

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



GrowPoint Annual Report 2024

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GrowPoint, we are a community compelled by grace to grow!

We anchor our lives on **God's Word**. Through every season and situation, we embrace **Joy & Laughter!** We live every aspect of our life with the posture of **Humble Confidence**. In our gatherings and out in the community, we understand the importance of **Intentional Presence**. **Goodness and Kindness** are the motivations behind every relationship. Our relationship with Jesus is a marathon, not a sprint; therefore, we chase after Him with an **Unending Pursuit!**

Ephesians 4:15 expresses the purpose of our community:
"We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church."

I can't stop there because verse 16 explains what Jesus is doing: *"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."*

The purpose of our **Annual Report** is to highlight some of Jesus' work within this church family! Get ready to give Jesus a HUGE thank you for His love and faithfulness!

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen"
(Ephesians 3:20-21).

Pastor Josh Smith
Co-Lead Pastor





a quick look at all God did in 2024...

48 ACCEPTED CHRIST
FOR THE FIRST TIME

GROWGROUPS
GATHERING WEEKLY
OR BI-WEEKLY **30**

483 PARTICIPATED
IN DISCIPLESHP

\$286,953 GIVEN TO REACH,
TEACH AND DISCIPLE
PEOPLE

<i>Foursquare.....</i>	<i>\$71,505</i>
<i>Kids & Youth.....</i>	<i>\$57,493</i>
<i>Discipleship & Church Ministries.....</i>	<i>\$59,843</i>
<i>Foreign Missions.....</i>	<i>\$37,060</i>
<i>Neighborhood Fund - Outreach.....</i>	<i>\$18,386</i>
<i>Compassion Fund.....</i>	<i>\$15,172</i>
<i>Local & State Missions.....</i>	<i>\$27,490</i>

498

AVERAGE WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE

Adults.....377

Kids.....82

Youth.....39

54

WATER
BAPTISMS

spring: 29
summer: 15
fall: 10

30

RECOMMITTED
TO CHRIST

31

NEW
MEMBERS

spring: 17
fall: 14

2024 | Discipleship

At GrowPoint, discipleship means becoming more like Jesus in how we live, love and serve.

Jesus reminds us in John 15:5: *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.”* This year, we’ve witnessed how staying connected to Him has brought transformation and growth to our church community.

In 2024, we celebrated incredible evidence of discipleship at GrowPoint:

- **483 participants in groups** — Our highest yet!
- **120 participants completed the Rooted Experience**, a 10-week journey exploring seven rhythms of discipleship from the New Testament. Rooted challenged participants to step out of their comfort zones, deepen their connection with God and strengthen relationships within the church community.
- Families experienced hope and healing through challenges such as job-loss, grief, health struggles, and financial hardship.
- Many gave first-time tithes and offerings, reflecting growing faith and trust in God’s promises to provide.
- We are becoming a confessing community — not without sin but without secrets — creating space for honesty and spiritual growth.
- Prayer and Bible engagement deepened through GrowGroups, men’s and women’s events, family gatherings, and more.
- **Generosity flourished** through tithing, hurricane relief efforts, compassion fund support, camp sponsorships of over \$12,000 through the NexGen Envelope Challenge, volunteer hours at Stevan Dohanos, and nearly 300 gifts for students and staff.

Each of these milestones reflects our growing connection to Jesus. Discipleship is an ongoing journey, and together, we’ll remain rooted in Him, bearing fruit and sharing His love with one another and our region.

Pastor Sumer Smith

Co-Lead Pastor

“

Even after 37 years of salvation and studying God's Word, I've learned that when we surrender to hear His voice, He continually imparts wisdom and growth. The Rooted study did just that for me, bringing new insights, convictions, and blessings. Growth requires commitment, but in His faithfulness, love, and mercy, God always rewards those who seek Him. Thank you, my beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ.

”

- Mickie Lampshire



In 2024, GrowKids explored “The Biggest Story,” uncovering the people, events, and spiritual truths that help children build a strong foundation in knowing and following Jesus.

Each Sunday, kids of all ages engaged with lessons, worship, small group discussions, and hands-on activities designed to equip them with spiritual truths for their daily lives.

We're blessed with over **80 team members** serving children from nursery to 5th grade. These dedicated leaders reflect Jesus' heart by offering personalized care, connecting with kids on their level, and fostering meaningful relationships.

In addition to Sunday mornings, we sponsored several events to deepen children's faith through experiential opportunities:

- **Good Friday Camp** and **Summer Camp**, where we explored the Armor of God theme in-depth.
- **Summer Parties in the Park**, designed to foster connections among kids and families in a fun, relational setting.

“

Our entire family has been positively influenced by GrowKids Ministry, from the comfort and safety we feel knowing our daughters are learning about God in alignment with our values to the personal connections they've built with leaders and other kids their age. Serving together on Sundays has been a joy, and we are truly grateful for how GrowKids is shaping our daughters' spiritual lives, guiding them through intentional faith development, and helping our whole family grow closer to God.

