

BRIDGE



TWENTY TWENTY THREE

*anniversary
report*

JESUS TRAVELED THROUGH ALL THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THAT AREA, TEACHING IN THE SYNAGOGUES AND ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE KINGDOM. AND HE HEALED EVERY KIND OF DISEASE AND ILLNESS. WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE CONFUSED AND HELPLESS, LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RICK PALADIN

Thank You for your generous and faithful giving to see Jesus' Church built and His Kingdom expanded! As you will see in this publication, we have experienced consistent, sustainable, and significant growth in our church. May we continue to take bold steps of faith, restoring and equipping every member with the same compassion, urgency, and prayer of Jesus found in Matthew 9:35-38. As a leadership team, we are doing everything possible to see as many people as possible begin a relationship with Jesus and become fully devoted followers of Jesus. Together, we will make 2024 all about training, equipping, and releasing the life-changing, transforming power of Jesus in and through His Church!

Let's continue growing, serving, and giving as if heaven and hell are real!

HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "THE HARVEST IS GREAT, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. SO PRAY TO THE LORD WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE HARVEST; ASK HIM TO SEND MORE WORKERS INTO HIS FIELDS." JESUS CALLED HIS TWELVE DISCIPLES TOGETHER AND GAVE THEM AUTHORITY TO CAST OUT EVIL SPIRITS AND TO HEAL EVERY KIND OF DISEASE AND ILLNESS. MATTHEW 9:35-10:1

Matt & Alexa

MURRYSVILLE



Matt grew up in a Catholic household, and Alexa grew up in a Christian household. We were occasional churchgoers throughout our dating years. It had become more important for us to find our own church once we were engaged in May of 2022. We began our search for a church family.

In August, we decided to visit the White Oak Campus when Alexa mentioned that her friend from college shared Bridge City Church on her social media. Our attention was immediately caught by a message from the Sunday School series. We started coming consistently weekly to the Murrysville Campus since it was closer to our home. Everyone we met made us feel welcomed from the moment we walked in the door. We were greeted with hugs and even remembered by our first names every week we came. We were surprised to receive a thank you card in the mail for attending and quickly became connected as we met more people each Sunday.

Alexa joined a Women's Connection Group during the 2023 Spring semester. The group study deepened her faith in being alongside other Christian women. We attended Next Steps, and each of our relationships with God grew. We were amazed by how intentional the pastors and other church members were in building relationships with us. They were genuine and caring. That summer, we began our marriage prep with Pastor Eric and Rachel. We were a little anxious but looked forward to this next step together. That evening, we decided to commit to a small wedding ceremony at the church and be baptized at the Outdoor Worship Experience. From there, we began to see the many blessings from

God in our daily lives from obeying His word. By being devoted followers and remembering who Jesus is, we experienced joy and peace during the winds and waves of this transformative time in our new marriage. We continued our Marriage Mentoring with the Bimbers and joined our first Young Adults Connection Group led by Jared and Mary Kean. The Young Adults group was Matt's first experience in a Connection Group. It expanded our knowledge of God together and helped us connect with other devoted followers of Jesus our age. We felt so overwhelmed by the love and support from the members of Bridge City Church that we wanted to give back in any way we could.

We began serving in the nursery together and helped with childcare for the Embrace Grace ministry. Matt also started serving on the Ushers Team, and Alexa joined the Connection Point Team. We are beyond grateful for all the discipling opportunities Bridge City Church offers. We started attending Leadership Connections to help equip us to become leaders in the future. There is no other answer but God for all that we have experienced and are still experiencing as we continue to grow in our faith in Him. Thank you to all the members of Bridge City Church who saw potential in us and continue to pour into our life together.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7



1010 people attended our outdoor worship experience



24 people took their next step with Jesus and were water baptized that day!

Linda

My Bridge City story began almost 40 years ago when I answered an altar call at the Holiday Inn in Forest Hills. I found Word & Worship Fellowship and never looked back since. I found my place in my new family and began to be discipled by many of the people you may know now. I was surrounded by people who genuinely loved me and desired to see me grow.

A few years passed, including a marriage, a son, and another baby on the way. After praying, we felt called to join the new church plant North of the city with Pastor Gary, Donna Paladin, and a small group of others. God blessed Hosanna Church from the start. The building you all know now as the Brighton Heights Campus was a gift from God.

