

# WACC

ANNUAL REPORT 2024







Dear Friends,

The late writer and theologian Thomas Merton once said, “Gratitude takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience.”

As I look back on 2024, I am once again amazed at the countless ways our church family has experienced the goodness of God firsthand. We experienced God’s goodness in seeing the testimonies of **337** people who were baptized, courageously professing their devotion to Jesus. We have seen it in the **630** kids who attended VBS, where **61** kids made a first-time commitment to follow Jesus. We have spotted it through over **\$297k** that was disbursed to support individuals and families in need through WACC’s Benevolent Fund. And we have witnessed it through **545** people who volunteered for the first time this past year, and over **\$7 million** that was given to share God’s grace both locally and globally.

Through these experiences, and so many others like our growing WACC en Español ministry, Monday Night Support Groups, and our growing Access Ministry, the evidence of the goodness of God is so moving to me. I pray that as you read through the pages of this report, the evidence of God’s goodness will both encourage you and lead you toward praising God for all he has done.

Church, thank you for the ways you have allowed God to work in and through you so that others might experience his goodness in a life-transforming way!  
God bless you!

**John Riley**

*I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD. (Psalm 27:13)*

## FINANCIALS

**\$7,141,369.18**

Total Donations Given to the  
Ministry of WACC in 2024

**\$3,102,386.11**

Principal Paid towards the Debt Free  
mortgage since it began

**\$812,439.75**

Principal Paid towards the Debt Free  
mortgage in the last 12 months

**\$297,238.68**

Dispersed Through the Benevolent Fund  
to Help Families in Need

## BAPTISMS



# 337

Baptisms in 2024

“

*Last year an elderly man named Gene Estes began visiting WACC daily. Grieving, lonely, and facing health challenges, he would often sit on the Upper Patio. As Gene’s health declined, his only caregiver was his grandson, Chris, who lived out of state. While visiting Gene, Chris began attending WACC and eventually rediscovered his love for Jesus. After Gene passed in January 2024, Chris was baptized at WACC. Two months later, his wife Heatherlee and their four children came for her baptism. Today, they continue to stay connected to the church from across the country.”*

04



# JESUS TO PEOPLE & PEOPLE TO



GATHER

**3,510**

Average Adult Sunday Attendance

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**10,400**

Easter Weekend Attendance

**6,675**

Christmas Attendance

**47,148**

Streams of Church Online

# Sermon Series Throughout the Year

1



Blessing Sunday

## BLESSING SUNDAY

God's first impulse is to bless you. Even when you are unsatisfied, the blessing of God's comfort and redemption can meet you.

2



Reset

## RESET

Each year brings new opportunities to reset and lean into the truth that God desires to begin a new work in us.

3



LOUDER  
than WORDS

## LOUDER THAN WORDS

When Jesus communicated God's love to the world, the apostle John reminds us that he didn't just communicate it with words- he demonstrated it with actions.

5



WHEN  
IN  
Doubt  
ADDRESSING THE  
BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT  
GOD AND FAITH

## WHEN IN DOUBT

All of us have doubts and questions, but Scripture teaches that our doubts can serve as a pathway toward a richer and deeper encounter with God.

4



Easter

## EASTER

What Jesus did over three days is the key to unlocking hope for you on your darkest day.

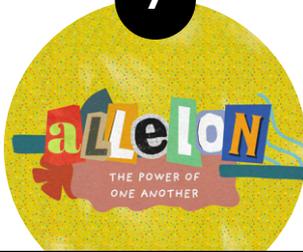
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### SETTING THE TABLE

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he repeatedly used tables as the setting to invite people to experience the grace of God. Discover from Jesus how ordinary meals can be transformed into sacred moments.

7



### ALLEON

A life of following Jesus was never meant to be lived alone. "One-anothering" describes how followers of Jesus are called to live and to put love into action daily.

10



### A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Although many of us have a picture of Christmas as merry, festive and bright, the true Christmas story presents a very different picture. If Jesus entered the darkness of that first Christmas, he can enter into yours as well.

