

Annual  
Report  
2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

 GROWPOINT

2020

GrowPoint Church  
2020 Annual Report

# A MESSAGE FROM PASTORS JOSH & SUMER

2020. Can y'all recall the phrase that God gave our church for 2020? "Decrease to Increase!" God was bringing us into a season of intentional decrease in order to gain more of Him! As with most God-initiated endeavors, we probably had a different picture in mind of how that would look. Who knew that "decrease" would come in the form of a global pandemic?! Throughout the span of 2020, familiar words were given a new context. Words like restriction, essential, remote, quarantine, and curve... to name a few.

GrowPoint, you rode the creative wave of adaptability! Last year, on the heels of the Uphold Marriage Experience in March, GrowPoint Online was launched for the first time ever as you became an exclusively online church! Adjusting to the change with ease (understanding that it took a lot of work to make it "easy"), you continued to show profound care for one another, even under the guidelines of social distancing. Eventually, the in-person gatherings resumed under the massive tent through the summer months! God blessed each gathering with beautiful days to lift up Jesus' name, to celebrate with families who dedicated children, and to see several individuals make their faith public through water baptism! All along the way, the amazing GrowKids and GrowStudents teams gathered the young ones in small groups in the grass to encourage their faith! (Can y'all remember the smoked food and delicious ice cream after a couple of the services?) By early October the doors were opened, and you came back inside the church to worship God together; and when GrowPoint hit the Fall months, another round of GrowLine was set in motion with 23 groups, and over 100 participants!

Here's the thing with UpNext 2021; it is a celebration of a different sort, because this past year has been one of a different sort! Nonetheless, you can be sure of this: God was with you then, He is with you now, and He is with your future. Amen?! As GrowPoint looks ahead, it is very clear that God is calling out for a more focused pursuit and a deeper relationship with Him! This UpNext Sunday will focus on the heart and give context to what "All Things New" will look like in 2021. We will do our best to unpack what we know, but if 2020 has given us any wisdom, it is knowing that though we see part of the picture, the full picture develops with time! GrowPoint, let's embrace the days ahead with profound kindness, intentional presence and grow in our ability to recognize the opportunities for humble flexibility!



## GrowPoint Values

### + God's Word

John 1:1 lays it out plainly for us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Word is eternal. The Word is life. Transformation comes when the Word is embraced. This explains why God's Word is our first value!

### + Intentional Presence

This value confronts the cultural norm of passivity. When you are in public, intentional presence is being aware of the people around you, and understanding that you can interrupt their day with peace, love, joy, and kindness. When you come to church, intentional presence is demonstrated through an eagerness to let God speak to your heart.

### + Humble Confidence

God detests arrogance; and He is also grieved when insecurity diminishes our life. Humble confidence is the framework we should live from. Humility acknowledges that God is God, that He is sovereign, that He is all-powerful, that we are nothing without Him. When we see who He is, and then who we are in Him, then we live in confidence; humble confidence to be more accurate.

### + Goodness & Kindness

With a world full of movements, we believe that a movement of goodness and kindness will bring about the greatest change. A life that is lived for Jesus should emanate these virtues.

### + Joy & Laughter

Nehemiah 8:10 gives us the reminder that "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." We also gain some joyful wisdom from Proverbs 17:22, where we read that "A joyful (laughing) heart is good medicine..." When our heart is filled with the presence of Jesus, we are literally filled with joy and laughter.

### + Unending Pursuit

This means that we never stop craving Jesus. When we pursue Him we are changed and we grow. Ephesians 4:15 explains this virtue with incredible precision: "But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Christ..." When you say yes to Jesus, you say yes to a life of pursuing Him. (It is worth explaining that He is always pursuing you.)

### Something for you to speak over yourself!

*As I am intentionally present in my unending pursuit of Christ, speaking God's Word in truth and love – I can't help but walk in humble confidence producing goodness and kindness with the trademark of joy and laughter.*

# GROWKIDS

GrowKids

## GROWKIDS ARE GROWING IN THE WORD, DEVELOPING LASTING FRIENDSHIPS AND DISCOVERING THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST.



Each Sunday of 2020, our GrowKids learned new Bible stories, monthly memory verses, engaged in worship and spent time with leaders who deeply care. When the shutdown began in March 2020, GrowKids didn't miss a beat! We rallied together through our online community, coming together for a GrowKids spirit week and starting our GrowKids Online Ministry. Weekly lessons, videos and activities were posted to allow for kid's ministry to happen within homes. 107 kids joined for Good Friday Camp Online where we walked through the importance of Holy Week, and special Easter baskets were delivered to our GrowKids throughout the county.



Summer 2020 was like no other for our kids. We kicked off summer with a Cookie Decorating Kit delivery to homes of our kids to celebrate the end of the school year. The Summer Bucket List challenged us to gather, spend intentional time with family and grow in the Word all summer long. The Foursquare Summer Digital Experience allowed Foursquare kids throughout the nation to rally together for services, electives and devotions through Zoom. To end the summer, we hosted "Party At Your Place," where GrowKids leaders brought games and activities to our GrowKids homes.

