

● 2024 *Encountering Jesus
Impacting the World*

impact

R E P O R T

“ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:5

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IMPACTING THE WORLD

CONTENTS

3 DEAR CHURCH

4 LEADERSHIP

5 PRAYER

6 WORSHIP

8 BELONG

8 Children

9 Youth—AWAKE

10 College—ACF

11 Young Adult—20/30

11 Community Groups

12 Women's Ministry

12 Men's Ministry

13 Prime Timers

13 SERVE

14 Trustees

14 Board of Administration

15 Hospitality

15 Care Team

16 SEND // Missions & Outreach

18 GIVE // Giving Trends



Dear Church Family

We are delighted to share this update with you and to celebrate the many good things that God has done in our church family over the last year. God is moving in many ways, and this report will give some of the highlights at State College Alliance Church.

As we reflect on the *Discipleship Journey* that unfolded last year, we can see many ways that we are growing in our foundational calling. From staff developments to preaching strategy to leadership discussions and calendar planning, we have sensed the gentle nudges and affirmation of the voice of Jesus calling us to ***"Encounter Him & Impact our World."*** And that is our goal as we launch into the next year of ministry. We will continue to make space for His Manifest Presence, and move out in fullness to make a difference in our world.

God is moving and it is our joy to stay in step with Him. May you be encouraged as you read this report, and THANK YOU for being a part of this beautiful church family.



Blessings,

Aaron & Amy Henning

Aaron & Amy Henning
Lead Pastoral Couple



Elder Board

Aaron Henning
Ashley Holleman
Bob Whitaker
Chris Cunningham
Don Jones
Eric Wafula
Glenn Firebaugh
Keith Walker
Phil Savage
Tom Stauffer
Wes Miller

We are **deeply grateful** to our elected leaders, staff, and the numerous volunteers whose unwavering commitment and service have a lasting impact on our church and community.

AARON HENNING
Lead Pastor

ADEN WERTZ
Pastor of Missional Engagement

SETH ROUSH
Student Ministry Pastor

DAN MIN
Pastor of Spiritual Formation

ANDY HENDRY
ACF Campus Pastor



MIDDLE ROW L-R

BILL JESTER
MEREDITH LeROY
KEITH MAURER
BETH ERTSGAARD
JULIE BANKS
JESS FINK
BUCK HALL

Director of Children's Ministry & Information Technology
Worship Coordinator
Care & Community Director
Office Support
Head Custodian
Custodian
Maintenance Manager

LOWER ROW L-R

JILL ZEGER
SUZANNE WILLIAMS
LAUREN WALTERS
KATY McIVER
STEPHANIE MILLER

Next Generation Ministry Assistant
Executive Director
Communications Director
Director of Multicultural Ministries
Financial Support

prayer

Impacting our world through Upper Room pursuit of God's Presence & Power.

Our church embraced a deeper hunger for prayer this year as we pursued God's manifest presence through a fresh commitment to seeking Jesus in prayer. It's been a year that truly fostered a culture of intercession. We hosted weekly "Upper Room" gatherings with our Elder Board and staff, gathered in community groups across our congregation, and focused on revival praying in our weekly worship services. We also joined other congregations in monthly prayer meetings to mobilize prayer in our region.

The highlight was our *Living Waters* prayer services, where we experienced powerful worship, taught on the prophetic voice of Jesus, and renewed our commitment to seeking God's presence. The cry of our hearts became,

Lord, teach us to pray!

“It's encouraging to see the increased hunger for prayer among our Church family. And we are seeing answers to prayers with hearts and lives that are changed and commitments to Jesus that have been made this year! —Amy Henning

As we reflect on the incredible ways God has worked through our ministries this past year, we are filled with gratitude and awe. Together, we have journeyed through a year of growth, connection, and transformation. Thank you for your prayers, participation, and commitment to being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community & beyond. *Glory goes to God.*



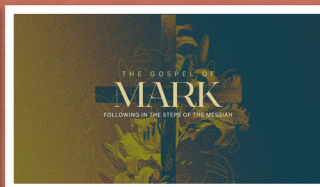
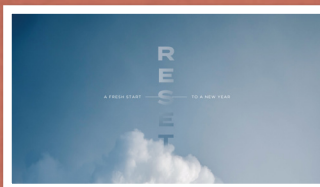
worship

Creating environments where people can encounter the life-giving presence of God.

