

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025-
AUGUST 31, 2026



DOOR CREEK FAMILY

As I look back on this past year, I am amazed at the God we serve and thankful for the ways we have seen Him at work in us and through us. In the pages that follow, you will see pictures and hear stories from many of our ministries and ministry leaders...these pages are holy ground as we bear witness to the life transformation that only comes through faith in Jesus our Savior.

My guess is that you also could fill up pages with how that Lord has worked in your own life. You could share how He's met you in times of hardship, supported and encouraged you through His Word and helped you find community and a place to serve. Be encouraged as you read and remember this past year of our shared life together.

I'll kick us off by sharing a few of my highlights:

GRATEFUL AND FAITHFUL DEBT CAMPAIGN. This was a highlight for me, not only because of the amount we raised in pledges to kick off this campaign (**\$2,635,900**) or the number of people who participated (**304 HOUSEHOLDS**), but because it gave us an extended opportunity to talk about stewardship. Through daily prayer prompts, home visits and ministry conversations, each of us were invited to reflect on generosity and joy and what it means to align our heart with God's heart for the financial resources He has entrusted to each one of us. This effort goes through May 2028, and I think we've only begun to see what the Lord will do.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS. After a summer series on why membership matters, we had our largest Membership Class

ever this past October. We talked about what it means to be a member, what we believe as a church and why connection and Christ-centered friendship is so important in our world today. Between our fall and spring classes, we welcomed **103 PEOPLE** into membership this past year, and our church family is stronger for the gifts, prayers and conversation they have brought with them.

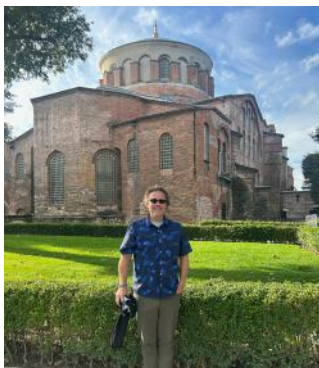
FUN WITH STAFF. We have an amazing team of Ministry Leaders! A highlight for our team this past year was our annual ministry day away filled with training, prayer, dinner with families, egg tosses and water slides. We also attended conferences for ministry sharpening and development. We had consistent rhythms of meetings and conversation where we sought the Lord in prayer. We even enjoyed an outdoor concert together this summer. I praise God and thank Him for the team He has assembled to serve and love Door Creek Church.

THE NICENE CREED CONFERENCE and the tour of the Seven Churches of Revelation was a personal highlight. This trip to Turkey grew in me a deeper appreciation for the historical church and a deeper love for the global church today. This trip also bore fruit in our church family through the Nicene Creed Pop-Up Class and the summer message series on Jesus' letters to the seven churches.

Peace,



Jamie Thompson
LEAD PASTOR



KAREN KECK

For much of my life I knew about God, but never really opened the Bible or pursued a relationship with Him. Then I watched my daughter fall in love with Jesus, and through her example she showed me who the Lord is and how easy it is to love Him. I am so grateful she led me to Christ. Now my life is filled with His peace and love, and I want to publicly declare my faith in Jesus.

BAPTIZED JULY 9, 2026 •





○ **SEPT. 9**
2nd Annual Hymn Festival

○ **SEPT. 18**
POP-UP: Becoming a Person of Spiritual Power

○ **OCT. 1 & 2**
Meal Pack

○ **OCT. 3 & 4**
Membership Class
– 72 new members!

○ **OCT. 17-18**
Marriage Weekend
– 73 couples

○ **OCT. 17-19**
DCY Fall Retreat

○ **OCT. 25**
Trunk or Treat
– 700+ adults & kids

○ **THROUGH OCT. 25**
Diaper Drive
– more than 6,500 diapers donated & distributed to partner schools

○ **OCT. 29-NOV. 5**
MoH Medical Mission Trip
– served 800 patients in four clinic days

○ **NOV. 9**
Baptism
– 16 baptisms

○ **NOV. 13**
POP-UP: The Nicene Creed

○ **NOV. 24**
A Night of Prayer: Thanksgiving

○ **THROUGHOUT NOV.**
Friendsgivings
– Young Professionals, InBetweeners, Senior Adults, DCY (275 students!)

○ **THROUGHOUT DEC.**
Christmas Gatherings
– Women, Young Professionals, InBetweeners, Senior Adults, DCY

○ **DEC. 8**
Prayers for Prodigals

○ **DEC. 12**
Stanley Gospel Carols Concert

○ **DEC. 19**
Jingle Jam

○ **DEC. 24**
Christmas Services

○ **THROUGH DEC. 31**
Christmas Offering
– received \$165,000!

