



Semi-Annual Report

WHITEWATER CROSSING

FEBRUARY 2024

**Jess Adkins**

Interim Senior Minister

IT'S BEEN A WILD RIDE!

*We have seen the
God of the impossible
show up and show off!*

FEBRUARY 2024

We continue to talk about following Jesus & being more like Him each day. In these past months, we have been put to the test – to put up or shut up! And my friends, we have done it through leaning on our God, with whom all things are possible!

We follow the greatest story ever told - just by hearing and believing it – we are ignited with meaning, belonging, and purpose in our lives! King Jesus has brought that story to life and tells it through each one of us as His followers.

When we give ourselves to King Jesus - our hearts, our loyalty, our story - we become Storied, Surrendered, Spirit-Led, and Sent disciples of His. So, we will continue to follow Jesus. He has proven faithful and true time and time again.

- **STORIED** // Jesus knew the story he was in - God's story - and he knew how to tell it. He wants us to understand and tell others the whole story.
- **SURRENDERED** // Jesus, the rescuing and life-giving King, surrendered to God's good plan. Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ King, sent by God to put things right. King Jesus wants our ultimate allegiance.
- **SPIRIT-LED** // Jesus lived in 100% cooperation with the Holy Spirit. In the same way, we can live a solid and founded life by hearing what the Spirit is saying to us and taking action like Jesus.
- **SENT** // Jesus sends us out into the world, and through prayer, we'll discover ways to show and tell the Good News.

As Jesus' disciples, each of us continues to be challenged and strives to live lives that reveal the rhythms of our King. So, we continue to prepare both personally and organizationally for all that God will do through Whitewater as disciples make disciples (who make disciples)!

God has brought us through the valley, and we anticipate all He has for us this upcoming season as we welcome our new Senior Minister, Josh Brown, and his family to Whitewater. As always, we'll continue to bring Help, Hope, and a Home in Jesus - locally, regionally, and globally!

It's been a wild ride, to be sure, and I've had the joy of a front-row seat to witness all that God has done in this season of transition. We're beyond blessed by so many godly and resilient people here at Whitewater who actively participate in fueling and funding the mission that God has given us. I honestly can't wait for what is next!

*We welcome our new
Senior Minister, Josh
Brown, and his
wonderful family to
Whitewater!*

MEET THE BROWNS

Josh graduated from Cincinnati Christian University before beginning his ministry right down the road at Miamitown Church of Christ as a worship leader in the early 2000s. He has spent the past fifteen years serving faithfully in various capacities at First Church of Christ in Burlington, Kentucky, recently finishing up his role as Campus Pastor of their Burlington campus.

Josh brings with him his incredible family! His wife of more than twenty years, Heidi, is a longtime teacher in the Oak Hills School District, where she brings the hope of Jesus to the students, educators, and parents around her. Josh and Heidi are faithful and loving parents to three incredible and unique children - Ayda (14), Garrett (13), and Wyatt (11). We're eager for all of you to meet Josh, Heidi, and their children - and for them to meet you!



*Josh & Heidi Brown with
their children (left to right)
Garrett, Wyatt, and Ayda*

HOPE'S JOURNEY

Life is unpredictable, and the things we can't control often leave us feeling powerless. For Hope, this reality deeply resonated as she navigated a whirlwind of challenges. Recently uprooted from Indiana to Ohio, she found herself falling behind financially, struggling to make ends meet for her family of six.

Hope's journey took a hopeful turn when she stumbled upon the Life Center at Whitewater, a beacon of support in her time of need. Through financial assistance, she was able to alleviate some of the stress and make a crucial rent payment, putting her family back on track.



Entering a six-month mentorship program with the Life Center, Hope encountered Nancy and Teri, two remarkable and selfless volunteer leaders who served Hope as guiding lights. Together, they navigated the complexities of real-time money management, empowering Hope with the tools and knowledge she needed to provide stability for her family.

But the blessings didn't end there. Hope and her husband were connected to the annual Toy Store, where they were able to secure Christmas gifts for their children, bringing joy and relief during what could have been a daunting and disappointing holiday season.

Throughout her journey, Hope's faith grew stronger, finding Help and a Home at Whitewater, where her children thrived in the loving embrace of our Whitewater Kids ministry in Harbortown!

