

Faithfully FORWARD

Seeking to be Worshipers,
Maturing in Christ

Grateful. Prayerful. Expectant.



East White Oak
BIBLE CHURCH

He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

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Welcome to the 2026 annual report.

Faithfully Forward is the phrase that we are using to describe this chapter in our church's life. In this edition of our annual report, you will see just how important it is to be moving "Faithfully Forward." This "Faithfully Forward" adventure comes with three attitudes of the heart:

GRATEFUL

We look back upon this past year with gratitude for all that the Lord has done in us and through us for His glory.

PRAYERFUL

We acknowledge our dependence upon our Lord for sustaining and growing our effectiveness and for guiding the future of our precious fellowship.

EXPECTANT

We anticipate that the Lord will work wonderfully in and through us as we seek to be worshipers, maturing in Christ.

— *Pastor Scott*



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Scott Boerckel

Senior Pastor

Proverbs 4:25-27 "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

This is a year that we devote to moving Faithfully Forward. In my report, I hope to share how I have been trying to do just that in the past year and will continue to press ahead in the coming one.

My primary ministry is faithfully to proclaim God's Word in the pulpit at East White Oak. Nothing is more important to a church's vitality and faithfulness as the steady, sound teaching of the Word of God, most especially from the pulpit. It is my delight that this view of the importance of the pulpit ministry is shared by our elders and our members. The preaching of God's Word is essential to our becoming worshipers, maturing in Christ.

In this fiscal year, we were just beginning our series in 2 Corinthians, seeing how this letter is all about Christian service. We completed that study in December after 29 messages in total. Currently, we are embarked upon a study entitled, "Rightly Handling the Word of Truth." This is far less expositional (which makes what we are doing now not my favorite kind of preaching). However, I feel that providing some tools for how to study the Bible helps us move Faithfully Forward in understanding and applying God's Word.

In moving Faithfully Forward, I am grateful, prayerful, and expectant with regard to our church staff. Regarding our pastoral team, we are blessed beyond measure. Pastor Justin capably guides our welcome and assimilation process, helping people to get plugged into life here at East White Oak. He is a great blessing in growing our small group ministry. He challenges and helps each of us to think and act in sharing our faith. Will you pray for his ministry to be effective in each of our hearts so that we move Faithfully Forward? Pastor Traig wears many hats and serves the Lord with no focus upon himself. Whether it is in leading our administrative staff, leading our children's ministry and Adult Bible Fellowships, guiding our deacons, developing our media, or



▲ Pastor's Retreat in Ottawa, IL / May 2025

▼ Greeting a new arrival at East White Oak's Church Picnic



even creatively hosting the “Ask Scott” podcast, Traig labors for the Lord with ease, poise, and composure that helps us all move Faithfully Forward. Pastor Walt has a heart for “Faithfully Forward,” as he seeks to disciple next generation followers of Christ. Whether it’s junior high, high school, or young adults, Pastor Walt is committed to a ministry that connects the Bible to life. Pastor Jeff guides us Faithfully Forward in prayer (if you have never come to a Wednesday prayer meeting, you are missing out!). I especially enjoy the ways that he moves us Faithfully Forward in missions. The “One Day Missions Experience” really invigorated each of us to take action in missions. I especially liked that we as a church embraced something new and beneficial.

Likewise, our administrative staff moves us Faithfully Forward. Lindsey Studnicki assumed a new role as office manager and is doing a terrific job. Monica Ball continues faithfully to serve us well in her changed role. Emily Henard’s engagement in our social media and design work is increasingly important in moving us Faithfully Forward. Her outstanding work is visible in nearly everything that we do. To move Faithfully Forward, we need to have good safeguards. Shelley Jun is so helpful in that from a financial standpoint. You will be able to see the benefits of her wonderful work, though it is just a fraction of all she does, in the financial report and budget in this report. Beth Fromme moves our children’s ministry Faithfully Forward. I appreciate her willingness both to serve and to grow in

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creativity and effectiveness. Bruce Jacobs is essential in our moving Faithfully Forward. His management of our building and operations, as well as his labor in A/V and technology serve the church so well. Sophie McCree moves our youth ministry Faithfully Forward both as an administrative assistant and as Director of Girls’ Discipleship.

Moving Faithfully Forward requires learning from others. So, we pastors read books together. Not all of the books that we read would we recommend or agree with, but our discus-

▼ Easter Sunday 2025





▲ The One Day Missions Experience

sions of our reading always serve to help us move Faithfully Forward. This year, our pastors took time to read the following books together:

- “Raised in Splendor: The Hope of Glorification for a Secular Age” by Jason Allgood
- “Tim Keller on the Christian Life” by Matt Smethurst
- “Humble Calvinism: And If I Know the Five Points, But Have Not Love” by J. A. Medders
- “The Heart of the Servant Leader: Letters from Jack Miller” by Jack Miller
- “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry” by John Mark Comer
- “Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church” by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin (still in progress)

One of my favorite activities of my week is singing in Sunday worship. If we are to move Faithfully Forward, we need the joy that singing together brings us. Paul Jones, Doug Kinzinger, Jason Landes, Dave Osenga, and Andrew Thompson give unflinchingly and joyfully of their time. They consistently connect the themes of our music with the themes from the text that I preach. It is a joy to serve Jesus with them. Their creativity, the sacrifice of their time, their diligence to be accurate theologically all serve to move us Faithfully Forward as worshipers, maturing in Christ.

I must make a brief note about Living Stone Communities, our church plant in West Bloomington. Not only are they fully independent from us, they have now transitioned to a new pastor, John McLain. Living Stone is moving Faithfully Forward!

As we look ahead, I thank the Lord for the elders of our church in developing a good succession plan for a new senior pastor. Much work has been done: a search team has been established; the materials needed to describe our church have been completed; the members of our church are equipped to pray. Now, we prayerfully look with expectancy that the Lord will provide just the right pastor for our church. Let’s go!

As we look ahead, I thank the Lord for the elders of our church in developing a good succession plan for a new senior pastor.

In thinking about moving Faithfully Forward, I also think of my precious wife, children, and grandchildren. Carol is an amazing delight to me and lifts me up when my spirit flags. Her prayers and love sustain me in tough times and add to my delights in the good times. My three sons and their wives grow more precious to me by the day. I love their love for our Lord Jesus. This year, with Wyn’s cancer being a significant source of suffering, I have had a front seat in witnessing my son and his wife teaching me about how to trust the Lord in extremity. Please do keep praying for Wyn and Kelli. I know that you love them as members of our flock, and they love you too. My dear brother Jim entered our Lord’s presence this year. I miss him. I will never meet his like this side of heaven. Still, we go Faithfully Forward. In doing so, I am reminded of my eleven grandchildren, the youngest of which was born four months ago. It is a joy to think that all eleven were born after I became your pastor, and I’ve been able to share a newborn picture of each of them with you. You have been so kind to rejoice with me over each of them. It excites me to consider how our Lord will use each of them for His glory.

Grateful. Prayerful. Expectant. This is how I view this coming fiscal year, both as your pastor and in my own personal journey with Jesus Christ. I am filled with joy, knowing that I get to do that journey with you.

Let’s go!



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Traig Whittaker

Senior Associate Pastor

“Tell the people of Israel to go forward.” Exodus 14:15b

Moses led the people of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. The immense mass of humanity encamped on the shores of the Red Sea. In response, Pharaoh joined his chariots and his army in pursuit of the newly freed slaves.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes to see the advancing military horde, and they feared the Egyptians.

The unknown can be terrifying. What are we going to do? How will we defend ourselves? Will we survive?

Our church finds itself in a seldom-faced time in the unknown. In response to Scott’s retirement announcement, we may wonder: “What’s going to happen? How long will it take to find someone new? What will the new guy be like?” In the midst of the unknown some of us may be afraid.

What did the Lord tell the Israelites to do when they faced the unknown, sea before them and Pharaoh behind? “Go forward.” (Exodus 14:15b) Forward, on dry ground through the Red Sea. Forward, in the way that the Lord had prepared. Forward, provided for and protected by the Sovereign of the universe. And in our time of unknown we would do well to follow the direction that the Lord gave to His chosen people. Go forward.

What does “forward” look like for me and the areas of ministry in which I have some involvement?

It’s a privilege to partner with Beth Fromme, our Director of Sunday Morning Children’s Ministry. We anticipate fruitful ministry this year to children from infant through 6th grade including a special Bible reading plan for kids, a weekly question and answer program for learning important Christian doctrine, and a summer program called “God’s Wild Kingdom” filled with creative Bible lessons. That’s all in

addition to the regular ongoing ministries of Children’s Bible Fellowships, Children’s Church, Kids Under Construction, and our nurseries.

Our Wednesday night program for kids is AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed / from 2 Timothy 2:15). Our AWANA club directors, Maura Crittenden, Lindsay Weidler, Sarah Masters, and Eric Herbst serve our 185 AWANA clubbers and their families so well. Wednesday nights are “Small Groups and Big Fun” for our kids. We expect fruitful ministry to not only those who attend East White Oak but to a good number who attend church elsewhere or nowhere at all.

Our Adult Bible Fellowships are each served by teachers and leaders who faithfully serve the Lord week after week creating faith-nurturing communities. Two couples who, when they were young couples themselves, benefitted from ABF engagement are now setting out to provide the next generation of young couples with their own experience of Christian community. Frank and Emily Henard along with Andy and Cari Wallgren will begin a Young Couples ABF on March 15.

