

COOPERSVILLE

REFORMED CHURCH

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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A WORD FROM JOHN

Being a part of this multi-generational faith community in 2022 has been a tremendous joy to my soul. It appears that God is reclaiming for himself a church with great spiritual life in an area that has appreciated it more than you may know. Perhaps we are finding our purpose as a church located in the heart of Coopersville, Michigan. We seem to have a healthy balance of rich tradition and a creative approach to innovation as a church in the 21st century.

The evidence God's faithfulness is all around us. Stories of spiritual transformation and renewal have become our new norm. Together, we have displayed a great commitment to the great commandments and great commission in the city of Coopersville and beyond.

Remember, we exist to make more and better disciples, and we accomplish that by loving God, loving people, and living sent.

I praise God for the unity that we have found in 2022 through the Holy Spirit. God has positioned us well in this community. By His grace we are making an eternal impact.

Thank you to every staff person who has put in countless hours serving God according to your gifts. Your work has laid a foundation for the Gospel to spread. Thank you to every elder and deacon who poured themselves out as a drink offering this year. Finally, thank you to every volunteer who gave of their time and selves.

CRC is the place it is today because of every single one of you.

Friends, I pray this annual report serves you well and leads you to marvel at what God has done through all of you for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Glory to God, for He alone is worthy of our worship!

