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# ANNUAL REPORT

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## Oh Be Joyful Church

Dedicated to  
Gospel  
Transformation  
in the  
Gunnison Valley  
and  
Beyond.



# LETTER FROM SCOTT



**F**or many years I have aimed for a process of church leadership that nudges ministry forward gradually and across many areas of emphasis - sort of a broad and balanced march forward as we try to follow Jesus together. 2023 was no exception.

As our leadership sought to be faithful and diligent in the work God has given us we have seen good and steady progress. Many ministry areas have seen growth such as our Worship Team, Women's, Men's, Young Adult's, and Children's ministries, our care for the OBJC staff team, and especially our care for the community through the food pantry.

Perhaps the most significant single effort we have made is in the invitation to Covenant Partnership. We believe it is crucial to stack hands on mission, core values, and our statement of faith as we live out our citizenship in Christ within Crested Butte and beyond.

Covenant Partnership will strengthen our unity and help launch us further into a pathway of discipleship together under Christ.

2024 promises good things as we place an emphasis on creating a culture of volunteer leadership Ddevelopment. We are adjusting some staff roles and hiring a new Director or Leadership Development to help us move forward as a united body united using our gifts for the the kingdom of Christ.

Regardless of where you live, I sincerely hope that you feel deeply connected to the grace and mercy and work of Christ here at OBJC. If you would like to visit about any aspect of the ministry here please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our leadership team.

For Him *Scott*

# COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

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**2024** marks the beginning of Covenant Partnership at Oh Be Joyful.

A symphony gives us a great illustration of the importance of Covenant Partnership.

Imagine that period of time when you are finding your seat and the symphony is warming up - its a bit of a cacophony mixed with a sense of anticipation for something great that is to come. Suddenly, the conductor steps out on the stage and approaches the platform. The musicians quickly quiet and straighten themselves...calm ensues. The audience has a moment to adjust before the conductor's arms go up. And the symphony begins - beautiful music is the result of many musicians playing many instruments while reading from the same page.

In a similar way Covenant Partnership serves to unify the diverse body of Oh Be Joyful Church so that we 'make music together.' The Bible tells us that we are citizens of His Kingdom, important parts of His body, His family members, even His bride. Since those things are true about us then it makes sense to look one another in the eyes and stack hands and commit! Commit to common mission, beliefs, and character.

In November of 2023 our message series called 'Rediscovering Church' sought to level set us around God's purpose for His Church as a whole. Our first message series of 2024, called 'Unified', was designed to strengthen our understanding of the unique mission of OBJC and what it means to be connected here. With that information on hand we invite believers at OBJC to join in Covenant Partnership - check out [ohbejoyfulchurch.org/covenantpartnership](http://ohbejoyfulchurch.org/covenantpartnership) to find out how to take your next steps.

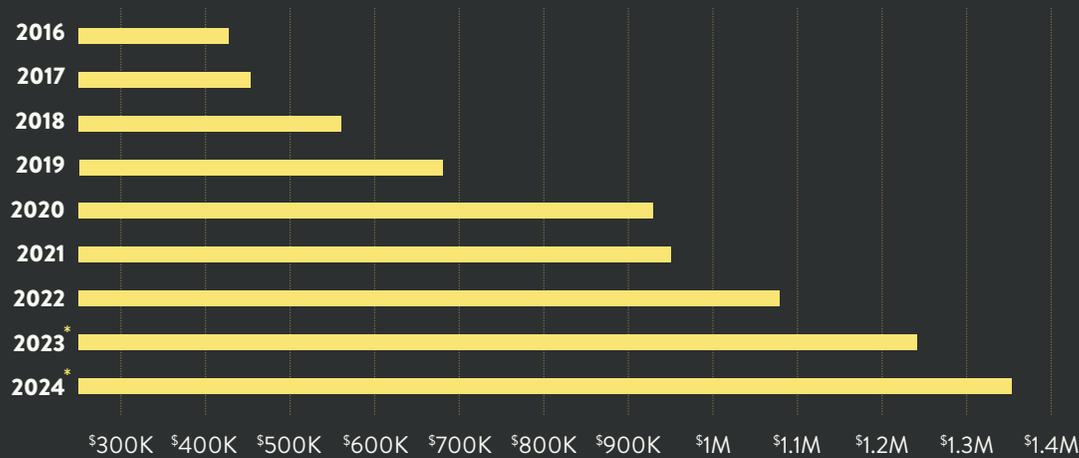
Our elders and staff and many other leaders have been working on this and praying about it for several years and sincerely desire to hear from our church family as Covenant Partnership becomes a reality.





