

# RESTORATION

And the Deserts  
shall Bloom

Isaiah 35:1



2023 Report on Ministry

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# Minister's Memo

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus. (Isaiah 35:1)*

Dear Faith Family,

Sometimes life can feel pretty desert-y; like the earth around us is cracked and neglected and our souls feel parched more than anything else. But God sure seems to prefer showing up in the desert. It seems like that's where he does some of his best work. That's why I believe that our call as a church is to exist as a beacon of hope in the middle of life's deserts - an oasis that invites healing for the soul of our city.

2023 has been a testament to the power of community and faith to transform the most barren landscape into vibrant ecosystems, teeming with life. As your minister, I've been moved this year by how many different ways God has shown up to us as a church, and I can't help but compare it to the way a desert feels just after it's gotten that long-awaited rain.

Over the last twelve months, our journey has been marked by moments of life and connection and it is here that even in the most parched places, Jesus still offers his invitation: take and drink and never be thirsty again. It's an invitation for a weary world to find rest, for a hungry beggar to be fed, and for broken souls to be made whole.

Here, we are invited to partake in living water together, and as CPC, witness a desert in bloom and find our souls restored.

Yours in Christ,





**CHIPPAWA**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Vision

To be known as a vibrant,  
welcoming community,  
inspiring spiritual transformation

## Mission

Living life  
fully alive  
in Christ



## Values

**WORSHIP**

**LEARN**

**SERVE**

**CONNECT**

**Staff** At the heart of our church's daily life is our dedicated staff team, who serve as stewards of our mission. Each member brings their unique gifts and passions to nurture the churches work, ensuring CPC remains a place of welcome, worship, and transformation.

**Session** At the core of our church's spiritual leadership is the Session, a dedicated group of elders called to oversee and shepherd our community's faith journey. These guardians of our spiritual well-being are committed to discerning God's direction for us, nurturing our collective faith, and ensuring that our church remains a place where all can grow and flourish in Christ's love.

**Board** Behind the scenes, ensuring our church stands strong and welcoming for all, is our dedicated Board. This group of committed partners oversee the physical aspects of our church life. From the bricks that build our sanctuary to the resources that fuel our ministries, they are the caretakers of our physical and financial well-being.

**Minister**  
Jared@Chippawa.Church  
**Connections Coordinator**  
Jacquelyn@Chippawa.Church  
**Worship Coordinator**  
Grace@Chippawa.Church

**Clerk**  
Devon Koudijs  
Clerk@Chippawa.Church  
**Elders**  
Mike Mann, Doris Eaglesham, Evie Kenezovich, Melanie McLaughlin, Paul Walker, Annie Clegg, Laurie Flasko (retired 2023)

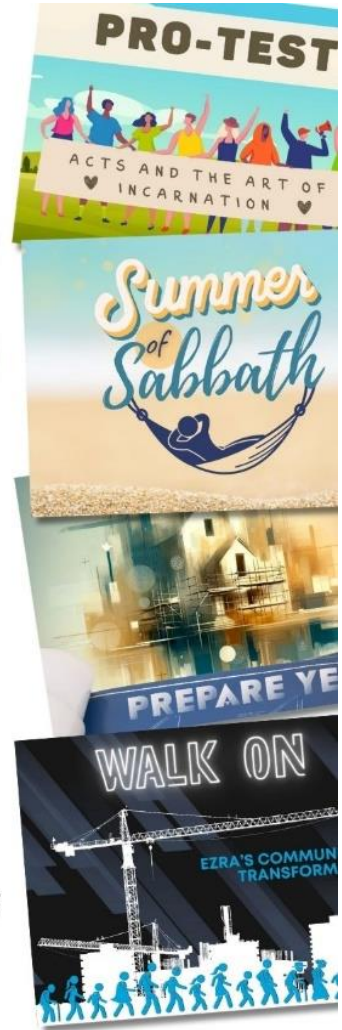
**Chair**  
Don Krowchuk  
Board@Chippawa.Church  
**Treasurer**  
Lena Koiter  
Treasurer@Chippawa.Church  
**Managers**  
Ron Herkheimer, Susan Sakowski, Valerie Rowe, Saul Chogovana, Gillian Shriner  
(leave of absence)