We look forward to a new member on the Your Body, God’s Plan (YBGP) teaching team in 2026. We wel-

▼ Teaching “See the Bible as One Story” as part of the Winter Electives





▲ Celebrating the 50th Episode of the "Ask Scott" Podcast

come Sarah Hansen. Sarah is a labor and delivery nurse and a volunteer at the Pregnancy Resource Center. Our YBGP event is in June at Heartland Community College. May the Lord bless our efforts to raise up a generation of young men and young women who honor God with their sexuality.

March 29, May 31, August 30, and November 29 are 5th Sundays in 2026, and that means 5th Sunday Lunches. We look forward to hundreds from our church family gathering to enjoy one another's company over a delicious meal, and there is usually a fun activity thrown in for good measure. But it's more than just food and fun; it's getting connected. It's becoming known and getting to know others. We become a little bit more like family with every meal that we share.

The OakLeaf is one way that we give special attention to topics of particular importance to becoming worshipers who are maturing in Christ. Future editions will be published in May, August, and November. You can look forward to articles that will educate, encourage, and challenge us.

I would like to encourage you to make 2026 the year that you begin following the AskScott podcast (Click that "Like" and "Subscribe" button). You could even submit a question. Don't know what the podcast is about? Pastor Scott answers questions about his Sunday sermons. There is a little bit of laughter along the way too. Scott and I look forward to you joining us.

Technology is not going away. As a matter of fact, it's likely to continue to hold an important place in ministry to our church family and the broader community. That's where the East White Oak "Stream Team" comes in. They are responsible for streaming the church's services. Whether you are just home sick or a missionary halfway around the world,

**In our time of unknown
we would do well to follow
the direction that the Lord
gave to His chosen people.
Go forward.**

this team makes your engagement possible. You can look forward to more "Reels" and "Shorts" coming too.

There is perhaps nothing that I look forward to more than another year of having the privilege of serving alongside the amazing administrative team here at the church. They are Lindsey Studnicki (Office Manager), Emily Henard (Communications), Shelley Jun (Financial Secretary), Bruce Jacobs (Building/Grounds/Tech), Monica Ball (Administrative Assistant) Hunter Studnicki (Custodian) and James Gieseler (Custodian).

The account of the Red Sea crossing begins with the people lifting up their eyes to see the advancing military horde, and they feared the Egyptians. The account ends with the people lifting up their eyes to see the mighty working of God, and they feared the Lord. May our own anxious thoughts about what the future holds for East White Oak be displaced by hope, trust, and praise as we faithfully go forward and see the provision that the Lord has in store for us.

We may not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future.



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Walt Baertsch

Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

“So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22, ESV)

The above verse is our theme verse for the year as we call students from the culture to live their lives for Christ. Please pray for us as we work together to reach our area for Christ in a very challenging cultural milieu.

As I write this report, I just returned from one of our Youth Pastors Network lunches where we discussed the topic of “What keeps you from being discouraged in youth ministry?” to which I had to honestly say that it is all of YOU, the people of East White Oak – my wife, the families, the friends, the youth and young adult workers, the parents of our students, the students themselves - that keep me from being discouraged. I’ve been able to see the results of God’s faithfulness in our students over the course of years of youth ministry here at East White Oak.

We have the benefit of being part of a church that believes, preaches, teaches and lives out God’s Word on a daily basis. God calls us to a standard and we lift that standard up high in our families and in our church. Not perfectly, but that’s why we need Jesus and His incredible grace. God’s grace and faithfulness also create a grateful people as we have seen and experienced God’s faithfulness over the years in some pretty big ways. This has continued over the past year, and we look forward to what He will do in the coming year as well.

This year:

- We continue to see students grow in their knowledge of His Word and His faithfulness in their lives as they seek to follow Him.
- We have seen breakthroughs in students who have been struggling in their faith, finally see God’s goodness and His grace invade their lives.

- I have seen our amazing youth and our young adult staff pour out themselves into students who at times don’t really understand and/or can’t bring themselves to trust in Christ finally “get it” and come to Jesus in pretty amazing observable ways.
- Many of our students love to worship God through musical worship and some have even given much time toward learning instruments and/or taking classes to be able to be a part of our worship teams. God continues to raise up “the next” generation of worship team leaders from within our midst. Every time we get to the point of graduation, and we wonder “what are we going to do now that _____ and _____ are graduating, God comes through!
- Students serving in Children’s Ministry, Missions, Music, Youth, Women’s, Tech, and many other areas
- We’ve had somewhere around twenty young adults (ages 18-25) become members of the church in the last couple of years.
- About one third of our Young Adult Ministries students didn’t start out at East White Oak. Students keep inviting others to join us. Every time we have someone get married and/or move away and we think we are “shrinking”, God brings in new students and their friends. God is faithful.
- I am very enthusiastic on how I see God working and drawing Gen Z to Himself and their excitement to serve Him!
- Many singles are now full participants within the church whereas just a couple of years ago, most of our local singles graduated into oblivion or to other churches.
- I get excited when I see the difference one student sitting in the front of the church in worship can make. I get even more excited when I see other guys in the group care for that student by sitting with him – even if it is in the front row!
- I am excited when I see students desiring to be and being witnesses for Christ in their schools and

► Pastor Walt in New Orleans with the Sr. High Youth

► Young Adult Ministry (YAM) meets each Thursday evening at the Ulrich's home.



with their friends. I get excited when they pray for their friends and ask me to pray too.

God is indeed faithful as he raises up His servants to become disciples who become disciples and carry on the discipleship process begun with Christ.

Just a few of the many things I'm looking forward to this year:

- I always look forward to all of the transitions in the spring and summer of the year. I love when the 6th graders come up to Jr High and all of the expectations, fears, concerns of parents and all. Their excitement for all things new is one of the things that keeps me going. Our eighth graders moving up into the Sr. High is exciting, and our graduates (class of 2026) have already

begun the move into the Young Adults. Our "transitions" are some of the best times of the year.

- Our Senior Highers will be going to Lead the Cause in Denver this summer. This is a week-long intensive training on evangelism and apologetics where we will not only be trained, but we will also go out onto the streets and parks and share our faith with people – using words!
- I always look forward to watching the various ways that God continues to call our students into His service. It's been very exciting to see how God is using and calling some of our recent graduates to various things (missions, Christian service, positions within the church, etc.)

I am always incredibly aware and thankful for our amazing teams of volunteers that are the true backbone of our youth and young adult ministries – without whom we could do none of the above. I don't know if our church generally realizes it or not, but we are incredibly blessed to have leaders with decades of experience in youth ministries who are passionate about reaching the next generation for Christ. This is not typical in any other youth ministry of which I am aware. Not only that, but we are incredibly blessed to also have young adults and other newer adults to the church who are joining the team as some of our experienced youth leaders (many times who were their small group leaders) pass the torch on to them even as some of them prepare to move on to other ministries. This is truly exemplifying Disciples Making Disciples! And that is exciting evidence of God's faithfulness!

Thank you all so much for praying for us as we continue to try to keep up with all that God is doing in the Youth and Young Adult Ministries as we move Faithfully Forward!



◀ Sr. High trip to New Orleans to train students in service and evangelism



MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Justin Waples

Associate Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” - Ezekiel 36:26-27

I sincerely thank all our volunteers for their committed service.

Whether brewing GoBena coffee on Sunday mornings, leading Small Groups, coordinating Men’s and Women’s Ministry Bible Studies or events, organizing Senior Saints luncheons, ushering, greeting newcomers, assisting at the welcome center, supporting the Care and Outreach teams, or helping with the church picnic, your efforts are truly appreciated. Thank you for being equipped for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ!

Looking ahead, we know that God has no plan or program for spiritual growth apart from His Word. We won’t grow by simply attending Sunday Worship, a Bible Fellowship, or a Small Group. We will grow by meditating on the Word of God with a new spirit (Ezekiel 36). Reflecting on the past year of Outreach and Discipleship Ministries at East White Oak, let’s consider how God has been faithfully growing and maturing us through His Word and look toward a bright future ahead!

Outreach & Local Neighboring

- Several neighboring articles featured testimonies from people in our church, such as “How to Host Neighbors Creatively,” and “How to Take a Step of Faith with Neighbors.” These articles and many more are available on our website on the Outreach page.
- I met with Tofig Mammadov (East White Oak’s newest International Students point of contact) to discuss how our church can better engage international students on our local university campuses. Many Small Groups continue to serve meals and provide resources and short-term housing for incoming students. I’m thrilled to share the website that Tofig launched www.theihub.org/volunteers to help us with volunteer opportunities and resources.
- The Outreach Team distributed Bibles, thousands of Gospel tracts, and Jesus Film DVDs, to be handed out in our community during Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and beyond! Consider handing your neighbor their first Bible and begin to read it with them.

- This past year, we had a fantastic church picnic where everyone received a t-shirt with the focus statement, “Seeking to be Worshipers, Maturing in Christ.”

Several folks are interested in joining the Outreach Team, and I’m eager to see where the Lord will continue to direct us!

Discipleship, Assimilation, and Small Groups

We welcomed countless guests, many of whom connected through Bible Fellowships, Small Groups, and warm welcomes at East White Oak! We thank God for His goodness in our church and pray that many in our community, who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior, will join us on our Pathways of Discipleship. We praise the Lord for dozens of Small Groups where relationships are nourished, and our affection for God’s Word grows. I am excited to visit all the ABFs and teach the newly crafted VolunTour curriculum. We are seeing young and older adults alike be baptized and join our church as members, and I am excited to see people placed in meaningful service roles!





