

StayCONNECTED

March 2023 Edition - Annual Reports

This newsletter is a combination of our annual reports and news for March. We will have annual elections on March 26. All members are encouraged to vote. Enjoy this special edition of StayCONNECTED!

Pastor Bob's Annual Report 2023

Bob Howard - Lead Pastor

When I reflect on this past year, I want to begin my report with the first part of Psalm 145:3 "Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;" It has been a blessing to see how our Father in heaven has so faithfully been at work in all of our lives. In His grace, He floods us with his presence when we gather together every Sunday morning. I love to preach His Word; thank you for that privilege. I am also blessed to work with a wonderful staff. Pastors Josh, Matt, and Matt, as well as Alice, Erin, Lynne, and Sharon. Our church is filled with many dedicated leaders who use their gifts to make sure our ministries thrive. I believe as we continue to lift up Jesus he will draw people to himself.

One big change for us this year was saying goodbye to Pastor Josh and Candy Fox. We do miss them but are thrilled that they are pastoring their own church, now closer to family. We praise God that he brought Pastor Matt and Cydney Genese to us. Pastor G. has fit right in with our staff, music teams, and online pastor. Our online ministry is growing under Pastor G's ministry. Pastor Josh has taken on many of my previous responsibilities and has been a great help to me. Both our children and youth ministries are growing under Erin and Pastor Matt's leadership.

In the coming year we want to continue to teach Christian life skills to our people. We also want to strengthen and expand our life groups. Thanks to your generous support, our compassionate ministries have been able to help many families here in the valley and many places around the world after devastating natural disasters.

The Lord continues to bring new people into our church. We need to continue to help them know that this is a place they can call their church home.

Blessings,
Pastor Bob

After the rebellion God could've come out swinging, but He opens with, "When you come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving you." Despite all their sin, He reminds them that He hasn't changed His mind. He keeps his promise. They're still His people. What mercy. What integrity. What forgiveness. Even in the desert for forty years, He's where the joy is!

Bible Recap - March 1

Valley Chapel
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VISIT US ONLINE valleychapel.us

2022-2023 NDI Annual Report
Cindy Nordquist, NDI Director

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Those words of Jesus provide the goal of and passion for the Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI). This past year the name changed from SDMI (Sunday School Discipleship and Ministries International), but the mission remains the same – carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifelong journey of being and making Christ like disciples in the nations.,

I would like to thank Kern Dickinson, Marsha Dickinson, Mike Swanson, Krishna Swanson, and Ed Theroux for serving on the NDI board the past 3 years. The NDI board works together with the Pastoral Staff to provide opportunities for all in our church to thrive in their walks with Jesus.

This past year, we were able to offer a variety of classes for young adults and adults on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Special thanks to our amazing teachers/facilitators: Pastor Matt Genese, Ed Wojciechowski, Jon Robertson, Jason Jolin, Ron Cook, Dr. Phil LaFountain, Phil Rainbow, Pastor Josh Howard, Jim Mercer, Paul Cnossen, Paul Trout, Randy Fields, Mike Swanson, Erin Tubo, Shelly Cullen, Spud and Dee Durran, Lynne Fortin, Suzie McCabe, and Amy Levins.

A highlight this past year was the church picnic and baptism at Pout Pond. Ten people testified as to how the Lord is working in their life and then entered the waters of baptism. Approximately 140 people came to the picnic to encourage them and share a time of fellowship. God is all about transforming lives! What a joy to share their baptism day with them.

It has been amazing to connect with so many people new to our church family through the welcome luncheons. Each luncheon continues to grow in numbers which means more people are visiting Valley Chapel and choosing to make us their home church. Praise God for His faithfulness!

Life groups in our church is an excellent way to grow in your faith as you study God's word and develop a small community of friends to walk through life with you. We currently have 13 groups meeting during the week and will be working to expand this ministry in the coming year. Watch for opportunities to participate in groups, host or even lead a group. A special thanks to Steve Swartz and Ken Kaminski for overseeing our life group ministry.

In the coming year, the NDI board encourages you to get involved and join one of the many weekly Bible studies, prayer groups, or classes, and attend one of the special events hosted by our women or men's ministries. You can stay connected with all that is going on at Valley Chapel through the weekly VC Messenger and the monthly newsletter. Let's do more than survive in 2023. Let's THRIVE!

