

rochester

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Rochester Christian Church
325 South Walnut Street
Post Office Box 176
Rochester, IL 62563
217.498.9264
www.rochesterchristian.com

2020 Annual Report

RCC'S VISION . . .

To be a loving and authentic Christ-centered family bringing hope, freedom, and purpose to our local and global community.

RCC'S MISSION . . .

Rochester Christian Church is making new and growing disciples.

RCC CORE VALUES . . .

COURAGEOUS COMPASSION

We express God's outlandish love, unconditional grace and healing hope to all people.

AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

We experience life together as we connect with God and others.

PASSIONATE PURPOSE

We boldly live out our God-given mission.

URGENT ENGAGEMENT

We are compelled to bring God's love to everyone.

Expenses	2021 Budget	
Church Ministries		
Creative Arts	\$ 16,393.00	
Adult & Family Ministry	10,300.00	
Student Ministry	11,500.00	
Children's Ministry	12,450.00	
Early Childhood Ministry	1,800.00	
Missions Ministry	8,939.00	
Communications Ministry	300.00	
Total Church Ministries	61,682.00	6%
Office Operations		
Office Expense	41,000.00	
Utilities	32,300.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	4,000.00	
Total Office Operations	77,300.00	8%
Total	\$ 986,592.00	

Rochester Christian Church
General Fund Budget Report
2021

	2021	Budget
Expenses		
Personnel		
Pastors	\$ 192,530.00	
Housing Expense	64,205.00	
Professional Expense	2,875.00	
Retirement Expense	18,762.00	
Support Staff	144,013.00	
Payroll Taxes & Insurance	21,100.00	
Group Insurance	151,450.00	
Total Personnel	594,935.00	60%
Building & Grounds Expense		
Hazard & Liability Insurance	18,525.00	
Facility Maintenance Repair	64,000.00	
Total Building & Grounds Expense	82,525.00	9%
Missions		
National	38,168.00	
International	70,074.00	
Backyard	34,881.00	
Short-Term Projects	1,477.00	
Total Missions	144,600.00	14%
Local Ministries		
Fellowship Activities	13,750.00	
Services Ministries	2,500.00	
Leadership Development	9,300.00	
Total Local Ministries	25,550.00	3%

From Our Lead Pastor, Brad Ferris . . .

2020 has been a year all of us will remember. While there was a lot of uncertainty, a lot of frustration, and a lot of anxiety and angst God did a lot of things in us and through us at RCC. The pages of this booklet will give you a quick glimpse of some of the things He has done over the past year and some of what we anticipate He will do this next year.

Our vision is to be a loving and authentic Christ-centered family bringing hope, freedom, and purpose to our local and global community. This is God's dream for us...this is His hope for our future. There's no question that this past year presented some unique challenges and opportunities in fulfilling this vision. While fulfilling this vision in the near future may look different than we ever anticipated, I'm confident that He will use us in powerful ways.

Let me reassure you that as a staff team we are working hard. We are praying. We are talking. We are dreaming. We are planning. We are collaborating. We are hopeful and excited for the future of RCC. All of us on staff believe God is up to something big at RCC. While we don't necessarily know exactly what it is, we are only asking that we're ready to enjoy the ride.

I'm so proud of our staff. They have endured a difficult year. They've had many curveballs thrown at them, and they've hit a homerun every time. I'm humbled that Paul Swanson and Matt Gibbs chose to join our team this past year to serve with us, and I am excited to welcome a new Discipleship Pastor to our team sometime soon. The team God has been putting together over the past 18 months has me more excited than ever to be a part of what is happening at RCC. I have such anticipation of what might happen in the next 18 months.

Let me simply say thank you. Your faith, encouragement, perseverance, commitment, generosity, and tenacity were just awesome this past year. There's no way we could have made it through 2020 without each other. I'm proud to be your Lead Pastor, and I look forward to what the pages of this book will hold next year as a testimony to what God does with us in the next 12 months.

Bringing hope, freedom, and purpose...

