

2022 in review



helping people
find their way
back to God

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!”

- Isaiah 23:18

Coming out of the pandemic two years ago, I sensed God was asking me to challenge our staff and church with these words that paraphrased Isaiah 23:18, “We are not going to look back; we are all going to look forward with determination toward the future that God has for us.” That is exactly what we did! And if 2021 was a year to “*not dwell on the past*,” 2022 was a year of joining God and “*doing a new thing!*”

As you reflect on the stories and read the stats in this 2022 Year In Review, you will see how your generosity has partnered with God to do so many new things! Let me highlight just a few...

We launched 29 new MicroChurches that are reaching **650** people each week in Chicago and around the world!

We have a new presence in a local prison as our services are broadcast on closed-circuit TV inside the prison dorms.

We had a new record number of students who went to summer camp – **596!**

We had over **200** new people go through our LivingUNDIVIDED cohort and take steps toward racial reconciliation and healing.

Through NewThing Chicago, we have planted over **50 new churches**, with another 15 new churches planned to launch next year.

Community Music had **16.7 million new streams** of original music being listened to in 182 countries!

We started something brand new: Community Coaching to train other churches in how to create a B.L.E.S.S. culture.

The 2022 Community Christian Church Year In Review is a huge testimony to God’s faithfulness and how he is constantly at work to make all things new! So, take some time and slowly read each story and remember each number is a precious person that has new life by finding their way back to God.

Thank you for your generosity. I love being on this mission with you!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Ferguson
Lead Pastor | Community Christian Church

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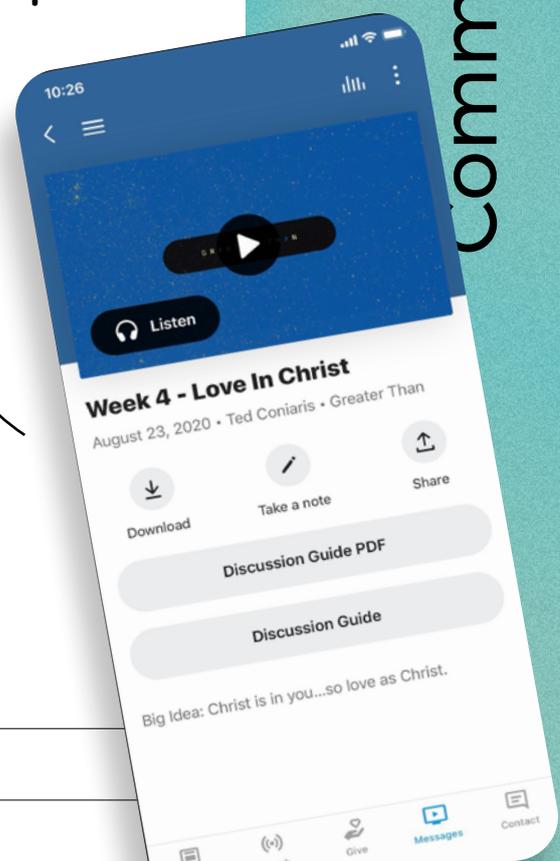
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Download the App!



Community Christian App

Engage with COMMUNITY content wherever you are

2022 SERIES LIST

Revisit your favorite series from the year.



Becoming Like Jesus



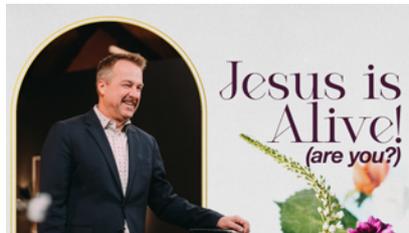
The Holy Spirit



Finding Financial Freedom



Created For Community



Jesus Is...



Vision Sunday



What We're Actually Against



Do The Work



Profiles in Courage



The Book of Philipians



Searching For Answers



Know Thyself



Starting Over



Making Room In Advent



Aurora

This October marked the [one-year anniversary of combining the Aurora and Montgomery locations](#), and God has shown himself in so many powerful ways! Because we combined these two locations, we have been able to strengthen every single ministry. We went from four small groups to seven small groups (and one of them is in Spanish!) we were able to participate in a number of community events in the city of Aurora, and we are growing! Because of this momentum we are planning on starting a second service in January of this coming year. A dream we always had was for our building to be used continuously throughout the week. This year, we were able to do that by developing key partnerships with community organizations. The [Alive Center](#) uses our building for after-school programming, World Relief hosts staff meetings as well as new family orientations throughout the week, and we also serve men who are being rehabilitated at Wayside. God has been so good and we're looking forward to 2023!