And so, with newfound resilience and gratitude in her heart, Hope embraces the future with optimism, knowing that with faith, community, and perseverance, she can overcome any obstacle that comes her way.

**Join in on the mission of empowering
others through the Life Center!**
jereca@hopeisforeveryone.org



GOD'S UP TO SOMETHING!

It's so exciting to see Him move in the hearts of our kids, students, and young adults and witness their willingness to follow God's lead. In the fall, we started our 18th year of sharing Jesus with the elementary kids of Southwest Schools through Lightning Squad (originally called JAM). We're now reaching our largest group yet of over 330 kids! These children are learning that we are all invited to be on one big team together - God's team! Life is better with God, and sharing that good news with so many kids in our local schools is a blessing!

At the end of December, when our Next Gen leaders had the opportunity to take over our weekend worship services, you heard stories of the life change happening as our students continue to take the next step to become more like Jesus. We see this in how Sydnie is helping some of our youngest children in Whitewater Kids see God's calling on their lives, just as her small group leaders did for her. We see it in Anna's dedication to serving her community and being the hands and feet of Jesus to others. These are just a couple of the many stories we're celebrating as our students bring the hope of Jesus to everyone around them - One Life at a time!

In January, twenty-five Young Adults traveled to Atlanta, GA, for the annual Passion Conference. Passion is a 3-day gathering of thousands of 18-25-year-olds passionate for the name and renown of Jesus. Through dynamic teachings and powerful worship experiences, we saw a renewing of faith for many and a new spark of excitement for bringing the Hope of Jesus back to their friends, campuses, families, and cities - on out to the ends of the earth.

Please pray that our next generation will draw closer to God and boldly live out their faith. Thank you for loving them and being a supportive community!





ELIZABETH GRAYBEAL
STEWARDSHIP LEAD

GOD IS FAITHFUL

The goodness and faithfulness of God never cease to amaze me. There have been seasons in my life when it was difficult to pinpoint where He was working, but looking back, I can see how much He was doing behind the scenes to perfectly align my part in His story.

Entering 2024, I feel my soul reigniting as we walk together into something new and fresh. Even in the darkness of night and the middle of winter, the promise of spring is ever-present, and the warm days we've enjoyed over the last few weeks remind me that winter does not last forever.

What situation or issue are you facing right now? Do you need reassurance that things will get better? Because of Jesus, we step into each new day full of courage. Our HOPE is not dependent on anything here on earth. We can rest assured that God's goodness and faithfulness are never-ending. He is walking alongside us on every mountain and through every valley.

Now, more than 107 years into the ministry of Whitewater Crossing Christian Church, our purpose remains: We exist to Help people find Hope in Jesus and a Home in His Local Church. Through your generosity, this mission advances. We see life change happen in big and small ways. We celebrate as people publicly declare their faith through baptism. We get to witness and be a part of people's stories as they walk away from lives filled with addiction and into a life of freedom through Jesus.

Because of Jesus, we step into each new day full of courage. Our HOPE is not dependent on anything here on earth.

And that's just the beginning! Hope is spreading globally through our ongoing mission partnership with the Ubhayawansha family in Sri Lanka and through Kingdom Learners, led by Danny Ciamarra, who traveled to remote tribal villages in India this past summer and was able to provide sewing machines to local widows and microphones to those willing to amplify the word of God!



