

state college **alliance church**



Annual Ministry Report 2025

Prayer & Worship

2025 was a significant year for our Worship Ministry. After much prayer and discernment, our pastoral and elder leadership sensed the Lord leading us to make space for the harvest by unifying our Sunday worship gatherings. For nearly three decades, we faithfully offered two distinct worship styles. This year, we transitioned to a more unified model: *providing the same content in both services*.

Change always brings challenges, and this transition was no exception. Yet through it, we have experienced clear evidence of God's blessing.

Since the shift, average attendance in our 9:00 AM service has grown from 164 to 243—a **47% increase**. Our 10:30 AM service has increased from 322 to 344—a **7% rise**. Overall adult in-person **attendance across both services is up 21%**. What was once a significant imbalance between gatherings is now far more aligned.

While these numerical increases are encouraging, attendance growth was never the primary goal. From the beginning, we pursued this transition with several clear objectives:

- *To cultivate a stronger sense of unity across our church body, avoiding the feeling of two separate congregations.*
- *To create greater space for people—especially guests who do not yet know Christ—to encounter Jesus in our gatherings.*
- *To provide flexibility for families and individuals navigating different schedules.*
- *To foster multi-generational worship in both services by incorporating both hymns and contemporary songs.*
- *To simplify ministry structures to better support and sustain our volunteers.*

By God's grace, this transition has strengthened our church in meaningful ways, even as we have walked through the natural difficulties that accompany change.

Our Prayer Ministry also continues to flourish under the leadership of Pastor Aaron and Amy Henning. Their faithful guidance of our monthly prayer gatherings at Living Waters has cultivated a space where people encounter the presence of Christ, grow in learning to pray as Jesus taught, and encourage one another in faith. These evenings are marked by simple, meaningful worship, rich biblical teaching, and Spirit-led prayer—forming a deep and steady foundation for our church.

We look forward to the ways God will grow us in the areas of worship & prayer in 2026, not simply in the "doing" but in the "becoming." **We desire to become true worshippers** (Jn. 4:23) **and a church marked by prayer** (Is. 56:7). May it be so!

Introduction

God was on the move through the ministries of State College Alliance Church in 2025! In this Ministry Report, you'll find updates from key areas of church life, including Discipleship, Care, Outreach, and Administration. Our hope is that these pages will give you a clearer picture of the faithful work of our staff and volunteer leaders—and the many ways God is using these ministries to impact our region and beyond.

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Kids

Helping kids come to know Christ and know Him better.

Alliance Kids Ministries continued to reach kids and families from across State College through both our large events and weekly discipleship ministries. Every year we see kids putting their trust in Jesus, celebrating their faith through baptism, and learning how to live it out in their family, school, and community.

Large events this year included our annual *Easter Egg Hunt*, a collaboration with Blue Course Community Church, and *Alliance Sports Camp 2025*. This year's Sports Camp brought together a record 430 kids and 260 volunteers to learn how to "Live It Out" in a fun, summer camp-themed week. We saw many kids have big "faith moments" in their lives, including first-time commitments, decisions to be baptized, and more. After Alliance Sports Camp State College, we again supported a small team traveling to Nyeri, Kenya for their second sports camp. Finally, we started a new collaboration with Calvary Church to develop and cross-promote our camps, in **hopes of growing our impact in Centre County** beyond what we can fit here at SCAC.

Our weekly discipleship programs, including our *First Look preschool*, *Route 252 elementary*, and Sunday evening AWANA ministries, continue to connect passionate and faithful leaders with amazing kids and parents to share the love of Jesus with the next generation. This year we launched some new initiatives, including a collaboration with AWAKE Student Ministries to bring the "*Gospel & Narnia*" series to our 4th-6th grade preteens and the creation of a new "*Flex Room*" team focused on meeting the needs of every child who comes through our doors, even those who need special support. Finally, we opened up nursery and preschool childcare during the 9:00 AM service as part of the churchwide effort to bring more unity to our Sunday morning services.

As we look to 2026, we are excited to see God continue to lead! This year we expect to support at least four camps in State College, Atlanta, and Nyeri. Locally, we will be collaborating even more with Calvary Church, running simultaneous camps on July 27-31 using a curriculum we are developing together. AWAKE will bring Sports Camp back to Atlanta in August, sharing the hope of Jesus with refugee kids at the local Envision site. Nyeri Sports Camp will be happening in the spring, with all of the on-site staffing provided by local church and ministry leaders, with only remote support from the SCAC Sports Camp team. We will also continue to develop our weekly discipleship ministries, focusing on leadership development, curriculum, and community building among our leaders and families.

