



RESTORE
GOD'S PEOPLE. GOD'S HOUSE.



RESTORE

GOD'S PEOPLE. GOD'S HOUSE.

They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

ISAIAH 61:4

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DISTRICTCHURCH.ORG/RESTORE

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DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

God has called us to be a light in the heart of our nation's capital. We are a church committed to seeing lives transformed by making disciples who love, think, and act like Jesus.

Many years ago, God gave us a vision that DC would no longer be a place primarily known for its politics and power, but for the presence of God. We have prayed that our city would become a place of spiritual revival, where people from every nation encounter the life-changing power of the gospel right here in our capital.

Recently, God miraculously answered a prayer we have long prayed as a church by providing us with a permanent home in the heart of our city. Many of us have given and prayed toward this vision over the years.

As we celebrate our fifteenth anniversary, we believe God is calling us into a new two-year season we are calling RESTORE. This is a one-fund generosity initiative that focuses on restoring God's People and restoring God's House. It is about raising the resources to renovate this historic building entrusted to us and fueling our ongoing mission to lead people in our city to Christ.

In this Guidebook you will see our journey, where we stand today, where God is leading us, and how you can join us in this sacrificial work that will impact generations to come.

We invite you to pray, dream, and step out in faith with us. May God use this season to RESTORE His people and His house, all for His glory.

Together in the Gospel,

Pastors Aaron and Amy Graham

Where We've Been



After sensing God's call to plant a church in Columbia Heights, The District Church was born in the Grahams' living room.

2010



2018

A Year of Growth. 378 people attended newcomers events and 250 volunteered at our Spring Service Day.

Launched Game Changer, our first resource initiative, raising \$1M to start a foster care nonprofit and purchase the Fairmont Ministry House for District Fellows.

2012



2019

Launched our Counseling Ministry, praying our church would be a place where the sick and hurting know they can come for healing.

DC127 launched with Foster the City at the Convention Center, drawing citywide attention and national coverage in Time magazine and The Washington Post.

2013



2020

Opened our newly renovated Ministry Center in Northeast DC, funded by Impact DC, which raised \$2.7M over three years.

Bursting at the seams at Next Step Public Charter School with three services, we moved Sunday worship next door to Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC), an 800-seat auditorium that became our home for the next 10+ years.

2014



2021

Regathered for the first time after COVID, worshipping together weekly in the backyard of the Ministry Center.

Celebrated our 5th Anniversary with messages from spiritual fathers Pastor Stuart McAlpine and Pastor Don Coleman.

2015



2022

The Multiply Initiative exceeded its goal, raising \$12.4M to secure a permanent home and fund ministry growth. We prayed specifically for a location on 16th Street, the most spiritually significant street in our city.

Purchased a historic 21-room, 11-bathroom convent in Brookland, built by Dominican sisters, and began renovation plans to create a weekday hub for our growing ministries.

2016



2024

330 people completed Rooted—our largest cohort to date and 130 more than the prior semester. Rooted is a 10-week discipleship experience that helps people connect with God, the church, and their purpose.

Launched Just Homes to help churches respond to the affordable housing crisis in DC.

2017



2025

Through a series of miracles and a new partnership, the 100+ year-old Historic National Baptist Memorial Church on 16th Street was donated, securing us a long-term home in the heart of our nation's capital.

The History of National Baptist Memorial Church

Founded in 1907 at the corner of 16th Street and Columbia Road, National Baptist Memorial Church began with a bold declaration: *“This will be the birthplace of many souls into the Kingdom of God.”*

Constructed in three phases—the Sunday School building (1910), the Memorial Sanctuary (1926), and the Educational Wing (1941)—the church grew into a beacon of hope in our nation’s capital. **At its peak, thousands gathered** here for worship, discipleship, and community outreach, reflecting a lasting **heart for service** to the city.

Over time, both membership and the building itself declined, yet God never stopped writing the story.