Pastor John
Lead Pastor at CRC



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“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:23-25  
~~~~~

EVIDENCES OF GRACE

What A Year. 2022 was a year of God's blessings. While we are excited to see what God is yet to do, we also want to recognize what God has already done. How has God shown us that He is moving in Coopersville? He shows us through His "Evidences of Grace." These are the quantifiable ways that God shows us we are heading in the right direction.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control."

-Galatians 5:22-23

God has made Himself evident through the abundance of fruit He has given us by the Holy Spirit. These things cannot be measured by graphs on a page. Yet, we can still observe His "Evidences of Grace" which can be measured.

These pages are how God has continually blessed the ministry here at CRC.

It is not our own glory we seek, but God's alone!

Average Weekly Attendance:

In 2020 - 243

In 2021 - 289

In 2022 - 321

Baptisms in 2022:



New coffee machines in the lobby:

One. The best one. ❤️

New Members This Year

Thirty-Two Adults.

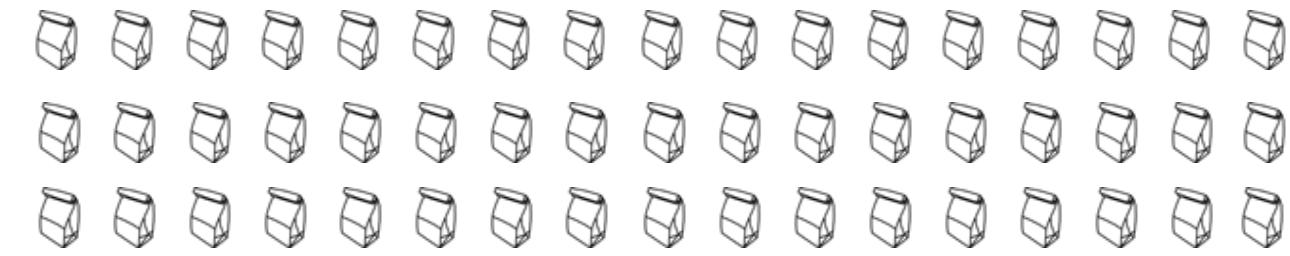
Five Children.

As of November, 2022.

Kids Fed by Hand2Hand Ministries:

Sixty-Seven.

As of November, 2022. This number is growing.



Staff who got sick after their retreat:

At least five. Maybe more.

Names written on the "Who's Your

One" board:

One Hundred Seventy-Three

Yes, we counted. Yes, it is possible we counted wrong.

Our Facebook content was viewed:

33,256 times.

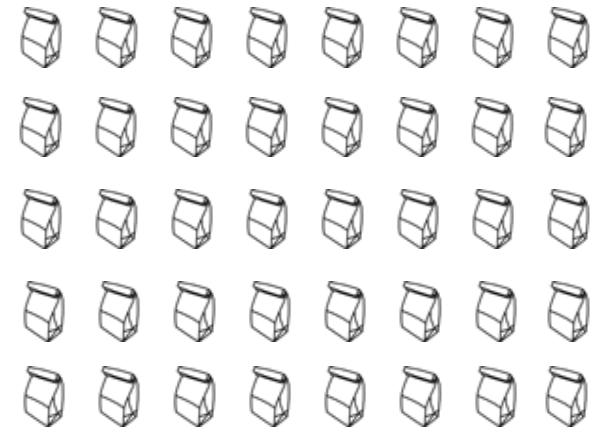
Our Instagram content was viewed:

39,157 times.

January 1, 2022 - November 23, 2022

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus speaking in Matthew 28:18-20



Amount raised at the Thanksgiving

Eve Service for Hand2Hand::

Seven Thousand Two Hundred
Eighty Dollars.

As of November 30, 2022.

People in community groups:

Over two hundred.

49 YOUTH LIVED SENT IN COSTA RICA.



OH YEAH, 9 ADULTS
WENT WITH THEM...

With thirty thousand dollars raised
in one night.



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

As we reflect on this past year of Discipleship Ministry, there is so much to celebrate and thank God for. We continue to see an increase in the number of adults who are connected to community groups of some kind, from young adults to seniors. These groups serve to train, equip, and encourage us to live life together.

They cultivate our growth in both love and knowledge of Jesus Christ, and help us discover what it means to "live sent" where God has planted us.

The launch of the "Who's Your One" movement has increased accountability, authenticity, and continues to teach us what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. As a result, we have witnessed growth not only for those who are discipling, but those who are being discipled. It is only through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that God is able to use us to impact others. What a gift it is to partner with God in this process.

Our desire throughout this next year is to continually seek to join God in what **He** is already blessing; to seek Him first. We desire to center everything we do around

Jesus: What Jesus did and did not do, what he said, and did not say, how he lived, and how he has called us to live.

Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples. Throughout this next year we want to continue to narrow our focus when it comes to discipleship, by developing a concise pathway, with clear next steps for growth in making more and better disciples!

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

To God be the glory!

Heather Mekkes
Director of
Discipleship Ministries

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

MOVEMENT AT CRC

We have seen God moving and working in our church and community in the past year. We continue to stand in awe of the many ways that God is choosing to bless our church!

May we continue to seek Him first in all that we do, and make more and better disciples!



Women's Retreat 2022!



Men's Retreat 2022.

- 200+ people in community groups.
- 50+ women attended IF:Gathering.
- 85+ adults attended Men's & Women's Retreats.
