



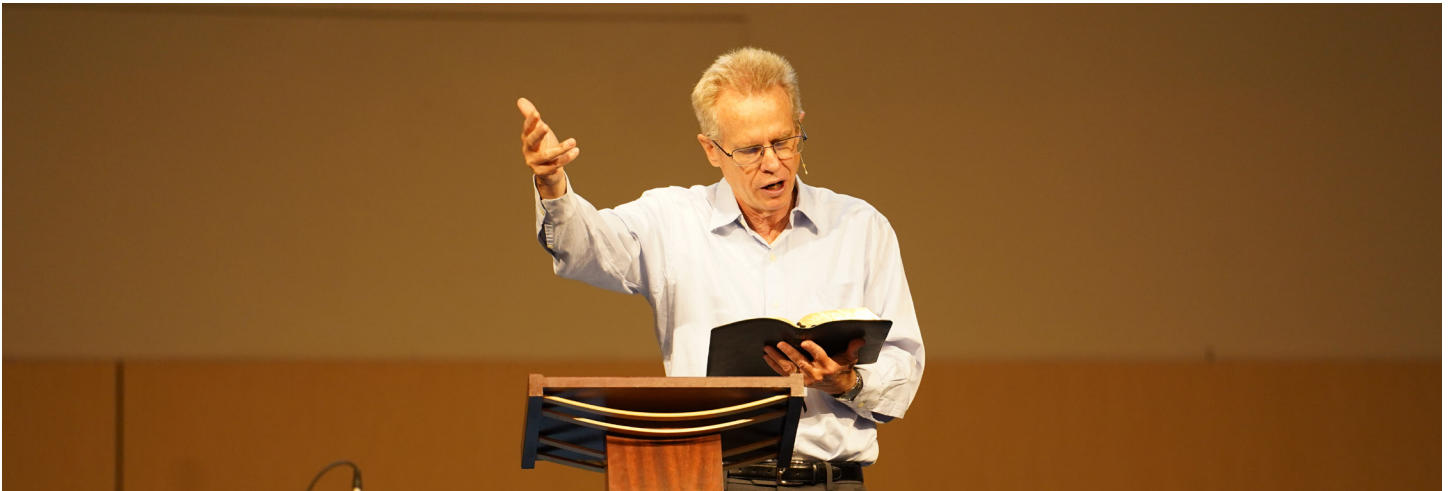
GRACEWAY ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS



GraceWay
BIBLE CHURCH

2025-2026



CONTENTS

3

**Letter from Pastor
Brent Slater**

11

**GraceWay
Financial
Summary**

4

Worship

12

SCS Update

6

Grow

14

**Description
of Board
Responsibilities**

9

Go

15

**Welcome
to GraceWay!**

THANK YOU!

As a church, we come to the end of this fiscal year with great thanksgiving. The Lord, who is the Chief Shepherd and Builder of this church, has been so good to us. We've been blessed with wonderful long-time church members who have served faithfully for so many years. Many of these seasoned saints are actively discipling younger believers, passing the richness of their faith on to the next generation. Thank you.

The Lord continues to bring many new people into our fellowship as well. Their love for Jesus and gifting by the Holy Spirit bring new energy, life, and excitement to us all. The gift of a multi-generational church family is precious. Yes, it has its challenges, but these are far outweighed by the great benefits of many generations coming together to worship our Lord.

I am also particularly thankful for the many GraceWay members who regularly volunteer, using their spiritual gifts, energy and time for the good of the church family. We've seen a lot of growth in our children's ministry as the Lord fills our halls with young families. This kind of growth requires a lot of volunteers who lovingly care for these children. I am so thankful for each of you who faithfully serve the Lord by volunteering in our family ministries as well as all the other ministries of the church.



Our church leadership is keenly aware of how God is blessing our family ministries and we are asking the Lord to show us what He wants us to do to continue to improve this ministry area for His glory.

And finally, I am thankful to see us continuing to grow and develop as a House of Prayer. Prayer reflects our deep love for our Father, while also acknowledging our total dependence upon Him. My prayer is that we continue to learn and experience the immense joy of both private and corporate prayer.

