

**2023/24**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

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*Pennington Park Church*

# LETTER TO THE CHURCH

*Dear Church Family,*

With the new fiscal year upon us, I'm compelled to express my profound gratitude to each of you. On behalf of our elders and staff, I want to extend sincere thanks for your unwavering commitment to the ministry of our church. Your countless contributions, both seen and unseen, do not go unnoticed. The Apostle Paul's metaphor of the church being a body with many parts from 1 Corinthians 12 is a perfect picture of Pennington Park Church. Your participation through the consistent use of your talents, gifts, time, and generous financial support enables us to be a healthy body and faithfully live out our mission to know Jesus and make Him known.

We have experienced so much of God's kindness in the last year. God has faithfully used His Word to spiritually feed and grow His people week in and week out. With our new 2030 Vision, we are anticipating further fruit from the powerful working of God's Word as He continues to make us a multi-generational church that is equipped with the Word to make disciples, plant churches, and reach the unreached both locally and globally.

As the Impact Campaign results continue to unfold this spring, our posture is one of dependency upon the Lord. We look forward to whatever the Lord has before us as we focus this year on deepening the health of our ministries across the board and increasing member engagement. With anticipation of God's work ahead, we eagerly anticipate how we can collectively deepen our relationship with Jesus and faithfully share Him with others.

I invite you to join me in fervent prayer, seeking God's guidance for the year ahead. Let's pray not only for clarity in direction but also for steadfast obedience in following His lead daily. May we also pray for abundant fruitfulness in spreading the gospel through our various ministries and for a sustained heart of joy-filled generosity in every area of our lives.

I am deeply thankful for our church family and am excited to see the Lord work in powerful ways this year. As we press on in our mission to know Jesus and make Him known, may our congregation continue to magnify God's glorious name in 2024 and beyond.



*Lead Pastor*

# LIVING OUR MISSION

## BELONG

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We recently moved to the Fishers area and were in search of a church that offered a strong biblical foundation and an intentional, caring community. After one visit to Pennington Park Church, we were sold! In our time at PPC, we have been so blessed by the way the church has integrated both faithful theology and thoughtful relational connection into each interaction we've had. From Sunday morning experiences to small groups, to additional opportunities to serve, we are confident that PPC is the space our family will continue to connect and belong for years to come.

*- Austin & Jessie Sahly*

## GROW

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Being a part of Women's Discipleship, this past year has been an immense blessing. God has used all aspects of Women's Discipleship to expand my knowledge of Him and my love for Jesus. He has enabled me to "count it all joy when you face trials of various kinds" James 1:2. I'm incredibly grateful for the ways God has used my small group to walk with me through a challenging season this past fall. They have encouraged, prayed, and loved well. Being a part of a community of women who seek to honor and glorify the Lord in all they say and do is a treasured gift.

*- Ginger Rykse*

## MULTIPLY

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Hosting a backyard Bible club this past summer was a true highlight for our family. PPC made several aspects of hosting easy and relatively low-stress. Nearly everything we needed was dropped off at our house, this enabled us to focus on what truly mattered, creating a welcoming of a place as we could where volunteers would be helping the children attending to know Jesus and to make him known. We were encouraged by seeing the same kids attend consistently throughout the week. They showed enthusiasm as they remembered the songs, and excitement as they relayed the lessons they had heard. The backyard Bible clubs allowed us to share our faith on a personal level simply by providing the opportunity in a setting where they were eager to hear it.

*- Patrick & Bree Bartell*



We're meant to do life together. When we commit to walk with other believers, we become a community, not a crowd. At Pennington Park, we belong primarily through small groups, covenant membership, and participation in Sunday morning gatherings.

Whether you've been following Jesus for five days or 50 years, we're all called to grow and become more like him. Some of the ways you can grow at Pennington Park include Adult Equipping Classes, Bible studies, and serving teams.