Years passed, and the vision to love God, share the gospel, and equip the saints never wavered. Like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, my husband and I left to search for a new home. Our teen sons chose to stay and continue to serve and grow in their walk, being discipled by people we knew loved and cared for them. We had peace that they were exactly where they needed to be to become men of God.

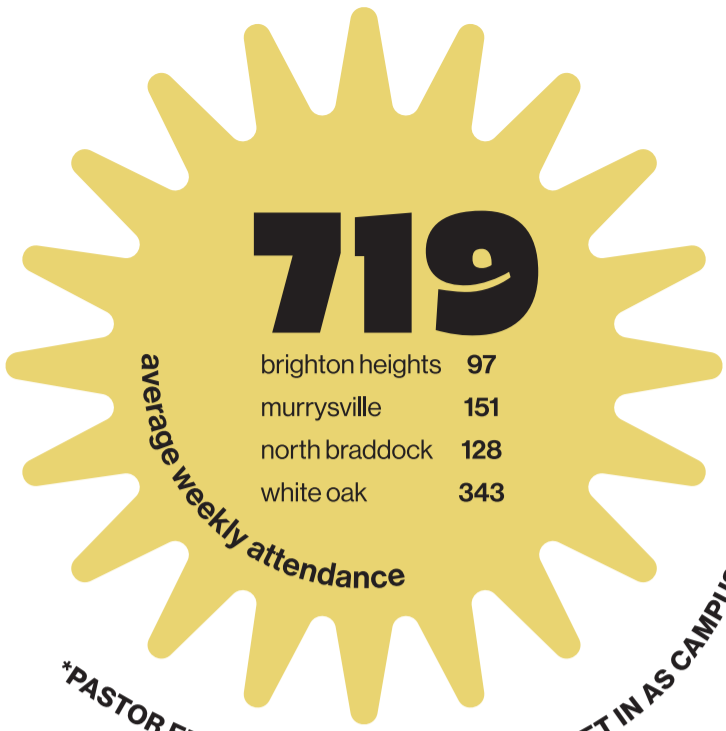
BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

During our absence, Hosanna Church joined Bridge City. Despite many changes, their vision remained the same—to love people, glorify God, and spread the gospel to the lost. Our sons and their families were attending and serving at Bridge City. Having found no church "home" for ourselves, we attended the Easter Service with our family. During worship, I felt God tell me that we were truly home again. My heart longed for a place with authentic worship and genuine love, and like the prodigal son, I was completely accepted and restored in that moment.

I knew I needed to take the Next Step class, renew my membership, faithfully attend a Connection Group, and build relationships. I am looking forward to beginning the Growth Track as well.

Over the years, God had spoken words over my life that I thought I had lost due to wandering in the desert. But God gave me a scripture: Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV): "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it". God's plan for me isn't over, and it will happen as I continue to grow. Bridge City is where we belong!

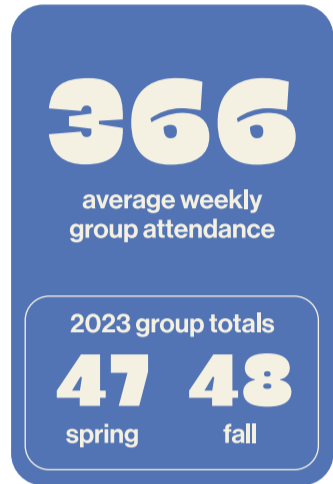




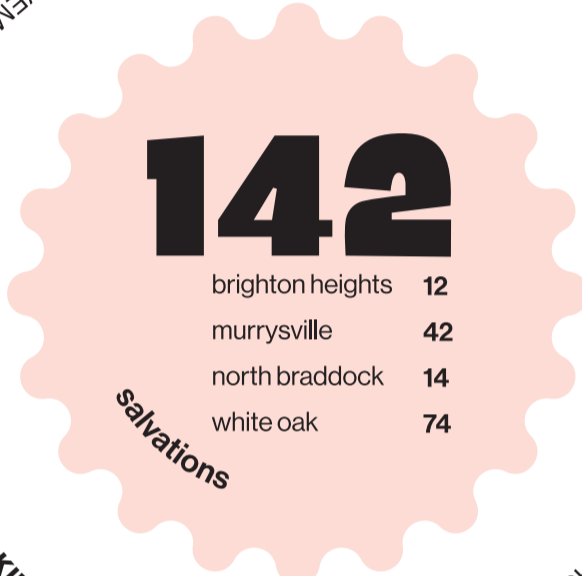
*PASTOR ERIC BIMBER WAS OFFICIALLY SET IN AS CAMPUS PASTOR AT OUR MURRYSVILLE CAMPUS