8



### WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

Many of our most familiar religious phrases and clichés are actually not found in the Bible. We must learn to speak and construct our lives based on what God's Word really says so that those around us experience God's true character and promises.

6



### SHOW ME A SIGN

Many of us ask that God would "show us a sign" that he is there. The Gospel of John reveals seven specific signs, in Jesus ministry, that reveal that God is both present and active in the most challenging of situations.

## WACC EN ESPAÑOL

**220** People at 2nd Anniversary Service

**125** Average Attendance on Sundays

**13** Baptisms

**29** People in Financial Peace

**15** New Volunteers

**07** Child Dedications

**40** Average Number of People in Thursday Night Small Groups



“

*God has been moving powerfully in our WACC en Español congregation. We've witnessed both physical and spiritual healing, transforming lives in amazing ways. Prayers and support overflow when someone is in need, reflecting the love of the early church. People have been baptized, others have come to know Jesus, and many have found not just a church, but a family. This season of small groups has drawn us closer, and we give glory to God for the work He's doing in our midst.”*

## ACCESS

Access Ministry serves individuals with specialized needs and their loved ones

**70**  
People at  
First Access  
Gathering

**200**  
Night To Shine  
Guests

**785**  
Volunteers  
at NTS

**67**  
Artist  
Participants at  
Art Show



“

*WACC's First Access Worship Gathering on August 25th created a space for teens and adults with special needs to worship. A parent, attending for the first time, shared how she finally felt seen as the mother of two sons with autism. She was moved to tears as her boys were embraced and given the freedom to be themselves.”*

## NEXT STEPS



“

*When Jennifer registered for Next Steps earlier this year, it was clear she was eager to connect. From week one, she naturally led conversations at her table, sharing her desire to grow closer to God and build community at WACC. Jennifer openly discussed how God had worked in her life through her Monday night group and listened to others' experiences. By week two, everyone at her table had exchanged phone numbers. Jennifer has since celebrated her new friends' journeys in Rooted, invited them to serve at Go Serve Love, and remains a friendly face on campus.”*

**844** Guests in Guest Central

**115** People Attended Next Steps to Get More Connected and Continue Growing in Their Faith

**151** New Guests Online

**2,384** Times People Signed Up to Volunteer In a New Way

## SUPPORT GROUPS

A safe place to share experiences and hopes with others who are also seeking God's restorative healing through worship, fellowship, small group interaction and prayer.

# 100+

People Attending **10** Different Groups Each Week

“

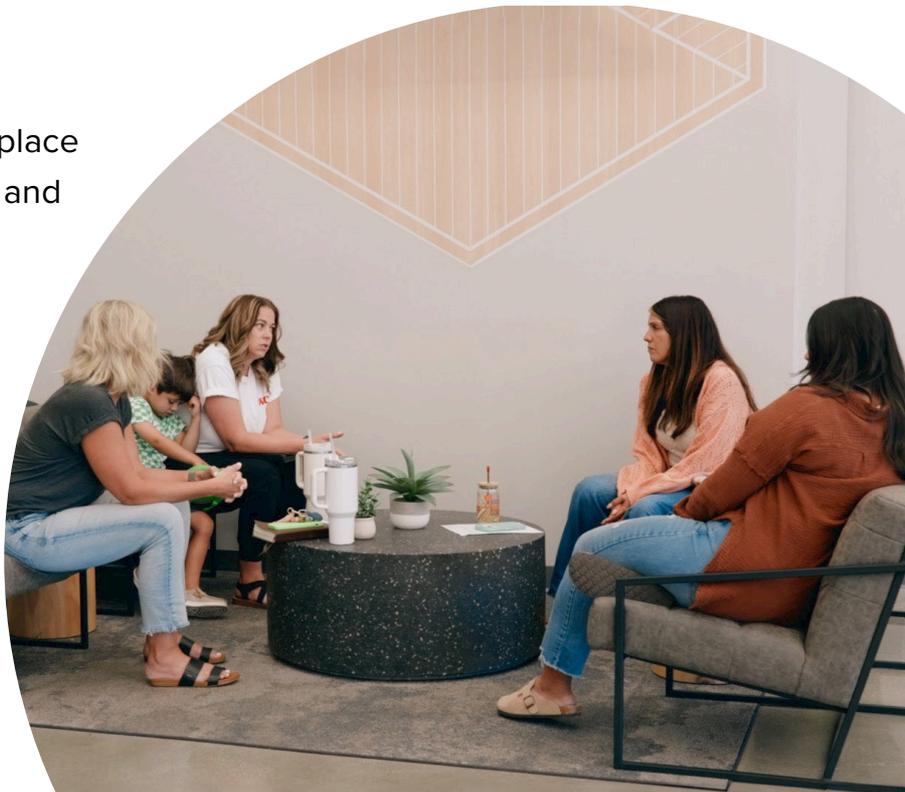
This group is a safe place and community where I am not alone in my experience. The other women know the unique journey of being married to a first responder.”