▲ Tying fishing lures at the East White Oak Men's Retreat

The Waples Family

My wife, Abigail, remains dedicated to serving our Lord, our home, and our church. She is the apple of my eye! We are grateful to have our kids with us on this journey. Susannah (1) rules the roost with each of her older siblings in the palm of her hand. Meredith (3) is exceeding every milestone and continues to receive multiple therapies. Felicity (5) has become quite the artist and loves crafting. Gideon (6) has a future in parkour and skateboarding and keeps us running. Karoline (12) is officially in youth group and continues her dreams of ballet, now in pointe shoes!

For years, we begged God for more children. We trusted His plan, even on gut-wrenching days when foster care placements and infertility treatments failed. Yet the Lord offers the only true need in our lives: a new heart and spirit so we can serve Him in His kingdom-building, no matter what this life throws at us. Over the past thirteen years of marriage, God has blessed our family with two biological and three adopted children, and we're grateful to share His love with them! However, we also understand the heartache our adoptive children's birth parents endured, which made it possible for us to love these children as our own. Please pray for them. We love them deeply, and they love us in return, but they still grieve the chance to raise their children. We're thankful for our relationship with each of them. We are so thankful for the opportunity to send pictures, videos, and share meals within our home with our children's birth families. Their courageous and loving decision to choose life for these babies has forever changed our hearts.

Fatherhood and adoption are beautiful, hard, stretching, and sanctifying. The privilege and gift of this will never

be lost to my wife and me. It's a story of redemption and hope that only God could write. It's overwhelming to be given the opportunity to be a dad and a mom, to love children born to us and love children born to another woman. Every time we look at these precious children's faces, we're reminded of the incredible parents who have given the world to their babies. All their love, hopes, and dreams wrapped in a blanket, sealed with one final kiss, and then placed in our arms. Overjoyed and overwhelmed all at once, that is the emotion of adoption. We will never be the same. When our satisfaction in life is the Lord alone, He is enough! Our family finds peace and security in the ONE who holds the future and ordains our days.

From our family to yours, may God bless your ministry at East White Oak. I am grateful to partner with you!

▼ (Left) Pastor Justin & Abigail (Right) The Waples children





MINISTRY REPORT

Pastor Jeff VanGoethem

Associate Pastor of Spiritual Development and Missions

I continue to enjoy leading our Wednesday night prayer meeting each week. In the midst of our busy AWANA program and in the summer time, there is a faithful group that spends time praying for various matters, such as congregational needs, ministry thrusts and opportunities, missions, revival, and issues of broader concern.

We meet for about 60-75 minutes. We have some excellent and meaningful prayer times together. We also delve into some teaching topics on the life of prayer, so that we can keep learning and growing. No one has this thing of prayer all together! This past year we touched on such topics as praying for the power of the Holy Spirit, praying through seasons of pain, what is fervency in prayer?, prayer and the providence of God, and more. Please join us as you are able, 6:30 Wednesday evenings.

I've also continued to be involved with our Missions Team and our Missions Conference Planning Team. You can see Ron Miller's fine report on the good work of these teams elsewhere in this annual report.

I have enjoyed teaching within our East White Oak Ministry over the last year, including as a substitute, teaching electives, and a unique post-Easter class on "The Vital Relationships of Life" for those seeking to learn about the Christian faith.

I also serve with our Elder group and attend our staff and pastors' meetings. I am available to members of the congregation for pastoral counseling and other ministry related meetings.

I continue to serve outside our local body in the following ways:

- Adjunct Faculty, Dallas Seminary in the Doctor of Ministry Program
- Adjunct Faculty, Word of Life Bible Institute – Hungary
- Board of Directors – RHMA (Rural Home Missionary Association)
- Various speaking and preaching opportunities.
- Frequent one-to-one meetings with pastors, Christian workers, missionaries, students, and other individuals usually related to ministry endeavors.



▲ Teaching on Hebrews during the Winter Electives

Check in station at the One Day Missions Experience. ▼





I anticipate, God willing, continuing on in the coming year in similar ways. I would love to see increased involvement in our prayer meeting and the development of other prayer strategies particularly as we enter a season of searching for and welcoming a new Senior Pastor.

On a personal level, this past year I came through spinal fusion surgery with a good result. Thank you for your prayers. Karen and I are blessed by four married daughters and five grandchildren. My elderly father is over ninety and still independent in his home. We try to see him from time to time. Meanwhile we send him “door dash” once a week. What a world we live in.

I would love to see increased involvement in our prayer meeting... particularly as we enter a season of searching for and welcoming a new Senior Pastor.

It is a joy for me to serve our dear congregation with our other pastors, elders and deacons. Recently at our prayer meeting I quoted two great missionary heroes whose words sum up our longing for devotion to Christ and gospel ministry. We press on, as God gives us time and strength.

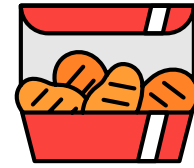
“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God” —William Carey

“If God has work for me to do, I cannot die.”
—Henry Martyn

Fun Facts

480

The number of chicken nuggets consumed during our last two Discovering Membership classes



413

The number of snow cones eaten at the church picnic in 2025



240

The number of glow sticks used on the Jr. High Winter Retreat

1405.5

Total number of minutes Pastor Scott spent preaching from April 6, 2025 - February 1, 2026.

30

The number of years the Builders ABF has held a Supper Six program. An estimated 4,320 meals have been shared.

23,944

The number of e-mails sent from Pastor Justin's work address since 2018. An average of 8.8 e-mails per day!



11

The number of years it has taken the Search the Scriptures ABF to study their way through 2/3 of the Bible.



11,596

The estimated number of miles travelled by Pastor Walt in the past year (youth trips and mission trips).



MINISTRY REPORT

Beth Fromme

Director of Children's Ministries

This year in children's ministry has flown by! Here are some highlights for the year.

First, the summer program was wonderful, learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We learned that followers of Jesus are saved by grace through faith, and the things we do are not the things that give us salvation. That is God's work! As believers who are saved by grace, our lives will show fruit when we love Jesus and have a relationship with Him. The things we do as followers of Jesus are because we love Him and want to please Him. We learned 13 ways we can be followers of Jesus with our hearts, minds and actions.

I am thankful for everyone who has stepped into each need this year so we can continue to serve the families of East White Oak.

Secondly, we are blessed with many talented returning and new teachers. We were able to open the toddler 10:30 class after a period of being closed. I am thankful for everyone who has stepped into each need this year so we can continue to serve the families of East White Oak by faithfully nurturing the faith of our children. This is kingdom work and it is a blessing each and every week to walk into classes and hear what our children are doing and learning. Ministry to our kids here at East White Oak is not just keeping them busy and occupied but systematically teaching them what we believe and why we believe it. They hear the gospel each and every week and learn how to apply the Bible to their own lives.



▲ Preschool class on Sunday morning

Summer Children's Ministry Kick-off ▼



Thirdly, we have completed our first full year using New City Catechism in our classrooms to teach the main doctrines and theologies of our faith by using the weekly question and answer style catechism. As we move on, these will be repeated each year. The hope is that the children are introduced to the question and answer in class, but it is repeated, learned, and talked about at home. Please grab a guide for your home or the Bible study book that goes along with it to do together as a family. Don't leave it to only Sunday morning. Talk about these important topics with your kids each week as they grow!

As we move into the remainder of this year and the summer program coming up, here are some ways that you can make the most of children's ministry at East White Oak:



▲ Ted the Turtle at Summer Children's Ministry

1. Ask them about what they learned in class and talk about it after church on the way home or at lunch. If you know what your child learned, connect it to their lives again throughout the week when the Holy Spirit prompts you! In some cases, you can ask the teachers for a parent handout that will help you talk to your kids about what they are learning.
2. Don't neglect Sunday morning ministry. Every Sunday your kids miss their 9:00 Children's Bible Fellowship, they are missing out on what the Lord has to teach them and important lessons to grow their faith and love for Jesus. This is highly profitable time spent. It is worth getting up early and out the door for Children's Bible Fellowships (and Adult Bible Fellowships for mom and dad!).
3. Review the New City Catechism each week and help your child understand them as best they can, as they grow. We like to do this at bedtime, but you can find any time that works for your family. Try over breakfast or dinner, or even in the car!
4. Have your kids pick up the monthly Bible reading challenges. They can earn prizes and get a lot out of developing a daily Bible reading habit with short readings just for kids. This also gives you opportunities to talk with them at home about what they are reading.

We cherish your children and look forward to continuing to serve the families of East White Oak by faithfully teaching your children about the God who loves them and gave Himself for them!



▲ 5th and 6th Grade girls class

Outdoor Sunday morning activities! ▼





MINISTRY REPORT

Sophie McCree

Youth Ministries Administrative Assistant and Director of Girls' Discipleship

I have spent the last several years collecting ebenezers (a physical reminder to commemorate God at work). My office, especially, is full of them.

To the average onlooker, they don't seem like much, but when I see them, I am reminded of the faithfulness of God. Sentimental artwork hangs framed on my walls, and the gaps on my bookshelves are filled in by trinkets that, could they talk, would tell stories of dear friendships. My favorite is the wall behind my computer, which is covered in photos; some are from high school and college, but many are from the time that I've been working here at East White Oak – photos with students and youth leaders, on retreats and at events. I recently added many from the past year, and as I hung each of them, the thought on my mind echoed the words of Samuel – “Up to here the LORD has helped [me]” (1 Sam 7:12). Sifting through those photos, too, gave me a chance to reflect on some of the ways that I have seen God's faithful hand among us this year.