2024 has been a year of growth and meaningful worship for our ministry. Pastor Dan has stepped into his leadership role with vision and guidance, partnering with Meredith LeRoy, who continues faithfully as our Worship Ministries Coordinator. Together, we've pursued greater unity in worship by implementing a "same team, same style" approach for Communion Sundays across both services. Special moments have filled our year, from the beauty of choir anthems, worship choirs, and brass at Easter and Advent services to the deeply meaningful worship encounters at our Good Friday and Christmas Eve gatherings.

We've been blessed to see growth in our worship and media volunteer teams through ongoing recruitment and development. Pastor Aden, with the support of other staff members, made impactful upgrades to our sanctuary's projection systems, enhancing the overall worship experience. Each week, our worship ministry volunteers have sought to create an atmosphere of elevated worship and deep prayer in all our corporate gatherings.

“ We're thankful for the times of encountering Jesus in worship, and we hope to create more opportunities like that for our SCAC family in the new year!
—Pastor Dan Min





children

*Helping kids come to know Christ
& know Him better.*

This year, we witnessed God's faithfulness in our Kids Ministry! Our Alliance Sports Camp set new records with 430 kids and 250 volunteers coming together under the theme "Start the Party." Kids not only learned about Christ but also became "Party Starters" by sharing the Gospel with others. We extended this mission globally through a Mobile Sports Camp in Nyeri, Kenya, impacting children at the Children & Youth Empowerment Center.

Our Sunday morning ministries introduced kids to foundational truths, while AWANA continued to welcome families from across our community. Our Sunday morning teaching included a "Basics of the Faith" boot camp along with lessons on wisdom, compassion, and generosity. Best of all, we celebrated five baptisms—a testament to God's transforming work in young hearts. We praise God for moving in the hearts and lives of the next generation.

“It is such a privilege to be a part of
God's work in the next generation,
seeing kids put their faith in Christ and
learn how to live their life for him!
—Bill Jester



youth

*Helping students become exposed to, experience
& express Christ, His kingdom and the
biblical purposes of His church.*

2024 has been a year full of growth & transformation! We celebrated the graduation of several valuable, culture-shaping leaders from AWAKE. Passing the baton to upcoming underclassmen is a process that requires great prayer, patience, and intentional development, and we've seen God's faithfulness as both our Student Leadership Team and Adult Leadership Team continue to take ownership of the ministry. New middle and high school students are finding their home in AWAKE, and it's been amazing to see students inviting others, leading their peers to Christ, and carrying the fire of the Spirit to share Jesus' love. We praise God for the way He is working through them!

Our retreats have been especially impactful this year. Both our annual Fall retreat, Re:Bloom at Seneca Hills Bible Camp, and our Spring retreat at Lake Champion saw their largest attendance yet, with over 50 students participating. These weekends have been catalytic moments in the spiritual formation of our students and leaders, bearing much fruit in their lives.

We also celebrated the completion of The Gospel & Narnia Gathering, a three-year journey with Jesus through His Word and the adventure of Narnia. This course has been a powerful tool for discipling 6th-12th grade students, and we are excited to adapt it for preteens in 4th-6th grade, shaping their kingdom readiness and battle awareness.

AWAKE enjoys the presence of volunteers who give their time and love to impact the next generation, and God continues to provide helpers and mentors who help the ministry run. We are thankful for you!

