



*Annual Report*  
2019-2020



## table of **contents**


from your pastors	4
who we are	8
gather	12
kidLife	14
studentLife	16
UNITE	18
grow	20
on advance	22
in groups	26
worship arts	28
go	30
in alma	32
from your executive pastor	34
2019-2020 numbers	36
2020-2021 numbers	38
go live it out	42



## from your **pastors**

Over the last year, our vocabulary has expanded in ways we never expected. Zoom, Google meet, FaceTime and webinar have become a few of the many words that have gained new, important definitions for our lives.

The world has not experienced such an event in over 100 years. But, here we are, sequestered in our homes. A comment from a recent webinar jolts us into reality when we realize, “you are not working from home, you are at home because of a global pandemic and trying to work.” We are all in this together. And our God, the Creator of the universe, unlimited by time and space, has chosen to sequester Himself with us. Certainly He can’t be contained by physical surroundings. He is moving in a different way in our midst. Some say that more people are going to church now than ever before. One individual said, “I went to four churches last Sunday and loved it!”



It is different, but at the same time, the kingdom remains the same. You are still the faithful ones who are Community Church. You are still loved by our God who does not limit himself to a

building. And, you are His body who -together on purpose- have accomplished great things in His kingdom over the last year.

Together, we began a journey called ADVANCE. Our purpose was to lead more people into a focused life with Jesus Christ. Everyone of you stepped up to God’s call for generosity. On December 8, 2019, we revealed that over \$6 million had been promised by God’s people to achieve his goals over the next two years. In January 2020, we launched the Alma Campus of Community Church and ordained Aaron Mora as our Campus Pastor. In the two and a half months since its opening (just prior to the national emergency) we saw over 350 adults and children attending on a regular basis. Many new faces appeared, helping to establish a good work as we advanced the kingdom in Alma and the surrounding area. During the same period, we were able, because of your generosity, to pay off nearly \$2 million in unpaid medical debt primarily for people in Gratiot and Isabella counties. What a great beginning!

After March 8, when COVID-19 entered the scene and we were required to close our physical church doors, many wondered what would happen. Church has continued. With the multiple events online which we offer, we believe we are reaching more people with the gospel and with biblical help on how to succeed during these trying times. Your generosity continues to flow into the church so that we are “more than conquerors in Jesus Christ”. Online giving has increased significantly.



## more from your **pastors**

Our Deacon Ministry continues to assist those in need. Every Sunday worship and the Word are available through our online presence. Throughout the week, devotions and short Bible studies are available online as well as community groups meeting online. Even children of every age are able to find help and resources through our church website.

It is a new season. We do not know how different the future may be. But this we know: our God is with us. He helped us plan well for such a time as this. He moved through His Spirit in your lives and ours to seal us together as a unified body of believers. We are together in this. Our prayers are offered for you because of our great love for you in Christ. Nothing formed against us will prosper as we stay in the Word and in prayer.

Where do we go from here? To worship! To praise! We speak life because we will not be found “under the circumstances”. Instead, we know we have been raised with Him and are, therefore, above all circumstances in this life. We reach out to help one another. We pray for each other. We come together in whatever group size is permitted, knowing that together we are all part of a great body of believers in Him.

So, a huge thank you goes out from us to each and everyone of you. Thank you to the leaders, the staff, volunteers, the new people and the long-timers. We praise God for you and your faithfulness. It has been a different year, but it has still been a good year as you will see in this annual report.

Know this: in Him we live and move and have our being, whether in a building, a home, a car, or the marketplace. Community Church exists in each and everyone of these venues. You are the Church. We are humbled to be your pastors. Embrace this new adventure as we continue to ADVANCE in the days ahead.

Much love to all,



Wally Hostetter  
*Teaching Pastor*



Alan Cullen  
*Lead Pastor*





# who we are

Our mission statement and values were created in the context of a unique season of searching after God's heart for how we can serve Him best in this place and at this time. We spent nine months in prayer and fasting and seeking God as Pastors, elders and staff. We trust that our mission statement has never been more relevant and applicable to our lives than now. We exist to...

