



First
CHURCH OF GOD

2025

**Annual
Report**

LEAD PASTOR REPORT

TOD HUSTON



Our theme for 2025 was **Thrive** and with it our belief that God calls every Christ follower to a thriving faith. I am grateful for the many large and small ways, in the lives of young and old, no matter the season of life or the faith journey, that God has been at work among us over the past year to accomplish that focus.

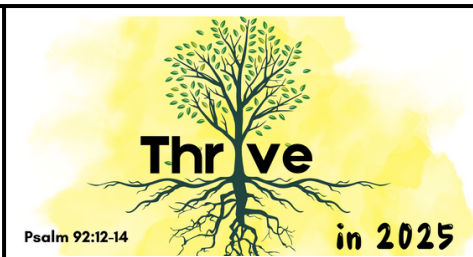
Throughout the year we have sought to resource individuals and the congregation as a whole in order to help them thrive in key aspects of faith: to thrive in the Word, in prayer, in worship, in their family and in community and more. As God has moved throughout the ministries of the church we have seen people follow the Lord in baptism, watched multiple families dedicate their children and themselves to the Lord, and welcomed 15 new people who have chosen to make us their church home.

I also thank God for the continuing ways that He is using our church to impact our community and beyond with the truth, hope and love of Jesus. We have contributed financially to the support of three Church of God missionary couples and you have generously given over \$1500 additional dollars this year for world missions. You have also displayed incredible generosity in ongoing support of our community partners- **Raven Packs**, the **Christian Cupboard**, and **Loaves & Fishes**. I believe thriving people and churches use every means to plant seeds of the gospel far and wide and you can read details in Isaac's report about how we have grown our engagement online content.

I remain incredibly grateful for the countless volunteers who serve in so many capacities here. I am also excited to see the new people, whose names you will find on the ballot, stepping into roles of service. I am also blessed to serve alongside staff members Pastor Athena Edwards as well as Isaac Winland. It is a joy and privilege to serve together with them in the work God is doing.

Space does not permit all there is to celebrate from 2025. That said, I would be remiss to neglect pointing out that, because of your ongoing generosity which is part of thriving faith, we will finish the year in our strongest financial position of the past seven years. Your faithful support has made the victories of 2025 possible and prepares us for what God desires to do in the coming year.

Pastor Tod



STUDENTS & FAMILIES REPORT



ATHENA EDWARDS

2025 has been a year of energizing growth in Student and Family Ministry.

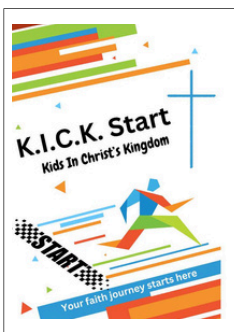
This year **6 families** made a public declaration to be the spiritual leaders in their homes and raise their kids to know and love the Lord at our **Child Dedication** services. Families were prayed over and received Egermeier's Interactive Bible Story Book as a resource to help spur conversations and interest in the timeless stories of the Bible.

The Parent Pit Stop Ministry equips parents to disciple their kids and provides support for each other in their parenting journey. Because of the growth in attendance this ministry has had to move to a larger space on Sundays.



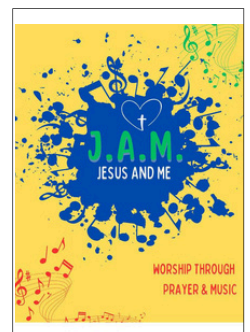
As parents have become more intentional in their attendance, our Kids Ministry attendance has seen a subsequent increase.

- The **JAM Session** has seen as many as **20 kids** each week who are eager to listen for the message of the music as they sing songs about the Bible lesson being taught. It is a blessing to see the kids develop a personal relationship with Jesus as they worship Him through music and prayer in **JAM**. It is exciting to see kids becoming more comfortable praying out loud for others as they talk to God in the Prayer Garden space.
- Teachers in **KICK Start** are sharing the truth of scripture through lessons, games and crafts with **as many as 30 kids weekly**. Students are learning to navigate through their Bibles, memorizing Bible verses and applying the God's Word each week to their lives.