# Worship in 2023



Average Attendance (2022) 83

Average Attendance (2023) 85



## Our Heart of Worship

*(an excerpt from The CPC Worship Constitution, adopted October 2023)*

### Undivided Devotion

*We commit to nurturing a heart of worship characterized by undivided devotion, where every melody and word sung, every prayer offered, emanates from a place of genuine love and longing for the Divine.*

### Sacred and Priestly Calling

*We acknowledge the sacred and priestly calling bestowed upon us, striving to align our lives and worship practices with this holy vocation, serving as vessels through which the love and grace of God flow.*

### Community Engagement

*We envision a worship community that is inclusive, participative, and reflective of the collective heart of Chippawa. We value the communal essence of worship that binds us together in love and purpose.*

### Structural Reordering

*We are open to re-evaluating and reordering our worship structures, ensuring they serve as conduits for the Spirit's work among us, facilitating a worship experience that is transformative and edifying.*

### Hope and Reformation

*Amidst the ever-evolving landscape of worship, we hold onto hope and the call for reformation, aspiring to be a beacon of genuine worship that ignites the fire of spiritual transformation within and beyond our community.*



# Welcome, Grace!

**Q: Can you tell us about your musical journey and how it led you to CPC?**

A: I've been deeply immersed in music for as long as I can remember. My journey took a more serious turn when I picked up the fiddle, and I've been playing for 22 years now. My passion for music also led me to teach, something I've been doing for 16 years. Joining CPC as the Worship Coordinator feels like a natural progression, where I can blend my love for music with my desire to serve the community.

**Q: Beyond music, what are some of your other interests and hobbies?**

A: I have a creative soul, so when I'm not making music, I love to paint and crochet. Diving into a good book or swimming laps in the pool are some of my go-to relaxation activities. Spending quality time with my family is also very important to me, whether we're camping, going on road trips, or playing board games.

**Q: Your family and pets seem to be a big part of your life.**

**Can you tell us a bit about them?**

A: Absolutely! My husband Shaun and I have been married for 7 years, and we have a wonderful 16-year-old, Andrew. Our family wouldn't be complete without our furry members, Chewy the dog and Windex the cat. We all love spending time together, creating memories that we'll cherish forever.

**Q: With such a diverse background, how do you plan to contribute to the worship experience at Chippawa Presbyterian Church?**

A: I'm truly blessed to be part of the Chippawa Presbyterian Church family. My goal is to weave my musical background with my passion for community and storytelling to create worship experiences that are not only spiritually enriching but also inclusive and engaging for everyone. I'm excited about the future and the opportunities to contribute to our church's vision of being a vibrant, welcoming community that inspires spiritual transformation.



# VBC 2023



2023's Vacation Bible Camp saw 51 kids and 29 helpers from across Niagara dancing, singing, playing, and digging into the mysteries of ancient Egypt.



*13 different kids connect regularly and make CPC their faith family*

Kids Konnect is our Faith Formation program for the youngest members of our faith family.

Thanks to all our teachers who give of your time every week to form the next generation of disciples

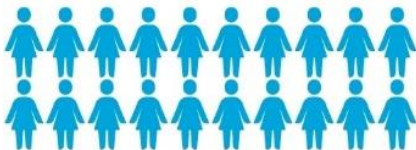




# Focus on Formation



To go along with our “Summer of Sabbath” sermon series, the congregation was invited to read “The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry” together, teaching finding God in each moment.



20 women met for formation and fellowship with our Women’s study on the book of Habbakuk

“Spiritual transformation happened through the “Embracing Joy” bible study. The women were asked to share one word that described the state of their heart at the beginning vs. the end of the study. One started as Weary but found she had become Rested.”