For fifteen years, The District Church and National Baptist have **partnered in ministry** through summer camps, Ash Wednesday and revival services, prayer gatherings, and food distribution.



<p>The initial Sunday School sanctuary is completed</p> 	<p>Construction continues on Memorial Sanctuary</p> 	<p>Five lots next to the church were purchased and turned into a parking lot</p> 			
<p>1910</p>	<p>1921 APRIL 23</p>	<p>1926 OCTOBER 3</p>	<p>1941 JUNE 15</p>  <p>President Warren Harding broke ground for the National Baptist Memorial Church sanctuary</p>	<p>1967 APRIL 28</p>  <p>First worship service held in the Memorial Sanctuary</p>	 <p>The Educational Building opens, expanding space for ministry and discipleship</p>

At the end of 2024, as God ordained our **continued partnership**, the faithful leaders of National Baptist Memorial Church **officially entrusted the building to us**—a miracle made possible by prayer, faith, and the shared vision of both congregations.

Today, we are preparing to renovate this historic church so that it will help establish our church here in the neighborhood and city, while continuing on the legacy and history of National Baptist for the generations to come.

Want to hear more of this God Story? Scan the QR code to watch the Vision Summary Video.



Worship

Where Are We Today

15 YEARS OF IMPACTING OUR CITY FOR CHRIST, ONE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A TIME

In-Person Gatherings

Every Sunday, lives are being changed as people gather together to encounter God's presence. Though we meet in a school auditorium, the faithful work of our Production and Worship teams transform it into a sacred space where people worship, hear God's Word, and are equipped to live it out in daily life. Each service calls people to take concrete steps of faith—whether following Christ more deeply or sharing the gospel with others. By God's grace, an average of **814 people** now gather with us each week, a **15% increase this year**, and **1,665 celebrated Easter Sunday**. As we continue to grow, your generosity makes room for even more people to experience the power of God in worship and community.

Online Church

Lives are being transformed each week as people encounter Jesus right where they are—whether in their living rooms in DC or across the world. What began as a way to stay connected has become a vital ministry, expanding the reach of the gospel far beyond our walls. With the leadership of our new Digital Engagement Manager, we launched **live streaming** this year, giving people a fuller experience of what it means to belong to The District Church. We've also expanded our presence on social platforms, intentionally using every tool available to draw people into relationship with Christ and His Church. Already, we've seen a **30% increase in engagement this year**, a sign of how God is multiplying impact through digital ministry.





Baptism

Baptism is a **powerful sign of transformation**—an outward expression of an inward change. Since our launch, **339 people** (including 40 this year) have taken this step of faith. Every few months, we gather as a church family **to celebrate new life** and the stories God is writing among us.

A few years ago, we made it a priority to build a Spirit-led culture of prayer—creating intentional spaces to seek God together. That step of faith has reshaped our church, whether it's during our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting to begin the year or our weekly prayer calls.

Today, over **75 prayer warriors**, cover our services in prayer, interceding before and during every gathering. Outside our walls, more than **30 team members** offer prayer on the streets of Columbia Heights, pointing neighbors to Jesus.

We've seen lives healed, hearts set free, and people say yes to Jesus. Prayer is no longer just a practice—it's part of our identity.

At The District Church, worship is the heartbeat of who we are. Our Spirit-led community of Worship leaders and choir, reflects our vision of a multicultural church. God is cultivating not just new sounds but a culture of unity, hunger, and faith.

Our call is simple: **to download the sound of heaven** and sing it over an anxious generation. This isn't performance—it's a breakthrough. Week after week, we make room for heaven to meet earth, for peace to enter anxious hearts, and for lives to encounter the presence of God.