Throughout 2020, we celebrated 9 child dedications, and 30 kids completed STEM, our 4th and 5th grade discipleship program where they are learning to make their faith their own. We celebrated Christmas with passing out Family Advent Bags, allowing families to spend the month of December learning and celebrating the meaning of Christmas in their homes.



We are hopeful and expectant for the Lord to move in mighty ways in 2021. Our kids will continue to make their way through major Bible stories while learning new memory verses each month. GrowKids will establish a personal relationship with Jesus, find their identity in Him and develop a passion to tell others about Him. Don't miss out on the amazing things God is doing in GrowKids! We would love for you to join the Sunday morning teams! We are ready for all things new in 2021!



# GROWSTUDENTS

GrowStudents



2020 was an incredible year for GrowStudents! It certainly had no shortage of adaptation, but our ministry experienced growth and gained momentum through this year. Even though our times looked a little different, the pursuit for God not only remained, but grew deeper.

The goal and focus of our GrowStudents' time is the Word and engaging in conversation with one another. We accomplish this through spending time in our "Huddles" which are broken into grades then guys and girls discussing Scripture, challenging questions and processing life together. We believe that students grow best when they are given the opportunity to process and encourage each other. We all know life can be crazy, so for them to have a place they know is safe is crucial, and more important than ever. We have an amazing team of adult leaders who truly invest in our students who are contending for their relationship with Christ and their identity in Christ. We are always looking for volunteers to join our team of ministering to teens.

We added a completely student-led worship team in 2020! It is one of the most amazing things to have students lead students in worship and create an atmosphere for the pursuit of God. And the best part is that it was 100% student initiated. God is raising up His leaders through our students!



We also had a ton of fun! Between the Lock-In in January, Winter Camp in February, the GrowStudents YouTube Channel, and weekly times back together we love to have fun! We took advantage of the good weather and hosted our Huddles at Mill Hollow Park. The Lord blessed us with a wonderful summer that enabled us to have GrowStudents outside, an online Foursquare Youth Summer Digital Experience in place of Summer Camp, and a Canoe trip! Having a joy filled time is truly a value for our group because it allows for relationships with one another to develop and deepen.

We revamped The Point Café into a space that is inviting and allows for fun memories to be had. Now our students have a space that they can call theirs!

God is doing something big in our group. We are witnessing a desire for more of God from our Students, and we believe He is going to continue

taking the group to new depths and even into action! If you have a student or are a student, we would love to have you join our group! 2021... let's do this!

# OUTREACH

## Outreach & Missions

Even with all the Covid-19 restrictions, Holy Spirit revealed ways we could reach out and serve our community and continue to point people to Jesus. “Intentional Presence” is a top value here at GrowPoint. We reach out with practical expressions of God’s love and joyfully share with others the change Jesus has made in our lives.

In 2020, GrowPoint provided meals and supplies to the Lorain Haven Center Homeless Shelter and The Oberlin Margeau’s House for Recovering Women. We paid-off the outstanding food debt for students in the Amherst School District. We sponsored the Amherst Baseball League. We showed appreciation to our Amherst Elementary School Teachers with a lunch, and then all the school teachers received a box of chocolate and an encouragement card as they returned to the classroom this past Fall. We showed our appreciation to the Amherst Fire/Police/Rescue Dispatchers with filled backpacks for each, and for St. Peter’s Preschool, we provided three tablets for their classrooms. We provided an appreciation lunch for nurses at Elyria University Hospital, and for Mother’s Day, we blessed 15 single moms with spa gifts. We stood by some of our local small business partners whom have generously worked with us through the years by blessings them with financial support during the lock down. We paid for the vehicle graphics of the new Akron Dream Center Truck that delivers food to those in need... the previous truck was stolen and wrecked. We sent Hurricane Relief to Louisiana, and we adopted seven Foursquare pastors from Africa whom we fed during the month of December. We sponsored two camp counselors at Vermilion Beulah Beach, and we financially supported Camp McPherson and Camp Patmos. During Light the Night in October, we distributed 1,241 candy-filled pencil pouches to kids and connected with hundreds of families. In December, GrowPoint partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Lorain County to provide a Mobile Christmas Party with gifts, hats & gloves, snacks and more for 600 kids in Lorain, Oberlin and Wellington. We continued our monthly financial support of our ministry partners: Mobile Outreach Solutions, Love INC, Cornerstone Pregnancy Services, Life Pacific University Virginia and Foursquare Press which provides free Gospel literature, Bibles, books and resources around the world. When new guests come to GrowPoint, we make a donation in honor of their visit to one of five nonprofit charities in Lorain County. In addition to all of this, over \$14,500 was given to Foursquare foreign missionaries.

These things were all directly made possible by faithful people giving and volunteering... and we know there are a dozen more ways you personally were and are reaching out, giving and volunteering all over Lorain County apart from GrowPoint, and we love that! One thing too that we must keep in mind, all these outreaches happened during a global pandemic. Our God is amazing! In 2021, we want to find new ways of following Jesus by going and loving people into His family.



Let's rejoice! GrowPoint ended the year in the BLACK for 2020, and we did not participate in the government's Payroll Protection Program.

