

January - December
2023

Gospel Community Church

Impact REPORT

A snapshot of 2023 highlights.



DEAR *Gospel Community* CHURCH FAMILY

As we reflect on the journey of the past year, we are compelled to express our gratitude and celebrate the incredible ways God has been at work in and through Gospel Community Church in 2023. Here are just a few highlights:

College Hill Café: We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the College Hill Café, making it more accessible to our community. This project has not only enhanced our physical space but also strengthened our connection with the local community.

Strategic Hires and GSM: In 2023, we welcomed valuable additions to our team. The appointment of an Executive Director of Operations and a Kid City College Hill Director has brought fresh perspectives and

strengthened our ability to serve the diverse needs of our church family. We also saw growth in our GSM ministry as a result of the leadership of our Ministry Residents and Family Ministries team.

Partnership with CARE Portal: Our commitment to serving vulnerable families in the community was fortified through a meaningful partnership with CARE Portal. Together, we have made significant strides in providing support to those who need it most.

Increased Engagement with Connecting Point

Relationships: We are delighted to report an uptick in engagement with Connecting Point relationships. This demonstrates the growing sense of community within our church, fostering deeper connections among our members.

Lynchburg Prays: Unity Revival: Collaborating with three other local churches, we participated in the Lynchburg Prays revival services. It was a powerful time of coming together with our fellow believers, seeking God's presence and revival in our city.

There were many other amazing ministry moments as a result of our collective labor of love. Looking back, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and provision. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the mission of GCC this last year.

As we embark on the New Year, let us continue to enjoy God in His fullness, trusting that He knows us, sees us, and is working in our midst. Joel 2:25 reminds us of God's promise to repay what has been lost.

Let us dream and anticipate how God will restore and do even more in 2024.



May this report serve as an inspiration for you to celebrate God's goodness not only to GCC but also to testify to the ways He has been faithful in your own life throughout the year.

Soli Deo Gloria,
The Leadership Community of GCC

COLLEGE HILL *Renovations*



The renovations at College Hill are the culmination of over a year's effort by staff, volunteers, and commercial service providers to design, plan, and renovate the sanctuary, redesign the Kid City spaces, build a new Cafe, and install modern bathrooms. The new spaces provide increased capacity that has led to a jump in the number of groups meeting at College Hill, and it's wonderful to see the growing use of the building. We welcomed Village 434 as new tenants at College Hill, supporting their plans to provide a welcoming space for at-risk families.



Relationships take time and God continues to show us the beauty of His timing and the importance of surrendering the work of our hands, expectations and outcomes to God. Galatians 6:9 is a verse we often refer to, as it is

important to “not grow weary in doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we do not give up.” On Thursday nights, there are two high school boys from our neighborhood who have attended regularly for two years,

but consistently left GSM before the lesson or small groups. In October, they decided to stay and had a personal small group with Connor Kennedy and Luan Souza. Several weeks later they were bringing friends, sharing and encouraging their friends to do so as well, reading the Bible and offering to pray! We have been praising God for His goodness and for the faithful pursuit and love our leaders show every kid. Every effort and prayer matters in ways we cannot see, but our God is using every moment!



God introduced me to so many amazing people to help me grow my faith. Through many activities through our church and lots of amazing people, He allowed me to open my eyes and see Him. Going to summer camp with GSM this year really gave me a true sense of who God is, and ever since then, I have been growing my relationship with Him. I hope to keep developing my relationship with God as I grow older and spend more time with Him.”

-Caroline, age 15

Care PORTAL

AND THE IMPACT OF VILLAGE 434

25 families in crisis were
helped via Care Portal!

Over 80 kids were served -
that's \$27, 866 in economic impact!



The Village was bustling in 2023. Our breath is taken away as we stop to reflect on all that has happened. What an absolute testament to Jesus working powerfully through His people. God brought the right people at the right time, with the right funding to meet the needs over and over and over again. To God be ALLLLL the glory!