○ **JAN. 9-11**
DISTRICTS

○ **JAN. 12**
POP-UP: Walking in the Holy Spirit

○ **FEB. 1**
Town Hall

○ **FEB. 7**
No Regrets Men's Conference

○ **FEB. 16**
Day of Devotion



- **FEB. 21-28**
MoH Mission Trip
– for DeForest attenders
- **FEB. 27 & 28**
Membership Class
- **MAR. 1**
DCY Cookout Fundraiser
- **MAR. 1**
March Mingle Women's Luncheon
- **MAR. 15**
Baptism
– 16 baptisms
- **MAR. 21**
POP-UP: Thinking Biblically about Heaven & Hell
- **MAR. 22**
Disability Awareness Class
- **MAR. 26**
Prayers for Healing
- **APR. 3 & 5**
Good Friday & Easter Services
- **APR. 8-12**
MoH Women's Mission Trip
- **APR. 16**
POP-UP: Thinking Biblically about AI
- **MAY 7**
A Night of Prayer
- **MAY 13-16**
Love This City
- **JUNE 1**
Grateful & Faithful Begins
– celebrated Commitment Sunday on May 31!

- **JUNE 3-10**
MoH Mission Trip
– for Northside Madison attenders
- **JUNE 7**
Sundae Sunday
– raised \$3,375 for our student Mission Trips
- **JUNE 11**
Estate Planning Seminar
- **JUNE 15**
POP-UP: Faith & Politics
– over 200 people
- **JULY 6-10**
Chicago Eagles Soccer Camp
- **JULY 9**
Outdoor Worship Night + Baptism
– 22 baptisms
- **JULY 17-26**
Student Mission Trips
– middle school served in Bayou La Batre, AL
– high schoolers in Hunt, TX
- **JULY 27**
Budget Feedback Meeting
- **AUG. 22**
Going Beyond
– women's virtual event held at Northside Madison Campus
- **AUG. 23**
Celebration Sunday



— BY IRINA SHPIGELMAN

Helping new guests find a church family.

Every Sunday we see new people walk through the doors of Door Creek Church, and over the past year, our Connections Ministry has focused on intentionally welcoming and connecting with guests. If you're one of those guests, we're so glad you're here! Our welcome gift bags have become a valuable way to identify and greet first-time visitors across all our campuses. At the Sprecher Road Campus alone, we have given **OVER 200** gift bags since November of 2025.

When guests share their contact information, our Connections leaders personally reach out to welcome them, answer any questions they may have and help them discover opportunities to get connected through groups, serving and other ministries.

Church is so much more than a place we attend on Sunday mornings—it's a family where we worship together, encourage one another and grow in our faith.

Being part of the Door Creek Church community has been an incredible blessing to me and my family, and it is my prayer that every person who walks through our doors experiences that same sense of belonging. We are grateful that God continues to bring people to Door Creek Church, and we look forward to seeing how He continues to transform lives through this community.

— JASON MAHONEY

For much of my life, I sensed God was with me, but I never fully put my faith in Him. After hitting rock bottom through alcohol and drug use, I realized I needed Christ. He has been realigning my life and my faith ever since.

Today I'm living with greater respect for myself because of the faith I have in Jesus, and I want to publicly declare that I am trusting Him with my life.

BAPTIZED JULY 9, 2026 •

CONNECTIONS



— BY BRYAN & ELLA GUZMAN

Bryan and I were fifteen when our story started. At fifteen, you imagine your biggest problems will be Homecoming and homework. But the Lord had a different plan for our story. A couple years into our dating relationship, doctor appointments filled our calendars and surgeries gracefully shattered our plans, interrupting seasons thought we'd never get back. Looking back now, those years feel blurry in the way hard seasons often do, but we just kept choosing each other. When you've weathered enough storms together, it's easy to believe you've learned everything there is to know about your relationship, but growing older introduced a different challenge—college, careers, figuring out who we were as humans, trying to navigate the world.

We also decided to not live together until we were married. It's a strange place to be—trying to build a Christ-centered relationship while surrounded by a culture asking why you aren't living together yet and why your life doesn't look like those around you. As a young couple, we found ourselves craving a community to support and encourage us. We wanted to connect with people who had already walked the road we were on and who could answer questions we couldn't answer by ourselves. That's when the Lord brought Brian and Jen into our lives as premarital mentors.

Brian and Jen didn't just mentor us, they welcomed us into their home and deeply encouraged us both as individuals and as a couple.