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen

Missions Report 2023
Kerrie Howard - NMI Vice President

As Vice-President, I write to you with a full heart. On behalf of our missions' council, I'd love to extend a huge thank you to you, Valley Chapel, for being so faithful to missions—in giving, in service, and, most importantly, in prayer!

In August, we were able to assemble 100 Pal Packs filled with school supplies for those who live in underprivileged areas. It was a true blessing watching individuals and families walk through the packing line, joyfully serving the Lord! By way of your donations, we were able to both assemble and send 100 packs, and because of your generosity, students now have the supplies they need to learn. Thank you!

Alabaster! In September, we collected dozens of little blue Alabaster boxes. Thank you, church, for being faithful in giving to the Alabaster offering. We raised \$2,025!

After the war struck Ukraine, we were able to raise and send \$11,000 to support those in need. This money was more than likely used to help refugee families find relief during an uncertain time. Thank you for your generosity.

We continuously pray for and support the Mann family, who serve in what they call “Switzerland.” We were able to send a \$500 Amazon gift card as a Christmas gift from Valley Chapel.

This past October, we were blessed to host Jon and Shirley Fischer, missionaries in South America. What a blessing it was to hear from them. They partook in a wonderful meal with our seniors, spoke in Sunday school classes, and shared with us during our Sunday morning service. It was a special time.

We paid \$3,000 for deputation support for the Manns and Fischers, and we sent \$225 to support our Links missionaries and World Mission Radio.

Valley Chapel was able to send a missions' team down to Englewood, Florida in January. In partnership with Samaritan's Purse, our team was able to take part in the disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Ian. Some were able to “cut trees, remove debris, [and] take down water-damaged ceilings and walls,” while others “cleaned and cooked for more than 150 volunteers” (Lynne Randolph). Our missions' team had countless opportunities to pray with those who suffered such great loss in Florida. What a blessing! God is on the move! Thank you for being a part of His mission.

Treasurer's Report 2022-2023
Ken Kaiser - Treasurer

Church family,

As I started to reflect back on 2022 for the annual treasurer's report I found myself thinking about the following: What if Jesus asked me to write an annual spiritual report on myself from a personal perspective. A self analysis review if you will. What would that look like?

For those of you who keep a journal or diary I suppose that would be an easier task than for those (like me) who do not.

However, whether you are young or old, new Christian or older Christian, journal or no journal I suspect our reports would have many similarities because Jesus isn't so concerned with how much faith you have. He is concerned about who you place your faith in.

Our reports might mention victories, defeats, troubled times, why questions, feelings of regret or inadequacy, requests and answered prayers. But if our faith is in Jesus then we shouldn't find ourselves overwhelmed by the details. We will find ourselves moving forward because Jesus gives us strength and sometimes He carries us.

Some of us are just getting started on the journey, while others are farther down the road. Some may move faster than others. That's okay. We are never really done with our Christian walk.

If at the end of a year we find ourselves spending more time in prayer, more time in His word, being more like Jesus in our daily walk than at the beginning of the year then Jesus is pleased.

Paul said it best in Philippians 3:12 - 14 "Not that I have already attained or am already perfected, but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." We do these things, then our spiritual annual report will look pretty good.

Now, let's press on for a few reflections on the church finances for 2022. Thank you for continuing to give of your time, talents and financial resources under difficult circumstances.

The numbers listed below are through January 31, 2023. There are two months left in the fiscal year. Some highlights:

1. As of January 31, 2023 the overall tithes to the church was \$916,880. We are on track to meet our budgeted goal of \$1,027,468 To God be the Glory!

2. As of January 31, 2023 \$51,908 was given to support missions. To God be the Glory!

3. As of January 31, 2023 \$150,089 was given to the Common Fund. To God be the Glory!

4. We continue to aggressively pay down the mortgage which currently stands at \$1,455,969.

As of January 31, 2023 \$90,344.18 was given for debt reduction. 100% of this money has gone directly to the principal of the mortgage further reducing the interest charges. To God be the Glory!

The new fiscal year will no doubt bring new challenges to our families, our church, our jobs and our community.

