

GRACE POINT

2021-2022

Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by creating environments where life change can happen.



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A Letter from Pastor Tim



I never thought gathering each week for an entire year as a church would be such a blessing, but after two years of a mix of online and onsite gatherings, we finally had a “normal” year! And it amazes me how Jesus continues to work through imperfect people and imperfect leaders, to build His Church. In a time when the future of the church in America seems so unclear, I have never been more convinced that Jesus wants to do just that through us.

You may ask why I’m so convinced of that.

The answer? Because I see Him working through you.

I see the way you show up to worship together, the way you show up to serve each other and our community, and the way you show up to encourage each other in your groups. I was shocked to see how quickly our attendance numbers bounced back from pre-Covid with only two services. Attendance isn’t everything, but as we’ve said before every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God. We continue to see Him drawing kids, teenagers, and adults to Himself. God is stirring and people are seeking Him.

I see the way God is working through your generosity. Even in the midst of inflation, California-like gas prices, a war in Ukraine, and a shaky economy, you gave generously to our Advent Conspiracy offering, the Tandem Bake Sale, and for the first time ever, we collected more than a million dollars toward our general budget. I’m once again blown away by your selfless, joyful generosity!

Finally, I see God working in the stories of life change. Each week our pastoral team gathers and shares those stories. We’ve celebrated miraculous healing, salvations, healed marriages, restored relationships, broken addictions and so much more. That is why we do what we do and continue to ask: “how can we join Jesus in His rescue mission?”

As we look forward to the next twelve months of ministry, we have no idea what is going to happen with the economy, or Ukraine, or the mid-term elections, or Supreme Court cases, but we do know what we’re supposed to be about—leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus by creating environments where life change can happen. That mission, that goal, that task is what I’m planning to spend my time and energy over the next twelve months accomplishing. Will you join me?

I count it an honor to serve alongside one of the greatest ministry teams and congregations this side of heaven!

Pastor Tim

Year in Review

Every number has a name



7

Baby Dedications

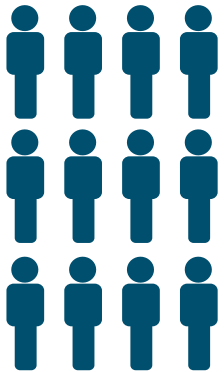


12

Baptisms

12

New Members



16 Salvations:

people surrendering their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Giving:

\$1,006,836.68

annual giving

\$19,362.24

average/week

268



showers provided at Grace Point in conjunction with the Topeka Rescue Mission through the Mobile Access Partnership.