Their home became a place where we could eat together, share stories with laughter and have prayers spoken over us. They helped us see our relationship through the lens of Scripture, not as something to be perfect, but as something God was continually shaping. It is truly wonderful to be sitting across from those who have lived it before you and remind you that marriage isn't built in big perfect moments, but in the small intentional everyday ones. They challenged us with grace, encouraged us to look within and continually pointed us back to Jesus. Throughout our time with Brian and Jen, we grew closer to the Lord as we prepared for our marriage, and we also grew softer toward one another. We highly recommend this type of support to all couples who are navigating the season of engagement and marriage!



— BY TOM KIRST & EMILY FORSTER

Our marriage mentors were such a blessing.

Their wisdom, pragmatism, love and grace in talking through marriage and our future in such a Christ-like way has helped both of us move closer to Christ and to each other. During our time with our marriage mentors, we learned new things about each other, had some of our thinking challenged and had our love for each other bolstered at every turn. We know that the health of our future marriage is already strong, in large part, because of how our marriage mentors guided us, and brought us closer to Christ. We are so thankful for their love, wisdom, blessings and friendship.



— BY BRIAN & JEN GABRIELSE

We are so blessed to be involved in the Marriage Mentors' Ministry for young couples as they prepare for their marriage and future. This important ministry prepares them for the challenges and blessings they will experience together as a married couple.

Marriage mentorship provides tools for communication, finances, spiritual connection and intimacy. These topics, along with a close relationship with a marriage mentor couple, help form a solid foundation for a thriving marriage.

BY DAVID SMITH

Let me introduce you
to William.

William is a homeless man who has been living on the streets of Madison for years, sleeping at the emergency homeless shelter at night. During the day William would find a spot on a strip and sit there all day until the shelter opened again for the evening. For several weeks, one of our members who worships in the Chapel would drive by and see William sitting there and decided to stop and ask if he would like to go with her to church. To her surprise, William said yes and started attending services with her at Sprecher Road Campus.

This member soon realized that William might feel more at home at the Northside Madison Campus, so she started bringing him there on Sundays. The services and the outreach ministry to those experiencing homelessness at the Northside Madison Campus was a breathtaking life change for William. This DCC member provided transportation for William to services and to the Saturday Men's Bible Study. William has found a new family of brothers and sisters in Christ, a place to call his spiritual home and a relationship with Jesus Christ.

William is now able to make his way around the city and utilize resources available to him. And he found a job—Praise God! William still attends our Northside Madison Campus and is involved with our homeless outreach ministry and our Men's Bible Study. William is one example of what the power of the Gospel will do in transforming lives, renewing our city and changing the world. From the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "In my Father's house are many rooms...I go to prepare a place for you..." (John 14:2). In God's house William will never ever have to worry about a room as Jesus has prepared a place for him and is now preparing William for that place.

"Follow me," But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." "And Jesus said to him, 'Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and buy the yoke and follow me.' Yet another said, 'I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' "Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 And this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way: behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. * And he carried with them sabbats, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one by the way. * Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace'—

What is Worship Arts?

Worship Arts seeks to create an environment of worship that directs the hearts of every attendee to God through Christ-centered music, creative expression and growing in intentional community.

OUR TEAM!

Over **140 VOLUNTEERS** serving across multiple positions and campuses.

Here’s how it all breaks down...many volunteers serve in multiple roles:

MUSIC

Vocalists.....	40
Choir	25
Drums.....	10
Bass	11
Guitar	14
Piano	19
Brass.....	8
Woodwinds	7
Strings.....	3

PRODUCTION

Audio	15
Camera.....	19
Photography.....	8
Slides	22
Lighting/Resi	7
Video Switching	4
Hosts	14
Announcements	5

Did you know some of our Worship Arts volunteers/staff wear multiple hats? Allow us to introduce a few of them:

- **Lisa Reinemann:** Vocalist and Saxophone player. She often splits her time between DeForest, Sprecher Road Auditorium and the Chapel.
- **Anne Pingry:** Anne lends her gifts at the Sprecher Road Campus as a French Horn player in the Chapel and also cues slides in the Auditorium.
- **Lavi Lazarus:** Lavi leads worship, sings and plays piano at Northside Madison, DeForest, the Sprecher Road Auditorium and the Chapel.
- **Paul Navrestad:** Paul is called the swiss-army knife of Door Creek Church. Running sound, operating cameras, clicking slides, cueing lights...you name it, Paul has done it. He can serve in multiple capacities at any campus.

Some of our team members have served at our church for over 15 years! Allow us to introduce a few of them:

- **Peter Zeigler:** Serving at DCC since 1996, Peter has been a church musician for 60 years. You’ll find him in the Chapel behind a trombone, tuba or singing in the choir.
- **Paul Bahr:** Serving since 2001, Paul Bahr has played drums and bass at every campus. He’s also a seasoned pro behind the soundboard.
- **Tammy O’Brien:** Serving as a vocalist since 2003, Tammy has recently added “slides operator” to her list of talents.
- **Jen Gabrielse:** Serving since 2007, Jen has played keys and piano faithfully in the Sprecher Road Auditorium, Chapel and at Northside Madison.
- **Bruce McNeil:** Serving since 2011, Bruce has played piano and keys in the Sprecher Road Auditorium, Chapel and at Northside Madison.