*OUR GROWTH TRACK HAD 129 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE IN JANUARY · 82 PEOPLE IN MAY · 105 IN NOVEMBER



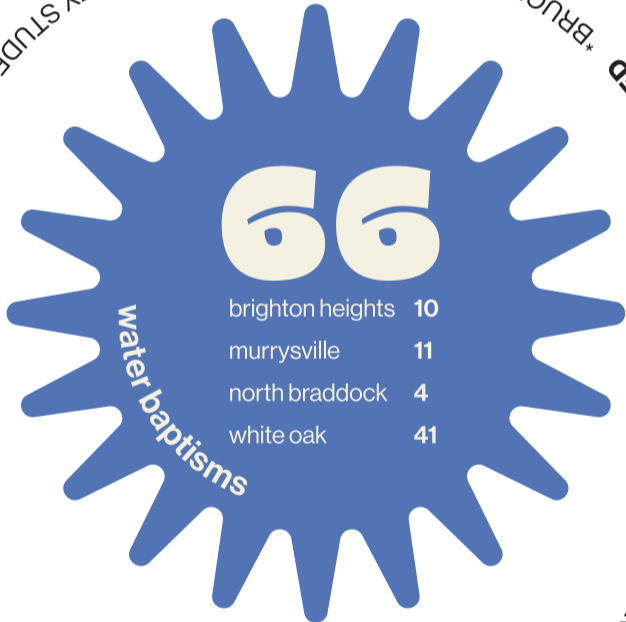
*WE CELEBRATED OUR A-TEAM BY TAKING 300 PEOPLE TO THE PIRATES' GAME



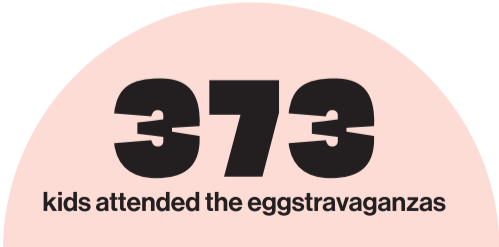
*48 CHILDREN WERE DEDICATED TO JESUS *WE DONATED OVER 400 THANKSGIVING MEALS



*BRUCE POWELL BECAME THE BRIDGE CITY STUDENTS DIRECTOR



*WE SAW 20 PEOPLE GET WATER BAPTIZED *DURING OUR NOVEMBER GROWTH TRACK, 41 KIDS PACKED BOXES TO GIVE AWAY AT OUR FOOD BANK



*OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP NIGHT HAD 436 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE AND WE SAW 20 PEOPLE GET WATER BAPTIZED



caden

NORTH BRADDOCK

My story at Bridge City Church began 22 years ago when I was born into this church family. Back then, it was Word & Worship Church, the North Braddock campus was the only location, and the first Shrek and The Lord of the Rings movie just came out. Kids these days will never understand! I have grown up through the many seasons of the church's past two decades and appreciate what God has done personally and corporately.

Bridge City Church has given me countless memories. Some of the fondest ones occurred during Christmas time. Every year, my parents and a few others had the daunting task of putting up a tall Christmas tree in the North Braddock Campus auditorium. I am almost certain that my fear of heights derived from watching my dad hang ornaments suspended on a precarious ladder 20 feet off the ground. I still remember every Bridge City Kids teacher I had, one of them being Pastor Nick. Each of them helped nurture my young relationship with Jesus and walked alongside me as I made Him the forgiver of my past and leader of my future. I am a result of Bridge City Church's mission to not lose a single child to the world!

One thing I love about the church is the focus on giving your time, talents, and treasure so that as many people as possible can have a relationship with God and become fully devoted followers of Jesus. This core message was modeled for me by the people at my campus since I was young and has been foundational in my Christian walk. The leaders in my youth group were the first to push me to join the youth worship team, the first team I served on. I knew very little about music at this point in my life, but my brother was a drummer on the adult worship team, so I was

also given the arduous responsibility of learning to drum! He must have made me play the song, Oceans, by Hillsong United 600,000 times. After months of focused practice, tears, prayer, brotherly quarrels, and broken drumsticks, I passed the audition. Through the years that followed, God taught me how to dig deeper in worship. He used the older generation and those in authority to shape and mold me spiritually during the process. Even though the journey has been difficult, all I had to do was say "yes" and surrender to the Holy Spirit's direction. In 2022, I became one of the worship leaders at the North Braddock Campus and began to teach and perform music professionally. Now, I can use what Bridge City Church cultivated in me to multiply the Kingdom of Heaven and bring glory to King Jesus. What an incredible honor!