Rochester Christian Church
General Fund Expense Report
2020

Expenses	Annual Budget	Actual Expenses		Budget Remaining
Personnel				
Pastors	\$ 170,761.00	\$ 162,041.07		\$ 8,719.93
Housing Expense	75,410.00	59,735.38		15,674.62
Professional Expense	2,750.00	1,164.15		1,585.85
Retirement Expense	18,234.00	16,726.36		1,507.64
Support Staff	150,051.00	148,588.77		1,462.23
Payroll Taxes & Insurance	18,200.00	17,615.47		584.53
Group Insurance	157,360.00	137,567.44		19,792.56
Total Personnel	592,766.00	543,438.64	65%	49,327.36
Building & Grounds Expense				
Hazard & Liability Insurance	16,900.00	17,078.41		(178.41)
Facility Maintenance Repair	59,700.00	35,330.12		24,369.88
Total Building & Grounds Expense	76,600.00	52,408.53	6%	24,191.47
Missions				
National	38,168.00	38,168.00		-
International	70,074.00	70,074.00		-
Backyard	34,881.00	34,881.00		-
Short-Term Projects	1,477.00	1,477.00		-
Total Missions	144,600.00	144,600.00	17%	-
Local Ministries				
Fellowship Activities	11,550.00	4,694.36		6,855.64
Services Ministries	2,000.00	2,015.44		(15.44)
Leadership Development	13,300.00	12,892.97		407.03
Total Local Ministries	26,850.00	19,602.77	2%	7,247.23

Updates were made to our Worship Center sound to increase the in-person experience, especially in the middle of the room. Crowd mics were also added to the front of the platform to allow those worshipping online to hear the reactions of the in-person congregation so they could have a better feel of how the room was responding to various elements of our service. Upgrades were also made to the monitors that the band uses, and new Amps were installed to replace older equipment that was beginning to fail.

The worship team also experienced their first live-stream only Easter service and the very first pre-recorded Christmas Eve service. In spite of all the difficulty that was presented by COVID-19 and social distancing requirements the worship team conquered every challenge it encountered. I am very pleased with how they rose to the challenges we have faced and am extremely grateful that I get the chance to work with every one of our leaders in the Worship Department.

As Worship & Creative Arts Pastor, I continued to stay in contact with my volunteers through written letters, text messages, emails, phone calls, and zoom calls. I continued my education and leadership training through podcasts, e-newsletters, YouTube videos, leadership and worship books, and attending the online Global Leadership Summit. I am excited to see where 2021 takes us as a Worship Arts Department, and how we can best utilize the talent and technology that God has given us to glorify Him and impact our local and global community!

**From Our Worship & Creative Arts Pastor,
Ethan Tapscott . . .**

Rochester Christian Church
General Fund Expense Report
2020

Well 2020 was certainly a challenging year, but also a year that allowed us to be innovative and creative in how we presented the gospel through music and art. The worship team did several collaborative music videos from our homes that were edited together in my home office. We began the weekly Wednesday Worship as a way to help others worship God in the middle of their week.

In the Worship Center, we made several significant updates to our live streaming technology. We added a third camera angle that allowed for close-up shots so those worshipping from home could feel more included and engaged. We advanced our technology for lyric and scripture projection by allowing the words to be laid overtop of the video feed, and even updated the software we use to project the lyrics so we could help those at home have the best possible experience and engagement. We upgraded our video switcher device to make it simpler for our camera operators to perform their tasks. We also began streaming simultaneously to Facebook and YouTube to maximize our potential reach so that everyone could have access to what we are doing each week.

We began editing the sermon and music portion of the service separately throughout the week so that if anyone wanted to go back and watch certain aspects of a Sunday service they could do so with ease. We also began editing smaller portions of the sermon to grab the heart of the message to share on our social platforms to further the engagement of those worshipping remotely. Our YouTube page and Facebook page got updates and “facelifts” to make online engagement easier and more accessible. We created a landing page on our website called “Ways To Stay Connected” to allow anyone wanting to deepen their relationship with RCC to have an easy access point to do so. A weekly blog was also started as a way to keep the congregation engaged and updated on Missions partners.

Expenses	Annual Budget	Actual Expenses		Budget Remaining
Church Ministries				
Creative Arts	\$ 15,647.00	\$ 14,533.46		\$ 1,113.54
Adult & Family Ministry	12,500.00	6,153.02		6,346.98
Student Ministry	11,500.00	2,912.88		8,587.12
Children's Ministry	11,800.00	6,333.78		5,466.22
Early Childhood Ministry	3,275.00	408.03		2,866.97
Missions Ministry	11,829.00	1,726.86		10,102.14
Communications Ministry	300.00	79.62		220.38
Total Church Ministries	66,851.00	32,147.65	4%	34,703.35
Office Operations				
Office Expense	39,500.00	28,064.98		11,435.02
Utilities	36,300.00	18,603.85		17,696.15
Miscellaneous Expense	7,700.00	2,899.85		4,800.15
Total Office Operations	83,500.00	49,568.68	6%	33,931.32
Total	\$ 991,167.00	\$ 841,766.27	100%	\$ 149,400.73
General Fund Offering		\$ 927,909.50		
General Fund Expenses		(841,766.27)		
Excess: Offering more than Expenses		\$ 86,143.23		

25% of Excess given to Missions \$21,536.00

17.89% of our General Fund Offering given to Missions.

