



**LIFE
CHAN**

LIFE CHANGE. LIFE GROWTH. LIFE PURPOSE



2024
ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION: TO HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCE LIFE CHANGE LIFE GROWTH AND LIFE PURPOSE

The Lord HAS DONE THIS, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:23

This report celebrates and shares our collective gratitude to the Lord for His work in 2024. It is with great joy that we recount the incredible things God has done through The Village Christian Church.

Our Online Campus reached a record 657 people per week through YouTube, Facebook, and The Village Live. This 24/7 digital ministry continues to connect with people across the globe, leading many to then engage with our physical campuses.

At our Seneca campus, we weathered the challenge of a flooded basement in the spring, but emerged with a beautifully restored and expanded Kids Ministry space. Patrick Ugolini's leadership as Community Pastor has been a true blessing. Seneca plans to add a second Sunday service in 2025 to accommodate continued growth, and will celebrate 4 years of ministry in February.

The Coal City campus celebrated 2 years of ministry in December 2024, now reaching over 200 people per week. This fast-growing community is expanding its facilities by 3,400 square feet, creating space to welcome up to 500 people weekly.

Our newest campus, Shorewood, launched on November 3rd with 215 people in its inaugural service. This campus, operating out of Trinity Christian School, is poised for incredible opportunities to reach more of the Shorewood community.

Even as the Minooka campus sent 100 people to support the new Shorewood location, God has already replenished those ranks. Minooka celebrated 20 years of ministry in October and will add a third Sunday service in late January 2025.

In the pages that follow, you will read stories of lives transformed by the power of God. Every number represents a person, every name a story, and every story matters deeply to our Lord.

We are humbled and grateful for God's provision in His Church!



Nate Ferguson
Lead Pastor



CORE VALUES

Our Priorities to Drive The Mission Forward

We are committed to serving God and carrying out the church's mission – to help people experience Life Change, Life Growth, and Life Purpose. Staying focused on our Core Values is key.

THE BIBLE IS OUR GUIDE

We don't get caught up in rules & regulations, but allow scripture to lead the way.



EVERYBODY GROWS

We equip our community with opportunities to build relationships with God & others.



EVERYBODY SERVES

We provide serving opportunities so you can use the gifts that God uniquely gave to you.



NO BORING HERE

We have fun learning about God, growing in our faith, and serving with people we love.



ONE CHURCH, Many Locations

At the Village, we believe in equipping our people from within to lead. It's been a year of creating team structures, refining our processes and team building in every ministry. In spring of 2024, Nick Sandeno stepped into his role as Minooka Community Pastor. Recognizing an opportunity to bring greater cohesion to our ministries, he spearheaded the creation of Central Services—a central group that helps bring cohesion to our core ministry functions.

The Central Service team consists of communications, worship, children's and student ministries. This dedicated group serves as a vital resource hub, providing support, guidance, and unified direction to our Seneca, Coal City, and Shorewood campuses. Through their work, we're ensuring consistent, high-quality ministry experience while empowering each location with the tools and coaching they need to thrive.

In the middle of our organizational changes, we witnessed God's faithfulness in remarkable ways.



MINOOKA

This fall, 100 people were set to start our Shorewood campus and we watched in awe as God brought more than 80 new faces through our doors within weeks. Our services are now FULL—a testament to God's provision! We're deeply grateful for the dedication of our team members and coaches who have embraced new service roles, making this transition both smooth and successful.

What a year it's been at our Seneca campus! Sure, we hit a bump in the road when some plumbing problems flooded the Kid Village basement this spring, but that didn't slow us down one bit. Pastor Patrick and his amazing team rolled up their sleeves, putting in countless hours to fix up, paint, and rebuild the space - all while keeping our Seneca community going strong.

The Kid Village team got super creative during that time and turned the great outdoors into an awesome classroom experience. Over the year, Pulse Students at West Campus experienced record attendance and those monthly after-service brunches turned into the perfect chance for everyone to hang out and have a blast. Looking back, what started as a challenging year ended up being way better than anyone expected! Thank you God!