I have had the privilege of sitting with students at coffee shops to study scripture with them and to hear of the ways that God is working in their hearts and lives.

This year's youth ministry calendar was full, as it always is. One of the best things about the busyness (aside from all the fun that it brings) is that with so much going on, there are ample opportunities to catch a glimpse of God



▲ Little reminders of God's faithfulness in Sophie's office

at work. This summer, I watched our high school students share their faith in word and deed on the streets of New Orleans, and I got to see our junior highers embody Christlike servant-heartedness as they tackled projects in Michigan's upper peninsula. I have had the privilege of sitting with students at coffee shops to study scripture with them and to hear of the ways that God is working in their hearts and lives, and I have been encouraged by the desire that so many of them have to study the Bible for themselves. I have witnessed as they have asked big questions, genuinely wanting to know truth and to live by it, and I have gotten to see the fruit of students sharing their faith with their peers – even inviting them to church and to youth group. God is certainly at work, steadily and faithfully deepening the roots of their faith and growing them into more mature followers of Christ. What a gift that I get to have a front row seat!

This year, God has also faithfully provided instrumentalists to fill in the gaps on the Junior and Senior High worship teams. Over the last few years, we have graduated several student guitarists, and at the beginning



▲ Leading worship at the Jr. High Winter Retreat

of this school year, we had none left on the Senior High worship team. By December, three students had stepped up to meet the need, and even now, I know of two more that are learning. The same has been true on the Junior High worship team – one student noticed that we didn’t have a pianist, so he learned, coming back the following week to play at youth group on Wednesday night. God has answered our prayers with abundance!

Amidst all that has gone on this year, one of the things that has stood out to me the most has been the steadfast commitment of our volunteer youth leaders. Without them, so much of what we do would not be possible. They clean up messes they didn’t make, and they staff our many trips and events (many of them using their vacation time to do so). They lead small groups, walking with students through the ups and downs of their teenage years and taking their needs before God in fervent prayer. They are quick to jump in and meet whatever needs they see – even when that means they’re doing grunt work – and they do so with joy. They give vast amounts of time and energy without hesitation, and through their faithfulness, I have seen a clearer picture of the faithfulness of God. It is one of my life’s greatest privileges to serve alongside each of them.

Even as I sorted through photos, adding them to my office wall and remembering the ways that God has been faithful here this year, I couldn’t help but think of all the photos that are to come - those that will find their way onto my wall and stand as ebenezers, reminding me that it is only God who has brought me this far, and it is He who will continue to keep me. Even as we look toward the coming year, there is much

excitement for what lies ahead. I am certain that He will continue to faithfully guide our steps – as we take high schoolers to Denver where they will learn to share their faith, as we return to the UP with Junior High to serve at Camp Elijah, in the mundaneness of our weekly youth group rhythms, and everything else in between. “Up to here the LORD has helped us,” and I have no doubt that He will continue to.

▼ Prepping meals at Mission 2 Michigan





MINISTRY REPORT

Women's Ministry

Jen Gerber, Women's Ministry Director

Women's Ministry has experienced God's faithfulness in so many ways this year as we focused on encouraging and equipping women to be worshipers maturing in Christ.

Our first women's retreat in many years went off without a hitch last spring! Ladies gathered at East Bay Camp for just under 24 hours, where fellowship, laughter, singing, and prayer could be heard. The theme was "Growing Together, Side by Side." This fit perfectly into our mentorship focus for the year. Karen Campbell, the guest speaker, shared about godly discipling relationships and bearing one another's burdens. Two women gave testimonies, ladies from the young adult ministry and Senior High led times of worship through music, and we participated in games and a craft project. Many women spent the night, while some left to sleep at home and rejoined us the next morning. So many thanks to the planning team who thought of every detail! We look forward to hosting another retreat soon, as God guides and provides.



▲ Women's Missions Event

Ana Maria Campos was the missionary guest this year at our Women's Mission Moment. She and her husband, Oscar, serve with Christar and are now residing in Texas. Dr. Ana Maria encouraged and challenged the young ladies and women alike with her message about the unique joys and challenges of being a female missionary. It was amazing to hear the various ways God has worked

through her over the decades and how, in recent years, He has used Zoom classrooms and virtual connections to broaden her ministry far and wide!

The Christmas Tea was a beautiful celebration of the JOY of a life with Christ! Bridget Nelson graciously spoke that night – sharing personal testimonies of God's faithfulness through difficult times and clearly sharing the Gospel message. More and more friends and family of East White Oak regular-attenders join us at the Tea each year, and, as it is currently our biggest outreach event, we praise God for every seed He plants in the hearts of those who have not yet trusted Jesus as Savior! It is exciting to pray, even still, for the fruit of salvation to come from those seeds.

We are asking God to fill us with His wisdom as we seek to understand the needs of the women of East White Oak and how we might help meet those needs.

Throughout the year, our Bible study team diligently organizes and offers multiple studies in every season. We are so grateful for all they do. And these studies could not happen without the women to lead them. Thank you to each of them as well!

The Women's Ministry team has been small this year, but in a season of great prayer. We are asking God to fill us with His wisdom as we seek to understand the needs of the women of East White Oak and how we might help meet those needs. We are looking forward with great expectation! God has been so faithful to answer prayers and meet our every need in the past; we are trusting Him for every part of the future. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. Guide us by Your Spirit, Lord, and give us the strength and courage to follow where You lead. Amen.



MINISTRY REPORT

Men's Ministry

Calvin Fehr, Men's Ministry Director

Looking Back: God's Faithfulness in 2025

Spring Men's Retreat

Our annual retreat last year had the theme "The Lure of Imitation – Why We Need Our Fellow Man." We were blessed throughout the weekend by guest speaker, Jon Hagedorn, from Family Lines. Jon helped us recognize the subtle temptations to imitate the world rather than Christ, and the necessity of walking alongside other men who sharpen and strengthen our faith. Jon also shared his powerful testimony of how God led him through periods of life when he felt disqualified to serve His kingdom. Throughout the weekend, the men who attended were able to apply some of the lessons from Jon in smaller group settings, and spend quiet time in personal reflection and prayer. Other retreat highlights included the fly-tying lessons, a caber tossing competition (very manly, look it up) and another robust game of dodgeball. The last activity was primarily for the younger generations, the old men who were mature in years and full of wisdom got a pass. Praise God for this time where we could grow together as brothers, maturing in Christ and making disciples.

Summer Events and Missions Breakfast

During the summer we had two of our long-standing events: the Sporting Clay Shoot and the Chalk Talk Grille steak fry. The sporting clay shoot was a great opportunity for fun and fellowship with men from inside and outside our church, and more importantly, for the gospel to be heard by all. Throughout the morning, the men flung birdshot downrange, with a surprising amount actually hitting their intended target.

Later in the summer, over 100 men gathered at East White Oak for a delicious steak dinner. It has become tradition that this meal does not include any table coverings or table decorations. This reduces unnecessary distractions and allows us focus on the food and fellowship. Our guest speaker was former Major League Baseball player,

Scott Spiezio. Scott's testimony was an inspiration to those who are walking through the valleys of life. God's redemptive power breathes life back into the lost, and what a joy it is to serve His kingdom.

We closed the year with the Men's Mission Breakfast featuring Kurt Busenitz from RHMA. Kurt and his family have dedicated their lives to discipling throughout rural America. Even though he claims Nebraska corn is better than Illinois corn, we were encouraged by his message and left with full hearts and bellies.

Small Groups

The core of the ministry revolves around men who are meeting in small groups and maturing in Christ together. These small groups include (among others) the Sportsman's small group, the Discipleship group, and the 7 Pillars Group. We are thankful for the men leading these groups and the men involved in each group.

Faithfully Forward: What Excites Us About 2026

As we look forward to 2026, we are excited about the upcoming Men's retreat in early March (by the time this comes out the retreat will likely just have finished). It is a great way to start the year, and we are excited to have Dann Spader join us to share his wealth of knowledge on discipleship. Our theme this year will be "Sent Men: Disciples Who Make Disciples." What a fitting theme as we look to be leaders in our families, church, and community: making disciples. I am thankful for Joe Schierer leading the planning of the retreat this year, as well as the small group of men helping him.

My prayer for Men's Ministry this year is that the planned events and small group discussions can lead to men to strengthen their bond with Christ and with each other. We are called to be leaders—seeking to be worshipers, maturing in Christ.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



MINISTRY REPORT

Missions Team

Ron Miller, for the East White Oak Missions Team

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us . . . that your way may be known on earth. Your saving power among all nations. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy... God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!" Psalm 67

These words from Psalm 67 move us to make God known among all the earth. All the nations should know Him and praise Him. That is the driving force behind our missions team and the work that happens with our mission outreach.

East White Oak partners with over 80 missionaries and mission organizations who are doing a great job as they share and glorify God domestically and around the world. One area we as a team feel strongly about is the care and encouragement of our partners and that we stay connected and engaged as we work together. To that end, we stay in touch as we pray for them, support them spiritually, financially, and emotionally as they serve. Paul tells us to "encourage the saints and bring joy and encouragement that refreshes the hearts of the saints." (Col. 2:2, Philemon 1:7) This encouragement is very important as our partners are on the front lines of the battle and need our encouragement.