“I've realized the age gap isn't a hindrance—it's a blessing. We need people of all generations to mentor students because our different experiences with Jesus can make a big impact. —Lori Lapp, AWAKE Volunteer



college

*Alliance Christian Fellowship: A church
for students, led by students.*

2024 has been a year filled with spiritual growth, connection, and leadership development. We welcomed Andy & Lauren Hendry as new leaders. The fall began strong with 28 students attending the Fall Retreat, where we dove into "The Gospel According to Jonah." Alongside fun games and quiet moments with the Lord, students left feeling spiritually refreshed and deeply connected to one another. It was an incredible time of community and renewal.

ACF Life Groups have flourished this year, with four groups meeting consistently throughout the semester to study Ephesians, Hebrews, tough life topics for men, and the sermon series on 1 & 2 Corinthians. Attendance in these groups has grown so much that we are excited to add a fifth group this fall! These gatherings continue to be a space where students are engaging with God's Word and building meaningful relationships.

Student leadership has also been a major focus in 2024. Our student leaders participated in a three-session discipleship training, equipping them to mentor underclassmen and welcome new students into the community. Their growth and dedication have been evident as they take on the responsibility of fostering a welcoming and Christ-centered environment.

Each Sunday, we regularly see between 150-175 students attend our on-campus service, creating a vibrant and dynamic space where students can worship and encounter Jesus together. We are so grateful for how God is moving in and through ACF, and we look forward to seeing Him continue to transform lives in the year ahead!



20/30 connect

A group of 20/30 somethings building community with one another & the broader church family through monthly gatherings.

2024 has been a year full of activities, connections, and community! From our variety of events to moments of fellowship, we've seen God work through this ministry in amazing ways. One of our highlights was the *Post-Preaching Patio Picnic Party*, where we shared a meal, played games, and connected deeply. This event helped many participants get plugged into the larger church community.

Throughout the year, we enjoyed a mix of fun activities, including mini golf, a nacho trivia night, and a lively *Among Us* game night at the church, where we welcomed new faces and built lasting friendships. We also hosted a meaningful *Friendsgiving* meal after church on a Sunday, creating a warm and welcoming space for connection and gratitude.

20/30 Connect continues to be a key touchpoint for young adults looking to find their place within the church and build a sense of belonging. We're thankful that this ministry is fulfilling its purpose and look forward to serving our community in even greater ways in 2025. God is using this ministry to provide connection and hope for so many, and we are excited to see where He leads us next!

“It can be hard to navigate this transition in your life, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to provide stability or a lifeline to those reaching out for community and helping them along the way. —Cady Wieck



community groups

Cultivating small group relationships that would result in spiritual growth & discipleship.

The Community Groups ministry has had an incredible year in 2024, marked by connection, growth, and stories of God at work among His people. Brian and Susie Landes have provided exceptional leadership, who took time to get to know new and existing group leaders and organizing an in-person Connection Event this fall. This event gave interested church members the opportunity to select from 26 different Community Groups that had openings, many of which continue to meet and thrive as we move into 2025.

This year, we hosted two training sessions for new and existing Community Group leaders and facilitators, with about a dozen participants in each session. These trainings have strengthened both our community and the lay leadership network within the church, as we work collectively to prioritize disciple-making efforts.

The fruit of these efforts is evident in the ongoing stories shared by our Community Group leaders. Groups have been uncovering valuable insights about prayer, diving deep into God's Word, and growing in love as they serve one another. One leader shared, *"At the start of our group, one of the biggest common prayer requests was to find community. It has been so cool to witness how the Lord selected everyone in our group and how He has given us the opportunity to form new community among ourselves."* Another leader remarked, *"We are amazed at how many prayers God has been answering within our group, many within the week. It is very encouraging to come together and hear those praises."*

God's faithfulness has been evident through answered prayers, deepening relationships, and lives being transformed by His Word. With hearts full of gratitude, we eagerly anticipate how God will continue to work through this ministry in 2025.