SENECA

- We partnered with the Seneca Park District to serve treats at numerous events in town. At Christmas at Crotty Park, Pulse students and leaders served hot chocolate and cookies to hundreds in attendance.
- One of our favorite, and most well attended Sundays, was Mother's Day service at Graves Park. It was the most beautiful day and we loved celebrating our moms and special women in our lives!
- Our Pulse Students Thanksgiving was the most well attended kids and students events of the year! Over 98 students came to eat turkey and all the fixings at West Campus in November!



COAL CITY

- Through Reclaimed, we were able to give away and deliver 45 Thanksgiving meal boxes to families in need.
- Over 20 people signed up to serve as teammates after our "Everybody Serves" message during the "I Love My Church" series.
- A Dream Team was created to think of creative ways to bring and continue to lead people to Jesus!
- Led a school supply drive to provide 400 bags of school supplies for various grades and partnered with Coal City's first "Back 2 School Bash."
- After a message, 4 people responded publicly showing their faith in Christ through baptism.
- Fall Fest welcomed several new families and the Kid Village team made sure it was fun for everyone- NO BORING HERE!

What a year it's been in Coal City! God's perfect timing never fails. As more people have found their way to our Coal City campus, we've watched our services fill to capacity - even running out of seats on November 17th! But God was already ahead of us. Pastor Mike and a group of teammates had already begun construction expanding across the hall. This new space will welcome 80+ more people and double our Kid Village area. We can't wait to see how God uses this expanded space when we open in January 2025!

What an incredible year it's been in Shorewood! The Core Team spent months building deep relationships and preparing for something amazing! We found an incredible home at Trinity Christian School, a facility that opens up endless possibilities for reaching our community and expanding God's kingdom. As we look back at 2024, we're in awe of how God moved - from making connections in the Shorewood community, to hosting unforgettable events, to our team coming together like family, all leading up to our incredible Grand Opening on November 3rd where we welcomed record numbers! But this is just the beginning - we can't wait to see how God uses this campus to transform lives in Shorewood in 2025!

- We connected with our community at Crossroads Fest in Shorewood, introducing our new church, meeting neighbors, and building relationships while handing out freebies
- Our Core Team family picnic brought everyone together for grilling, whiffle ball games, and social time before launch
- Opening Sunday on November 3rd, 2024 was filled with incredible energy as we welcomed 225 people and saw our Core Team eagerly serving wherever needed
- A week later, we celebrated our first baptisms as Nicki and Juan Cortez publicly declared their faith in Christ



ONE CHURCH, Many Locations

ONLINE CAMPUS

Encountering Jesus and Experiencing Church Anywhere, Anytime



642

AVERAGE
OF PEOPLE
WATCHING
PER WEEK

“ When my wife and I moved to Texas the biggest thing we missed was our church at the Village! So glad to have church online so that we can stay connected even from Texas. I can even still do men's group every Saturday!
-Craig & Dawn, Online Campus



“ I love joining church and group online! It has made such a big impact in my life even here in Massachusetts.
-Stephen, Online Campus

182

Highest viewed
Sunday message
on YouTube: At
The Movies -
Home Alone



Why online?

Life is busy. Work, your significant other, kids, activities, the house, friends, and you're just trying to balance it all. It can be hard. We get it. You're trying to do the best you can, but life brings challenges. Sometimes you just can't physically get to church on a Sunday or you're uncomfortable with the in-person experience. It's okay. We're here to support and encourage you.

DIGITAL MINISTRIES

Stay Connected Virtually To Be Encouraged And Equipped

4,567

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

1,360

YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS

2,252

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

198,906

VIEWS OCT - DEC 2024

65,403

YOUTUBE VIEWS

64,300

VIEWS OCT - DEC 2024

A 24/7 online approach increases opportunities for community and for someone to start a relationship with Jesus. Digital ministry takes advantage of the other 167 hours in the week beyond the 1-hour church service to share the good news of Jesus.



TOP FACEBOOK REEL:
20th Birthday Cake Flip
19,102 views!



