

LIVING GENEROUSLY





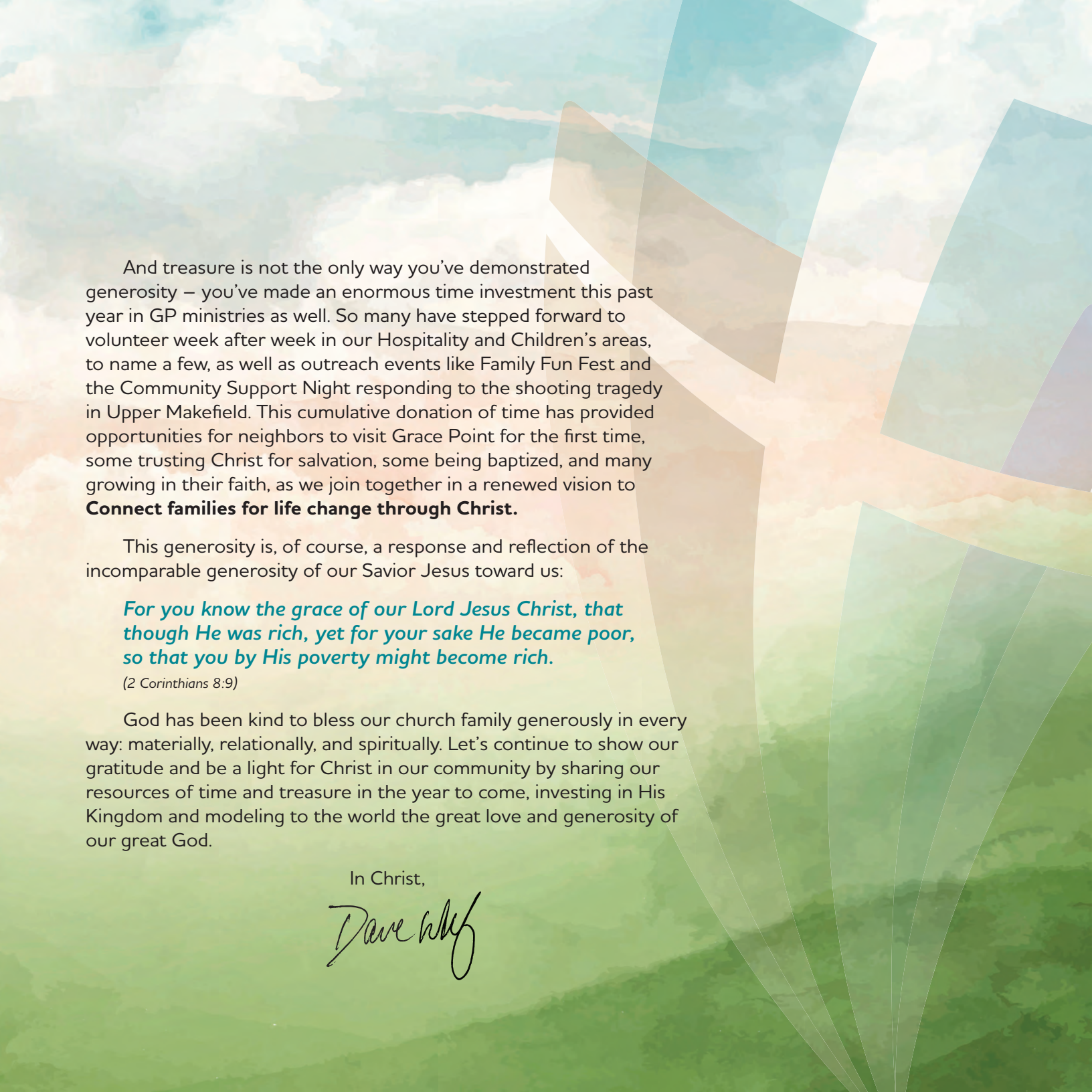
# LIVING GENEROUSLY

Each time I leave Sam's Club in Langhorne, I see on the wall a beautiful quote from Helen Walton: ***"It is not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived."*** It's a good reminder (perhaps particularly while shopping at a warehouse store) to resist the temptation to store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and thieves break in and steal (*Matthew 6:19-20*). It's a good reminder to not hoard time in selfish pursuits, but to spend time serving and meeting others' needs.