- 170+ people joined the "Who's Your One" movement, including a 30 day fast.
- 6 NEW facilitators & 4 NEW small groups.
- 30+ NEW small group members.

VINEYARD YOUNG ADULTS

THE VINEYARD RETREAT

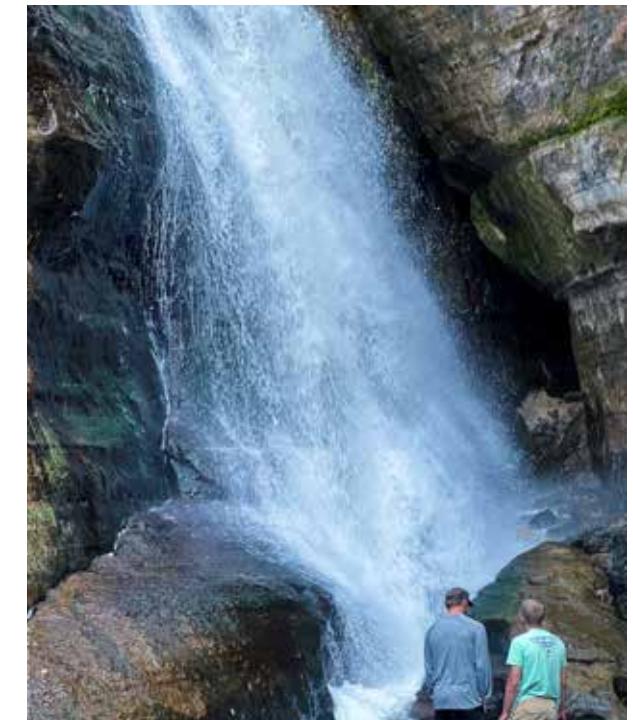
16 young adults retreated to the wilderness of the Upper Peninsula. We slept on the ground, jumped off cliffs into freezing water, saw the Northern Lights, and prayed for hours.

These memories will last a lifetime, and we are thankful to God for His blessing.



Vineyard praying on their summer 2022 retreat.

Waterfall view from the Vineyard retreat.



FASTING IN THE WILDERNESS

Our time in the UP created memories which will last forever. The time spent in this wild place was a form of fasting from the chaos of life back home. Through prayer, worship, and reading the Word, we found rest in God, and His glory in His creation.



End of the year party for the Vineyard.

VINEYARD YOUNG ADULTS

In September of 2020, the Vineyard met for the first time as a small group of young adults. By the end of that first school year, we were averaging 16 regular students. As of November, 2022, that average number has grown to 32. As we reflect on this last year, this is something to celebrate and thank God for. He continually shows us that there is a need for this ministry in our community.

When I consider this last year, I am thankful for the young adults who show their faithfulness on a consistent basis. God has continually humbled us as a community to look to Him more. This year at the Vineyard, we are thinking deeper thoughts about our Creator. We are praising Him more boldly in our worship. We are relying on Him more in our prayer.



The Vineyard eating before a sunset beach worship night.



Vineyard prayer and worship night

There are many things that I have noticed in our young adults this year. One of them is their desire to grow.

They want to grow in a deeper relationship with their Heavenly Father. Over the next year (or two, or three) we aim to provide the tools to assist them in this growth. This means more Bible studies, this means more community groups, this means more time spent together in prayer, worship, and the Word.

It seems to be a simple endeavor. Meeting with people who are in a similar context, and who are authentic, leads to a deeper community. When we meet, we are not just meeting to "hangout". We are meeting to know the Body of Christ more. When we do this, we come to know Jesus himself more.

Connor Maki
Director of
Young Adults



Crossroads (middle school) on their 2022 Fall Retreat.



One Way (high school) students singing God's praise!



Pastor in Costa Rica praying over a student.

YOUTH MINISTRIES MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

This year, I am thanking God for showing up in big ways. I say that with honest gratitude. I spent hours praying about how to run youth group, and then I did what I believed God asked me to do. And you know what? He was always there.

He was at One Way and Crossroads every single week. He was there in the public school as the students ran into First Priority and gathered around the flag pole to pray with their peers. He was there for all the fun at the Garden. God showed

up in amazing ways at our winter retreats, as kids gave their lives to Christ. He traveled before, behind, and all around us as we embarked on our journey to Costa Rica.

At the end of every ministry season, I cry because I am grateful for God's faithfulness to us, for the incredible kids He sends our way, for those who have been introduced to Jesus, for those whose faith has grown, and for the awesome leaders He has chosen to serve our youth (and maybe because I am completely exhausted).

This year, we're joining God in taking chances and living life to the full; those are our themes for One Way and Crossroads this year. We are tapping into the abundant life Jesus promises in John 10.