***“Lead people into a focused life with Jesus Christ”***

While that may be ‘short & sweet’, those words pack a punch! Jesus is the head of our church and the hero of our lives. We have observed that so many people live distracted, hurried, over committed and noisy lives. And when we do so, it is very difficult to hear from God, to follow God or to enjoy God. When we get lost in busyness, frantic activity, insatiable desire, constant stimulus, Christ is sidelined. It does not have to be that way. There is a life of wonder, awe, joy, simplicity, worship, gratitude, servanthood, humanity, courage and truth. Such things really are possible. There is a kingdom in which they are the most real things in

the universe. Community Church is committed to leading those in our sphere of friendships, work, neighborhood and family to have a singular focus. And that is Christ Jesus.

That mission is inspired by five distinct values. This is why we do what we do...

- **Unconditional Love**

We are compelled to love like Christ, the one who dined with sinners and was “counted among them.” Community Church – friend of sinners. No matter your ethnicity, sexuality, appearance, finances, status, past, employment, family situation... we love to roll out the red carpet to everyone and anyone. Why? Because He first loved us.

- **Empowered Living**

Every act of serving, every ministry, every church gathering, every decision made must be centered and drawn from the person of the Holy Spirit. We're tired of our own self-made wisdom; we're underwhelmed by our own resources and influence. We only want the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit in our church.

- **Healthy Families**

We love families of every size and shape at Community Church. Perhaps you grew up in the classic family with Mom & Dad, 2.7 kids, a dog and a white picket fence – that's great! But if your

# more who **we** are

family feels broken or if your family needs help, we want to partner with families and move them towards health. Step-dad, foster-child, single mom, adopted kids, divorced father, single person, blended family... welcome to Community Church.

- **Intentional Discipleship**

Making disciples who make disciples is non-negotiable. We must be more than a Sunday morning, church attending group. Following Christ and bringing others along on the journey is an essential part of the Gospel.

- **Community Impact**

The expression of love that our church provides must move beyond the four walls of the church building. We must maintain an ever increasing and realized effect on those who are not a part of the church. It is the call of every follower of Christ to 'Go, Live it Out'.



Alan Cullen  
Lead Pastor





# Gather

One Church.  
Two Campuses.  
*Together on Purpose.*



# kidLife

This past year found kidLife active and growing. Families and volunteers along with kids grew in their faith and knowledge of God. We were blessed with **300+ kidLife volunteers** who were actively engaged through our Sunday morning kidLife helping between 200 and 300 kids each week. They also helped us successfully offer VBS 2019, The Family Fun Fall Festival, the Family Christmas Program, and launch our exciting new Special Needs Ministry.

One of the great highlights of the year was our VBS with **600 kids and 300 volunteers** in attendance. In addition, just a few weeks after this event, 28 dedicated workers flew to Ireland and offered VBS to more than **90 children** at Discovery Church in **Galway, Ireland**, one of our Community Church sponsored mission ministries.

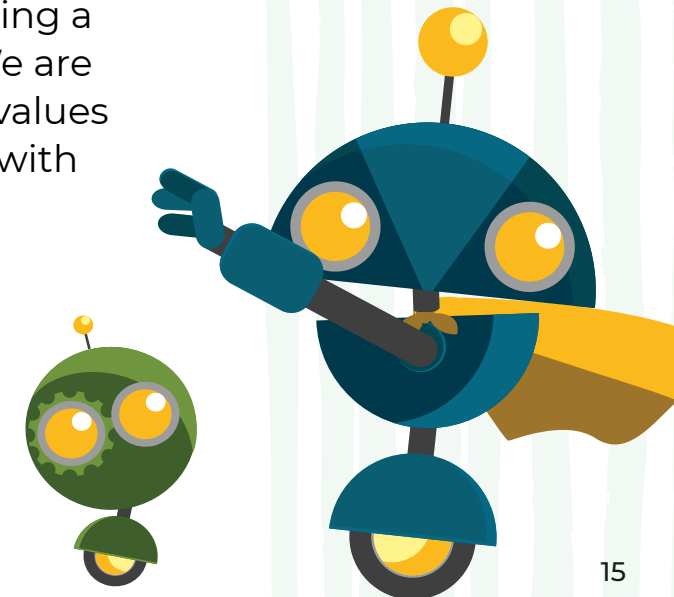
A second, equally exciting highlight of the last year was the beginning of a

**Special Needs Ministry** in kidLife at the Mount Pleasant campus. We've heard over and over from community members who have kids and connections with other families with special needs. One volunteer recalled she wanted to be a "sidekick" because when she was growing up, her family left church and never returned because she had a brother with special needs and their church was not able/willing to minister to him.