As we have watched attendance grow in KICK Start, we have added a Floater Position using our High Schoolers and Young Adults to be an extra set of hands for the kids.

There is **energy and laughter** in our kid ministry space, with a little bit of chaos at times, as kids **begin their faith journey** and **deepen their relationship with Jesus** each week.



Young Adult Ministry

The growth in Student and Family Ministry has also spread to our **Young Adults**. Under the leadership of **Pastor George, they are now gathering 3x/month** inside and outside the church walls. Their times of connection this past year included the first and third Sundays in the balcony classroom, monthly in George's garage, pumpkin roll baking and presenting the Live Nativity to the community. The group is excited to serve together while learning how to live out their faith in today's culture.



Youth Ministry 6th-12th Grades



As Christ IMPACTS the lives of our youth, they are striving to IMPACT others with His love.

Besides meeting weekly on **Sunday mornings**, the youth continue to meet for **Donut Devos** on Thursdays and gather for **5th Sunday** events during worship. They also enjoy **Winter Retreat, Fall Rally, NEO Summer Camp, OSYC, and Friendsgiving.**



Connection Points for Growing Disciples of Every Age

- **3Gs Women's Gathering fills the FLC classroom** every Tuesday evening and provides an opportunity for young and old to gather around the table for a physical and spiritual meal. This diverse group has seen growth as they disciple each other and has prompted a **2Gs Group of young adult women** to meet separately for accountability and conversations.
- The **Saturday morning Men's Group** and the **Sr. Adults** are additional points of connection. The men gather twice a month on Saturdays and the Sr. Adults twice a month on Thursdays.

New!

The REFRESH Mom's Group continues to be strong and their contagious excitement for gathering each month has the dads of Parent Pit Stop wanting their own time of connection.

Starting in January, Iron Sharpening Iron based on Proverbs 27:17 will begin for the dads! "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Jeff Whitely will be leading this group which meets on the 4th Saturday of each month at 6pm.



Prayer Buddies are students in our congregation whom you have chosen to cover in prayer throughout the school year.

Every Monday morning at 8am a prayer prompt is posted across our social media channels to focus your prayers on a specific topic for your student.

Your prayers DO make a difference!



Rummage sale income covers a majority of Student and Family expenses for weekly ministry, seasonal activities and outreach events. Thank you for generously donating your time and treasures.



Thank You to ALL the prayer warriors who cover our ministries, teachers, families and students in prayer. Thank you as well to the many volunteers who serve in Student and Family ministries. The spiritual growth we have experienced is contagious and I am excited to see what the Lord has for us in 2026. Thank you for being intentional to share your faith and invite others to THRIVE with us.

Pastor Athena

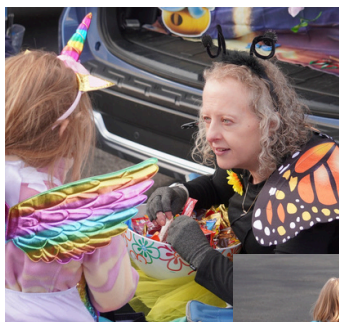
Reaching the community with the truth, hope and love of Jesus!



Summer Splash



Trunk or Treat



Willyard Coffee Cart



Smiles



Thanks



Coffee

Treats



Prayer

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

ISAAC WINLAND



2025 brought continued growth in the worship life of the church! Each Sunday I have the privilege to not only lead you in worship, but to see how God is growing worship in our church! Whether it is seeing hands raised, hearing you sing wholehearted praises to God, or seeing greater use and engaging of prayer within our service, I love watching the church lean into worship more and more. The Lord is blessing our church and I know He has greater things for us as we move into the future! My hope is that as we do, we will continue to offer our best in praising God!

