

The cover features a large, semi-circular shape on the left side, colored in a deep red or terracotta hue. The background is a mix of dark teal and light blue-grey tones. The text is centered and reads:

GrowPoint Annual Report

2022



GrowPoint, 2022 was a remarkable year we experienced! Can we take just a moment to acknowledge and rejoice that God's goodness and wisdom is leading this church! We saw transformation in various spaces like homes, relationships, schools, children and youth, and hearts and minds. Our responsibility is to never take this divine work for granted; y'all it is a gift to witness and experience God's activity!

In this Annual Report, we will highlight some of the divine activity of 2022. It does the soul good to revisit HIS work in HIS people; and this is our way to give God ALL the glory! Amen!? We are certain that the days ahead are going to be saturated with God's Word, Intentional Presence, Joy & Laughter, Humble Confidence, Goodness & Kindness, and Unending Pursuit! We will continue living out Ephesians 4:15, ... *"speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Christ."*

Let's continue to grow together in 2023!

Pastor Josh Smith
Lead Pastor

23 FIRST TIME SALVATIONS
27 WATER BAPTISMS
18 HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISMS



9
HEALINGS

23
NEW MEMBERS

61
COMPASSION FAMILIES

9
CHILD DEDICATIONS



237 DISCIPLESHIP PARTICIPANTS

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE
354 Adults 60 GrowKids 43 GrowStudents



As I reflect on discipleship at GrowPoint for 2022, I am filled with incredible joy and hope about the shift I am seeing take place within our GrowPoint Community. We have prayed, sought Heavenly Dad, and longed for a deeper sense of community within our discipleship strategy.

During the Fall of 2022, we launched GrowGroups and a Family Discipleship Group to intentionally pursue authentic community. Spiritual transformation happens best within a community. Our Heavenly Dad created us for community and to be changed through loving attachment. A love that obviously is initiated from Him, but then overflows to a deep unconditional love for others. We took a deep dive in exploring how God created us and realized we have been doing an amazing job engaging the left side of our brains but ignoring the right side of our brains which is where transformation actually takes place. We are seeing tremendous fruit in the 39 lives of those who committed to meet weekly, face to face, to be vulnerable and faithfully engage in loving community. We chose to scale back on the amount of other groups offered to be able to create authentic communities, and we are thankful we did! During 2023, we will be slowly unrolling more of these groups, and we can't encourage you enough to find yourself in one!



We had 237 people commit to discipleship this year at GrowPoint by engaging in J12 (4th-5th grade), GrowStudents (6th-12th grade), Collective (GrowStudents Discipleship Group) Men's and Women's Devo groups and focused monthly gatherings, Financial Peace University and GrowGroups. This is celebrate-worthy! We are so grateful to every incredible leader who gave sacrificially of their time and resources to invest into loving others well this past year. Also, 76 of you participated in Uphold - A Marriage Discipleship Event which helped us be reminded of the beautiful reality God intended for our marriages to be and where we recommitted to love our spouses to reflect the love Jesus has for His bride.

As we rejoice for the significant work Jesus did in transforming our lives in 2022, I would also like to ask you to prayerfully consider how you can intentionally engage authentic community during 2023. If you are willing to lead a group, open your home, or simply participate in a GrowGroup during this next year, please visit growpoint.church/groups, and we'll get you plugged in! Looking forward to growing together with you during 2023!

Pastor Sumer Smith
Lead Pastor



2022 | GrowKids

2022 was a great year for infants through 5th graders at GrowPoint as they grew in their love and understanding of who God is and how much He loves and cares for them through their active engagement in GrowKids.

GrowKids Early Childhood serves our infants through Kindergarteners with age-level lessons and activities designed for them to experience the wonder of God through foundational stories in the Bible. We were excited to have welcomed 11 new team members to the Early Childhood Ministry in the past year! We also had 10 GrowKids babies born in 2022!

GrowKids Elementary has an intentional approach for discipleship for our 1st-5th graders. Our GrowKids Elementary Team has expanded this year to provide even more individual attention to children. As we continue to grow our volunteers, we are excited to provide small group experiences designed specifically for these age groups.

J12 has been a huge highlight this year! An average of 12-15 4th & 5th graders meet on Sunday evenings to follow the example of Jesus at twelve-years-old to grow in “wisdom, stature, and favor before God and man.” They are building Godly relationships with each other and their leaders and being equipped with spiritual truths as they navigate the ever-changing world around them.