In kidLife we strive to **lead children into a focused Life with Jesus Christ** by building a **foundation of faith** on Biblical truth. We are so blessed to be a part of a church that values children and their lifelong faith journey with their families.



Amy Durfee  
Director of kidLife Ministries





# studentLife

It's been a great year at studentLife and we've seen God moving in some amazing ways! Our Sunday night programming has been a continued source of energy and community! This year we launched **brand new, completely separate programming times for Middle School and High School**, and we feel like it's been a huge win for the ministry. These completely separate programming times have allowed for each ministry to continue to develop its own **personality, community, and culture**.

studentLife is constantly seeking to engage our students and parents, focusing on helping them to build a **Christ focused community both at church and in their daily lives**. We've had a strong mix of fun, casual events, normal Sunday night programming, and have continued to emphasize small groups as a key part of our ministry. This year we continued the trend of engaging parents by partnering with kidLife and Pastor Alan to launch the Equipping Parents class. Our larger trips like **The OneEighty Winter Retreat, Mission: Chicago**, and **Mission: Lansing** were awesome this year and both our students and leaders had the opportunity to serve, experience community, and grow in their faith in new and amazing ways!

This semester, while the shelter in place order cut our time together short, studentLife has continued to **develop our community digitally**. This month we've launched weekly Zoom meetings for our students, a Minecraft Realm, and a discord server. Even when we can't be together, **studentLife is committed to maintaining and growing our relationships!** We've had a great year at studentLife and are looking forward to whatever God has in store for us over the next year!



Jeff Huisjen  
Director of studentLife



# UNiTE

This has been a very exciting year for UNiTE. We have seen numerical, relational and spiritual growth in our ministry living out our new mission statement: “UNiTE exists to cultivate Christ-centered lives through community.”

We’ve seen time and time again that community and a sense of belonging is what brings students and young adults back every Tuesday night for our UNiTE programming. This is exactly what we

saw happening in this last year as we kicked off the fall with an influx of new visitors and an attendance that peaked at **75 students and young adults**. We began to see an average of 3-5 new visitors every Tuesday night and many have remained active throughout the year!



In the fall, we watched the students’ faith being lived out as we addressed the idea of generosity. Embracing the ‘Go Live It Out’ strategy of the church, we had a competitive donation drive for Isabella County Restoration House. From that, we donated over 2,700 items to ICRH as a **direct result of our students’ generosity**.

As a Director of UNiTE, I’ve been so impressed and inspired by this great community of students and young adults. It’s been amazing to see **God shape and build this community** over the last few years. I’ve seen students working through deep depression, anxiety, and addictions while learning to trust God’s voice over the voice of the enemy. It’s truly been a blessing serving in this ministry and I can’t wait for what’s to come for UNiTE in this coming year.

Marc Knudson  
Director of Adult Ministries



Grow





## on **advance**

The Gospel never sits still. **God is always on the move.** How can we reach more people?

Last November we began a study of the life and ministry of Nehemiah. This series was called **ADVANCE**. Within those weeks we took the opportunity to lay out some fresh and specific vision for what God is calling us to as a church for the next two years. Quite simply, we wanted to know how we could serve God best at this time, and in this place. The response of Community Church has been overwhelming. This may be one of the greatest highlights of ministry in 2019.

One of the key elements of ADVANCE was a direct challenge toward greater generosity

as a church. On Dec 8th, the largest single financial offering in the history of the church was given. Beyond that, Community Church committed a total of \$6,381,390 towards this initiative over the next 2 years of ministry.