Fiestas Patrias

God has shown himself in so many powerful ways!



1-year anniversary of combining the Aurora and Montgomery locations

A dream we always had...



// 2022 IN REVIEW

2022 / Aurora / Community Outreach Pet parade

Carillon

Meeting in the gated Carillon community poses some unique challenges but also allows for strategic opportunities to connect with new people. This year we hosted multiple community events, such as concerts, to gather residents in the Carillon community and were able to gather with hundreds of people who had not been part of our church! With the emphasis on gathering new people, we created small groups that were available to the community at large, and we saw many new people go through Alpha and Rooted. We also had some outstanding responses to messages on forgiveness, seeing a great number respond to prayer! 2022 was a great year for the Carillon location.



Watch the impact of Carillon's generosity to help send students to camp!  

Downers Grove

In February, we celebrated our fourth anniversary, and the party continued in September as we welcomed in the community for a grand opening of our newly renovated facility. Thanks to the generosity of all who partnered with us through BREAKTHROUGH, people of all ages now gather throughout each week in beautiful lobby and classroom spaces for small groups, after-school programs, evenings of worship, community outreach services, and more. Our community is vibrant and growing, with new attenders joining us for worship each week, students bringing friends to join them at StuCo every Wednesday, and our Kids' City classrooms bursting at the seams with children of new families!

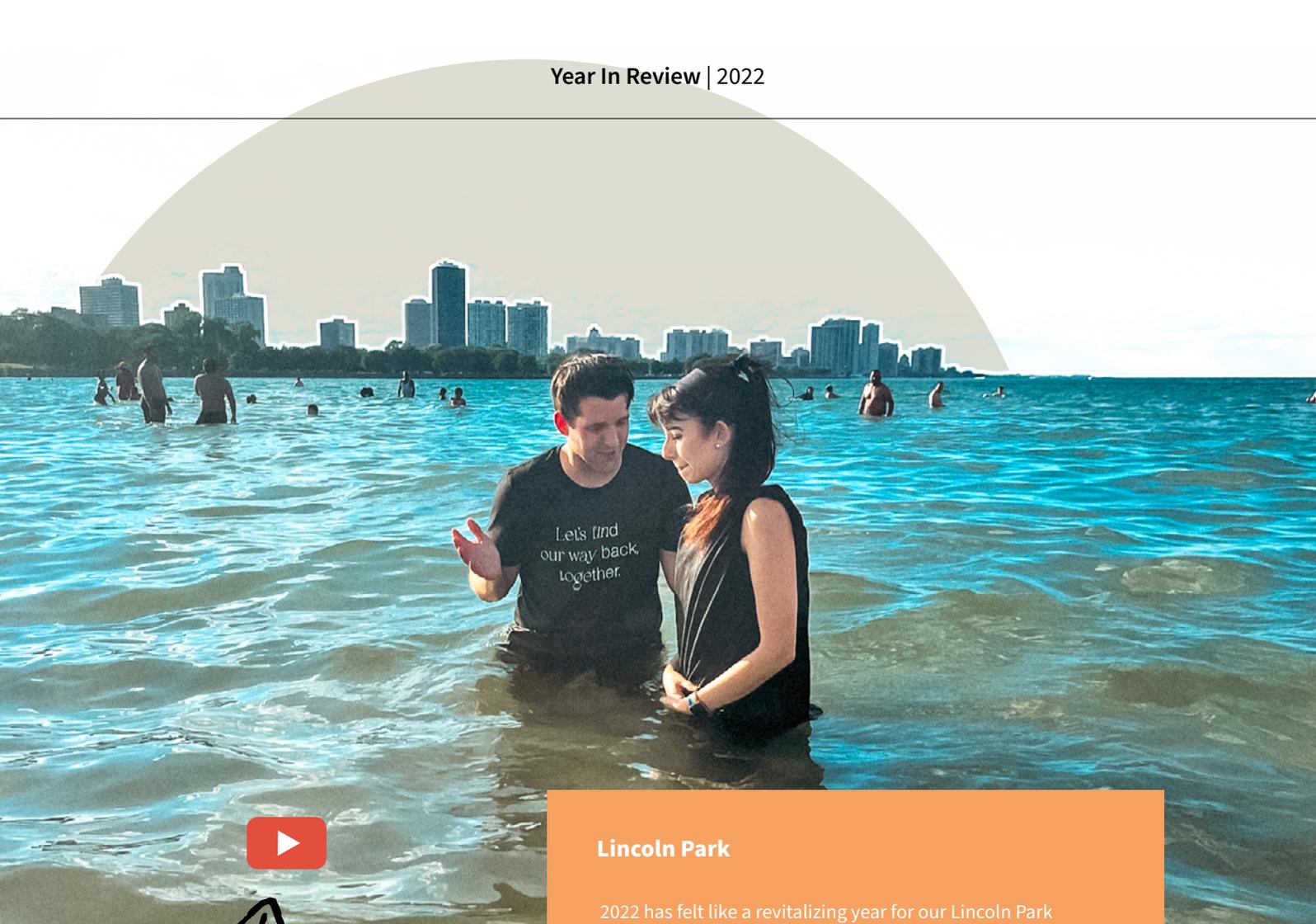
We love every opportunity to partner with our community and bless our neighbors.