Thankful to serve Him with you,

Pastor Brent Slater

Worship

'GraceWay Worship Ministry exists to faithfully lead the church in Christ-centered worship by grounding our gatherings in Scripture, prayer, and music, facilitating a reverent and joyful congregational worship experience that unites generations, exalts Christ, and forms disciples whose lives glorify God.'

Therefore, GraceWay Worship is about much more than music. We seek to help the church worship together, be shaped by biblical truth, grow as disciples of Jesus, and go sharing Jesus as a House of Prayer.

GRACEWAY WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Family Celebration

Throughout the year, GraceWay has many opportunities to gather as one church family. Every fifth Sunday is our Family Celebration, with one single service at 10:00am, bringing generations together, including our children, for a shared time of worship.

Outdoor Worship

During the summer, Outdoor Worship moves us to the east field for worship, prayer, testimonies, fellowship, and a beautiful time together outdoors.

Prayer & Worship Night

In partnership with the Prayer Team, Prayer & Worship Nights are held on fifth Sundays in the Chapel, with special gatherings on Palm Sunday and New Year's Eve. Our regular Tuesday Worship Night meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in the Prayer Room. We invite the entire church to join us.

Hymn Sing

We also gather twice each year for Hymn Sings in the Atrium Room, praising the Lord through the rich heritage of congregational hymns: at 12:30pm after services in the winter and at 6:00pm in the fall.

Concerts

Alongside our annual Christmas Concert, we are excited to add a Spring Worship Concert to our 2027 calendar.



Equipping People to Worship and Serve

We believe worship is something the whole church participates in, and serving in worship is an opportunity for spiritual and musical formation. Our ministry offers Music Workshops each spring for musical development, and an eight-week Bible study in both spring and fall exploring the meaning, purpose, and biblical principles of congregational worship. We also continue developing opportunities for fellowship, encouragement, training, and discipleship.

There is room for more people to serve: musicians in band or orchestra, singers in choir or frontline vocals, tech, media, sound, lighting, presentation, live production, and streaming, and many behind-the-scenes roles that require no musical skills.

Extending the Reach of GBC Worship

Our services are now streamed on YouTube, giving more people access to the proclamation of the Gospel and creating a searchable library that can be revisited and shared with family and friends. Our Spotify playlist also helps the congregation become familiar with songs we regularly sing on Sundays, encouraging engagement with congregational worship throughout the week.

A Word of Gratitude and an Invitation

We are so grateful for 80+ volunteers who faithfully serve throughout the year. To every volunteer: thank you for your faithful service, preparation, prayer, time, and willingness to use your gifts for edifying our congregation. Much of what you do happens behind the scenes, but it matters deeply.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

As we look toward 2027, we invite the entire congregation to prayerfully consider how God might use your gifts to serve His church through GBC Worship. There are opportunities for musicians in the band and orchestra, singers in the choir and frontline, Tech & Media – sound, lighting, presentation, live production, and streaming – as well as behind-the-scenes roles that do not require musical experience.

One of our major needs right now is additional help on our Tech Team. If you have an interest or experience in sound, lighting, video, presentation, streaming, or live production, we would love to connect with you. Training and opportunities to learn are available, so previous experience is very helpful but not required.

Whether you have musical skills, technical abilities, or simply a willing heart to serve, there is a place for you at GBC Worship. Together, may we continue to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Psalm 100:2), pointing our congregation to Christ and growing as a worshiping community whose lives glorify God.



**250 ADULTS • 25 NURSERY • 35 PRESCHOOL CHILDREN
80 ELEMENTARY CHILDREN • 35 STUDENTS • 60 NEW MEMBERS
JOINED THE GRACEWAY FAMILY!**

Our GROW mission is twofold: deepening our personal walk with Christ (2 Peter 3:18) and strengthening our relationships with each other (1 Thes. 5:11).

ADULT MINISTRIES

In celebration of our church's name change, we launched a unique "Essentials of the Faith" curriculum to anchor our church family in core doctrines. This was paired with specialized "Worldview Sessions" designed to help participants unpack and apply these essential biblical truths to today's cultural issues.