“

I get to be myself and talk about my past and my struggles in a place where there is no judgement and there is genuine support. I walk out not feeling so alone.”

“

Support Groups is a place where you can learn and grow as you journey through a tough season.”



## PEOPLE GROWING IN GROUPS

**506**  
Community Groups

**256**  
Bible Study

**89**  
Rooted

**34**  
Adult  
Center

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

**\$390,927**

Total Non-Mortgage Debt Paid Off

**\$8,700**

Saved

**25**

Credit Cards Cut Up

**156 Couples**

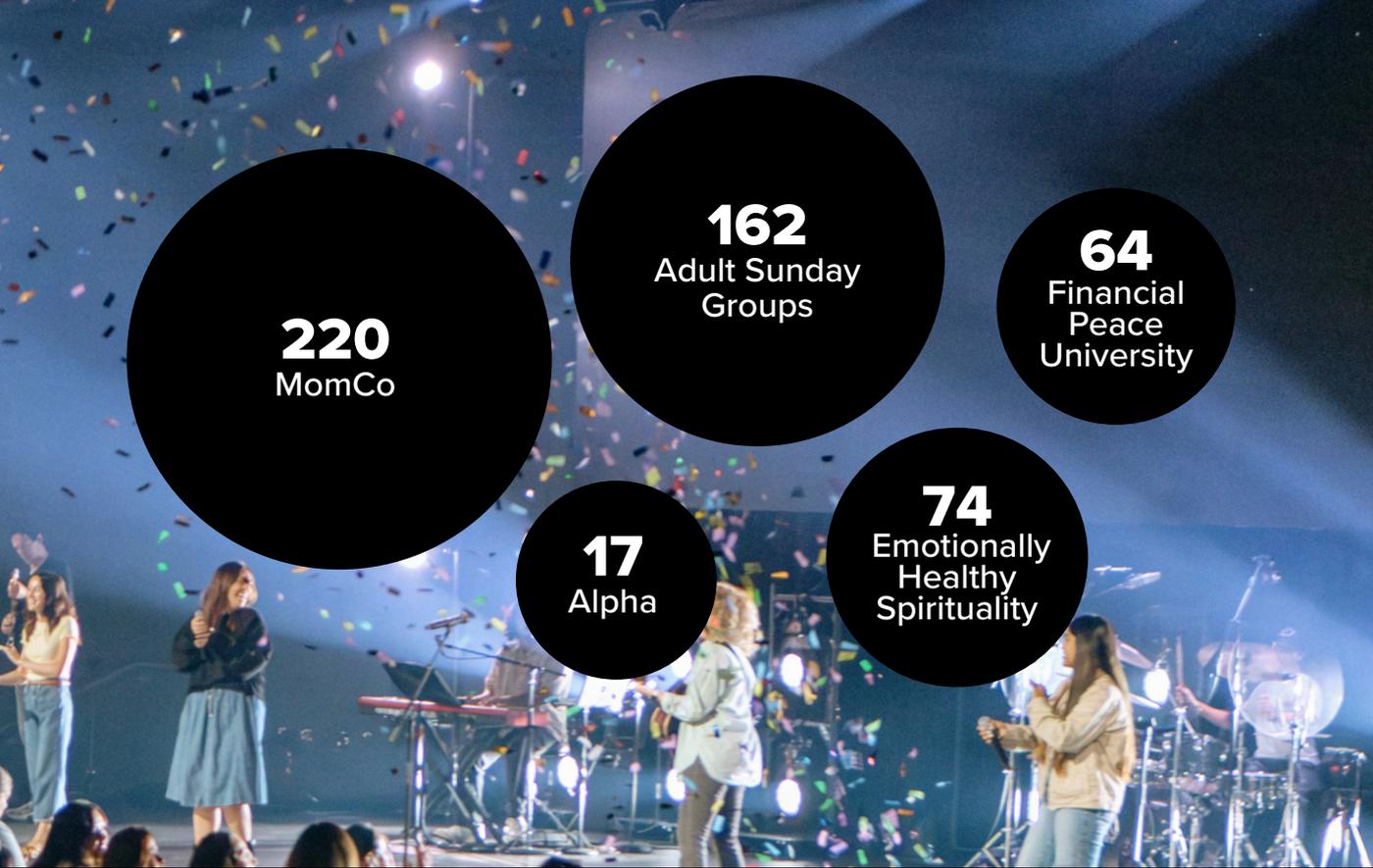
At Marriage  
Connection Date Nights

**200 Men**

Average at Each Men's  
Ministry Events This Year

“

*In the midst of a difficult time, a small group at WACC found remarkable strength in their shared faith. When one member, Sarah, was facing a challenging health battle, her group rallied around her, offering constant prayer, meals, and simply being present to listen. Through their collective support, Sarah felt a deep sense of community, and the entire group grew closer, realizing the profound power of their shared faith in times of need.”*



**220**  
MomCo

**162**  
Adult Sunday  
Groups

**64**  
Financial  
Peace  
University

**17**  
Alpha

**74**  
Emotionally  
Healthy  
Spirituality

**661 Women** attended the ARISE Women’s Conference, where they worshiped together and heard from **3** incredible speakers who taught us how to Flourish in God’s Love.





# 545

New Volunteers at WACC

# \$26,191.70

In Needs Met for Kids and Families in Crisis Through Care Portal

# 93

Families in Crisis Served by Care Portal Response Team

# 350

Students Received Back to School Supplies

# 600

Less Resourced Families Who Shopped at the Rack at WACC

# 98

Go Serve Love Projects Served Our Community in March

# 250

Donated Easter Baskets For Families Served by The Whole Child During Go Serve Love

