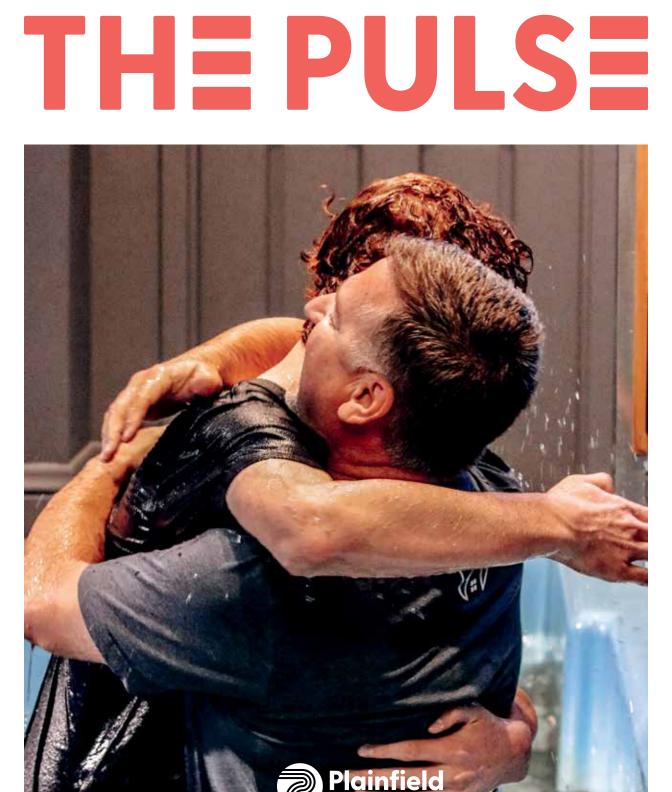
Summer 2024

Issue 01



# Contents

Introduction to The Pulse	3
WITH JESUS Finding Faith Through Friendship Josh's Journey	5
<b>A Place of Belonging</b> Perfect Fit Ministry	6
<b>A Tale of Compassion</b> How a Bible Study Transforms Lives	8
IN COMMUNITY Finding a Faith Community Maddox's Journey from Disconnect to Deep Connection	10
<b>ON MISSION</b> <b>Unveiling the Power of Paint</b> A Journey of Church Planting in Gurabo	12
<b>Beyond the Call of Care</b> Faith and Compassion in Therapy	14
Inspiration from a Friend	16
The Pulse Quiz	18
Highlighting the Interns at Plainfield Christian	19-20
Got a Story?	21
Check out the app!	22
Upcoming Events	23
Finances	24
Baptisms	25
Church Staff	26

# Introduction to The Pulse

This world is rigged for disappointment, and all of us have felt that nagging sensation, "Is this all there is? Surely there's more..." The good news is: Yes, there's more. So much more.

Jesus said that apart from him, life is hard-wired for frustration. In John 10:10 he says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." Our deepest desire is that you would experience the joy of being fully alive in Jesus.

So, what does it mean to be fully alive in Jesus?

Life with Jesus: We don't just want you to believe a set of doctrines; we want you to know the true and living Jesus.

Life in Community: You weren't meant to live out your faith alone; you were made to follow Jesus side-by-side with other people.

Life on Mission: God designed you for a purpose, and we want to help you find the mission He made you for.

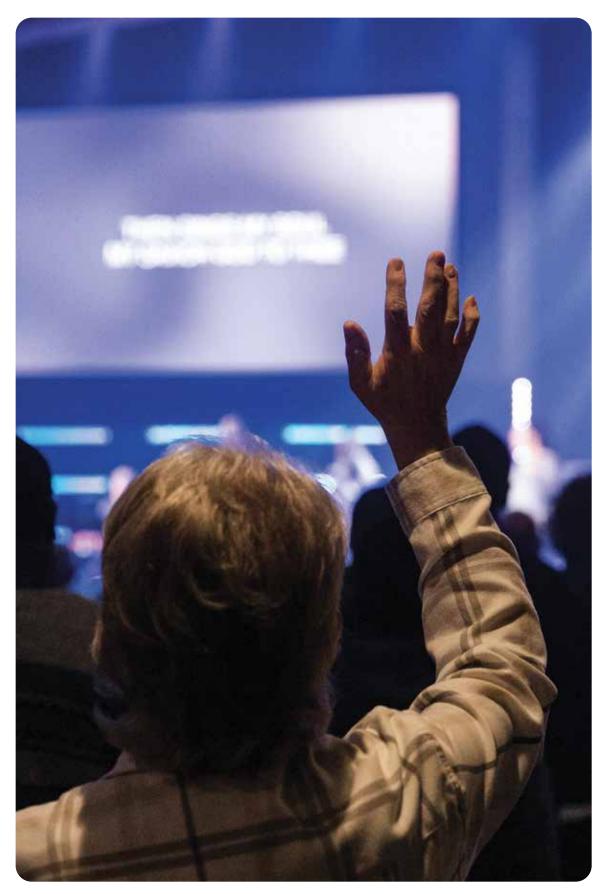
No matter your story or your stage of life, you can be fully alive: **with Jesus, in community, on mission.** 