A Culture of Prayer



Worship Arts

Hospitality

Our mission is to build intentional spaces where all people can encounter God and become disciples who love, think, and act like Jesus. We recognize that barriers—both seen and unseen—can keep people from experiencing Christ. Guided by Hebrews 13:2, **we seek to break down those barriers by creating spaces where every person feels seen, welcomed, and at home.**

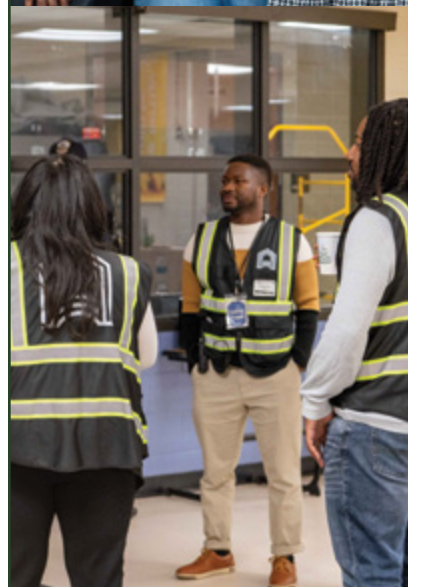
For 15 years, we've hosted monthly gatherings to welcome those new to The District Church—first in the Grahams' home, then Fairmont House, and now at our Ministry Center or CHEC. In the past year alone, we've shared meals with nearly **400 newcomers**. These gatherings are more than meals—they're an entry point into community, where people connect with others, hear the heart of the church, and begin their journey of growing in Christ.

When you walk into The District Church, we want you to feel **welcomed, seen, and safe**. That's the unseen work of our Safety Team. From guiding traffic and offering valet parking, to monitoring the property and stepping in calmly when needs arise, they quietly create an environment where worship can flourish.

Through ongoing training in de-escalation and emergency response, the team not only helps deter risks but also strengthens peace of mind for our community. Their ministry reminds us that safety isn't just protection—it's hospitality in action, making room for people to encounter Jesus without fear or distraction.

Every project tells a story. From fixing what's broken to building what's new, the Handiwork Team keeps our church spaces **functional, beautiful, and inviting**. Whether it's assembling furniture, painting walls, landscaping, or troubleshooting small repairs, this team turns practical skills into acts of service.

Most projects happen on scheduled workdays or as needs arise throughout the year—moments that not only maintain our facilities but also bless our ministry partners and create opportunities to be the **hands and feet of Christ**. Each nail hammered, wall painted, and room refreshed becomes more than a task—it is an **act of worship unto God**.



Safety Team

Handiwork Team

Community



Celebrating our volunteers & staff

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our community. We have almost 400 volunteers who have served at least six times over the last year. Each of them is key to advancing God's mission through our church. Every August we celebrate them with an event we call Volupalooza!



Rooted

Rooted is a **10-week discipleship journey** designed to deepen faith, build community, and spark transformation. Often the **first step before joining a Life Group**, Rooted creates space for devotionals, group discussions, and shared practices that draw people closer to God and one another.

Since launching, nearly **600 people** have completed Rooted, serving **177 hours** in our city and equipping more than **75 leaders** to disciple others.



Life Groups

The District Church began as a small gathering in our pastors' home, and ever since, **Life Groups have been the heartbeat of our church**. They are where Sunday's message takes root in everyday life and where our call to love, think, and act like Jesus is lived out across our city.

In Life Groups, people share life together—opening Scripture, practicing hospitality, serving their neighbors, and praying through both joys and challenges. Here, **friendships deepen and faith grows** as "iron sharpens iron" (Proverbs 27:17).

This past year, more than 550 people joined 52 groups meeting in-person, online, and hybrid. With groups for men and women, couples and families, moms and dads, there's a place for everyone to **belong, be transformed, and join God's mission**.

Prayer Retreats

Four times a year, we step away from the noise of daily life for a day of silence, prayer, and reflection in God's presence. Shaped by the rhythms of the church calendar, these retreats create sacred space for rest and renewal, with spiritual direction available for those seeking deeper intimacy with Christ.