“We're excited to see how God develops disciples of Jesus in the context of a deep, loving community. Praying for an abundance of growth in our Community Groups in the coming year! —Pastor Dan Min



men's ministry

On the fellowship front, we enjoyed a variety of events that brought men together for fun, friendship, and connection. From weekly softball games that ran from May through August to a memorable *Men's Ministry Breakfast* in late June, these gatherings fostered camaraderie and built lasting relationships. Highlights included our night out at a State College Spikes game in July, an invigorating hike and overnight backpacking trip in September, and a lively football watch party for the Steelers vs. Eagles game in December. Each event offered a chance for men to grow closer to one another and enjoy life together.

Discipleship also played a central role in our ministry this year. Our weekly Thursday morning gatherings provided a time for breakfast, discussion, prayer, and accountability, encouraging men to grow deeper in their faith. Additionally, the Tuesday evening *Men's Bible Study Fellowship* ran from September through May, offering a space for study and fellowship. A key highlight of the year was our *Men's Weekend Retreat* to Greene Hills Manor in May. This time away allowed us to connect with God and one another in profound and lasting ways.

Through fellowship and discipleship, the Men's Ministry continues to create spaces where men can connect, belong, and grow in their walk with Christ. We are excited to see how God will continue to lead and strengthen our community in the coming year!

“We are providing opportunities for men to connect and belong through fellowship and discipleship. 2024 was a year filled with meaningful experiences and spiritual growth. —The Men's Ministry Team

women's ministry

The Women's Ministry had a vibrant and meaningful year in 2024, filled with opportunities for connection, encouragement, and spiritual growth. We kicked off the year with our “*Meet Ups*,” which created simple, fun, and impactful ways for women to connect. These events included dinner outings, game nights, a workout session to support mission trips, and mommy-and-me playdates. Each gathering fostered new friendships and strengthened our sense of community.

In the spring, we enjoyed our *Women's Ministry Breakfast*, where we shared a delicious meal and heard a hope-filled message about growing together in God's design for community. It was a wonderful time of encouragement and fellowship. Later in the fall, we hosted an intimate worship and prayer event, where the Lord's presence was near. It was a sweet and powerful time of lifting one another in prayer and experiencing His love together. We are so grateful for the ways God worked through our ministry this year and look forward to the opportunities ahead in 2025!

“What an incredible privilege it is to walk with the Lord and serve in this ministry with Him as our guide! His desire for us to be deeply rooted in Him and deeply rooted together impacted this year of ministry, and we are expectant that He will continue to show His deep love for His girls in this next year.
— The Women's Ministry Team





prime timers

*Fellowship & encouragement for
our senior Legacy Leaders.*

The 2024 Prime Timers Ministry has been a year of meaningful connection and joyful celebration. Each month, we gathered to share ministry updates, devotional encouragements, and wonderful times of fellowship around the table. The meals have been not only delicious but also filled with laughter, warmth, and community. One of the year's highlights was a road trip to *Sight & Sound*, a memorable adventure that allowed us to experience the wonder of God's story together.

Prime Timers reflect on long-term faithfulness of God, and we also take time to pray for the next generation, passing on the legacy of faith and love that has been cultivated in this community. We are grateful for the joy and encouragement this ministry brings and look forward to continuing to celebrate God's goodness together in the year ahead!

“ Prime Timers gatherings have become one of the most encouraging meetings in my month. I love the good food and the warm smiles from some of our longest-standing friends and members. —Pastor Aaron Henning

Trustees

To care for the facility and grounds, led by the Spirit to make good stewardship decisions, for the purpose of providing and maintaining an effective home-base for Kingdom work.

Our Trustees had a productive and impactful year in 2024, dedicated to caring for the facility and grounds with a heart for good stewardship and Kingdom work. One of the largest projects undertaken this year was the installation of a new roof over the oldest part of the building, ensuring the continued integrity of our space for ministry.