A few growth points in the worship and community life of the church this year:

- Added one person to the **worship team** and two to the **tech team** and gathered the whole team for a worship retreat for training and community building
- Greater connection to our yearly theme by having **"Thrive Sundays"** throughout the year
- A family-focused month in August which included our Summer Splash event
- **Community Challenges** - two challenges that helped you connect with others and share why church is important to you
- The **Holiday Band** provided special music again in December and in addition served along with the worship team for congregational worship



We will be updating our worship space starting in early January. The changes will create more space for our worship team, for dramas, and other worship elements. I'm excited for this "facelift" to our sanctuary.

"Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!"

Psalm 68:35

WORSHIP MINISTRY

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, we have been able to bring some great updates and quality control to our social media pages as well as add a **new texting platform** for communication! Since June we have been able to both send texts out from the church as well as receive text messages back. This has been a fantastic addition to our ability to provide timely communication for our church. The bulk of the nearly 6000 text messages we've sent have been prayer requests shared with our prayer ministry. If you have a need here is the number to text or scan the QR code.



Text to Share
1-833-440-5207

Through Facebook, we live stream every Sunday, but don't forget to check out our full social media posting schedule.

Our normal schedule is:

- Sunday: Live Stream of the Service
- Monday: Prayer Buddy Prompt
- Tuesday: Clip from the Weekly Message
- Thursday: Church updates and news
- Saturday: Pastor Tod posts a short video previewing the upcoming message



Be sure to be on the lookout for these weekly posts and please “Like” and “Share”!
Just a reminder: our service live streams only remain on Facebook for a few weeks but are always available on our YouTube channel! youtube.com/@firstchurchravenna7180

Below are some stats that show the increase in our **reach, content interactions** and **site visits** just on Facebook over this past year.

<u>Views</u>	<u>Content Interaction</u>	<u>Visits</u>
126K	3.2K	11.2K
	11.2% ↑	0.5% ↑

TRUSTEES REPORT

JASON MINGO



It has been my pleasure to serve you this year as Chairman of Trustees and I am grateful to all who serve as part of trustee team. The Trustees want to thank you for your support throughout the year, as we've worked to oversee the financial health of our Church and steward its physical resources. Our Church has seen a year of faithful stewardship by all, and I am confident and excited about what God has in store for his Church here.

Here are a few highlights from 2025 and a glimpse of what's ahead.

- **2025 Budget:** This year we will finish in our strongest financial position in several years. Our income has not only met and exceeded our yearly budget but we have seen continued growth in our Building Fund.
- **Sanctuary:** In the early weeks of 2026, you will see our platform expansion project begin with an expected 2-week turnaround. This new look will provide us with more useable platform space and greatly enhance worship ministry. Your ongoing support of our Building Fund has made this possible and through the efforts of skilled people in our congregation we will be able to complete the work in a timely and cost effective way.
- **Groundskeeping:** Early in the Spring, we will be working to remove some of the dead pine trees by the entrance.
- **Parking Lot:** As soon as the temperatures allow for it, we will be resealing and repainting our parking lot. This is essential to do every few years in order to maintain the quality and longevity of the asphalt. Thanks to your generosity in our late Fall **Buy a Bucket** fundraiser, we have already secured the sealant.

Overseeing the physical needs of our church property and financial health is a task that each Trustee takes very seriously, and we are all grateful that you have entrusted us with such an honor. If you have any questions, recommendations, or if you see something that needs to be repaired, please let anyone of us know. We are here for you.

Again, it has been a privilege to serve as trustees chair. I would also like to thank you, the congregation, for your faithful support of our 2025 budget. We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation.