Jesus taught us instead to store up treasure in heaven. We do that through our obedience in steady stewardship in giving the first fruits of our labors (time and treasure), and through the gutsy generosity demonstrated in freewill offerings offered in gratitude for His goodness toward us and compassion toward those in need.

I have been super encouraged by the generosity I've seen in our church family demonstrated over the last twelve months. Not only did we end the ministry year with a solid surplus, but we had two of the largest holiday offerings ever, benefiting the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, Middle East FOCUS internships, and the International Project outreach in New York City. And these are just the major highlights – you'll read about other examples in this report.





And treasure is not the only way you've demonstrated generosity – you've made an enormous time investment this past year in GP ministries as well. So many have stepped forward to volunteer week after week in our Hospitality and Children's areas, to name a few, as well as outreach events like Family Fun Fest and the Community Support Night responding to the shooting tragedy in Upper Makefield. This cumulative donation of time has provided opportunities for neighbors to visit Grace Point for the first time, some trusting Christ for salvation, some being baptized, and many growing in their faith, as we join together in a renewed vision to **Connect families for life change through Christ.**


This generosity is, of course, a response and reflection of the incomparable generosity of our Savior Jesus toward us:

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.*

*(2 Corinthians 8:9)*

God has been kind to bless our church family generously in every way: materially, relationally, and spiritually. Let's continue to show our gratitude and be a light for Christ in our community by sharing our resources of time and treasure in the year to come, investing in His Kingdom and modeling to the world the great love and generosity of our great God.

In Christ,





## OUR VISION

**BUILDING BRIDGES FOR LIFE CHANGE THROUGH CHRIST**

## OUR VISION FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**CONNECTING FAMILIES FOR LIFE CHANGE THROUGH CHRIST**

## OUR MISSION

**TO HELP MORE PEOPLE BECOME FULLY COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**







# FOUR MONTHS IN THE MAKING...

**September 19, 2021** was a day that I, and the 120th Anniversary Team, had been researching, organizing, and planning in order to celebrate Grace Point's 120 years of existing as a church body! This was truly one of the coolest experiences to be a part of because I truly got to see God's hand at work over the last 120 years through pictures, testimonies, and many, many artifacts that have been kept throughout the years. Not only was I blessed to see God at work, but I was also blessed to see how faithful He has been to this church family through the staff changes, building relocations, and the hardships of life.

**Psalm 119:90 says, "Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast."**

Reflecting on the 120 years of this church family, there have clearly been many changes. But one thing that has stayed true is the mission of Grace Point. Grace Point has been and will continue to be committed to preaching the true biblical Gospel and "... *helping more people become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.*"

Thank you, Grace Point, for allowing me to be a part of this huge milestone! I am in awe of how the Lord has used this church for His kingdom, and I am beyond thrilled to see what He has in store in the years to come!

EMMA HOLMES | 2021 SUMMER INTERN & 120TH CELEBRATION COORDINATOR







## GRACE POINT MEN'S RETREAT

**At the Men's Retreat in late October**, we shared a weekend full of spiritual vigor, challenging activities, and deep fellowship. We experienced the life-changing love and power of Jesus Christ. Eddie Cole kicked off the weekend Friday night by calling us to something better—to remember that each believer has been given the promised Holy Spirit, to know that He has provided each man a purpose and identity for today...and for every day, and to do what really matters! He reminded us that who we hang around with makes a big difference. *“Show me your friends and I'll show you your future”* is another way to say this.

Eddie told us that if we invest in one another, we can become like the California redwoods whose roots are interconnected so that they all thrive together. He challenged us to pray with one another and to ask, *“What can the men of Grace Point do together that reveals God's glory in a powerful way?”* And he pointed us to Jesus who poured out His life in humble service.

We heard moving testimonies from Grace Point men who shared how they had been challenged to across-the-board commitments to step out of the boat, keep their eyes on Jesus, and live for His glory.