Each retreat welcomes 40–50 participants, sharing in stillness that refreshes hearts and strengthens our community's life of prayer.

District Kids exists to partner with families in discipling children to love, think, and act like Jesus. In a safe, fun, and engaging environment, kids explore faith, ask questions, learn new songs, and build friendships that last.

This year, District Kids has expanded to both our **9a and 11a services**, now welcoming over 100 kids each week. We've celebrated the arrival of **17 new babies** this summer, dedicated more than **19 children to the Lord**, and seen God abundantly multiply our community.

Behind the scenes, an incredible team of **100+ volunteers** helps make it all possible—leading worship with song and dance, teaching age-appropriate lessons with the Orange curriculum, and caring for kids with joy and faithfulness. Thanks to a generous donor, we also removed the childcare barrier for parents in Life Groups, helping whole families grow in faith together.

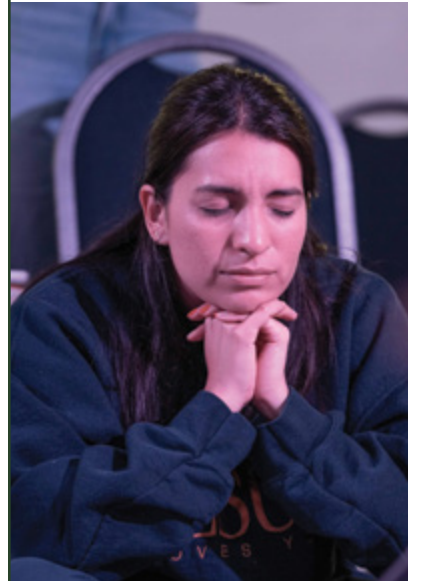
District Kids

District College

Discipling the next generation is a top priority at The District Church, and District College is one way we're investing in that vision. Last spring, **60 college students joined a three-day prayer retreat**—learning to hear God's voice, experiencing freedom in Christ, and building lasting friendships. District College meets on Monday nights from 7 - 9PM.

District Youth

District Youth plays a vital role in raising up the next generation of disciples. Each week dozens of students from grades 6 - 12 gather at our Ministry Center from all over the area to learn about Christ. We'd love for you to join us as we invest in the future of our church and our city. District Youth meets on Sundays from 6 - 8PM.





Counseling & Care Ministry

What began with Pastor Amy walking alongside individuals and couples has grown into a ministry offering **over 1,000 hours** of faith-based counseling and care each year. Anchored in Christ's hope and empowered by the Spirit, we walk with the wounded, the searching, and the brokenhearted—seeking to see hearts, minds, and lives restored to God.

Because we believe high-quality care should never be limited by finances, The District Church offers over **\$2,000 a month of counseling through benevolence** to provide access to everyone who has need.

We're also committed to volunteer leaders—training **10 church leaders** this past year in Prepare/Enrich to guide engaged and married couples with wisdom and compassion.

Healing happens not only one-on-one but also in Christ-centered communities. Our groups provide courageous spaces where no one has to suffer in isolation:

- **Young Adult Parental Loss Group:** Launched in 2024 for adults in their 20s–40s navigating grief after losing a parent.
- **Women's Unwanted Sexual Behavior Group (coming soon):** A space for women seeking honesty, recovery, and Christ-centered hope.
- **Men's Sex Addiction & Recovery Group:** Begun in 2018 with 5 men, now over 35 men meet weekly across 6 cohorts, pursuing freedom and wholeness.

Together, these ministries remind us that Christ's healing presence meets us in our deepest pain and calls us into freedom.



Support Groups

TESTIMONIAL:

With the power of God and consistent counseling, in 4 months we went from the brink of divorce, to genuine forgiveness, to healing, and have found the deepest love that we've felt for one another since we met.

J. C. & T. C.

TESTIMONIAL:

My life has been forever changed—not by anything magical, but by a counselor who patiently helped me find Jesus in my struggles and go deeper each week. Now I have reliable, biblical tools for daily life, and every moment has been worth it.