To recap some of 2023: we started monthly Village Volunteer gatherings because we need to better link up in this hard work and started Village Prayer gatherings because we are desperate for the Spirit to fuel our work. Along with those gatherings came a room to gather, which we aptly call The Family Room. It was made beautiful because Village volunteers came together, and the beautiful work of the Spirit in families continues when we gather there. Other events this year included hosting a Connect Night for weary foster and adoptive parents and holding an informational dinner for those interested in stepping into this space. We also took part in a Sunday panel discussion during Foster Care Awareness Month and made a clear invitation into this space on Stand Sunday in November. Throughout the year, dozens upon dozens of incredible Village volunteers came alongside those in our body who said the brave yes to foster care or adoption, while others went way out of their comfort zones to serve families in our community teetering on the brink.

The Lord is on a mission to restore family in this earth - and what an HONOR it is to Him in that mission. We seek to operate as a family, working with His Holy Spirit to restore what is broken and to welcome image bearers we encounter into a larger family. In our context, this is done through foster care, adoption, and making space in our lives to love where safe, healing love has been elusive. Ultimately our hope is that anyone we meet becomes part of HIS forever family. The work is heavy and hard and slow but His nearness and care is as tangible as the physical needs we so often meet.

CONNECTING *Point*



WHAT A YEAR OF GROWTH IT HAS BEEN!

Our community breakfasts (every Sunday and Wednesday morning) at Connecting Point have continued to be a space where people feel a sense of belonging and friendship. Not only have numbers of people almost doubled from last year, we are also seeing so many other beautiful stories taking place. In addition to those intentional gatherings, we've been able to continue serving our community each month through the food pantry and events like the Summer Block Party and Fall Festival!

We are so excited to renovate the Connecting Point space to create an even more hospitable space to be used for gathering in the name of Jesus!



I thank God for this day He has made and will rejoice and be glad in it. I thank God for forgiving me of all known and unknown sins. I thank God for this grace, mercy, and favor on me. And I thank Him for calling me out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

All my life, I've been unnoticed, abandoned, overlooked, misused, mishandled, and underestimated. But God's unconditional love brought me this far, to this day and this hour, to be who you called me to be. I've had some sleepless nights where I have cried myself to sleep but through it all God was with me. I've lost many loved ones. These are the loved ones who were the closest to me who cared about my direction in life—my father, my grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, daughter, brother, sister, godmothers, pastors, etc. I miss them all, but what I received from them in each season brought me to the front line to believe in myself. Two years ago I was at my lowest. I felt like I was dead, and had not died yet. I wanted to give up hope on me. I asked God to take my life because I felt I had not only disappointed myself and loved ones, but that I had disappointed God Himself after He had been so good to me all my life. But just as I was about to throw in the towel, I had just enough faith left in God and myself to go on and see what the end would be.

I heard about this place called the Connecting Point. I was hungry, I was tired, and I didn't know where to go or whom to trust with my pain other than God himself. I believe in my heart God led me to the Connecting Point. When I entered the doors I felt love. I was given something to eat. Later on, on Thanksgiving last year, I was able to sing again. I am a singer for God. I was dirty, meaning unclean in spirit and body. The people there at CP heard my story, and they put their love in action. They let me bathe twice a week, they let me wash my clothes, they gave me three blankets so I wouldn't freeze to death. They brought me kerosene oil to heat the room I slept in. they sent me gifts of water jars so i could bathe when they were not open. They prepared food three times a week, breakfast, lunch, and groceries to hold me over for the rest of the week for two weeks until they give it away again. They helped direct me where I could get clothing. They paid some of my bills. And most of all, they showed me great love from the heart and welcomed me like i was someone special. I walked into CP November 16, 2022. Since then, I have begun to believe in myself. I am working at LU and I am back in church. I feel confident about the direction of my life. It is all uphill now, now turning back. There is nothing back there. I am 2.5 months clean of drugs and alcohol. I give my biggest thanks to God, creator of heaven and earth, because He made it possible for me to meet these wonderful, godly, compassionate people. This is the beginning of my journey. I still have a lot to endure. I live without running water, and my electricity in my house doesn't carry enough voltage. I am paying my house taxes off with the part-time job God provided for me and paying off my car payment slowly because it was repossessed. And to the end of my story, I am overly grateful to God our Father for taking care of me and loving me unconditionally and giving me this second chance to do his will in Jesus name.

