



# Semester Update

FALL 2022



**PARK CHURCH**

We exist to make disciples  
of Jesus for the glory of God  
and the joy of all people.



PARK CHURCH

## **Park Church Family,**

Some of those early lines in Paul's letters can at times feel like mere niceties: "I give thanks to my God always for you" (1 Corinthians 1); "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you... making my prayer with joy" (Philippians 1); "We ought always to give thanks to God for you" (2 Thessalonians 1). But I suspect it was a deep well of affection and delight that produced those opening words, and that they were written with great intention.

Paul's words are reflective of our own heart toward you all as your pastors and church leaders. Life in the church is not always a smooth joyride, as was the case for the churches Paul pastored as well. Threats and grievances—both internal and external—often wove their way into the church's life. Hardship and loss were regular attenders. Disordered lives and relationships commonly led to disorientation.

We've experienced our own version of this. In 2020, a level of disruption was thrust into each our lives. At Park Church we've had our own extra and unique challenges—sourced both internally and externally—during these past two years. There has been both a collective journey and individual, distinct journeys to navigate.

But the renewals of God's mercy are never far behind—it's almost rhythmic! As it was for the churches in Paul's day, God's unfathomable grace and His active presence have proven to be our steady anchors in the swaying. His peace, His purposes, His Gospel—these will have their way in and through His people. Even amidst the difficulties, we're beginning to taste this a bit more in our community.

This comes vividly through each of you. Your involvement in our church family, your commitment to one another, and God's evident grace in your lives cause gratitude and joy to rise up in all of us. Thank you for making it a delight to lead alongside you..

Tonight we come together for our Fall Family Meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to routinely gather our Covenant Members to provide updates, clarify direction, and answer questions. The hope is a strengthening and unifying of our church family for faithful service to God, to one another, and within our various callings in the world.

In this booklet you will find an agenda for the evening, an update on our finances, a handful of stories of what God has been up to at Park Church, and some ways for you to pray moving forward.

Thank you for your presence and participation at Park Church. Let's continue pressing on together.

With love,

**Neil Long**

Executive Pastor

# Agenda for the Evening

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
2. FINANCES & BASEMENT UPDATES
3. SHEPHERDING REGIONS OVERVIEW
4. ADVENT 2022: CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN
5. SPRING 2023: LIVING THE MISSION OF GOD
6. Q&A PANEL
7. SINGING
8. PRAYER & BENEDICTION



# Financial Update

Although we won't cover all of this from the stage this evening, we wanted to include a member letter from earlier this fall in addition to some updated financial information from the first months of our 2022-2023 fiscal year.

## FROM RECENT COVENANT MEMBER UPDATE LETTER

October 12, 2022

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### WHERE WE'VE BEEN

For the majority of Park Church's history, our finances didn't require much detailed attention. We budgeted, sought wise counsel, made plans, avoided debt (except for our building), and enjoyed God's kind provision, typically well beyond the immediate needs of our church family. This began to change in the middle of the pandemic. We've found we're not alone in that the local church does not look the same in 2022 as it did in 2019. Throw into the mix the relational losses from our attempted downtown merger last year, and we recognize Park Church has endured a unique blend of strains.

This has a relational effect. It has also been felt financially. In the spring we devoted the time to take honest stock of our financial situation as a church and we came out a bit humbled yet genuinely hopeful. As is reflected in the chart below, we experienced a slow fade in our giving in the middle of the pandemic. However, starting with June 2022, we began to see an upward and stabilizing trend, helping us to finish the fiscal year a bit healthier than we anticipated several months ago.

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### WHERE WE ARE CURRENTLY

While we continue learning from this past season, our main concern is with an honest assessment of where we are in order to wisely move forward. Leading into the summer our finance team committed to some particular and swift changes, bringing our entire staff and church family into a revised approach to faithful stewardship and fiscal responsibility. (Our finance team includes John Petterson, Director of Operations; Nick Wolverton, Elder; myself, Neil Long, Executive Pastor; and accounting firm Bright & Associates.) Through individualized and team coaching our staff ushered in some welcomed stabilization this summer. This has set us up well as we enter into this fall season.