Jason

Trustees Jason Mingo, Jeff Whitely, Jim Smith Bob Luli, Tom Noland Dave Edwards	Secretary Alicia Mingo Asst. Secretary Jamie Luli	Treasurer open Asst. Treasurer Renee Noland Bookkeeper Gina Conway
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Working Together in the Kingdom

Benevolence

Pam Luli, Linda Martell, Wendy Huston,
Diane Kehner, Alicia Mingo, Chelsea Rich,
Liz Davis, Larry Kehner,
Debbie Miller

Providing for the needs in the body of
Christ through funeral meals, cards of
encouragement or sympathy, and caring
for shut-ins

Ordinance

Mick & Cindy Chrin, Mande & Joe Scott,
Jack & Pam Caldwell, Dodie Morff,
April Winland

Assisting with the preparation and serving
of communion for worship throughout the
year, including Maundy Thursday and
helping with baptism celebration

Christian Education

Athena Edwards, Cassie Bergman,
George Reese, Holly Shannon,
Cindy Chrin, Leah Ratchford

Providing vision and oversight for
the discipleship ministry for students
and adults

Council

Jeff Whitely, Mary McCracken,
Pam Luli, Chelsea Rich, Mark Miller,
Cassie Bergman, Athena Edwards,
Jason Mingo, Alicia Mingo,

Providing oversight of the overall
ministry of the church as well as aiding in
yearly strategic planning

In addition to our standing leadership teams in 2025, we were blessed by the 10+ people serving in worship ministry, the 40+ people staffing our student and adult ministries, the many ushers and greeters, our prayer team members, as well as the 60+ folks who support our yearly rummage sales and outreach events.

*The righteous will flourish
like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar
of Lebanon;
planted in the house
of the Lord*



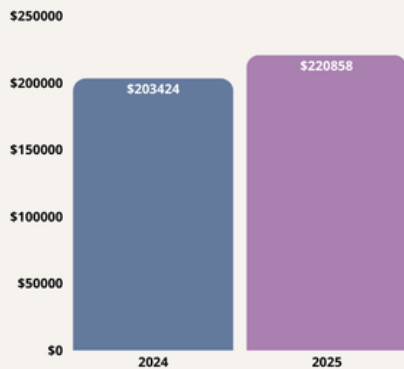
*they will flourish in the courts
of our God.
They will still bear fruit
in old age,
they will stay fresh and green
Psalm 92:12-14*

in 2025

FIRST CHURCH

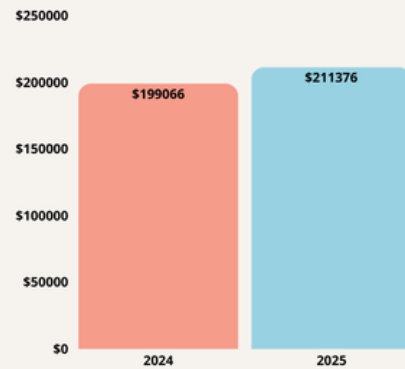
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

BUDGETED INCOME 2024 vs 2025



Includes: • Tithes & offering

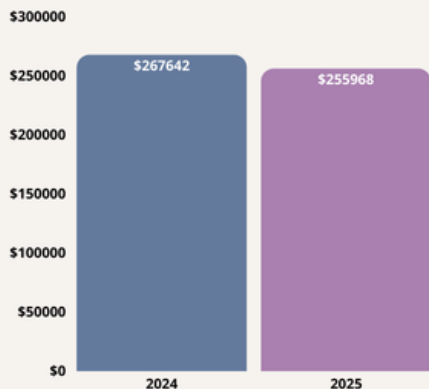
BUDGETED EXPENSES 2024 vs 2025



Including (but not limited to):

- Salaries, wages
- Utilities, building maintenance, Insurance
- CE, Youth, Worship, Benevolence, Outreach
- Office supplies, equipment

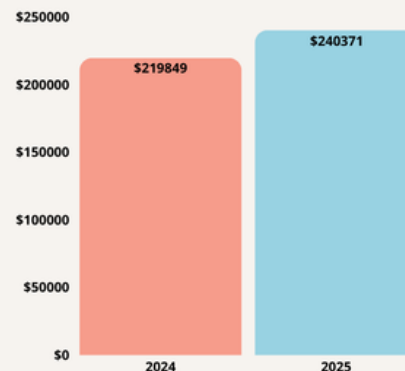
ALL INCOME 2024 vs 2025



Including (but not limited to):

- Tithes & offering
- Missionary Support
- Building Fund, Facility Rentals
- CE & Youth
- Christian Cupboard, Special Offerings

ALL EXPENSES 2024 vs 2025



Including (but not limited to):

- Salaries, wages
- Utilities & building maintenance (parking lot)
- CE, Youth, Worship
- Church of God ministries, Missions
- Benevolence & Outreach

If you would like a detailed 2025 financial report, or a 2026 budget breakdown, please let us know.