The Holy Spirit spoke to so many people and nudged each of us to grow in our generosity. People who have never given before started to give. Other families have started to give on a consistent basis. Other individuals have begun to tithe for the first time in their lives. And still others are giving beyond tithe with incredible sacrifice and love. What a **response of obedience** to God's Word, and what an infusion of blessings into the kingdom!



# more advance

What will ADVANCE do? ADVANCE contains three concrete ministry objectives, some of which we have already seen come to pass. Here's the breakdown:

## ADVANCING THE GOSPEL IN ALMA

- The **launch of our first campus in Alma**, including all the resources and staff needed. Praise God, we launched this campus on January 5<sup>th</sup> and it's going strong.
- Setting the ground work for **permanency in Alma**.
- **Reach more people** so they can experience the love of Christ in Gratiot County.

## ADVANCING THE EXPANSION OF MINISTRY IN MT. PLEASANT

- **Launching a 12-step program** for addiction recovery in our community.
- The **continuation and growth of ministry** to children, youth, the college campuses, widows, groups as well as our Sunday morning worship and preaching.
- **Update and refurbishment** of the facility for future ministry.

## ADVANCING THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE 4:18 INITIATIVE

This is taken from Luke 4:18 where Christ states that He has come to set people free.

- Community Church was able to **pay off nearly \$2 million of medical debt** that had gone into collections across 54 different counties in the State of Michigan. What an incredible thing to be a part of and see people set free from financial slavery that was beyond their reach.
- **Increased benevolence** and care for individuals and families in crisis in both Gratiot and Isabella county.
- **Increased support** for global partners and local ministry partners.
- **Establishing funding for Community Groups** to have tangible Gospel expressions in their local context.

Although we have been able to accomplish a number of the elements described, there is much more to come in this 24-month season of ministry. Huge thanks to the church and to every person who has responded to the Lord and our call to serve Him.





## in groups

This past year was an exciting one for our groups! We saw the launch of **7 new community groups**, bringing our total number to 48. These groups are made up of married couples, singles, and families consisting of people of all ages. Discussions happen every week that help people learn and discover more about God and His plans for our lives. This year we also had the full launch of two brand new large group settings with Pursuit and Equipping Parents. Pursuit was an in-depth discovery of how to know God more fully that equipped those who joined to grow in their knowledge of God. Equipping Parents hit hard and important topics related to raising children in a Godly way. Along with another strong Alpha season, our large groups reached over **250 people**.

The Advance Campaign this past fall was propelled forward as our community groups dove into where God is leading us as a church together. One group leader sent me a note after a group meeting excited about their conversation that night and told me that the families were brainstorming how they could sacrificially participate in the many aspects of Advance. The phrase he used was that they were “all in!” This was certainly the heart across the church as we have seen God moving through Advance and through our group communities.



Aaron Mora  
Alma Campus Pastor &  
Director of Community  
Engagement





# worship arts

What another great year of ministry! I watched the entire Worship Arts team step up in so many different ways. I saw their **passion to serve the church** through their practice, improvement and dedication. In the tech realm we have added and developed all-star team volunteers that have added so much talent and passion for what they do for the Worship Arts team. Under the wonderful leadership of our new Technical Coordinator, Mitchell Moyer, the bar

of production has been raised immensely to help create **distraction free worship services**.

There was also an exciting change that not only benefited the entire Worship Arts team but one that was a benefit to the whole church. We had a **major tech upgrade** in November, which included upgrades and overhauls of both the sound and video systems. We

had been planning these improvements for several years, and with the launch of the Alma Campus in January, we ensured we had all the proper technology in place to resource the campus with **remote video teaching**.