The team also extended their care beyond the church by helping neighbors through several service projects, embodying the spirit of community and outreach. Meeting monthly, the Trustees worked diligently to complete numerous projects both inside and outside the facility.

In addition to physical improvements, the team focused on financial stewardship by reviewing service contracts to identify areas where costs could be reduced. They've already begun implementing changes that will save the church money. Research and progress were also made on enhancing our video surveillance capabilities, and the team is in the process of upgrading the door access system to improve building security.

We are grateful for the Trustees' hard work and dedication, which helps maintain an effective home base for Kingdom work.

Board of Administration

This year, the Board of Administration worked together to steward our church's resources and support the ministries of SCAC with care and intentionality. Each month, we monitored the church's finances, ensuring they remained strong and aligned with our mission. In collaboration with ministry leaders, we developed line-item amounts for the 2025 SCAC budget, a process that allowed us to align our plans with God's vision for the upcoming year.

We also focused on improving internal structures, including reviewing and revising the SCAC employee handbook and addressing other HR matters. Partnering with the church staff, we took a close look at the building use policy and practice to ensure our space continues to be used effectively for ministry. Additionally, we received and discussed a report from the internal audit team, which gave us valuable insights into areas where we can continue to strengthen our stewardship.

As a team, we had the joy of allocating funds for Christmas-time staff blessings, a small but meaningful way to express gratitude for their tireless efforts. It's been a privilege to serve our church family in these practical ways, and we're looking forward to continuing to support the mission of SCAC in 2025!

“It's been a pleasure working with a great group of trustees who care about the facility, are committed to making good stewardship decisions, and are willing to physically help when needed.—Buck Hall



Hospitality

In 2024, the *Hospitality Team* faithfully pursued its mission to warmly welcome all who walked through our doors, ensuring that guests felt seen, valued, and connected. Many new visitors were enfolded into the life of the church, with several joining small groups, serving on teams, and even becoming members of the church family.

The team continued to create a welcoming environment by serving quality coffee and snacks while fostering meaningful connections that linked people to the church's ministries. Toward the end of the year, the team began implementing a new connection system designed to engage first-time guests more effectively, helping them take their next steps toward belonging.

A key milestone for 2024 was hiring Keith Maurer as *Care & Connections Director*, a role created to support the leaders of both the hospitality and care teams. This new position enhances our church's ability to cultivate a culture of connection and Christ-centered care.

We are deeply grateful for the *Hospitality Team's* tireless efforts to ensure that every person who steps into our church feels a sense of belonging and experiences the love of Christ.

“ Welcoming new people and having other-centered focus is vital to our mission as a church. We follow Jesus best together, and so we are working hard to create an environment where people are able to connect with one another in ways that deepen our faith. —Keith Maurer



care team

To share Christ's love through compassionate care, heartfelt service, and meaningful connection, ensuring no one in our community walks alone.

The *Care Team* has been a beacon of Christ's love and compassion in 2024, sharing His care through service, connection, and support. A special thank you goes to Rachel Fawcett, who has led the team with excellence over the past few years. Her leadership and organization have been a key factor in the team's success, ensuring that we serve our community well.

The **BENEVOLENCE TEAM** has been a vital part of our ministry, assisting over 30 individuals with housing, transportation, utilities, and other short-term financial needs. These gifts have impacted families both within our church family and in the wider Centre region, whether or not they have church affiliations. We are deeply grateful for the church body's generosity, which has made this work possible, and we strive to be good stewards of these resources.

The **EVENT FOOD PREP TEAM** has served hundreds of meals at various church events, including the outdoor service and picnic, Prime Timers gatherings, and more.

The **MEAL PREP TEAM** provided over 80 meals to more than a dozen different families, offering practical support and love during times of need.

The **POSTAL TEAM** continues its faithful ministry by sending cards to our members with limited mobility who cannot leave their homes. Our cards serve as a tangible expression of care and connection.

The **VISITATION TEAM** has spent countless hours on the phone and in person visiting with those in our community who are homebound ensuring they are not forgotten and feel valued.