90+
SUNDAY
MORNING
VISITORS

Beyond Sunday mornings, our Wednesday night and specialized ministries provided vital community support throughout the year. More than **25 couples** of all ages used the re/engage ministry to heal and strengthen their marriages, others gained biblical financial wisdom through Financial Peace, and some found comfort during loss through GriefShare. Additionally, our biblical counseling ministry provided deep, personalized care for **12 participants**.

FAMILY MINISTRIES



As our **Family Ministry** continues to grow, we asked **Pastor Gar Hoover** to take the role of **Family Ministries Pastor**.

GRACEWAY KIDS

170 VBS Attendance
11 Family Dedications
400+ Bible Lessons Taught
4,800 Crayons Used
65+ Visitors on Sunday Morning

Volunteers

136 Sunday Morning
40 AWANA/Wednesday Night
8 ABLE (kids with disabilities)

GRACEWAY STUDENTS

143 Students attended Retreats
32 Students participated in Serve Weeks (spring break and summer)
19 Students went on Mission Trips (Kentucky and London)
12 Special Events throughout the year
130+ Pizzas Consumed

AWANA

89 Nightly Average
Group Averages
6 Puggles (ages 2-3)
20 Cubbies (ages 3-5)
38 Sparks (K-2 Grade)
25 T&T (3-6 Grade)
10 Trek & Journey (7-12 Grade)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's ministry experienced an uptick in growth this year in Bible study and event participation, as well as greater enthusiasm for God's Word and prayer.

Over **225 women** attended our weekly Bible studies on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday nights, where they grew in understanding of the character and deity of Jesus through the lens of John.

Our MOTS (Mom of Tots) ministry equipped **30 mothers** through biblical teaching and practical life lessons, with a supportive community of peers and mentors.

Our All is Bright Christmas Outreach drew over **250 women**, including more than **120 guests** from outside GraceWay. Together, they shared a meal, sang carols, heard testimonies from GraceWay women, and listened to a Gospel message by Tammy Peters of Bethlehem Church in Minnesota.



MEN'S MINISTRY

This year, our men's ministry has continued to grow in both participation and spiritual engagement.

Tuesday & Wednesday Men's Bible studies experienced an average attendance of **80 men**.

A significant highlight was our Men's Conference in May, which drew **120 men**. We were privileged to hear from nationally known apologist Abdu Murray, who spoke on "Discernment in an AI-Shaped World," offering timely insight and practical wisdom for navigating today's rapidly changing culture.

Throughout the year, we have also continued emphasizing a culture of discipleship and mentoring among our men, encouraging deeper relationships, spiritual accountability, and intentional investment in one another's growth.

18 | 25 (YOUNG ADULTS)

- Approximately **30 total participants** within the ministry.
- Sent **7 young adults** to serve with Greece workers to lead a youth camp for **100+ teens**.
- Established multiple one-on-one and small group discipleship endeavors across the ministry.

PRAYER MINISTRY

We ushered in the New Year with two hours of prayer, culminating with a very special celebration of the Lord's Table.

We experienced continual growth in the number of participants in the various prayer offerings (i.e., Worship & Prayer Nights, Prayer Walks, Prayer Events) at GraceWay.

MOSAIC (AGES 55+)

Our Mosaic senior adult ministry (Motivating Our Senior Adults in Christ) organized nine dynamic activities this year, drawing an average of **43 participants** per event. Local outings included the DaVinci Exhibit at the Henry Ford Museum, a play and lunch at Meadowbrook, a Detroit Tigers game, and the DSO's Songs of America performance. The group also enjoyed an Ice Cream Social with a patriotic program, viewed Chihuly glass art at Meijer Gardens, and toured Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The absolute highlight of the year was a travel trip to Pennsylvania, where members watched *Joshua* at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster and spent a day in Philadelphia celebrating America's 250th birthday.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

- Parking Lot Repaving & Lighting
- Window Replacements
- Landscaping & Exterior Improvements
- Fellowship Hall HVAC
- GraceWay Interior and Exterior Signage



Go MISSIONS

Jesus Christ has orchestrated GraceWay not only to be a family of believers from all over the world but has also called us to go to the ends of the world. Our

heartbeat is to make Jesus known in Southfield and throughout all nations – literally from Albania to Zambia. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ is not just for a few, but for all of us. It is our joy at GraceWay to be the hands and feet of Jesus locally, while sacrificially sending workers globally to **23 different nations**.

