



# Faith

CHURCH

2020  
ANNUAL REPORT



- a different kind of year - that will stir in us a mixture of emotions. It wouldn't be wise of us to wish it away but rather to reflect on all the learnings and experiences we went through. I think there is much God intended to teach.

We can't forget COVID-19, a time of quarantine, rules of mask wearing and social distancing. We won't forget nor cease to stop talking about and taking action against the sin of racism. We mustn't forget to pray for our country's leaders, and for peace and restoration within our country.

As a church, there are things we also must not forget. In 2020 there were a lot of firsts, even for someone who has been in ministry for 35 years. And while there were certainly challenging times, without a doubt I could see God's hand guiding us.

For example, when Illinois and Indiana went into quarantine, what a balloon burst of disappointment at not being able to worship together in-person at each of our campuses. BUT for the first time since becoming a multi-site church, we were able to worship together as one church body!

Faith is grown both in mountains and valleys and during what seemed (maybe contains to seem) like a deep valley, God is continuing to use Faith Church to grow His Kingdom!

Each year we create an Annual Report so you can see and be reminded of all God has done in and through Faith Church. While reading the following pages, be reminded how the numbers illustrated can also represent souls in our church family - and the Kingdom of God. I'm astounded by how God uses us to reach, serve, guide, encourage and care for His people, especially during 2020.

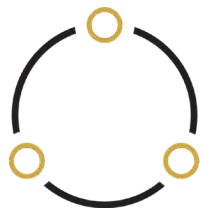
We look to 2021 - a fresh, never-been-used 365 days - believing God will do great and mighty things, no matter what type of year it turns out to be. Faith over fear, always.

Your brother in Christ,

*Paul Bob Brown*

Dear Faith Church Family,

2020. Pronounced twenty, twenty. No longer will our initial thoughts recall the score for perfect vision. Rather, we will be taken to a year



## GATHER

### Worship & Groups

- 1,001 new people gathering on weekends
- 51% of people connected in a group



## GROW

### Spiritual Health & Leadership

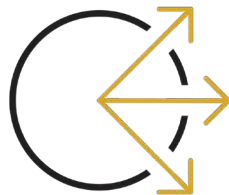
- 11% increase in people growing through spiritual disciplines
- 201 people engaged in leadership development



## GIVE

### Time, Talents & Treasures

- 51% of people increasing their generosity by giving more
- 51% of people serving once a month within Faith Church



## GO

### Locally & Globally

- 1-3 new worshipping communities: plant, enfolding, launch new campus
- 11% annual increase in people serving outside our church walls

# THE 1:1 INITIATIVE

RESTORING THE REGION  
ONE RELATIONSHIP  
AT A TIME

Use the 4 G's  
- **Gather, Grow, Give, Go** -  
to impact Northwest  
Indiana and the  
Illinois region.





## IN WORSHIP

Not only does God work through community, we have to be in community to experience Him fully. We worship together at services on weekends for this very reason and encourage all to be known in smaller communities such as small groups, Bible studies and/or other ministry gatherings throughout the week.

# 44

Infant / Child Baptisms

# 9

Adult & Youth Baptisms  
upon profession

# 133

New Members

- 36 Professions of Faith
- 25 Reaffirmations of Faith
- 27 Affirmations
- 25 Transfers

*On average nearly 1,800 people gathered for worship in person over 36 weeks and over 350 children participated in person in Faith Kids across all of our campuses over 20 weeks.*

## OTHER SERVICES

All Faith Campuses worship together **ONLINE** for **GOOD FRIDAY** services (3,753 adults and children).

All Faith Campuses worship together **ONLINE** for **EASTER** services (8,278 adults and children).

All Faith Campuses held **IN PERSON** (2,536 adults and children) and **ONLINE** (1,995 adults and children) Christmas services.





## IN GROUPS

There are many different groups where people are known, loved, challenged and prayed for.

## REFLECTORS

*For individuals with special needs*

- Weekends in Dyer, Cedar Lake & Highland **108** participant
- Teen & Adult Socials over **300** individuals  
*(not including their families)*
- Friendship Ministry at Highland **25** participants

## FAITH KIDS & STUDENTS

### Faith Kids *(infant - 5th grade)*

- **580** per weekend  
*(Jan-March)*
- **162** per weekend  
*(Oct & Nov)*
- Faith Kids has an average of **100** people tune-in to our online worship experience on our Vimeo & Facebook platforms. We reach roughly 1,000 people weekly on social media.

