



WELCOME TO
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



FPC AT A GLANCE

Greetings, people so dearly loved by God; grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

As many of you are aware, we have four core emphases at FPC: (1) Sunday morning worship, (2) Next-generation ministry, (3) small groups and discipleship, and (4) world missions. God has called us as a local church to pursue these four priorities with our time, talents, and treasure. Please, if a friend wants to know what FPC is all about, consider sharing this booklet to help introduce them to the church's life and core values.

First, let's celebrate the growth God brought us in 2024!

When we talk about growth at FPC, we always emphasize two things: the depth of our character (our discipleship) and the breadth of our influence (the people we've added to the church).

First, the publication of *Growing with the Early Church*, FPC's second in-house-published daily devotional and sermon aid, is another huge achievement that's helping our members grow spiritually. Mindy deserves a lot of praise for this amazing project, and thanks to all the volunteers who wrote questions for the book and edited its draft forms. We hope that this book, along with the daily video

devotionals and sermons, will deepen your love and knowledge of our Lord as we read His Word together every day!

Second, the breadth of our influence remains strong. New families are joining us, and children and adults are being baptized. Our outward-facing ministries, like Pioneer Clubs and the engagements our members have in schools, sports, and other community initiatives, continue to make us good neighbors to those around us, just like Jesus told us to do.

All right, let's dive into two key areas of development over the past year.

First off, with our congregation growing so rapidly and change being tough, we've had some tough questions pop up. We're wondering about our vision, how we're managing what God's given us, and how our leaders are doing all this. But through it all, we've been having honest, open, and kind conversations across generations. We're sharpening each other's skills and building true Christian unity. No congregation is perfect, and we'll always have disagreements and misunderstandings. But what I've seen in the past year when things get tough is nothing short of God's grace.

Secondly, I want to give a big shoutout to everyone who's been working on the

financial side of things. Our income has been on the rise, but as we grow, so do our expenses. But thanks to your hard work, we're debt-free and making financial matters as clear and transparent as any church I've ever seen. God has truly blessed your efforts!

Finally, let's talk about one area where we can improve.

As I mentioned before, our discipleship ministries are doing great, but we need to focus more on helping our members grow. Our church is known for being a welcoming and community-oriented place, and that's something we're proud of. But we need to make sure that our members are growing and becoming the best Christ-centered versions of themselves. With over 200 members and growing, we need to make sure we have the right people in place to help our members grow. We need to start mobilizing the internal growth of this

church with proper pastoral staffing. If we do not, we run the risk of becoming a mile-wide and an inch thick rather than achieving the depth of character and breadth of influence to reach our neighbors with the gospel and disciple them. Each person who walks through the doors is a stewardship, and to date, we are outmanned. Let's pray about how we can all work together to help our members grow and reach their full potential. We have a lot of work to do, but God's Spirit will enable us to do it!

Pastor Aaron White, PhD



SESSION

FPC is led by Session, a group of Elders who have been called by God to oversee spiritual leadership, teaching, protection, care, and discipline of the congregation; and by Deacons who care for the community and church.

Both groups serve a three-year term that expires on Aug. 31 of their class year.

CURRENT RULING ELDERS

Nathan Simpson (2026), Justin Sparks (2026), A.J. Woods (2027)



NEXTGEN MINISTRY

We believe in equipping the next generation with the word and love of Jesus. FPC offers programs for

students of all ages to allow them to learn, grow, and thrive.

78 WK/AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE
2024

PIONEER CLUBS

Pioneer Clubs provides children K-6th grade the opportunity to learn to follow Christ in all aspects of their lives. This is done through encouraging them to form healthy Christian friendships that can last a lifetime, as well as learning how to apply biblical principles to everyday situations. The children learn this through Bible lessons, verse memorization, singing songs, developing life skills, and fun activities.



GILBERT'S YOUTH CENTER

12
STUDENTS

TAILGATE - Offers students in Jr. and Sr. High a place to hang out before most home Southeastern Football games.

13
STUDENTS

WYLDLIFE - YoungLife's Jr. High ministry that provides a safe space for students to gather, play games, and hear about God.