To make Jesus real in spiritually needy and difficult places, we and our global workers learn languages and cultures to be effective in making

disciples. This past year we have seen God at work in response to our prayers and proclamation of the Good News, building His Church here and around the world. During ground shaking earthquakes or in war torn countries and regions, our Lord is deliberately doing what only He does — transforming lives one at a time through His grace and peace.

A highlight this year is that the Strategic Mission Fund (SMF) was able to release **\$254,921** to key gospel initiatives around the globe. Some of these include: a Warren church plant (Evergreen), education in Detroit (Westside Christian Academy), hospital start up in Mozambique (RAPHA), Inspired Exhibit, leadership development in Athens, and a teen camp in Albania.



23 NORTH AMERICA
11 AFRICA

12 ASIA
2 CENTRAL ASIA

20 EUROPE
2 MICRONESIA

3 MIDDLE EAST
2 SOUTH AMERICA

43 RETIRED MISSIONARIES



SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Athens	
Albania	
Greece	
Hurdling Handicaps	
India	
London	
Michigan	
Japan	
Poland	
Zambia	

REFUGEE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Our refugee ministry hosted **17 kids** at the Welcome House for a Backyard Bible Club in partnership with CEF.

English Conversation Cafe met once a month at GraceWay throughout the school year with families attending to practice English, play fun games, and staying for the Bible study afterwards.

65 families attended our annual Back to School Family Picnic on August 21. We distributed **200 backpacks** from donations from GraceWay Kids and other local churches.

Packed and distributed **140 nonperishable food boxes** to families who have either temporarily lost benefits or are under employed. We continue to help around **15 families** on a regular basis with food and cleaning/hygiene supplies.

Served **8 families** by cleaning up their yards around Metro Detroit (weeding, mulching, mowing, planting) in partnership with Cedar Heights Baptist Church in Iowa. These relationships were deepened and continue to grow.

Countless cups of tea and coffee and many meals are shared with these families throughout the year as volunteers spend time in their homes. It's during these visits, along with our regular outreach events, that Gospel Truth is proclaimed, people are prayed for and we love and care for them in Jesus' Name.

GRACEWAY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Projected Actual	2026-2027 Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget to Current Budget	
				\$	\$
Contributions	\$4,050,000	\$4,708,087	\$3,890,000	(\$160,000)	-4.0%
Disbursements					
Elders	2,256,289	2,140,268	2,236,502	(19,787)	-0.9%
Trustees	889,661	896,382	786,400	(103,261)	-11.6%
Deacons	8,500	9,847	8,500	0	0.0%
Christian Education	126,550	106,912	120,700	(5,850)	-4.6%
Missions	769,000	726,581	737,898	(31,102)	-4.0%
Total Disbursements	\$4,050,000	\$3,879,990	\$3,890,000	(\$160,000)	-4.0%
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$0	\$828,097	\$0	\$0	0.0%

OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2026

	Opening Balances	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balances
Fellowship funds	82,313	105,760	(135,335)	52,737
127 Initiative	21,744	15,459	(5,923)	31,279
Strategic Missions Fund	549,189	74,864	(254,921)	369,132
Ministry Activities	135,604	170,687	(197,293)	108,998
Facilities	174,918	517,359	(392,066)	300,211
Operating Capital Reserves	515,791	0	0	515,791
Total	\$1,479,559	\$884,129	(\$985,538)	\$1,378,149

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

QUICK FACTS



STUDENT BODY

- 588** Students PreK-12th Grade
- 34** ACT Average Score Top 10%
- 200** Churches Represented



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- 20** Advanced Placement (AP) Classes
- 80** College Prep Courses (HS)
- 40** Hours of student internship (12th grade)
- 4** On-site Dual Enrollment College Classes



TECHNOLOGY

- 1:1** Devices across all divisions
- 5** Computer labs



FACULTY

- 96** Faculty/Staff
- 20** Average Class Size
- 12** Year - average tenure of an SCS teacher