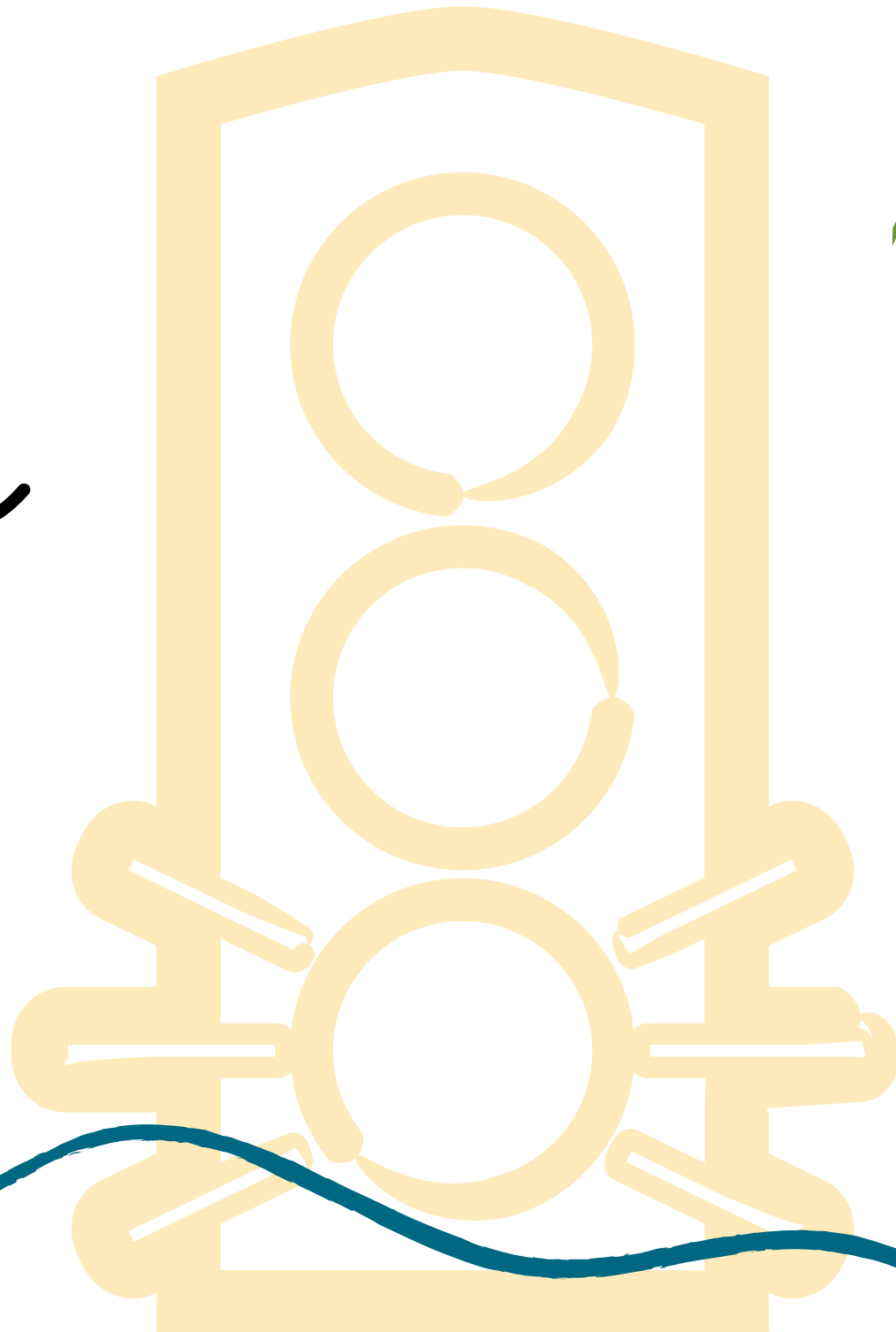
The members of Community Church and their engagement during the time of musical worship has continuously encouraged me. I am looking forward to another year of freely worshiping and praising the Lord. I'm so blessed by this church; thank you Community Church!

*Allison DuBois*

Allison DuBois  
Director of Worship Arts



Go





## in alma



The better part of a year went into planning the launch of our first Sunday at the Alma Campus, with volunteers, casting vision, recruiting a launch team, and most importantly spending lots of time in prayer. On January 5, 2020 we welcomed over **500 people** at our very first campus gathering!

Volunteers pulled out every chair we had available in the building. What a huge celebration and an incredible answer to prayer! An amazing milestone in the life of Community Church!