Male Client

Affinity Groups

As part of our **Multicultural Anchor**, Affinity Groups help us disciple and care for different communities within our church. Current groups include our **Asian & Pacific Islander, Black, Latino, and People with Disabilities Affinity Groups**.

Beyond gathering for support and discipleship, these groups host **heritage month events and trainings** that help our church see the unseen, honor diverse stories, and build bridges as the united body of Christ.

The Ministry Center is the hub of our weekday life together—where much of the behind-the-scenes work happens and where our staff works hard throughout the week.

Far more than just offices, the building rarely sits empty. Its rooms host hundreds of gatherings each year—from worship nights and prayer gatherings to Life Groups, weddings, and outreach events. Every corner was designed to foster connection, growth, and discipleship, making it a space that truly serves the whole church.

If you haven't experienced it yet, we'd love for you to join us at an upcoming event—maybe even around the new backyard fire pit...

Ministry Center

DID YOU KNOW?

The District Church has been named the Best Christian Workplaces three years in a year!



Justice



LOCAL AND GLOBAL PARTNERS

Through the generosity of the church, we are able to support ministry partners both locally and globally.

Local

Our local partners include: DC127, Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC), The District School, Samaritan Inns, Little Lights, Casa Chirilagua, Christian Legal Aid.

Global

We have global partners and projects currently in Guatemala, Colombia, Canada, Greece, Moldova, Liberia, Kenya, Burundi, Jordan, Ukraine, Lebanon, India, and Jerusalem.

DC127 is our signature ministry whose mission is to **strengthen and stabilize families impacted by foster care** in Washington, DC, by mobilizing the Church to provide wraparound support. Our vision: **every child in DC in a permanent, safe, and loving home.**

We step in where the need is greatest—**walking with isolated families, supporting foster and kinship homes, and preventing children from entering foster care.** Through partnerships with **churches across the city, volunteers are empowered to serve in transformative ways**—removing barriers to healthy parenting, decreasing isolation, and providing resources that build **stronger families and more stable homes.**

Since launching in 2013, DC127 has **served over 1,200 families, engaged more than 1,300 volunteers, and mobilized 35 churches** to live out the call to care for the most vulnerable (James 1:27).

