



# YEAR IN REVIEW

- 2016 -



FIRST CHURCH OF GOD



**JOHNNY  
MCCALLISTER**  
SENIOR PASTOR

## DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year has been a year of life change. In these pages we wanted to give you a snap shot of the growth that is happening around us. We know this is not the whole picture, but we wanted to give you a tangible picture of the exciting things God is doing in our midst. Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving. Thank you for serving. Thank you for believing – for believing God is calling us to be a part of what He is doing and that He is not done with us yet. Our best days are ahead.

In his letter to the church in Philippi Paul writes, *“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”* (Phil 1:3-6 NLT)

I feel the same about each of you, my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ! I give thanks to my God for you and I hold each of you up in prayer, making my requests for all of you with joy.

Paul continues and I echo his words:

*“I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.”* (Phil 1:9-10 NLT)

Keep Lookin’ Up!

# 97<sup>TH</sup> FASTEST GROWING CHURCH IN AMERICA

RANK	CHURCH	CITY	STATE
92	Cross Point Church	Nashville	TN
93	Canvas Church	Kalispell	MT
94	The Summit Church	North Little Rock	AR
95	Faith Church	Florence	AL
96	theChurch.at	Broken Arrow	OK
97	First Church of God	Columbia City	IN
	* 4 <sup>th</sup> fastest growing church in Indiana		
98	Victory Church	Lancaster	PA
99	Rock Bridge Community Church	Dalton	GA
100	First Christian Church	Council Bluffs	IA

AN OUTREACH MAGAZINE/LIFEWAY RESEARCH SPECIAL REPORT

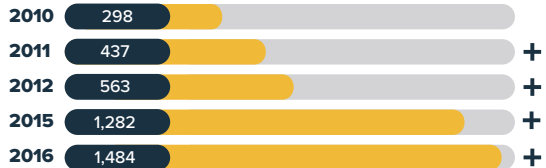
# FACEBOOK LIKES



# 398%

## INCREASE

(Since 2010)



Facebook likes have increased by a large margin, due to an increased online awareness and purpose on our end. We hope that our Facebook page tells the story of who we are and what God is doing here at First Church of God.

# MOBILE APP



Last year saw the introduction of our church app. We are continually trying to make it easy for our members to access the information they need at any moment. The app has allowed people to check in their children more quickly, access and register for various events, and watch sermons on the go.

# WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



## AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



2008

2016

AVERAGE  
IN 2016 **1056**

# FIRST TIME VISITORS

We have never seen so many 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors in our church's history. Whether it's word of mouth, outreach events, intentional prayer, or a combination of all three, our constant hope is that more and more people will give First Church a try, but more importantly, find a place to call home.

FIRST TIME  
VISITORS IN 2008

19

FIRST TIME  
VISITORS IN 2016

285

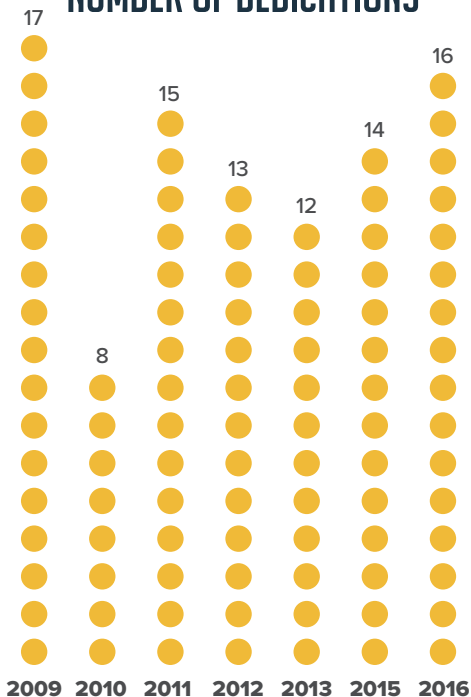


# CHILD DEDICATIONS

Child Dedications are an important moment for families in our church. Parents commit to raising their child with biblical values in a Christian community, while the church acknowledges publicly that they will come alongside the family as their child grows up.



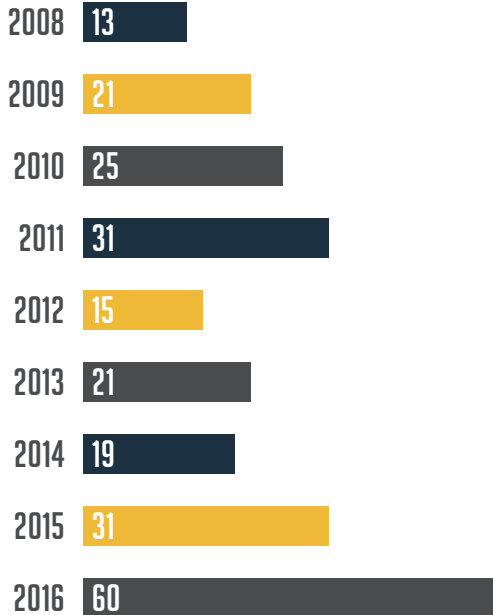
## NUMBER OF DEDICATIONS





# NEW MEMBERS

## NEW MEMBERS IN A YEAR



Membership is important for us because it means there are more people from our community committed to what God is doing at First Church. This December, we added almost 50 new members on one Sunday, proving again that God is on the move in our midst.



