceania
				New Zealand

Ministry Partnership Support



Ministries by Category

- Children, Youth, and Families**
12 These ministries include individuals and organizations that support foster care, outreach to youth, and unwed mothers.
- Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable**
17 These ministries support our most vulnerable populations, including refugees, victims of sexual abuse, and those living in poverty, both locally and globally.
- Evangelism**
21 These ministries include local and international missionaries as well as organizations that focus on spreading the Gospel to unreached peoples.

Financial Summary

September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

OPERATING REVENUE

\$3,526,445

OPERATING EXPENSES

\$3,141,283

NET OPERATING REVENUE*

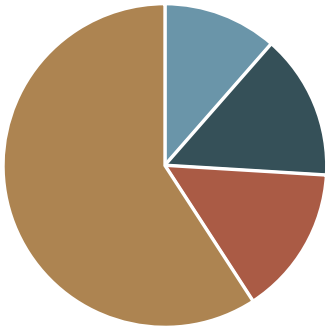
\$385,162

To be used toward 2024-2025 operating expenses and future ministry opportunities

** Excludes rental and other income and depreciation*

OPERATING EXPENSES

Ministry \$1,858,363	59%
Missions \$467,274	15%
Facility \$455,988	15%
General and Administrative \$359,658	11%



At River West, we see the Church as a community of people transformed by the Gospel. **Thank you for your faithfulness and support,**

which have allowed us to witness the impact of the Gospel in lives around us. Thanks to your generosity over the past year, we’ve

made a meaningful difference in our church, city, and beyond as we follow Jesus in building a community of Christ for the world.

If you would like to give, click here.
Thank you!

Next year, let’s continue

BUILDING A COMMUNITY


WORSHIPPING TOGETHER / CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY GROUPS / LOVING ONE ANOTHER

OF CHRIST

STUDYING SCRIPTURE / TAKING CLASSES / PRAYING / PRACTICING FORMATION

FOR THE WORLD.

LIVING ON MISSION / PARTNERING TOGETHER / GIVING / LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS



*We ... give thanks
to God for you,
brothers [and sisters]
... because your
faith is growing
abundantly, and the
love of every one of
you for one another
is increasing.
Therefore we
ourselves boast
about you in the
churches of God for
your steadfastness
and faith”*

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4