### Faith Students *(6th-12th grade)*

- **148** per week
- **119 NEW** kids from all campuses who had not previously participated

## GROUPS

*\*not including MomsNation, marriage, Journey or Care Groups*

- Mixed Small Groups  
**83 groups that include 1,083 people**
- Women's Groups  
**30 groups that include 290 women**
- Men's Groups  
**12 groups that include 316 men**
- D3 (Dyer only)  
**~ 26 groups that include 164 people**



## MOMSNATION

*Dedicated to encouraging, equipping and empowering moms in motherhood*

- **251** moms participate
- **90** volunteer leaders
- We have **10** MomsNation groups that meet at **4** campuses

## CARE

*Providing assistance, support and sometimes rest for individuals and families*

- **Marriage Enrichment - 55 couples**
- **Preparing for Marriage Class - 18 couples**
- **Care Teams - 386 people** received care from the Care Ministry
- **Faith Family Market - 175 families** served in Dyer, Cedar Lake & Highland/Munster
- **Beecher Mobile Food Pantry** (in partnership with Northern Illinois Food Bank) **On average 128 families served per month**
- **Support Groups** (Overcomers; Celebrate Recovery; Mental Health; Hurting Moms; Mending Hearts; Grief Support) - **217 active members**
- During quarantine and while church services were held online, each Campus' Leadership Team (deacons, elders, staff) tried to make contact with each Faith Church family.

# EVENTS





## Night to Shine

For the third year in a row, Faith Church served as a host site of Night to Shine, an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs. On Friday, February 7, we crowned 240 guests as Kings & Queens of the evening. This is a community outreach event, in which more than half of those who participated were not from Faith Church.

## Faith Students SpringHill Winter Retreat

Students are invited to attend SpringHill Winter Retreat for a weekend of personal growth, small group time, team games and fun. In February 2020, 145 students attended the camp, held in Evart, Michigan.

## Super Hero Party

The Reflectors Ministry was grateful to host its annual "Super Hero Party" outreach event the evening of August 14, welcoming 170 guests, served by 30 amazing volunteers. COVID presented many challenges for planning and attendance, but God provided beautiful weather so guests could be outdoors, meeting with their favorite superheroes, playing games, eating, taking photos and getting prizes. From a parent, "Thank you for having this gathering for those who have limited outings this year. The event was blessed with sunshine, great weather, good music and super friends. Many thanks to Faith Church and [its] members for the great job you do for all the events. It's what everyone needed, an evening of Super Heroes."

## Global Leadership Summit

God used the 2020 Summit for even greater reach and magnitude! We had the most registrants we've ever had - 508! We estimate about 225 met at Faith Dyer, 150 participated in micro & mini sites, and 125 people watched online from wherever they wanted to.

Big wins this year included U.S. Congressman Frank Mrvan being in attendance at Faith Dyer, an exceptional number of first-time participants, and a focus on students being invited as our next generation of leaders.

## Faith Kids Virtual VBS

In a season of social distancing and mask wearing, Faith Kids wanted to provide virtual opportunities for kids to learn more about Jesus. We hosted a Virtual VBS in July for 89 families, representing preschool and elementary-aged students.

## MomsUnited

A much needed moms night out was hosted by MomsNation. An inspirational night, MomsUnited included a heartfelt worship, relatable testimonials and the celebration of this year's theme, Clothed. A "Mom Fashion Show" took place where the many hats moms wear was highlighted. The night wrapped up with speaker Tina Jacobs who spoke on the theme verse, Colossians 3:12-14. MomsNation was able to bless 115 moms with encouragement at the event, with nine new members joining MomsNation!

## Golf Classic

With the support of 26 sponsors (both businesses and families), 96 golfers, additional contributors and volunteers, we were able to raise \$16,000 for the Christian Aid Ministry! In a year filled with uncertainty, these funds will allow us to walk alongside members and attenders of Faith Church who are struggling through financial hardships, through the assistance of Christian Aid.