In the good times and the bad, reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness in the past gives us confidence for the future. At Plainfield Christian Church, we love sharing the stories of how people in our church family are becoming fully alive in Jesus. Scripture tells us that we can live victoriously by the blood of Jesus and "the word of our testimony" (Revelation 12:11).

The Pulse is designed to tell the stories of God's faithfulness at Plainfield Christian Church to equip you to live confidently with Jesus, in community, and on mission. As we celebrate together what God is doing, we catch a clearer vision of what it means to be fully alive in the kingdom of God as Jesus intended.



Luke Proctor Senior Minister



### WITH JESUS

# Finding Faith Through Friendship

Josh's Journey

Josh Taylor's journey to faith is a testament to friendship and to God's unyielding desire to be present in our lives. Josh shared his miraculous transformation from a person searching in every other place for something to believe in, to a person heard, seen, and pursued by God.

"I did not grow up in the church," Josh begins, referencing his early exposure to different religious traditions within his family that weren't really talked about or practiced. The ambiguity of the faiths around him left him exploring other faith traditions. Josh didn't really understand Christianity, but from the conversations around him he thought it felt combative. He remembers thinking, "Let me live my own life!" But then his spiritual life took a turn. "All the stuff started to fall away, and I became a lot more agnostic," he recalls. This shift moved him into a period of deep despair, hopelessness and struggles with mental health.

During this time, his friend Aaron invited him to go on a mission trip and then to CIY. The purpose of the mission trip was to serve at a camp for individuals with disabilities. It was at camp that Josh witnessed selfless Christian service–not the combativeness he had witnessed before. He watched Christians serve side by side with joy as they did the hard work of digging a ditch. They were doing tough, meaningful work while loving those around them well. Witnessing this left Josh thinking that Christianity wasn't what he thought it was. "God used that first week to break down the barrier of my anger," Josh reflects, and as a result he became open to finding out who God really was.

The next turning point came during the second week of the trip as Josh attended CIY. During CIY Josh felt the presence of God fill the room and he prayed, "If this is you, let me know." Looking back at that moment Josh said, "I understood but wasn't ready to commit." He knew there was a path that led to baptism, but he needed to know and understand more.



When he returned from the trip, he attended Bible study groups and learned about who this Jesus really is. He committed to his walk with the Lord that October. It was a "profound act of friendship" that brought Josh to his encounter with God. "People think they have to argue you into faith," Josh shared, yet his friend simply invited him to share an experience.

In the years that have followed, Josh's journey has been marked with growth, reflection, doubts, and questions. He candidly talked about the struggles of facing a global pandemic. Through it all, Josh trusts the ways in which God works in each of our lives. He shares some advice based on what he's learned: "Pour yourself into someone else. Stop focusing so attentively on yourself and instead find ways to focus on others. Take someone out for a meal or coffee and ask about their problems and listen well."

Josh has found comfort in different seasons from passages in Ecclesiastes and Job. He finds peace in the acknowledgement of life's mysteries and the assurance that God's wisdom surpasses our understanding.

As Josh looks back on his journey, he recognizes the profound impact of friendship and the simple act of an invitation that brought him to Jesus. He credits Aaron for being a faithful friend. "Sometimes just being a friend is enough," Josh says.

Josh's story of his journey to faith is a compelling testimony to the power of friendship and the relentless pursuit of truth. His life serves as a reminder of the power of invitation and the reality that God can use the invitation you extend to allow someone to encounter Him in a life-changing way.

#### SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN WETZEL



# A Place of Belonging

Perfect Fit Ministry

### "Before Perfect Fit we couldn't attend church because no one understood my child's needs."

### -KARISSA

Perfect Fit, our special needs ministry here at Plainfield Christian Church, is designed to create a warm, safe, and engaging environment that allows kids to encounter Jesus and the love that He has for them. Each family should have the opportunity to live with Jesus, in community, and on mission, no matter their circumstances, set of needs, or stage of life. Perfect Fit is one of the ways that PCC strives to walk out this mission alongside families.

### With Jesus

Every individual was created to have a personal relationship with the Lord, and we are excited to be able to see those relationships grow and blossom on Sunday mornings. These beautiful relationships develop both in the Perfect Fit room and out in classrooms and the Treehouse. In the Perfect Fit room, we have modified lessons, a craft, time to play and a time of worship; all specifically designed to introduce the kids to and teach them about Jesus.

We believe that Jesus cares deeply for kids of all ages and abilities. All throughout the Bible, it is clear that the Lord cares for the vulnerable and expects His body to do the same (Zech. 7:10, Psalm 146:9, Psalm 82:3-4). Our Perfect Fit ministry strives to partner with the Lord to help kids come to know Him and further deepen their relationship with Him. We also desire to provide a loving and secure environment where kids can experience His abundant love and grace as well.

### In Community

We also believe that every person is created to be in relationship with the people around them, and this includes both parents and children. Perfect Fit supports families as they build community at PCC. Knowing that their kids are in good hands, having fun, and learning about the Lord, parents are then able to dive into the Bible, worship and prayer wholeheartedly and invest in their relationships with fellow believers.

"Perfect Fit has allowed us to be a part of PCC with peace of mind that our kids' needs are being met in a loving and caring way. Judgment can sometimes seep into an environment when it comes to kids with special needs, and we have not experienced this with Perfect Fit." - Erin

Perfect Fit also encourages kids to build relationships with their peers and their buddy volunteers. Buddies are volunteers who are paired one-on-one with a kiddo in Perfect Fit. Our buddies intentionally build relationships over time, seeking to learn how to best support their new friends. Our goal is for our kids to see familiar faces every Sunday when they walk through the door. This fosters an environment where bonds can develop more easily as kids know who and what to expect each Sunday morning.

"My son's favorite part of Sunday mornings is playing with his buddies. His face lights up when we pull into the parking lot." - Karissa

### **On Mission**

Perfect Fit is also focused on being on mission. In other words, we desire to come alongside and help equip and encourage our church family to use their God-given gifts to the fullest through service to Him. This ministry may be a perfect fit for the specific gifts God has given you! If you or someone you know has a sweet spot for friends with special needs and is passionate about helping kiddos develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus, we would love to have that conversation! Check out the <u>Serve at PCC</u> page on our website to learn more about what it means to serve with Perfect Fit and connect with a staff member. We look forward to serving alongside you!

#### SUBMITTED BY LINDY RUTH RADER

"Before we moved to Indiana, we stopped attending church in person because no church would take us in."





### **A Tale of Compassion** How a Bible Study Transforms Lives

In the busy building of Plainfield Christian Church, a remarkable journey of faith and compassion is unfolding, touching the lives of many. At the heart of this narrative is a group of dedicated women whose vision and empathy has sparked profound transformation within the community.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study has emerged as a beacon of hope for ladies seeking spiritual growth and has been especially successful in reaching out beyond the church walls. Through a blend of video-driven sessions and intimate discussions, the latest study dove deep into Jesus' profound compassion for those who are marginalized, resonating with participants on a refreshing level.

Central to the function of this Tuesday gathering are the group leaders, tasked with nurturing connections and providing support to their table of participants. Early in January, before the study began, Becky Weaver, one of the co-leaders, received a text from her other co-leader which read "Praying for new girls and new baptisms." Humbly, Becky acknowledges that she brushed it off, thinking "That's nice" and "Good for her." Little did any of the team realize how God would work in the weeks ahead.

It began with a chance encounter at a local Goodwill store. Preparing for a "Galentine's Day" party, one of the table leaders struck up a conversation with the cashier. As they talked, the cashier was extended an invitation to the Tuesday Bible study. With tears, she responded that no one had shown her such kindness before and was deeply moved by this leader's invitation.

The cashier responded to the invitation and arrangements were made to pick her up for the next session. Through further discussion it was discovered that the woman was living in the woods behind a well-known shopping center with others in our community. All the group leaders prayed fervently that she would show up. Sure enough, she did! When the leader picked her up, the cashier had a brand-new woman's study Bible! Surprised, the leader asked and was told that her boyfriend had found it the night before while dumpster diving. During the study, the woman was greatly moved by the warmth and acceptance she experienced. Her tears flowed freely as she listened to the video, clutching her newly acquired Bible found amidst discarded treasures.