WAYS TO GIVE:



ONLINE

Make a donation through our website
www.fcgravenna.com



OUR APP

Make a donation through the Church Center app



MAIL

Mail to:
First Church of God
237 New Milford Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266



OFFERING PLATE

Donate as a part of our weekly Sunday worship

KINGDOM IMPACT LOCALLY & GLOBALLY

Our Partners in Missions

**JOHN & GWEN
JOHNSON**
AFRICA



**Annual support
\$3000**



**ALFONSO & ELIZABETH
AYALE**
BELIZE

**TIMOTHY & ANGELITA
DOWNING**
ECUADOR



Assisting twice a month in
delivering food bags to
Williard Elementary
students



A monthly opportunity to
bless the staff with hot
beverages, treats, prayer
and encouragement

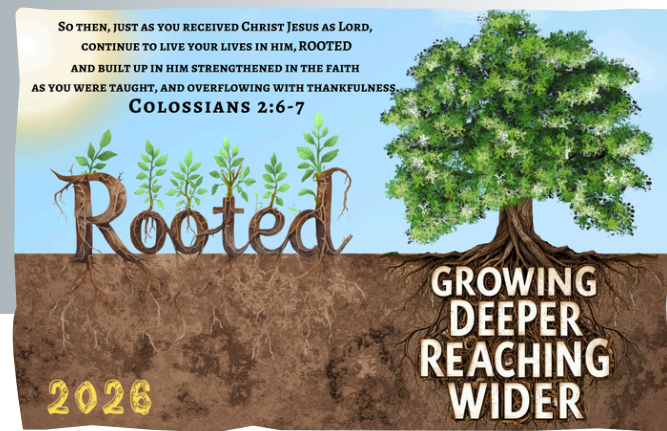


Over \$5500 given in
support of their
Christian Cupboard
food pantry



Serving 150 meals to the
need of our community
four times a year.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026



As important as it is within this report to look back and celebrate what God has done over the course of 2025, there is also value in sharing a bit of the vision for the coming year with you as well. Directly related to our 2025 theme is our 2026 focus of **ROOTED**. **Colossians 2** tells us that no matter how long you have been on the faith journey, God is calling us personally and corporately to become more rooted in our faith and to go deeper in our walk. As we grow closer to Christ and become more and more built up and established in Him, we will find greater power and desire to reach wider with the gospel of Christ. Throughout the year our Sunday and Wednesday teaching content will seek to speak into ways we can grow deeper and reach wider.

Beyond teaching and preaching there are many other ways God brings growth in our faith. One key tool is through personal study of His Word. Every year we offer you a Bible reading challenge and this year we are focusing on reading through the New Testament. However, in order to be more **ROOTED** we must **go deeper** than simply reading. With that in mind, we are offering you a reading plan complete requiring **5 minutes each day • 5 days a week • with 5 possible prompts and space to journal** to help you engage the text in greater ways. Be sure to pick up your hard copy from the church or grab a digital copy from our Facebook group page or the resource page on our website.

5x5x5 New Testament Bible Reading Plan

SAVE
the DATE

In order to help equip you to **reach wider**, we will be offering a special workshop in the afternoon of **March 21st**. Led by our new Church of God state director, it will be a dedicated time designed to help us know our community better, to develop and deepen our heart for the lost and to provide tools for sharing Jesus.

Making disciples
Everywhere
Loving God & people
Always

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