Peace to all who hear and read part of my story.

-Connecting Point Neighbor

written in November 2023

*rendering of building plans



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

with what the Lord is doing at Connecting Point!

DONATE

The food pantry at the Connecting Point gives away close to 700 food and household/hygiene items each month to families in our neighborhood. This wouldn't be possible without your regular donations!

A simple way to donate is to go to our Amazon wish list and select an item or two as a "recurring donation". That will automatically get shipped to us! You can also grab a tag at church and bring that item to church with you regularly.

SERVE

We have free community breakfasts twice a week, food pantry Saturdays twice a month, and community events held throughout the year. Because of this, there are so many ways to serve at the Connecting point!

From cooking breakfasts to helping out with the food pantry, there's a space for everyone to build relationships make a difference.

HEAD TO [GOSPELCC.ORG/SERVE](https://gospelcc.org/serve)

for more information and to check out all the areas where you can use your unique talents, skills, and giftings at GCC!



Lynchburg Prays
UNITY REVIVAL

LYNCHBURG *Prays*



2023

wasn't the first year we partnered with other local churches to pray and worship together. We have a long history of celebrating other churches in our community and finding opportunities to fellowship and worship together. In the past, God used LYH Prays to bring churches together during moments of crisis, in our community or world. We came together to address racial and political unrest through prayer. We grieved together, and we praised God together.

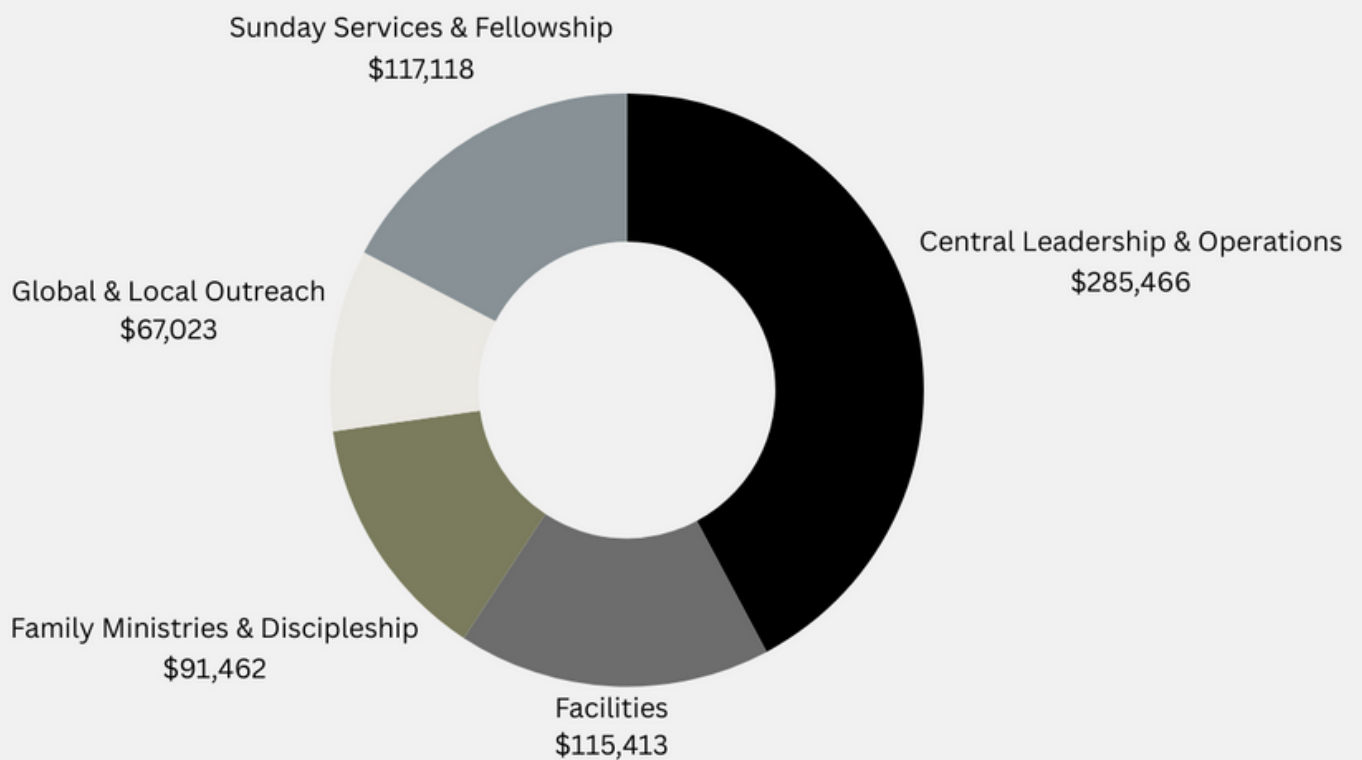
This last expression of LYH Prays was more proactive in nature. We didn't want to wait for another crisis to bring us together. A number of our local pastors are friends with each other and share their lives with each other. The vision was to extend that same unity and joy to our congregations. We wanted to celebrate Christ, not any local pastor. We wanted to encourage and serve the Church of Lynchburg outside of our typical stewardship.