PICNICS IN THE PARKING LOT



SIDEWALK PROPHETS CONCERT



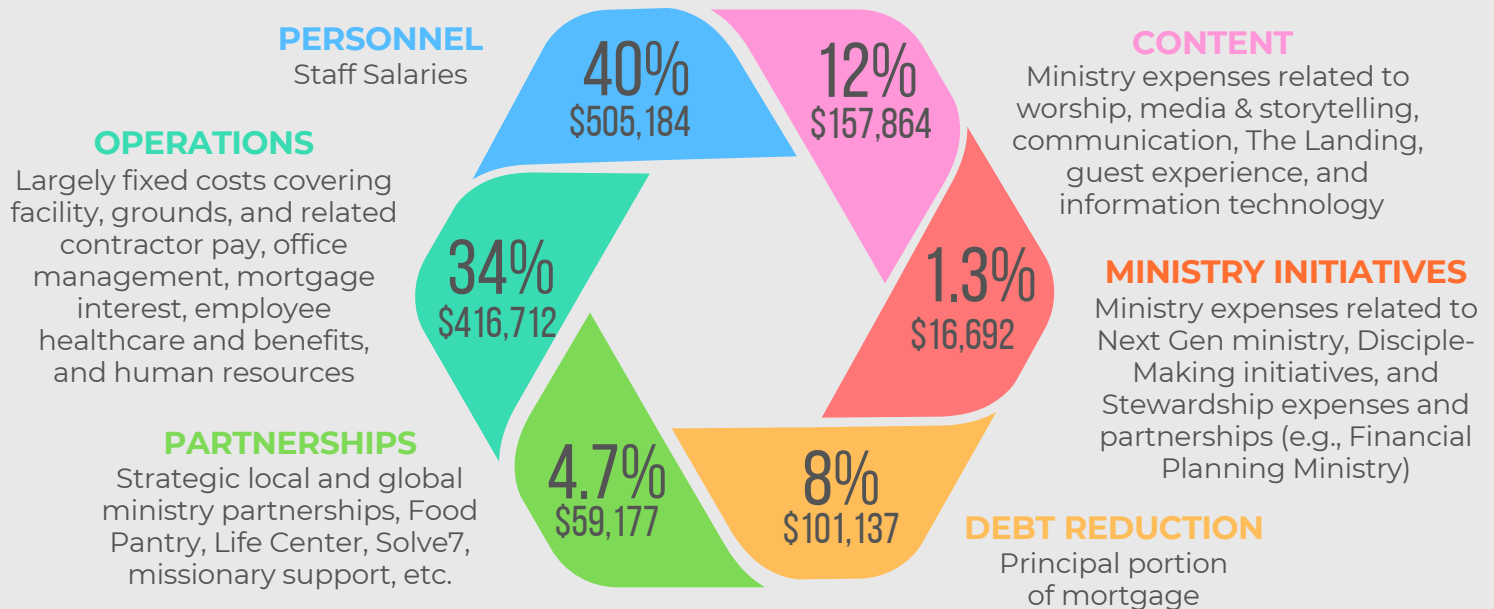
WHITEWATER COMMUNITY GARDEN

Throughout this report, you can see God's hand at work in our midst. The Next Gen team perseveres in loving kids with the truth of Jesus' tremendous love. The Community Pantry, The Life Center at Whitewater, and Whitewater Crossing joined forces and resources for the annual Picnics in the Parking Lot weekly summertime events. Our facility is used continually by multiple outside organizations, greatly increasing the number of souls walking through our doors for the first time. The Worship Center was hopping in December as the band Sidewalk Prophets came for a second year as part of their holiday concert lineup. What's more? Many hundreds of souls participate week in and week out in our weekend worship gatherings, where we worship in Spirit and Truth through prayer, song, communion, and scripture. The number of participants continues to grow so far in 2024 - and we celebrate that! We believe God's Word and His Spirit matter to everyone! So come and experience this with us every weekend!

Let's not forget about our newest endeavor, the **Whitewater Community Garden**, which is well underway through a dynamic, unified collaboration between the Community Pantry, The Life Center at Whitewater, and Whitewater Crossing. The Whitewater Community Garden (named for our shared location in Whitewater Township) will be **a place where the focus is on people, sustainable gardening, learning, teaching, and healthy food choices.**

There's no way to adequately express how generosity changes lives, but rest assured: the impact of your faithful, sacrificial, kingdom-minded giving is eternal. When disciples of Jesus rise up to give and to share, people find Hope in Jesus. They experience forgiveness, encouragement, spiritual and relational community, and taste the promise of heaven.

FINANCES AT-A-GLANCE



We initially set our budget for the current fiscal year (7/1/23-6/30/24) at \$2.55 MM. However, because Whitewater is committed to the sustainable stewardship of human, financial, and facility resources, following a considerable drop in contributions (Aug-Oct 2023), an amended budget of \$2,167,500 was adopted and implemented on 11/1/23. Overall, the decrease in the budget represented a nearly 35% reduction in expenditures and contributions from the previous fiscal year.