WORSHIP ARTS





— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Two Places, One Goal = Praising the Name of Jesus

ON THE PLATFORM

Lisa's Story: How Worship Continues to Heal Deep Wounds

If you have ever met Lisa Reinemann, you know this about her: she has always loved to sing.

Lisa started singing as a child, taking solos in elementary school concerts. In high school, she won State Class A titles, and in college she was accepted into the Madison Chamber Singers. But the gift that brought her joy also became a place of pain. Even from a young age, friends and family teased her for her voice and her passion. Over time, their words

planted a deep doubt: maybe she was not good enough, and maybe she would never truly belong.

When Lisa joined the Worship Arts team as a vocalist, those wounds were still tender. But as she sang worship music, God began to work on her heart. Lisa learned that her voice was not about proving herself. It was an offering to an audience of One. She found belonging, not in her talent, but in her relationship with God.

Now when Lisa sings, she does it with a newfound purpose. While the restoration of her heart remains ongoing, Lisa has found her joy in the Lord. She looks out and sees people joining their voices to praise the One who is worthy. A passion that once carried isolation, hurt and doubt has become one of connection, healing and worship.



BEHIND THE PRODUCTION

Jason's Story: From DJ to Audio Volunteer

If you want a truly unique worship experience, step into the Northside Madison Campus. There you'll find a beautifully diverse community of people who love Jesus and are not shy to express that love through worship. Among them, Jason Mahoney has found a new, but familiar place to serve—behind the soundboard.

Jason began attending Door Creek Church just a few months ago, but his journey with Jesus started long before he walked through our doors.

For years, Jason worked as a DJ, running sound for all kinds of events. Much of his time was spent in the local bar scene, where three nights a week he kept the music going and the energy high. But over time, what had once felt exciting

began to reveal a deeper emptiness. As alcoholism took hold, Jason realized he needed help. That's when he met Taysheedra. Through her testimony, Jason encountered the One he truly needed—Jesus!

Over a year ago, Jason committed his life to Christ, and this summer he was baptized at our Outdoor Worship Night. And now, the same skills he had once used in bars and events found a new purpose at Northside Madison Campus, where he runs sound for the worship band. It is a full-circle picture of redemption. The places, tools and talents that once surrounded a season of brokenness are now being used to help others worship Jesus. Jason will be the first to say he is still learning, but he is faithfully serving the Lord, growing in his gifts and now also loving his wife, Taysheedra, along the way.

GROUPS & CLASSES



— BY MACY NGUYEN

In the three and a half years our Young Professionals Life Group has been meeting, our group has navigated four weddings, 10+ job changes, six moves, a baby, the loss of two parents and so much more. Together we were able to pray for and support each other through these life transitions and have seen God’s faithfulness over and over in how He’s answered prayers.

It’s such a blessing to do life together!



— BY DAVID ALLEN

This past year, we had a spring Senior Book Study where **30 SENIORS** attended the study that ran over six sessions. The study was focused on Jesus’ Parables, and we all learned so much. A gentleman from outside of the church was invited to attend the first session by a friend and he attended all six sessions, even when his friend was absent!



— BY DAKOTA HUDZINSKI

It has been such a joy to see God work through a beginner's Bible study I started in my home for those who are new to the Bible, Jesus-curious or unchurched. Thanks to Door Creek Church's investment in my ministry education and the way our church welcomes people, several attendees have found a church home here at DCC—**TWO** have become members and **THREE** have been baptized! Watching people who were once hesitant to step into a church now experience the love of Christ through this community has been an incredible blessing and a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness.





NICK CARPENTER

I grew up believing in God, but I kept Him at arm's length and lived for myself. After a difficult breakup in October 2023, I joined a church community and fully committed my life to following Christ. Leaning on Him carried me through one of the darkest seasons of my life, and I can only credit Him for the change He has made in me. Today I want to publicly profess my faith in Jesus, who gives me strength, confidence and hope every day.

BAPTIZED JULY 9, 2026 •



Pop-Up Classes

We had six, well-attended Pop-Up Classes this year! Watch past classes at doorcreekchurch.org/replay.