”

- Kemper Family



A major highlight was the resurgence of **J12 Ministry** for 4th and 5th graders. This group participated in Sunday night gatherings, serving opportunities, and activities that built friendships and faith. J12 helps pre-teens grow spiritually and equips them with tools to navigate the challenges of adolescence, grounded in their identity as children of God.

As part of our Discipleship Pathway for families, we celebrated:

- The completion of our **Parent Commissioning Class** with 15 parents and 8 child dedications.
- 10 children completing our **Water Baptism Class**, culminating in a joyful celebration of their baptisms.

As we step into 2025, we sense God’s direction for GrowKids to focus even more on **partnering with parents** in their children’s spiritual development. Through parent trainings, family discipleship resources, and family events, we aim to equip parents to confidently lead their families in becoming committed followers of Jesus.

We’re deeply grateful for all God has done through the families of GrowPoint this year and eagerly anticipate His plans for GrowKids Ministry in 2025.

Pastor Lesli Klingenmeier
GrowKids Pastor





“

Through GrowStudents, I have watched our cautious and distant daughter, along with my previously uninterested sons, become fully engaged in their community. We went from arguing about going to church to debating which Sunday they get to serve, while camp and Sunday nights have not only transformed our sons and given them meaningful friendships but also brought a light to our daughter—one she hadn't allowed anyone to see and, until last year, didn't truly have.

”

- Weekley Family



This year at GrowStudents has been nothing short of incredible!

From life-changing mission trips to unforgettable moments right here in our community, God's faithfulness has been woven into every part of our journey.

Our Sunday night gatherings were the heartbeat of GrowStudents.

Together, we explored Scripture and tackled big questions about prayer, transformation, and finding truth in life's toughest topics. This fall, we wrapped up the **Rooted** curriculum, and the impact was undeniable. Small groups transformed into tight-knit communities where students felt seen, known, and truly connected.

In January, we kicked off the year with our **Unified Youth Conference**, where students came together to worship, learn, and deepen their relationships with God. Summer brought the excitement of **GrowStudents Summer Camp**, where laughter, worship, and moments of surrender left a lasting impact on everyone who attended. And who could forget our countless parties, including the epic **Olympic-themed lock-in**? Four teams competed for gold, but we all walked away winners, carrying memories to last a lifetime.

One of the highlights of 2024 was our **mission trip to the LA Dream Center**. A group of students and leaders stepped out in faith, partnering with ministries to serve the people of Los Angeles. From packing food to praying with individuals on the street, our students embraced the call to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

This year was more than just a calendar of events—it was a year of transformation.

We witnessed students grow spiritually, step into leadership, and bring the hope of Jesus into their schools, families, and friendships. We are so grateful for your partnership—your prayers, encouragement, and support fuel this ministry and help make moments like these possible. As we look ahead to 2025, we are filled with anticipation for all God will continue to do through GrowStudents.

Baile Reitz

GrowStudents Director



2024 | Outreach

At GrowPoint, we are excited to celebrate all that God accomplished in 2024 in the area of missions and outreach!

Driven by **Intentional Presence** and **Strategic Partnerships**, and inspired by Jesus' call to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), we witnessed His love in action through countless moments of service and outreach.

One of our key focuses this year was **Stevan Dohanos Elementary School**, where members volunteered weekly, organized teacher appreciation events, and provided Christmas gifts. We also partnered with the **Amherst Schools Weekend Food Program** to ensure families had the resources they needed.

In July, eight GrowPoint members traveled to **Nicaragua**, partnering with Foursquare Pastors Randhus and Sylvia Carrion. They distributed Bibles, provided medical clinics, ministered to children, and witnessed salvations and healings. Monthly, we supported the Carrion's ministry financially and look forward to continuing this partnership in 2025.

Locally, GrowPoint served as a voting site during the spring and fall elections. We sponsored **Amherst Athletic Association** baseball and softball teams, offered our property for team practices, and participated in **Amherst's Miracle on Main Street**, hosting a live nativity.

Generosity flourished as we partnered with **Mercy Chefs** and **Foursquare Disaster Relief** to support victims of natural disasters and the Ukraine War. We sent 10 GrowPoint members with two box trucks full of supplies and funds to North Carolina for hurricane relief.

Throughout the year, we supported causes like providing gifts for single mothers on Mother's Day, donations to homeless men on Father's Day, and honoring veterans at the **Lorain Valor Home**. Additionally, we contributed to local nonprofits like Path & Green, Lorain Boys & Girls Club, Blessing House, Genesis House, and Love INC with donations in honor of each new guest at GrowPoint.