This year, we once again celebrated [Easter at the historic Tivoli theater](#) with over 700 people in attendance, and in June we hosted a community worship service on the mainstage of [GroveFest](#) with more than 300 people worshipping outside in the heart of Downers Grove. Our partnership with District 58 has continued to grow; we supported 76 children with backpacks fully stocked with school supplies, donated 22 pairs of snow pants, welcomed families back to school in August, and offered our facility for weekly after-school programs. This fall, we celebrated one year of our Administer Justice Center, where we provide monthly low-cost legal aid to the

2022 / Easter at The Tivoli



vulnerable in our community through the work of a committed volunteer team. Engagement in small groups has continued to grow, with the launch of Thursday Nights at Community and 60 adults joining a group for the first time this year. As we look ahead to 2023, we pray expectantly for God to move in the lives of people like Mike, who during 2022 attended Explore Community, Alpha, Rooted, was baptized, began serving, and contributed through generosity. Mike grew in his connections with God, the church, and the world and is experiencing a flourishing YOU+ life. We are excited to help more people like Mike find their way back to God this coming year!



2022 / Summer



Watch Lincoln Park's Beach, BBQ, and Baptism event!

Lincoln Park

2022 has felt like a revitalizing year for our Lincoln Park location as we came out of restrictions, saw an influx of new people, welcomed new staff, and equipped new leaders. We've seen a host of new initiatives as a result, from Spring and Fall Fest gatherings in Oz Park, to a packed lunch drive to serve the homeless, to a Saturday discipleship retreat this past Fall. We've seen that our celebration services at Lincoln Hall feel like a beacon of hope every Sunday to the neighborhood, as newcomers will sometimes walk in off the street or recognize our location as they find us online. Along with Sunday attendance (which has been growing!), our small groups have also flourished, as those who were previously lonely and disconnected have been finding their way back to God through friendship, meals, and intentional community with other Jesus followers in the city. Kacey Nichols is one such person who moved into the city after a bad breakup to start a new job and was delighted to find not only that Jesus loved her more than she knew, but that **there was a community in the city that loved her and wanted to help her use her gifts**, musically, serving, and eventually as a leader of a small group. We're praying this next year is going to involve more urban professionals and families who are invited, perhaps for the first time, to move from a YOU life to a YOU+ life.