This new friend was also invited to the "Galentine's Day" party where she continued to experience an outpouring of love that helped spark a newfound faith. Just a few weeks later her faith culminated in a decision to be baptized. This moment served as a powerful reminder of the boundless potential for grace and transformation within the community. In 25 years of coordinating the Tuesday Bible Study, Becky believes they had only witnessed four baptisms. None of the team of leaders realized in January that in the coming months they would witness a spike of attendance and experience three baptisms by March. God is clearly moving in and through the prayers of these leaders and using their study to reach new women.

As the story continues to unfold, it becomes clear that this is more than just a tale of compassion; it is a testament to the power of community, empathy, and a faith that is fully alive.

SUBMITTED BY BECKY WEAVER



# **Finding a Faith Community** Maddox's Journey from Disconnect to Deep Connection

Growing up as a pastor's kid in an area church, Maddox Law was familiar with the rhythms of faith from an early age. Yet somehow amid the familiarity of church retreats and weekly services, he grappled with a sense of detachment. He attended these events faithfully but looking back, Maddox realized his youthful perspective limited his understanding of a real relationship with God.

A move to Plainfield schools in fourth grade marked a pivotal moment for Maddox as it distanced him from the close-knit community he had known. A few years later, at the start of Maddox's high school career, the COVID pandemic further disrupted any sense of community he had built. Confined to Sunday mornings in his living room, staring at a screen with his family, Maddox felt confused, longing for a tangible connection with others.

In the aftermath of COVID's chaos, Maddox hoped for new friendships upon his return to school. However, the friends he found didn't share his interest in Jesus which led him down a difficult path, farther from faith in the Lord.

In 2022 Maddox found himself navigating the terrible trap of self-comparison and self-criticism, a journey familiar to many. During this time, he was thankfully able to find renewed hope and joy by returning to church with his parents. He rediscovered the transformative power of community, but there was one thing still lacking: he yearned for connection with students his own age. An unexpected invitation to join PCC for their CIY MOVE high school trip served as a catalyst for community in Maddox's life. It provided an opportunity to reconnect with some childhood friends and encounter a lively group of students who also loved the Lord. Here at PCC, he finally felt like he had found his place as he developed genuine friendships and was challenged to use his gifts to serve the kingdom.

Fueled by this newfound sense of purpose, Maddox eagerly dove into volunteering with the Middle School Ministry and quickly established himself as a pillar of support for younger students. Others have commended his dedication and selflessness, citing his tireless efforts in various capacities like assisting with projects or stepping in as a Sunday morning volunteer.

Currently Maddox is planning to attend Taylor University where he intends to study Worship Ministry. As his journey continues, he carries with him the lessons learned and the bonds built through his CIY Move experience. His heart is filled with a passion for service and a steadfast commitment to cultivating authentic connections. It will be exciting to see how the Lord continues to lead Maddox through his preparation and in his readiness to serve the kingdom.

#### SUBMITTED BY MADDOX LAW









### **ON MISSION**

### **Unveiling the Power of Paint** A Journey of Church Planting in Gurabo

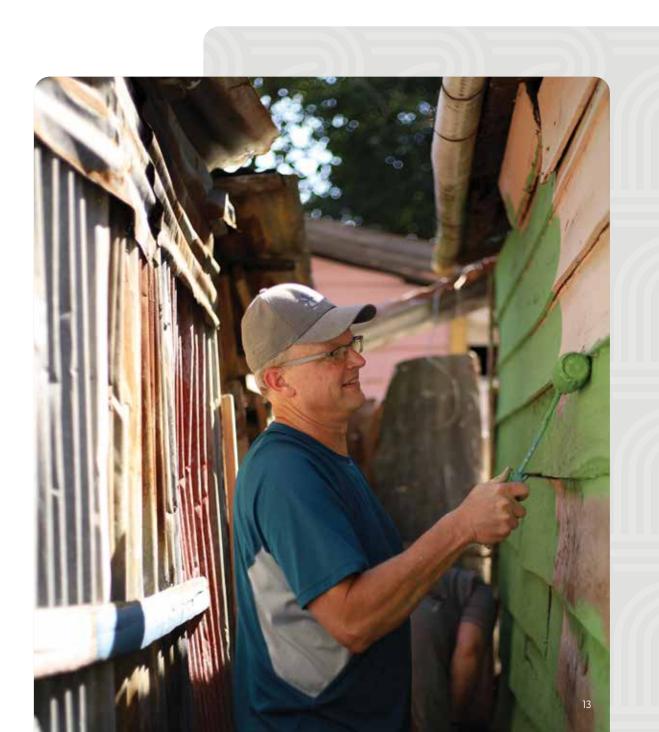
Lisa, the Trip Coordinator at GO Ministries, once said to me, "Mission trips are church planting." At first, her words puzzled me. How could painting houses lead to planting churches? But as I embarked on this trip to Gurabo, Dominican Republic, on behalf of Plainfield Christian Church to GO Ministries, I discovered the profound connection between painting and planting.