I am celebrating the joy and energy students bring to youth group and joining them in stepping into who God has created them to be, not who the world tells them they should be. I'm encouraging them to take a chance and join God on His mission in Coopersville. For some that may mean taking a chance that God is real and investigating this God who really does love them. For others it means taking a chance and sharing their faith with a friend. We're all called to step out in faith. We were not given a spirit of fear and timidity, but a spirit of love, power, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). After all, when we ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, we have the ACTUAL SPIRIT OF GOD living inside us. Is there anything we can't do?

YOUTH MINISTRIES

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Today I am trusting God to create real-life change in our youth. There are a lot of statistics that say 60-80% of our students will leave the Church after high school. I am trusting and believing confidently that this will not be the case for our students. I am trusting that while they are in CRC Youth Ministry, they will encounter the Holy Spirit and their lives will be changed. I am trusting that they will fall more in love with Jesus, that they will be disciples who make disciples, and that the next generation of the Church will be vibrant and strong.

Our kids are amazing, all the way from sixth graders with endless energy to seniors in high school who are seeking the Lord with deep questions. Talk to them! I promise you will be blessed by what they have to say!

Dori Keller
Director of Youth
Ministries



A year holds more than pages can tell! These photos are a snapshot of our time together. From worship to games, kick-off to graduation, this year has been an incredible gift from God!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



The kids at VBS singing God's praise!

When I look back at the past year, I am thankful for the many ways I have seen God working in the lives of our families and children. It has been so neat to see the kids and their families connecting with each other by showing up on Sundays, Wednesdays, and to VBS, all while inviting their friends to join. There has been a contagious joy and excitement from our kids as they learn more and grow in Jesus.

I am especially thankful for the many faithful leaders who serve our kids. They know and love Jesus and want the kids to also know and love Jesus.

They are building relationships with the kids, connecting them to Christ, and cultivating their hearts towards Him through God's Word. It is a joy to be a part of it all. The many volunteers that serve each week are vital to the life of Children's Ministry here at CRC.

I am excited to come alongside the work God is already doing. It is a joy to watch families come together and grow in their relationship with Jesus. I wholeheartedly believe discipleship happens the best in the home. We desire to help and encourage families to find out what that looks like. We are raising up disciples for the next generation.



Every week at WOW the kids lead in worship!

There is no greater joy than to watch families grow in their faith together. I am thankful I get to be a part of that.

I am looking ahead and trusting God to continue to work in and through the lives of each family and kid who steps foot in Coopersville Reformed Church. I will continue to pray, watch, encourage, and be a part of their growth and love for Jesus Christ. Each week the kids are learning

important Biblical truths that they can take with them, hold tightly to and share with others. I am excited to watch them grow and shine. I am praying and trusting God to do more than I could even ask or imagine; not only in their lives, but mine as well.

I know that He will, because I have already seen Him do it this last year.



More kids leading their friends in worship at WOW!



Playing games outside at VBS!



Learning Bible stories outside during VBS.

WHAT WE'VE SEEN

142 kids enrolled in Vacation Bible School.

19 Salvations.

100 kids enrolled in WOW.

80+ volunteers serving in Nursery, Little Tykes, KidsZone, VBS, and WOW.

A SWEET STORY

At WOW we have talked about how we are created in the image of God. One night, the kids were looking into their little mirrors we gave them. I told them, "You can look in this mirror every day and when you see yourself in it you can say..."

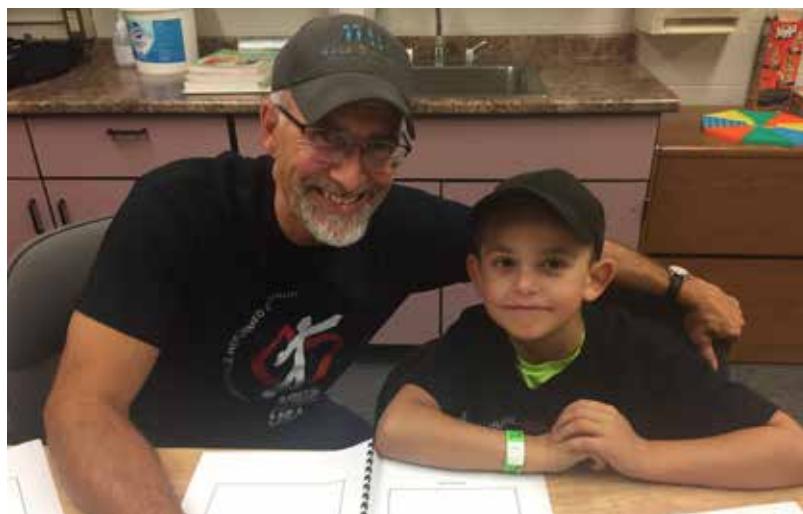
Before I even finished, a little girl shouted, "WOW GOD!"

This of course brought a huge smile to everyone's face.