God blessed us with powerful worship, meaningful teaching, and intimate prayer. Those relational deposits are a beautiful reflection of the Kingdom of God and a reminder that we are not in competition with each other, we are on the same team and we glorify the same Savior. LYH Prays gives us a small picture of Revelation 7: every tribe, nation, and tongue worshipping God eternally.



Financial UPDATE

January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023



Total Operating Income:
as of 6/30/23: **\$651,512**

Total Operating Expenses:
as of 06/30/23: **\$676,482**

*6 month Shortfall: **-\$ 24,970**

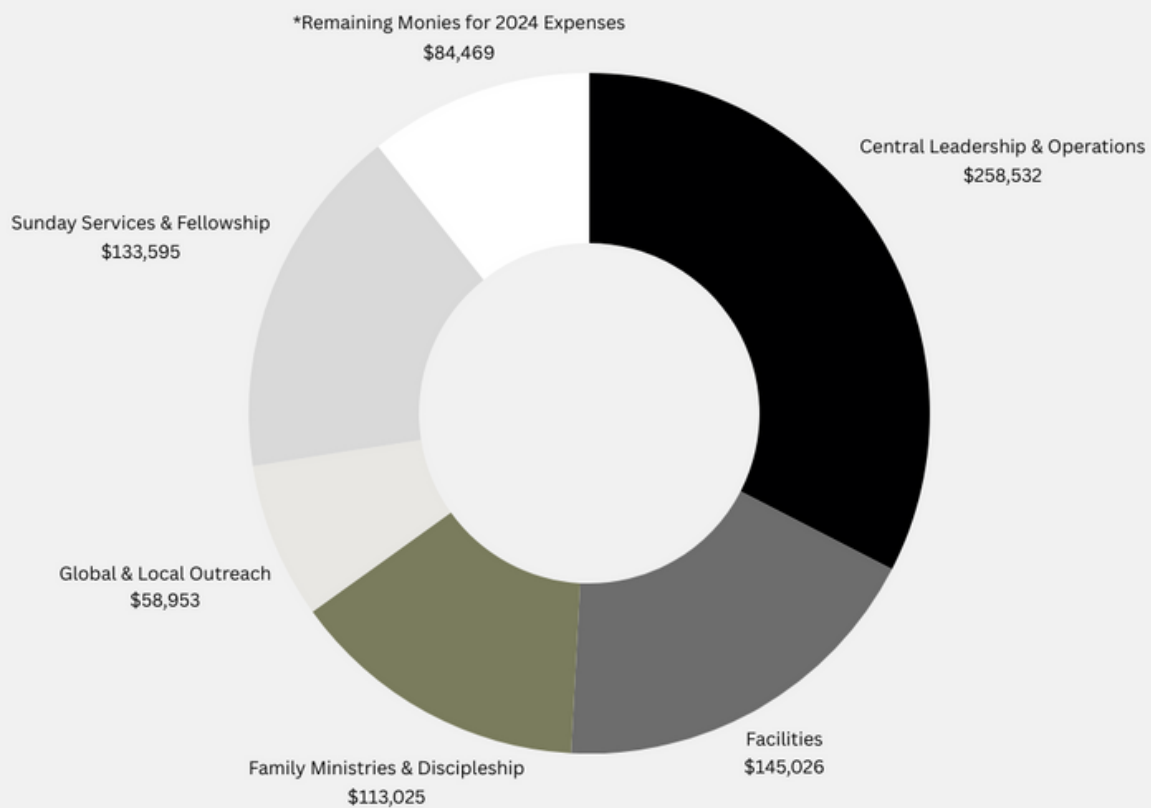
**The six month shortfall was due to primarily from unforeseen expenses related to the College Hill Cafe and main bathroom renovations. Shortfall was remedied in July of 2023 with IRS - Employee Retention Tax Credit deposit.*



