



EHBC

Eastern Hills Bible Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Hello Eastern Hills Church Family!

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:8-9

We have many reasons to thank the Lord as we have experienced his unfailing love, beautiful works, and provision this past year! You'll find that this report highlights the Lord's work through our staff, leaders, and volunteers this past year. I've heard it said that God gets the glory, but we get to tell the story. While we have many God stories from this past year, here are a few of my favorites.

One of my favorite things to hear on a Sunday morning is "good speech." Not in that I need to hear they enjoyed the message that day, but more so in that it's clear they didn't grow up attending church. The fact that God sends people to our church disconnected from Him, and we get to share the Gospel each week brings me great joy! Hearing the testimony of Susan Lockley on Freedom Sunday gave me Holy Spirit chills. I think she did a better job presenting the Gospel than I did!

Can you believe the distance people are driving to our church? I've spoken with families in the lobby who have been commuting upwards of forty minutes to drive to church. We even brought some of our girl's neighborhood friends from Cicero to VBS. One of them walked in and said, "This is a church?" After two nights, she was hooked and couldn't wait to return next year. Kierstyn and I are praying they can join us for Sunday services.

I love how our church has leaned into our invest and invite strategy this past year. It's an honor when you trust us enough to bring your friends and family to church services. I consider it a huge extension of trust, knowing that you feel confident they'll experience Jesus's love and truth through our services. Hearing those you've been inviting say things like, "I didn't know church could be like this," makes me give a huge fist pump and resounding, "Let's go!"

Finally, one of our pastors recently had the opportunity to lead someone to Christ in their home holding hands and crying out to the Lord. I've shared before that when all is said and done, there are those who are lost and those who are found. What a privilege that we get to be a part of God's redemptive work in the lives of others. I'm praying that we'll hear more and more stories of God's amazing grace this next ministry year!

Thanks for serving alongside me!



Pastor
Rob

Our Year in Numbers

22

22 Baptisms (3 children and 19 adults)

41

41 New Members

9

9 Families who participated in Parent-Child Dedication

89 Kids

EHBC Kids attendance increased from an average of 67 kids to 89 in 2022-23

30 Students

EHBC Student attendance has increased from 20 students to 30 in 2022-23

571 Attendance

Average Sunday adult attendance increased from 303 vs 571 in 2022-23

59 New Families

59 new families came to EHBC this year

2 Services

Transitioned from 1 to 2 services

13

13 Learning Groups offered this year with 242 registrants.

13 Groups

13 Connect Groups offered this year with 128 involved.

200 Mercy Bags

Assembled over 200 Mercy Bags together as a church.

\$4,500

Raised over \$4,500 for New Hope Family Services through their baby bottle drive.

175 Turkeys

175 turkeys were donated and delivered to Westcott Vineyard Church.

2 Refrigerators

Two refrigerators were donated.

50 Ladies

Women of the Bible summer learning group was a success averaging over 50 ladies in attendance each week.

98 Volunteers

98 individuals helped back hundreds of meals with Feed My Starving Children at the Vineyard Church.

2 Shopping Carts

Two shopping carts full of peanut butter and cereal were donated to the FM food pantry.

5 Connect Dinners

5 Connect Dinners during the Spring of 2023 provided our church with amazing connection opportunities and several had roughly 100 people in attendance.

5 Families

We were able to support 5 families with memorial services that allowed them to say goodbye and to honor and remember their loved ones.

5

5 new staff members added



This past year, EHBC Kids has seen some great things happen. Eun Lee joined the staff as the interim Kids Director to lead the charge as we brought EHBC kids back to full strength post-Covid. She was later joined by Kristiana Bowman and Steve Houston to round out the EHBC Kids team. During this time, the number of new families that regularly attend EHBC Kids programming grew incredibly. We are also grateful for the number of new and returning volunteers that are giving generously of their time and talents.

We are especially proud to see the youth take next steps on their own journey as amazing small group leaders and helpers within the ministry. This coming year we are praying that more families would be welcomed and find community here at Eastern Hills. The hope is that families will feel supported through Sunday children's services, childcare, family ministry events, parenting classes and a sense of community as we journey through life together.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Complete the branding package for EHBC Kids name change from "Promiseland" to "EHBC Kids."
- Reorganization of age groups and grades to minister to the children more effectively.
- Grow our volunteer base by 50% and serve the increased number of children.
- Implement a "Special Buddy" program for the children that need extra assistance during our weekend services.
- Plan and offer an overnight summer camp experience for our 3rd and 4th graders this upcoming summer.



EHBC Students have accomplished some major milestones this year. We are excited to have added Alex Yoo to our staff as the Student Ministry Coordinator. Alex has worked hard at building relationships with students and families to help bring synergy to the student ministry. We have also welcomed Katie Stevens as the Student Ministry Intern. Together they are working to help create fun and engaging environments for both middle schoolers and high schoolers.

This work is affecting other areas of our church by students serving in kids, worship and outreach. This summer we experienced a “first” by taking middle school and high school students to Hume New England camp. It was a tremendous week of worship, fun and life change. The student team has also been working at creating a rhythm of connect events with the purpose of inviting new students. We are working hard to build off the momentum that has been created over this past year!

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Expand the Middle School service to meet during the entire 2nd service.
- Move High School service to Wednesday nights in order to reach new students.
- Create a student leadership team who will help plan events and invest in reaching students in the area.
- Continue to encourage students to participate and serve in the local church.
- Create periodic outreach opportunities for students to help meet needs and share the Gospel.
- Plan and offer a winter retreat experience for EHBC students in early 2024.