Our first Sunday in Alma was a confirmation that God has an amazing plan to use the people in this local church for the purpose of bringing an increasing number of people into the Kingdom of God! A few stories:

A man who was invited to come visit the Alma campus in February said he hadn't been to a church in

years because of a bad experience. He was so excited after worship that he **couldn't wait to come back.**

Another visitor was a woman who had never been able to connect or feel like she belonged in a church before. That morning, four people had met her as she came in before I had the opportunity to have a volunteer introduce her to me. Talk about feeling welcome!

A family with little kids enthusiastically said recently "We've been here every week since the first Sunday and absolutely love it. We even came during the ice storm. **This is our church now!**"

It is so exciting to see how God is using this church to be a light in Central Michigan. I can't wait to see how God uses the Alma Campus to Advance His mission.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Mora'.

Aaron Mora  
Alma Campus Pastor





## from your **executive pastor**

As we wrap up this year of ministry and look back, 2019-2020 was truly a year of exciting growth and major steps forward for Community Church.

We watched our church family grow in numbers and locations, and **watched God do amazing things** with our hearts in regards to generosity through the ADVANCE initiative.

The ministry of Church Operations and Facilities is one that exists to support all of the inner workings of Community Church to ensure ministries are able to serve at their best. For the fiscal year 2019-2020, the Trustees approved a budget that had increased 13% over the previous year and with the outpouring of support throughout the year, we have more than surpassed that budget goal and have allowed our teams to be fully funded and supported. The work of our fantastic staff in Operations and Facilities have allowed our congregation

to be well informed, find new connections to serving and groups, and have kept our church building clean, well maintained and ready for visitors at any time.

As we look to the year ahead, we continue to plan for the ongoing work of ADVANCE, a new challenge of how to return to public worship with wisdom, and the ongoing work of developing and growing both of our campus locations. We continually look for new ways that we can support our church family in seeking the focused life with Jesus Christ.



Eric Barz  
*Executive Pastor*



# 2019-2020 numbers

## Actual Expenses by Department

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

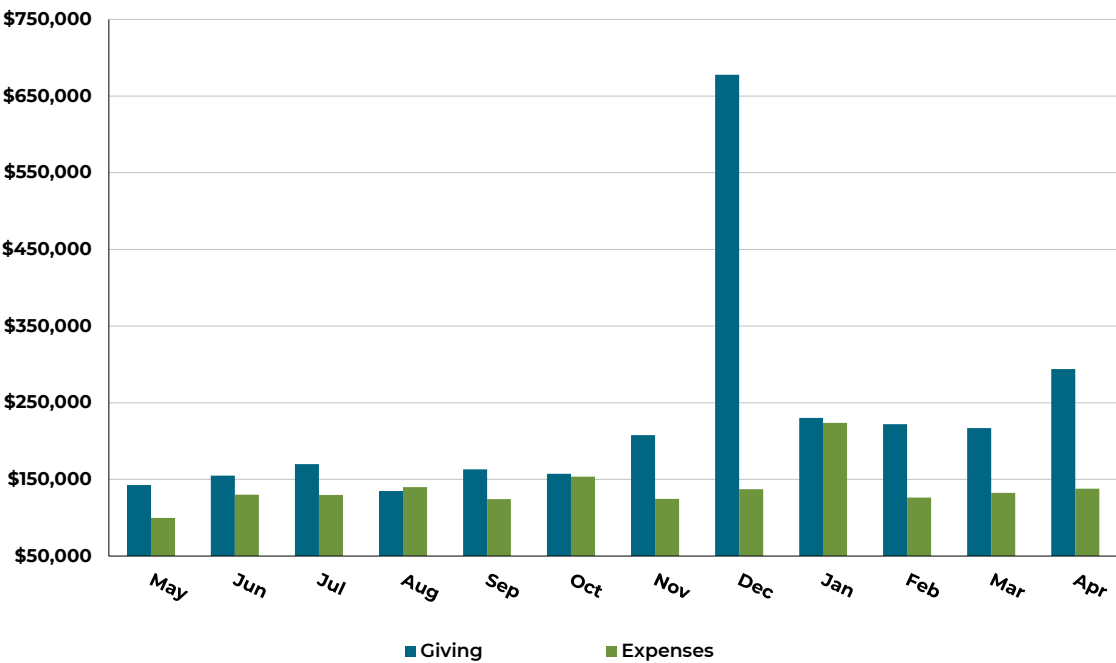
kidLife	\$129,351
studentLife	\$82,240
Adult Ministries	\$67,529
Hospitality	\$27,195
careLife	\$50,491
Community Engagement	\$64,547
Worship & Tech Arts	\$183,129
Operations	\$469,414
Bld & Grounds	\$231,457
Missions	\$202,460
Alma Campus	\$151,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,659,143</b>