Ministry to families was a renewed focus this past year as 10 families participated in our **Parent Commissioning** Celebrations in June and December. We also launched a **Family Discipleship Group** this fall with parents learning together how to prioritize and practically intertwine spiritual principles throughout the natural fabric of their family life. We are looking forward to additional opportunities in 2023 for parents to be discipled in spiritually leading their families. We’re grateful for Pastor Stephanie Rothman and her leadership in these GrowKids ministries over this past year.

In addition to our Sunday GrowKids services, we had a great year of activities outside of the church. These outings included Kids Camp with 28 3rd-5th graders with our leaders to Camp McPherson. GrowKids also sponsored family nights this summer at different parks throughout the area. These fun-filled nights were a great opportunity for families to meet others and have informal time to get to know one another and build relationships.



We are excited for 2023 in GrowKids! We believe God is guiding us toward new and innovative ways to disciple kids and families. We also have a heart for the children of our community that they too would know Jesus! We’re looking forward to building the relationships already established with our volunteers and adding to our teams as well! We could not do what we do without the support provided through your resources of time and finances to see the lives of children and families transformed through GrowKids!



Pastor Lesli Klingenmeier
GrowKids Pastor
Pastor Gabby Jenkins
GrowKids Coordinator
Rose Curtis
Nursery & Walkers Coordinator



Envelope

CHALLENGE

\$19,962

given through
The Envelope Challenge
to support Kids & Youth
Summer Camps & Events!



GrowStudents have been on a journey of deepening relationships with those in our communities and with our Heavenly Dad. During our Sunday night gatherings, we spent time focusing on turning to Scripture to find the truth for our daily lives and building relational tools to walk in love and maturity while finding joy in the presence of Jesus and others.

We love any reason to connect and create memories! In 2022, GrowStudents filled our calendars with huddle events, baseball games, pool days, worship nights, winter camp, and our very own GrowStudents Prom! Our Back-to-School Lock-In has always been a crowd favorite with 87 in attendance this past Fall! Lastly, a camp-style service known as a GrowStudents Rally made a reappearance this year. Students love this opportunity to hear from a guest speaker and switch things up from our normal Sunday Night rhythm.

Our favorite addition to 2022 was our first **GrowStudents Summer Camp!** We took 81 students and leaders to Miracle Camp in Michigan for a week packed with camp activities and soaking in the presence of God. Students had a blast at the camp zip-line, paintball course, mini-golf, and lake that had a water trampoline, slide, swing, and “blob!” Students continue to share testimonies of the deep work that God did during this week of camp and are expectant for GrowStudents Summer Camp 2023!

Discipleship is always a priority within our GrowStudents ministry. **GrowStudents Collective** is an opportunity for students in grades 8-12 to learn the importance of being discipled and discipling others. They are given practical training and mentorship experience through our partnership with GrowPoint’s J12 ministry. Our newest additions include our Devotion Groups that are held every Tuesday and Thursday at Sandstone Coffee House.

It is also our heart to prioritize the discipleship of our youth leadership team and volunteers. We’ve introduced a new element to our schedule consisting of pausing GrowStudents whenever there is a 5th Sunday to gather our adult leaders for training and teaching. Students are equipped with “youth group kits” for these nights and have hosted their friends within their homes!

These years are foundational for our students, and we are so grateful for each of you partnering with us in prayer and support. There is great expectation for 2023 and the work that God is doing in each of our teenage students!

Bailee Reitz
GrowStudents Director





2022 | Outreach & Neighborhood Fund

Intentional Presence – Genuine Moments – Strategic Partnering

These are a few of the driving principles of outreach and missions here at GrowPoint. Our goal is to impact people by showing love and value and point them to Jesus. While a lot of our focus in 2022 was establishing and implementing our Adopt-A-School Program, the following are snapshots of some of the ways we connected with people to share the love and joy of Jesus with them. May only Jesus ever be seen and heard!

GrowPoint encouraged our Amherst Fire Department, Amherst Police Department and Lorain Police Department with large gift baskets of Coffee K-Cups to say “thanks” for all they do. We also reached out with appreciation gifts to the teachers and staff of Lorain’s Frank Jacinto Elementary School and Stevan Dohanos Elementary School as well as the entire Amherst School District.

We continued our support and partnership with Path & Green with their efforts of helping high school girls with personal care products.

Through the Amherst Athletic Association, we sponsored a boys baseball team and a girls softball team.