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays  
10:00am @ CPC

embracing joy

JEAN WILUND

“What better way to Learn and Connect, to find Life in Jesus, than studying his Word with a group of like-minded individuals? Delving into scripture together, we develop a closer relationship with each other and with our Lord, leaning into his guidance and love. The time spent together is always a highlight of the week. - Annie Clegg”

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all  
Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” -

Jesus (Acts 1:8)

# Serving the World

As the political climate has shifted in Nicaragua this year, we’ve had to shift as well. We continue to hold the ministries of PAN and Los Cedros in prayer.



We were blessed to share in Compassion Sunday this year, watching 13 kids find sponsors here at CPC



We continue to prayerfully support William and Carolyn Farag on their Egyptian Mission

# Serving Canada



We give thanks for the vibrant ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and in particular, the work of Knox College



2023 saw CPC celebrate its third partner in as many decades take up the mantle of pastoral ministry with Matt Vizzarri’s ordination and induction.



# Serving Niagara

This year began our partnership venture with The Bridge Church, a social enterprise creating space for folks experiencing homelessness in our city



# Project SHARE in Chippawa

Project SHARE (Support, Housing, Awareness, Resources, Emergency) is an organization dedicated to addressing food insecurity and providing emergency support to individuals and families in need. 2023 saw the much anticipated launch of a pilot project satellite location here at CPC.

## Impact and Community Solidarity

The satellite location serves as more than just a food distribution point; it represents a beacon of hope and solidarity within the community. It's a testament to what can be achieved when individuals, organizations, and businesses come together for a common purpose. This initiative has not only helped those in immediate need but has also strengthened the sense of community among the congregation and the wider Chippawa area.

## Volunteer Engagement and Collaboration

One of the impactful aspects of this initiative has been the enthusiastic response from volunteers within CPC. This engagement demonstrates the congregation's commitment to being the hands and feet of Jesus, actively working to make a difference in people's lives. Furthermore, the project has fostered collaboration with local businesses and organizations dedicated to promoting the common good, creating a network of support and amplifying the impact of the church's efforts.

## Reflections and Future Directions

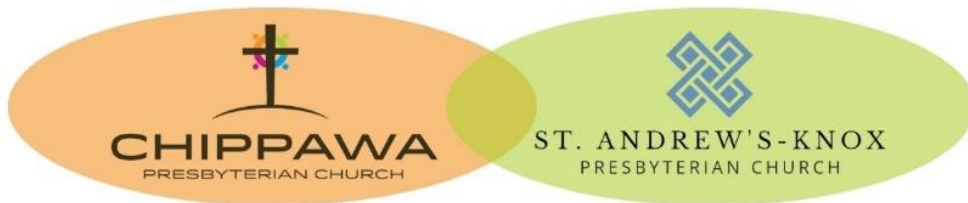
As the pilot year concludes, reflecting on the achievements and lessons learned is crucial. The positive feedback and visible impact on the community underscore the importance and potential of this partnership.



# Clustering Hope

In a bold step forward, we've embarked on an exciting journey of collaborative ministry with St Andrew's - Knox, Fort Erie (or StAKx as we know them). This proactive cluster ministry represents our commitment to unity, shared resources, and collective growth in Christ's service.

**A Vision of Unity and Growth:** At the heart of our cluster ministry is the vision to unite our strengths, learn from each other, and serve our communities more effectively. By joining hands with StAKx Fort Erie, we're not just pooling resources; we're multiplying our capacity to love, serve, and witness to the transformative power of the Gospel.



## Our Connections Coordinator

**Expanding Roles and Opportunities:** This partnership has been a catalyst for positive change within our church, particularly in enhancing Jacquelyn's role. With the support of our cluster ministry, Jacquelyn has stepped into a more sustainable position focusing on connection, embodying the spirit of collaboration and community that drives this initiative.

