



 **GROW**POINT

**2019**

**Annual Report**



# 2019 – A DEFINING YEAR

Look at these celebration-worthy points from last year!

God led us through a name change with renewed values. Ephesians 4:15 grounds us and guides us for everything we do at Grow Point. Some other points of celebration include the 35 souls that started the journey of being followers of Jesus, and the 34 individuals who made their faith public through water baptism. We dedicated 8 babies, added 42 new members and 127 individuals pursued Jesus through various forms of intentional discipleship. We also launched Uphold: Marriage Events to help foster healthy marriages within our church. Moving forward, we will host Uphold in the Spring and the Fall.

Our reach to the community also grew during 2019 through the Compassion Fund to help meet practical needs, as well as through Light the Night, blessing the schools, and the Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party, all of which were funded through the Neighborhood Fund.

We anticipate that in 2020 we are going to see God take us to new depths in our relationship with Him and take us to new heights of possibility because of His power that is at work within us! This is the reason we are intentionally posturing our hearts before Him. God is always moving and making Himself known, but the extent of our involvement is determined by our willingness to be transformed by Him. When we run after God's heart, we will see great things! Let's run together! Let's grow together!

- Pastors Josh & Sumer Smith



# GROW KIDS

**Grow Kids Early Childhood** (6 weeks - Kindergarten) grew significantly in 2019, which led us to expand our classrooms and launch the Infant Nursery in the Fall. We were able to update carpet, purchase new toys and develop themes for each classroom. In the Infant Nursery, volunteers are reciting Scriptures and prayers over the babies as they are snuggling, feeding, and changing them...encouraging a prophetic atmosphere of God's love for them. The toddlers and preschoolers have joined the Elementary Ministry in using Grow Curriculum, which encourages cohesiveness among families and a deeper understanding of foundational Biblical principles for our little ones. Our hope is for each volunteer to develop deeper relationships with children as we grow.

**Grow Kids Elementary** experienced an incredible year of growth, change, and vision in 2019. Grow Kids arrive on Sundays expectant to learn truths found in God's Word while creating lasting relationships with friends and leaders.

At Good Friday Camp, 58 kids solved the mystery of the empty tomb with 8 of them inviting Jesus into their heart for the first time! With the help of 53 talented volunteers, this interactive day taught kids the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

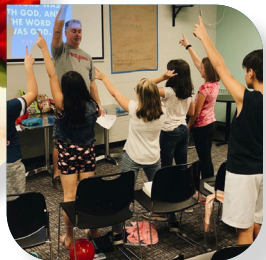
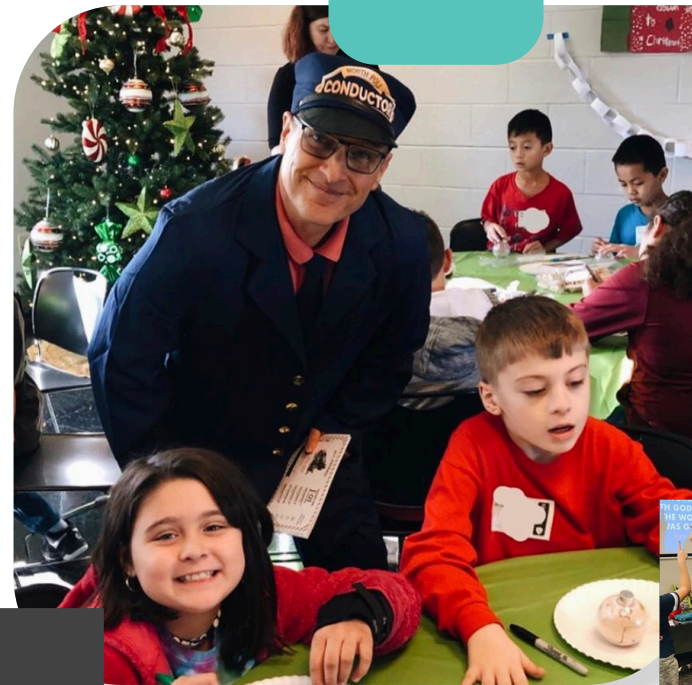
Our Vacation Bible School, "To Mars and Beyond," launched 45 kids into a new realm of possibilities and encountered the limitless power and love of God. Thanks to 41 volunteers, our kids learned to go beyond with the character of Christ. During the summer at Camp McPherson, we took 20 kids and 4 leaders on an adventure to encounter Jesus and make lifelong camp memories. We celebrated 3 first time salvations, 13 re-commitments and 6 students said they felt the Holy Spirit in a new way. A color-war, swimming, and our special times in the tabernacle made this one of the best weeks of the summer!