Arriving in Gurabo, we encountered a community divided by a stream, with houses on either side. Our mission became clear as we learned that new churches were sprouting up amidst these homes. Painting houses took on a deeper significance as we realized it was not just about aesthetics but about fostering the growth of these budding congregations.

During our trip, we became proficient painters, adding a fresh coat of paint to many homes. But beyond the physical transformation, our actions sparked curiosity among the local people. They approached Pastor Elvis, the Network Leader in Gurabo, asking about the presence of Americans and seeking assistance with their own homes. This opened doors for Pastor Elvis to extend invitations to church gatherings and share the message of Jesus. While we enjoyed the sunny weather, tried authentic food, and discussed discipleship strategies, it was witnessing the impact of our painting endeavors on church planting that left a lasting impression. Gurabo, a community in Santiago, Dominican Republic, is the canvas for our partnership with GO Ministries to establish ten churches in the next five years.

As we prepare for our upcoming mission trip in October, we extend an invitation to you to join us in this transformative journey. Together, let's uncover the power of paint and plant seeds of faith in Gurabo.

### SUBMITTED BY RILEY WEAVER, GLOBAL IMPACT MINISTER



# Beyond the Call of Care

# Faith and Compassion in Therapy

How many times have you had the "feeling" that something wasn't right and that you needed to act? Kayla Weaver, a Physical Therapist at Hendrick's Regional Health, knows that feeling. God used that feeling to prompt Kayla that something was seriously wrong when one of her long-time patients uncharacteristically missed two appointments.

Kim is one of Kayla and her colleague Laura Mason's long-time patients. Kim started to see Kayla after she had a brain event. She'd been coming for therapy for over a year when she missed an appointment for the first time.

There's a routine to how the front office manages patient appointments. Kayla shared that when a patient misses an appointment, the front office calls. When Kim missed her appointment, Kayla and Laura thought it was strange but they let it go. The front office called Kim and left a message. When Kim missed a second appointment Kayla and Laura acted. The front office called Kim again, but it went to voicemail again. Obtaining emergency contacts is also part of the routine so Kayla called but she only got voicemail then as well. Kayla and Laura began to get concerned. Kayla remembers asking her boss if she could call the police!



When you pray for people, you remember your conversations more. Kayla shared that, "we had been together for so long that I remembered her talking about her cousin Kendra." Kayla called the emergency contact to see if she had Kendra's number. "Thank God, she did!" she recalls. Kayla was disappointed when, again, she got a voicemail, but she left a message in hopes that someone would call her back. Kendra's husband did. He went to the apartment and found Kim on the floor unable to get up. Kayla shared that "she'd been there since Monday afternoon." The ambulance came and Kim was admitted to the hospital where she was diagnosed with Rhabdomyolysis, a serious muscular condition.

How had Kim survived that long alone in her apartment? Kayla knows that "God is in the details." Not only had God made sure they had all the phone numbers they needed, but he had also planned for there to be liquid on the floor near where Kim fell. She had been able to reach cans of soda from Monday to Thursday! Those kept her alive until help came. When help did come Kim simply asked, "Where have you been?" Kim knew help would come.

"I think I have always known that God is with us, but this story proves it. We don't know what will come in our days, but God already does." Kayla prays for her patients and her work with them. Her work "requires a lot of patience and compassion as people are usually in pain or, as in Kim's case...and many others who suffer neurological conditions or events such as a stroke...feel very hopeless and depressed." It's challenging to have just the right words at the right time so Kayla continually prays that God would give her the right words. "I think I have always known that God is with us, but this story proves it. We don't know what will come in our days, but God already does." Kayla knows "there's not a day that goes by where God is not involved in my work. Sometimes I get to share my faith verbally, but I know without a shadow of a doubt that it is always shared, even without words. And obviously that's the Holy Spirit through me."

#### SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN WETZEL



# Inspiration from a Friend

When I heard about our church focus of 'fully alive with Jesus, in community and on mission,' I couldn't help but think of a long-time friend and a conversation I had with him just a few years ago. At that time our conversation had centered on some grave news: he had received a diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis and the doctor had given him only a year or two to live. The purpose of our visit was to discuss some ideas he had for his funeral, and he wanted my help to execute them. It turned out to be one of the most interesting conversations I have ever experienced.

Ron Padgett became a friend of mine back in 1979 when I arrived to serve on staff at Plainfield Christian Church. Part of my role was as Children's Minister and Ron and his wife, Connie, were serving in the Preschool Department leading our Extended Sessions—the time between Sunday School and the worship services. This was their ministry for several years and later they went on to other areas. After his retirement from his job, Ron continued to help anywhere he could. I got to know him even better when he volunteered to assist our previous treasurer. More recently he had been participating in the Sunday afternoon services at Cumberland Trace. Health issues have altered some of these activities, but Ron hasn't backed off from everything!



What impressed me most in my conversation with Ron was his attitude about facing eternity and life with Jesus-his joy and hope were evident, and they still are. And even more, I was moved by his intent to use his funeral as a testimony for Jesus to friends who weren't followers of Christ at that time. I thought then, "That's how I want to be when facing my last days!"

So now, seven years later-still anticipating heaven-how has Ron been living out his faith and how has he remained "on mission"? As many others have done, after retirement he gathered former co-workers from his workplaces to meet regularly for breakfast and stay in touch. Those gatherings became moments for reminiscing or reveling in their experiences.

When Ron received his diagnosis, he decided to ask these buddies if they would mind if he offered a prayer before their meal. They agreed and within a few weeks he took another step. "Would you be willing for us to study the Bible while we're together?" Most were okay with that idea.

I caught up with Ron recently over lunch to see how he was doing and to ask about his group of men. His illness has progressed, his activities are measured, but his joy is shining as bright as before and he's thankful for what he's experienced through their meetings. All of these men are deepening their faith and testimonies. Ron is not the only leader of the group, but when he is able, he prepares extensive Bible lessons on various topics and deals with their real-life issues. His co-leader fills in when Ron is not feeling well. His friends decided to move their meetings to lunchtime because he struggles in the mornings. Ron's best friend and co-founder of the group decided to fix up his garage for their gatherings, furnishing it with couches and recliners. The men either bring their own lunch or their host prepares food for them.

One of this group of former electricians, engineers, foremen, and apprentices has gone on to be with the Lord, but those who remain continue to grow in their faith and share with others on a deeper level. Ron is grateful that their initial mealtimes—which were filled with old stories, tall tales, politics and discussion of news items are now centered on studying the Bible.

Ron's anticipation of life in heaven served as a model of hope for me during my own health crisis and diagnosis of liver cancer. I remembered Ron's joy in the midst of a storm and wanted to have the same peace throughout my own journey. Thankfully, I experienced that peace and now we both confidently rest in Paul's familiar words, "to live is Christ, to die is gain."

### SUBMITTED BY BOB BOSWELL





### **The Pulse Quiz**

Answers on page 21.

1. How many Home Groups do we have at PCC?	2. How many Bible colleges are represented by the church staff?	3. How many people serve each week on the Production Team for Sunday services?	4. How many kids are enrolled in our PCC Preschool?
a. 16 b. 34 c. 48 d. 60	a. 3 b. 5 c. 4 d. 7	a. 9 b. 6 c. 10 d. 5	a. 85 b. 90 c. 105 d. 125
5. What is the average attendance for the monthly Faith Keepers luncheon?	6. What percentage of giving to PCC is done online?	7. How many communion stations are located throughout the building?	8. About how many volunteers are needed to pull off VBS?
a. 125 b. 80 c. 150 d. 110	a. 32% b. 40% c. 56% d. 68%	a. 10 b. 11 c. 12 d. 14	a. 175 b. 225 c. 240 d. 250
9. How many people have experienced the ROOTED study over the past 12 months?	10. How many people serve on our Sunday Morning Experience Team?	11. What is the average number of middle school students at Pier14 each Sunday morning?	12. How many churches does GO Ministries hope to plant in Gurabo over the next 5 years?
a. 97 b. 134 c. 152 d. 186	a. 128 b. 140 c. 85 d. 100	a. 60 b. 70 c. 80 d. 90	a. 8 b. 12 c. 16 d. 10