Naperville

This last year was a year of new beginnings at the Yellow Box. We had several transitions throughout the year, which meant we said goodbye to some great friends. We also said hello to new friends, new leaders, and even more people engaging in the Jesus mission. We welcomed Jon Jones, our worship pastor, to the team. He has revitalized the Arts ministry on Sundays with many new artists contributing to the team and many familiar faces joining after being away since the pandemic began. In the past year, we've seen many new people join our Kids' City and StuCo teams to invest in the next generation. We've seen almost all our high school students

and a connection to the Holy Spirit that I have never felt. I don't take one second on stage with this team for granted!" ([watch his video here](#))

We are seeing more people step into apprenticeship and leadership in women's groups, men's groups, Alpha, and Rooted. We've started new small groups for families with young children, and we've seen our marriage groups help bring restoration to couples struggling in their relationships. We've had excellent traction inviting friends and neighbors to our outreach events like Neighborfest, Christmas at the Café, and Easter at the Café. We have just under 1,000 adults, students, and kids connected

“I've been longing for a place to belong...I've found those people and more.”

engage in leadership by stepping into other areas of the church ministry, like Kids' City, and they are doing a great job equipping and empowering them. **We've also seen 30 people say yes to Jesus through baptism.**

Joey's Story: "I joined the Naperville Yellow Box Worship Arts team in the spring of 2021 — also the most challenging season of my life. Joining this team at that exact moment was no accident. I've always loved to play — but being part of this team — playing for Him on Sunday — has shown me a type of love for my drumming that I've never had —

and serving in a small group or on a ministry team. Finally, more people have shown up to find hope and connection on Sunday mornings since we began meeting in person in the early months of 2021.

One person who came to the Alpha course had this to say about their time at COMMUNITY, "I feel so much comfort and love from all of the people I formed relationships with at Alpha. It has given me so much hope and has filled me with love. I've been longing for a place to belong and feel welcomed & loved. I've found those people and more."

**WHEN YOU LEAN INTO
YOUR PASSION AND LOVE
FOR JESUS, HE TAKES
CARE OF THE REST,
AND THAT PASSION IS
CONTAGIOUS!**



2022 / Naperville Baptism

Another person who recently joined a small group said, “I have enjoyed meeting new people who are on a journey in life just like me.” Finally, one young leader had this to say about her time working with teenagers in Student Community (StuCo). “I’ve been able to see students who were at once super shy open up and make friends at StuCo. Some come from tough environments, and they have a place to belong at StuCo!”

We’re so grateful to see how God has worked in and through our community, even through painful transitions. It is a beautiful reminder that God’s faithfulness to his work doesn’t rest on one person or leader but is the work of the whole church longing to connect with God and each other for the restoration of the world. Besty Connors from our worship team said it well, “I have learned when you lean into your passion and love for Jesus, he takes care of the rest, and that passion is contagious!” We’re looking forward to seeing God’s work in 2023.

Plainfield
2022

*Nikki McNeil and
Gary Spinka*



2022 was a year of reconnecting, but also making new connections with nearly four out of ten people brand new to COMMUNITY in Plainfield! Dozens took steps to connect into existing small groups, while new groups were started to accommodate needs like marriage, pre-marriage, budget & finances, support & recovery, prayer, and for those new to faith in Christ. Leadership development remained a high priority, including Small Group Leader and Connect Team Coach Tony Pelters, who's team welcomed and made connections with over 900 first-time attenders! Saying "yes" to

Jesus through baptism was a monthly highlight with more than 70 people taking steps of faith, including Luke Alvarez who stepped out of his wheelchair to boldly proclaim "Jesus is my Lord and Savior." ([Watch Luke's story here!](#)) Generosity took on a whole new meaning when long-time Small Group Leader, Nikki McNeil felt led to donate her kidney to small group member and friend, Gary Spinka. As one new single attender told us, "I don't go places by myself, except here. Thank you for this church!", because when you are part of COMMUNITY, you are never alone.

"I don't go places by myself, except here. Thank you for this church!"

"I love Jesus and I want to declare my faith to the Lord in a public setting. I was baptized as a 9-year-old but I didn't understand it fully. I am stuck in a wheelchair and I shake but it's only temporary because God's kingdom is in heaven where I will have eternal life." - Luke Alvarez (right)



When you are part of COMMUNITY, you are never alone.



Yorkville

2022 has been a year of rebuilding and reimagining for our location! As we close out this year, we now have a full staff and are building a strong foundation for growth into 2023! The words we have been holding onto as we entered into the Fall is that we are building a FIRM FOUNDATION. This has started with our small groups and we launched three new Rooted groups. In total, we have seen 87 people launch into 10 small groups this year! More than we have had in the past! In October, we had a Family Community event with Kids' City and StuCo and saw 85 people participate. **Nine people have taken the step of baptism this year!** We see this foundation growing even more as we add new people to our serve teams in all areas (Worship, Production, First Impressions, StuCo, Kids' City and Small Groups)! As we look into 2023, our vision is to build on this foundation as we reach our growing local community here in Yorkville!