(NEW 2025) CAMPAIGNERS - YoungLife invites Jr. High students to spend time in Bible study and deepening their faith.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

FPC offers programs for members of all ages to grow and strengthen their faith.

SMALL GROUPS

Contact: Trey Martin

Small Groups at FPC nurture personal growth in Christ through meeting together regularly, studying the Bible together, building relationships with one another, and doing life alongside each other.

5 SMALL GROUPS
46 ACTIVE ADULTS

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Leaders: Pastor Aaron White, Annie Martin

Discipleship groups provide a time for deeper, more intensive, study. Intentional groups of Men and Women meet for a designated time where they focus on learning deeper Biblical and theological concepts.

2 DISC. GROUPS
12 ACTIVE ADULTS

PASTORAL

RESIDENCY

Resident: Trey Martin (2023-25)

The pastoral residents work alongside the church leadership and staff to gain strategic leadership experience and skills. Interns will work on large scale ministry and leadership projects as well as daily ministry duties. This program provides the residents with individualized and customized development opportunities to ensure their preparedness for long-term leadership and ministry.

TREY'S EXPERIENCE

- Weekly Catechism & Children's Message
- Organize and train Small Group Leaders
- Lead an Adult Sunday School
- Attend Session, Staff, and Leadership meetings
- Preaching
- Relationship building and investment with congregation members
- Research Discipleship
- Contribute to *Growing with the Early Church*
- Organize and lead a short term Evening Service

DEACONS' MINISTRY

The FPC Deacons serve our church by managing facility repair, keeping track of finances, and organizing fellowship activities. They also serve the South Charleston community through the Food Pantry and other outreaches.

CURRENT DEACONATE

Mitchell Burton (2027), Tim Shankle (2027),
Bryan Thompson (2027), Pam Vaughn (2026)

FACILITIES - PROJECTS COMPLETED

- Lighting in the Sanctuary
- Property behind the church was demolished (pictured below) and seeded. THIS PROJECT IS OFFICIALLY DEBT FREE!
- Purchase of chairs for outdoor services

FELLOWSHIP

- Euchre Night (Jan-March)
15-20 attended
- Souper Sundays (Jan-Feb)
30 attended
- Golf Outing

COMMUNITY CARE

In addition to the Food Pantry, the deacons supplied food for several funeral dinners, helped fuel a car for someone to travel to the doctor, and paid several utility bills and a rental deposit for needy folks in town. Through the Good Samaritan Fund, Christmas Food Baskets and gifts were also distributed.

We also supplied cards and stamps for Barbara Florence to continue the very popular card ministry and to whom we offer our most sincere thanks.

MANNA FOOD PANTRY

The Manna Food Pantry continues to serve several families in South Charleston. There were 205 people served in 2024. Thank you to all the families, individuals, and organizations who have supported the food pantry.

Duplex House Demo. in Feb. '24



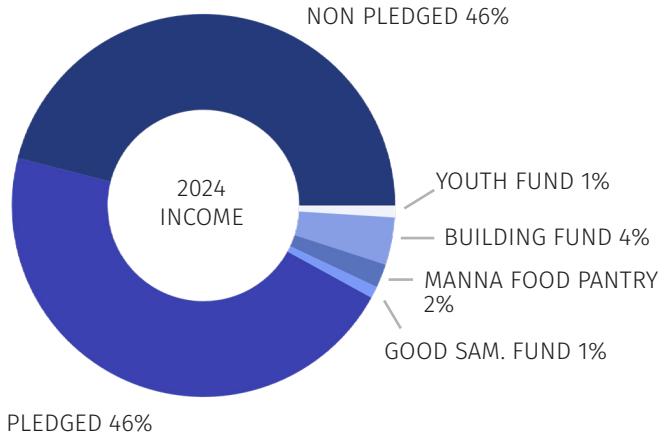
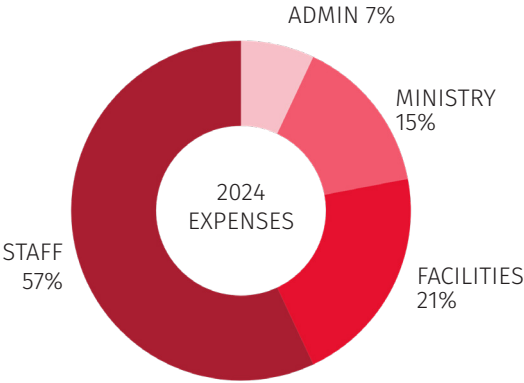
Kids using the new green space