1,597
PLAYS OF
THE PODCAST IN 2024
17
GUESTS IN 2024

A place to listen to incredible stories where God has been at work.

Social media is one of our first impressions as a church. It's a way we communicate who we are, what we believe, and why we love Jesus so much! We see it as a ministry! It's our chance to meet people where they're at, encourage them, and help them to know Jesus. We also like to consider it a light in a place that can be challenging-online.

We often hear that people heard about us or saw us on Facebook or Instagram. This year, we saw many prayer requests come through and lots of questions. We love these opportunities to connect. Perhaps our favorite messages are the many who reached out with questions prior to coming to their first service. We are able to give them a warm welcome and ensure someone connects with them on that first visit.
-Sarah Becerra (Social Media Manager)



**HOW TO FOLLOW OUR
CHURCH IN YOUVERSION**
1. Download the YouVersion Bible app
2. Tap Discover
3. Search for The Village Christian Church
4. Choose your preferred location
5. Tap "Set Preferred Location"

Stay connected during the week. A lot of life can happen in a week.

653
PEOPLE NOW SET
THE VILLAGE AS
THEIR CHURCH ON
YOUVERSION

NEW TO JESUS!

Life Change, Through Baptism. A Public Commitment to Say YES to Jesus!



630
BAPTISMS SINCE
THE VILLAGE
OPENED
IN 2004



“ I made mistakes and listened to the enemy for too long! God has blessed me even through all my mistakes and failures. I decided it was time to reclaim my life back and totally surrender to His will and plan for me! I prayed and prayed, and God led me back to church. I didn't think I would belong but I was so wrong about everything! Now I just want to serve the Lord and fulfill his purpose!
”
- Kristen, Coal City Campus

89
BAPTISMS
IN 2024



“ I want to get baptized because I want people to know that I choose to follow God. I also want to follow God more than I did before. I want to set a good example for my little brother. My favorite story in the Bible is the parable of the lost son. It teaches you to come back after you make a bad choice and it teaches you that God is always with you where ever you go.
”
- Mora, Coal City Campus





REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED,
EVERY ONE OF YOU, IN THE
NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR
THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR
SINS. AND YOU WILL
RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT.
- ACTS 2:38



“ I want to publicly show that I am completely abandoned to Jesus who saved me so many times in my life, even when I felt I was not worth saving, Jesus never gave up on me. Now I just want to work to grow His Kingdom and share the LOVE of Jesus Christ with anyone who will listen. My marriage was healed, I am rebuilding relationships with my children and life is so good now I want the whole world to see that I am a follower of Jesus and will never turn from Him.

- Cathi, Seneca Campus



It was a beautiful weekend to celebrate 2 baptisms! We are so excited for husband and wife to make the decision to get baptized and live for Jesus! We can't wait to see the amazing things He will do in their lives!

- The Krippel's, Minooka Campus

“ When I was little I was dedicated as a baby and grew up in a Christian household. Shortly after I turned 21 I found out I was expecting. My mom had a friend through the church who was a leader in Embrace Grace which is for single expecting mom's. I decided to attend the first class of Embrace Grace, and it truly changed the relationship I had with God and I knew I wanted to pursue a stronger relationship with Christ. So today I can't wait to see the plans God has in store for me.

- Kia, Minooka Campus



On September 22 we were wrapping up the teaching series, Keep It Simple, with a message about baptism. These two ladies, Margaux and Sara, are just a couple who made the decision in the moment to take the next step of baptism! We are praising God for these life-changing decisions!



CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

Life Growth, Through Community. Love Jesus and Love Each Other!



22
PEOPLE
WORKING
THROUGH
DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

One-on-one weekly meetings for a year to explore spiritual gifts and purpose in God equipping us to disciple others.