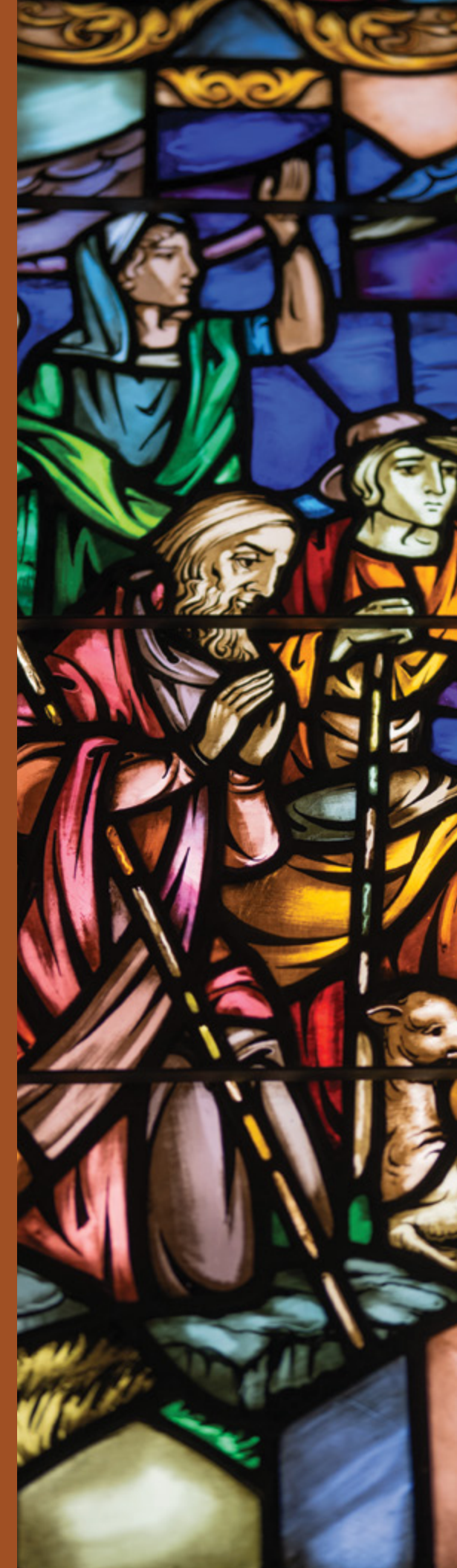
DC127

\$5,050,628
GIVEN AWAY

Benevolence + Outreach Giving In the 15 years of the church we have **given away \$5,050,628** to advance the gospel and alleviate poverty beyond the walls of our church.



Where We Are Headed



Restore (verb)- the process God uses to bring something back to its original, intended state - or make it even better.



Restore

GOD'S HOUSE. GOD'S PEOPLE.

God RESTORES what was lost or broken
 He RESTORES broken relationships
 He RESTORES marriages
 He RESTORES us to our purpose
 Most importantly, He RESTORES us to Christ.

Vision

The vision of The District Church has always been to impact our city for Christ one neighborhood at a time. We continue to stand firm in this vision and pursue the mission we believe God has given us to make disciples who love, think, and act like Jesus right here in the nation's capital.

We believe God is equipping us to step more boldly into this vision in the next two years by establishing a permanent home on 16th St. This permanent home requires much restoration and will give us a greater opportunity to reach our city and the DMV than ever before, signaling that we are here for good.



They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

ISAIAH 61:4

Goals

This will fund two major areas:

\$9M RESTORE God's People

Our mission is ultimately about people learning to love, think, and act more like Jesus.

This will fund two years of our annual ministry budget (currently \$4.5M / year), which includes all of our discipleship, family ministry, ministry teams, and gatherings. This will help us increase resources to invest in the next generation of children, youth, and college students.

This includes all of our outreach giving but with an increased local focus in this season.

FAQ'S FOR RESTORE

Visit us on our website for Frequently asked questions about RESTORE

Learn the answers to questions such as:

1. What is the difference between giving to **RESTORE**- All Giving and giving regular tithes and offerings?
2. What is a "one-fund" initiative and how is it different from a traditional fundraising campaign?
3. How can I participate in RESTORE if I have variable income or am uncertain of my future income?



districtchurch.org/restore/resources/

\$16 MILLION

OVER TWO YEARS

\$7M RESTORE God's House

The donation of the historic National building for us to RESTORE is truly a miracle in the making. Not only will this give us a permanent church home just one block from where we currently meet, it will also open doors to serve our community throughout the week.

All 50,000 square feet must be renovated and brought up to code so this facility can become a fully accessible space that serves our community.

There will be five main functions of this space:

- 1 **WORSHIP SPACE:**
Restoring the 1,000-seat historic sanctuary.
- 2 **DISTRICT KIDS & DAYCARE:**
Creating 9 large classrooms for 150 children on Sundays, plus daycare during the week, with indoor and outdoor playgrounds.
- 3 **OUTREACH CENTER:**
Providing dedicated space to meet the spiritual and social needs of the most vulnerable in our community.
- 4 **EVENT SPACE:**
Featuring two state-of-the-art conference rooms and three flexible multipurpose spaces (seating 500), available for church programming and community use.
- 5 **OFFICE & CO-WORKING SPACE:**
Equipping staff, leaders, and partners with collaborative workspaces.



Next Steps

1

Pray Diligently

Ask our Father to work in the hearts of everyone at The District Church and teach us what it means to declare Christ is first in all things. To trust and believe we are on the eve of a supernatural move of God.