As we stepped into the new fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2023, the projected income stands at \$1,520,000 against a budget of \$1,513,375. This budget, while ambitious, sets the stage for significant growth opportunities for Gospel Community Church. By December 2023, halfway through the fiscal year, the church initiated a generosity campaign to align with the budget and raise funds matching a generous gift for renovating the first floor of Connecting Point. A total of \$41,000 was successfully raised for the Connecting Point project and construction is fully funded barring any unforeseen expenses. Construction is now underway for the renovation project at Connecting Point. Lord willing, these renovations are expected to conclude by March 2024. Anticipating the need to maintain alignment with the proposed budget for the fiscal year, another generosity campaign is in the works for the upcoming Easter/Spring Season.

Financial UPDATE

July 1 - December 31, 2023



Total Operating Income:
as of 12/31/23: **\$794,500**

Total Operating Expenses:
as of 12/31/23: **\$709,132**

*Monies Remaining
for 2024 Expenses: **\$ 84,469**

**The monies remaining are allocated for the winter and spring expenses of the 2024 budget year. These monies include funds from the IRS - Employee Retention Tax Credit deposit in July of 2023.*

From January 1st to June 30th, 2023, Gospel Community Church experienced a distinctive phase. This period marked the transition for GCC to adopt a new fiscal year. During these six months, we witnessed a notable increase in contributions compared to the preceding year. Additionally, substantial progress was made in the repairs and renovation of the Cafe at College Hill. Completion of the Cafe and restroom project is poised to make the GCC College Hill Campus a valuable asset, benefiting both our congregation and the wider community. Thus far, we've hosted a Christmas Party for teachers from Robert Payne Elementary School, organized various events for the College Hill Community, held our annual staff Christmas party, and provided space for other non-profits to convene.

We eagerly anticipate how the Lord will enable us to further
serve the community!





WAYS *to* GIVE

Moved by the heart of God, we are present to the needs of others and determined to become generous in all things. With our time, talent, and treasure we will meet the needs of others, resist consumerism, and remain committed to giving all we have for the glory of God and the good of others. We are those who have found our lives by laying them down for the sake of others.



ON OUR WEBSITE & APP



BY MAIL

1301 Rivermont Ave.
Lynchburg, VA, 24504

gospelcc.org or on
The Church App



IN PERSON

Dropboxes located
near the exit

Gospel Community Church

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