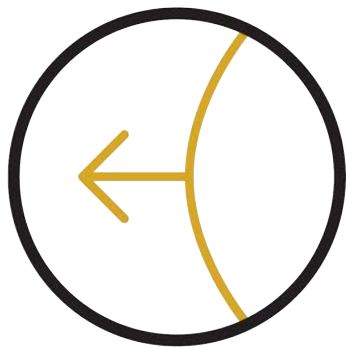
## Gobbler Classic

Keeping tradition alive untraditionally our annual Gobbler Classic 5K was held VIRTUALLY! 368 people signed-up to participate; from running, to walking, to rollerblading, to a little skipping along the way, people were participating from Illinois & Indiana, to Michigan, to Idaho and Oklahoma. We had a record number of 20 sponsors this year! Together, with all support, we were able to exceed our fundraising goal, **raising a record number - \$18,500** - for local food pantries in Faith Church communities!!

## Behold the Wonder

Even through a screen, we were honored by all those who tuned in virtually this year to take in Behold the Wonder. With no limit to capacities and ticket sales, Behold the Wonder was viewed by more than 4,600 individuals, in 29 states and in four other countries. May God be praised for using this production to bring joy & peace to people around the world!





# GROW

## COVER TO COVER 4 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

If we want to grow daily as followers of Jesus Christ, it is essential we spend time in our Bibles. At the completion of our second year of the 4-year Bible Reading Plan, we now have nearly 2,800 people signed-up to receive a link to the daily Bible passage and devotional:

- **2,195** receive texts
- **599** receive emails

## JOURNEY GROUPS

The Journey is a 22-week course, designed to provide a safe place for a group of 7-10 people to slow down and be intentional on focusing on their relationship with Jesus – our personal discipleship. It provides a place where God can meet us, teach us, shape us, bless us and help us grow.

- **Participants discern: Who is God? Who am I? How do I fit into His plan?**
- **9 groups were hosted with 65 participants in total**



## TIME & TALENTS

God has created each one of us to have unique gifts and talents. When we use our gifts to serve others, we become participants in God's plan to transform the world.

