

# SYCAMORE RP CHURCH

# 2024 REPORT

*Great Lakes-Gulf Presbytery – Second RP Church, Indianapolis*

*Feb 29-Mar 2, 2024*

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want... Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:1,6)*

This song of deliverance swelling the heart and filling the praise of God’s flock is a Psalm about the abundant, overflowing life that comes to those who know the Lord as “my” Shepherd. His blessings of rest and revival, presence and protection, hospitality and generosity, grace and glory all flow from the Father’s eternal purposes, through the Son’s saving work, and bestowed to us by the Spirit’s indwelling ministry. He has given us every reason to be joyful, thankful, and hopeful children.

The session completed a study in Darby Strickland’s “*Is It Abuse?*” to strengthen our shepherding care. We have also had fruitful discussions, reading Patrick Quinn’s *Praying in Public* together. Statistically, the session constituted court **15** times in 2023. We met with the deacons twice and many other times informally for reciprocal counsel and discussion. Sycamore RPC currently has **44** communicant members and **47** baptized members. We witnessed the Lord add infants Talitha Prevost and Boaz & Vincent Johnson to the congregation, as well as Shawn & Jennifer Johnson and Ally Wiger. Our average weekly attendance is **75** in the AM and **49** in the PM. We are encouraged by this trend, seeing two-thirds of the church returning in the evening for worship and fellowship. The session maintained our household visitation schedule, meeting with most households. We still plan to make it into each of their homes in 2024. One of our 2024 goals is to elect more deacons.

Congregational Stats	2022	2023
Total Members	44 C 46 B (90)	44 C 47 B (91)
AM Attn	67	75
PM Attn	45	49
Professions of Baptized	0	2
Professions of New Converts	0	0
Change in Members	-0/+27	-5/+6

As a congregation, we enjoyed Cabin Fever Parties in February, a Memorial Day picnic at Highland Park in May, a Fall Festival at the VanSickles, and a Year End party. We celebrated graduations and a couple of baby showers. In our community, we supported the Pregnancy Resource Center’s Walk for Life in April and the Life Banquet in September. At the Presbytery level, we had a record turnout at the Covfamikoï family conference! Some attended the RP Night at Victory Field. We had the privilege of hosting the GLG Women’s Retreat. We hosted the Oct 6 one-day Presbytery meeting. We praised and prayed at the Thanksgiving Psalm Sing of northern Indiana RP Churches in November, hosted by the RPC of Lafayette. We sent youth to CYPUPU events this year and provided lunch one day at the CYPUPU Winter Conference.

Regarding our preaching & teaching ministry, we’ve heard from the Lord speaking in His Word as we completed our Ecclesiastes series. In April 2023, I began preaching in 1 John. We celebrated the Lord’s Supper

6 times in 2023, including our Communion Weekends. We considered the Person and Work of Christ from pastor Adam Kuehner in April and sermons from Psalm 23 in October. Beyond Pastor Kuehner, guest preachers included Jason Camery, Steven Work, and Nathan Shaver. On Sabbath evening, we walked through Acts 1-8 and then returned to the 10 Commandments in the Shorter Catechism. We sang consecutively through Psalms 17C to 37D. We also enjoyed an evening Psalm sing four times this year on the fifth Lord's Day of the month.

Our Sabbath school program seeks to support and encourage the Christian education of each home. Currently, on the rolls, we have 47 youths 17 years and younger, with up to 35 youths regularly participating in Sabbath school. We also kept up a weekly schedule of classes, including Keller's *Making Sense of God* on Mondays, Powlison's *Good & Angry* and Tripp's *War on Words* in our women's study, and a men's study on Owen's *Communion with God*, M'Cheyne's *Pursuit of Holiness*, then Williams on *Lamentations*, as well as a Wednesday evening Communicant Membership class attending by 12 youth! Hannah Prevost and Emerald Johnson maintain a young ladies (7-14 yo) discipleship gathering every other week. We hope for a young men's gathering in 2024.

Apart from several weekly Biblical counseling meetings, our pastor offers an annual class on how to talk with our children about sex-related topics. Further, our pastor offered Open House gatherings for each shepherding group every other Lord's Day evening in the Fall and Winter.

We have weekly fellowship meals, rotating morning and evening each week. This requires many, especially our youth, to step up and clean afterward. 2024 is a big year for anniversaries. Our building will turn 100 years old, and our congregation will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> year as an organized congregation.

A family in our congregation began a discipleship house for young men 18-25, with a biblical emphasis on launching well into life. The house encourages the pursuit of education and/or a career. The pastor meets with the 3 young men Mon-Thurs for daily devotions. The church is seeking to support this effort in its early stages.