# Highlighting the Interns at Plainfield Christian

Our High School Internship Program started in response to students who expressed a desire to pursue vocational ministry both locally and globally. Last summer, after our annual high school trip to CIY, a small group of students felt they were being called toward ministry. They decided to dedicate their afternoons to exploring what the daily experience of ministry life was like. Over the last school year, each intern was paired with a minister to shadow for a month, rotating through various ministries of interest such as Perfect Fit, Worship and NextGen. The interns were given assigned readings and had monthly discussions related to various aspects of kingdom work. Most of our interns also learned to write and deliver a sermon to their fellow high school students. Through all of these experiences, the hope for our Internship Program is to help high school students discern God's calling, experience various ministry opportunities, and begin to see how God has uniquely gifted them to be kingdom workers!

SUBMITTED BY DERIC SKINNER, HIGH SCHOOL MINISTER

### Hannah Arkins:

Hannah's role as an intern differed from day to day as she served in several different ministries. A lot of her time was spent in the Children's Center creating projects to increase the Biblical knowledge of our kids and shadowing Krista Troupe. After high school Hannah is attending Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee, majoring in Preaching and Youth Ministry to become a Children's/Youth Minister.





### Lance White:

Lance helped with stage design and stage setup along with planning and learning what goes into a Sunday morning. He also learned the ins and outs of the everyday life of a worship minister. Lance plans to go to school at Point University online to get his bachelor's degree in Christian Ministries. He hopes to find a job as a Worship Minister or High School Minister.

### Aja Utley:

During January and February, Aja spent the majority of her time creating a large-scale display of the books of the Bible that is used in kids' worship on Sunday mornings. She also wrote a sermon that she recently preached to the high school group in March. Aja's post-graduation plans are to attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas, this fall. She will be majoring in Biology on a Pre-Med track with a secondary major in Religion.





### **Carter Shaw:**

During his internship, Carter jumped in to help the NextGen ministries with whatever was needed! Carter also had the opportunity to write and deliver a sermon to the high school group last fall. His plans after graduation include attending Taylor University to study Christian Ministries and letting God lead him down the path he has set for him.

### Zach Bigelow:

Zach spent a lot of his time at the Pier shadowing Deric Skinner. He recently worked with Deric to write and preach a sermon to his fellow students. He also helped with renovations happening in the Pier. After high school, Zach will be attending Taylor University to major in Ministry.





### **Easton Gongwer:**

Easton helped plan future events for the middle and high school ministries and assisted with renovations and clean-up at the Pier. He will be attending Butler University in the fall where he is studying Pre-Pharmacy and will be there for 6 years as he gets his Doctorate of Pharmacy.

### Aaron Troupe:

Aaron interned with the Production Team at PCC and learned to operate the various equipment involved in the Production ministry. Aaron will go on to Ball State University this fall to study computer science and plans to go on to work in cybersecurity.



# Got a Story?

We are all enriched and encouraged by stories. They give us a glimpse of how God is at work in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ and they challenge us to stop and reflect on how He is working in each of us. This edition of The Pulse is an introductory example of what we envision for our future church publications: sharing the stories from the heart of our people. It will replace the Lifeline and is planned to be produced a couple times each year. We urge you to keep your eyes and ears open to the stories around you as you spend time with Jesus, in community, and on mission. If there's a story on your heart, we'd love to hear it! Please email it to <u>thelink@plainfieldchristian.com</u>.



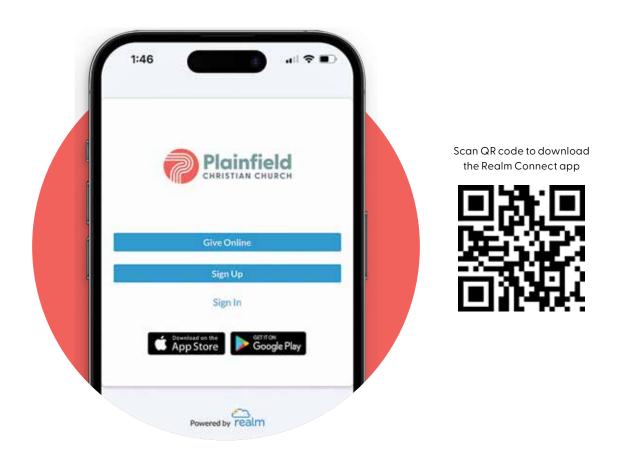
### **Answers to The Pulse Quiz:**

1. C	2. B		4. C
5. D	6. C	7. C	8. B
9. C	10. A	11. C	12. D

# **Check Out the App!**

The Realm Connect app is everything you need to know about Plainfield Christian Church, all in one place. Use the Connect app to learn about and sign up for events, communicate with your groups and serving teams, see volunteer opportunities, and access the church directory. Upload a picture of you or your family on your profile page as your first step in using PCC's Connect app!