ATHLETICS

- 15** Varsity Sports
- 84%** of MS/HS students play on one or more teams
- 10** State championships



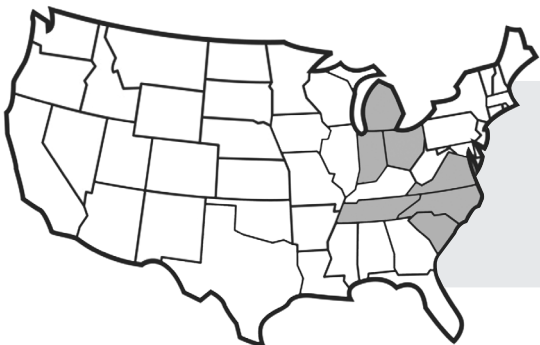
SPIRITUAL LIFE

- 2000** Hours of Bible instruction K-12
- 400** Chapel experiences K-12
- 36** Southfield HS school students in leadership positions



CLASS OF 2026

- 100%** acceptance rate to a college of choice
- \$6,258,300** in Scholarship Awards (**43** graduates)
- 91%** received scholarships
- 93%** completed Advanced Placement /Dual Enrollment Coursework



Shaded states indicate where 2026 SCS graduates will attend colleges and universities

39 Public Universities **4** Private Universities



SCS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2025-2026	2025-2026	2026-2027	Current Budget to Prior Year Budget		Current Budget to Prior Year Actual	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	\$	%	\$	%
Revenue							
Tuition & Fees	5,510,000	5,588,000	5,835,000	325,000	6%	247,000	4%
Fundraising & Gifts	566,000	1,541,000	577,000	11,000	2%	(964,000)	-63%
Other Income	397,000	590,000	469,000	72,000	18%	(121,000)	-21%
Total Revenue	\$6,473,000	\$7,719,000	\$6,881,000	\$408,000	6%	(\$838,000)	-11%
Operating Expenses	\$6,468,000	\$6,769,000	\$6,876,000	\$408,000	6%	\$107,000	2%
Operating Profit	\$5,000	\$950,000	\$5,000	\$0	0%	(\$945,000)	-99%

SCS ENROLLMENT

	2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget
Enrollment			
Preschool & Elem (K-5)	275	275	273
Middle School (6-8)	147	147	150
High School (9-12)	168	168	162
Total Enrollment	590	590	585

DESCRIPTION OF BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

ELDER BOARD

Oversees the spiritual health and direction of the church. Oversees the senior pastor and all the other boards of the church.

DEACON BOARD

Works alongside the deaconess board in caring for the practical needs of the congregation and assists the elders in ministering to the spiritual needs of the fellowship.

DEACONESS BOARD

Works alongside the deacon board in caring for the practical needs of the congregation and assists the elders in ministering to the spiritual needs of the fellowship.

TRUSTEE BOARD

Oversees the maintenance and development of all church property and facilities.

MISSION BOARD

Works with the Missions Pastor in screening new missionary candidates, communicating with GraceWay missionaries, caring for missionary needs, and promoting missions to the greater church body.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominates biblically-qualified church members, as determined by the elder board, for election to all of the church boards.

SCS SCHOOL BOARD

Oversees all matters pertaining to the operation of the school, including the course of instruction, admissions, personnel, accreditation, budget, and finances. The SCS school board oversees the work of the head of school.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful for the hearts of our volunteers who serve our church community. Our ministries would not be able to run without you! Whether you serve in GraceWay Kids, GraceWay Students, our security team, a table leader, guest ministries, on a board, or any area of our church,

we are thankful for the time and commitment you have made. On behalf of the pastors, staff, and all who are here throughout the week and benefit from your acts of service, we thank you. You are a blessing to us all!

NEW STAFF

WELCOME TO GRACEWAY

ALEXANDR WEAVER
STUDENT DIRECTOR



DREW LINDMAN
PASTORAL AND MISSIONS RESIDENT





GraceWay

BIBLE CHURCH

28600 Lahser Rd, Southfield MI 48034
248.357.5464 • gracewaybible.org