Building Fund Offering \$18,690.00.

From Our Missions Director, Heidi Wareham . . .

Our prayer and financial support sustain our missions partners as they . . . help university students find their way back to God; educate and send out pastors, evangelists, and church leaders; provide Biblically-based professional counseling; care for the elderly with love and compassion; host outreach activities for refugees; lead online trainings for church planters in a Muslim-majority nation; help the homeless find lasting stability; and so much more!

Missionary Partner Profiles with detailed information about and specific prayer requests for all our full-time partners are available at the GO Center at the back of the Worship Center.

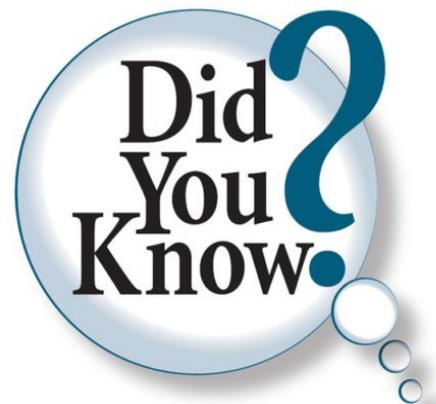
See the 2021 edition for a retirement announcement from our partners who have served the people of China for over 30 years!

Many of our serving opportunities for 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic, but by God's grace, we were still able to . . .

- > Host a Coffee Bar at Rochester Intermediate School's Winter Carnival.
- > Participate in prayer walks at RCC, the Muslim mosque in Springfield, the Hindu temple in Chatham, and at all 5 Rochester school buildings.
- > Host online Secret Church where we prayed for Unreached People Groups and the Persecuted Church and explored the topic "God, Government, and the Gospel."
- > Host the World Vision Global 6K for Water (virtually).
- > Purchase gift cards to Rochester restaurants to include in the summer food baskets we prepared for local families.
- > Fill hygiene kits for Kumler Outreach Ministries.
- > Assemble Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to be sent all over the world and Thanksgiving meal baskets for local families.
- > Provide Christmas gifts to the residents of Inner City Mission and for children of incarcerated parents through Prison Fellowship.
- > Raise over \$20,000 to build a church in Myanmar.

We often have to remind ourselves that Christ desires a relationship with us rather than religion. Our relationship isn't built on perfection, but is rather built on progress. I think students hear that Jesus wants perfection from their religion, and then get scared because they understand no one can be perfect. But teaching students about Jesus and the love he has for them is letting them know he wants a relationship with them, and that progress is key.

I am super excited about everything God is doing here at RCC. Pray for our students, our volunteers, and myself as we begin this journey in ministry. Pray for Jesus' glory to be shown by everything we do and to be seen by everyone who comes into this student ministry.



Because of your faith and your generosity...in 2020, during a pandemic, we gave close to \$195,000 to missions... \$195,000 for people to find the hope and freedom and purpose in Christ.

From Our Youth Pastor, Matt Gibbs . . .

Recapping what our youth has done over the past year is *really* hard when you have just started in January and there has been a pandemic that we have all had to live with. So, instead of recapping the past year, I want to focus on the leaps and bounds we have made in a month, as well as looking toward the future for what God has in store for our student ministry.

Over the past month, we have had two “start-up events,” or our “Get To Know You Nights” for both Jr. and Sr. High Students. Over the two weeks in church we held these events, we had a total of 44 students show up (18 Jr. High & 26 Sr. High) and 12 volunteers who have committed to help lead our students! It is evident to me how eager the students were to get back into the church, and how great of a foundation we have here at RCC. I can also see how excited adult leaders are to step into the chaos that is student ministry and help further the students’ relationship with Christ.

Now, our vision for the future. In one of my interviews, the committee asked me what my vision for this student ministry would *ideally* be. I simply told them, “how awesome would it be if when we get to take a trip, we have to order a charter bus (roughly 75 seats on a charter) to go to wherever we are headed?” Seriously, how awesome would that be? The crazy (maybe crazier) thing is, here in Rochester, that is a HUGE possibility. We are just a football field away from the entire school district, so why not get 75+ students to go on a trip? My vision for our student ministry, and my personal philosophy in ministry, is “people don’t care about what you have to say, until they know that you care.” How do we get students back into RCC, build up our student ministry, and further the kingdom of God? We build relationships with our students; we provide a community in which they feel like they belong, no matter who they are; we love them right where they’re at; and we let them know Christ loves them just the way they are. When we do this, I promise students will want to come to RCC, and better yet, students will want a deeper relationship with Christ.