As we pursue this goal we want to connect with our missionaries on a deeper level, not only for the encouragement of the missionary but in the process East White Oak members may be able to connect to, minister to, and be challenged by our missionaries. They have the opportunity to become better acquainted with our church family and, we are blessed to get to know them better. They can minister to us and teach in many areas of the church, plus our pastors and leaders teach and train them in local church operations. Hopefully many of you will be able to learn from and spend time with these dear families. We are planning and working on having another one of our mission partners stay with us for an extended time this next year. So, stay tuned and look forward to this special opportunity to connect with another couple.

It is always encouraging to the missions team to see so many folks involved in missions by prayer, giving, and participation in short-term trips. This past year we had trips to Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, and Cedine.

We were blessed, encouraged, and challenged by our Mission Conference this past November. Our theme was "Finishing the Task."

Our theme and key verse came from Revelation 7:9, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, tongue, and tribe, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

We did something different on the first Saturday of our Missions Conference. From 9 AM to 3 PM, we had a 6-hour interactive experience of missions around the world. It was moderated by ABWE and we had 342 people register to attend. It was an enjoyable time hearing about missions around the world and being challenged about our involvement.

During the Missions Conference week, our speakers were three of our supported missionaries / ministries:

- Jim and Paula Roberts with Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Kurt and Denna Busenitz from RHMA shared how to establish gospel centered churches in rural America.
- Oscar and Anna Maria Campos with Christar International focused on the importance of Biblical literacy and theological training of indigenous believers.

Our Sunday mornings looked a bit different as well:

- Paul Davis, President of ABWE, challenged us about our part in the great commission on the first Sunday of the conference.
- The second Sunday, November 9, was Super Sunday! We had the entire church meet for both services in the morning and heard from Jim, Kurt, and Oscar.



▲ One Day Missions Event, November 1

We also were able to hear from Lucas and Jamie Orner who are with us for an extended time as they are unable to return to the ministry they have been doing for the past 17 years. We continue to pray for wisdom as the Lord directs their next steps. We heard from R.G. who spent many weeks this past summer in Mongolia serving. Z.H. shared about his summer in Madagascar, serving with Steve and Becca Orner. Continue to pray for Lucas and Jamie, R.G., and Z.H as they seek the Lord's leading in mission direction. We are excited to see how the Lord will use them for His glory in the future.

This past year, we had some of our missionaries that have served for many years go to be with the Lord: Darlene Noden who served with her husband Dave for many years in Africa and the U.S. with AIM, and Dwight and Phylis Zimmerman who had served for over 50 years with Cedine in Tennessee.

Continue to pray for folks at East White Oak as we all seek what part each of us plays in the grand purpose of the Lord to reach the world with His glory. We are all called to reflect the image and glory of God to a lost and dying world. Our prayer as a team is that each member of East White Oak would become personally engaged in the cause of missions with a heartfelt, God-centered passion. Our aim is not to exalt the missionary but to exalt God and exalt His mission. The precise nature of your engagement in the cause of missions will be different for each of you, whether you go as a missionary or stay as a sender. The primary issue is that whatever you do, do it for the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31), to advance the Kingdom (Matt. 6:33), with the goal to embrace every nation, tribe, and tongue for all to worship the Lord. (Matt. 24:14, Rev. 7:9)

This past year our missions team, with elder approval, sent significant gifts for outreach programs into local schools, travel expenses for missionaries, short term mission trips, supporting local banquets and outreach for such ministries as FCA, Pregnancy Resource Center, and

Salem4Youth. Funding a conference for African pastors associated with Christ Seminary in South Africa, funding evangelistic efforts in a new endeavor for one of our national pastors, computers and sound equipment for one of our supported missions organizations, vehicle repairs, and unexpected medical expenses for missionaries, providing books and training materials for national pastors, helping to fund counseling and refreshment for church planters and missionaries in difficult battles, and more. In addition, a financial Christmas gift was given to all our supported missionaries and our retired missionaries. We praise the Lord for the ability to help fund all these needs!

The strength of the team has always been its committed members, whose love for the Lord and heart for missions has bound them together. Team members this year are Julie Horton, Ryan Andris, Dennis and Janet Schlagel, Josh Fromme, Lynda Landes, Jeff Fritzen, Ron Miller, Jeff VanGoethem, and Keith Studnicki. We sure do appreciate our pastor's leadership in guiding a mission-minded church.

There will be opportunities to be a part of trips coming up this year as well.

Thanks for your prayers as we seek to do the work of the Lord at East White Oak. Please continue to pray for wisdom to be good ambassadors for the Lord, for good partnerships, and that we are good stewards of the resources with which the Lord has entrusted us. Praise the Lord as He continues to use a little church on the corner of a cornfield in McLean County to further His Kingdom around the world. Thanks for your support both prayerfully and financially.

It is exciting to seek the Lord and see what the future holds. We want to be moving "Faithfully Forward: Seeking to be Worshipers Maturing in Christ!"



MINISTRY REPORT

Senior Saints

Kim Smith, East White Oak Senior Saints Director

2025 was a great year for Senior Saints! We attended a Cornbelters game and spent a day at Freed’s pond. We enjoyed music programs, trivia, a history lesson, and “name that tune”. Pastor Walt and the youth treated us to a wonderful evening with the annual Senior Saints Banquet.

Our committees worked hard to plan delicious meals, great entertainment and beautiful decor. Our group has such a good time just visiting and enjoying one another’s company.

We sadly said goodbye to four Senior Saints who were called home by our Lord in 2025. This is one of the hardest parts of our ministry. What a joy to know where they are and that we will see them again. It is our desire as a ministry to make sure everyone attending Senior Saints hears the gospel and feels the love of Christ through us.

Senior Saints needs more workers and help each month. Many of our members have “aged out” of serving. It is a small group of younger saints who continue to serve repeatedly to make our events happen.

We are deeply grateful to East White Oak and the leadership who recognize the importance of what we do. Our seniors feel seen and loved! Thank you for supporting us!



▲ Road trip to the Freed Pond in Lexington, IL



▲ We are grateful for the serving crew who blesses us each month!



▲ Monthly Tuesday gatherings are a great time to visit and enjoy a meal together.



MINISTRY REPORT

Senior Pastor Search Team

Jeff Fritzen, Team Leader

The email subject line was alarming. “Notification: Message rate limit exceeded” it read, along with an explanation that my mailbox had received a large amount of mail from a suspicious sender. Welcome to searching for a Senior Pastor, version 2026!

Our carefully crafted website for Senior Pastor hopefuls at East White Oak had been hacked. The junk messages had been diverted to spam before Microsoft automatically began protecting me by rejecting the emails. By that time, nearly 2,000 had been received.

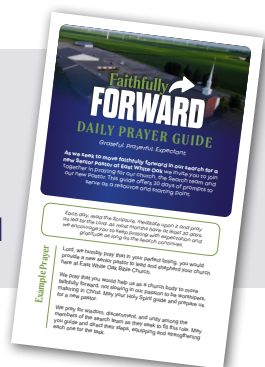
The website was the result of the early efforts of the Faithfully Forward Senior Pastor Search Team with the capable support of the church office staff. It went “live” in mid-January. Since the team was formed last fall, a series of meetings in person and online, plus subgroup assignments, the tedious task of updating a job application, refining our job description, crafting website copy and supporting documents to convey details about our church and community were completed.

The website makes it easy for those interested in being considered to submit personal information, resumes and responses to various questions about family to important aspects of ministry. We are counting on a Christian online job site, numerous seminary job boards and referrals to lead men seeking the pastorate to place themselves into consideration.

Jeff Fritzen	Elia Kudari	Calvin Fehr
Julie Horton	Luke Gentry	Anna Ziegler
Kris Seifert	Don Spaulding	Beth Ann Deal

Prayer Guides are available on our website!

[Click on Oak Central](#)



Of course, our search isn’t merely constructing websites or preparing forms and writing text in hopes of presenting East White Oak well. Perhaps the most critical job completed thus far is the publishing of a prayer guide to enlist the congregation to join us as we seek God’s leading of His candidate to East White Oak, while preparing our hearts for that day and keeping us on mission. Please pray through it, then do it again and again.

The team is faithfully doing the work it is called to do, trusting wholly that the Lord will bring our next Senior Pastor in His time, according to His will.



MINISTRY REPORT

Safe Secure Team

David Congdon, leader of the Safe Secure Team

"...the people who know their God will be strong and take action." Daniel 11:32b

As the Safe/Secure Team enters into a new year of service, I have to tell you that I'm encouraged in many ways.

For the sake of simplicity, I've assigned numbers to the things I'm encouraged about:

1) First, I'm encouraged by the new opportunities that are opening up for the team's training. To be frank, last year we faced a number of obstacles when it came to training. Those obstacles included, but were not limited to, a difficult time finding qualified and certified trainers who were both available and affordable. This year, the Lord has arranged "chance" meetings with several of the very trainers we are seeking. In addition, two of our team members have been led to pursue continuing education in order to become certified trainers in the areas that are most relevant to our needs.

2) We have been blessed by a new relationship with our designated Liaison Officer at the Normal Police Department, Officer Darien Bachman. Officer Bachman has proven to be a great resource as well as a good friend. At our first meeting, he gave a presentation to our team which was tailored to our particular church. He was honest in evaluating the medical and security challenges we face as a congregation:

- He spoke to the fact that hostility toward churches is growing at an unprecedented rate.
- In addition, our particular church's geographic isolation means that response time for emergency services is uncomfortably long.
- He pointed out that on any given Sunday morning, there are only three Sheriff's Deputies on duty for the entire county and that our second line of defense, the Normal Police Department, is at least fifteen minutes away.