# 1,000

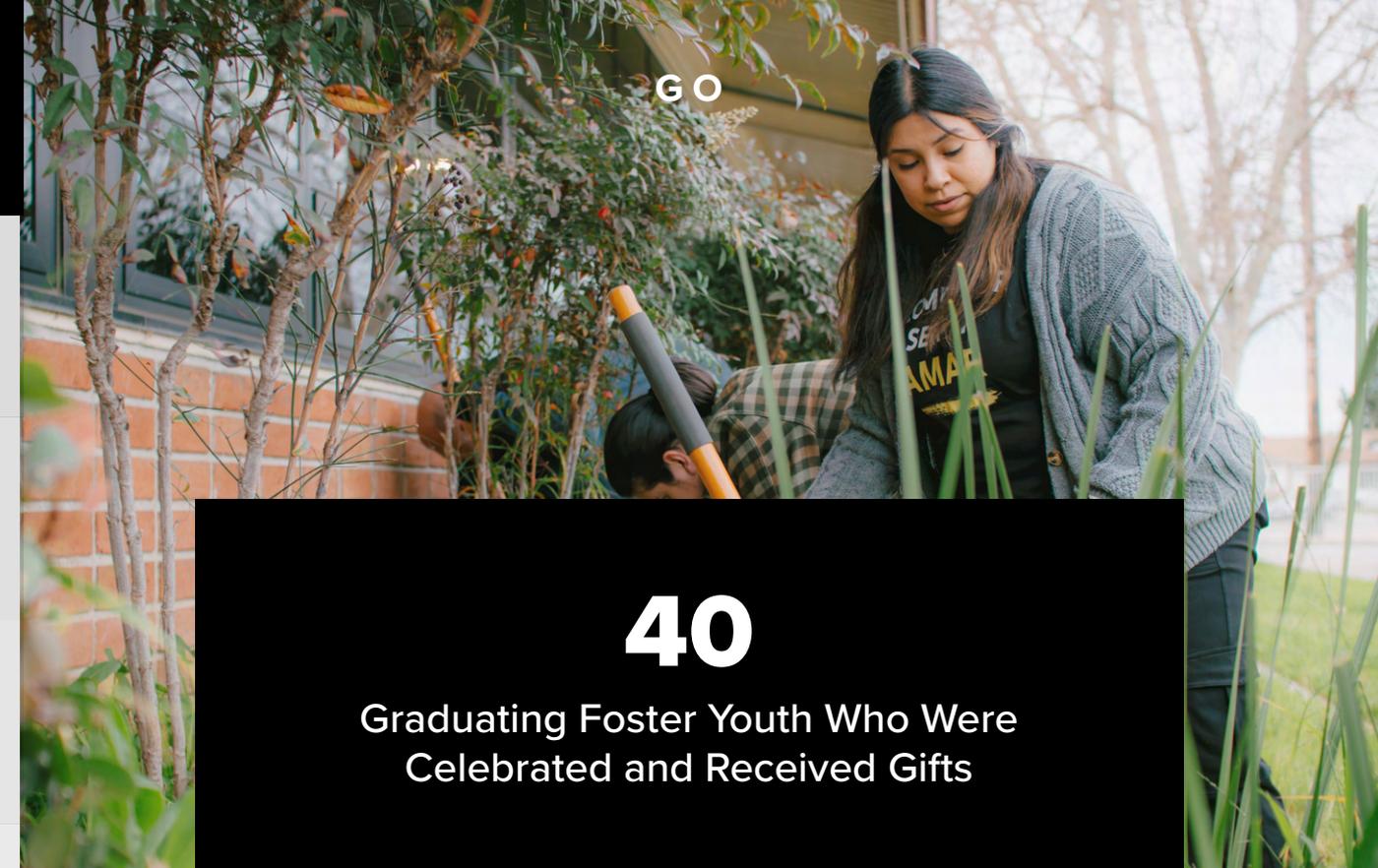
People Volunteered or Donated During Our Go Serve Love Campaign

# 33

Newly Housed Families Shopped at Welcome Home

# 15





GO

**40**

Graduating Foster Youth Who Were Celebrated and Received Gifts

**200 Kids**

Received a Christmas Gift on Behalf of Incarcerated Parents Through Angel Tree

**133**

Foster Youth Attended a Holiday Party and Received Gifts

**\$38,216**

Donated Goods and Funds Given to Serve Clients of Community Partners at Christmas

# GLOBAL



# \$309,306

Given to the Global Missions Fund in the Last 12 Months

# \$35,228.26

To provide support during the holidays to  
our Global Partners

# 30

Global Partners and Missionaries  
Serving Around the World

**5**

Short-Term  
Mission Trips

**83**

People Went  
on Short-Term  
Mission Trips

**3**

New  
Global Partners



*Team of young adults serving in Estonia.*



## 630 Kids Attended VBS

Kids raised over **\$12,000** towards our Global Fundraiser providing over **1,000** Bibles for people across the world including Malawi, Estonia, Mexico, and the U.S.

**375+**

Volunteers  
Helped with VBS

**61**

Kids Made a First Time  
Decision to Follow Jesus

“

*One of our VBS volunteers, Alexis, was deeply moved by the 1st and 2nd graders she led throughout the week. She guided her group through games, crafts, skits, and small group time, all while helping them learn how they can know God and how God knows them. By the end of the week, most of the kids in her group made the sincere decision to follow Jesus. Alexis described how overwhelming it was to witness their genuine desire to follow God. It was a powerful reminder of God's work in both our volunteers and kids!”*