We grew our bonds of brotherhood through worshiping in songs, prayers and heartfelt sharing, as well as with some healthy competition on the softball field, in a cornhole tournament, and in some trivia contests. At least one of the first timers said at the end of the weekend: *“I have never been on a GP Men's Retreat before, but I'm putting it on my calendar for next year, and I will NOT miss another one!”*

KEITH BROWN | GRACE POINT ELDER





# FAMILY CLUB ~ CHRISTMAS EDITION







## ABIDING IN CHRIST ~ EVERYDAY JOY

**On December 10 & 11, 2021**, the Grace Point Women's Ministry hosted their Christmas event *Abiding in Christ ~ Everyday Joy* with Tara-Leigh Cobble as the guest speaker. Worship, three sessions taught by TLC, refreshments, a ministry update by Heather Brown, fellowship and fun door prizes made this a sweet and meaningful time to gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus and learn about having joy everyday as we abide in Christ. Ongoing pandemic concerns limited the attendance to only 180 women, yet The Commons served as a sanctuary for each of those 180 women and was filled with worship, Christmas carols, laughter, tears, conversation, refreshment and JOY! We thank God for His presence!

God's kindness, generosity and encouragement was evidenced clearly through one family at church who anonymously gave several thousand dollars specifically for *Abiding in Christ ~ Everyday Joy* when they heard about it. Their heart was for women to come hear the Word of God, the teaching by TLC, enter into worship led Darrell Benjamin and the worship band, and enjoy this special event for a very affordable registration fee. We thank the Lord!

We also thank the Lord for the amazing team of volunteers who helped prepare and for several Grace Point gentlemen who served both days to be sure the event was enjoyable and peaceful. Our heart is that women delight in His Word and cherish the Gospel.

In 2021 through Grace Point Women's Ministry, 79 women read through the Bible in a year chronologically with The Bible Recap plan. In 2022, 98 women are reading through the Bible in a year chronologically! We give God the glory and rejoice in all the Lord is doing as women open His Word to grow in their love for, knowledge of and relationship with God. He is faithful and desires sweet, true, healthy, fruitful relationship with Him. May we all abide in Him and know His everyday joy! He is faithful!

**"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."** (John 15:11 NKJV)

SHARON SLOAN | DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY







### What do you envision when you think about Lebanon?

A country mired in political unrest, economic collapse and general hopelessness? While those might all be true, God has given us a different lens in which to see Lebanon—a beautiful country created by Him filled with kind people oozing with love and hospitality, and an environment open to the Gospel as people thirst for the hope that only Christ can provide.

In all three trips that I've made to Lebanon in the past five years, I've certainly seen the later description. And while I've always gone with suitcases filled with vitamins, medicines and other necessities, I've always come home with so much more than I've taken. I've not come home with souvenirs but rather with a heart that has been changed—a heart that has been taught the truth behind the words in the song *"On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand."* It is Him and Him alone that gives us the hope, stability and future that our circumstances or belongings can never provide.

In March, Ellen Livingood, Dave Wolf and I traveled to Lebanon on a survey trip to deepen our relationship with Amchit Baptist Church and solidify plans for future ministry with both Amchit and Horizons International.

We were able to experience many of Horizons International's ministries, including meeting the media interns and seeing their work. Grace Point is sponsoring twelve media interns, one of whom is Sam, Pastor Joseph and Rhoda's son. He is so passionate about his work and

deeply appreciative of this opportunity. We were also able to visit the children at School of Hope where we had provided care packages of clothing, shoes and a toy for each child of the school. We visited the homes (one room apartments) of some Syrian refugees and met many of the pastors ministering to them. We came home with some exciting opportunities for Grace Point's partnership with Horizons.

We also spent time with Pastor Joseph and his family and the other members of Amchit Baptist. Dave expressed, "It has been a great joy to get to know Pastor Joseph via Zoom calls and WhatsApp chats, but nothing compares to meeting someone in person! We felt so welcomed and honored at the church and in Pastor Joseph's home. Amchit Church is alive with worship and efforts to bring the Gospel to their community." They have been tremendously encouraged by our partnership, knowing that a body of believers on the other side of the world has been loving, caring and praying for them amid the incredible hardships they have been facing. They were also blessed to find out what an encouragement they have been to us through the testimony of their faith. It was exciting to see the reciprocity of our partnership!