BECOMING A PERSON OF
TRUE SPIRITUAL POWER
pop up CLASS

THINKING BIBLICALLY
ABOUT
Heaven & Hell
pop up CLASS

THE
NICENE
CREED
pop up CLASS

THINKING
BIBLICALLY
ABOUT
AI
pop up CLASS

WALKING **pop up**
IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

pop up CLASS
FAITH
&
POLITICS



— BY SALLY SPAENI

I was recently reminded of how our Life Group provides so much support in helping us keep our eyes on Jesus, grow in our faith and in our relationships with one another.

Every person in our group has faced some significant challenge in the past year—challenges with loved ones and relationships, with our own health and the health of loved ones, challenges with finances and sin.

You might be asking how did being in a Life Group help?

Well, no problems were solved. No issues have disappeared. We still struggle with sin, and we still struggle with finding the daily discipline of doing the work to get closer to God and be transformed. But being in community has helped some of us begin and others to renew

a commitment to read God's Word and pray more frequently. It has allowed us to practice showing the love of Jesus to one another through compassionate listening and often, fervent prayer.

We've challenged each other to get past ourselves, surrender daily and to see things with a Jesus-first lens.

We continually see that Jesus always shows up and offers a way through our challenges. Car repairs for a dollar? Yep! Medical tests that revealed no cancer? Yep! Successful surgery outcomes? Yep! Church gatherings that speak directly to our life situations? Yep! Giving us the courage to speak the truth in love into difficult personal situations? Yep! Friendships we never would have found otherwise? Yep! All because of Jesus!

Through our Life Group, God is continually showing up in the messiest of places to minister to our imperfect souls and give us hope. It helps us experience the love of Christ, grow in our knowledge of what it means to follow Him and to be continually thankful for the gift of salvation. And that's more than any of us could have imagined when we stepped into a Life Group. Praise God!



— BY SHERIDAN SCHAKELMAN

The Care Partner (Stephen) Ministry supports those who are struggling in their Life Journey, experiencing such issues as loneliness, discouragement, mild depression and marital/family issues. Trained Care Givers provide weekly one-on-one, confidential and compassionate listening for an hour per week, until balance is restored in their lives. We pray with our Care Receivers, and for them, until they reach a point of God's guidance in their issues.

We currently have **30+ CARE GIVERS** in the Ministry providing care. If they are all meeting for an hour per week, that would be **OVER 1,560 HOURS** of service for helping people who may not have otherwise had anyone to talk with. Both Care Givers and Care Receivers have shared of increased spiritual growth during their times together. Feedback from Care Receiver surveys indicated thankfulness that they were able to walk through hard times with a faith centered Care Giver, such as:

“I feel I have more tools in my life toolbox. I am so appreciative and grateful this was available...”

— LASANDRA ODENORE

There were times I wondered if God saw me, heard me or loved me. I felt like I was in the middle of rough seas without an oar or a life vest. Then cancer shook my world, but through every battle God proved He was with me. He has carried me, shown me His grace and mercy and taught me to let go and let Him lead. Now Jesus is the captain of my life, and I want to keep growing deeper in my relationship with Him.

BAPTIZED JULY 9, 2026 ■



— BY TAMMY WOOD

What an exciting year it has been for Door Creek on Mission! As we continue to embrace God's call to live on mission, we are encouraged by the many ways He is working through our church family both locally and around the world.

One exciting milestone this year was the growth of our missionary support network. Door Creek Church now supports **ELEVEN MISSIONARIES** serving in a variety of local and global contexts. As these partnerships continue to grow, we invite you to follow their ministry journeys through the Door Creek on Mission wall, where you'll find updates, stories of impact and ways to stay connected to what God is doing around the world.

One of the best ways to stay connected to what God is doing has been through our Mission Lunches. These gatherings allow attendees to hear stories directly from our missionaries, celebrate how God is at work and explore ways to engage more deeply in local and global missions. We look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year.

A major highlight of the year was completing **FOUR TRIPS** with Mission of Hope to the Dominican Republic. In October, a **TEAM OF 18** medical professionals and volunteers provided compassionate, Christ-centered care to those in need. In February, a **TEAM OF 11** partnered with local churches to share the Gospel in Dominican communities. In April, **15 WOMEN** traveled to encourage and support women serving faithfully throughout the DR, building meaningful relationships and witnessing God's faithfulness firsthand. Then in June, a

TEAM OF EIGHT from our Northside Madison Campus served alongside local ministry leaders and Mission of Hope staff, returning home with a deeper understanding of God's global mission. These experiences have strengthened our commitment to partnering with Mission of Hope, and we're thrilled to offer more trips in 2027 for those who want to serve, learn and be part of what God is doing in the Dominican Republic.