“ We are thankful for the ways God has used the Care Team to bless others and look forward to continuing this vital ministry in 2025. —Pastor Aden Wertz

missions & outreach

*Teach, reach, and send disciples to share Christ's love,
celebrating the many lives transformed by His grace.*

Global Connections

In 2024, we were honored to host several International Workers throughout the year, including Bob & Cheryl Fugate, who reconnected with our church during the Spring Missions Focus. Bob's ministry journey began at SCAC, making this visit especially meaningful. We also welcomed their daughter and son-in-law, Tim & Sarah Shutes, who are church planting in NYC, and Gerry & Juliette Peña, serving in Newberry, PA, during the Regional Mission Rally. The rally's keynote was delivered by District Superintendent Nate Howard. In the fall, Mike & Elissa Picconatto joined us from Berlin, Germany, reconnecting with the short-term mission team we sent earlier in the year and experiencing Harvest Fest alongside our community.

Mission Trips

Our church sent two mission teams this year—one to Kenya and one to Berlin. In Kenya, eight individuals trained local Christian leaders and volunteers to run a sports camp, which was met with great enthusiasm and success. Meanwhile, our Berlin team, composed of eight SCAC members and two from *Common Place Church*, explored how the Alliance is working to reach Europe's post-Christian, post-modern population.

Local Outreach

This year marked the second year of our *Conversational English Classes*, with attendance doubling from the first year. Under the guidance of Katy McIver, our newly hired *Director of Multicultural Ministries*, the program welcomed a variety of new people groups.

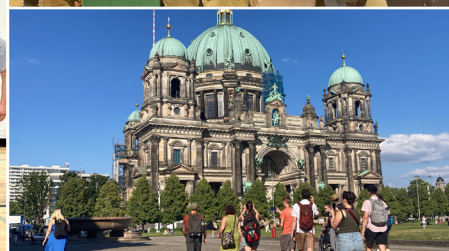
Community Engagement

We hosted the *Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) FoodPack*, which brought together 562 volunteers to pack 139,968 meals and raise over \$45,000. Our *Wood for Good* initiative provided over 10 cords of firewood to those in need. Additionally, we welcomed the broader community through events like *Touch-a-Truck* and by providing our facility for various groups.

Through every initiative, event, and connection, God has faithfully led our efforts, and we celebrate the incredible work He is doing locally and globally through SCAC's *Missions & Outreach* ministry.

“This second year of *Conversational English Classes* has been full of welcoming new people groups into the program and learning how to minister to our growing team of volunteers. Both things we weren't expecting, but are praising God for! —Katy McIver

we are filled with gratitude for His faithfulness & provision



[GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS]

Giving to the *General Fund*, which supports all aspects of ministry operations, staff support, building operations, and required debt service on the mortgage, totaled \$1,367,525 for 2024. This exceeded *General Fund* spending of \$1,361,928 by \$5,597, which included a leadership-approved additional allocation of \$50,000 toward the mortgage from general fund reserves. Notably, full-year giving for 2024 was \$11,984 higher than the budgeted amount and as of December 31, 2024, our *General Fund* reserve was \$268,630.