Year in Review

Every name has a story

Supporting missions on

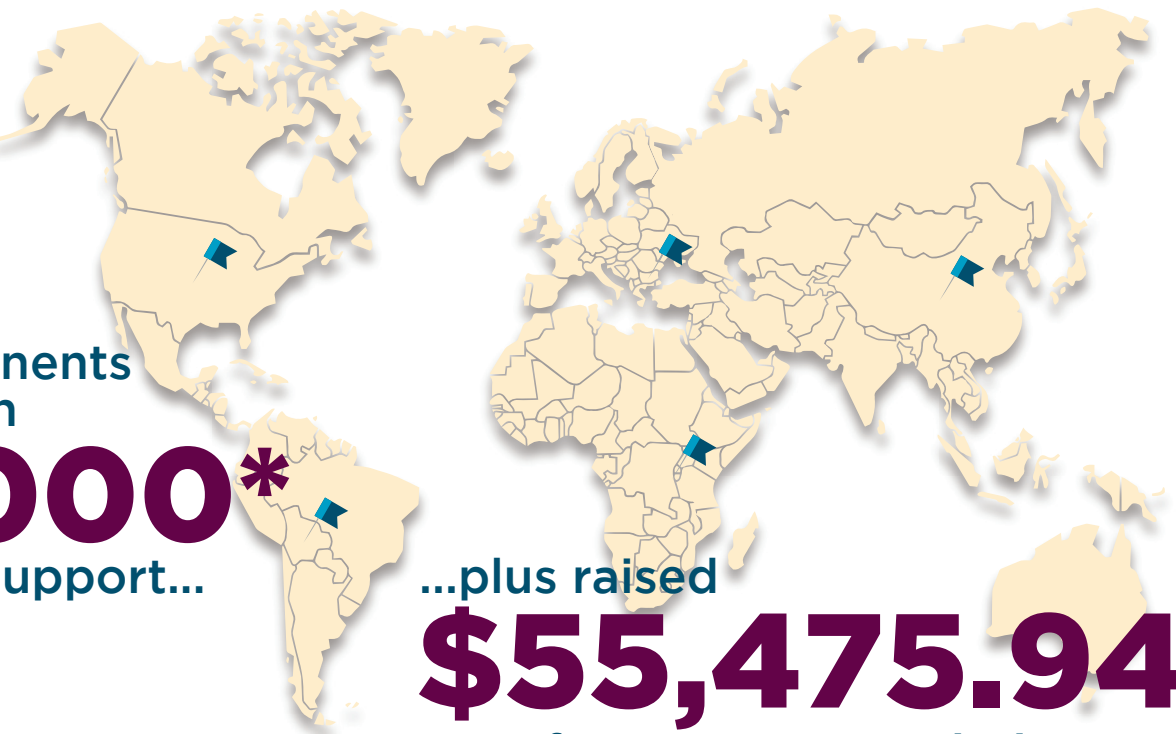
5

continents

with more than

\$79,000*

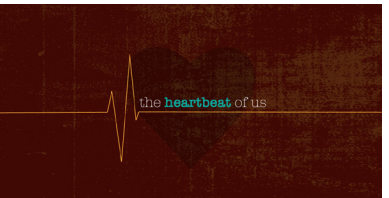
in support...



...plus raised

\$55,475.94

for next year's missions budget through Advent Conspiracy



10

challenging & inspiring teaching series



GOD & BOD



Josh Cooper

Discipleship & Equipping Pastor

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

I have been pleasantly surprised by the significant number of new folks attending worship services at Grace Point. We have an incredible opportunity and responsibility to invite those attendees to join us in biblical community because we believe that life change happens best in circles compared to rows.

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

The way God is working is best described by the words of people who are experiencing life change in groups. T.S. says, "Being part of a discipleship group has been amazing. I truly learned to rely on God to take away my worries. Confessing my sins or my short falls has left me more accountable to my faith. And learning that others have very relatable problems. My group is a true blessing especially to my faith relationship growing!"

If you could change one thing from the last year what would you do differently or change?

It's hard for me to imagine this as a possibility given that we have over 50 groups, but I would have liked to visit every Small Group and every D-Group at least once.

What was your highlight of the year?

I was overwhelmed with thankfulness at the response we received to the "Let's Talk" teaching series and small group curriculum. It was a lot of work to collaborate with other churches in putting this series together, but it was worth it! We had more people engaged in groups, forming new groups, and using the tools we created to invite people to church and into small groups!

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

I look forward to taking new ground through Groups ministry to connect more people into biblical communities. One project I'm particularly excited about is called Pioneer Basic Training through our partnership with Groundswell. Pioneers are missionary disciples called to find creative ways to engage and reach people who are unfamiliar with the established church. Pioneer Basic Training is a learning community for potential pioneers. It's a place to discover calling, develop ministry skills, and discern how to reach new frontiers with fresh expressions of the gospel.



Photo: Discipleship group leader training

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

As more and more kids came back to our KidsPoint environments, it was so good to see their reactions! Each time a child came back for the first time, they verbalized to us how much they missed being there and how much they missed their church! Kids do not usually articulate how they feel about church, unless they are bored and then we definitely hear all about it. What a nice surprise it was to actually hear our kids missed us as much as we missed them! We still celebrate every time one of the kids comes back for the first time since Covid! Jesus really does make a difference in our relationship. We continue to learn that showing up consistently in the life of a child does make an incredible impact!



Photo: Packing Operation Christmas Child boxes

What was your highlight of the year?

- Every time a child decides to follow Jesus!
- Every time a child get baptized!
- Every time a parent reaches out to ask how they can help their child understand Jesus' love.