The good news is Jesus has it. Let's press on to the upward call.

Student Ministries NYI 2022-2023 Annual Report
Pastor Matthew Nordquist - Youth Pastor

This past fall, our student ministry walked through the series entitled "Christian Sexuality" on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. I am so proud of the students and parents that participated in these very important conversations. Special thanks to our amazing youth leaders/teachers that made this series possible: Christie Cnossen, Danica Jorgensen, Christine McCabe, Ryan McCabe, Tim Scott, Jason Jolin, David Nordquist, Cindy Nordquist, Mickaela Carter, Joe Carter Jr., Kelly Doppler, Devon Alvaro, Shelly Cullen, Sheri Burke, Kristin Cael, Jason Cael, Steve Colario, and Aaron McCabe. We all witnessed God's mighty hand at work throughout this series. Praise God for His faithfulness!

One of the highlights from this past year was our annual mini-missions trip to Portsmouth Camp. Our thirty-six students, which was the most we have ever had for this trip, demonstrated wonderful hearts of service and had lots of fun as well. Other great events from this past year included Summer Hangtimes, the Late Nighter, and our Youth Group Christmas Party. At the church picnic & baptism this past summer, six students from our youth group (Meghan Levins, Lexy Nault, Cassidy Burke, Tommy Nault, Jason Cael and Rachel Scott) were baptized. Praise God for His work in the hearts of our students!

This coming year, we are looking forward to bringing a record group of forty-three students to Berea Deep Freeze Winter Retreat. Also, we are so excited for Nazarene Youth Conference this summer where eighteen of our high school students will gather to worship with students from Nazarene churches all across the United States and Canada. Furthermore, in both our student ministry and young adult ministry, we continue to meet new people almost every week. What a privilege it is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them! Looking forward to what God has in store for the student and young adult ministries at Valley Chapel as we continue to point this generation to Him.

*Will you not revive
us again,
that your people
may rejoice
in you?*



Psalms 85:6, NIV

Trustees Annual Report 2022-2023

Ron Johnson - Head Trustee

We consider it an honor and privilege to serve the Lord in maintaining His properties this past year. Just as the Bible says, the Lord "owns the cattle on a thousand hills," the Trustees understand that He also owns Valley Chapel in Uxbridge, MA.

Beyond the normal repairs and maintenance required to maintain five (5) buildings totaling over 60,000 square feet of heated space, this fiscal year the Trustees were busy with several projects and improvements.

The Trustees' first order of business this year was to visit our parsonages and evaluate repairs and improvements needed. The Trustees take the responsibility very seriously of giving our anointed ministers warm and well-maintained living arrangements for themselves and their families. We completed 95% of those necessary repairs this year, including repaving two parsonage driveways.

This year we also prepared for pastoral moves and parsonage repairs associated with them. As you are away, last year's worship & Online Pastor, Josh Fox, accepted a call as Senior Pastor at Hartford City Wesleyan Church in Indiana. A team of mostly volunteers completed the work to ready the parsonage for our new Worship & Online Pastor, Matt Genese, and his family, who moved in on January 7, 2023. Praise the Lord!

Among Sanctuary projects undertaken this year were to award a contract to Superior Roofing Company to complete the sanctuary roof repairs work. The work was completed during the Fall of 2022. Improvements were also made to the café facilities, which now allow for additional seating.

After several meetings this year with the Lower Campus tenant, the Trustees have negotiated a mutually beneficial one-year lease with Precious One's Daycare Center. Also, regarding the Lower Campus, the Trustees plan to replace the 30-year-old furnace this year and are currently acquiring quotes for local heating contractors.

In closing, the Trustees would like to thank those volunteers (which includes pastors) who have given of their time and expertise to help keep Valley chapel running like a well-tuned engine. Trustees understand that these folks are giving of themselves as to the Lord, but we also want to thank them for their acts of love and kindness. This volunteer work is not going un-noticed!

Thank the Lord for another great year at Valley Chapel!

Respectfully submitted in the Lord,

Your 2022-2023 board of Trustees:

Trustee Alan Randolph	Trustee Lance Salmonsens
Trustee Corey Burke	Trustee Paul Trout
Trustee Scott Cullen	Head Trustee Ron Johnson

ValleyKids Annual Report 2022-2023

Erin Tubo - Children's Director

Journey to the Cross 2022 – Last year's Journey to the Cross included a "fast track" for families with young children. All stations were included, but offered easier Bible readings to help the younger kids understand and feel more included.