A few months ago, I came across some old music sheets used by worship team members in the 80's and 90's. They were buried in the room right behind the stage. Each binder had hundreds of songs in them from many different eras. I realized how long God has been working through Bridge City Church. For over 40 years, people have been preparing this space for others to have an encounter with Jesus. Men and women gave their time, talents, and treasures so that lives like mine would be eternally altered. The stage I stood on every Sunday was built by my dad and many others who gave without hesitation. Their legacy is something that I intend to carry and pass on to future generations.

I did not get here by my own strength. God put me in the care of believers willing to challenge me, push me out of my comfort zone, and call me to be a part of a movement much bigger than myself. I have witnessed the transforming power of Jesus here firsthand, and the community has consistently demonstrated what being a family looks like. If you are new to Bridge City Church, I promise you have already been prayed for! There are countless opportunities to give, grow, and go. Learn how to have a relationship with God and join a movement that started with Jesus over 2,000 years ago!

gethse • grows • give • go

We've only been part of Bridge City since July 2022, but boy has that time been a whirlwind for us... our family's world had collapsed, and we were completely broken. Our daughter, Katelyn, came to us and said that we needed to go back to church, to which our response was, "You find us one, and we'll go." We should have known that wouldn't be the end of the discussion. She came back and told us about seeing what a girl who attended Bridge City posted on her social media and that it might be worth checking out her church. We were greeted by Randy Young at the top of the steps on our first visit and immediately felt welcome. He had no idea how broken we were or what an impact his hug that morning meant. Jim joined us the following Sunday and agreed we may have found where we were meant to be.

My husband, Jim, was invited to join Jim Armstrong's Connection Group. He was a little hesitant, not knowing what to expect, but he went anyway to try it. He came home from that first group excited about the men he met and how welcoming they were. Jim Armstrong quickly became a mentor and support system. Jim next stepped out of his comfort zone and attended Victory & Freedom, and there, it's safe to say his life was forever changed. We ended 2022 with Jim being baptized on New Year's Eve!

In 2023, we faced an unexpected curveball that usually would have knocked us entirely out. However, Pastor Nick said something that had a profound impact on us. He simply said "So" and made us realize we didn't need to fix everything ourselves. Instead, we could trust God to complete the work He had started.

In June, Jim started cycling with Pastor Nick and a group of men from the church and, surprisingly, loved it! Monday's cycling with the guys became his favorite day of the week. Jesus sure shows up big in the everyday little things!

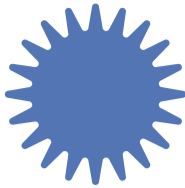
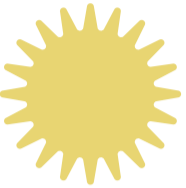
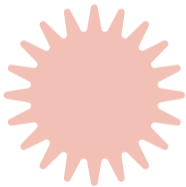


This fall, we joined a marriage group together. This was my first time participating in a small group, so I was nervous. However, I quickly settled in and became comfortable. We learned that while we had 30 years of marriage under our belts, we were going through the motions and had long lost our priority as a couple. We took a belated 30th-anniversary getaway in November, and while there, Jim surprised me with a marriage proposal that had never happened 30 years ago. We are now moving forward with Jesus as the heart of our home and marriage. The following 30 years are going to be better than the first!

