



"Life Together—With Jesus, With Each Other, With Our Neighbor"

Riverside Covenant Church Annual Report

June 4, 2023

Year in Review (Pastor Ara)

To God's faithful people at Riverside, what an exciting and wonderful last year this has been for our church! I am thankful for the opportunity to join with you in what God is doing at Riverside as we pursue Life Together this year. At the end of 2022, we celebrated our yearly theme of "Taste and See" and reflected on how we tasted and saw God's goodness among us. In 2023, our new theme "Life Together" was launched with a beautiful mural wall put together by Becky Wellner that highlights one word each month around the concept of Life Together at Riverside. We also started monthly "Life To-Gather" events which so far have included a Variety Show, trip to Cary Camp, and a Saturday morning bowling gathering.

This past year we celebrated new life in Christ as we baptized 9 individuals both in church, and at our yearly river service at Fort Ouiatenon. We also welcomed 9 individuals into our church in membership during our worship service. Thanks be to God for new life in Christ, and new membership at Riverside.

As we look toward the rest of 2023, I am thankful for the chance to continue on with you in our theme of Life Together. We will continue with our monthly "Life To-Gather" events for the remainder of the year, as well as reflecting on one word each month to help us understand what Life Together is all about. I am thankful for each of you and your gifts that you bring to the body here at Riverside. It is truly better when we do this Life Together.

Women's Ministry (Kim Wood)

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Many new and exciting things have been happening with women's ministries this past year. With a lull in ministry during the pandemic and the loss of Katrina Elliott in the official role of leading women's ministries, in many ways we have started from scratch. Last July, a new Women's Discipleship Team was formed: Katrina Elliott, Brandi Moeschberger, Jamie Jones, and Kim Wood continued to serve (as they had prior to the pandemic). Joining them on the team were Rita Rigggenbach, Maria Koliantz, Lauren Dorn, and Abi Moss. The first event this team hosted was an "Ice Cream Social Launch Party" in August at which the women in attendance had the opportunity to brainstorm ideas for women's ministries and discuss the purpose of

women's ministries and the vision of starting afresh. From this meeting, the WDT adopted a theme verse (above) and developed a plan for the upcoming year.

Our plan included seven events, all stemming from ideas shared by the women at the launch party. August was our Ice Cream Social Launch Party. Then, in October, we hosted a game night. In December, we offered a "Socks and Songs" night with a gift exchange (in socks) and then songs/worship led by Becky Wellner and Teresa Wah. In February, Crystal Kirgiss led a Bible Study Workshop and in March we hosted a "Serving Together" gathering at which several women from within our church family shared about the ministries they were serving in or hoping to start up. The women in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions and/or sign up to be a part of their ministry. Most recently, in May, we hosted a Project and Pottery Painting Night. And, finally, in June, we will be hosting a "Rest" event at which the women will be led in a time of meditation, rest, and stillness. Also, in response to our February bible study workshop, Kim Wood led a four-week bible study on the book of Philippians, using the study skills Crystal shared with us.

We hope to have a few low-key offerings in the summer: pool nights at Leanna Giltmier's house, another bible study offering, and possibly a book group. The women on the WDT will have a planning retreat in June at which they will evaluate this past year and begin planning for next year. We are excited about what God has been doing this past year in Women's Ministries and look forward to what He has in store for us this coming year. Our main goal, as captured in the Hebrews theme verse, was to "not give up meeting together" so that we could "encourage each other and spur one another on toward love and good deeds" and form a sense of community with the women in our church. God has been good to us in this way – through the leadership and camaraderie within our leadership team and the wonderful women within our church family.

RiverKids (Melissa Polk)

Each week this past year, children would worship through singing with their families and were then invited downstairs. RiverKids was divided into two or three classrooms for age-appropriate lessons. The lessons focused on the same Bible passages as what was being taught to the adults upstairs. RiverKids utilized games, crafts, activities, and stories to engage children each week. Children's Moments continued once a month during the regular service. The plan is to continue all of this into the coming year.

Youth (Phu and Jess)

In the past year, the youth ministry has seen some significant changes in the staffing and structure of the youth group. In September two college students from Purdue joined Riverside to serve as part-time youth interns. Phu and Jess have helped in facilitating youth group gatherings on Sunday afternoons after church. The youth group gatherings would include games, worship, a short message, and small group time.

As a team, Pastor Ara and the youth interns lead Journey and Odyssey groups. Phu and Jess led Journey which consisted of two 8th graders who completed an Old Testament course. Pastor Ara led Odyssey, a New Testament course with students in 9-12th grade. Students in both Odyssey and Journey would read books, examine scripture, and discuss how to apply the readings in their daily lives.

In February the youth group partook in Winter Camp at Covenant Harbor. The students learned about how to visibly see God throughout their lives. They also were able to participate in games against other youth groups, attend 4 learning sessions, and spend quality time together as a group.

Throughout the year the students were involved in volunteering in activities such as the 5k at Camp Tecumseh and raking leaves at the church. There were also other fun activities sprinkled throughout the semester.

Still to come, the Browning's have planned a summer excursion again this year for high school students. We are thankful to all of the parents and leaders that have continued to support our middle and high school students.

Worship (Mike Tetrault)

The past year has been fruitful and steady for the worship ministry at Riverside. All credit goes to the selfless volunteers who have served excellently and consistently for the edification of Riverside's congregation. Many members of the worship team have served in their roles for years, and their long-term participation and support are greatly appreciated. I am especially grateful that the members of the worship team include both youth and adults, because our varying gifts and experiences make us more effective.

In terms of updates and equipment, we recently updated ProPresenter, our presentation software, because the older version was about to go "extinct." The lighting computer will need to be updated in the near future as it reaches the end of its life, and we will be updating the lighting software in the process. A huge thanks is due to Bobby Dorn for his creation of sermon graphics, lighting schemes, and help with updates and troubleshooting. He has been instrumental in envisioning how we can make things work smoother on the technical side.

A big shout out is also due to Teresa Wah and Becky Wellner for the ways they lead the congregation in worship. We are blessed to have many talented and generous individuals at Riverside who are willing to step out of their comfort zone and serve where they are needed. Moving forward, I believe the worship ministry is in a great position to support the kingdom work taking place at Riverside.

Finances

2022-2023 Budgeted Amount \$298,270

Year-to-Date *as of May 10, 2023

Actual Giving: \$259,776

Actual Expenses: \$226,751

Net Positive: **+\$33,025**

Riverside is projecting to end the fiscal year with giving ahead of expenses. We give thanks to God for his provision this year, and for your faithfulness in giving to the mission of God at Riverside. A portion of the

profits from the sale of the land have been earmarked to be invested in a CD by the Leadership Team. This will allow some growth of those funds we are not currently using while we wait and continue to pray for the stewardship of these proceeds in the church.

Proposed Budget 2023-2024

	Total	Description
Income		
General Funday Giving	\$328,725.34	
Total Income	\$328,725.34	
Expenses		
200-Administration	\$59,060.00	building insurance, maintenance/repair, equipment, utilities, and administrative supplies
300-Staff Wages	\$168,894.34	Wages for all full time and part time church staff
400-Staff Benefits	\$48,894.00	Health insurance, retirement, payroll expenses, etc.
500-Program Supplies	\$25,855.00	Program supplies for RiverKids, Pods, Youth, Worship, Fellowship area, and other church related events
600-Missions	\$25,932.00	Missionary Support, Community Missions, Denominational Support
Total Expenses	\$328,725.34	
Variances	\$0.00	

The proposed budget giving of \$328,725.34 is approximately a 10% increase to our projected fiscal year-end total of \$298,270.