## KIDS

**49**

Elementary Kids Went to Camp

**57**

Kids Have Been Dedicated

**354**

Children From Birth to 5th Grade  
Attend WACC Kids Weekly

**361**

New Families Have Attended on  
Sunday Mornings Since January

**45**

New Volunteers Have  
Joined the Sunday Team



“

*A family attending our WeE service began bringing their son weekly to ease him into his Sunday school class. Initially, he hesitated due to a language barrier, but with consistent greetings and support, the family’s burden eased as he grew more comfortable. His father would sit outside the classroom to offer reassurance, and over time, we placed a bilingual volunteer in his class. Slowly, the boy gained confidence and eventually joined full-time without his father nearby. He even attended VBS, made friends, and learned English through worship songs. His joy has been contagious, and we’re grateful to serve a God who unites us across languages.”*

# JUNIOR HIGH

“

*In the Junior High Ministry, we focus on three things: having fun through games and events, making friends in small groups, and growing in faith through messages, worship, and prayer. These three elements had a huge impact on one 8th grader. He started attending for fun because friends invited him, even though his parents weren't involved in church and he didn't own a Bible. Over time, he grew in his faith, got a Bible, asked great questions, and now he's decided to get baptized! This student is a testament to how God works in JHM to reach and grow students.”*

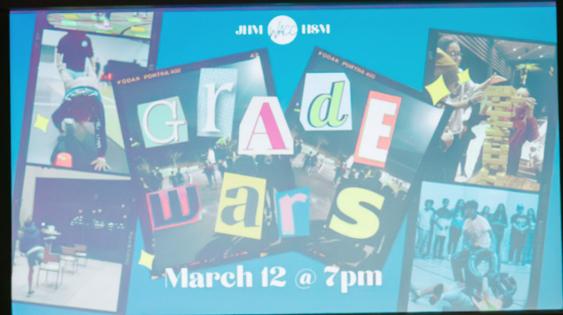
**17** Small Group Leaders

**480** Students at FAD

**14** Students Baptized

**36** Students Serving

**95** Attended Camp



## HIGH SCHOOL

“

*This year, a student who hadn't attended church in years started coming on Tuesdays after his family encouraged him. He even decided to go to camp, where he experienced God for the first time and dedicated his life to Jesus. Since then, he's become one of our most focused students in his faith. Recently, he shared his testimony with his cousin, who had been making some bad decisions. Though his cousin was unresponsive at first, a week later he opened up about feeling God's presence during a service. Our student shared the gospel, helping his cousin take his first steps towards walking with Jesus.”*



**26** Student Volunteers

**17** Students Baptized

**122** Attended Camps

**25** Small Group Leaders

**230** at UNITE a Multi Church Worship Night

**26** HS Students Recommitted to or Accepted Jesus Into Their Lives for the First Time at Summer Camp

## YOUNG ADULTS

“

*We saw God at work when 10 of our young adults went to Estonia. Despite flight delays and lost luggage, the team stayed united, finding God in the challenges. They served in various ways—preaching, leading worship, and guiding small group discussions. Estonia holds a special place for YA, with five team members returning for their second or third trip. We witnessed God in the Estonian youth and leaders, reminded that we all follow the same God and are part of the same family.”*



This year we launched Bible study small groups for YA men and women.

Summer Nights services averaged **50** YA coming out to worship and listen to a message from Scripture.

**15**  
Young Adults Went to Beach Camp

Young adults serve in all our ministries here at WACC from the prayer and welcome team, kids and student ministries, worship team, etc.

## SPORTS



**166**  
Volunteers

**335**  
Kids in our Youth  
Kicks League

**426**  
Kids in our Youth  
Hoops League

**\$33,000+**

Raised Between our Golf Tournament,  
Shoot-A-Thon and Kick-A-Thon Fundraisers

“

*WACC Sports has been a tremendous blessing for my family and me. My son and wife are involved in the ministry, and I feel privileged to coach and serve on the Sports Council. Our weekly team talks have significantly contributed to the growth of my son and his teammates' relationships with Jesus. This ministry has also blessed the parents in their spiritual walks, creating an effective way to unite families. To God be the glory!”*

# HOLY FO



# OREVER





WHITTIER AREA  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

SPW  
Service  
8140  
Collins Road