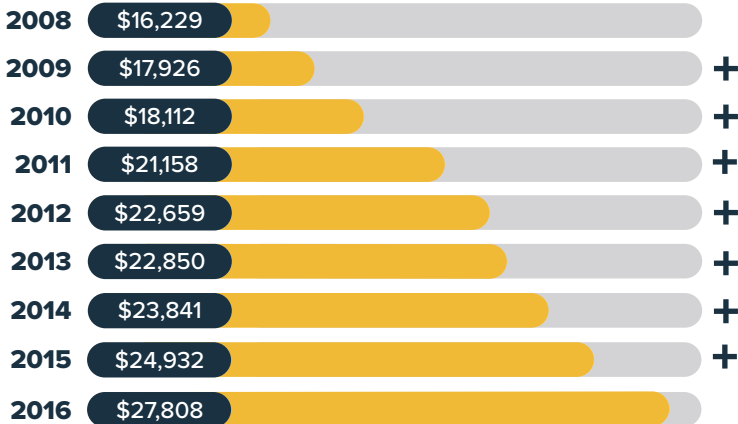
# CONVERSIONS

Our passion is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We will see the world as God sees it: A world lost in sin, and love it as He did. He gave His Son (*John 3:16*). We will also be active in giving: giving of our sons and daughters, giving of our members and giving of our resources, so that the message of salvation in Jesus Christ can be proclaimed both at home and abroad. It is the Holy Spirit who fills and empowers to witness (*Acts 1:8*).



# GENERAL FUND GIVING

## AVERAGE WEEKLY GENERAL FUND GIVING

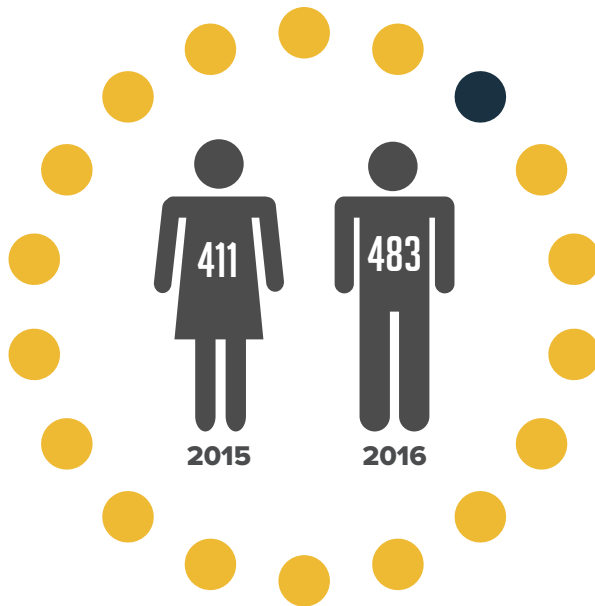


**71%**  
**INCREASE**  
(Since 2008)

We are thankful for the way that God continues to use you to meet the financial needs at First Church. Increased giving over the years has provided the resources to meet monthly expenses, grow our staff, and take new ground in ministry.

# SMALL GROUPS

Our hope is that everyone who calls First Church home would be plugged into a community of believers so that they might experience accountability, belonging, and care. With more groups forming each year through GroupLink and the high amount of 1st time visitors we are seeing, our hope is for a future explosion in people who understand and embrace the calling to be in community.



# PEOPLE IN MINISTRIES

God has destined each of us to play a vital role in helping to heal a broken world through service. One of our great encouragements in this endeavor is the growth of First Church Academy over the past three years, which aims to equip people biblically, theologically, and practically. We were so excited to have 36 go through FCA in 2014 and even more thrilled to have had 53 participate in 2016!



**2015**

**491** PEOPLE INVOLVED  
IN A MINISTRY



**2016**

**568** PEOPLE INVOLVED  
IN A MINISTRY



# BAPTISMS



Baptisms, one of our most exciting and impactful parts of ministry, have been on a constant rise. In 2015, we met the same number as the previous year, plus 13 more. Through prayer and our King is Among Us series, **2016 saw the highest turnout of people proclaiming their faith through baptism in our history as a church.**

## NUMBER OF BAPTISMS



# MISSIONS

## MISSION PARTNERS:

### LOCAL

Non-food pantry  
Bear Lake Camp  
The Center  
Boomerang Backpacks at Mary Raber

### REGIONAL

Urban Light Community Church  
Logan Rehrer (Campus Outreach- Indiana State University)  
Ian Grant (Youth With A Mission - Louisville)  
Dorval (Our sister church in Haiti)  
Project Help Haiti  
Edgar Malice (Assistant Director of Project Help)  
Watson (Haiti Pastoral Scholarship)  
Partnering with Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Haiti

### INTERNATIONAL

Ron Gaff (International Graduate School of Leadership)  
Vinh and Hanh (Scholarship students at the International Graduate School of Leadership- from Vietnam)  
Morales Family (Faculty at IGSL)  
Royer Family (New Tribes Missions- Brazil)  
Everettes (Destiny Rescue- Dominican Republic)  
Brave Home (Destiny Rescue home in Bangkok, Thailand)



# TOTAL GIVING

TO ONGOING MISSIONS EFFORTS  
FROM FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

**\$152,507**

LOCAL: **\$51,150**

REGIONAL: **\$33,806**

INTERNATIONAL: **\$67,551**

**80 INDIVIDUALS**

ENGAGED IN SHORT TERM  
MISSIONS THIS YEAR

**150 PEOPLE**

SERVED DURING LOVE  
OUR CITY DAYS



A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered outdoors in front of a large, modern building. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter. The text 'FIRSTCHURCHCONNECT.COM' is prominently displayed in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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