From The Trustees . . .

What happens when furnaces break, we need lawn care or snow removal, doors come off their hinges, bathrooms overflow, internet is down, trees and bushes need replacing, or the roof leaks?

Who ya gonna call? Our trusted Trustee Team! This team is made up of Jim Kunkle, Kirk Barton, Brian Tackett, Tom Gibbons, Donnie DeLong, and Bob Thomas. The Trustees do an outstanding job of making sure that we are being good stewards of our building and grounds.

2020 was another busy year for these guys. In addition to normal facility maintenance needs, they were busy with additional improvements to RCC's fire protection system, new carpeting in the Family Life Center, better signage for the defibrillator in the north lobby, additional improvements to the exterior LED lighting, and further roof and gutter repairs. The Trustees also coordinated with the Ironmen's breakfast group to complete two much needed landscape maintenance projects; including welding repair of the south entrance railings by Ed Johnson.

In 2021, they are working on repairs to the exterior door to the Family Life Center, baptistry plumbing repairs, ceiling repair and LED lighting improvements in the KidZone hallway, resurfacing and re-stripping the north parking lot, consideration of kitchen remodeling needs, possible replacement of RCC's exterior sign, and decorative fencing around the AC condenser units.

The Trustees put in a lot of time "behind-the-scenes" to make sure our facilities are safe and comfortable, and are inviting to guests. Please keep this team in your prayers; and, when you have a chance, thank them for their faithful service!

From Our Children's Pastor, Paul Swanson . . .

RCC Kids (Children's Ministry)

Who would have thought that we would be faced with a global pandemic and who would be crazy enough to move across the country in the middle of a pandemic? But when God calls, our first thought can sometimes be that is crazy. That is exactly what I thought when I first felt God leading me to leave New York. But God never calls us to something and then leaves us on our own to figure out the details. He walked with me every step of the way as I moved from New York to Rochester, IL.

The pandemic has created challenges for children's ministry, but God is still calling us to reach kids with His love. It may be difficult, different, and challenging at times, but He is walking with us every step of the way. I am excited to be a part of RCC but more importantly I am excited to be a part of what God is doing here in Rochester and the Springfield area.

Live stream

On September 27 we live streamed our first RCC Kids Sunday Morning Live. The goal being to offer a worship experience designed for children. We sing worship songs with motions led by the shine girls, learn about the importance of communion and offering and learn a Bible story. We also emphasize the importance of prayer by praying several times during the live stream. We have continued using Orange curriculum which is designed to be fun and engaging and help Kids faith grow. Each month we focus on a special word. During February we are learning about **Kindness: Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.** The monthly theme is reinforced using stories from God's word.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday night KidZone has always been a strong weekly outreach drawing large numbers. This night also attracts kids who do not normally attend church. In November we offered our first Wednesday night called **Pringles with Pastor Paul.** We continued in December with **Jingle Jam** and in February with **BWAC: Big Wednesday At Church.** These nights are designed to be fun while encouraging children to connect with each other.

We play lots of games, eat lots of snacks and of course we always learn an important truth from God's word. We also use lots of hand sanitizer, require masks, and do our best to practice social distancing.

Outreach

It can be challenging to find ways to do outreach during a pandemic, but we came up with a few ideas. In September, we were able to come together in the church parking lot for a special night of fellowship, worship, Kona Ice, and a Christian magician. In October we setup a giant movie screen in the parking lot and enjoyed a movie together. In December we visited a few homes of children to deliver goodie bags and sing a Christmas carol. Beginning in November encouraging postcards have been sent each month to children in our children's ministry.

On Sunday, December 20 we offered a **Discover Jesus for kids** class. Five kids attended and learned how to become a Christian and what it means to follow Jesus.

Sunday morning reopening

On **Sunday, March 7 at 9:30am** our Children's ministry for K-6th grade will reopen!! We are so excited! We can't wait to have kids worshipping together in person. Our program each Sunday will consist of a worship service designed for kids that will feature upbeat, energetic songs led by the shine girls. We will learn about communion and offering. There will be lots of prayer and a story from God's word. After worship kids will move into small groups to discuss the morning lesson, play a game, do a craft or activity that reinforces the morning lesson.

Our live stream will end on the last Sunday of February, but we will continue to record the kids worship service and post it to Facebook and YouTube each Sunday at 11:30am. To find us online go to Facebook or YouTube and search rckkidzone.

2021 is going to be an exciting year as God leads us every step of the way.