In 2020, **\$194,047** was specifically used to tangibly bless people with the Love of God and to reach, teach and disciple people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**+ Compassion Fund - 53 Families**

\$19,023

**+ Neighborhood Fund (Outreach)**

\$24,135

**+ Kids & Youth**

\$26,969

**+ Discipleship & Church Ministries**

\$35,364

**+ Foursquare International**

\$65,748

**+ Local & Stateside Missions**

\$7,050

**+ Foreign Missions**

\$14,558

**+ Hurricane Relief**

\$1,200

**GOD  
PROVIDED  
THROUGH  
HIS  
PEOPLE!**

**\$194,047**

## Care & Compassion

While there were certainly social distancing challenges to navigate in 2020, Holy Spirit gave us encouraging ways to stay connected as a church to reach out with love and kindness and help each other in need.

During those 3 months of lock down, we had 44 people step up to become Care Leaders staying in contact by phone calls and texting every week with GrowPoint people to encourage and discover needs that might arise. There were also 6 Care Givers who would go out and meet those needs like necessities, diapers and even a few minor house repairs.

Also during the lock down for several weeks, working in cooperation with Soul On Fire Pizza in Lorain, several of our GrowPoint people became "meals on wheels" as they delivered a variety of delicious meals to our shut-ins and widows.

Through our Compassion Fund, we were able to respond to the needs of 53 families of various sizes — struggling families in need of groceries, supplies, utilities, medical bills and more.

We prayed, mailed encouragement cards, sent flowers, made contact through phone calls, texts, and more, all in a loving-effort to stay connected and care for each other during such a topsy-turvy year.

Your generosity of giving to the Compassion Fund over and above your regular tithe-giving, was just inspiring. \$19,023.86 was distributed through Compassion in 2020. This is the most our church has ever done! And this doesn't include all the many ways you personally loved people and showed care not highlighted in this report. Praise God! All glory goes to Jesus!

Let's continue to live by our GrowPoint Value and the character of Jesus of Goodness and Kindness to those around us every day.

# Facilities

## Facilities Projects Completed in 2020

\$54,680 paid in full!

- + Took down two decaying trees
- + New Security doors in the GrowKids Hallway
- + New HVAC in the office wing
- + Repaired & Restored the Tower
- + Several Flat Roof repairs
- + Parking Lot repairs
- + New Electrical Transformer & 3-Phase Panel
- + Paint & Updates for Pre-K, 1-3 & 4-5 Grade Rooms
- + Cleaned the Sanctuary Carpet
- + Preliminary work for the new sanctuary HVAC

## What's Happening in 2021

Because of God's provision over the last few years though the generosity of His people, GrowPoint will be able to complete the following projects in 2021 paid in full.

- + Install a new Air Conditioning System for the Sanctuary
- + Remove the old HVAC Ductwork off of the flat roof
- + Install new metal coping on the remaining parapet walls
- + Install new doors in the café/sanctuary
- + Seal & stripe both parking lots

## Upcoming Facility Projects

Please continue to pray for God to provide the funds needed for these important facility projects. Should you be led by Holy Spirit to give toward these needs, please mark your donation "Building Fund."

- + Replace the Entire Flat Roof - \$200,000 est. in the next 2-3 years
- + Paint for the Sanctuary - \$15,000 est.
- + Replace the Rear Parking Lot with Drainage - \$30,000 est.
- + Carpet & Paint for the Point (Youth Center) - \$22,000 est.
- + Drainage for the Front and Back Fields

## Ways to Give

- + Online at [growpoint.church](http://growpoint.church)
- + Drop off at the giving stations on Sunday
- + Text any dollar amount to 84321
- + By mail to  
PO Box 146  
Amherst, OH

## Team



**Josh Smith**  
Lead Pastor



**Sumer Smith**  
Co-Lead Pastor



**Todd Rainey**  
Executive Pastor



**Tammi Rainey**  
Ministry Coordinator



**Nancy Schuster**  
Admin Assistant



**Christina Coughlin**  
Financial Admin



**Chloe Boyer**  
GrowKids (6weeks-K)



**Hannah Ferguson**  
GrowKids (1st-5th)



**Josiah Ferguson**  
GrowStudents (6th-12th)



**Sam Kamnikar**  
Creative Director



**Nico Curtis**  
Worship Director



**Bev Beidleman**  
Assisting Pastor



**Lesli Klingenneier**  
Assisting Pastor

## Advisory Council

- + **Rick Block**
- + **Nick Genco**
- + **Gene Lampshire**
- + **Jackie Mellen**
- + **Tiffany Perris**
- + **Josh Smith**

# Membership Commitment

In becoming an official member of GrowPoint, 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 GrowPoint's (Amherst Foursquare Church) statements of faith, values, 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 ever-increasing love, profound kindness, peace and unity towards the other members and attenders – *“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 Cor. 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, impact 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 (the broken and the 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 all 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 as well as 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 in-person gatherings... missing 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 freewill. 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 unwilling to be accountable for any of the items listed in this commitment, GrowPoint (Amherst Foursquare Church) reserves the right to remove my membership with or without notification.



[www.growpoint.church](http://www.growpoint.church)