# 15%

**of people serve once a month**  
*(due to COVID our serving numbers are down from last year)*

JAN-MAR

# 405

**Faith Kids volunteers  
serve at least once**

OCT-DEC

# 252

**Faith Kids volunteers  
served at least once**

# 145

**Reflectors/Friendship  
volunteers**

# 72

**Kids Hope  
Mentors serving  
at 4 local schools**  
*(Bibich, Kenwood,  
MacArthur, Southridge)*

# 38

**Faith Students  
small group  
leaders**

# 18

**Faith Students  
serving volunteers**

# GIVE

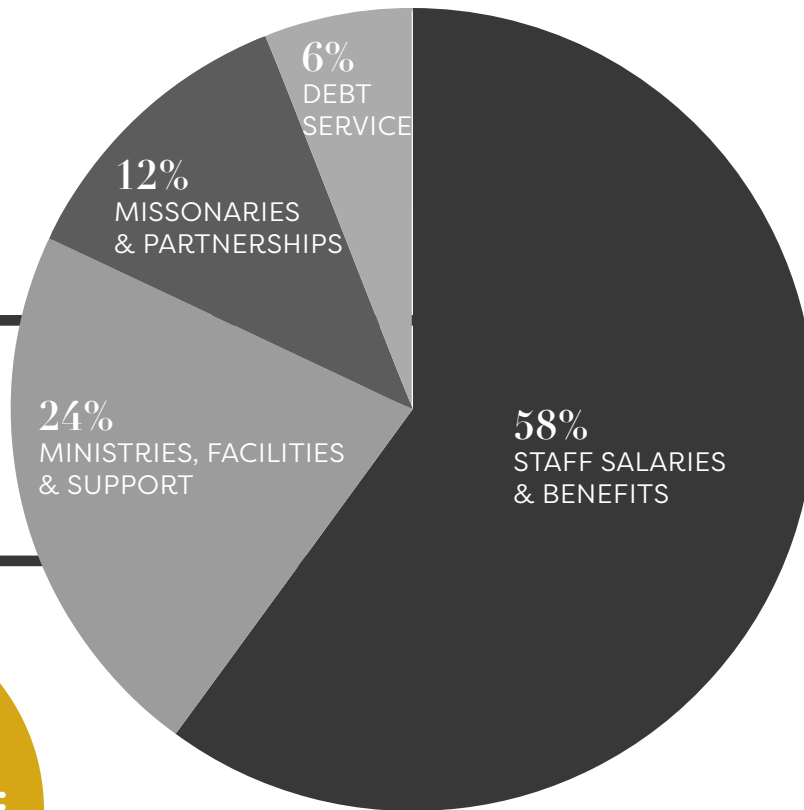


## RESOURCES

**General Fund Giving:**  
**\$7,139,000**

**Operating Expenses:**  
**\$6,855,000**

**GIVEN TO FAITH:**  
**\$7,700,400**



### **Other Giving:**

Debt reduction  
Dyer & Cedar Lake:  
**\$107,900**

Christian Aid:  
**\$83,000**

Faith Family Market:  
**\$78,800**

Other:  
**\$291,700**



# Faith OVER FEAR

**Faith**  
CHURCH

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE!  
**SUNDAYS AT 9 & 11 AM**



FAITHCHURCHDYER



WEAREFAITH.ORG



## GLOBALLY

Faith Missions strives toward mobilizing people and resources to restore the world one relationship at a time. We do this primarily through partnering with like-minded, vibrant evangelical churches and organizations in targeted communities around the world or impact areas. Our engagement within these partnerships is focused toward leadership development, community development and reaching unreached people.

GO





## IMPACT AREA HIGHLIGHTS

### **BRAZIL: WORKING WITH THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MANAUS (IPM)**

- Invited and hosted Bob Oliviera, former missionary liaison to the RCA and IPM, to share the message during weekend services February 29 & March 1.
- Initiated and shared resources for IPM to begin a special needs ministry alongside our Reflectors Ministry.
- Gave \$5,000 to the 'storehouse project,' which provided those hardest hit by the COVID quarantine in the river villages with food and hygiene supplies.
- Gave \$10,000 toward sponsoring two individuals to begin training at IPM's Missionary Training Center.
- Worked with the RCA to create a virtual prayer walk highlighting IPM and their supporting ministries.
- Exchanged monthly times of prayer over Zoom between our pastors and executive team with the pastors at IPM throughout quarantine.
- As Bob Oliviera retired, we began support of Thiago and Lia Dantas who are taking on the role of missionary liaisons to the RCA and IPM.

## **RWANDA: WORKING WITH WORLD VISION IN SIMBI**

- In October, we celebrated raising over one million dollars for clean water through Team World Vision!
- Continue to sponsor 573 kids in Simbi, Rwanda, which is the equivalent annually of nearly \$270,000 of financial gifts outside of our budget that is given towards this community.
- 35 individuals ran the Pamojoa (swahili for “together”) Marathon and raised \$136,117, bringing us to a grand total of \$1,002,824 raised through running with Team World Vision!



## ADDITIONAL AREAS TO CELEBRATE IN MISSION

- Partnered with three other area churches to host Encounter, a five-week mission workshop focused on discipleship; 15 people from Faith Church attended.
- Hosted a three-week mission series in March titled On Mission: You're Invited
- Sponsored 30 pastors in Ethiopia at Onesimus Nesib Seminary and sent 150 Bibles to further support their work and ministry.
- Celebrated the retirement of Faith supported missionary Barbara Kapenga, who served for 38 years with the RCA as a missionary in several African countries.
- Continue to care for and support numerous missionaries and organizations around the world who have adjusted their ministry and continue to attest to the movement.



LOCALLY

# BEECHER



- **Mobile Food Pantry:** In conjunction with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, we host and staff this mobile food distribution effort approximately once a month. It is available to anyone with an Illinois zip code and is helped publicized by the Beecher Village Hall and Beecher Chamber of Commerce. In 2020, we averaged 128 families per mobile, reflecting an average of 426 people each month. In November, we also distributed prayer cards and 45 people shared prayer requests.
- **Student Ministry:** Faith Students continued to meet this year, despite the pandemic. Groups were meeting virtually during the spring months, and then resumed in-person meetings outside during the summer and beginning of fall. Approximately 60% of the students who attend are from the Beecher community and are not members of Faith Beecher.
- **Candy Collection:** We collected candy to participate in Beecher's Trunk or Treat, but due to COVID restrictions the event was cancelled. We were able to distribute the candy to the police and fire departments to hand out to trick or treaters.
- **Blessing the community:** To help build a connection within the community, we provided "Blessing Bags" to Beecher Police and EMA; a meal for Beecher Manor staff; gift certificates for a pizza dinner to the Beecher Fire Protection District; and lunch to Beecher Elementary School (the Junior High and High School were scheduled, but due to the shut down in March, we were unable to provide them a meal).
- **Light Up Dixie:** We joined the Beecher Chamber of Commerce and participated in their Light Up Dixie initiative, decorating one of the trees along Dixie Highway.
- **Beecher's Frosty Friends:** We provided 100 Christmas gifts for families in need in Beecher.