We can never possibly thank enough the amazing people who have come alongside, not just us, but our kids. Last New Year's Eve, Pastor Rick taught about praying for double in 2023. Our son Brandon was baptized in August at the Outdoor Worship Experience, and our daughter Katelyn rounded out 2023 and was baptized at the New Year's Eve service! I don't think there's any better double than that!! Be careful what you pray for because when God shows up, He shows off BIG time! Our family is forever changed, and we know He's just getting started with us.



lisa & jim

WHITE OAK

We exist so 
that as many
pe ople as
possible will
begin a
relationship
with *God*
and bec ome
fully devoted
f ollowers
of *Jesus* 



Missions



honduras

Five people went to Honduras to minister alongside the Buffalo Dream Center



guatemala

Twelve people ministered to kids and adults in remote villages in the mountains



pittsburgh

113 people served the communities around our campuses and city



buffalo

17 people served the Buffalo area with the Buffalo Dream Center



buffalo

17 students attended the NRP youth conference and then served and ministered with the Buffalo Dream Center

MINISTRY	AMOUNT	<i>one</i>
School in Bomi, Liberia	\$41,855	\$26,400
Kenya ROAR School	\$16,000	\$16,000
Mission Trips	\$22,886	
Guatemala vehicle	\$10,000	
Food Distribution	\$22,747	
Alms	\$14,241	
Women's Choice Network	\$5,000	\$5,000
Network of Related Pastors	\$22,550	
Guatemala (Katie & Wesly Sanchez)	\$15,000	\$10,000
Liberia (Sydney & Musu Thomas)	\$8,212	\$6,600
Local Churches	\$9,000	\$7,500
Buffalo Dream Center	\$5,000	\$5,000
Pittsburgh Dream Center	\$10,000	\$10,000
Refuge for Women	\$8,000	\$5,000
David Hawkes Ministry	\$3,600	
Embrace Grace	\$2,098	
Turkey Relief Aid	\$5,000	\$3,500
Elijah International Ministry	\$1,200	
Israel	\$5,000	\$5,000
Adult & Teen Challenge	\$3,000	
Ukraine	\$750	
Missionary Support	\$8,780	
Market Square Outreach	\$325	

TOTAL GIVEN AWAY \$240,244

\$100,000 of the total given away was from the *one* vision campaign



2024 TRIPS

Honduras	May 11-18
Kenya	June 19-30
Pittsburgh	June 20-22
Buffalo	July 7-13
Guatemala	July 13-20
Liberia	November 7-16



TRIP DETAILS HERE
bridgecitypgh.com/missions



income

\$1,692,861

tithes & offering

12.71% increase in tithes & offerings from 2022 (\$1,501,912)

Brighton Heights	\$243,642	19%
Murrysville	\$465,424	3%
North Braddock	\$500,535	19%
White Oak	\$483,260	13%

\$381,575

one vision campaign

amount received in 2023

\$98,087

missions & outreach

missions offerings, mission trip payments, food distribution, alms

\$96,234

facilities & operations

facility use, equipment sold, savings interest

\$65,849

conferences, events & guest ministry offerings

guest speaker offerings + event registrations

\$32,016

payments & all other offerings

celebrate recovery, new campus fund, merch + book payments, miscellaneous offerings

\$2,366,622

expenses

\$878,225

40% of our expenses

salaries & benefits

23 full time and part time employees

\$484,087

22% of our expenses

facilities

rent, maintenance, utilities, capital improvements \$62,570

\$433,893

21% of our expenses

operations

Sunday worship experiences, next generation + group costs, subscriptions + legal + insurance costs, gifts, ministry expenses, one vision campaign expenses

\$240,244

11% of our expenses

missions & outreach

local + foreign missions support, food bank, alms, mission trip expenses, community outreach

\$139,631

6% of our expenses

conferences, events & guest ministry

campus + church-wide events, guest speaker honorariums, seminars, trainings

\$2,176,080



*Brighton Heights auditorium update

one

vision campaign

- Total commitment amount \$1,825,578
 - Received to date \$999,169
- 55% of our goal!*



*North Braddock entrance update

groups

We believe that connecting to other believers is a vital part of your relationship with God. These connections allow us to encourage and build one another up. So we offer small groups for both men and women, young and old. Join a group today!

This summer, Activity Groups are coming back! More details coming soon!



Next Steps

In Next Steps, you will learn how to become an active and growing part of our church, discover your gifting, and make a difference in the lives of others. Visit the Connection Point for more info on taking your next step!

JR + SR HIGH STUDENTS

BRIDGE CITY STUDENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

 **ENCOUNTER**
CONFERENCE

June 19-21



MARRIAGE MENTORING

Marriage Mentoring uses a biblically-based approach to help strengthen marriages. You and your spouse will meet with trained mentors for 10 weeks who will provide guidance, truth, and love to help you walk through issues toward solutions.



Follow us online!

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