¡Muchas Gracias! We celebrated our volunteer teams with a catered fiesta! Delicious food, good company, and lots of laughter! ValleyKids can't run without dedicated volunteers, and it was fun to thank them, review our successful year, and play teambuilding Minute to Win It games!

Zoomerang VBS 2022 – Our theme was The Sanctity of Life. What a timely subject during the year that Roe v. Wade was overturned! Children heard that they are created in God's image with value and purpose. Our volunteer team was excellent, going above and beyond to teach the truth to the 79 enrolled children.

Bible Quizzing – This year, our quiz team is studying 1 and 2 Samuel. Quizzers have competed in two quiz meets and have memorized 12 Bible verses so far. We're proud of how hard they are working.

Staff Transitions – At the end of the school year, Aly Nault stepped down from her position as ValleyKids Assistant Director. Lexi, one of our newly graduated seniors, worked with me this summer as the volunteer coordinator and Preschool VBS director. This fall, we welcome Kerri Arsenault to our staff as the new ValleyKids Assistant Director. The transition has been smooth and I'm thankful to all three of these ladies for their help and dedication to this ministry.

Leadership Team – With our growing numbers, I formed a leadership team comprised of volunteers and parents. They have provided wonderful insight and ideas as well as the commitment to pray for our ministry.

Summer Kick-Off – Our church held a Summer Kick-Off at West End Creamery! ValleyKids rented the jumping pillows for two very FUN hours. Almost 80 kids showed up, and it was awesome. Parents got to enjoy catching up with one another, and everyone enjoyed ice cream and beautiful weather.

Game Night – We brought back game night! A fun evening with pizza, fellowship, and LOTS of laughter.

Swim Days – ValleyKids hosted Swim Days at Pastor Josh's pool throughout the summer. These scheduled days allowed families to come together and get to know each other.

Looking Ahead –

- We're looking to open another classroom during our 10:30 service hour! Our numbers are growing, and we don't want our classes becoming too large.

- Senior Brunch is returning next month! This is a time when the children get to have brunch with our church's senior citizens. We haven't hosted one since pre-COVID and we're excited to bring it back!

- VBS 2023, **July 24-28** Keepers of the Kingdom, is scheduled and planning has already started! Save the date! Your family won't want to miss it!

Pastor Josh Annual Report 2023
Pastor of Ministry Development - Josh Howard

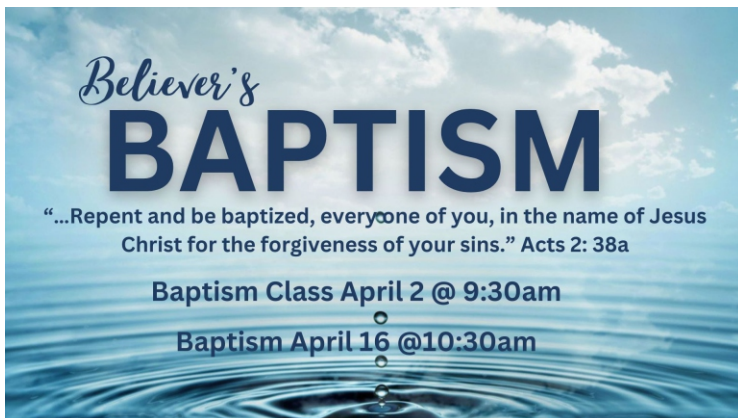
I love this church! And since the “Church” is not a building but the people of God, that means I love you and love that you are part of our church family. I have been on staff at Valley Chapel for 17 years, and I can truly say these are some of the most exciting and kingdom-focused times we have experienced as the people of God. This year as part of my role as pastor of ministry development, I have been able to meet with all the ministry teams in the church, and it has been such an encouragement and a blessing to see the passion and purposefulness each team has for their area of ministry. They want to see lives changed by the Gospel and provide a place for people to grow in their relationship with Jesus and one another. It has been my privilege to pray, support and equip them to see their goals accomplished.