## Cash On Hand (As of Apr 30, 2020)

General Fund	\$1,280,268
Designated Fund	\$404,670
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$1,684,938</b>
20% Cash Reserve	\$341,742
Surplus above Cash Reserve	\$938,527
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$1,280,268</b>

## General Fund Giving/Expenses

(May 2019 - April 2020)



## Revenue and Expense Summary (May 2019 to April 2020)

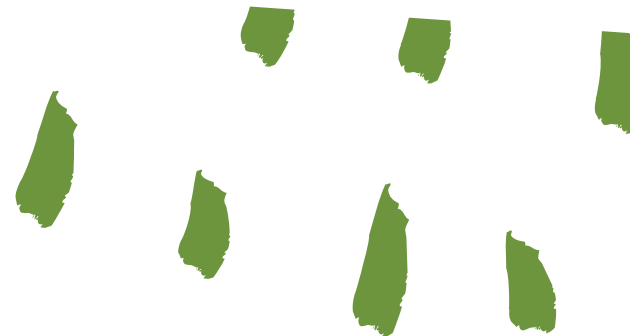
	Budget	Actual	Difference	% Difference
General Fund Giving	\$1,708,708	\$2,770,901	\$1,062,193	62.2%
General Fund Expenses	\$1,708,708	\$1,659,143	-\$49,565	-2.9%