“Not only have I been able to help someone grow in their faith with Jesus, discipling someone also strengthened my faith and understanding. Not only that, I have found a new friend which is amazing!”
- Dina, Minooka Campus



EVERYBODY
GROWS

“My favorite part of doing discipleships has been that they allow for an atmosphere to not only learn more about God’s Word, but to see just how it shows up in everyday life situations. They provide a space to discuss challenging topics or real-life scenarios and to do so with both love and truth. Church services and life groups are crucial to a person growing in their faith, but I think a 1:1 discipleship provides another unique place to grow so “iron sharpens iron.” - Mike Strunga, Coal City Campus Pastor

679
PEOPLE
CONNECTED IN
42 GROUPS

WHAT IS A LIFEGROUP?

Lifegroups are a place to take a break from those busy demands of everyday life. They are a place to build authentic friendships - connect with friends, laugh, and serve together. Hang out with your people, love Jesus and each other and experience community - that’s where life growth happens!



ROOTED EXPERIENCE

Connect With God, The Church, And Your Purpose



LIFE GROWTH HAPPENS HERE

Rooted: A 10-week experience to learn and practice 7 rhythms essential to a healthy relationship with Jesus and build strong roots in the truth of God's Word, the Bible.



“ Year after year, Rooted provides the opportunity to experience Life Change, Life Growth, and Life Purpose. For many, this program was a huge part of them believing in Christ and accepting salvation for the first time, making the choice for baptism, joining a group, learning how to pray, finding an area to serve, and find healing through God's redemptive love. It is one of the most impactful discipleship programs we offer, and we were thrilled to have our largest group yet take Rooted in 2024! - Cassi Norman, Connections Coordinator

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7



MISSIONS

Life Purpose, Through Service

10,000+

PEOPLE SERVED OUTSIDE OF
OUR CHURCH WALLS

\$310,558

GIVEN TO MISSIONS
IN 2024

\$2,748,185

GIVEN TO MISSIONS SINCE
THE VILLAGE OPENED IN 2004

Reclaim3d, the charity arm of The Village Christian Church, exists to reclaim bad circumstances into something beautiful locally, regionally, and globally. Founded in 2016, Reclaim3d is a non-profit that helps people in need and provides hope in a world that's sometimes hard to handle.

LOCAL

- We provided 20 mobile food distributions (10,000 pounds of food per event) for local communities. Each mobile food pantry served approximately 100 families!
- The Big Give for Kids served 450 local kids with a free pair of brand new shoes, 2-3 bags of gently used school clothes and an enormous amount of school supplies to start the year!
- We ensured no child went home hungry through our weekend backpack program, which supported over 100 students in the Minooka/Channahon school system throughout the school year.
- Our benevolence program stood by ready to help community members with essential needs, including counseling services, utility assistance, vehicle repairs, and emergency support, when personal crisis arose.



- 1700 families served during mobile food pantries
- 70 families served Thanksgiving dinner in holiday boxes
- 44 families served with Christmas presents (107 kids)
- 200 families served by Miss Pearl's Christmas store
- 150 families served at Dance The Night Away
- 100 families served through utility assistance
- 200 families served at The Big Give For Kids
- Countless others in Haiti from the 100,000 Lifeline meal pack

**10,000+ people impacted by
Reclaim3d in 2024!**



MISSIONS

Life Purpose, Through Service

REGIONAL & GLOBAL

- We treated 160 special needs guests to a prom-like atmosphere called "Dance the Night Away" this past spring.
- We partnered with Ms. Pearl's Daycare in Chicago's Roseland community, which provides free childcare to single mothers pursuing education or employment. Her organization operates entirely on donations. We supported her vital ministry through our annual Christmas store and year-round initiatives to help families build paths toward self-sufficiency.
- We hosted and completed the Lifeline Mission 100,000 meal pack in November
- We provided support to Heart for Africa by selling ornaments. The sale of ornaments helps to support orphans in Eswatini, Africa.
- We financially assisted Destiny Rescue, an organization that rescues and restores 3,000 plus kids from human trafficking.