I want to thank you for your prayers for our tech team. We have added new team members, many of which are our teens and young adults. They are dedicated to their tasks and show up early every week to provide the best in-person and live-stream service we can. Their prayer is that the technology does not distract in any way but supports what is happening and makes it audible and clear, and easy to follow along. It does not always happen that way, so thank you for your grace and understanding as they work quickly to resolve any issues. And you and I know technology can have issues.

I want to thank you for all your prayers and for volunteering for our back in-person Night to Shine 2023! We had 110 honored guests registered and 75 caretakers onsite. It takes 350 volunteers to make Night to Shine happen, and you did it! I have heard nothing but wonderful comments from honored guests and their caregivers on how special an evening it was.

I want to thank you for praying for our upcoming year of ministry. Our communities are desperate for hope, and we have the hope of Jesus in us. I love the saying, “You are where you are so that Jesus might be there.” Where do you take Jesus with you? How can you share that Hope wherever you are this next year?

Love Ya,
Pastor Josh Howard



Pastor Matt Genese Annual Report 2023
Worship & Online Pastor - Matt Genese

As most of you know, I officially joined the Valley Chapel staff team in January of this year. I actually started getting involved with the worship team in the fall of 2022. Since that time, I can report an ever growing affection for this special group of musicians. I am spoiled to work with people with such great hearts and exceptional musical gifts.

We have put forward some new songs to help facilitate a more engaging worship as well as continuing to sing classic hymns. More importantly, we have bathed our music and rehearsals in prayer. Sunday afternoons are especially encouraging as we continue to communicate insights and encouragements to one another that we obtained during our morning worship.

We had several of our church members participate in an open mic night at Willowbrook Restaurant in February. Approximately 75 people came out for this event!

Our first choir practice is taking place soon and the choir will be performing two songs for our Easter service. I look forward to worshipping together!

Finally, my family and I would like to say an enormous thank you to the entire Valley Chapel family for welcoming us. We are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Stephen Ministries

Tears are little drops of water which contain millions of feelings and thousands of unspoken words. To often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn your life around. Stephen Ministries is here for YOU!

stephen@valleychapel.us



YOUNG ADULTS! (AGES 18-29) Kristen Nordquist is hosting game night! Come out on March 25 with your favorite game for a night of friends, food, and fun!



Women - Sight and Sound Movie
Enjoy fellowship in the Café as we eat our lunches together, from there move to room 121 to watch the Sight and Sound movie of Moses



Marriage Seminar - Pastor Bob answers your questions
Sign up at valleychapel.us/marriage or at the welcome desk.

If you would like something in the April edition of "Stay Connected" Please send your information to Alice by **March 17** @ alice@valleychapel.us

To receive the weekly VC Messenger email and prayer requests, give your email to Alice at alice@valleychapel.us and let her know you want to be added to the email list.



TICKETS \$20
in church lobby Sundays
<https://www.fuseconcerts.org/7td>

PRAYER WEEKEND - MARCH



"For the earth will be covered with the knowledge of the glory of Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14)

Our prayer weekend on March 24-26 will focus on praying for revival, awakening and a great outpouring of the Spirit and glory of the Lord. Pockets of revival are beginning to break out across the nation, come and join us as we intercede for this in Massachusetts and in our church. The corporate prayer and worship time will be March 26 at 4pm.

Coming in April

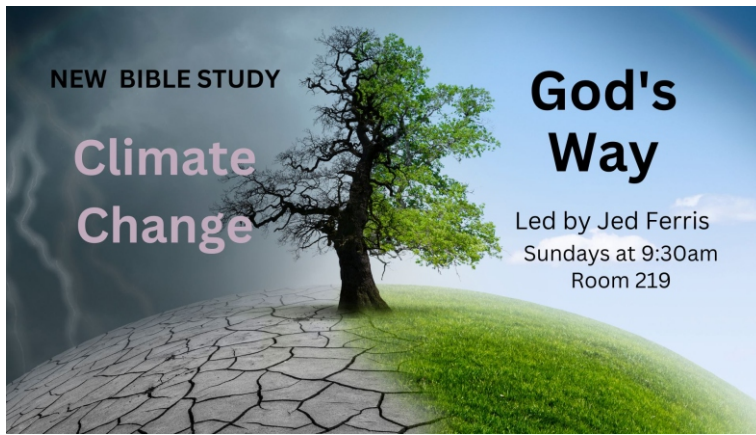
April 7 10 am - 6 pm
Journey to the Cross: Good Friday

April 9
7 am Sunrise Service & 10:30 Easter Service

April 12 noon
Sight and Sound Movie

April 21 7-9pm
Youth Group Nerf Night

9:30am Adult Thrive Classes



Do you ever feel lost and overwhelmed with no future for you and your family to look forward too?