Jesus not only saves us from our sins but sends us, by the Holy Spirit, to multiply his Church. Fulfilling this mission involves investing our lives into the lives of others by sharing the gospel, engaging in discipleship, and supporting global missions.

## CONNECTIONS

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*912 Average Attendance*

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*635 First time visitors (Adults & Children)*

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*551 Members (not including children)*

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*488 Volunteers*

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*107 Belong Attendees*

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*96 Discover Attendees*

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*84 New Members*

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*12 Baptisms*

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*1219 Christmas Service Attendance*

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*1225 Easter Service Attendance*

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# LOCAL OUTREACH

In 2023, we set and achieved the goal to deepen our relationships, volunteer base, and giving to our Local Outreach Partners like Youth for Christ/Campus Life ministry. The Christmas Offering from 2022 came to fruition as Outreach Inc. opened their new satellite location in Lawrence and The Cooper House purchased, renovated, and started operating out of their new facility in Noblesville. Our church provided continued growth in community events like Blood Drives and Fall Festival. Our Family

Advocate Ministry continued to support and encourage our fostering families. The Local Outreach ministry also introduced a new serving opportunity; the disaster relief team which serves needs presented by Samaritan's Purse. All of these Local Outreach opportunities create unique spaces for our members, who are equipped with the Gospel and trained in discipleship, to effectively love our community and engage with our neighbors.

3K

FALL FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE

11

LOCAL OUTREACH EVENTS

*4 BYBC's, Fall Festival, 4 Blood Drives, LO Ministry Fair, and BYBC BBQ*

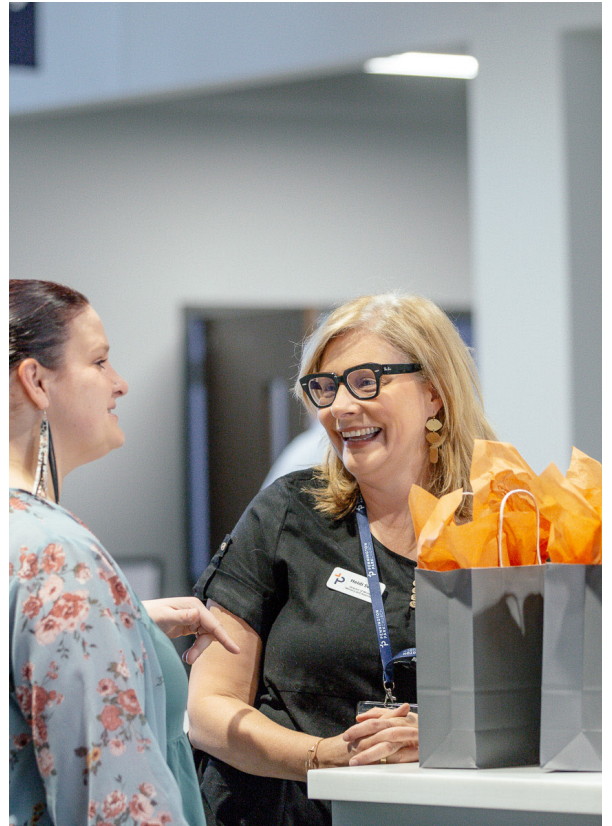


# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

PPC Women's Ministry (WM) exists to provide a Christ-centered environment for knowing who God is and informing our relationships with one another through that lens, growing deeper in His Word and prayer, and going together into the community to serve others.

We are Bible-based, prayer-rooted, discipleship-oriented, church-centered, and relationship-focused.

WM Bible Studies were year-round in 2023. Our summer study took a deep dive into work and Sabbath rest. The fall studies focused on contending for the faith in the book of Jude and continuing in the faith in Hebrews 5-10 Precepts study. The 2024 winter studies are focused on the Sermon on the Mount, the book of Ecclesiastes, and the completion of Hebrews (11-13) in Precepts. Within all of these studies, we seek to grow in our understanding of the Word. "The heart cannot love what the mind does not know" (Jen Wilkin, Women of the Word).