**EVERYBODY
SERVES**

“

*What an amazing
experience bringing all
of the campuses
together to serve and
pack meals for the
hungry!
And it was fun!*

**NO BORING
HERE**



ATTENDANCE

Every Number Has A Name. Every Name Has A Story. Every Story Matters To Our God

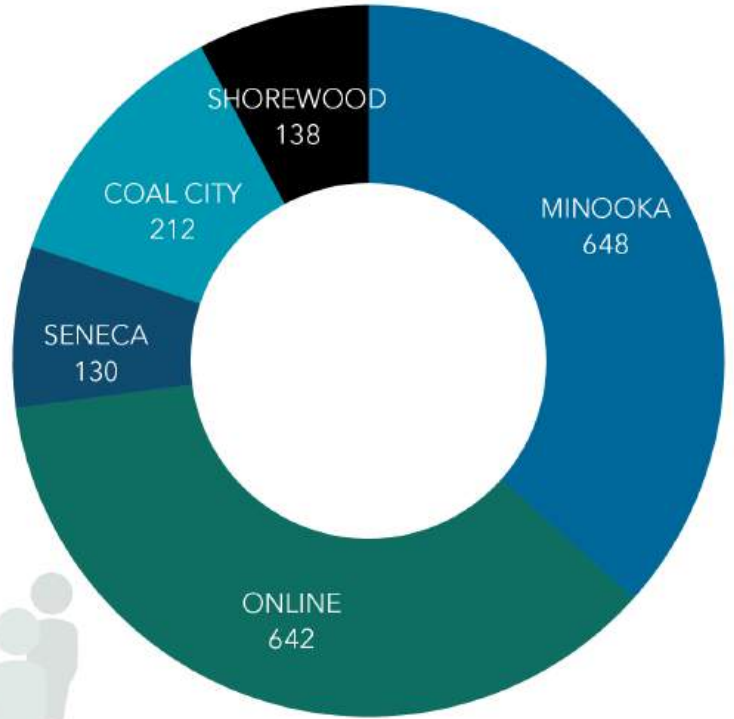
1,659
AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE
ACROSS ALL
CAMPUSES



2,424 EASTER SERVICES
ATTENDANCE

2,913 CHRISTMAS SERVICES
ATTENDANCE

■ MINOOKA ■ ONLINE ■ SENECA
■ COAL CITY ■ SHOREWOOD

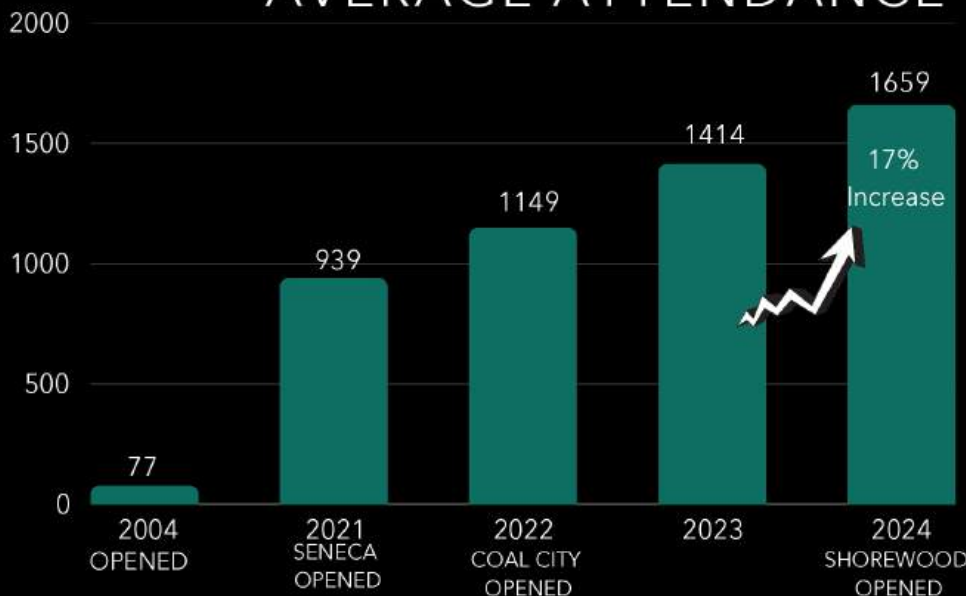


Note: Campus breakdown does not equal overall weekly average because Shorewood average 138 for the weeks they were open which was 8 months.