2

Trust Fully

God's economy is not the economy of this world. He will establish His Kingdom and graciously invites us to participate—not to burden us, but for our growth and flourishing. When circumstances defy logic, He remains our faithful provider.

3

Proclaim Faithfully

As the Lord moves in your heart and speaks even in challenging circumstances, open your mouth and boldly proclaim God's goodness by sharing your story!

4

Give Generously

Ask the Lord to show you what faith-stretching generosity looks like for you in this season. Act on the promptings of the Holy Spirit to give with boldness and faith.



Key Dates

OCTOBER 12TH

RESTORE Series Begins

NOVEMBER 6TH

Advance Commitment Night (Thursday)

NOVEMBER 16TH

Commitment Sunday

DECEMBER 7TH

First Big Give to Launch RESTORE

Commitment Card

We've included a sample Commitment Card to help you pray and reflect on your next step with God. A new card will be provided on Commitment Sunday, November 16th.

My / Our Restore Commitment

What I / we would normally give in a year (tithes and offerings, advent, benevolence)
 My / Our expanded annual generosity as part of the Restore initiative
 Total x2 years →

Gifts from my / our stored resources

MY / OUR TOTAL TWO-YEAR RESTORE COMMITMENT

Dec 2025 - Dec 2027

Name (s): _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

GIFTS NEEDED	TWO YEAR GIFT LEVEL	ANNUAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL TOTAL
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
2	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$1,000,000
3	\$350,000	\$175,000	\$14,583	\$1,050,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
8	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,200,000
12	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,200,000
15	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$1,125,000
22	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$1,430,000
30	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$1,500,000
35	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$1,225,000
50	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$1,250,000
55	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$825,000
60	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$600,000
75	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$562,500
95	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$475,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$307,500
				\$16,000,000

Two Year Gift Chart

Use this gift chart as you pray about giving—let it inspire and challenge you toward generosity for Christ's Kingdom.

Giving Journey

This tool is designed to help you move money from being an idol to money being a tool for God's Kingdom. The journey focuses on the condition of our hearts further transforming us into the likeness of Christ.

Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice.

INITIAL GIVER

PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL.
PHILIPPIANS 1:5-6

An **INITIAL GIVER** is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift.

Question to ask:

God, do I trust You as my Provider? Show me how to demonstrate to You my trust in You by starting somewhere and beginning to give.

CONSISTENT GIVER

SINCE YOU HAVE EXCELED,
EXCEL HERE TOO.
2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

A **CONSISTENT GIVER** is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires more discipline.

Question to ask:

The apostle Paul says we should excel in this grace of giving. God, am I giving on a consistent basis that shows my desire to excel in this area of discipleship? Show me how to become more consistent and disciplined in my giving.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

MAKING YOUR GIVING
PURPOSEFUL/PLANNING.
LUKE 14:28-30.

An **INTENTIONAL GIVER** is someone who thinks about their giving in relation to their other financial priorities. This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize it in relation to other things on which they spend their money.

Question to ask:

Does the relation of my giving to my other financial priorities accurately reflect how I feel about God? Or do some changes need to be made? God, show me what it looks like to truly recognize You and that I should give in such a way that puts You first.

SURRENDERED GIVER

JESUS WENT FIRST AND GAVE IT ALL,
SO WE SURRENDER OUR LIVES TO HIM.
COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

A **SURRENDERED GIVER** is someone who recognizes the power of the gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects that their giving is governing their spending/ saving rather than their spending /saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't just concerned with what they ARE giving, but is more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why, and they seek to honor God with ALL He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

Question to ask:

God what am I NOT giving and why? Am I truly honoring You with 100% of what You have given me, not just a portion? God, show me what it looks like to honor You with all of my heart, soul and might.