Globally, we supported ministry partners like **Mobile Outreach Solutions**, **Cornerstone Pregnancy Services**, **Life Pacific University Virginia**, **One for Israel**, missionaries **Greg & Caysey Reph in Burundi**, and **Foursquare Missions International**. We also supported **Foursquare's Adopt-A-Pastor** program in Africa and Asia and helped provide free Bibles and resources through **Foursquare Press**.

Our commitment to **Intentional Presence** extended to personal outreach, with GrowPoint members providing meals at the **Lorain Haven Center**, students serving at **Second Harvest Food Bank**, and adults coaching Little League sports. Through our **MicroGrant Program**, members launched projects like prayer initiatives, neighborhood parties, and homeless outreaches.

This year wasn't just about events; it was about transformation. Together, we shared the love of Jesus in ways that brought hope and healing to our community and beyond. As we step into 2025, we eagerly anticipate all the God-ordained opportunities to come!

Pastor Todd Rainey
Executive Pastor



2024 | Adopt-A-School

Since adopting Stevan Dohanos Elementary School in March 2022, we've witnessed God move in incredible ways! Reflecting on 2024, one word stands out: **transformation**. Though transformation often unfolds gradually, God has been thorough in His work, and it's been nothing short of amazing.

- **Transformation of Character:** Students have grown in kindness, responsibility, and hope.
- **Transformation of Perspective:** Teachers have shared how their outlooks have shifted through the support and care of our church family.
- **Transformation of Culture:** The entire school community has begun experiencing God's love through intentional investment and relationships.

This year, **29 volunteers served weekly** in classrooms during the Spring and Fall semesters, building meaningful connections with students and teachers. At our third annual Christmas Party, we celebrated with:

- **305** personalized gifts for students
- **55 gifts for teachers and staff**, including a special family experience,
- A joyful party for each grade level!

Thanks to your generosity, we also:

- **Provided meals** during Professional Development Days and Teacher Appreciation Week, etc.
- **Offered food, clothing, and household items** to families in need
- **Supplied additional school materials** for new teachers and classrooms
- **Donated meals** for the Rising Titans, students recognized for outstanding efforts.

As we remain planted at Stevan Dohanos, we're filled with hope and anticipation for all God will continue to do. Thank you for partnering with us to bring His love, joy, and transformation to this school and community!

Pastor Gabby Jenkins
Adopt-A-School Pastor



“

Stevan Dohanos has become a place I look forward to every week, where I'm excited to spend time with the kids, and they're just as excited to see me. Though we don't know each other's struggles, being with them brings me joy—it's truly a gift that has given me a deep heart for the kids at that school and the community as a whole.

”

- Thomas Perris



2024 | Finances & Facilities

At GrowPoint, we've experienced the freedom and joy that comes with **giving**. Jesus taught, "It's more blessed to give than to receive," and we are truly seeing His blessings as we give. When we give, it's a reflection of our growing trust in God's grace and provision. The Bible reminds us that our giving comes from a place of joy and gratitude for the salvation and presence of Jesus in our lives. It's about living free from worries, knowing God has us covered. It's about planting seeds of faith to help build His Kingdom on earth, blessing others, and receiving the blessings He promises in return.

Thanks to God's goodness and the faithful generosity of our GrowPoint Family, we ended 2024 in the BLACK! Praise God! **All our expenses for 2024 were fully covered!** We are so thankful for your generous, faithful, and sacrificial giving to the Lord. GrowPoint's Church Advisory Council meets every month to review our finances and budget, ensuring that everything we do brings honor to God!

Our mission is to make Jesus known through our community, and God works through our giving, making us His blessing to others. One thing we've learned at GrowPoint is that we can never outgive God—He always provides more than we could ever ask for.

Pastor Todd Rainey

Executive Pastor

Facility Projects Completed in 2024

\$18,645.13 paid in full. Praise God!

- Improvements to the Point Café
- Boiler Repairs
- Parking Lot Repairs, Sealing and Striping

Needed Facilities Projects

- Balcony/Foyer/Lobby HVAC - \$45,000
- New Carpet (Youth & Kids) - \$12,000
- Replace all the drop ceilings in the Women's & Men's Restrooms - \$3,500
- Drainage for the Front and Back Yards - \$5,000 for every sixty feet

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
Woship Director



Bailee Reitz
GrowStudents Director



Pastor
Lesli Klinglenmeier
GrowKids Pastor



Pastor
Gabby Jenkins
Assisting Pastor



Rose Curtis
GrowKids Coordinator



Tammi Rainey
Ministry Coordinator



Nancy Schuster
Admin Assistant



Pastor
Bev Beidleman
Assisting Pastor

2024 Church Advisory Council

Jen Anderson, Rick Block, Roland Ciaramitaro,
Christina Coughlin, Cal Kody, Kurt Mellen

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, as a church member you are eligible to vote at the annual congregational 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/nextsteps.

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

Visit growpoint.church/membership for the full commitment.



growpoint.church

Amherst Foursquare Church
780 Cooper Foster Park Road | PO Box 146
Amherst, OH 44001