

vision guidebook

defining moments

● FAMILIES ● CHURCH ● NEIGHBORS



CONTENTS

- 6 Our Journey
- 8 *Defining Moments* goals
 - 10 For Our Family
 - 12 For Our Church
 - 14 For Our Neighbors
- 16 One Fund
- 17 Two-Year Generosity Goals
 - 18 Ministry and Mission
 - 21 Mission Center
 - 22 Strategic Ministry Investments
 - 25 Debt Reduction
- 26 How to Respond
- 29 Defining Thoughts
- 30 FAQ
- 32 Sermon Notes
- 38 Biblical Generosity



One moment with God - *that's all it takes to be forever changed.*

The Bible is full of defining moments. Moses had the burning bush, David had Goliath, Mary had the angel's visit, the disciples had Pentecost, Paul had the road to Damascus. Their obedience didn't just change their life - it changed their community. *Could this be our moment?*

I believe God has called our church to a defining moment. Before us is a crossroad of faith and fear. If we step forward, we can bring hope and help to hundreds of neighbors. Our courage can teach the next generation what faith looks like. God can use us to accomplish great things. But if we stand still or turn away, then the moment will be lost, our neighbors will be ignored, and our lives will remain unchanged.

I'm excited to share this vision with you. It isn't mine alone; it was developed through years of listening, prayer, and discernment. This is God's vision for us.

As your pastor, I'm asking you to join me in a season of courageous obedience and generosity for our families, for our church, and for our neighbors.



Looking Up,

Pastor Chad

Pastor Chad





ChristCommunity
C H U R C H

OUR DNA

What Defines Us

Christ Community Church is a relationship-driven, grace filled community that is living and loving like Jesus in our communities. Over the years, we have grown most when we have taken big steps of faith together. Every time we have stepped forward, we have grown in faith and impact. Our mission is to make disciples of every generation and send them out to guide our neighbors to a hope-filled future.

our journey

We look back on our first 63 years together with gratitude for what God has done and, with great anticipation, we look forward to our what He is going to do next. We believe that we are at a defining moment in the life of Christ Community!

First worship service of The Reformed Church of Palos Heights

1960
FEB. 21



First building dedicated

1962
DEC. 5



New sanctuary dedicated

1972
SEPT. 19



1971
NOV. 25

Thanksgiving -
Burned original mortgage and committed to a new sanctuary



1980s

New community-based ministries launched

First full-time worship position

1987



Changed name to Christ Community and purchased 13 acres in Lemont

1998



defining moments



2007
APRIL 1

Opened church on Bell Road in Lemont



29 runners completed the Chicago Marathon, raising \$120,000 for clean water

Launched Young Life Partnership

2018



2019

Launched a two-year generosity initiative for our families, our church, and our neighbors ▶



2022
Opened Community Park



2020

Community outposts bring church to our neighbors during the pandemic

2023



We are starting a courageous two-year generosity initiative for the future of Christ Community Church. To follow God's vision for our church, we are directing all generosity toward one fund. Our annual budgets (2024 & 2025) and three strategic investments will set us up for a generation of community impact.

defining moments

● FAMILIES ● CHURCH ● NEIGHBORS

We live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7



**“As for me and
my house, we will
serve the LORD.”**

Joshua 24:15



defining moments *for our families*

The next generation is watching. Children learn a faithful and generous life by watching their parents and grandparents. This campaign is a moment for you to deepen your relationship with God and show the next generation the faithfulness of God.

We are stepping forward for our families.





defining moments *for our church*

**“Let us consider
how we might
spur one another
on toward love
and good deeds.”**
Hebrews 10:24

There is no organization in the world with the power and potential of the local church. When you live out your God-given gifts you inspire others and the mission of God moves forward. After years of health and stability God is inviting us to step forward as a church. This campaign is designed to bring Christ Community into a new season of ministry and mission, one where everyone knows and uses their gifts for God's glory.

Together we are stepping forward for our church.