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## HOW WE'RE MOVING FORWARD

Our fiscal year kicked off on Monday, August 1. Our summer budgeting project included 15% reductions in the ministry budgets of every department, but did not affect staff compensation. At a general level, we've found areas of subtle excess spending that we were able to quickly cut. Part of this plan is also to temporarily halt new hires (except for one that has been in motion for over a year; see below). These reductions were to make a fiscally conservative move beyond "break-even" to get us in a healthy spot for saving well while giving trends have begun to stabilize. We've additionally developed more consistent and accessible ways for our department teams to stay up to speed on their actual spending against their budgets.

With all of this, we will not deviate from our generous posture with the finances God has entrusted to us; this is part of God's heart in why and how he gives us the gifts he does. Park Church continues its commitment to give 10% of what we receive to missions and church planting. And we will continue putting our resources toward the call of the church to testify to God's kingdom and to build up the body of believers.

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## THREE INVITATIONS FOR YOU

As a church family, we bear the joys and tensions of our church life together. Thank you for the (truly) countless ways each of you has invested your lives in and through Park Church. We do not take any of this lightly; your care and continued commitment are sweet encouragements to us. As we move forward in unison, we invite you to three things:

**Pray for wise stewardship, unique provision, and the fruitful work in front of us.** God is both the one who sustains us through His gifts and is our very Sustenance Himself. He has provided bountifully and given us the ability to steward his gifts well. May we actively look to Him while making good use of the guidance He has given us.

**Consider again your own financial giving to Park Church.** We are seeking to do a better job talking about money in ways Jesus did, as an index of our hearts and a significant tool designed to be enjoyed, invested, and given away. That looks different for each person and family, and often shifts during different seasons. Our invitation here is to consider again what God has given you and what faithful stewardship and sacrificial giving look like, whether in relation to your regular giving and/or as you approach end of the year giving.

**Let's live into our identity as a church family.** Many of the cultural liturgies pressing in around us nearly demand a consumerist approach to life and relationships. Here's a place where we ought to be a counterculture, living as a self-giving people who seek the good of the other. Let's be a church that delights in potlucks, joyfully serves on ministry teams, and offers up tangible and intangible gifts to the people around us, whether at Park Church or beyond.

## BUDGETS, INCOME, & PROJECTED INCOME

### ANNUAL INCOME & EXPENSES COMPARISON

	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total*	2023 Projected*
<b>Income</b>	\$2,627,689	\$2,368,036	\$2,341,384	\$2,260,000
<b>Expenses</b>	\$2,224,304	\$2,456,604	\$2,710,437	\$2,241,750

\*Includes Park College

### 2023 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ministry Area	2022 Expense	2023 Budget
Community, Formation, & Missions	\$309,144	\$256,855
Counseling & Care	\$46,842	\$32,500
Family Ministries	\$43,490	\$25,344
Liturgy & Arts	\$49,515	\$45,340
Operations*	\$1,984,958	\$1,603,974
Park College**	\$276,487	\$277,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,710,437</b>	<b>\$2,241,750</b>

\*Includes staff salaries and benefits, facility costs, insurance, taxes, communications, and other church-wide expenses

\*\*Includes Park College staff salaries and benefits

### FISCAL REPORT FROM AUGUST & SEPTEMBER (FIRST TWO MONTHS OF OUR FISCAL YEAR)

	Budget	Actual
Total Support & Revenue (YTD)	\$308,000	\$322,911
Total Expenditures (YTD)	\$326,582	\$336,799
Net Operating Surplus (YTD):	—	<b>\$4,694</b>



# Department Celebrations & Prayer Needs





## Park Kids

### **Celebrations**

We would like to celebrate growing numbers in Park Kids, leading to more classrooms and the decision to consolidate all classrooms onto one level for security and ease. We are also so thankful for the Park Kids Team, including our Lead Teachers who faithfully preach the Gospel to our kids even in the midst of change. Lastly, we are over the moon excited about Trinity DeHerrera joining our staff team as Park Kids Coordinator.