Youth

AWAKE Student Ministry exists to help students become exposed to, experience, and express Christ, His kingdom, and the biblical purposes of His church. Our passionate leaders are here to help students navigate the treacherous and transformative waters of the teenage years with the goal of keeping our eyes fixed on Christ.

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with deep gratitude and joy. **God has been at work among our students, leaders, and families, and it is a privilege to witness Him raising up the next generation.**

This year, we've seen the foundations of AWAKE grow stronger. Our Student Leadership Team has taken meaningful steps toward greater ownership—leading, inviting, praying, and modeling bold faith. That growth has come through steady investment, trust, and long-term discipleship. The fruit has not always been fast, but it has been real and lasting.

Retreats once again served as catalytic moments. At our Spring Retreat at Lake Champion and our Fall Re:Bloom Retreat at Seneca Hills Bible Camp, students stepped away from distraction to seek the Lord. These weekends were marked by honest conversations, repentance, worship, prayer, and renewed hunger for God. Many took significant steps of faith, and the impact continues to shape our weekly gatherings.

This summer, students joined thousands of others at the LIFE 2025 Conference in Indianapolis, experiencing the broader story of what God is doing through the next generation of the Christian & Missionary Alliance. They were reminded they are not alone and that God is raising up young people passionate about Jesus and His mission. It was a powerful time of vision and calling.

Throughout the year, new students found their way into our community through simple invitations, dinners, and game nights. Many have stayed, discovering a place to belong, be prayed for, and grow in faith. In a world where teenagers often feel isolated and overwhelmed, seeing them find Christ-centered community has been one of the quiet miracles of this year.

We also recognize that ministry to teenagers today is challenging. Distractions, spiritual confusion, mental health struggles, and cultural pressures are real. The work requires prayer, patience, and perseverance. Yet even in the challenges, we are reminded that this is holy ground and that the Lord is faithful to complete what He begins.

We are deeply thankful for our adult leaders and volunteers who faithfully show up week after week. Your presence and investment matter more than you know.

As we look ahead, we do so with expectancy. God is moving. Seeds are being planted. Leaders are being raised. Please continue to pray that AWAKE would remain faithful, Spirit-led, and courageous as we join God in His work.

ACF

A church for students, led by students. ACF exists to build God's Kingdom at Penn State through a growing relationship with Christ.

As we reflect on 2025, **we are deeply grateful for the Lord's faithfulness to ACF**, especially in a year when we celebrated 50 years of ministry. The celebration culminated in a 50th Anniversary Tailgate and Sunday Service that brought together nearly 800 students, alumni, former ACF pastors, and members of the SCAC congregation. It was a powerful reminder that **ACF is part of a much larger story of generational faithfulness and God's steady work among college students.**

Throughout the year, we've seen clear signs of spiritual hunger on campus. Many students are asking honest questions about Christianity, searching for meaning and community. God has continued to draw students into ACF, where they are welcomed and known. We especially rejoice that two students placed their faith in Christ for the first time this year and are now actively involved in Bible studies and gatherings, eager to grow in their walk with Jesus.

Andy preached through the Gospel of Luke in a series titled *Certainty*, grounding our ministry in the truth of the gospel and the confidence we have in Christ. Students were reminded that Jesus ushers in an upside-down kingdom, pursuing the unlikely, and calling us to repentance, faith, and obedience. That theme shaped not only our Sunday services but also our discipleship and conversations throughout the year.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the growth of our student leaders. ACF's vision of being *"a church for students, led by students"* has taken deeper root as leaders have grown in studying Scripture, leading Bible studies, discipling peers, and training new leaders. Our Life Groups expanded to include men's, women's, co-ed, and a first-year group designed to help new students build strong spiritual foundations. Many first-years shared that this was their first time reading the Bible regularly and that God's Word has given them renewed purpose and direction.

Our Fall Retreat, themed *"Apologetics: Where Faith Meets Reason,"* doubled in size from last year. Students wrestled with hard questions, shared testimonies, prayed for one another, and were deeply shaped by unhurried time with God.

Community life also flourished through events like our Thanksgiving Potluck, Christmas Party, and end-of-semester Formal. Attendance at Sunday services, midweek gatherings, and Life Groups increased, reflecting both growth and deeper engagement.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude and hope. God has been faithful to ACF for 50 years, and **we trust He will continue His work among Penn State students.** Please pray that we would remain rooted in Scripture, dependent on the Spirit, and faithful in making disciples.

Discipleship

The late Eugene Peterson once described discipleship as **"a long obedience in the same direction."** We continue to see that ring true in all of our disciple-making efforts. This is certainly not an overnight shift, but a lifelong journey of following Jesus.