Watch some of the baptisms that happened this past year in Yorkville!



Community Online

Community Online has continued to see remarkable growth and momentum over the past year! We pivoted a lot of our messaging this year to help better connect our global audience to each other, including creating communityonline.info as a central hub for our online community. Our goal this past year was to develop deeper relationships with attenders around the globe through small groups and online connection events. With a focus on those objectives, we were able to use digital technology to connect attenders with our MicroChurch planting program in Africa and [India](#) and see them grow into MicroChurch leaders! In addition, our digital small group, led by Brandon Bernicky, has welcomed new small group participants from around the country and from Macao, China. We're on track to launch three new global small groups in the new year! We've seen dozens of new people connect online via Alpha, Rooted, Explore Community, and through some online connection and vision nights. It's been

fun to get to know our global community and to provide a safe space to connect, share life, and be on mission together, regardless of proximity! We want everybody to be known and to know the love of Jesus. One story that stands out is Chad and Rae's. They live in an RV and travel around the country, but connect week in and week out with Community Online through Sunday services and our digital small group. [You can watch their story that we shared back in September during a Be The Church moment!](#) We're excited for 2023!



T

T Glee Grateful to the church and all of you that make this service possible for me to attend online.

now



expression:

MicroChurch



MicroChurch

God has opened so many doors as we continue to train, equip, and empower people to start MicroChurches around the world. This year we were able to train six more leaders who are taking steps towards starting new MicroChurches, some here locally, but also a new one in Washington. Our international MicroChurch movement continues to grow as we have added eight more in India who are now reaching 650 people each week! This year alone, we baptized more than

66 new Christ-Followers and more are waiting to be baptized. We are incubating a MicroChurch for special needs in Aurora and we are about to start our first MicroChurch in an assisted living facility in Naperville. We are currently training leaders from Uganda, Cuba, and the US! God is good!

[Watch the commissioning of MicroChurch Leaders from this past summer!](#)



Baptism in India

// COMMUNITY FREEDOM

2022 was, in many ways, a year of rebuilding post-COVID. Our relationship with the Joliet Treatment Center (JTC), despite the challenges of the pandemic, has continued to thrive! There, our services are now being broadcast on the closed circuit TV inside the prison dorms, and I (Eric Dorsey) have begun going in twice a month on Tuesday afternoons to do one-on-one dorm visits.

The stories of life transformation and men finding their way back to God in the DuPage County jail have been so encouraging! Stories like [Micheal Burhman's](#) and [Jimmy Annoreno's](#) are what we imagined when we first started Community Freedom.

This was the first full year that our Give Hope Reentry team has been at work in supporting returning citizens and their families. We held our first Give Hope Reentry Summit back in November at our Aurora location and it was a huge success. This event was attended by over 50 people made up of formerly incarcerated, families of incarcerated, local government, other support agencies, attorneys and employment opportunities. We look forward to building on the momentum in 2023 from what God has started in 2022!

[Community Freedom in the news!](#)



This year in Kids' City, like most of our ministries, we have experienced a lot of change. Change is HARD but change is also good. We have seen **apprenticing at the Director level** at its finest as we welcomed Jill Diaz, Lauren Wise's apprentice, to the Kids' City Director team. Jill brings an eagerness to learn and understand our Kids' City values and best practices, and a creativity and desire to partner with parents ... amazing qualities that had an opportunity to develop because of an ICNU conversation!

Growing a team after the pandemic was **CHALLENGING**. But, at the very same time, experiencing less than average attendance provided our Kids' City small group leaders the ability to connect deeper with the kids in their small groups. It also



provided us the opportunity to try something new: **Small group sign-up for kids!** Currently, **251 kids** have committed to attending a Kids' City small group consistently across all of our locations. We learned many things from this first experience, and we look forward to implementing best practice strategies to increase that number at all of our locations within the coming year.