This tremendous decrease impacted every staff member, every system and team, and every area of ministry. But despite the necessary difficult decisions, God's goodness and faithfulness have remained evident. He has moved in ways that seemed impossible to us (from our human perspective) and given an indescribable peace that surpasses our understanding. Whitewater Crossing Christian Church doesn't belong to us. This church belongs to God. He can do as he sees fit, and the pruning process, however painful, will reap a harvest much more significant than we could imagine.

Despite the reductions in expenditures, as expected, we ended the first half of the fiscal year over budget by 17%. The overage in expenses will be reabsorbed in the budget over the next six months with a continued focus on reduced expenses, although we continue to anticipate ending the fiscal year slightly over budget.

Every dollar given to Whitewater matters. If you're already a part of our Giving Community, thank you! If you have yet to invest your financial resources through Whitewater, hear our heart and passion: it's never too late. We'd love to have you join this ever-growing, generous giving community. I'm excited to see all the future holds and am thankful to be endeavoring it alongside you!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Our mission is fueled by God's grace and through your generosity! We GIVE in multiple, essential ways!

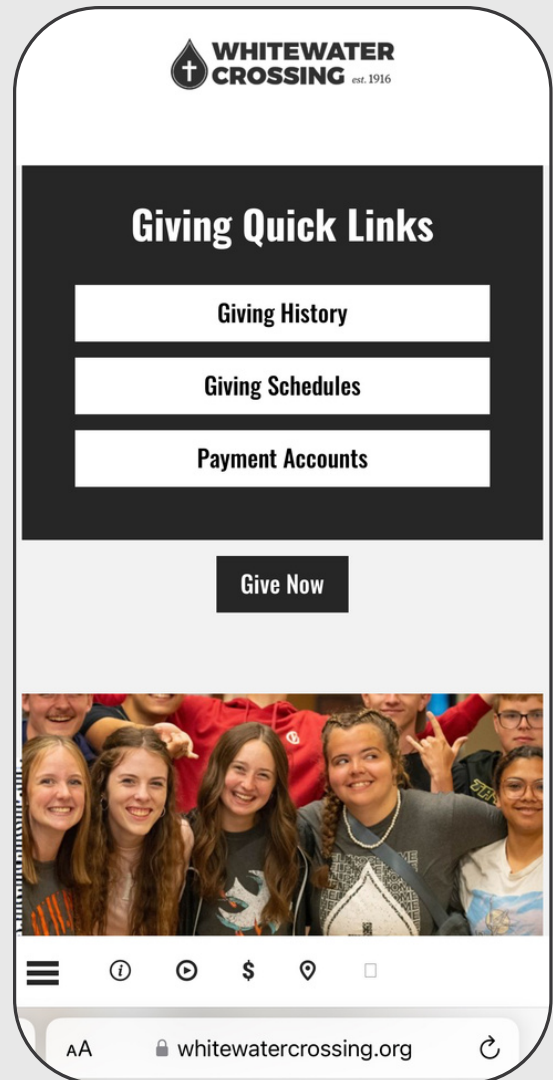
Volunteering your **TIME**

Using your **TALENTS**

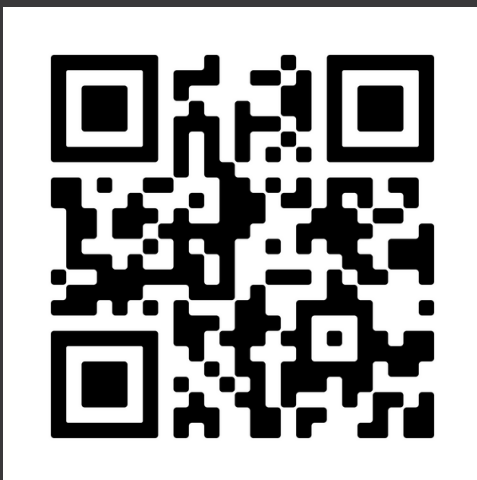
Sharing your **TREASURE**

To GIVE financially, scan the QR Code (simply aim your phone camera at code below), or visit:

whitewatercrossing.org/give



QR CODE



Open the camera app on your phone/device.
This QR Code will automatically send you to
the giving portal on our website!

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