# 2020-2021 numbers

## Budget by Department

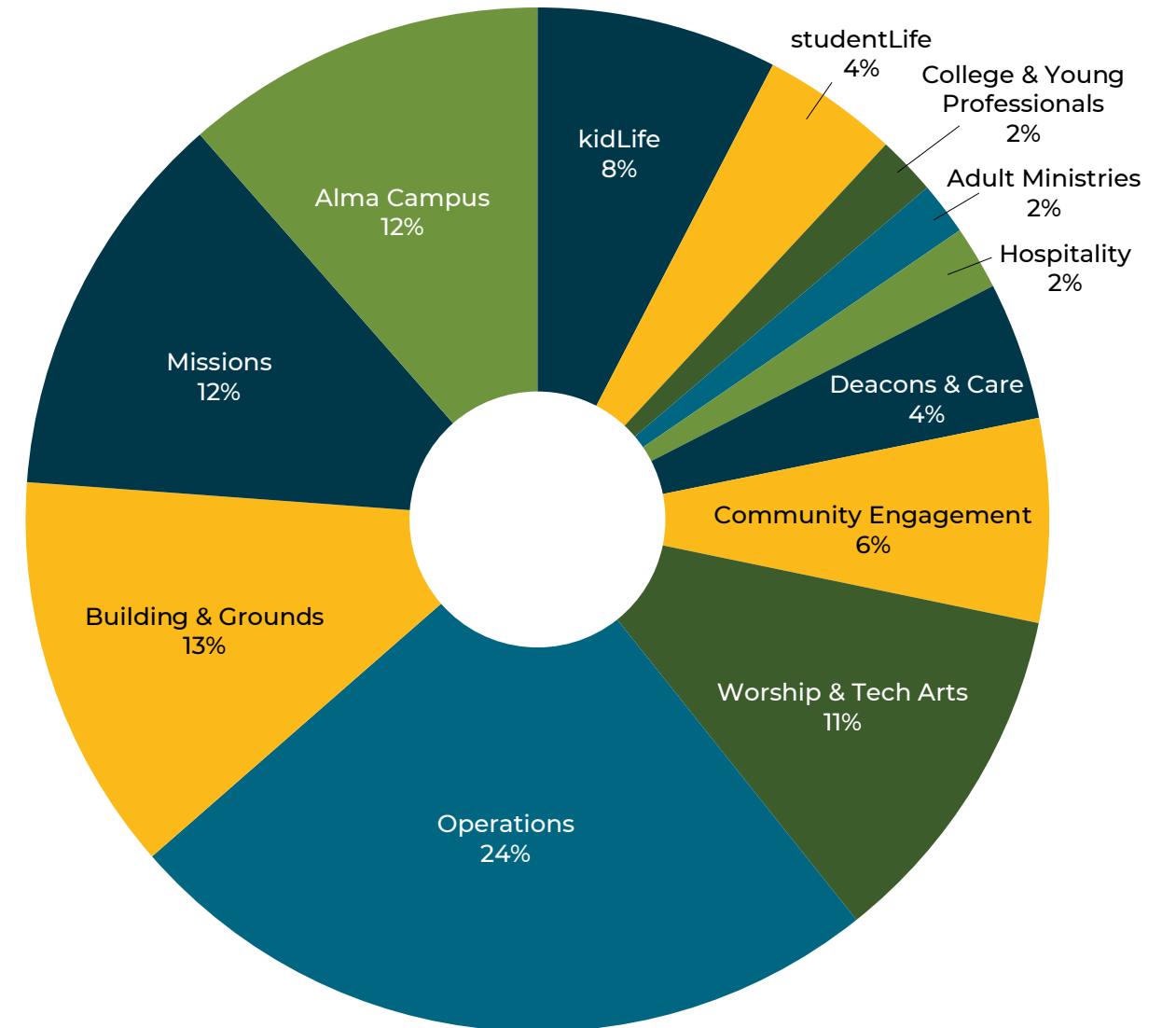
Fiscal Year 2020-2021

kidLife	\$156,905
studentLife	\$88,883
College & Young Professionals	\$38,326
Adult Ministries	\$34,426
Hospitality	\$41,591
Deacons & Care	\$89,798
Community Engagement	\$132,605
Worship & Tech Arts	\$227,808
Operations	\$500,670
Building & Grounds	\$259,794
Missions	\$255,238
Alma Campus	\$236,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,062,420</b>



## General Fund Budget by Department

(May 2020 - April 2021)





# more numbers

## Missions Breakdown

Fiscal Year May 2020 - May 2021

### Local Missions

Life Choices	\$10,000
Christian Counseling of Mid MI	\$10,000
CCN	\$10,000
Goodrow	\$1,500
Kids Hope	\$10,000
Salvation Army	\$1,500
Soup Kitchen	\$1,500
Youth for Christ	\$5,000
Young Life	\$5,000
Gideons	\$1,500
Isabella Non Profit Center	\$5,000
The Care Store	\$10,000
Care Ministries Local Missions	\$2,200
Gratiot County Missions	\$20,000
Local Missions Total	\$93,200

### Global Missions

Discovery Church	\$10,000
Orchard Africa	\$10,000
F. Phelp IV	\$10,000
Walker	\$10,000
Samaritan's Purse	\$2,500
Widow's Might	\$10,000
Honigs - Pioneer Translators	\$5,000
Global Missions Total	\$57,500
Missions Discretionary Total	\$36,793

Missions Total \$187,493



## go live it out

We supported **12 local agencies** who's mission statements include helping a variety of individuals with food, housing, clothing, and medical help. In addition to this support, we also assisted **7 international mission agencies** as they intentionally spread the Gospel in their nations and areas of the world.

Perhaps the most unique support during this past year was the opportunity we had to use our mission funds designated for Gratiot County to help pay off **nearly 2 million dollars** of uncollected medical debt primarily in Gratiot and Isabella Counties.

Throughout the year a number of students from Central Michigan University applied for one-time support for mission trips either in the United States or other parts of the world. What a joy it is to be able to have an impact through our third strategy at Community Church;

**Go Live It Out!**



Wally Hostetter  
Teaching Pastor