We are also celebrating the ways Door Creek attenders live on mission right where they are. This year, we awarded more than **100 DOOR CREEK ON MISSION GRANTS**, equipping individuals and families to share Christ's love with their neighbors and communities. In addition, we were thrilled to award **EIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS** to those serving on non-Mission of Hope mission trips, helping extend the reach of the Gospel through their service around the world. As we look ahead, we are encouraged by the growing desire of our church family to live on mission every day.

From our homes and neighborhoods to our workplaces, schools, our city and the nations, we look forward to seeing Door Creek Church continue to serve, pray, give and share the love of Christ wherever God leads them.

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH DOOR CREEK ON MISSION.

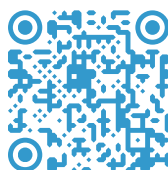
Together, we are seeing lives transformed through the power of the gospel both across the street and around the world, and we are grateful for all God has done this year as we look forward with anticipation to what He will do next.



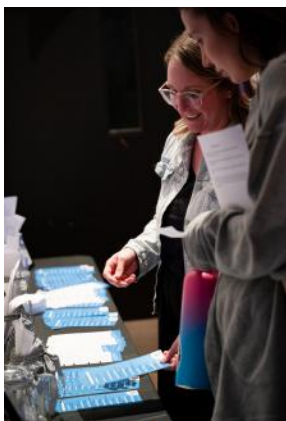
— BY BARB VAN ZANTE

Until two years ago, I didn't know many of our Door Creek-supported missionaries. Although I knew they were doing important work in bringing the gospel to many, that knowledge needed to grab my heart to move me to focused, consistent prayer. I began praying for the monthly prayer requests from our missionaries, and as a result, learned more about their lives and ministries. Motivated by the needs of these laborers, and a desire to see His kingdom advance around the world, I made a simple plan to pray for two missionaries each day. It's a very simple plan, but it has given me some structure to do what I want to do—pray consistently for our missionaries! I'm excited that through prayer I have a part in reaching the world with the gospel.

Matthew 9 records Jesus' ministry of teaching, proclaiming the gospel and healing many. His heart was full of compassion for those He said were harassed and helpless. The words He spoke to His disciples in the midst of all that He was doing are also specific direction for us today. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)



Scan the QR code to join in praying for these laborers.





When my friend encouraged me to sign up for the January 2025 trip with Mission of Hope (MOH) in the DR, I was a reluctant participant, unsure of the value in short-term mission trips. We started reading the book *When Helping Hurts*, and my eyes were opened to the reasons I was cautious about the trip, but also how a focus on “being” instead of “doing” could make a difference. My first trip to the DR reinforced the principle of being—that what I could offer across the globe without knowing the language was to see and hear others, to be a spirit filled presence, taking an interest in their lives and stories, pains and needs, interests and families. That principle is also important in my busy and comfortable life here in the U.S., and when I returned home, I once again committed myself to really see people as I went about my life.

I was not planning to go on the medical trip to the DR in Fall 2025, but one morning about a month before the trip, I felt a call to go if someone dropped out and a few days later one of the nurses who was supposed to go hurt her shoulder and needed surgery and could not go. Her plane ticket was changed into my name and I sent out a few emails telling the story and asking for finances to pay my way. In a few days the cost of my trip was covered, and in a week or so I raised double what I needed to go. I worked the waiting room of some record-breaking medical clinics with Mission of Hope in the DR without any medical training or much language skills—just seeing people, helping them find a chair, coloring with kids, asking grandparents about their families. I felt so blessed to just “be” in that space, to help people be seen.

I then had the opportunity to return in February 2026 with my spouse and several from my couples’ Life Group, which was an amazing experience. We read *When Helping Hurts* together to prepare as a group and had some of the best discussions we have ever had in our many years together. I loved watching others catch the vision of being a loving presence, listening well and praying with boldness.

I continue to work to slow down and “be”—to actually see people as I go about my life. Door Creek Church mission trips have expanded my little Grinch heart several sizes each time I’ve participated, and they’ve challenged me in how I walk out my faith in Jesus.

Mission: Possible

Door Creek Church partners with many missionary families and sends multiple teams to local and global sites to share the love of Jesus. Personally, I've discovered that prior to attending our Mission Lunches, I knew very little about the stories, successes and challenges our missionaries face daily. Going to these events has helped me understand just how difficult, yet rewarding, mission work can be. They have helped me know how to pray for our missionaries and to find ways to support what they are doing.

As I have talked to and watched those who attend the lunches, it has touched me to see their eagerness and interest. It strikes me that people who attend typically leave with much more than they came with and I believe they would say it was well worth their time. I invite you to come to one of our Mission Lunches. I think you will find it to be interesting and informative. You will see how God changes you to be a more fully devoted follower of Christ who changes the world with His love. Praise God that He is faithfully at work in our world!