Jacquelyn's expanded role is pivotal in forging stronger ties not only within our congregation but also between our two church communities and the broader Chippawa and Fort Erie areas. Her efforts are centered on creating meaningful opportunities for engagement, fellowship, and service.

# Connecting at CPC

The other 167 hours of the week.

We started being more intentional about using Social Media to create opportunities to connect with each other outside of Sunday mornings. Our weekly Fun Connect posts started to be a real hit. It appears that people really like to talk about food preferences. We also ran a photo scavenger hunt during March Break.



Near the end of 2023 we started a bi-weekly eNewsletter, keeping people updated on everything that is happening at CPC, as well as a dose of spiritual nourishment right in their inbox.

This past year also saw the launch of our new Connect Kiosk in the foyer. This uses the same connect.chippawa.church webpage that can be accessed on any device at anytime. Providing a one stop shop for connecting: calendar of events, sign up sheets, Breeze login, connect card, pdf documents, set up a meeting with our Minister, and more.



# The Women of the Church

A Timeline of Connecting through Service

Sponsored CPC  
Chili and Chat



Hosted dinner for  
Niagara Presbytery

Began financially  
supporting a compassion  
child named Nanduri

Provided new stoves  
for Kitchen



Sponsored  
Back to Church  
Sunday Potluck



3rd Annual Silent Auction.  
More than \$2500 raised!



Decorated the Church  
for Christmas and  
Hosted the Christmas  
Family Dinner

# The Cloud of Witnesses

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12)*



*It takes 17  
Volunteer hours  
to make Worship  
happen each  
week at CPC!*

**Care Team | Creative Team | Finance Team |  
Host Team | AV Team | Endowment Team |  
Praise Team | Faith Formation Team |**



Barb Vizzari for making sure no birthdays are forgotten.  
Devon Koudijs for hours of tech support.  
Jody Watson for the care and tending of our flowers.  
Susan Sakowski for spearheading the silent auction.  
Keith Muma, Dave Barnes, and Randy Clegg for tackling every odd job that came their way.

**We remember and thank God for the lives and the memorial legacy of those who ran into the arms of Jesus this year. Well done, good and faithful servants.**

Barbara Lapierre (December 31, 2022)	Les Flasko (January 19, 2023)	June Thomas (March 24, 2023)	Frank Deacon (August 8, 2023)
Jack Weaver (November 20, 2023)	Jean Taylor (December 15, 2023)		



Sunday  
May 14

8:45  
AM

Men of the Church  
Presents  
*Mother's Day*  
BREAKFAST





# A Journey to the Third Century

## 2021: The Reboot

COVID-19 shocked every system, but especially the church. Around the world, the congregations that came back were not the same one that went into exile; and starting over is slow, painful work, but it turned out to be an important part of understanding who we were becoming and what God had in store for us next.

## 2023: The Restoration

A church's vision is more than just words on a page. It's a goal of holding onto a picture of where you want to be and how you're going to get there. To be known as a Vibrant, Welcoming Community, inspiring spiritual transformation is the picture we keep in our pocket. But transformation is tricky, because it requires something outside of ourselves. And it's trickier still, because we have to choose what we're going to let form us.

Pre-COVID

2021

2022

2023

2031

## Opening the Doors/Building a Legacy

For nearly two hundred years, the patch of earth on what is now Willoughby Drive has been home to the Chippawa Presbyterian Church. Through Fire, Snow, Wind, and Rain, we've built a legacy of stable, hopeful ministry that has laid a solid foundation on Jesus as the cornerstone of everything that comes after.

## 2022: The Renovation

With everything settling into a new normal, the question began to turn to "what needs to change to help us become the church God needs us to be for the community of Chippawa?" Having discerned Mission, Vision and Values, we were ready for anything. Walls fall down, new partnerships are formed, and the future begins to take shape in the present.