**"Go and make
disciples of
all nations."
Matthew 28:19**



defining moments *for our neighbors*

Jesus sent the church into the world with a clear mission, "Go and make disciples." Over the last few years God has opened doors in our community and around the world for Christ Community to share the gospel. This campaign will move people and resources outside the walls of our church and into the lives of our neighbors.

We are stepping forward for our neighbors.



our vision will be resourced by

one fund

- A One Fund strategy allows everyone from kids, students, and adults to participate in the exciting vision and mission of *Defining Moments*.
- Someone who is new can contribute toward the building, operations, and missions from day one.
- It allows an individual or family to have a single generosity commitment to celebrate.
- We believe these three areas - our families, our church, and our neighbors - are all part of a single vision God has given us to impact our community and world with the love and hope of Christ.

our two-year goals

1 100% participation

Defining Moments is an opportunity for every person who calls Christ Community home to take the next step, developing wholehearted faith in Jesus Christ.



2 \$3M

When every person at Christ Community practices generosity that reflects a dependence on God, we know it will powerfully advance the work which He has just begun.

Ministry and Mission	\$1,750,000
Mission Center/Thrift Store ...	\$500,000
Strategic Ministry Investments	\$420,000
Debt Reduction	\$330,000 (20% of our debt, 4 years of payments, \$340,000 in interest saved)
<hr/>	
TOTAL.....	\$3 Million

To step forward as a community, we must continue the important ministry that is already changing lives in our community. This initiative builds for the future by securing resources for the 2024-25 budget. Your generosity allows us to continue supporting everything you already love about Christ Community Church - Sunday worship, small groups, community events, congregational care, mission partners, youth, and children's ministry.

MINISTRY AND MISSION | \$1,750,000





Christ Community is launching a mission center in our community that will be fueled by a thrift store. As an extension of our church, the store will generate life-changing relationships and revenue for ministry all over our community. The mission center will then re-purpose profit to support ministry and advance the gospel. Your generosity allows us to share the hope of Jesus with hundreds of your neighbors every year.

MISSION CENTER / THRIFT STORE | \$500,000

Our ministry to families and seniors is critical for the future of the church. Every Sunday, our children's ministry classrooms are bursting with children and energy. Every month our ministry to seniors continues to provide important connections inside and outside our church community. There is so much more we could do for our children, their parents, and our seniors! Your generosity allows us to strategically develop leaders, spaces, and resources for the future of the church.

STRATEGIC MINISTRY INVESTMENTS | \$420,000





Debt is the final barrier to our future ministry. A strategic investment to reduce our debt by 20% (\$330,000) will free up future resources (\$340,000+ in saved interest) and eliminate four years of mortgage payments. Your generosity frees us to say "Yes" to God's upcoming invitations.

DEBT REDUCTION | \$330,000

how to respond

① pray

Meet God at this defining moment. Ask Him to reveal His heart, His will, and His vision for our church. Seek God's direction as you consider what He is asking you to give.

② grow

Attend each Sunday from October 1 - December 3, 2023. Learn all you can about God's heart and will for you and your resources. Discover the joy of generosity with an existing or new small group.

③ give

Prayerfully make a commitment that stretches your faith. Turn in your family commitment card on November 12. Then, starting on December 3, begin to give in ways that change our families, our church, and our neighbors.

Take a few moments and locate where you are on the pathway of giving. Consider taking that next step to increase your impact. Whether you're brand-new or have been giving to CCC for a long time, we're not asking you to give everything away; we're just asking you to prayerfully consider taking that next step forward.

fearless

I give beyond 10% to CCC.

faithful

I faithfully give 10% of my income to CCC.

consistent

I give consistently to CCC but less than 10% of my income.

intentional

I give to CCC but not consistently.

initial

I have not given to CCC before now.

What is your next step in gospel-centered generosity?

A GUIDE TO YOUR COMMITMENT CARD

GIFT CHART ▶

This chart represents the generosity needed to reach our two-year *Defining Moments* goal.

As you pray and seek God's direction for how you should give, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Allow it to inspire and challenge you toward greater generosity as we embark on the *Defining Moments* initiative together.