June 2023 marked a decade of Shawn's ministry at Sycamore RPC. He wrote. *"At times, it seems like I have been here much longer. Other times, it is as if I just started, having so much more to learn in the will and ways of the Lord. It is my greatest privilege to serve Christ's Word and His people. I can say with Paul, "Concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another... I have found refreshing rest in your company" (Rom 15:14, 32)."* We thank the Lord for His faithfulness in part through the faith and service of our pastor to God's Word and people.

Regarding our budget, we saw our offerings fall short of our projected budget. Still, generous gifts brought us \$3,000 over budget for the year. Big purchases in 2023 were \$2,300 (611) for tables and chairs for communion and \$17,000 (608) for brickwork repair. The Lord has graciously cared for and blessed us.

We trust and pray that as we experience our God's benediction of His love, grace, fellowship, & trial, we will increase in our knowledge and experience of His all-surpassing love.

# SYCAMORE RP CHURCH

# 2024 BUDGET

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Proposal
<b>100 Income</b>			
101 Interest			
102 Tithes and Offerings	\$126,500.00	\$112,197.45	\$116,000.00
103 Flow-In ( <i>Anonymous &amp; RP Witness</i> )		\$1,020.00	
104 Building Emergency Fund			
105 Compassion International			
107 Other Income			
108 Building Improvements		\$20,000.00	
110 Building Cleaning			
111 Special Gifts ( <i>Lord's Supper Tables / Chairs</i> )		\$2,000.00	
<b>100 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$126,500.00</b>	<b>\$135,217.45</b>	<b>\$116,000.00</b>
<b>200 Administration</b>			
201 Administration	\$3,000.00	\$4,599.80	\$4,000.00
202 Christian Education	\$2,190.00	\$2,426.65	\$2,500.00
203 Library Education	\$150.00	\$56.48	\$100.00
205 Anderson Ministry Expense	\$300.00	\$298.87	\$1,000.00
206 Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
207 Gift/Donation	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
208 Speakers	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,500.00
209 Media	\$500.00	\$456.27	\$500.00
<b>200 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$8,190.00</b>	<b>\$10,138.07</b>	<b>\$10,150.00</b>
<b>300 Congregation</b>			
301 Fellowship & Hospitality	\$1,000.00	\$626.29	\$852.00
303 Mercy	\$1,000.00	\$1,205.41	\$1,000.00
304 Memorials	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
305 Outreach & Evangelism	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
306 Compassion International	\$456.00	\$357.00	\$0.00
307 Vermigli House		\$0.00	\$100.00
310 Sermon Audio	\$480.00	\$479.40	\$480.00
311 Pastoral Continuing Education	500	\$500.00	\$500.00
313 Seminary Attendance Fund	1000	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
323 Conference and Missions	\$5,000.00	\$4,690.00	\$5,000.00
<b>300 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,636.00</b>	<b>\$7,858.10</b>	<b>\$9,132.00</b>

<b>400 Denomination &amp; Missions</b>			
403 Presbytery Assessments	\$1,102.00	\$1,101.40	\$1,794.00
405 RPM&M	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
407 Synod Assessments	\$2,500.00	\$2,673.00	\$3,200.00
410 Synod	\$400.00	\$510.00	\$400.00
<b>400 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,202.00</b>	<b>\$5,484.40</b>	<b>\$6,594.00</b>
<b>500 Pastor</b>			
501 Health	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
502 Housing	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.04	\$25,662.00
503 Salary	\$31,332.00	\$31,332.00	\$28,662.00
504 Pension	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
<b>500 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$66,332.00</b>	<b>\$66,332.04</b>	<b>\$69,324.00</b>
<b>600 Building</b>			
602 Domestic Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,354.93	\$1,200.00
603 Maintenance	\$3,500.00	\$2,283.44	\$3,500.00
604 Building Emergency Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
605 Insurance	\$3,840.00	\$4,050.67	\$4,500.00
607 Utilities	\$9,000.00	\$8,952.73	\$9,000.00
608 Building Improvements	\$20,000.00	\$17,261.40	\$0.00
610 Building Cleaning	\$2,600.00	\$2,504.00	\$2,600.00
611 Appliances and Furniture		\$2,245.30	\$0.00
703 Flow Out ( <i>Anonymous &amp; RP Witness</i> )	\$0.00	\$1,020.00	\$0.00
<b>600 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$40,140.00</b>	<b>\$39,672.47</b>	<b>\$20,800.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$126,500.00</b>	<b>\$129,485.08</b>	<b>\$116,000.00</b>
<b>Over/Under Budget</b>		<b>-\$2,985.08</b>	
2022 Balance	\$36,797.05		
2023 Balance	\$42,529.42		