- **Faith Family Market in Cedar Lake:** Every Monday members of the community have the opportunity to shop for and take home food and other goods provided by the generosity of Faith CL. This year we surpassed our goal of 50 Thanksgiving Baskets with 55 generous donations.
- **Kids Hope:** To offer our support to MacArthur Elementary School, we provided appreciation gifts bags to all faculty & staff.
- **Drive-Thru Celebrations:** Despite the uncertainty that was surrounding us, we remained steadfast in our faith as we celebrated our risen Lord with a drive-thru Easter event for families the Saturday before Resurrection Sunday. Additionally, to honor moms or mother figures in our lives, we offered a drive-thru event designed just for them, complete with an opportunity for families to capture the moment in photo form in front of a custom backdrop.
- **Reflectors:** To show our Reflectors participants and their families they are loved and supported, especially during these challenging times, we hosted a tailgate movie night just for them. In the fall we hosted a campfire movie night in addition to a Thanksgiving themed drive-thru event.
- **Cedar Lake Police and Fire Department Appreciation:** To honor our community first responders, we hosted 35 members of the Police and Fire department to lunch at our Campus.
- **Cedar Lake Beautification Project:** This project was launched in late-fall to provide homeowners in Cedar Lake the opportunity to apply for assistance with home safety and beautification tasks. This enables the homeowner to keep their home within the building and property codes established and enforced by the town.
- **Town of Cedar Lake Trunk or Treat:** We teamed up with the town of Cedar Lake for a Trunk or Treat event to support our community in providing a fun and safe environment for the kids. The event was a success with 800+ kids coming through for a good time.







- **Food Distribution for Sauk Village:** Food was donated by those from the Dyer campus and taken to Strassburg School to help families of some students. Food was also taken to a food pantry associated with Emmanuel CRC in Sauk Village. MANY families were served with these donations.
- **Mural for Dyer Parks and Recreation:** As part of a Student Serve Day in the Fall, Pastor Dave coordinated a mural project on a building in Elmer Miller Park in Dyer.
- **Clean Up day for Rickover Middle School in Sauk Village:** As part of a Dyer Staff Serve Day, a group of seven cleared an overgrown courtyard. The school can now plan to re-plant in the courtyard in the Spring.
- **Blessing the Community:** Care packages were organized and distributed to the Dyer Police Department, all Dyer schools and to the faculty & staff at Strassburg Elementary in Sauk Village.
- **Faith Students:** visited their students at home and celebrated them.
- **Reflectors Ministry:** Our Reflectors Ministry found creative ways to stay engaged with participants and their families through the pandemic: groceries and meals were delivered; car parades were organized for birthdays & graduations; and special deliveries were made to give pick-me-ups like gift cards and basket donations.









# HIGHLAND

- **Town of Highland:** We were able to come alongside our community in many ways this year. From donating to the Police Department in their effort to better serve those with disabilities, to supporting local restaurants with Take out Tuesdays, to hosting the Highland High School Football Team for dinner the night before their Sectional win, we are excited to be a part of this town!
- **Grace Beyond Borders:** We solidified our partnership with this East Chicago-based ministry, serving the homeless in the Region. Multiple volunteer teams were able to assist with the renovation of their first building, which was purchased this summer. The goal for the building is to serve as transitional housing for women and children.
- **Kids Hope:** Volunteers from Faith Highland met with students at Southridge Elementary School early in the year to encourage, mentor and love on them. Since quarantine in March, our focus has shifted from the students to the faculty & staff. We have written notes of encouragement to help them through this time.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** It was exciting to attend the dedication of a home in Hammond this year, especially since its walls were built in our own parking lot. We volunteered during work days on construction sites and the Faith Highland deacons partnered with Habitat in hosting Financial Peace University.