This past year, we have attempted to move our Community Groups into a more intentional disciple-making hub. We identified a few key components that we would like to see exhibited in our Community Groups, things like: deep connections outside of the group time, care and ownership of one another's burdens, and content that moves us towards being formed spiritually. Brian and Susie Landes have continued to provide support and encouragement to our Community Group leaders throughout the year.

We've also shifted our Men's & Women's Ministry efforts from large group gatherings to smaller groups. A lot of these ministries have been operating under the umbrella of our Community Groups over the last year. We have had wonderful engagement with our Deeply Rooted groups, where women have gathered weekly to study Scripture. This ministry continues to grow and multiply! Our Men's Ministry has continued to grow and multiply as well! Our last Men's Breakfast drew together 60 men, and out of that, small groups have formed.

Over the past year, Prime Timers has been a life-giving space of connection, faith, and joy for our senior community, gathering 50-60 people monthly around shared meals that foster deep relationships. Alongside this warm fellowship, the ministry has grown in its focus on following Jesus together through meaningful worship, often centered on beloved hymns, thoughtful table discussions, and an increased emphasis on discipleship and spiritual formation. Prime Timers has also expanded its reach with a monthly book discussion (*currently reading 'Aging Faithfully'*) and through memorable shared experiences, including a road trip to Sight & Sound and plans for future travel in 2026. As one participant shared, *"I love having a space for anyone in the 'Prime' of their life to connect in life-giving ways and to encourage one another in our pursuit of Jesus together."* This captures the heart of Prime Timers!

A conversation that began in 2025 continues into 2026: **How do we make disciples here?** We're evaluating all of what we do through that lens—from our Sunday morning services, to our membership process, to our small groups and large groups that meet throughout the year. Are we making disciples in all of these areas of ministry? We're excited to continue clarifying our pathways, building and developing new ones, all in hopes to make more disciples who make more disciples!

Missions & Outreach

Teach, reach, and send disciples to share Christ's love—celebrating the many lives God is touching locally and globally through His grace.

In the past year, State College Alliance has continued to live out the calling of Acts 1:8, **bearing witness to Christ in our community and to the ends of the earth.** Through missions and outreach, we have seen the Holy Spirit lead us outward—beginning locally and extending globally through faithful partnerships.

Close to home, our local outreach ministries remained a consistent and relational presence. *Conversational English Classes* welcomed new students each week, offering practical support and meaningful connection. We are especially grateful for Katy McIver, who stepped into the role of Director and continues to lead with wisdom and care. Through *Wood for Good*, more than 10 cords of firewood were delivered last winter, with God faithfully providing both materials and volunteers. *Missions Workshops*, led by Elizabeth Miller, offered hands-on ways for all ages to engage in global missions—rolling bandages for the hospital in Bongolo, Gabon, and trimming stamps to support C&MA missions work.

Regionally, we participated in partnerships and formative mission experiences. A multigenerational team traveled to New York City to teach English, prayer-walk, and learn from refugee communities while receiving mentorship from local ministry leaders. The Samaria Fund continued to support ministries such as international ministries on campus, the *Pregnancy Resource Clinic*, and *Out of the Cold*—extending care and compassion beyond our immediate reach.

Globally, God invited us into His work among the nations. We were honored to host international workers Andrew & Kelly Trein and Rebecca & Stuart Guild, who serve in Indonesia through English education, vocational training, and theological education. Their visits were especially meaningful as they celebrated the birth of children this year and reconnected with family in our area. A team also returned to Kenya for Sports Camp—Year 2, led by Anna Raquel Duiker, with a focus on equipping local leaders to lead independently and minister in their own languages, an encouraging step toward long-term sustainability.

Our broader community engagement reflected this same outward witness. *Harvest Fest* welcomed hundreds of families into a joyful, accessible space for connection. The *Feed My Starving Children FoodPack* event gathered more than 650 volunteers to pack over 167,000 meals, with anticipation already building for April 2026.

Through every partnership, trip, and initiative, we give thanks for God's faithfulness as He leads us to be His witnesses—across our neighborhoods, throughout our region, and around the world.

Care Team

In 2025, the Care Team continued to live out its calling **"to share Christ's love through compassionate care, heartfelt service, and meaningful connection, ensuring no one in our community walks alone."** This ministry reflects the heart of Galatians 6:2, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Much of this work happens quietly and behind the scenes, yet it is foundational to the spiritual health of our church. This year, the team also completed a significant systems transition by moving multiple spreadsheets into *Planning Center* online, allowing us to better track prayer requests, visits, and ongoing needs—strengthening coordination and helping care be more consistent, relational, and responsive.