Gifts Needed	Gift Level	Annual Gift of	Monthly Gift of	Gift Level Total
1	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$12,500	\$300,000
1	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$200,000
1	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$150,000
3	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$300,000
4	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$300,000
8	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$400,000
10	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$300,000
10	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$250,000
12	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$180,000
12	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$120,000
20	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$150,000
44	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$220,000
55	\$2,400	\$1,250	\$100	\$132,000
MANY	Other			
			TOTAL:	\$3,000,000

 ChristCommunity
ccconbell.com | (630)257-7770

WORKSHEET ▼

View this sample worksheet as you consider your commitment to *Defining Moments*.

My Two-Year *Defining Moments* Commitment

Please calculate below.

\$ What I normally give in one year
(general fund, benevolence, special gifts, etc.)

\$ My expanded annual generosity
for *Defining Moments*

\$ x 2 years = \$
+

My gift(s) from stored resources
(stocks, real estate, savings, etc.) \$

My total giving for two years:

defining moments \$

My Contact Information

Name(s)

Address

City St Zip

Phone

Email

defining thoughts

"I'm excited about the boldness of this vision. I'm thrilled our church is stepping out in faith. It's about growing our faith, growing our capacity for generosity, escaping the scarcity mindset and trusting in the provision of God." - Derek De Groot

"When we trust God with all of our lives we get so much more in return. Giving from what we have has been a great source of joy in our lives! Now is the right time for us to be courageous... our church is well prepared for it. We have gifts to share with a world that needs it!"

- Samantha Costello

"Christ Community is in a great place right now and I believe helping people and making new relationships will make us all closer to God."

- Pete Bolt

"To live courageously is to overcome the life-threatening and demoralizing anxieties of our times. Our vision includes restoring our relationship to God and the brokenness of humanity."

- Fred Wezeman

"The Bible is clear on how we are to live generously. I would love all of us to invite God into that decision and to not let fear take hold of our hearts."

- Carissa Van Dyke

"You may appear rich externally by what you possess, but you become rich internally by what you give. I love the idea of creating a mission center/thrift store. I think it will give this area something it is lacking. By investing doing this we are investing in future ministry."

- Bob Boone

"Our world is in a hard place and we can really aid in overcoming the separation in our world today... sharing what was given to us without needing something in return brings me great gratitude."

- Kathryn Kratz

FAQ frequently asked questions

IS DEFINING MOMENTS JUST A WAY TO RAISE MORE MONEY?

Defining Moments is a way for us to express our gratitude to God for all the resources He has given us. We're working together to have an incredible impact to our community. This initiative is not about collecting extra tithes; it's all about faithfully stepping together as one church to care for our families, our church, and our neighbors.

HOW DOES THE ONE FUND APPROACH TO DEFINING MOMENTS CHANGE MY GIVING TO SUPPORT THE GENERAL BUDGET, OUTREACH, FACILITIES, CAMPUS EXPANSION, AND OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS?

During this two year period, every contribution to God's work through Christ Community Church is a contribution to *Defining Moments*. Every aspect of the ministry vision God is calling us toward will be funded through this initiative. There will not be separate funds; every gift made will go into the same *Defining Moments* fund. Therefore, every weekend becomes an opportunity to celebrate and contribute toward what God is doing in and through CCC!

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

Most of all, we are asking you to step out in faith. Everyone who calls Christ Community Church home is being asked to make a two-year commitment. We serve a great God and trust Him to exceed our greatest expectations - to do more than we could ever hope or imagine through our collective *Defining Moments* commitments.

WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE RIGHT NOW?

Even in times of scarcity, God wants our hearts. The widow who gave her last mite did not make a very big financial contribution, but Jesus said she gave the largest gift of all. *Defining Moments* is about all of us coming together, giving generously, and trusting God to do the rest.

WHAT IF I'M SEVERELY IN DEBT RIGHT NOW? AM I STILL SUPPOSED TO GIVE?

It's important for generosity to be a part of our life at every point. If you are in the process of paying off debt, we commend you, and you should continue to do so. But, the Bible does not teach that we withhold giving until we are debt-free. When we honor God first with our giving, He promises to be involved with every other aspect of finances.