## 2031: Becoming a Third Century Church



# ReVision 2023

## Visioning Our Future: Discerning God's Call Together



2023 marked a pivotal chapter in the life of Chippawa Presbyterian Church, as we embarked on a journey of discerning our vision for ministry. This sacred process began to take shape following our Session retreat in 2022, where we laid "four planks in the desert," setting the foundational stones for what would become a communal pilgrimage towards understanding who God is calling us to be.

The initial phase of our visioning process was spearheaded by our dedicated elders, who, through prayerful discernment and retreat, sought to capture the essence of God's unique call for our church.

### **Incorporating Congregational Wisdom:**

Recognizing that discerning God's vision is a collective endeavor, we expanded the conversation to include the wider congregation. This inclusive approach was not only about gathering input but about weaving the diverse threads of our faith family's wisdom, experiences, and hopes into a rich tapestry that represents the entirety of our community.



As these conversations unfolded, both within the Session and across the congregation, a clearer picture began to emerge. The process of articulating our vision became an exercise in communal faith-building, as we started to define what it means to live out the words we felt called to embrace. This ongoing dialogue has been a testament to our commitment to listen, learn, and grow together, guided by the Spirit's movement among us.

## The Oasis Project: Envisioning a Vibrant Community Hub

Chippawa's rapid growth is undeniable – houses rise where fields once lay, and progress seems synonymous with efficiency. Yet, amidst this sprawl, a deeper yearning takes root. It's a yearning for connection, for spaces that echo with laughter, learning, and the shape of a vibrant community.

At CPC, we see this yearning as an opportunity. We believe community thrives not just on infrastructure, but on creating space where individuals and families can truly flourish. This is the seed of the Oasis Project, a vision to invite the community to drink deeply of the life that is really life amidst the changing landscape, a place where belonging takes root amidst the bricks and mortar.

The Oasis Project envisions a multifaceted hub, catering to the diverse needs and aspirations of Chippawa. It's not just a building project; it's a declaration of our commitment as a faith family to serve and uplift. Imagine:

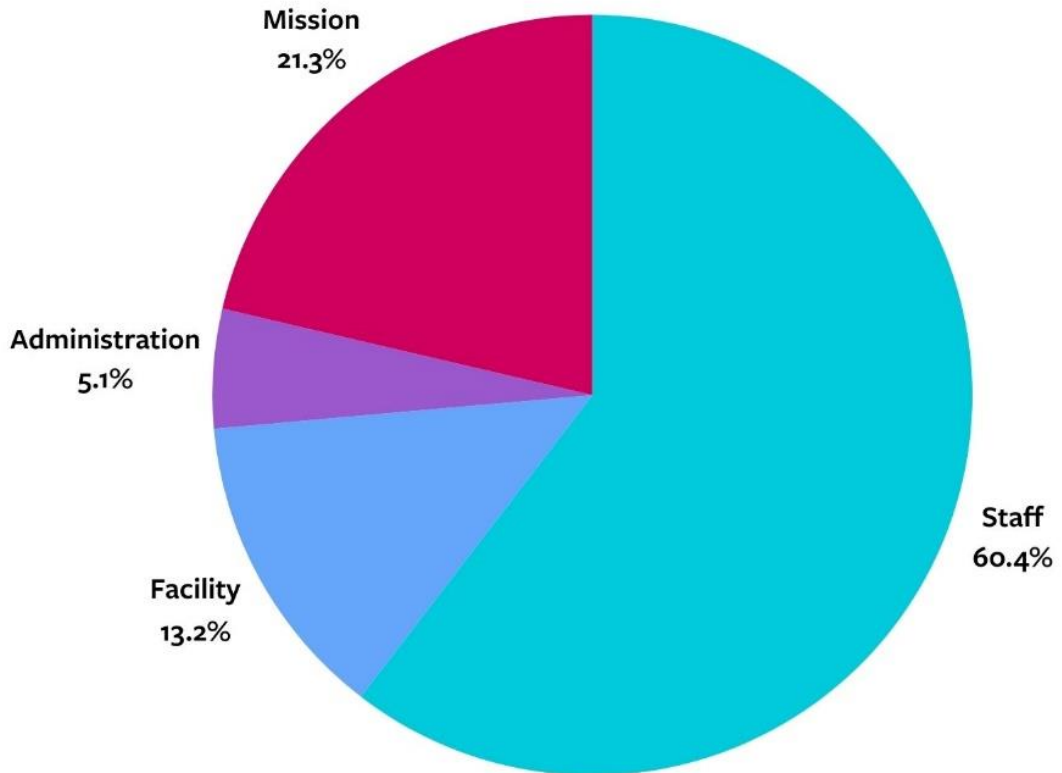
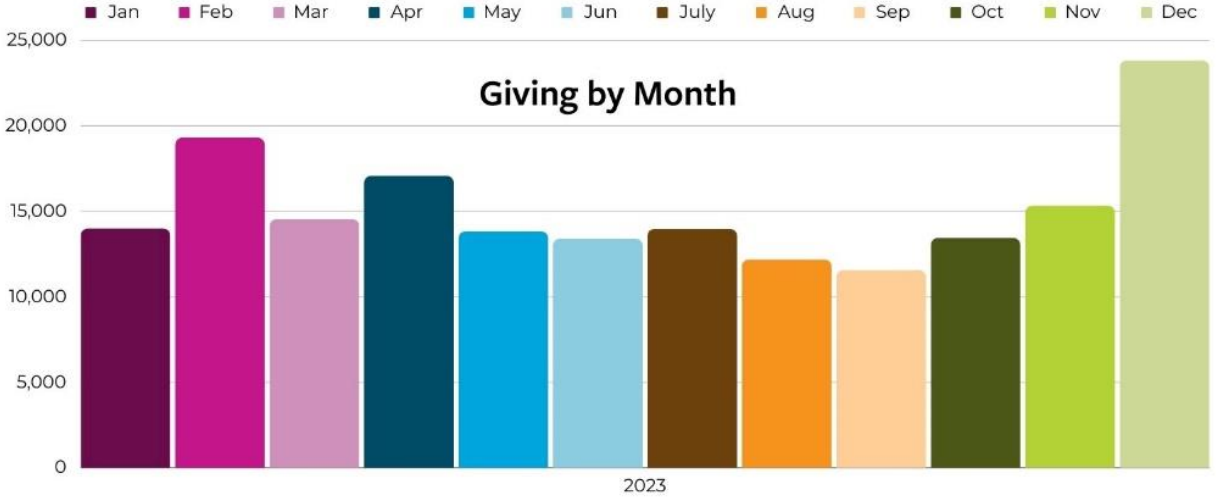
- **A Buzzing Community Gym:** Picture laughter as young athletes hone their skills on the basketball court, teamwork blossoming with each friendly pickleball match. This dedicated space offers a safe haven for physical activity and fosters healthy habits in our youth.
- **Empowering Local Groups:** Imagine the Scouts, their eyes sparkling with excitement, gathering in a vibrant, renovated space. The Oasis Project transforms existing areas into welcoming havens, inspiring creativity and collaboration for diverse community groups.
- **Expanding Project Share:** Our partnership with Project Share flourishes within larger, more versatile spaces. This collaboration strengthens, enabling us to broaden our shared ministry and outreach efforts, ensuring impactful support reaches those in need.