Throughout 2019, Grow Kids memorized new Bible verses each month, walked through many stories of the Bible, and can recite all 66 books of the Bible in order! 29 kids completed J12, our 4th and 5th grade discipleship, where they are learning to make their faith in Jesus their own.

Grow Kids is expectant for all God is going to do in 2020! Elementary kids will continue to learn new Bible stories and memory verses, while spending 2020 focusing on learning the Fruits of the Spirit and the Armor of God.

2020 holds exciting changes for family programs, opportunities and growth! We are looking for eager volunteers, ready to share the message of Christ with His kids while having fun! We would love for you to join the Sunday morning teams or volunteer at one of our many events throughout the year!

We are excited for all this year holds!



# GROW STUDENTS

In Grow Students, we desire to see 6th-12th graders gain an understanding of who Jesus is, and grow in relationship with Him. These days students are overloaded with information—whether it be in school, extra-curricular activities, or the big one... social media. Our Sunday night Grow Student gatherings set atmosphere that allows healthy, biblically-based conversations about Jesus and life to take place in a safe and encouraging place.

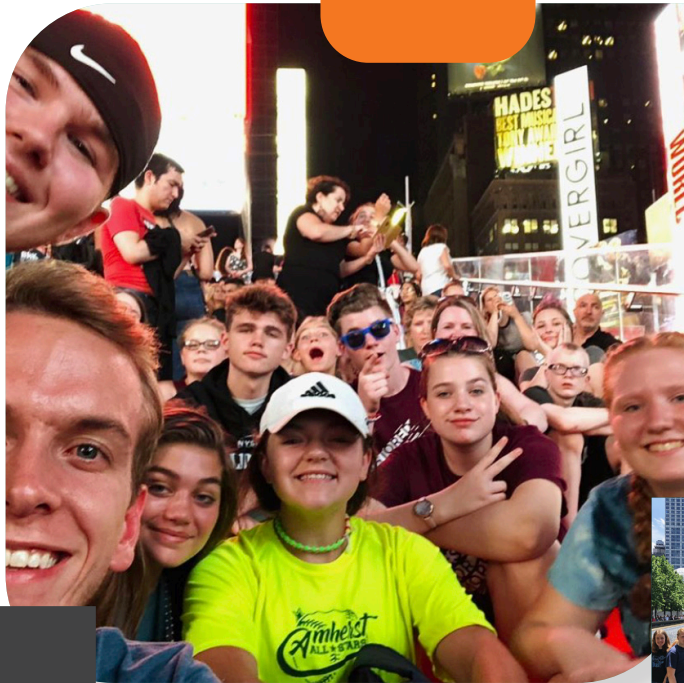
In 2019, we saw an average of 40-50 students at our Sunday night gatherings which are called “Huddles.” Huddles are broken down by grade and gender groups to allow for age appropriate conversation. Junior and senior high students have the opportunity to grow their relationships with Jesus by sharing, processing, and encouraging each other in their faith. This small group format helps to engage students in conversation and teaching, rather than only taking in information without processing it.

Once every month, we host a Grow Students Rally Service. These are high energy rallies geared for fun and impact. With games, student-led worship, a short message and food, our students can invite their friends knowing that they will experience God in a creative and unique way.

During the summer, in place of Huddles, we launched Affinity Groups where students had the opportunity to grow in a particular talent or area of interest and learn how they can use it to make Jesus known to others - music, video, sports, crafts, etc.

This year, we took 45 students to summer and winter camps where we saw relationships grow and faith deepen. Thank you to all who gave to the NextGen Envelope Challenge in helping us send teens and kids to summer camp! 13 students went on our New York Missions trip where we partnered with the New York School of Urban Ministry as our students had the opportunity to pray with the homeless in several locations in New York City. In 2020, we will continue that momentum of students serving others with quarterly outreaches right here in Lorain County and of course within our own church where our students serve in Grow Kids, worship, outreach, video team and more. We want to expand our students' worldview and help them see people as Jesus does.