WHAT IF I'VE NEVER EVEN GIVEN TO CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH BEFORE?

If you have never given financially to CCC, *Defining Moments* is for you! This is a "one fund" generosity initiative. It is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are asked to give an extra gift "over and above" your regular giving. Rather, *Defining Moments* recognizes that everyone in the church is called to give generously and sacrificially. This is not merely for "super-givers;" it is for all of us.

HOW DO I GIVE?

There are three ways that you can contribute financially to CCC: online at cconbell.com/give, at Sunday services during the collection of the offering, or by mailing your contribution to the church during the week.

WHAT IF I AM NEW AROUND HERE?

We're excited that you are considering partnering with us! The local church is God's "Plan A" for conforming our families to the image of Christ, reaching our community, and bringing the gospel to the nations. If you are new to us, let this become your "defining moment" and join us in the mission.

WHY DO CHURCHES TALK ABOUT MONEY, FINANCES, AND GIVING SO MUCH?

We talk about money because we care about you and your family. According to the Bible, money can bring great opportunity or great danger. Jesus tells us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19). We know that financial strain is a frequent tension in marriages and a leading cause of depression. As a church, generosity is not something we want FROM you, but something we want FOR you because Christ taught us that generosity changes our hearts and makes us more Kingdom-minded.

HOW LONG WILL MY COMMITMENT BE? CAN I UPDATE MY COMMITMENT IF MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE?

Giving to *Defining Moments* officially starts on December 3, 2023 with a Celebration Sunday! We are asking every person and family to make a two-year commitment so we can fully pursue our vision together. You may update your commitment or pledge at any time.

Week 1

Welcome to Your Defining Moments

Genesis 12:1-5

Mark 1:14-20

1. What is a defining moment?

2. God calls people...

3. Why does God call us to go?

4. What have faithful steps defined your life?

5. Where is God calling Christ Community to go?

Week 2

A Moment Missed, A Changed Life

Luke 18:18-30

Luke 19:1-10

1. What do these two men have in common?

2. What choices defined their future?

3. Where is salvation found?

4. How do we learn faith?

5. Our wealth can be...

defining
moments

Week 3

Defined by Jesus

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Who are you?

2. The gospel is...

3. Who are you in Christ?

4. Radical grace fuels...

5. Why has God created and redeemed you?

Week 4

Defined by Faith

Matthew 25:14-30

1. What have you been given?

2. Stewardship is...

3. Describe a faithful disciple.

4. What happens to the gifts we invest?

5. What happens to the gifts we hide?

defining
moments

Week 5

*Defined by
Generosity*

Acts 4:32-37

1. What are the forgotten hallmarks of the church?

2. Why is giving powerful?

3. What are the needs of our community?

4. Your money reveals...

5. Does your generosity impact others?

Week 6

*For Our Families
For Our Church
For Our Neighbors*

Acts 6:1-7

1. What slows the spread of the gospel?

2. What should the church always focus on?

3. How could generosity impact you and your family?

4. How could generosity impact our church?

5. How could generosity impact our neighbors?

defining
moments

GENEROSITY ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD

Seek first **his kingdom**
and **his righteousness,**
and all these things **will**
be given to you as well.

- Matthew 6:33

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

- Proverbs 11:25

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

- 1 Timothy 6:17-18

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

- Hebrews 13:16

The amazing thing about *Defining Moments* is that we're doing this together. Every single one of us will choose to take that next step in our giving, our serving, and our praying so we can press forward in our mission to be Jesus to our neighbors. It doesn't matter if you're single or married, a senior or student, you've been attending Christ Community Church for years or just a few days - we all have the ability, and responsibility, to boldly pursue the vision God has given us.

**defining
moments**

● FAMILIES ● CHURCH ● NEIGHBORS

**THIS
WORKBOOK
WAS CREATED FOR:**

2.625 x 1



ChristCommunity
— C H U R C H —

CCCONBELL.COM | (630)257-7770