Come help us tap the secret of God's word as we are instructed to feel and project ourselves in times of turbulence. We will discuss facts about Climate change from Temperature, CO2, Solar, Wind, Electric Vehicles and how it all relates to our changing world. What does the book of Revelation say on the subject of the world ending? Will it be Fact or Myth, come find out? We will certainly be discussing God's wish for peace for our future. (Feb 26 - April 23)



This class will review the various covenants God established with creation and His people.

The basic idea is that covenant describes the kind of relationship God wants to establish with us. We will explore variety covenants in Scripture, the nature and character of covenants, God's promises and expectations in covenant relationship, and how the New Covenant is modeled after the Old Testament covenant. The practical goal of the class is to understand what it means for us today to live in a covenant relationship with God. Join us in studying God's Word for life. (Feb 26 - June 11)

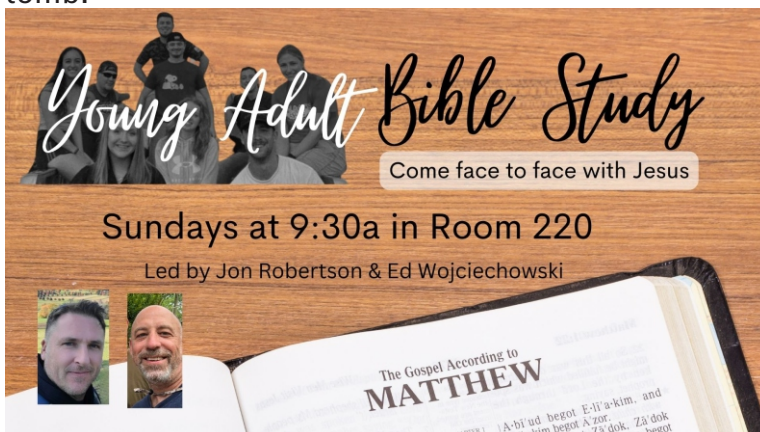


During The Easter Experience, we will enter the last few hours of Jesus' natural life and the first few hours of His resurrected life. We will find ourselves reclining next to Him in the Upper Room, walking beside him at Gethsemane, standing near Him in Pilate's courtyard, weeping alongside Him at Golgotha, and celebrating with Him at the empty tomb.



In four world-changing days recorded in the Gospel of Mark, we'll follow Jesus to the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, before the Sanhedrin, to the palace of Pilate, to Golgotha, and to the empty tomb.

Then we will study the book of James and discover how its message points to the practical ways we can live out our faith in the world today.



JESUS
LOVES YOU—
and so do we!

Hey, Bible Readers!

We're already two months into **The Bible Recap!**
Have you learned something new about God that
you never knew before? Are you growing in your
love for Him and His Word?

If you're struggling to keep up, reading in community
can help! Join Valley Chapel's TBR Facebook Group
at www.facebook.com/groups/vcrecap.

And remember...

He's where the joy is!

Easter at Valley Chapel

14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge
www.ValleyChapel.us

Journey to the Cross: Good Friday

This self-guided journey takes you through 8 multi-sensory stations that follow
Jesus' final days on Earth. Approximately 20-40 minutes to complete.
"Fast Track" option available for families with young children.
Open 10am - 6pm FREE!

Sunrise Service & Pancake Breakfast

Easter Sunday at 7am. Outside worship, scripture readings, and a message.
Pancake Breakfast in the café provided by the Men's Ministry.
No children's classes offered during this service.

Easter Service: In-person and Online 10:30am

Celebratory worship, choir performance, inspiring testimony,
and a message from God's Word!
Join us in-person or online! Toddler and preschool classes only.