We are so excited to see what God has in store, both in our upcoming November trip as well as many trips in the future!

**DENISE NICHOLS** | MIDDLE EAST FOCUS TEAM LEADER





# FAMILY FUN FEST 2022

**Family Fun Fest returned** and was a delightful, fun and free evening where our guests enjoyed a variety of carnival games, a petting zoo, crafts, and food for purchase from several local food trucks. Attendees from all ages seemed to have a great time from the petting zoo to getting to explore the inside of a fire truck.

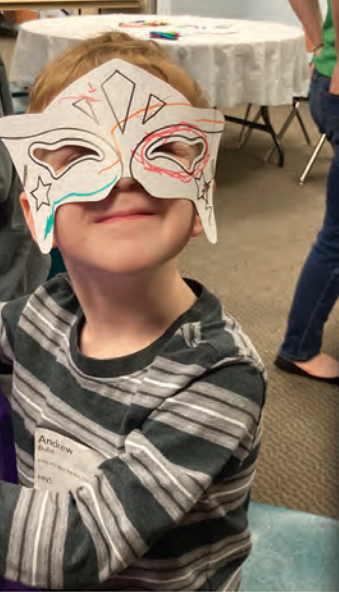
We were privileged to see an amazing police K9 demonstration by the Lower Makefield Township Police Department. It was a beautiful evening and a great opportunity for us to build bridges to our community. We were grateful and amazed by the large turnout for this family event.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this day a great event and we look forward to more opportunities to connect with our community and point them Christ.

**STEVE WEIR** | PASTOR OF ARTS & COMMUNICATION



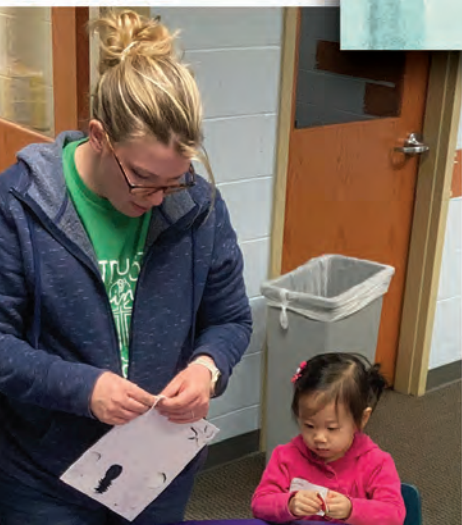




## KID'S CLUB

**Kid's Club ran for three months** (February-April) and was an opportunity for children ages 3-11 from our church and the community to gather for an evening of planned games/activities, crafts, a Bible lesson, and snacks. Each Wednesday evening had a special theme for the kids including Fiesta Night, Superhero Night, and Backwards Night! We also had a dedicated memory verse for students to memorize each week. Kid's Club was only made possible due to the dedicated, passionate, and committed volunteers we had. Thank you to all for helping us minister to families through Kid's Club!

REBEKAH GRUBER | SPRING 2022 KID'S CLUB COORDINATOR







**Grace Point had the opportunity to serve the community in many aspects this year.** This May we had the opportunity to invest into a community that experienced a devastating tragedy. The loss of two young boys sent shockwaves through our community. The same day the heartbreak occurred, Grace Point hosted a prayer vigil. The vigil was well attended, and many friends of the middle school boy were in attendance. Grace Point also wanted to offer students a safe place to spend time together in community.

We had 55 students from Newtown Middle School in attendance on the following Saturday. Every student in attendance had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Students and families expressed a great deal of gratitude towards Grace Point for caring deeply for them. The following Monday, Sophie Allers and I were invited to participate in the vigil for the younger boy at Sol Feinstone Elementary School. This was another opportunity to bring hope in a seemingly hopeless situation. The following Wednesday, Grace Point offered a Community Support Night for families and teens to receive encouragement and support. Those who were able to make this special night were blessed and cared for. These are just a small sampling of the many ways God used Grace Point in the midst of a tragedy. Many young people got to hear the Gospel and know Grace Point exists to care for them and point them to the Mender of broken hearts, Christ.