Partnering with Mercy Chefs and Foursquare Disaster Relief, we helped Florida victims of Hurricane Ian and war refugees in the Ukraine and Romania.

In honor of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, we made donations to the Lorain County Genesis House for female victims of domestic violence and to the Lorain Haven Center homeless shelter, where we also cooked and served monthly meals. For Veterans Day, we made a donation to the Lorain Valor Home for male veterans.

At Christmas, we built and entered a live Nativity parade float (with real animals) to proclaim Jesus at Amherst’s Miracle on Main Street.

Throughout the year, we continued to support and help Foursquare church-planters, Aaron & Michelle Jones, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Also, we faithfully continued our monthly financial support to our extension ministry partners: Camp McPherson, Mobile Outreach Solutions, Love INC of Lorain County, Cornerstone Pregnancy Services, Life Pacific University Virginia, Mercy Chefs, Overland Missions Middle East, Burundi, Africa Missionaries Greg & Caysey Reph, Foursquare Missions International, Foursquare’s Adopt-A-Pastor in Africa & Asia, and Foursquare Press which sends free Bibles, resources and Gospel literature around the world.

When new guests come to GrowPoint, we make a donation in honor of their visit to one of nine different Lorain County nonprofit charities of their choosing.

Our value of Intentional Presence was clearly seen in dozens of ways our GrowPoint Family reached out through their personal relationships without the official organization of GrowPoint... which we absolutely love! Senior adults cooked and served a monthly meal to the needy on the Westside of Lorain. Students worked with Second Harvest to distribute boxes of food and visited shut-ins, and some of our adults volunteered as little league coaches.

Through our MicroGrant Program, GrowPoint members applied for and received outreach funds for personal outreach efforts like the 75 people who packed 240 Christmas Shoeboxes for needy kids through Samaritan’s Purse. Students led Bible Clubs in their schools. Families hosted Light-the-Night in their neighborhoods during Halloween. We encourage all GrowPoint members to prayerfully consider how they can personally reach out to those around them with the love of Jesus, and GrowPoint’s MicroGrants are here to help.

\$243,663

ALLOCATED TO REACH, TEACH & DISCIPLE PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS IN 2022