FPC FINANCES

INCOME
 2022 | \$334,314
 2023 | \$372,638
 2024 | \$407,334

2025 BUDGET
 \$361,987



Want more details about the budget? Talk to Nathan Simpson for a budget breakdown.

TOTAL: \$361,987



2024-2025

SHEPHERDING PLAN

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH

- Define the need, role, and job description
- Organize and hold communication forums with the congregation
- Announce and hold congregational meeting to call search committee
 - Identify likely members and confirm
 - Bring slate to meeting for congregational vote
- Continuous communication with congregation, in concert with Fundraising Team

ESTABLISH FUNDRAISING TEAM (FRT)

- Finance Team recommendations (Aug. 24)
 - Target
 - Giving Options
- Identify likely members and confirm willingness to serve
- Kick off in parallel with congregational meeting
- Assist with communicating vision for the position
- Elders and Deacons work side by side consistently
 - Account for resources
 - Establish process and protocol for stewardship

SABBATICAL RESEARCH AND DEFINITION

- Establish a Sabbatical Investigation Team (SIT)
- Hold in-depth discussions with the White Family
 - What does rest look like for each member?
 - What draws them closer to God?
 Look for three areas of opportunity
 - Self (Aaron & Sarah)
 - Family (Aaron & Sarah; Whole family)
 - Growth/Study
- Research options available to meet expressed needs
 - Free
 - Low cost (church covers)
 - Higher cost (church shares)
- Create White Family Sabbatical Map for 2026

5 YEAR VISION

2023-2028

We see in the next five years the development and further support of the core ministries and initiatives of the church, anchoring ourselves in God's ordinances and undergirded by prayer. We will see this come into reality by (1) equipping elders, deacons, and staff for joyful and healthy leadership, (2) seeking and making disciples at all levels of ministry, (3) seeing our members placed in areas of influence in our village's daily life, and (4) resourcing other churches for effective gospel-centered ministry, ultimately preparing our congregation to plant another body of disciple-making believers in a local community.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Lord has led Session to seek additional Pastoral staff. The Associate Pastor of Equipping and Discipleship will invest in ministries like Small Groups and Discipleship Groups, equip members of the church with knowledge that deepens their faith, and more.

SEARCH COMMITTEE (SC)
Justin Sparks (Chair), Mitchell Burton,
Evan Delk, Shawna Shankle,
Mindy Wildman

WHAT WILL THE DUTIES OF AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR BE?

We are looking for an Associate Pastor of Equipping and Discipleship.

- Oversee discipleship ministries like Small Groups and Discipleship Groups.
- Be responsible for developing/growing the system that invites and shepherds a person from visiting to engaging with the church and membership while maturing as a disciple of Christ.
- Recruit and equip leaders within the church for ministry work, providing them with a strong biblical foundation.

WILL PASTOR AARON BECOME THE SENIOR PASTOR OR WILL THEY BE CO-PASTORS?

Pastor Aaron and the Associate Pastor will be *equals* with complimentary responsibilities. Both will be members of Session and Presbytery. Pastor Aaron will remain moderator of Session, Head of Staff, and primarily in charge of Worship (preaching and administering the Sacraments). The Associate Pastor's "Terms of Call" will reflect his position as pastor of Equipping and Discipleship.