# MUNSTER

- **Family Market:** Members of the church community have the opportunity to shop for and take home food and other goods provided by the generosity of Faith Munster. With the many challenges of this year, the generosity of our church family kept the shelves stocked; the team served many families during quarantine in a safe way. This year we were also able to bless families with a turkey for Thanksgiving in addition to their regular goods.
- **Love, Inc:** A ministry of local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. We serve as one of the churches for Love, Inc to help out with collections of groceries, financially and volunteers.
- **Drive-Thru Celebrations:** Despite the uncertainty that was surrounding us, we remained steadfast in our faith as we celebrated our risen Lord with a drive-thru Easter event for families the Saturday before Resurrection Sunday. Additionally, to honor moms or mother figures in our lives, we offered a drive-thru event designed just for them.
- **Blessing Community Front-Line Workers:** To help build a connection within the community, we provided "Blessing Bags" to Munster Community Hospital, Franciscan Munster, St. Catherine's Hospital in East Chicago, Symphony Nursing Home, Hartsfield Nursing Home, Munster Police, Hammond Fire Department, Northwestern Hospital and Christ the Advocate. We also provided a meal for the staff at Symphony Nursing Home, St. Catherine's Hospital, Hartsfield Nursing Home, Hammond Fire Department and Christ the Advocate.
- **Fall Festival:** This year we had our first Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat. We had 20 decorated trunks and served hotdogs to about 100 people. It was well attended by our church and community families.
- **Welcome Network:** We had some volunteers help with the renovating of a home in Lansing, Illinois that will house three refugee families. One of the families just had a new birth of a baby boy and we are supporting them with much needed items.



- **DIY Classes:** Due to COVID classes had to be paused for the safety of the community. A fall project was offered to the community as a 'pick-up supplies' and a video showing how to make the craft.
- **Stars of Hope:** We partner with Love, Inc. in adopting 10 families for Christmas. This year we were able to bless 10 families in need and collected 120 gifts to distribute to the families just in time for Christmas. We are thankful for the generosity of our members.







# STAY CONNECTED

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Increase in Facebook  
Campus Page Followers

129	382	598
Beecher	Cedar Lake	Dyer
264	191	
Highland	Munster	

Facebook Live Average Views  
per Week (Mar 2020-Nov 2020)

34	132	224
Beecher	Cedar Lake	Dyer
177	56	
Highland	Munster	



Increase in  
Instagram  
Followers

394

## WEBSITE DATA



**460,785**  
PAGE VIEWS

67.7%  
Viewed from Mobile

32.6%  
Viewed from Desktop

4.7%  
Viewed from Tablet

## ONLINE MINISTRY



ON AVERAGE, WE HAVE 681  
UNIQUE VIEWERS PER  
WEEKEND

## APP & TEXTING



2,519  
App Downloads

20,164  
Media Plays

People signed up to get a  
weekly text from their campus.

122  
Beecher  
LOCATIONS

360  
Cedar Lake

Locations  
J...  
1,214  
Dyer

292  
Highland

183  
Munster

Ab...  
Who we are

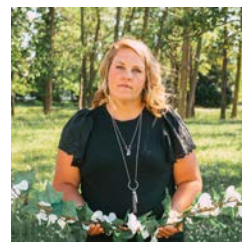
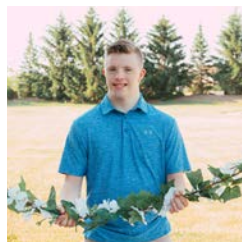
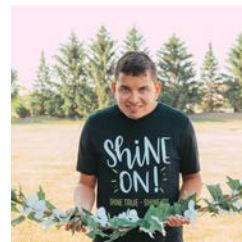
MESSAGE  
ARCHIVE

WEEKLY  
PROGRAM

# UNITY

Through our human eyes we see the flesh - skin color, hair style, glasses, choice of apparel, age - and insinuate economical status, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, etc. What if you were given a pair of goggles, that once you put them on, your eyes would see as God sees us?

During the Summer of 2020, we displayed The Unity Project. The vine represents our connection to one another, our unity. Through a partnership with Anthem Church of Hammond, and Faith Reformed Church and its special needs ministry, Reflectors, we stand for unity. Reconciliation starts when we take down the walls that divide us and see the connectedness of all people.







Acknowledgement: Unity was inspired by  
THE STRING PROJECT by Chelsea Nix & Mariano Cortez.

## OUR MISSION

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TO REACH  
THE **DISCONNECTED**  
AND GROW  
THE **CONNECTED**



## OUR VISION

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A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS  
ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN  
**RESTORING &  
TRANSFORMING** THE  
WORLD **ONE  
RELATIONSHIP AT A TIME**