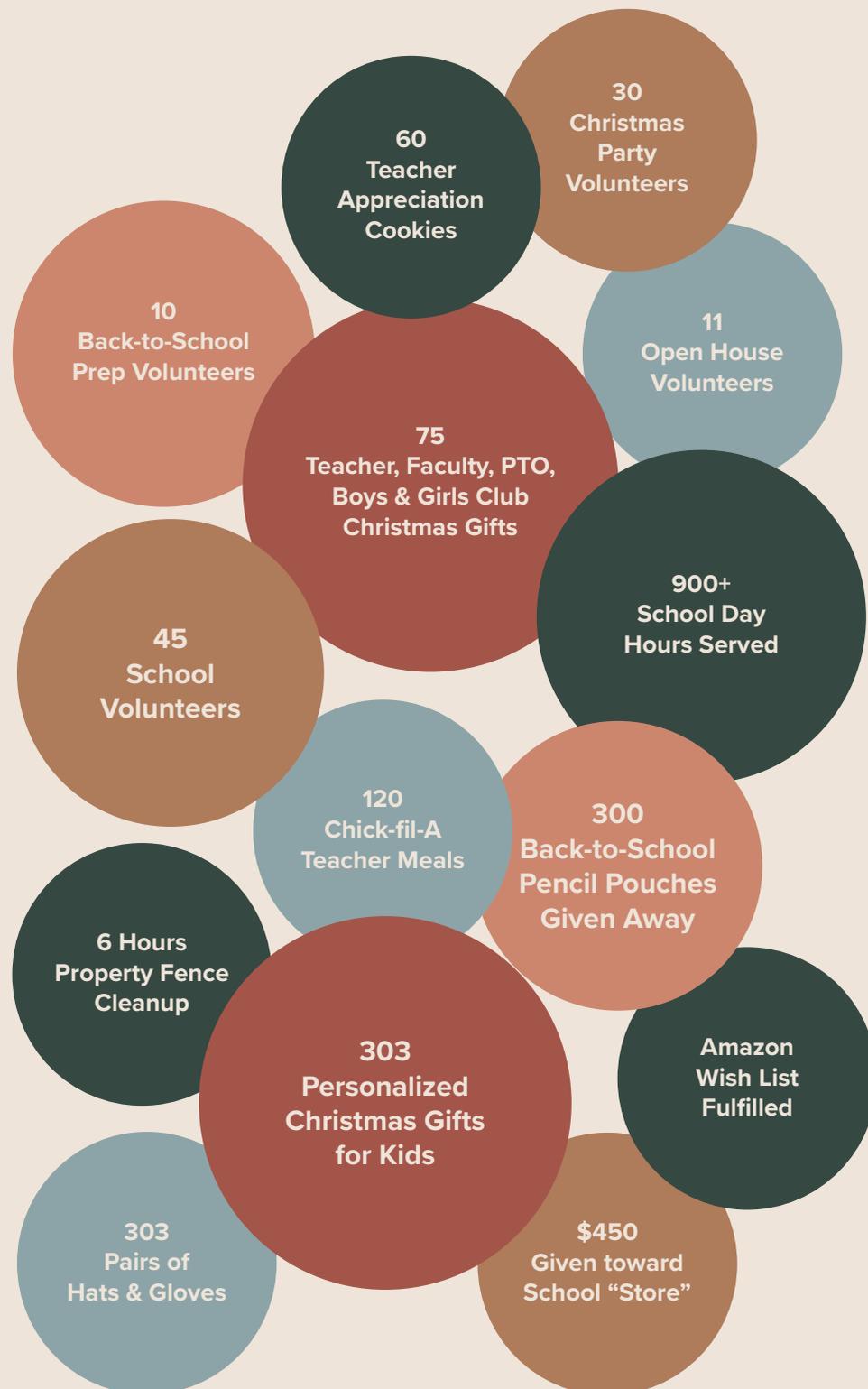
2022 | Adopt-A-School

In March of 2022, we adopted Stevan Dohanos Elementary School in Lorain. After years of contending in prayer for our community, our church was invited to come into this public school to serve the teachers and to love on the kids. It's no surprise that there is brokenness and bondage in the community around us, but we serve a God who is our ultimate Healer and the one who sets us free.

Throughout this last year at Stevan Dohanos, our 45 volunteers have served over 900+ hours in various capacities. What I love most about our presence and approach at the school is that the only agenda we have is to love. In everything we do for the teachers, in every relationship we engage with the kids, we are there to first and foremost love them.

Some of the 'big' blessings we shared with the school this year include teacher appreciation gifts, school supplies, toys for the school prize wall, and personalized Christmas gifts for each student (including the most epic Christmas party on the last day of school). Although these were greatly appreciated and cultivated so much joy and energy, some of the most profound and impactful wins we've seen have been in simple moments throughout the school week. Our volunteers have faithfully committed to showing up, sharing love, and intentionally building relationships with both the students and teachers.

We celebrate all that God was able to do through our simple obedience and intentionality with our adopted school, and we recognize that this is just the beginning of greater things to come. We continue to pray and align our hearts with God's vision and plans for this school and this community!





2022 | Finances & Facilities

At GrowPoint, God's Word is our guideline in what we give and how we give. We trust His promises to provide all we need personally and for our church. God graciously gives to us, and we gratefully give back to Him through our regular tithes and additional offerings.

Because of God's goodness and in the faithful giving of you, Jesus' followers, GrowPoint ended 2022 in the BLACK! Praise God! All our 2022 expenses were completely covered, and the surplus went into the Replacing the Roof Fund. Thank you for giving to the Lord so generously and faithfully. The Church Advisory Council meets each month to review the finances and oversee the operational budget spending. The council and building & grounds team also work to ensure our facilities are safe, functional, and up-to-date for the honor of God.

God works through our giving to spread His love and build His Kingdom. We thank God for every faithful giver, and we rejoice in what He did through our giving in 2022.

Pastor Todd Rainey
Executive Pastor



Facility Projects Completed in 2022

\$52,293 paid in full. Praise God!

- Completed the Sanctuary HVAC Project
- Removed all the old Ductwork off of the flat roof
- Replaced the Front Porch & Walkway at the Parsonage
- Replaced the HVAC at the Parsonage
- Some Painting around the church
- Fixed the Point Café HVAC
- Repaired Potholes in the Parking Lots
- Pruned the remaining Large Trees on our property
- Made several extensive repairs to our flat roof

2022 Building & Grounds Team

Christina Coughlin, Dave Haff, Jeff Ondraka, Kim Smith
Tom Szychowicz, Laura Waun, Todd Rainey

Needed Facilities Projects

- **URGENT:** Replace the Entire Flat Roof – Cost of \$325,000
- Balcony/Foyer/Lobby HVAC - \$25,000
- Replace the Rear Parking Lot with new Drainage - \$45,000
- New Carpet and Paint in the Point (Youth & Kids) - \$22,000
- Drainage for the Front and Back Yards - \$5,000 for every sixty feet
- Replace all the drop ceilings in Women & Men's Restroom - \$2,500
- Repair support columns in barn

What happens when you give?