**A Beacon of Hope and Connection:**

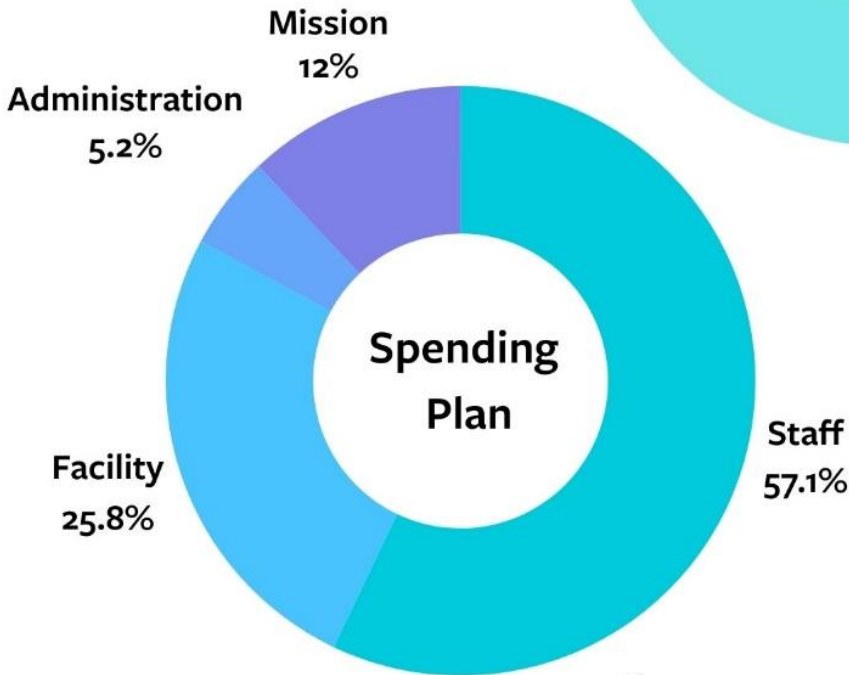
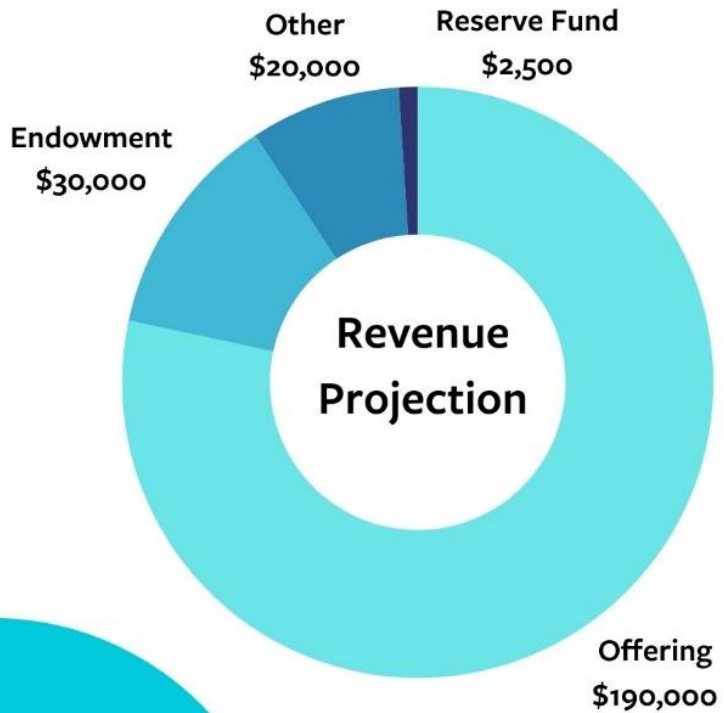
The Oasis Project transcends bricks and mortar. It's a testament to our unwavering commitment to Chippawa, a beacon of hope, connection, and vibrant community life. As we grow forward, we extend an invitation to join us. This is a collective effort, and your support, in whatever form it takes, becomes a vital brick in building an oasis in Chippawa.



# 2023 Financial Snapshot



# Budget 2024





JOIN THE CHIPPAWA KIDS  
**CHRISTMAS CHOR!**  
 JK to 13 years

- Starts November 19th
- Christmas Eve Performance

Every Sunday 12:00pm - 1:30pm




# Connect With Us

   @ChippawaChurch

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 [office@chippawa.church](mailto:office@chippawa.church)

 905-295-4231