He told us that East White Oak is far more prepared for emergencies than the vast majority of churches in our area...He is also very pleased with our medical team.

- That said, Officer Bachman was very affirming about two things:
 - a. In terms of organization, mental preparation and team skills, he told us that East White Oak is far more prepared for emergencies than the vast majority of churches in our area.
 - b. He is also very pleased with the state of our medical team, which leads me to my third point of gratitude:

3) Our medical team. This past year was our first year operating with a separate, designated medical team made up of nurses and EMTs. These folks are dedicated! We rarely have an open slot on the duty roster for Sunday mornings. We have had several times this year when we needed to "call out" our medical team, and response times have consistently proven to be around ninety seconds.

4) Finding our tribe. A quick internet search on the phrase "Finding our tribe" returns this response: "Refers to locating a community of like-minded individuals who share similar values, interests and life experiences." This year, I have noticed the team building bonds, not only with one another, but with Safe/Secure team members

at other churches as well. These relationships have not begun through our own efforts, as much as through God's leading. We have been able to share information, opportunities for training and enjoy the fellowship of the saints with like-minded men and women.

5) Growth. Our team has been encouraged to grow by our elders and deacons, and we have responded by adding more members, increasing our presence on Sunday mornings, and adding a person to Wednesday evenings.

6) Attitude. Members of the team have told me that as they balance busy lives with multiple responsibilities, they regard their service on the Safe/Secure Team as one of their most important priorities.

7) Jiu-Jitsu as outreach. The East White Oak Jiu-Jitsu group, which is primarily made up of members of the Safe/Secure Team, has provided me more opportunities to invite people to church than any other avenue. Neighbors, Airbnb guests, as well as folks I meet at the auto-parts store, have responded positively to the invitation.

We continue to work with our church leadership to adapt to the fast-changing social and cultural environment.

Where we went this year:

Terry Quackenbush and I, who serve as the Safe/Secure ministry leaders, attended two seminars this year: One was called "Protecting Our Places of Worship," and was sponsored by the USCCA, one of the insurance companies which provides insurance to people who serve on church Safe/Secure teams. (Yes, it is a thing.)

The other seminar was provided by Adamaxcqb and was dedicated to defensive scenarios in crowded environments. I have included a picture with this report of another trainee's shredded gloves that speaks eloquently to the intensity of training at that seminar.

We plan to attend at least two more Adamaxcqb seminars this year.

Ongoing Goals:

We continue to work with our church leadership to adapt to the fast-changing social and cultural environment in which the church operates. We strive to be welcoming and inviting while maintaining an appropriate level of vigilance at all times.



▲ Members of the Safe-Secure Team wear red lanyards and nametags



▲ Shredded gloves at the Adamaxcqb seminar



▲ Jiu-Jitsu Group

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2025 / Matt Hughes

Meeting started at 12:15 p.m. Pastor Scott opened up the meeting with a prayer. Jeff Fritzen called the meeting to order. Quorum confirmed.

Last year's minutes were approved. Motion to approve made by Randy Miller moved, Herb Steffen second, motion carried.

Andrew Woodman reviewed 2024-2025 financial report and then moved onto the 2025-2026 budget recommendation for \$1,742,845, representing a 3.0% increase over the previous year.

Ron Miller presented the upcoming Missions budget. The Missions budget is not significantly changing from last year. Josh and Amelia Jenkins are no longer on this upcoming budget with their transition and Larry and Kerry Van Gundy are also now serving at RHMA and we are supporting those efforts. Questions regarding the Missions budget were asked and answered.

Motion made to approve overall annual budget by Jean Frink, second by Harlan Fels.

Jeff Fritzen explained the process of voting.

Elder and Deacon candidates were presented. Motion on the proposed Elders and Deacons was made by Keith Studnicki and seconded by Joe Schierer.

Electronic and paper voting began at 12:35 PM and ended at 12:40 PM.

Music video montage highlighting people and events the past year was played for the congregation, along with individual video presentations.

Pastor Scott presented some thoughts on God's work within the body at EWO over the last year. He also spoke on our church demographics vs local and national demographics and how our local mission field may impact our church in the years ahead.

Jeff Fritzen encouraged the congregation to read through the annual report and then announced results of voting; all elders and deacons received at least 98% approval. Dave Rowden has served two terms and will now be ending his term.

Ron Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Steve Allison seconded. Motion carried.

Jeff Fritzen closed in prayer.

Vital Statistics

Membership

Membership as of March 1, 2025 – 391

Members Added – 18

Allen, Doug	9-14-2025	N, A	9-14-2025
Allen, Kristi	9-14-2025	Rapp, Paul	9-14-2025
Brown, Ken	5-18-2025	Rapp, Gay	9-14-2025
Brown, Karen	5-18-2025	Sackett, Noah	9-14-2025
Clay, Kristin	5-18-2025	Sackett, Joy	9-14-2025
Freimuth, Katherine	9-14-2025	Seeman, Trey	5-18-2025
Kudari, Doxa	9-14-2025	Seeman, Tori	5-18-2025
McClure, Daniel	5-18-2025	Zotz, Jared	9-14-2025
McClure, Elisabeth	5-18-2025	Zotz, Janelle	9-14-2025

Memberships Removed by Request/Inactivation – 28

Deaths – 4

Darlene Noden	5-15-2025	Ron Springer	11-1-2025
Ruth Gearhart	2-28-2026	Phyllis Zimmerman	12-3-2025

Membership as of February 17, 2026 – 377

Births

March 1, 2025 – February 17, 2026

<i>Child</i>	<i>Birthdate</i>	<i>Parents</i>
Molly Boerckel	11-26-2025	Wyn & Kelli Boerckel
Lucy Dalton	10-26-2025	Justin & Sarah Dalton
Lyneah Dalton	10-26-2025	Justin & Sarah Dalton
Josephine Lacey	5-29-2025	Maggie & Corey Lacey
Holt Leman	12-16-2025	Jesse & Tara Leman
Mary McClure	1-15-2026	Philip & Andrea McClure
Joss Phillips	3-31-2025	Jake & Tori Phillips
Baylor Seeman	5-24-2025	Trey & Tori Seeman
Blair Sipes	1-15-2026	Brandon & Meg Sipes
Indiana Taylor	8-29-2025	Joseph & Victoria Taylor
Giovanni Turton	4-8-2025	John & Gina Turton

Baptisms

March 1, 2025– February 17, 2026

Kristi Allen	9-7-2025
Chaius Herbst	9-7-2025
Z.H.	9-7-2025
Levi Hughes	4-20-2025
Elizabeth Jenkins	9-7-2025
Lucy Kramer	9-7-2025
Gay Rapp	9-7-2025
Trey Seeman	4-20-2025
Tori Seeman	4-20-2025
Henry Steele Lacey	9-7-2025
Ava Thompson	9-7-2025

Attendance

Average Sunday morning attendance Mar. 1, 2025 – Feb. 8, 2026

In person – 614 • Livestream / YouTube viewers/groups – 30 • Facebook Live – 3

2025-2026 Leaders Who Served

Pastors



Scott Boerckel
Senior Pastor
January 2011



Traig Whittaker
Senior Associate
Pastor
March 2000



Walt Baertsch
Youth & Young
Adult Ministries
December 2003



Justin Waples
Outreach &
Discipleship
September 2018



Jeff VanGoethem
Spiritual Development
and Missions
October 2021

Ministry Staff



Beth Fromme
Director of Children's
Ministries
March 2023



Sophie McCree
Youth Admin & Director
of Girl's Discipleship
May 2024



Jeff Fritzen
1st Term 2021-2024
2nd Term 2024-2027
Chair / Making Disciples
(Missions)



Todd Haynes
1st Term 2021-2023
2nd Term 2023-2026
Growing in Christ

Elders



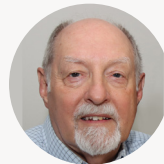
Matt Hughes
1st Term 2021-2024
2nd Term 2024-2027
Making Disciples
(Outreach)



Elia Kudari
1st Term 2023-2026
Rooted in Scripture



Dirk May
1st Term 2022-2025
Growing in Christ



Dave Osenga
1st Term 2024-2027
Worship / Vice-Chair



Jon Scott
1st Term 2025-2028
Rooted in Scripture

Elders serve a three year term. The terms are staggered so that there are generally one third of the terms expiring in any given year. An elder may be approved for a second term, however, after two consecutive terms elders are required to take at least one sabbatical year.

Deacons



Jesse Baird
Current Term
2023-2026
Technology,
Vehicles



Ruston Edelman
Current Term
2026-2029
Chair
Building & Grounds



Calvin Fehr
Current Term
2026-2029
Congregational Care,
Benevolence,
Vehicles, Vice-Chair



Dan Gott
Current Term
2024-2027
Communion



Andy Wallgren
Current Term
2023-2026
Security,
Building & Grounds



Andrew Woodman
Current Term
2023-2026
Finance,
Technology

Deacons serve a three year term. They are not required to take a sabbatical year and may serve as many consecutive terms as the elders determine.