— BY BOB HOLLING

We had a very successful year delivering food and other household items to **FIVE OF OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS** in Sun Prairie (Westside) and Madison (Sandburg, Kennedy, Mendota and Blackhawk)!

The program consisted of obtaining food items from the church's food bin and using funding provided by the church of up to **\$200 PER SCHOOL** on a monthly basis. There were **THREE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS** who attend Door Creek Church—Bob Holling, Steve Becker and Liz Dobson—who made monthly deliveries to all five partner schools. All of the schools were so grateful for this program that impacted **SEVERAL HUNDRED** youth, their families and school staff in a very positive manner. The staff at each of the schools we served were so very appreciative of our church's involvement and expressed that every time a delivery was made.

I personally have seen how God is working through this program developing positive, meaningful relationships between the schools, their staff, our drivers and Door Creek Church.



— BY CARRIE ANDERSON

This year, I had the privilege of using my gift of administration to serve by organizing our annual Love This City event for the first time. What many people experienced as a single day of service was the result of months of planning, coordinating projects, communicating with partner organizations and preparing volunteers behind the scenes.

Seeing so many individuals step forward to volunteer was a powerful reminder of how God equips His Church to be His hands and feet. The impact of the day extended far beyond the projects we completed. Partner organizations were encouraged, practical needs were met and countless lives were touched through simple acts of kindness.

Looking back, I am grateful not only for what was accomplished, but for the many ways God worked in and through His people. It was a joy to witness our church living out its mission by loving our city through service, compassion and the willingness to say "yes."



Serving on this medical mission trip was a powerful reminder of what God can accomplish through willing hearts. Throughout the week, our team partnered with Mission of Hope to provide medical care, share the Gospel and build relationships with communities throughout the Dominican Republic.

Over the course of our clinics, our medical team cared for more than 800 patients.

The first two days alone brought overwhelming need as we traveled to a predominantly Haitian community in Santiago, where we saw **248 PATIENTS** on Day 1 and **236 PATIENTS** on Day 2, totaling more than **500 PATIENTS** in just two days, which was unheard of by the medical director. In addition to medical care, patients had access to triage, a pharmacy, laboratory services, eyeglasses, clothing, hygiene supplies and most importantly, opportunities to hear the Gospel and receive Bibles. One unforgettable moment came when the electricity went out during clinic, yet the room remained filled with laughter, joy and hope.

One of the most encouraging sights was watching people eagerly line up for Spanish and Creole Bibles. The line for Scripture was longer than any other, and the Bibles were gone within minutes. Norm faithfully distributed Gospel tracts, and many people were eager to hear the message of Christ. It was a beautiful reminder that while physical healing is important, spiritual healing lasts for eternity.

As the week continued, we set up a clinic in Jaraboca, where our team cared for approximately **164 PATIENTS**



the first day. On our final clinic day, we cared for approximately **160 PATIENTS**. One particularly meaningful encounter was providing wound care and praying with a woman who had struggled with her condition for years. Moments like these demonstrated the power of compassionate teamwork and Christ-centered care.

The mission also provided intentional times for rest and spiritual renewal. One rainy day allowed us to tour Mission of Hope, hear testimonies from fellow team members, worship together and experience the joy and energy of local church services.

While the medical experiences were unforgettable, the greatest blessing of the trip was the relationships that were formed. Serving alongside an incredible team from Door Creek Church created deep friendships rooted in a shared desire to love others well and glorify God. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to partner with Mission of Hope and look forward to serving alongside them again in the future.

This trip was a reminder that the harvest truly is plentiful. God continues to open doors to care for both physical and spiritual needs, and it was an incredible privilege to witness His work firsthand.



— BY LINDA VICK

What a privilege to serve on Door Creek Church's medical mission trip to the DR last fall. I witnessed many answers to prayer while there, and shared the love of Jesus and prayed with so many that were open to hearing about Him. One of the most remarkable experiences God allowed me to be a part of was when a teen girl came to my vision station. I tested her vision and spoke to her through my interpreter. It was the very end of four days of a clinic serving **HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE**. As I shared about Christ with this young girl, her eyes lit up. She asked me about my own experience of faith. I told her it was the very best thing I have ever done in my life. I asked her if she wanted that. She nodded,

affirming she did. I was so overwhelmed with gratitude. I am quite sure I prayed too quickly for my interpreter to keep up. I had to trust he knew what I wanted to relay to her. She prayed with me to accept Christ into her life. God showed me where He was working and allowed me to join Him in His work.

What joy filled my heart!

The experience of teaming with others from our church to administer medical care and spiritual care to so many people was life changing for me. It has deepened my faith, enriched my relationships with others and spring-boarded me into doing more outreach here in the states. I am so grateful for this opportunity!