God gave us the space to rethink and reimagine what Kids' City might look like in the future. In that space, God revealed an awareness of the need to partner with parents in far greater ways than we have previously done in the past. In that space, God revealed an awareness of the need to partner with parents in far greater ways than we have done previously. Along with a COMMUNITY-wide focus on discipleship, a

framework has been set for having conversations across ministries (adults, students, and kids) about how best to partner with parents. God planted the seed of the direction He was preparing us to move, and is providing pieces of that roadmap this year! Also, this past year we implemented our first Family Worship experience where we saw the positive impact of inviting children into corporate worship, while encouraging parents to be the spiritual providers within that worship experience. We were excited to provide that experience again this holiday season!

Kids' City

Watch Ryan & Drake's story of what it means to serve in Kids' City!



STUCO

We had a record number of students at Summer Camp this year — **596!** And we've been taking a look at why we do what we do in order to be intentional about building relationships, creating a sustainable ministry where students are learning about Jesus, and honoring our leaders by giving them opportunities to rest and be poured into. Throughout the year we had many students make the choice to publicly commit to follow Jesus by getting baptized, and have had even more students recognize that it is time for them to recommit their lives to Jesus and accept His perfect grace and forgiveness. We have also had **202** students attend StuCo for the first time!

One Naperville student went to camp knowing her friend would likely pass away. She knew that going to camp would be a space where she would be surrounded by her small group to support her while she dealt with the loss of her friend. Her friend passed away on the last day of camp, and she was able to process the life and love she had for her friend with her small group while they prayed over her and provided her with encouragement and love. StuCo is FOR each other!

Curious was Summer Camp looks like?

Check it out here!





Community Cares

Throughout the year our Community Cares teams are working to address the areas of poverty, incarceration, education, and racial reconciliation. Uniting people together to be agents for reconciliation in our communities impacts everyone; volunteers and community members alike. It is the work of shalom, the effort to bring wholeness and completeness to individuals and to the world.

Our LivingUNDIVIDED team has worked over the past year to host four cohorts, shepherding more than **200 individuals** on a journey toward racial healing and solidarity. For leaders like Scot Gilian, it is the opportunity, post-retirement, to do work he is so passionate about. He writes: “I am so grateful to be able to keep living into my calling as I pursue my passion for racial healing and justice. LivingUNDIVIDED at COMMUNITY has given me not only the chance to lead, but also relationships, opportunities, and challenges that keep me learning and growing.”

For leaders like Michelle Williams, “it’s an opportunity to put my faith in action by combining my love for Jesus and my passion for social justice and equity for all. It warms my heart that my church encourages us to work toward a more equitable community by engaging in the difficult work of repairing race relations within the church so we can reach and serve others outside the walls of the church.”

For participants like Kim Bayon, it provided the opportunity for restoration between her and her niece-in-law. [Watch Kim’s story here!](#)



Small Groups/Adult Ministry

...stories of lives changed and people surrendering their lives to Jesus.

After my career was over, I felt lost and without direction and purpose. This year, I reconnected with the Lord in a most unlikely place...

This past year, adult small groups began to see the flywheel turn by offering our core groups of Alpha, Rooted, and Explore Community. We've seen over 400 people participate in these core groups! There have been many stories of lives changed, people surrendering their lives to Jesus, and personal stories of transformation.

Keith recently started attending our Yorkville location and immediately joined a Rooted group. As a result, he recently decided to get baptized, and here is how his story is unfolding for him. . .

When I was a boy growing up, I lived in a Christian home and accepted the Lord as a youngster, and was baptized. At the time I didn't know how to develop a meaningful relationship with the Lord. But I always knew that he was right there with me.

As a young adult, I worked on finding my career path forward. Being a protector of the people came naturally to me, and I devoted 30 years to serving my country in various capacities.

After my career was over I felt lost and without direction and purpose. In January of this year, I reconnected with the Lord in a most unlikely place, and I started reading the scriptures daily a short time thereafter.

I continually listened to the Holy Spirit and what God had put in my heart. I started singing for the Lord, and after a month and a half, we held a gospel music event.

So much is developing this year. God is not only reconstructing me but also constructing things in my life to use for His purpose, and I feel like I'm on a clear trajectory to do great things for God's Kingdom in the future.

So I am here today to rededicate my life to Christ and for the Church here to bear witness to my new beginning in my walk with Jesus, and be part of my baptism.