**BIBLE STUDY  
PARTICIPANTS**



**WOMEN IN  
DISCIPLESHIP**

# MEN'S MINISTRY

The men of Pennington Park gathered regularly throughout the year to fellowship with one another, receive biblical training and encouragement, and spur one another on to Christlikeness. We kicked off the fall semester this past August with a men's cookout as over 80 men assembled to hear the purpose of Men's Ministry: to help men grow in their worship, relationships, and character. Our winter/spring semester began with a men's breakfast as we considered how to be "salt and light" in the workplace and our professions.

We also saw the Lord do a multiplying work in our Men's Ministry as we launched a brand-new Thursday night Bible study out of our long-standing Tuesday morning study. Over the fall and winter semesters, our studies have covered books and topics including Acts, Hebrews, Ephesians, and the Tabernacle as we live out the Core Value, "We are driven by the Bible." Continuing in 2024, we desire to see more men grow in their faith through Bible studies, develop strong community through men's events, and pursue holiness together through organic discipleship.

*4 Bible Studies Offered*

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*113 Bible Study Participants*

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*3 Men's Ministry Events*

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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry offers programming for ages 4 months to 6th grade on Sunday mornings and serves families of Pennington Park by creating rhythms and resources that train children in understanding the redemptive arc of Scripture and the story of God saving his people for his glory. On Sunday mornings, anywhere from 270-300 children experience large group worship times, Scripture verse memorization, a Bible lesson, intentional crafts and activities, and small group discussion led by faithful volunteers who are passionate about teaching the gospel to our youngest generation.



280

AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER OF KIDS IN  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

156

PARTICIPATED IN BACKYARD BIBLE CLUBS





# STUDENTS MINISTRY

*94 Average Attendance*

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*118 Record-Breaking Attendance*

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*31 New Leaders*

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*14 New Faith Confessions*

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*5 Baptisms*

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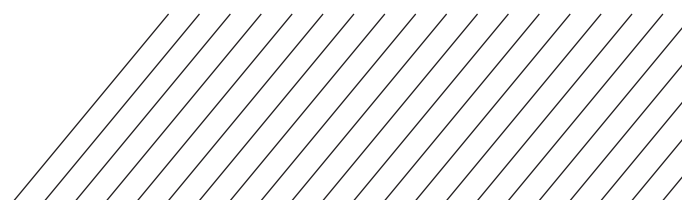
*24 First Time Friends Visited*

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Students Ministry creates an intentional space for junior high and high schoolers to have fun, establish biblical community with one another, and grow in their understanding of and obedience to God's Word and God's will. On Sunday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m., students meet for games, fellowship, biblical teaching, and small group discussion as we seek to live out our mission to know Jesus and make him known. In addition to Sunday night youth group, our Students Ministry also has lots of other activities going on, including an annual Winter Retreat, outreach events, 4th Quarter hangouts, and summer Bible studies. If you're in 7th through 12th grade and have never experienced our Students Ministry, join us on a Sunday night!

*"The Saturday night worship session was the first time I really understood what it meant that God is present with us. I felt Him there with me in a way I've never felt before. **I gave my life to Jesus that night!**"*  
-Julia (8th grade)

*"This past weekend was the first time I actually understood how much God loved me. I've always thought that He just sort of tolerated me. But this weekend I learned that even though I'm a sinner- God sent Jesus to die for me because He loves me! **I accepted Jesus as the King of my life this weekend!**"*  
-Kellan (9th grade)



# THE BRIDGE

What is the Bridge?: The Bridge is an environment intentionally designed to help 5th & 6th graders navigate faith as they transition from childhood (Kids Ministry) to adolescence (Students Ministry).

## *Why is the Bridge necessary?*

1) There are 3 major drop-off points for 0-18 year-olds in the church: going to college, getting a driver's license, and transitioning from Kids Ministry to Students Ministry.

2) Like all kids, 5th & 6th graders are changing in 6 ways: physically, mentally, culturally, relationally, emotionally, and morally. Especially in the preteen phase, each child experiences these changes at different rates.