Ministry Leaders

Nursery Coordinator
Stacey Spaulding

Cubbies Director
Maura Crittenden

Sparks Director
Lindsay Weidler

Girls T&T Director
Sarah Masters

Boys T&T Director
Eric Herbst

Adoption / Foster Care
Abigail Waples

Men's Ministry
Calvin Fehr

Women's Ministry
Jennifer Gerber

Missions
Ron Miller

Senior Saints
Kim Smith

Safe-Secure Team
David Congdon

Kitchen Team
Ian Cameron

Lead Usher
Jason White



Financial Report

Summary of our Cash Accounts 4/1/25–2/28/26

Budget Category	04/01/25 Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	02/28/26 Balance
General Account	715,279	1,586,413	(1,598,062)	703,630
Building Fund	9,331	5,196	0	14,527
Vehicle Fund	32,750	13,750	0	46,500
Building Improvement / Maintenance Fund	199,080	81,446	(55,872)	224,654
Benevolence Fund	37,764	8,995	(6,179)	40,580
Adoption / Orphan Fund	12,382	5,000	0	17,382
Missions Fund + Zehr Short Term Missions	180,028	159,794	(115,825)	223,997
Equipment Fund	43,396	13,533	(16,165)	40,764
Memorials	11,435	150	(5,000)	6,585
Sabbatical Fund	6,686	3,667	0	6,585
Totals	\$1,248,132	\$1,877,944	(1,797,103)	\$1,328,973

General Account Details:

Balance April 1, 2025 715,279

Receipts Include:

Offerings 1,539,385
 Facility Fees 5,150
 Interest Income 41,878

Disbursements include:

Budgeted Expenses (1,598,062)

Balance February 28, 2026 703,630

Where are funds located?

Checking Account 72,844
 Lifesong Fund 11,578
 Goldman Sachs accounts 1,244,551
Total \$1,328,973



We budget 18% of our undesignated offerings to Missions. (See pages 36-37)

Giving Stats

\$46,097

Dollars contributed to Short Term Trips, Missionary Care, and Ladies' Mission Circle

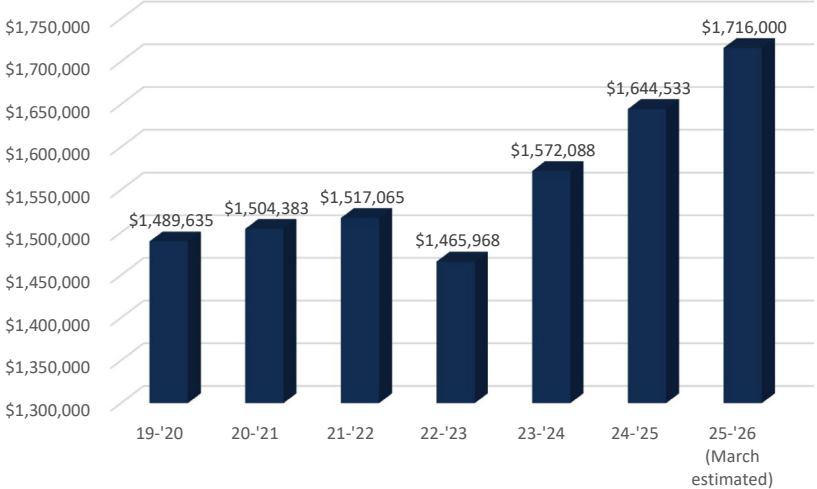
\$113,697

Dollars contributed to our Missions Funds (see page 38 for how these funds are used)

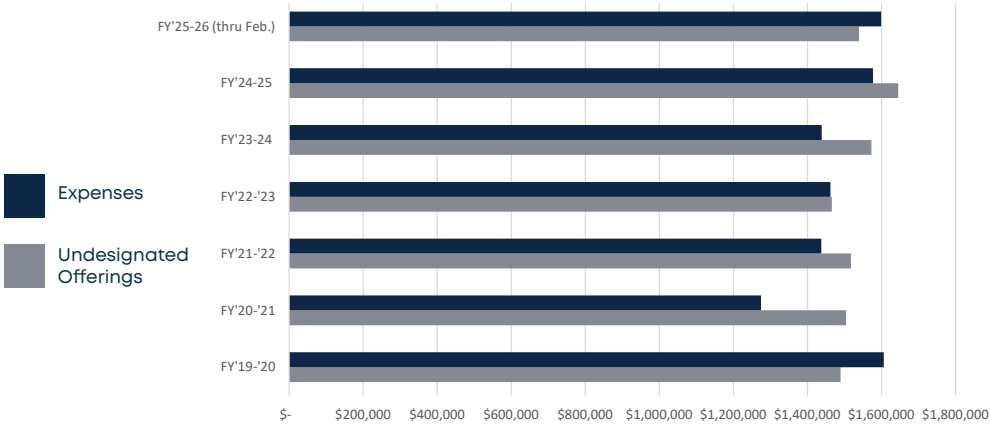
\$8,995

Dollars contributed to our Benevolence Fund, helping members of our church experiencing hardship

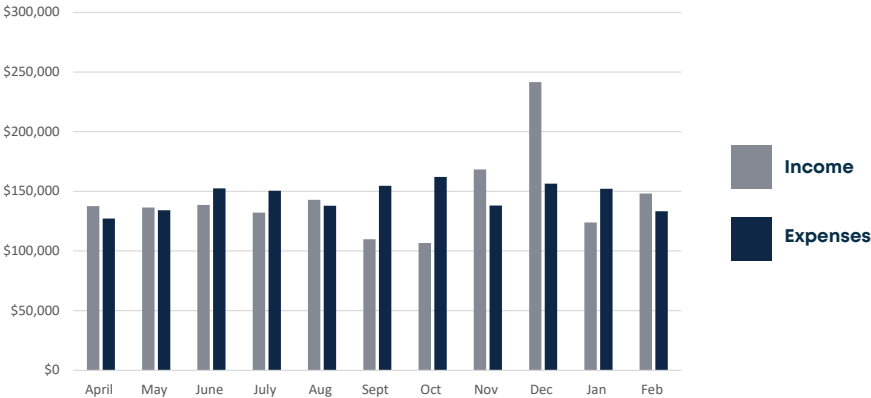
Undesignated Offerings Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to 2025-2026



Expenses to Income the past seven years



Income to expenses current fiscal year



2026-2027 Proposed Budget

2025-2026 fiscal YTD expenditures reflect 11 months: 4/1/25 - 2/28/26

Ministry		2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Fiscal YTD	% Budget Fiscal YTD	2026-2027 Budget	% Increase/ Decrease
5140	Ministerial Expense - Pastors	15,700	14,138	90.1%	16,200	3.2%
5150	Conference Expense - Pastors	10,100	8,474	83.9%	11,050	8.6%
5180	Leadership Development	500	0	0.0%	500	0.0%
5190	Sabbatical Fund	4,000	3,667	91.7%	5,000	25.0%
5313	Library	1,500	1,308	87.2%	1,500	0.0%
5420	Evangelistic Outreach	4,700	2,223	47.3%	3,000	-36.2%
54312	Ministry - Assimilation	14,000	9,264	66.2%	14,600	4.3%
54314	Small Groups	9,200	1,232	13.4%	9,200	0.0%
54332	Children's Ministry	13,250	11,066	83.5%	12,097	-8.7%
5434	Men's Ministry	5,400	2,839	52.6%	6,150	13.9%
5435	Women's Ministry	8,100	3,243	40.0%	6,650	-17.9%
5436	Senior High Youth Ministry	39,640	66,144	166.9%	21,105	-46.8%
5437	Junior High Youth Ministry	21,660	21,584	99.6%	22,560	4.2%
5438	Senior Saints Ministry	6,950	5,337	76.8%	5,950	-14.4%
5439	AWANA	6,000	4,889	81.7%	6,000	0.0%
54396	Singles / Young Adult Ministry	16,000	13,874	86.7%	16,500	3.1%
54397	Prayer Ministry	1,000	0	0.0%	0	-100.0%
5440	Safety & Security	1,825	259	14.2%	1,750	-4.1%
5445	Music	3,500	4,331	123.7%	4,250	21.4%
54502	Missions Support (p.34-35)	294,300	250,758	85.1%	299,700	1.8%
54503	Missions - Ministry Expense	4,800	4,449	92.7%	4,800	0.0%
54506	Missions - Short Term Missions	2,500	378	15.1%	2,500	0.0%
54507	Missions Conference	15,000	15,269	101.8%	15,000	0.0%
5480	Christian Education	2,750	455	16.5%	3,135	14.0%
5512	Socials / Special Events	38,850	34,334	88.4%	33,150	-14.7%
5513	Legacy Generation Ministry	500	0	0.0%	0	-100.0%
Ministry Total		\$541,725	479,527	88.5%	\$522,347	-3.6%

Staff & Payroll		2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Fiscal YTD	% Budget Fiscal YTD	2026-2027 Budget	% Increase/ Decrease
	Pastoral Staff	472,965	454,654	96.1%	486,965	3.0%
	Non-Pastoral Staff	256,709	216,904	84.5%	264,409	3.0%
5122	Personnel - Staff Health Insurance	112,800	120,753	107.1%	116,300	3.1%
51303	Personnel - Moving Expenses	0	0	-	2,500	-
51301	Payroll Taxes	19,638	16,615	84.6%	20,228	3.0%
5131	Personnel Search Expense	0	901	-	4,000	-
Staff & Payroll Total		\$862,112	\$809,827	93.9%	\$894,402	3.7%