Care is an integral part of the ministry at Eastern Hills and it touches every age and season of life. We walk alongside people through times of grief and hardship, as well as joy and new beginnings. This has been a year of continued growth and

development for the Care ministry of our church. We have been able to be present with many as they journeyed through the highs and lows of life. We have prayed with and for many. We have called, visited, encouraged and sent cards to those who needed to know that we cared. Because of your faithful giving we were able to help those who needed a little help with our Good Samaritan Fund.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Continued development of the Care Leadership Team.
- Development and support for all of our care teams.
- Launch the GriefShare program: a weekly seminar and support group designed to help those dealing with grief over the loss of a loved one.

We were able to support 5 families with memorial services that allowed them to say goodbye and to honor and remember their loved ones. Our sewing group is now a part of our care ministry and in 2023 they made 80 mug rugs for Bible study participants, 25 fleece hats for the Salvation Army, 25 pillowcases for breast cancer patients, 60 placemats for meals on wheels as well as 100 pillow cases for Sleep in Heavenly Peace!



When someone comes to faith in Jesus and participates in baptism, the work of new life in Christ has just begun. At EHBC, we are passionate about equipping those who have become connected to our church through a variety of environments such as connect groups, learning groups, classes, and other connection opportunities. In the past year we have piloted core class concepts such as “How to Read the Bible” and the “Because you Asked” workshops. These were well attended and served as great springboards into this coming year for creating effective learning environments for EHBC attenders to be equipped with the tools necessary for being a disciple of Jesus and learning to disciple others. We also held our first “All Group Leaders” meeting for the equipping and encouragement of those who lead in our various environments. We can’t wait to see what the year ahead holds as we continue our commitment to following Jesus and helping others to do the same.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Continue the rhythm of periodic leader meetings for equipping and encouraging lay leaders in the church.
- Establish (CORE - class) offerings and a regular schedule of providing them for the church.
- With (CORE - classes), design, develop, and implement them in such a way that members of EHBC are equipped to be disciples of Jesus and disciple others.
- Continue to see growth in the Adult Ministries department as the people of EHBC consistently engage in Christ, at Church and on mission.



It's been an incredible year of worship, teaching, and gathering for Sunday services at Eastern Hills. We experienced powerful Christmas and Easter celebrations, welcomed and trained new volunteers in various areas that take place

on Sundays, and saw lots of growth amongst the worship department. We installed new creative elements as well as a sound system to better serve those in attendance.

The new City Catechism has been a great addition to our services helping think through theological truths and how they impact our worship in Christ. We walked through some teaching content that was both helpful and hopeful. Last fall we spent time studying spiritual disciplines and the purpose of the local church. This past winter we unpacked the book of James and Jude. In the spring we discussed parenting and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Continued recruitment and development of the worship team.
- Continued upkeep and implementation of new software/gear to help individuals engage with worship and teaching.
- Host a Worship & Prayer Night that helps unify our church around the importance of glorifying God with our lives.
- Fall Sermon Plans: Let's Make A Deal (What are willing to give up to follow Jesus?) and This Is The Way (EHBC Vision & Values Series)
- Winter Sermon Plans: The Book of Malachi and The Bible Says (A series examining some of the weird and difficult things the bible says)
- Spring Sermon Plans: The Book of 1 Peter
- Summer Sermon Plans: The Names of God



Because of the generosity and stewardship from the congregation of Eastern Hills over the past year, we witnessed our facilities bless our community in a variety of ways. We were able to support the needs of our current building while making renovations to improve functionality at the Caz Road location. We finalized the sale of the Enders building and are eager to begin work on our current facility to create new office spaces, provide updates to our existing areas, and improve the overall safety and security of the facility. We have also worked hard to create and implement a new salary and benefits grid as well as 5x5 management tools for staff accountability. Staff culture continues to be fostered through a regular rhythm of staff development days. We have also completed three nationwide staff searches this past year.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- We are currently working through different ideas for new office spaces.
- Continued improvement of security and safety processes as well as building upgrades.
- Create and implement a more in depth process for the ongoing maintenance of our facility.



We're grateful that opportunities for outreach have continued to increase at Eastern Hills. We've continued to partner with local and global ministries, as well as send one of our own out to the mission field in Ghana. Together we have packed mercy bags, donated turkeys and participated in Feed My Starving Children as well as raised donations for New Hope Family Services. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our outreach efforts and opportunities to serve, remain in prayer and support for Rachel Mosher, and maintain a strong relationship with the Chinese Church.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Create & Implement new process of evaluating outreach efforts.
- Create new and more frequent opportunities to serve locally and abroad.
- Continued support for Rachel Mosher and her efforts in Ghana.
- Maintain partnership with Chinese Church and explore new ways to help.
- Partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build and deliver beds in October, 2023.



As a result of strategic efforts to help people become fully engaged in Christ, at Church and on mission, we've seen incredible fruitfulness from each area of ministry.

God has moved mightily through our Christmas and Easter services, bringing people together and to Eastern Hills for significant opportunities of evangelism. We've welcomed and trained new volunteers who have said yes to stepping out on mission in their own lives in a variety of ways from volunteering, being baptized, and supporting the mission of our church through prayer or financial support. We're excited to continue to invite others to engage at Eastern Hills both in person and online with our updated website and social media platforms.

HOPES FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Craft social media planning and protocol processes for delivering helpful and hopeful content to the community.
- New website that will be easy to navigate and will help those who are looking for a new church home experience more of who we are before they arrive.
- Train and inform congregation on how to interface with PCO calendar so the upcoming events, as well as facilities usage, is visible and easily accessible.
- Continue to offer regular communication to the congregation.