3) Preteens have a hard time separating what they do from who they are. It's more important than ever to give preteens a place where what they do isn't as important as who they are.

## *What do you do in The Bridge?*

We believe discipleship happens using truth, fun, and love. We teach Biblical truth and have developed a two-year scope and sequence with an emphasis on Biblical literacy for this age group. We use fun to build fellowship and create small group communities. We love first, because Jesus loved us first, and we encourage these kids to take ownership of their faith. All of these things happen through games, teaching, and small groups on Sunday mornings.

*40 Average Attendance*

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*7 Incredible Volunteers*

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*2 Baptisms*

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*"Thank you thank you thank you for starting this class. My daughter literally pops out of bed on Sunday morning, happy to get ready for church because she's so excited to come."*

*-Sam Albert*

*"Last week my son brought a friend. He enjoyed church and the class so much that he told his parents about it. They reached out and are looking at visiting our church. Just wanted to pass along some encouraging words and thank you for serving!"*

*-Hoy Garvin*

*"My child absolutely loves The Bridge. I think she loves the programming and also the youth-group-type feeling. Makes her feel a bit more mature."*

*-Jonathan Collins*

*"We are so thankful for all you guys are doing! My child loves going to The Bridge each week, and he is disappointed if we have to miss church. We appreciate the resources you send each week such as the "Questions for the Car" and keeping us updated with what the kids are learning."*

*-Megan Kraftson*

# GLOBAL OUTREACH



Global Outreach at Pennington Park exists to multiply the gospel throughout the world. Jesus has given us the incredible assignment of making disciples of all nations and being his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

## 18 Vision Trip Participants

### 6 Global Missions Partners

<i>HOPE International</i>	<i>SE Asia</i>
<i>Filter of Hope</i>	<i>Cuba</i>
<i>Final 58</i>	<i>SE Asia</i>
<i>Final Sudan</i>	<i>Sudan</i>
<i>Wycliffe Bible Translators</i>	<i>West Africa</i>
<i>Jesus Film</i>	<i>West Africa</i>

## 8 PPC Missionary Families

<i>Bufkin Family</i>	<i>Globally from Fishers</i>
<i>Lillestrand Family</i>	<i>Globally from Fishers</i>
<i>Henney Family</i>	<i>Southeast Asia</i>
<i>Cole Family</i>	<i>Southeast Asia</i>
<i>Vanderpleg Family</i>	<i>Southeast Asia</i>
<i>Bunch Family</i>	<i>Arabian Gulf</i>
<i>Humphrey Family</i>	<i>Arabian Gulf</i>
<i>Hana Family</i>	<i>Arabian Gulf</i>

**\$149,000**

**TOTAL AMOUNT GIVEN TO  
SUPPORT OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

**\$185,624**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

*Ministry Recipients: Final Sudan & Hope International*

# SMALL GROUPS

One part of our threefold strategy at Pennington Park is to help you belong because the Christian life was never meant to be done alone. Christ not only saves us from sin, but he also saves us into a body of believers for the sake of edification and encouragement. That's why we have Small Groups all over Hamilton County that are finding hope together. Groups are made up of men and women from all stages of life who meet at various times and locations to discuss God's Word, pray for one another, and walk through the messiness of life together.



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*82 Small Group Leaders*

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*40 Small Groups*

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*459 Individuals in a Small Group*

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*6 New Groups Launched in 2023*

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# ANNUAL GIVING

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Thank you for your deep commitment to the ministry of Pennington Park Church. Your dedication to using your gifts in service, active participation, and generous financial contributions enable us to live out our mission of knowing Jesus and making Him known. Thank you for the many ways you invest in the ministry at Pennington Park.

**\$2,533,525** | 2023-2024

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**\$2,219,400** | 2022-2023

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**\$1,779,00** | 2021-2022

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**TO *KNOW* JESUS  
AND MAKE HIM *KNOWN*.**