In a generation where information is at our fingertips, close and meaningful relationships can often be lacking. Every student needs someone in their life that they know values them and are willing to invest time in them. Our incredible team of faithful volunteers love our students week in and week out. It doesn't only happen on Sunday nights. It happens at their sporting events, their school plays and from a quick text in the middle of the week. We believe lasting growth and transformation starts by building healthy relationships based on God's Word. If you have a heart to see teens succeed in life through faith in Jesus, please connect with us. We'd love for you to join the Grow Students Team.



# Worship

We place a high priority on worship at Grow Point. Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:10 "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Everytime we worship, we fulfill that prayer of Jesus by joining with heaven in worshipping our Father here on earth.

From the youngest to the oldest on Sundays, worship is placed as a high value. Our Grow Kids from Early Childhood through Elementary engage in video worship each week, teaching and instilling this value into them at an early age. Our Grow Students during their Sunday night rally services are led in worship by a youth worship band, allowing students to use their talents to lead their peers.

In 2019, a heavy emphasis was placed on worship at our special Easter and Christmas services. Our Good Friday service allowed for an intimate gathering with acoustic worship together as a congregation along with a time of communion remembering the price Jesus paid for us on the cross.

Thanks to generous giving, we were able to upgrade our 40 year old sanctuary sound equipment with new technology, and the feedback we've received has been amazing! (No, not that kind of loud squealing feedback you hear from a sound system...we've eliminated that!) We've heard countless times that the clarity of sound during worship has allowed people to engage better in worship and not have to strain to listen during the message.

We believe that worship is a direct line to the Father's heart. Not only does it set us up for intimate times to glorify Him, but it's also a tool we have to fight battles by declaring The Word over our lives. We're excited in 2020 to continue to grow in our worship—both as a congregation and individually!



# Outreach

"Intentional Presence" is a top value here at Grow Point. We're intentional with God, with each other and with our community. While we know God wants to use each of us personally in our own circle-of-influence, Grow Point's Neighborhood Fund enables us as a church to reach out with practical expressions of God's love and share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2019, Grow Point sponsored the Amherst Girls Rugby Team and the Amherst Kid's Summer Baseball Program. We supported Genesis House - Lorain County's Domestic Violence Shelter, and provided monthly meals at the Haven Center - one of Lorain's homeless shelters. We gave appreciation lunches to Amherst school teachers and paid off the food-debt for some Amherst elementary students. October's Light-the-Night was tremendously successful in connecting with hundreds of families during the Halloween weekend despite the rainy, cold weather. Partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Lorain was a true highlight with both the Back-to-School program of over 300 students and the Christmas Party where we connected with 600 kids and their leaders. We've already scheduled more exciting outreaches with the B&G Club for this upcoming year with some new and impactful opportunities. At Miracle on Main Street, we celebrated Jesus during Amherst's annual Christmas parade with our giant manger float. The free train rides after the parade were also a big hit. Through acts of compassion, we helped to resource moms and newborns and provide food and support for families in need. Over \$22,000 was distributed to foreign and stateside missions as well as local support to Love INC, Cornerstone Pregnancy Services and Mobile Outreach Solutions.

These things would not be possible if it weren't for faithful people giving and volunteering. Thank you! We love your heart to love God and love people. Grow Point stays focused on our mandate from Jesus to go... in love.



# Financial Report



In 2019, \$229,249 or over 35% of our total expenditures were used to tangibly bless people with the Love of God and to reach, teach and disciple people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**\$12,138**

Compassion Fund  
38 Families

**\$24,387**

Outreach

**\$46,561**

Kids & Youth

**\$45,401**

Church Ministries & Discipleship

**\$72,402**

Foursquare International

**\$8,150**

Local & Stateside Missions

**\$20,206**

Foreign Missions

## FACILITY PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2019 COSTING \$53,040 PAID IN FULL! PRAISE GOD!

- New Phone System
- New Dusk-to-Dawn Lights in the Parking Lots
- New Sanctuary Sound Equipment
- New Water Heater
- New Carpet in Nursery and Walkers Room
- New Paint in Some Classrooms
- Removed Old Chimney and Repaired the Roof
- Reworked Boiler Exhaust
- Updated the Front Sign

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2020

Because of the provision of God through the generosity of His people over the past 4 years, Grow Point will be able to complete the following projects in 2020 costing \$145,000 that will be paid in full! Praise God!