To get started, download the Realm Connect app in the App Store. Need to create a new login? Choose 'Sign Up' at the bottom of the home screen and scan the QR code below. From there, choose 'Sign Up.' You'll enter basic information that keeps our app secure, and once approved, you're ready to go! Check out your groups, giving history, and upcoming events—for you and your family, all in one place!



### Other resources at plainfieldchristian.com





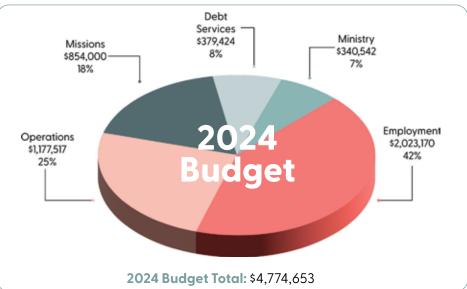


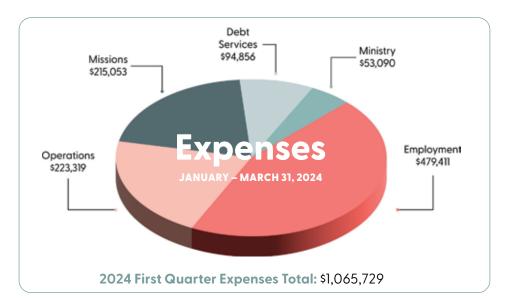
# **Upcoming Events**

June, July and August 2024

CIY Move	June 17 - June 22
High School Drive-in Movie	June 23
Honduras Trip	June 29 - July 6
Camp Allendale	July 14 - July 20
Middle School Summer Cure	July 21
College Age Retreat	July 28 - August 1
Starting Point	August 4
Sermon Series: Thinking Like a Christiar	August 11 - September 1
High School Programming Begins	August 11
Faith Keepers Canada Trip	August 17-August 24

# **Finances**





Mortgage Information	Average Weekly Attendance		
Mortgage Beginning of 2024	\$	1,213,560	Attendance
Mortgage Balance as of 3/31/24	\$	1,107,119	January
Change in Mortgage Balance	\$	106,441	1301
Source of Mortgage Paydown:			February <b>1383</b>
Amount paid by Budget	\$	61,975	1505
Amount paid by gifts to The Unfolding Story	\$	44,466	March
Mortgage Paydown Total	\$	106,441	1546

## **Baptisms in 2024**

(through June 1, 2024)

Every baptism is a decision. A defining moment. The declaration that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. "I accept Him as my Lord and Savior." Buried with Christ, raised to new life. But the journey towards this sacred moment always has a story.

In April on Baptism Sunday, as the congregation worshipped and multiple faith journeys began, there was a particularly moving story quietly unfolding. Entering the baptistry was a daughter, followed by her mother.

Avery Barton, a high school junior, started attending Plainfield Christian with her dad, step-mother, and step-siblings in elementary school. She grew in her faith through VBS, camp, youth group, CIY trips and retreats. Through these formative years Avery had been praying for her mother, Tara Cooper, who had not grown up in a family of faith. Church was foreign to her, and she was hesitant to attend.

Since Avery volunteers in the nursery during the 9:15 service, she decided to invite her mom to attend the 10:45 worship service with her. About a year ago, Tara decided to give it a try, slowly at first, then regularly. She found the experience uplifting and eventually, convicting. Tara began to ask Avery questions and a couple of months ago told Avery that when the time came, she wanted Avery to baptize her. That opportunity came Sunday, April 28.

So, as the congregation sang and rejoiced through many decisions for Christ, a daughter reached out her hand and welcomed her mother into the baptismal waters, raising her up to new life in Jesus. There's no question that joy and tears followed. Tara and Avery's story is just one of the many that God wove together and brought to fruition on Baptism Sunday!





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# THE PULSE



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