JEREMY DAVIS | PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

## MISSION & VISION

- **Pray** that we will stay true to our Great Commission-inspired mission of *“helping more people become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.”*
- **Pray** that we will follow the Spirit’s guidance in “Connecting families for life change through Christ” in the coming years.
- **Pray** that God will provide all that is needed financially to move His purposes forward through the ministry of Grace Point.

## STAFFING

- **Pray** smooth transitions for our new staff members over the past year: Sophie Allers in Children’s Ministry, Lynne Holmes in the office, and Kae Klinger our new Technical A/V Coordinator.
- **Pray** for wisdom as we consider future staff hires.

## DISCIPLESHIP

- **Pray** for men, women, young adults, students, and children to enter transformative spiritual relationships focused on Christ.

## GROUPS

- **Pray** for that our groups will excel in Knowing, Caring, and Encouraging one another.
- **Pray** that each person at Grace Point who desires to be in a group will find a great connection and that more attenders will desire to be in groups so that they can grow spiritually.
- **Pray** that groups will become more effective at being on mission together, in addition to studying the Bible and caring for one another.

## MEN’S MINISTRY

- **Pray** for our Men’s Ministry to disciple the men of our congregation to lead well in homes, church, and community.
- **Pray** that the men’s retreat and men’s breakfasts will lead to ongoing group involvement and discipleship for the men of GP.

## WOMEN’S MINISTRY

- **Pray** our hearts are fertile soil for His Word, that the Gospel is cherished and shared, that we grow in the knowledge of and love for God, that we grow in friendship with each other and that we serve Him shoulder to shoulder.
- **Pray** we delight in God’s Word, that we abide in Him and He brings forth bountiful fruit by God’s Spirit and for His glory and purposes, and that our hearts remain joyful, humble and teachable. *“I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your word.” (Psalm 119:16)*
- **Pray** our hearts would praise Him for His lovingkindness and His truth, and that His word and His name would be magnified. *“I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.” (Psalm 138:2)*

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

- **Pray** that families will be well cared for and feel connected to Grace Point. Pray that parents would feel equipped and emboldened to train their children to love God.
- **Pray** that kids would come to know Jesus, either for the first time in a personal way, or more deeply.
- **Pray** for volunteers to be invested, feel well valued and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to teach the Word of God and show the love of God to our kids.
- **Pray** for key volunteers to step up into leadership roles.
- **Pray** for the development and direction of the Special Needs Ministry, and that we would be able to meet the physical and spiritual needs of families in an individual way.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

- **Pray** for students, leaders, and parents to have a greater love for Christ, His Word, His Church and for one another.
- **Pray** that God would provide additional youth leaders to serve our students and families.
- **Pray** that God would use us as His ambassadors to carry the Good News to all people and that our ministry would produce laborers for the harvest that Jesus said is plentiful.

## YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

- **Pray** that God will raise up gifted and faithful young adult leaders to establish a dynamic place of ministry for the next generation at Grace Point.

## MISSIONS

- **Pray** for spiritual, emotional, and physical health for our global workers and their families who are faithfully persevering in ministry in these challenging times.
- **Pray** for the Middle East FOCUS Team as they continue to build relationships with our partner church, Amchit Baptist Church, in Lebanon and as they begin to prepare and send short-term teams to come alongside the ministry of Amchit Church and Horizons International.
- **Pray** for the Missions LEAD Team as they work to develop and guide efforts that engage our church family’s God-given resources to fulfill the Great Commission to be witnesses and disciple-makers (Matthew 28:19) from our Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

- **Pray** that God would bless and establish the work of our hearts and hands, and that we would continue to joyfully work in tandem to serve Him and His people with love. Pray we complete our work with humility and excellence such that His name is glorified.



# OUR STAFF

2021-2022

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