- **Tithes** go to our annual operating budget approved and overseen by the Church Advisory Council and enables GrowPoint to provide for weekly items such as GrowKids and GrowStudents, local ministry partnerships throughout Lorain County, Discipleship at GrowPoint, utilities, cleaning, staffing, and other operational items.
- The **Neighborhood Fund** goes to loving, reaching out and sharing Jesus with Lorain County.
- The **Missions Fund** goes to sharing Jesus around the world through Foursquare Missions International.
- The **Compassion Fund** goes to helping the physical needs of our GrowPoint Family.
- The **Building Fund** goes to maintaining this place that God has strategically provided for us to gather and worship Him and from which to launch out into our county with His light and love.

Ways to Give



Online at
growpoint.church/give



Mail to
PO Box 146, Amherst



Text amount
to 84321



Giving Stations
at back of sanctuary

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 and through serving your church family.

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: *"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.)



Pastor
Josh Smith
Lead Pastor



Pastor
Sumer Smith
Lead Pastor



Pastor
Todd Rainey
Executive Pastor



Sam Kamnikar
Creative Director



Nico Curtis
Worship Director



Bailee Reitz
GrowStudents Director



Pastor
Lesli Klingmeier
GrowKids Pastor



Pastor
Gabby Jenkins
GrowKids Coordinator



Rose Curtis
Nursery & Walkers
Coordinator



Tammi Rainey
Ministry Coordinator



Nancy Schuster
Administrative Assistant



Pastor
Bev Beidleman
Assisting Pastor

2022 Church Advisory Council

Josh Smith, Nick Genco, Jackie Mellen,
Tari Reph, Kaleb Sniezek, Cal Kody

What is church membership and why should I be interested?

1. Membership reflects what the church is.

Church is not meant to be a pile of dismembered body parts, but rather a body knit together... working and growing together. (Romans 12:5)

2. The Bible teaches covenant community.

There is no such thing in the New Testament as a church without some recognition of belonging — of membership in community... partnering together with Holy Spirit to grow and serve others.

3. People need church membership.

People need membership commitment because they need to be connected to a Christian community. This is not just for the sake of the faith community, but also for the sake of the individual. Followers of Jesus need a place to serve fellow believers and the community.

4. Church Voting

According to the Foursquare Bi-laws, you become a voting member at the annual UpNext meeting. Members vote to ratify Advisory Council Members, agree upon larger building projects, etc.

How do I become a member at GrowPoint?

We would love to talk more about membership with you at **Let's Talk GrowPoint**, a course that will go through everything you need to know about GrowPoint before making that commitment.

Let's Talk GrowPoint is required for anyone pursuing church membership but is also open to those who would like to simply learn about GrowPoint more in-depth.

Session dates and registration for Let's Talk GrowPoint can be found online at growpoint.church/events.

In becoming an official member of GrowPoint, each individual is asked to agree and sign this commitment. Visit growpoint.church/membership for the full membership commitment.

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.
- By refusing to gossip.
- By not being easily offended and following the Word of God to resolve all conflicts and disputes.
- 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.
- By following and submitting to the pastors and church leadership.

2. I will share the responsibility of my church

- By praying for its growth, impact and spiritual maturity.
- By inviting others to attend (the broken, the un-churched, those who don't know Jesus).
- By warmly welcoming all those who attend or visit and actively engaging them in conversation and activities.

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.
- By discovering my gifts and talents to actively serve in the church as well as in the community.
- By being equipped through discipleship and training by my pastors, church teachers and leadership, etc.
- By developing a loving servant's heart.

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.
- By being present and faithfully attending in-person gatherings. I will attend way more than I am absent... missing no more than two Sundays each month, actively participating in a Group, and caring for those within and outside of this church.
- By living a Godly life through the power of Holy Spirit and not abusing the freedom of God's grace.
- By stewarding the resources God gives me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances including regular financial tithing and additional offerings to this church that are sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary.



growpoint.church

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Amherst, OH 44001