A key development in 2025 was the creation of the *Hospital Visitation Team*, led by Denny Moline, providing focused presence and prayer for those who are hospitalized. Alongside this, the Care Team has been intentionally strengthening handoffs between teams, so when someone transitions from the hospital back home, the *Homebound Visitation Team* and *Personal Meal Prep Team* can step in as needed. This growing integration has helped ensure continuity of care, allowing individuals and families to feel supported not just in moments of crisis but throughout recovery, transition, and healing.

Across all teams, Christ-centered care continued to be expressed in deeply practical and pastoral ways. The *Benevolence Team*, led by Beth Shedd, responded to an increased level of need in our community, often receiving multiple requests per week, while prayerfully stewarding resources made possible through the generosity of the church. The *Homebound Visitation Team*, under the leadership of Karen Grant, ministered to approximately 20 individuals who could not attend church in person, offering presence during seasons of isolation and end-of-life care. The *Event Food Prep Team*, led by Mary Hilliard, served faithfully at church events ranging from 50 to 500 people, also provided meals for funerals, ultimately creating welcoming spaces where people experienced community and the love of Jesus. The *Personal Meal Prep Team*, led by Anto De Padua, continued to bless families through coordinated meal support, while the *Postal Care Team*, led by Pat Alters, faithfully sent cards and follow-up materials to shut-ins and those grieving loss. **We are deeply grateful for each leader and volunteer who serves so faithfully, and for the many ways God used the Care Team in 2025 to reflect His compassion and presence among us.**

Hospitality

In 2025, the *Hospitality Ministry* continued to warmly welcome all who walk through our doors, ensuring that guests feel seen, valued, and connected. From the first smile at the door to meaningful conversations in the lobby, **this team played a vital role in creating an environment where people could encounter Jesus and take steps toward belonging.** The ministry remains a key entry point into the life of the church, helping new guests feel at home from their very first visit.

This year also marked continued growth in our guest enfolding efforts, supported by Keith Maurer in his role focused on *Care & Connections*. This position has strengthened our ability to move beyond first impressions toward deeper, Christ-centered connection. Several new initiatives were introduced, including the launch of an *Usher Team* (currently 5–6 serving, with room to grow) and an increase in connection card responses through the addition of a small gift at the Info Center. We also began experimenting with shifting the Newcomer Meet & Greet into a clearer “*Next Steps*” pathway, reframing our hospitality efforts around discipleship—encouraging people to take meaningful steps such as exploring faith in Christ, baptism, deeper community, or serving according to their gifts.

Alongside these new developments, our core hospitality teams remained steady and faithful. *Greeters* consistently excelled in offering a warm welcome and helping first-time guests find their way. *Info Center attendants* provided a friendly, accessible place for questions, guidance, and connection to ministries and leaders. And the *Coffee Ministry* continued to serve faithfully each week—fueling both conversation and community (*and yes, keeping us awake and engaged!*). **We are deeply grateful for every volunteer who serves with joy and intentionality, helping make our church a place where people experience genuine welcome and the love of Christ.**

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Board of Administration

The *Board of Administration* is charged with handling high-level financial, HR, and policy matters along with other general administrative functions. The team works closely with members of the church staff and under the guidance of the *Board of Elders*. We review the church finances at each monthly meeting and **ensure that the funds entrusted to SCAC are stewarded well.** We lead the process of developing a budget each year and work closely with the various leaders who oversee the budget line items. The recommended budget then goes to the *Board of Elders* for formal approval. We also handle the apportioning of the funds given for the year-end staff gift among the various SCAC staff members.

During 2025, in addition to these regular workflows, we completed the review, revision, updating, and streamlining of the church’s Employee Handbook, which outlines employee benefits and expectations, among other things. The final revised handbook was approved by the Elders for SCAC use. The Board was also involved in discussions that led to a renewed Memorandum of Understanding with Transformation Counseling, regarding use of the church facilities. Finally, we engaged an outside firm for a review of our financial procedures. That review verified we were following our stated financial processes and that they were appropriate.

Trustees

In 2025, **several important improvements and cost-saving measures were successfully completed to maintain our facilities, enhance functionality, and reduce ongoing expenses.** A new sign was installed at the main entrance to the church property, strengthening our community presence and offering a current, welcoming first impression to visitors and members alike. Additionally, due to its age, the roof over the church offices on the west side of the building was replaced to ensure continued protection and long-term reliability.

Operational systems were also upgraded to improve performance and security. The church’s door access control system was updated to enhance reliability and simplify management. Building on research conducted in 2024, the security camera system was modernized to provide clearer visibility and expanded coverage throughout the property.

These improvements were paired with thoughtful cost-saving decisions. By switching waste removal providers, we achieved significant financial savings while maintaining dependable service. Transitioning to a new door access control provider also resulted in meaningful cost reductions, along with improved service quality and support. **Together, these efforts reflect a strong commitment to stewardship of this amazing facility that God has provided us with.**