This is why our incredible KidsPoint team of volunteers serves each and every week! They know there is nothing more important in the life of a child than knowing Jesus!

Niki Copeland

KidsPoint Pastor

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

Our KidsPoint staff has been through quite a year. Rhonda lost her mom early in summer, my brother in law passed away in January and Julie's mom had a terrible car accident in March.

Our year went differently than we had planned, however God was always present and He continued to comfort us and we were able to reach more and more kids even in our darkest of days.

As the year began, we were running about 100 less kids than we are now! There is a verse in Psalms I learned many years ago and it rang true during the last year.

"Those who sow in tears will reap in joy"
Psalm 126:5

God continued to give each of us a desire to be a part of His work with the kids and our volunteers even when the days at home were full of sadness. God continued to show us how to lead in our weakness. God continued to change kids into Jesus followers! We are a thankful, joyful team!

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

Every parent needs help. Raising children is a big job! We are looking forward to partnering with parents as we begin a few parent classes this next fall. We hope parents can connect with each other and with us as we all realize a strong Christian network is an essential part of parenting.

Faith Hansard

Student Ministry Pastor

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

It didn't necessarily surprise me, but it always does my heart good to see how much our leaders love our students so well. I am grateful I get to serve on a team with them each week. They have jumped in and served, spent countless hours at games, concerts and track meets, and they do it with a joyful spirit.



Photo: Teens worshipping at NTS Camp

What was your highlight of the year?

We raised \$17,743 at the Bake Auction to send students to camp! Thank you for your generosity. This was a record-breaking year and for the first time ever, a single item sold for more than \$1,000. That item alone sends about three kids to camp. And camp changes lives!

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

The conversations that the leaders and I have had with our students over the last year have been amazing. God is moving in big ways in our students' lives. Stereotypes say teens don't want to talk with adults, but our experience is that teens need a place where they can ask questions, give authentic opinions, and try to express who God is creating them to be. Tandem and our leaders are a place where they can find just that.

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

I am excited to bring on a new hire so that our students will have more people speaking truth and love into their lives.

3 Fast Facts:

- Our Tandem leaders are the best
- Our students are amazing
- We had 7 students receive Christ for the first time at camp!



Photo: A table of excited bidders at the Bake Auction

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

The buy-in. People who were serving on our team remained faithful. Even though it was a challenging year and for many people their rhythms were different, our team still showed up. They were faithful to serve. They continued to join Jesus in his mission.

What was your highlight of the year?

Salvations and baptisms are always the highlight of the year. We don't always get to publicly celebrate salvations, but we do baptisms. I get the honor of helping people tell their stories on video. This means I get to experience the storytelling that happens behind the scenes. The videos are great and they hit the highlights, but when you get to sit down with someone whose life has been radically altered you can't help but praise God for the work He is doing!



Photo: Worship team celebrating Christmas Eve

3 Fast Facts:

- Our volunteers give nearly 6 hours on Sundays...and many of them do it multiple times a month!
- We have more drummers than we've ever had before.
- Chris Ireland is the best Tech Director in the universe.

Marc Giffin

Creative Arts Pastor

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

God has been working in the hearts of so many people around me. I have seen people grow in their faith. I've seen relationships grow stronger. I have seen people stay committed to life in ministry when they have experienced very difficult life circumstances. And that only happens when people are faithful to the call of God in their lives.

If you could change one thing from the last year what would you do differently or change?

Covid really messed up peoples routines. I would love to see everyone who broke their rhythm of engagement during Covid come back and jump back into serving.

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

Growth. I'm looking forward to adding new staff members and adding new volunteers to the worship and tech teams. Our church is poised for something new and refreshing. I sense in my soul that something's coming and I'm jacked to be on board with what God's got for Grace Point.

Bob Giffin

Connections Pastor

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

One thing that surprised me this year was how rapidly our people returned to in-person services. Along with that, we continue to have a strong online presence. It has been wonderful to see!

What was your highlight of the year?

There have been two highlights for me this year. First, we added women to our usher team. Women have been serving in all other areas of Connections, so it was great to incorporate them in the sanctuary as well.