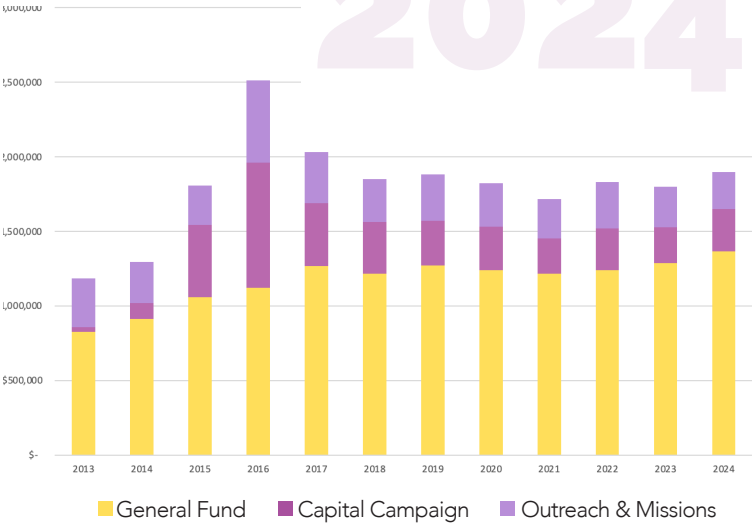
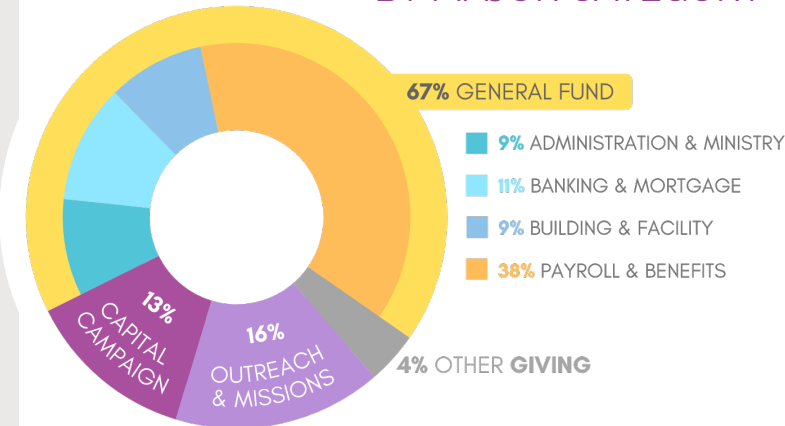
[OUTREACH/MISSIONS GIVING]

The generous giving through the church continues to have a profound impact: Giving to the *Great Commission Fund*, *Mission Trips*, the *Deacons Fund*, the *Samaria Fund*, the *Persecuted Church*, *Disaster Relief*, *ACF (PSU Campus Ministry)*, *Nittany Christian School*, and other externally-focused initiatives totaled \$304,565 in 2024, a substantial increase from \$272,000 in 2023. This is truly tremendous giving toward outreach and highlights the ongoing generosity of our community in supporting our mission to serve others.

[FAITH FORWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN]

Through the ongoing and faithful support of the *Faith Forward Campaign*, along with the principal portion of our monthly mortgage payments, we were able to reduce the mortgage by \$459,739 in 2024. This has brought the mortgage balance down to \$707,445 as of December 31, 2024. Continued giving to this campaign will enable the ministry to completely eliminate this debt in the near future, further accelerating the growth of our ministry efforts. We are excited as we approach the final stages of this journey, and together, we can **REDUCE THAT DEBT** and expand the impact of our mission!

GIVING TRENDS
BY MAJOR CATEGORY



OTHER Fun Facts & Highlights From 2024

- We saw an **\$80,382 increase** compared to 2023 General Fund giving.
- Our average, monthly givers was 195 with 218 individuals/families giving gifts in December. **Praise the Lord for your generosity and for ministries that were fully funded** and ready to make a great Kingdom Impact.
- Our monthly mortgage is paid through our *General Fund*, which means that **every dollar given to the Faith Forward Campaign reduces principal on our debt.**





Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the many ways God has worked through our ministries this year, we are filled with gratitude for His faithfulness and provision. Each story of transformation, connection, and service reminds us that we are part of something far greater than ourselves—a Kingdom mission to share the love of Christ and make disciples. We celebrate all that has been accomplished in 2024 and look forward with expectant hearts to how God will continue to move in the year ahead. **Together, we remain committed to following Jesus, loving one another, and sharing His light in our community and beyond.** Thank you for being part of this journey, and may God richly bless you in the coming year!

With gratitude,

Your State College Alliance Family

 scalliancechurch.com