What a joy to be able to look in the mirror and say, "WOW GOD! Thank you for creating me in your image so that I may show others what you are like. I was not an accident; I was made for a purpose."

Bethany Courson
Director of Children's
Ministries

Michelle Hazelton
Director of Early
Childhood



KIDS HOPE USA

This year at Kids Hope, we have 26 mentors going into the school. With every mentor, there is a prayer partner praying for their time with their mentee. These mentors are committed to making a difference in the lives of 26 kids, from Kindergarten to 5th grade.

Each week, each of these mentors gives one hour, to one child. Over two thirds of our kids do not live with their biological dad. Many of these children have no male role model at all.

Two of our kids are homeless.

Four of our kids have experienced the death of a parent.

There is a waiting list with more kids just waiting to experience the miracle of a mentor. A mentor who will sit with them and be with them. Sometimes this means listening to their stories, and meeting them where their needs are. I am thankful for Coopersville Reformed Church and your willingness to support and cheer on these volunteers, who are ready to inspire these children to be all they can be.

To God be the glory!

Cookie Speet
Director of Kid's Hope USA



WORSHIP AT CRC



Let us remember why we sing to our God. Psalm 145:3 says, "**Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.**" At CRC we desire to praise God with our voices, we sing to glorify Him.

First Service

This year I am thankful for all of our choir volunteers. You have shown great commitment to the service of the choir. I am also thankful to see some new faces in the choir this year.

I am especially blessed every week by the voices of the congregation. Together, we have been singing God's praise, and

filling the sanctuary with our voices. Time and time again the hymns we sing fill me with great joy and awe.

There are some older hymns that everyone just knows. Music means so much to me. Hearing the congregation sing them, and singing them together brings me joy. I hope that I can inspire others to sing in a way which glorifies God.

This year, I am looking forward to more commitment, more dedication from our choir, and more joy in singing. I look forward to more songs that overwhelm me with God's glory and His goodness.

I am thankful for the legacy being built here at CRC. I have grandchildren who are involved in music. They are involved on Sunday morning, and also at events during the week. As I depend on the Lord above, it is comforting to see that legacy carry on.

Terry Metten
Director of Choir of Praise

Second Service

We thank God for blessing us with volunteers who have stepped up and consistently served week after week. We truly have the best volunteers in the world. They love to serve, and to share their gifts with the congregation. We thank God for the moments we have shared together; for the sharing of each other's lives, and walking alongside one another.

This year our focus is growth. We want to grow closer as a team intentionally through relationship, telling stories, and getting to know how we can support one another better. We do not want this to

only be about knowing our volunteers musically, but wholistically: knowing that they are bringing the good and the bad with them whenever we meet.

We are trying new and inventive ways of doing things at CRC. Our goal is to be more cohesive as a team on Sundays. By using new technologies, we have created avenues where we can focus less on where we are going in the music and focus more on worshipping the Lord together **with** the congregation.

This year, we are looking ahead, and want to get to know our volunteers even more. We want to build relationships with them, so that we "share our lives" (1 Thessalonians 2:8). In addition we want to add more people to this ministry! We are trusting in God to sustain and care for the members that we do have and that we would see God radically change their lives for His glory.

Frank and Amanda Russell
Directors of Worship



COOPERSVILLE REFORMED CHURCH

Making more and better disciples for Jesus Christ.
Coopersvillereformed.com

CRC 2022

Produced by Connor Maki.