

# 2021 HeavenEarth Church Impact Report

*We exist to make a lasting impact in our community.*



**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

**Jesus in Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)**

## Let's celebrate the fruit!

In the midst of great adversity, the people who are part of the neighborhood of friends we call HeavenEarth Church practiced the way of Jesus and produced the fruit of our values. Here's an overview of what God did through us.

## Building Relationships with All Kinds of Neighbors

A core value for us as a church is that *we want to meet people where they are and see them as God's masterpieces*. Doing our best to stay true to that value has resulted in beautiful diversity of age, faith background, income level, politics and more.



## Helping People Experience Freedom from Their Burdens

Two more values for us are that we want to *bless the community through partnerships* and *we want to be grateful and responsible with what we are given*. As individuals, in groups, and as one big extended spiritual family, we served our community and made a tangible difference. Here are a few examples.

- We helped Michelle's Little Free Pantry provide 100 Thanksgiving baskets to

community members.

- We partnered with Kids In Crisis Intervention Team (KIC-IT) in several ways. One example is that we helped them provide dozens of Easter baskets with food in the spring to clients and other community members. Another is that our Recovery Church group has also been at their Youth Action Nights.
- We partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to provide beds to families in need in Indianapolis.
- We delivered USDA food boxes to families in our community.
- We have distributed over \$6000 so far through our Local Impact Fund to individuals for rent and utility assistance as well as to local partners who focus on making a lasting impact with under-resourced families. We will be giving an additional 5% from our Day-to-Day Operations Fund to local organizations and another 10% to state and global initiatives of the United Methodist Church.
- Ross continues to be a pastor to the community--serving on several community boards and coalitions and even dancing for ASSIST Indiana in Dancing with the Johnson County Stars this year!
- We started utilizing an old United Methodist church building with hopes of transforming it into a community center for groups like Resources of Hope in Whiteland. In the winter we opened up the basement for two days during frigid conditions to offer safe space for people struggling with homelessness. We gave the food and also connected them with resources for next steps.



## Helping People Know Jesus and Practice His Way

Our leading values are that *we want to fix our eyes on Jesus and live by His Spirit*, and *we want to learn through practice, not just talk*. At the end of the day, we believe that lasting transformation happens through Jesus. We want to invite people to follow him with us, to be shaped by his teachings, and to put his way into practice. Beyond what we mentioned above, here are a few more things we celebrate.

1. We continue to have people diving deep into faith with Jesus through small group commitments. We think of these as “tiny churches” where people practice soul care, spiritual disciplines, and service in the community.
2. We added another one of these groups, which was an offshoot of our Recovery Church group that has been meeting on Wednesdays.
3. We celebrated the baptisms of four people. As we say, baptism is “an outward sign of an inward reality.” We also witnessed many others demonstrating the outward fruits of inward spiritual transformation.
4. One of the signs of this inward transformation is evidenced in how we saw many more people express their faith through giving.
5. We are seeing progress in our commitment to weekly worship gatherings--both in spiritual quality and in the number of people participating and serving.
6. Though it is hard to quantify, there is a palpable spiritual growth happening in our midst.



## CONCLUSION

Thank you for being a part of the great collaboration that has made this modern-day movement of Jesus possible. I hope you are excited about what God is doing in our midst.