Watch Dana's Story



Community Music

Community Music had a fantastic year releasing its first full-length album, [A King Like No Other!](#) It's been beautiful to see these songs not only speak into the lives of those within our community but also make their way around the world. We were pleasantly surprised to have a woman from Florida join us at our BREAKTHROUGH Celebration (Album Release night) simply because she's been so touched by our music, and didn't want to miss an opportunity to join us in worship! We've also seen *Make Room* continue to make an impact; climbing the charts, now #33 on CCLI, and being sung globally in places like the Philippines, Brazil, and Hawaii! Being given the opportunity to lead at three conferences this past year, as well as another one already lined up for 2023, Community Music continues to be blown away by the blessings of our King and looks forward to helping more people find their way back to God through the gift of music.

[Watch Grace Like Waters \(Cafe Session\)](#) filmed for Worship Together
Watch all of Community Music's Videos on [YouTube!](#)



16.7M
Total Streams



80,000
Average Daily Streams



47,000
Average Daily Listeners

Streamed in 182 Countries

NewThing

The NewThing Chicagoland Movement has had an incredible year. Since 2019, 50 new church plants have come through our Chicagoland Networks; 15 of those church plants are set to launch by end of the year or in early 2023. We have also multiplied our Networks, growing from five Networks to eight Networks in 2022. Through multiplication and apprenticeship, we have seen our leadership diversify and become more indigenous to the communities we're reaching. There are many wonderful stories, but one that stands out this year is Ronald Childers. Ron has been working on a new church plant in partnership with Compass Church in Naperville and one of our Chicago Networks to launch a new community on the south side of Chicago. The collaboration of suburban and urban churches is a beautiful reflection of partnership within God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.



creating a B.L.E.S.S. culture

**Community
Coaching Launch**



B.L.E.S.S. Austin

We are in the beta phase of launching Community Coaching as a ministry to serve and come alongside church leaders to help them be more effective in accomplishing the Jesus Mission. We have had many requests for additional resources specifically related to COMMUNITY's B.L.E.S.S. strategy and the book authored by Dave and Jon Ferguson. In response, Community Coaching launched a 6-month coaching cohort of 8 churches with 40 leaders from the Austin, Texas area who are developing a plan to train and mobilize their churches to create a B.L.E.S.S. culture. We are excited about this new venture and pray that it gives COMMUNITY even more opportunities to coach and encourage other churches.

Attendance

Average in-person attendance **2,624 (total)**

First time attenders total **2,564 (69/wk)**

People serving on a team at some point in 2022 **572**

1,650
Adults

397
Students

577
Kids

Average online weekly attendance (live and on-demand) **2,708**

385
Groups

1,484
Adults in groups

269
Number that went through Rooted

Kids' City

566
Weekly average

539
New kids this year

291
Kids' City leaders

Students

372
Weekly average

47
Small groups

Giving

Total (projected): **\$8.2M**
(Jesus Mission only): **\$6.25M**

Network breakdowns

Network 1: \$4.31M
*Coniaris (Naperville, Aurora,
Downers Grove, Lincoln Park)*

Network 2: \$1.86M
*Ciesniewski (Plainfield,
Yorkville, Carillon)*

\$82k
Online

\$1.1M
Justice Deposits

Celebration Generosity 2022 total: \$300,527
15 year total: \$7,143,141

BREAKTHROUGH Total Given: \$3.05M

\$4.2M
Total Pledged

620
of Pledges

find your way back to God

Resource Allocations

T O T A L : \$ 8 . 9 5 M

Reach, \$4.13M, 46.1%

Reaching those who are far from God

Expressions Ministries & Operations

Catalyst Ministries & Operations

Facilities

Capital Replacement Savings

Restore, \$2.02M, 22.6%

Restoring God's dream for the world

Community Cares

Compassion International

Philippine Frontline Ministries

Global Missions

Benevolence

Cars of Hope

Reproduce, \$2.8M, 31.3%

Reproducing the Jesus Mission in others

NewThing

Multiplier Fund

Leadership Residents

New Locations



Connect with
COMMUNITY

communitychristian.org

hello@communitychristian.org

1635 Emerson Lane
Naperville, IL 60540