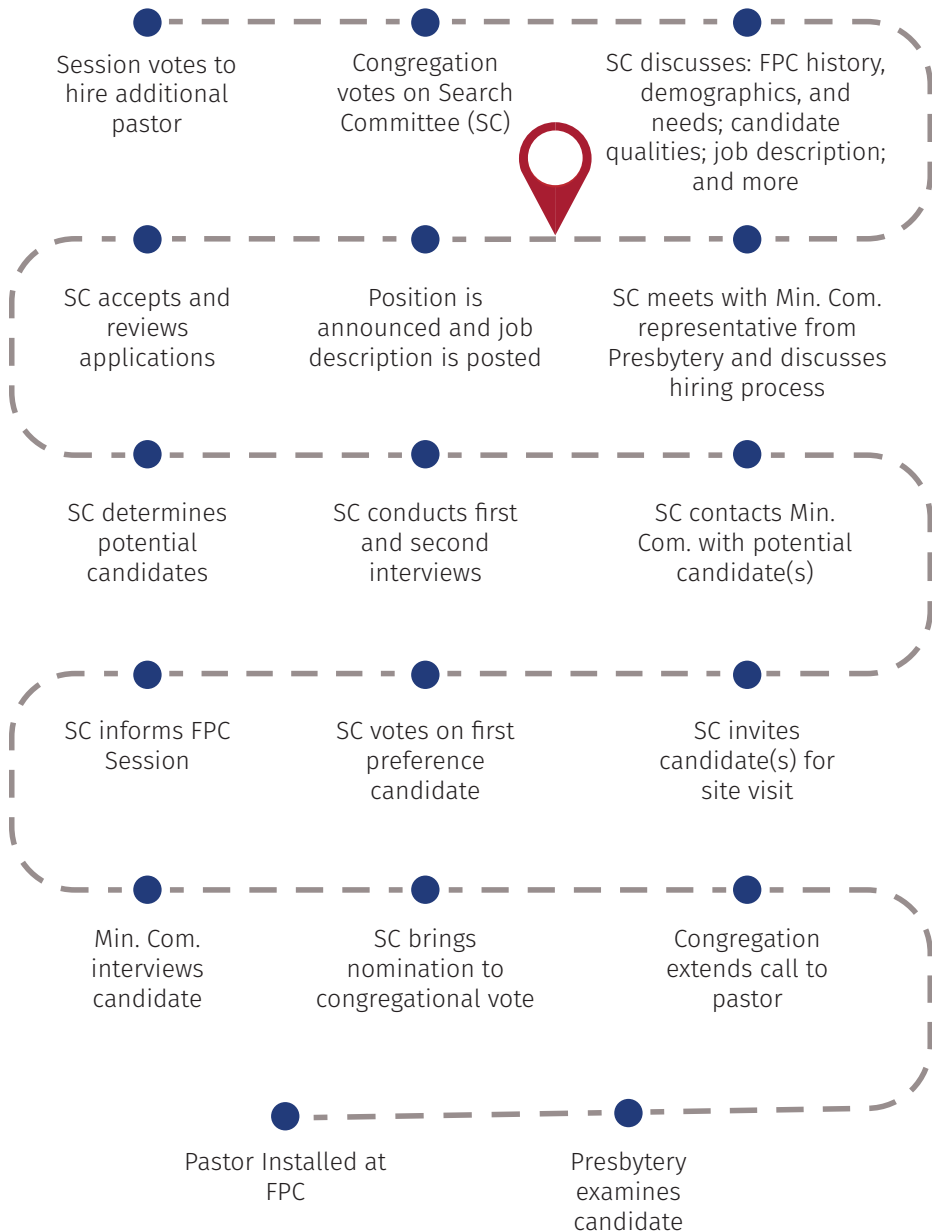
WHY DO WE NEED ANOTHER PASTOR IF ATTENDANCE HAS DROPPED FROM 2023?

Current pastoral staff cannot maintain, strengthen, and develop the congregation to its fullest. With 210+ members it is difficult to invest in individuals with only one full-time pastor. The Holy Spirit's leading to call a second pastor has NOT changed even if attendance changes or some disagree.

HOW IS GOD PROVIDING (FINANCIALLY) FOR THIS NEW POSITION?

The Session and Deacons are working hand in hand to determine the best plan for financials and raising money for this position.

THE HIRING PROCESS





15 N. CHILLICOTHE ST.
PO BOX P
SOUTH CHARLESTON, OHIO 45368
WWW.FPCCONNECT.ORG