I've never felt more comfortable being vulnerable about my ignorance in my relationship with God. The Village gives me a safe place, with a welcoming group of people, to let my walls down, give control to God, and be accepted as broken but under construction man that I am. - Nick, Minooka Campus

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE



The numbers represent lives being changed by God.

Every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God.

LIFE-CHANGING GENEROSITY

Your Generosity + God's Blessing = More People Coming To Know Jesus!

2024 BUDGET

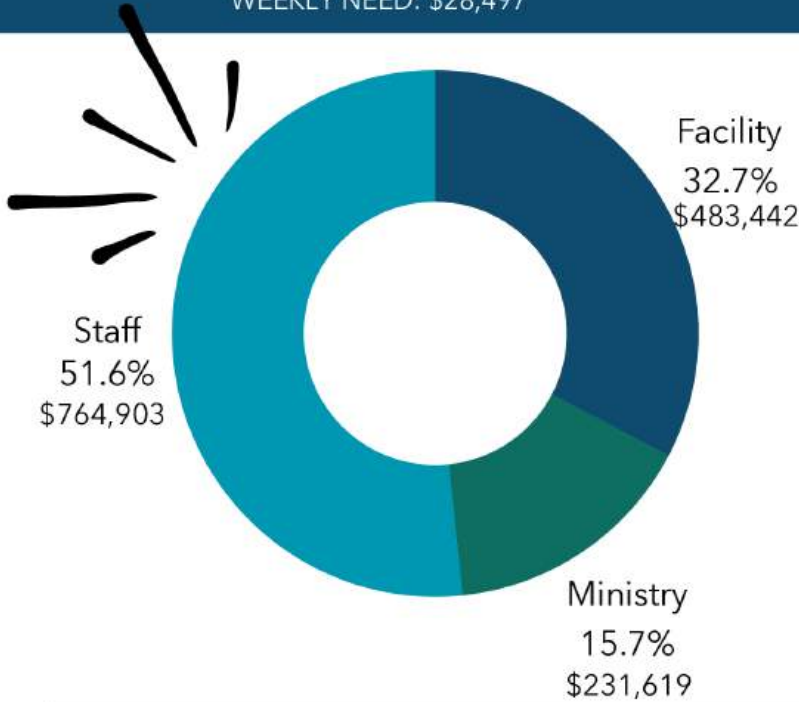
\$1,481,853

WEEKLY NEED: \$28,497

2024 ACTUAL

\$1,720,611

AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED \$33,089



HOW \$238,758 SURPLUS WAS INVESTED:

- \$45,000 Reclaim3d
- \$45,000 Debt Reduction
- \$148,758 Future Ministry

“ This year's outpouring of generosity has been truly amazing. Thanks to this support, we can create more ways to welcome people into our community and help them develop a meaningful connection with Jesus. - Charlie Pierce, Executive Pastor/Shorewood Campus Pastor

GIVING RECAP



PULSE STUDENT MINISTRY

A Place Where Students Meet Jesus, Know Jesus And Share Jesus!



17 Pulse students took the next step of baptism!

150 students and Pulse families attended the summer pool party. Community happens here!

STUDENT
MINISTRY GREW
BY 100+ NEW
STUDENTS IN
2024.
THANK YOU
GOD!



Over 150 kids attended winter retreats and summer camps at Little Galilee. Growing in their faith, making new friends, and getting to know Jesus!



“ Pulse is just different - in the best way possible. The moment I walked in, I just knew this was where I needed to be to grow closer to Jesus. Our youth group has this awesome energy that you can't find anywhere else. Being here has opened my eyes to what it really means to follow Jesus as a teenager. It's changed everything for me.”
- Connor, Minooka student



Pulse students in Minooka, Coal City and Seneca gathered for fun events like a pumpkin party, Thanksgiving Feast and a movie night. These events were great opportunity to invite friends! We saw so many new faces at Pulse this year!