— BY SALLY SPAENI

Through the Door Creek on Mission Grant program, a group of us were able to host a baby shower for expecting parents. The baby shower was truly a sweet time of fellowship, welcoming mom and dad into a circle of love from Jesus. All of the Door Creekers who participated poured abundant love into the preparation of food, gifts, decorations and fun activities.

Although this pregnancy was unplanned, this couple found themselves showered not only with practical gifts and resources to keep baby safe and healthy, but also showered with grace, kindness, gentleness and acceptance. They spoke words of appreciation for all the provisions that the grant and attendees provided and even said that they want to come to our church one day. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to minister in this way to this beautiful young family.



— BY KEREN LARA

We had a wonderful time serving as a family during Love This City.

We were able to see the amazing work the Care Net Pregnancy Center does to support single mothers. We helped to stock supplies in a store for mothers to experience shopping for their babies. We spent most of our time that day decorating for a baby shower. Seeing the resident's smile for the time put into celebrating her baby was so rewarding for all of us. She even wrote a note thanking our church for the support given.

Simple acts of kindness can truly go a long way, not just for the recipient, but for those of us who get to serve. We left touched and encouraged to support in any possible way those who need an extra hand.

The mother's note: "Thank you so much for being a part of such a beautiful day for me and my family. Words can't describe how grateful we are. Because of you, our future looks bright and exciting."

— BY MELANIE YEAZEL

Thanks, in part, to a generous gift from the Christmas Offering, the Medical Center is thriving—and has recently expanded its care to include a new dental clinic, bringing essential healthcare to Uganda. In addition, a new three-story girls' dormitory and kitchen has been completed, giving girls a chance at a safer, brighter future. We are grateful to see how God is using the generosity of our DCC family and **WE INTERNATIONAL** to bring hope, healing and new opportunities to lives around the world.





— STEVE BERG

WHAT AN AWESOME YEAR OF YOUTH MINISTRY! Our students are passionate about following Jesus and are a ton of fun. Wednesday nights continue to be a place of belonging for our teens!

Some highlights from the year are the Fall Retreat, where our high schoolers practiced silence and solitude, Districts, where we saw over **100 STUDENTS** gather with thousands of others to worship Jesus and summer missions where **OVER 30** of our students gave up a week of their summer to serve those in need in Alabama and Texas. We had some students step up and lead worship, as well as three of our senior girls preach the word to our students and leaders. Praise God for a great year!

— BY CHAD REESER

As the new Campus Pastor, I have been able to witness various ministries with fresh eyes. One ministry that has been particularly encouraging is the DeForest Youth Ministry. This past year, Pastor Jordan gathered a team of gifted volunteers who hit the ground running.

This team is committed to compassionately make disciples among students in DeForest—both inside and outside the church.

We also have a number of students attending FCA meetings at the DeForest High School—another ministry that Pastor Jordan helps lead. So many families are being blessed by having a Youth Ministry in DeForest!



— BY RYAN ROCKWELL

One highlight from this past ministry year with our students was the Middle School Mission Trip. We took a **TEAM OF 19**—five leaders and 14 students—down to Bayou La Batre, Alabama for a week of service with Youth Works. While there, our team was able to help the local community through tasks like building rain barrels, helping residents with house projects and partnering with local organizations such as food pantries, Goodwill and the community center.



— BY KRISTINA AUBY

DCC Kids is more than a place for parents to drop kids off so they can attend worship services.

It is an important discipleship ministry in our church.

OVER 70 VOLUNTEERS commit to regularly serve and invest in the next generation, helping children discover who God is and how deeply He loves them.

Babies experience the love of Jesus through familiar, caring volunteers who create a safe place where trust can grow. Our preschoolers joyfully learn that God made them, God loves them and Jesus wants to be their friend forever through engaging Bible stories, worship, hands-on activities and creative play.

This past year, our elementary students journeyed through the entire Bible, discovering God's incredible story of creation, the fall, redemption and the promise of restoration.

And, this past winter, **TWENTY** fourth and fifth graders took the next step by diving deeper into what they believe through our six-week Foundations of Faith class. Seeds have been planted and faith is taking root!



KIDS & SPORTS



— BY KRISTINA AUBY

This past year, Upward Sports ministered to **276 ELEMENTARY-AGED KIDS**, providing a place to not only grow in athletic, team-building and confidence skills, but also to spend time hearing God's Word through a devotional at each practice and game.

— BY KRISTINA AUBY

We love once again partnering with the Chicago Eagles for a summer soccer camp.

This year brought us **200 KIDS**, a week of perfect weather and stories of children growing in their understanding of Jesus—including **THREE KIDS** who made the decision to follow Him!

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