### **Prayer Needs**

1. Pray for the Lord to give our team wisdom as we continue to adapt to a growing ministry.
2. Pray that God would water the seeds sown through the faithfulness of parents and our Park Kids Team as each share the Gospel with kids.



## Park Students

### **Celebrations**

We had a Halloween party and many of our students brought their friends with them! We regularly encourage them to invite their “Oikos” (circle of influence/friends) to Park Students. We were encouraged by their bravery to do this. It was such a fun night.

### **Prayer Needs**

1. Pray for our students as they navigate worldly messages and social pressure.
2. Ask for God to give them endurance to choose Him and follow His ways, having compassion for the brokenness around them.



## Park College

### **Celebrations**

Every Wednesday night this semester we have gathered together for Park College Late Night. Our hope for Late Night was that it would help students from different campuses get connected to one another and for students to be known by more of our church body, all while learning what it means to belong to Jesus. Week by week we have grown closer to Christ and one another thanks to God’s grace. Our team is hopeful and excited to see how this community continues to grow!

### **Prayer Needs**

1. We have a team of seven volunteers who have created space in their weeks to be with college students at Late Night and in the day-to-day of life. Pray that this team would continue to be compelled by Christ’s love for them in their pursuit of discipling college students.
2. For college students in the Denver area to be changed by the Gospel and for their lives to be evidence of the goodness of belonging to Jesus.

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## COMMUNITY, FORMATION, & MISSIONS

### **Celebration**

We're rejoicing in God's work through our partnership with World Vision, the Chosen program, and an ongoing relationship with the community in Morungatuny, Uganda. In specific, we're truly so overjoyed for the 199 children sponsored and the 400+ individuals at Park Church who represent those commitments.

We're also celebrating our four new Gospel Communities (more space for newcomers to connect to our church) and the 55 people who just completed the Foundations Course to explore Covenant Membership at Park Church.

### **Prayer Needs**

1. Pray for God to continue to breathe health and transformation into people's lives through Gospel Communities
2. Pray for the Lord to continue providing more leaders to care for and support those who are in and want to be in Gospel Communities

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## LITURGY & ARTS

### **Celebration**

We're so grateful to see the Prophetic Ministry team forming as we press into being a church that, in the words of 1 Corinthians 14:1, pursues love and that earnestly desires the spiritual gifts, especially that we may prophesy. There's already been an initial interest meeting as well as a training, but going forward this team will be meeting regularly for those who want to be a part and grow in their understanding and practice of this particular spiritual gift.

We're also celebrating the release of Park Church Music's song "Lay Down Your Burdens" written by John Petterson and produced by JD Raab. What a gift to have such talented songwriters and people who can put words to melodies that lodge their ways in our hearts, heads, tongues, and imaginations!

### **Prayer Needs**

As we approach the Advent season, be praying that God meets us in significant ways as we learn to wait, hope, and long for our returning King! Operations

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## OPERATIONS

### **Celebration**

Our two Facility Care Days this fall were big wins. Each saw 30+ individuals show up to care for our physical space. We're so grateful for each participant who deep cleaned, organized, pulled weeds, repaired fences, or something else—all with an amazing attitude. We love this family!

### **Prayer Needs**

1. Pray for God's provision of the right contractors to refinish the basement space
2. Pray that He would provide more members for our Security Team

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## COMMUNICATION

### **Celebration**

The time required each week to produce and publish our weekly emails, printed materials, social media posts, song lyrics, website updates, etc., previously took the better part of a work week. Through team decisions around what to improve, simplify, or discontinue, this recurring workload now takes about half the time it used to. This has created space for more art, music, and storytelling efforts that we're really excited about!

### **Prayer Needs**

Pray for God's wisdom as we begin building a Storytelling team. Our hope is to engage many writers and artists in our body with the work of sharing what God is doing at Park Church.



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