ETERNAL GIVER

OUR HOPE IS NOT IN EARTHLY THINGS,
BUT ETERNAL THINGS.
1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

An **ETERNAL GIVER** is someone who is thinking about the longer term of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An Eternal Giver makes decisions in the short term that have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity capacity. An Eternal Giver is driven by the things of eternity, putting their hope in God and not in the things of this Earth.

Question to ask:

God, do I make large resource decisions in light of eternity or in light of my time here on Earth? God, show me how to better recognize You and that all things are submissive to You and driven by my love and devotion for You- not for the purposes of merely this moment, but for the purposes of eternity.



RESTORE

BRING THIS GUIDEBOOK WITH YOU EACH SUNDAY
AND FOLLOW ALONG TO OUR SERIES IN THE BOOK OF HAGGAI



RESTORE

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

"I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts."



districtchurch.org/restore/resources/

Download our Fall devotional and follow along to the Temple section for more commentary and daily reflections from us that correspond with the Book of Haggai.

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS | HAGGAI: 1:1-11

WEEK 1

1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest:

2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.'"

3 Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

5 Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways (consider your ways) 6 You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

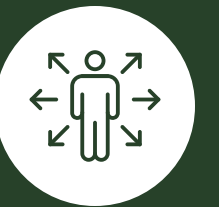
7 This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways (consider your ways). 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the Lord. 9 "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. 10 Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. 11 I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

SUMMARY

In 520 BC, the people of God returned from exile to a city in ruins. Though they had begun rebuilding the temple, sixteen years passed with no progress. Obstacles emerged. Priorities shifted. Apathy set in. But through the prophet Haggai, God issued a wake-up call: "Consider your ways."

SERMON NOTES

Consider Your Ways



Haggai 1:1-11

12 Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.

13 Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: "I am with you," declares the Lord. 14 So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

SUMMARY

The people of God—led by Zerubbabel, Joshua the high priest, and the whole remnant—respond in unity and obedience to the prophetic word, even though their external circumstances remain unchanged and the risks remain high. They recognize God as the true King, fearing Him above any earthly power, and their priorities shift accordingly. In response, God reassures them of His presence—"I am with you"—and stirs their spirits, igniting a shared passion to rebuild His house.

SERMON NOTES

When The Spirit Stirs



1 on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: 2 "Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, 3 'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?' 4 But now be strong, Zerubbabel," declares the Lord. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the Lord Almighty. 5 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

SUMMARY

This passage is set about a month after work on the temple resumed. God addresses the lingering discouragement among those who remembered Solomon's temple and saw the current structure as unimpressive by comparison. This happened when the returned exiles were laboring under Persian rule, limited resources, and constant opposition. Many older priests and leaders, recalling the grandeur of the first temple destroyed in 586 BC, viewed the second temple as "nothing," echoing the weeping recorded in Ezra 3:12-13 at the laying of its foundation sixteen years earlier.

God meets this disappointment head-on, urging Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all the people to "be strong" and keep working—not because the project matched past glory, but because His presence and Spirit remained with them just as in the days of the Exodus and the building of the tabernacle.

SERMON NOTES

Be Strong & Courageous



6 “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. 7 I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord Almighty. 8 ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty.

SUMMARY God assures the returned exiles that His work will not be limited to their small construction site in Jerusalem—He will “shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land,” disrupting the entire created order and all nations. This cosmic upheaval, far from being random, is aimed at filling His temple with glory.

SERMON NOTES _____

Fill this House



9 ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”

SUMMARY God spoke again through Haggai to those who had witnessed Solomon’s temple in its prime. The gap between that former splendor and the modest structure rising before them was undeniable, and the memory of what once was made the present work seem small by comparison.

Yet God redirected their perspective, declaring that “the glory of this present house” would surpass the former. This greater glory would not be defined by architectural magnificence or costly materials—even though Herod’s later renovation would make the building outwardly impressive—but by the reality of His own presence.

SERMON NOTES _____

Greater Glory



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