- Install New Safety Doors in the NextGen Hallway
- Install a New Air Conditioning System for the Sanctuary
- Remove the Old HVAC Ductwork off of the Flat Roof
- Repair the Cross Tower and Front of the Sanctuary
- Possibly Install New Metal Coping on the Remaining Parapet Wall (after the old ductwork is removed from the roof)

## UPCOMING FACILITY PROJECTS

Please continue to pray for God to provide the funds needed for these upcoming projects. Should you be led by the Lord to give, please mark your donation "building fund."

- Replace the Entire Flat Roof - \$200,000 est. in the next 3 years
- Cosmetic Renovations to The Point (Youth Center) - \$22,000 est.
- Replace the Rear Parking Lot - \$30,000 est.
- For a complete list of projects with details, please see the Vision Sunday booklet located outside the sanctuary

## WAYS TO GIVE



Online at  
growpoint.church/give



Envelope  
at church



Text any dollar amount  
to 84321

# Membership Commitment

In becoming an official member of Grow Point, each individual is asked to agree and sign this commitment.

Having confessed Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and having publicly declared this through water baptism, and being in full agreement with Grow Point's (Amherst Foursquare Church) statements of faith, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite in membership with this church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## 1. I will protect the unity of my church.

- By acting in love, kindness, peace and unity toward other members – “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” (Romans 14:19)
- By refusing to gossip – “Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29)
- By not being easily offended and following the Word of God to resolve all conflicts and disputes – “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God.” (Matt. 5:9; Matt. 18:15-22; Psalm 141:5; 1 Corinthians. 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11)
- By confessing to God and to trusted fellow-believers when I sin and cause hurt and seeking Jesus' victory in the areas of my life where I struggle. (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10)
- By following and submitting to the pastors and church leadership – “Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.” (Hebrews 13:17, Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Peter)

## 2. I will share the responsibility of my church.

- By praying for its growth and spiritual maturity – “We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.” (1 Thess. 1:2) “Speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ.” (Ephesians 4:15)
- By inviting others (un-churched – those who don't know Jesus) to attend – “So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.’” (Luke 14:23-24)
- By warmly welcoming those who attend or visit and actively engaging them in conversation and activities – “Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” (Romans 15:7)

## 3. I will serve the ministry of my church.

- By personally pursuing the Lord Jesus Christ through daily Bible reading, prayer, Christian fellowship and spiritual disciplines. (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thess. 5:12-22)
- By discovering my gifts and talents to actively serve in the church and in the community – “God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10)
- By being equipped through discipleship and training by my pastors, church teachers and leadership, etc. – “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- By developing a loving servant's heart – “Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too... Instead, He gave up his divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being...” (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)

## 4. I will support the testimony of my church.

- By submitting to the Bible as the final authority on all issues and daily living it out. (Ps. 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- By being present and faithfully attending Sunday gatherings... no less than two Sundays each month. (I will attend way more than I am absent), actively participating in a Group, and caring for those within and outside of this church – “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Heb. 10:23-25; Acts 2:42-47; Titus 3:14)
- By living a Godly life through the power of Holy Spirit and not abusing the freedom of God's grace – “Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.” (Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Peter 4:1-3; Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13)
- By stewarding the resources God gives me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances including regular financial tithing and giving to this church that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary – “On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned.” (1 Corinthians 16:2) “One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to Him as holy.” (Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8-9)

I agree wholeheartedly with the above statements, and I enter this membership commitment of my own free will. Should I leave this church or no longer wish to be a member, I will immediately notify the pastors and church leadership. If I fail to regularly attend and engage with this church as I am voluntarily committing to or I am unwillingly to be accountable for any of the items listed in this commitment, Grow Point (Amherst Foursquare Church) reserves the right to remove my membership with or without notification.



**Our Values**

**God's Word**

**Humble Confidence**

**Joy & Laughter**

**Intentional Presence**

**Goodness & Kindness**

**Unending Pursuit**