Operations

	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Fiscal YTD	% Budget Fiscal YTD	2026-2027 Budget	% Increase/ Decrease
5211 Repairs/Maintenance - Facility	51,850	52,143	100.6%	53,470	3.1%
5212 Repairs/Maintenance - Equipment	16,850	12,704	75.4%	16,350	-3.0%
5221 Utilities	42,300	34,339	81.2%	43,000	1.7%
5230 Insurance	45,400	49,004	107.9%	50,500	11.2%
5250 Equipment Purchases - (<\$2,500)					
52503 Computer/AV	8,750	10,378	118.6%	11,130	27.2%
52505 Youth Ministry	600	459	76.5%	800	33.3%
5255 Equipment Fund	14,000	12,833	91.7%	14,000	0.0%
5311 Supplies - Kitchen	1,300	1,478	113.7%	1,400	7.7%
5312 Supplies - Office	2,800	1,972	70.4%	2,800	0.0%
5315 Supplies - Custodial	4,250	2,713	63.8%	4,500	5.9%
5320 Visibility	9,000	7,052	78.4%	6,000	-33.3%
5325 Software & Subscription Services	19,288	17,647	91.5%	19,950	3.4%
5330 Professional Fees	10	448	4480.0%	10	0.0%
5340 Bank Fees	6,960	5,083	73.0%	6,760	-2.9%
5350 Postage & Delivery	1,100	913	83.0%	1,300	18.2%
5361 Printing Costs	2,700	2,546	94.3%	2,400	-11.1%
5370 Vehicle Expense	8,000	2,302	28.8%	5,000	-37.5%
5375 Vehicle Fund	15,000	13,750	91.7%	23,500	56.7%
5388 Building Improvement / Maintenance	88,850	81,446	91.7%	88,850	0.0%
Operations Total	\$339,008	\$309,210	91.2%	\$351,720	3.7%

Total Expenses

\$1,742,845

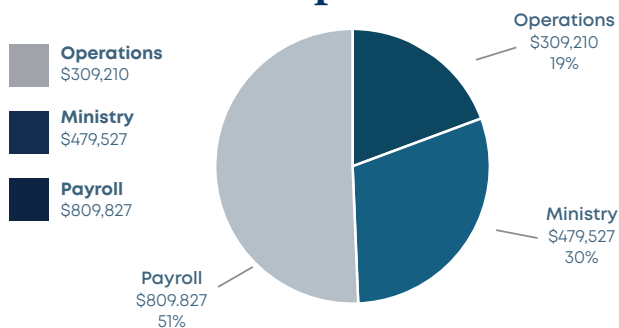
\$1,598,563

91.7%

\$1,768,469

1.5%

2025-2026 Year-to-Date Expenses



2026-2027 Budget Breakdown

Number in parenthesis is change from previous year.

Operations Total
20% of total expenses (3.7%)

Ministry Total
30% of total expenses (-3.6%)

Staff & Payroll
50% of total expenses (3.7%)

Proposed Missionary Support

Missions Budget Detail 2026-2027

Individuals		2025-2026 Budget	Proposed 2026-2027 Budget
Africa Inland Mission	Doug & Lisa Orner	8,400	0
Africa Inland Mission	Jim & Susan Simmons	30,000	30,000
Bear Lake Lighthouse Ministries	Bill & Gloria Bagley	4,200	4,200
Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission	Nancy Eldert	3,600	3,600
Cedine Bible Mission	Dwight & Phyllis Zimmerman	4,800	0
Christar	Dr. Oscar & Ana Maria Campos	9,000	10,200
CRU	Matt & Michelle Kent	9,600	9,600
CRU	Laurie Soliday	5,400	7,800
CTEN	R & T D	16,800	16,800
FamilyLife	Gary & Cindy Blunier	5,400	6,600
FamilyLife	Bruce & Cindy Maurer	9,600	9,600
Fellowship of Christian Farmers	Dennis & Janet Schlagel	9,000	9,000
Global Service Network	Bill & Debbie Miller	5,400	5,400
Global Outreach	Steve & Bekah Orner	12,000	12,000
InterAct Ministries	Lucas & Jamie Orner	10,200	12,000
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship	Jenny Klouse	9,000	9,000
Josiah Venture	Josh & Katie Yates	7,800	9,000
Kids Alive International	Doug & Sara Johnson	9,000	9,000
Missional Made Simple	Todd & Hannah Morr	5,400	5,400
RHMA	Larry Van Gundy	7,200	7,200
Salem4youth	Steve McNair	3,000	0
The Navigators	Josh & Rachel Weakly	3,600	3,600
Trans World Radio	Kalman & Annamarie Dobos	4,200	4,200
World Outreach Ministries	Mark & Meg Kuzdas	3,600	0
Wycliffe Bible Translators	Jim & Paula Roberts	5,000	5,000
New Additions		7,200	7,200
NATIONAL MINISTRY PARTNERS		19,000	19,000
Total Individual Support		\$227,400	\$215,400



Retired Ministry Partners

	2025-2026 Budget	Proposed 2026-2027 Budget
Sheila Dilworth	2,400	2,400
Carol Goodman	1,200	1,200
Chuck & Anita Howard	1,500	1,500
Barbara Kenney	1,200	1,200
Dave & JoAnn Loewen	2,400	2,400
Dave Noden	6,000	6,000
Doug & Lisa Orner	0	4,200
John & Pat Sharp	2,400	2,400
Total Retired Support	\$17,100	\$21,300

Organizations

	2024-2025 Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
As Our Own	3,600	3,600
Calvary Evangelistic Mission (Janet Lutrell)	1,200	1,200
Child Evangelism Fellowship	2,400	2,400
Cornerstone Christian Academy	2,400	2,400
EWO Sight Ministries (Jeff Huettemann)	1,800	1,800
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	3,600	4,800
Home Sweet Home Ministries	3,600	3,600
Interim Ministries (Ron Workman)	600	600
Lake Waubesa Bible Camp	3,600	3,600
Local Campus Ministries	1,800	1,800
Ministry & More	2,400	2,400
Nassa Theological College	2,400	2,400
Pregnancy Resource Center (Living Alternatives)	4,800	4,800
RHMA (Rural Home Missionary Association)	4,800	4,800
Salvation Army-Safe Harbor	600	600
Spread Truth Ministries	3,600	3,600
Tanzania Childrens Rescue Center	4,800	4,800
Young Life - McLean County	1,800	1,800
Cedine	0	4,800
World Outreach Ministries	0	3,600
Salem4Youth	0	3,600
Total Organizations Support	\$49,800	\$63,000

Total Missions Support	\$294,300	\$299,700
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Germany Mission Trip ▲

Costa Rica Mission Trip ▼



Missions Special Giving

Disbursements Fiscal Year 2025-2026 through February 28, 2026

Supported Missionaries

Matt Kent	Vehicle and medical expenses	5,000
Oscar & Ana Maria Campos	Medical and moving assistance	6,000
Laurie Soliday	General support / encouragement	2,500
Steve and Bekah Orner	General support	1,000
Gary & Cindy Blunier	Medical expenses	5,000
Lucas & Jamie Orner	Travel Expenses	3,000
All Supported Missionaries	Christmas gifts	14,250

Supported Organizations

Salem4youth	Fundraisers	1,000
Living Alternatives	Fundraisers	1,000
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Fundraisers	4,000

National Ministry Partners

Joel Simbitti	Christmas Gift, Vehicle Repair	2,500
Micah Ngussa	Christmas Gift	500

Other Special Giving

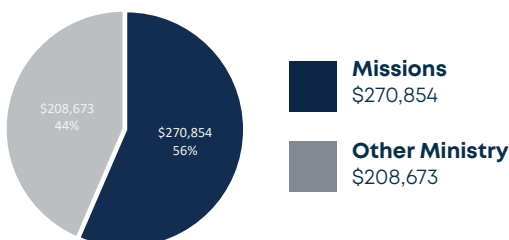
Short Term Trips	Misc. project expenses	3,747
Edwin & Jenny Makiwa	Green card processing	1,200
Abram Kidd and family	Expenses during home assignment	2,500
Authenticity Book House	Print books in Swahili for untrained pastors	2,500
Jared & Heather Bolstridge	Travel expenses	1,100
L.I.F.E Club	Club expenses for school year	1,529
The Master's Academy	Christ Seminary Zimbabwe Conference	1,130
Dallas Theological Seminary	Josh Magwesela expenses	765
Word of Life Fellowship	Todd & Beth Myerdirk - medical expenses	2,500
ABWE	One Day Missions Experience	5,000
CRU Lifelines	Lodging for volunteer team	2,025
Cedine	Bicycles for camp	2,340
RHMA	Brian & Jessica Russell	5,000
Individual Ministry Gifts <=\$1,000		0

Total Special Giving in 2025/2026

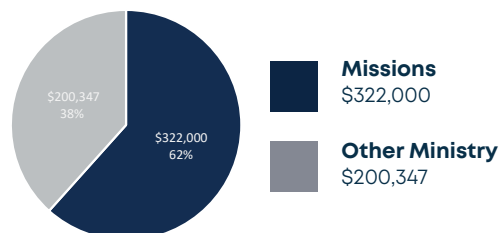
\$77,086

Missions to Ministry Expended '25-'26, Budgeted '26-'27

Expended Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026



Budgeted Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027





▲ Photos from Cedine Bible Camp Mission Trip, March 2025



OUR FOCUS

**Seeking to be Worshipers,
Maturing in Christ.**



East White Oak
BIBLE CHURCH

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