“ I love seeing how our high school students are growing. A year ago, many seemed reluctant to want to come or to share. The growth in a year is amazing to see. -Kristen, Coal City leader



KID VILLAGE MINISTRY

A Safe, Fun-Filled Place Where Kids Can Come To Worship and Learn About God



“ “Having a nervous toddler who is familiar with you run up to you looking for comfort is pretty amazing.”
-Jessica (Kid Village Teammate)



“ “I was playing blocks with a group of about 4, 2 year olds and they of course thought it was hilarious to knock my tower down. One little guy, Cade, was laughing so hard he grabbed my cheeks in his little hands and laughed so big in my face. Like sheer happiness. It was pretty awesome.”-Angie (Kid Village Teammate)



“ “I love hearing from parents that their kids are running home to sing the same worship songs we sing in Kid Village! It’s so fun to experience kids asking questions and seeking more to know more about Jesus!”
- Amy Pehlke (Children’s Pastor)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kid Village hosted three major outreach events in 2024 at 4 different campus locations. Many new families came to visit our churches through the Egg Hunt, Kidz Blitz, and Fall Fest.
- Kid Village experienced record growth by welcoming 225 new families over the course of 2024!



EVENTS



FALL FEST

As a church, we are committed to providing opportunities for community, connections, and outreach. Fam Blitz, Family Reunion, Fall Fest, and Game Day are just a few examples of NO BORING HERE! These events provided great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbors and so many new people showed up for our fun and games!



FAMILY REUNION



EVENTS



FAM BLITZ



GAME DAY



THE VILLAGE TURNS 20!

On October 17, 2024,
The Village Christian Church turned 20!

God has done SO MUCH in 20 years. The amount of life change, life growth and life purpose He's allowed us to experience - there aren't enough words to describe it. Simply put, THANK YOU, God! We've sure had fun celebrating our birthday this year! And the best part is that God is NOT DONE YET! We are unfinished people in an unfinished church. We're looking forward to so more to come thanks to Him!



Our family has gotten to see the Village from the seed of a dream, to the planting, and all the seasons of change these past 20 years have brought. Amidst abundant harvest and bitter and dark winters, God has been faithful as we seek His plans and His will for The Village and how we can invite people into His kingdom. I'm grateful that despite our missteps along the way, His plans cannot be stopped. We will always be a church committed to sharing the truth of God's word and asking Him to lead the way, and I pray the next twenty years creates more opportunity for us to invite individuals and families to know the hope and joy we have because of Jesus!

" - Sarah Windham, Creative Arts Director

"20 years ago, I thought I was sacrificing all of my dreams to obediently build God's Kingdom. 20 years later I realize, God allowed me to watch him build the life and community of my dreams as he built his church."

- Rachele Ferguson, Founder, Teaching Team Trainer and Speaker



"After 20 years, I believe more than ever that this is only at God's hand" - Nick Sandeno, Minooka Campus Pastor





UNFINISHED

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

We've celebrated 2024...but what's next?

In November of 2024 we embarked on a 2 year journey called "Unfinished." We believe we are an unfinished people with an unfinished story and God has some great things in store for us as a church in the future.

The Vision for Unfinished (November 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026) is as follows:

1. Reach 2,000 more people for Christ
2. Give away \$250,000 to needs outside our church wall
3. Pay down \$750,000 in debt

Our goal is 100% participation in this vision by everyone who calls The Village Christian Church their home. We don't want you to miss out on the opportunity to share God's love with your neighbors and your friends and your family!

As we enter into 2025, we have set our budgets to reach 2,000 more, give away to needs outside our walls and pay down debt. We ask that everyone takes time to pray through what God is calling you to do financially in support of this Vision.

We know that if everyone takes a next step in their generosity, more people will be reached for God and their ETERNITY will be change forever! What a joy!

THANK YOU for your amazing generosity in the past.
THANK YOU for your amazing generosity in the future.

Whatever campus you attend, extra space has been created for you through a build out or added service to reach your friends, neighbors, and families for Christ. We can't wait to see what God is going to do THROUGH YOU!!!

Together, with God leading the way, Nothing is Impossible!!!



Nate



More Info Here:

THANKING GOD FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE AT THE VILLAGE