Second, we had an incredible response to the huge need for volunteers across three services for Easter. Connections Team needed nearly 50 people to meet the need, and more than that volunteered to serve - Praise the Lord!

If you could change one thing from last year, what would you do differently?

As I look back, I wish we could have restarted the home cookie delivery ministry, which had been paused during Covid. It is a popular and well received ministry to first-time visitors.

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

I saw the Connections Team, across both services, grow closer through serving together as a team. We have six teams of 11 for each service! We pray together, and follow up with one another with genuine care. It goes beyond just showing up to shake hands or seat people. It is truly about connecting - both as a team and with our church family.

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

As I hand this ministry over to Pastor Jim, I look forward to the growth and improvements I know will happen under his leadership.

3 Fast Facts:

- People matter
- Hospitality matters
- Attitude matters

Our Connections Team consistently blends all three of these facts together to create a welcoming, loving church environment that touches the lives of all who come to Grace Point!

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

One thing that has surprised me about ministry is that I can feel completely discouraged and totally encouraged at the same time. The Point hasn't become a booming ministry, we aren't the "it" place to be in town. But at the same time we have created some really encouraging small groups for young adults and God is fostering positive relationships in those groups. Young adults are holding each other accountable, asking great questions and encouraging one another to follow Jesus whole-heartedly.

What was your highlight of the year?

I have so many highlights it is hard to pick just one:

- Young adults knowing Jesus deeper
- Learning all about softball (to connect with young adults)
- Working with other Topeka churches on the Let's Talk series
- Creating the Good Friday Experience with our incredible ministry team
- Helping to teach God's word during Sunday services



Photo: Sweet potato races at Friendsgiving

Niki Maloney

Communications & Young Adults

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

I am always amazed at how many people walk through our digital "front door." We have seen so many new faces at Grace Point this year because they have visited our website, seen one of our messages on YouTube, or saw something someone shared on social media.

With our Young Adults we saw two young ladies give their lives to Christ for the first time, and one of them was baptized. It has been a joy walking alongside them and seeing how God is transforming them.



Photo: Reindeer games at the Christmas Party

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

Finding and creating ways to connect meaningfully online. In other words, widening our digital front door.

3 Fast Facts:

- Sweet Potatoes explode when you hit them with metal spoons
- Our most engaging social media posts are when we share photos of the staff being silly - our Christmas party, funny hat day, etc.
- We had more than 7,600 unique visitors to our website

Lyle Thiessen

Interim Missions Director

What is one thing that surprised you in ministry?

Honestly, I am never surprised by what God can do and what his faithful workers can accomplish. But I am amazed by the generosity of the Grace Point family. From the Advent Conspiracy giving, the bake auction, gifts given for school supplies and the Reynosa trip, and our latest baby bottle campaign, lives are being impacted locally and around the world.

What was your highlight of the year?

Mission Revolution was the beginning of the apex. However, I was most excited by how the congregation responded to Advent Conspiracy. Because of the generosity of our people, missionaries and mission agencies will be supported, service projects will be completed and a dental clinic will be built to treat orphans in Rwanda. The people of Grace Point understand the Great Commission and are willing to get on board.



Photo: Guest speaker, Todd Ahrend, speaking at Mission Revolution

How did you see God work in your ministry area this year?

Again, due to Covid most of our projects were service oriented. A significant project we took on was to work with the Topeka Rescue Mission to serve the homeless by hosting the shower trailer, food truck and clothing trailer, every six weeks. Grace Point became a model church to other churches for how this project should go. It has been well received by the homeless community who now have a clean body, clean clothes, and food in their stomach.

We also hosted Mission Revolution Sunday, where we were challenged to learn more about reaching the unreached people of the world, as well as to reach those in our own backyard. Many people signed up that weekend to serve in some manner of missions.

What is one thing you're looking forward to next year?

We have an exciting Mission Revolution Sunday planned for October. It is bigger and better than last year with lots of activities. You won't want to miss it.

3 Fast Facts:

- Grace Point supports 7 full time missionaries located in 5 countries including the United States.
- We support 5 mission agencies serving both locally and globally.
- Four of the missionaries we support, at some point, called Grace Point their home church!