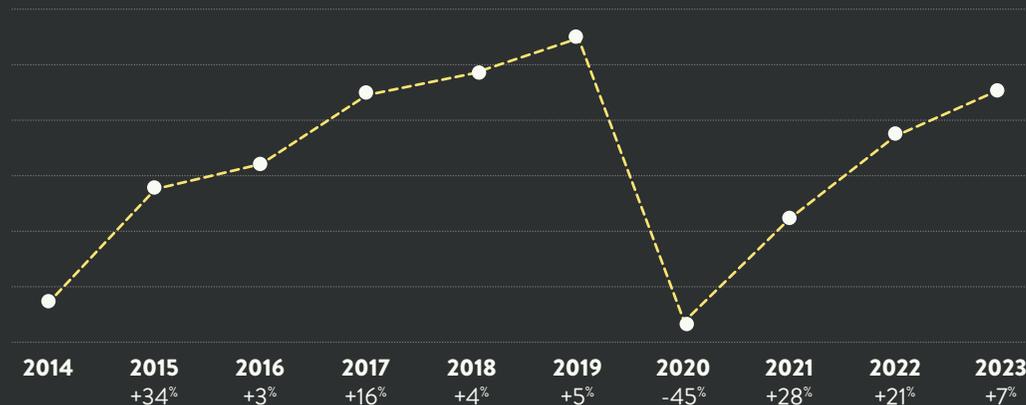
# 2023 SNAPSHOT

## GIVING



\*Estimated.

## ATTENDANCE



The chart above gives you an idea of the growth we have experienced over the years. Note the impact of Covid in 2020. Attendance is up more than 30% for the first two months of 2024.

## BUDGET

The dollars we have been entrusted with fund our mission of gospel transformation in the Gunnison Valley and are generally allocated around great leaders and funding that supports the four components of our DNA: We Abide In Jesus, We Pass The Baton, We Go Together, and We Are Heat And Light. The following information is provided by our Financial Manager and Trustees (Tyler Harpel, Chad Oleson, Cari Freeman, Mark Ewing, and KayLynne Ezzel).

\*staff salaries play into all the DNA statements at varying levels

\*\*includes all missions and community work, young life

### Financial Position:

<b>Current Savings on Hand:</b>	\$602,000
<b>Horizon Project Fund:</b>	\$600,000
<b>2023 Estimated Giving:</b>	\$1,240,000
<b>2023 Budget:</b>	\$1,075,000

### 2024 Budget

<b>2024 Anticipated Giving:</b>	\$1,350,000
<b>2024 Anticipated Budget:</b>	\$1,333,000
<b>Staff Expense:</b>	\$972,000*
<b>Business Expenses:</b>	\$69,000
<b>Facility Expenses:</b>	\$59,000
<b>Abide in Jesus:</b>	\$14,000
<b>We Go Together:</b>	\$14,000
<b>Heat and Light:</b>	\$147,000**
<b>Pass the Baton:</b>	\$58,000

## OBJC COMMUNITY CONNECTION

**We were looking for a Bible following church** and it was recommended that we should checkout OBJ in Crested Butte. At the time we were living in Spring Creek and surprised that CB was the location for a Christ-centered, Bible believing church but from our first Sunday, we have found our community.

We showed up for the 9:00 service at 8:30 and found many attendees enjoying coffee together in the foyer. The feeling was totally welcoming. After a few services, we were all in. From the worship team's songs, the open prayer time, and the message that ties everyone together in our Lord Jesus, Scott, Eric and Tyler always have a way of linking our beautiful mountain surroundings with the love of Jesus that is to always be shared with others.

We decided that we wanted to be more active participants and we chose the welcome team. Being able to be a small part of the service through greeting and preparing coffee has been a meaningful way to further connections with our OBJ family.

To further enrich getting closer to Jesus we have both become involved with weekly Bible study at OBJC. We have found the study leaders to be spiritually literate while also being warm and welcoming.

Warm regards,  
**Bob and Amy Skelton**

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## EVANGELICAL COUNCIL OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

**We have some exciting news for financial accountability at Oh Be Joyful.**

In the interest of continually developing our character in leadership our elders and trustees have elected to become Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA) accredited. The ECFA provides a structure for excellence, transparency, and accountability for Christian organizations. In April 2024 we will have all the components in place and will begin finalizing the process of accreditation. Soon you will see the ECFA logo on our giving page. For more information check out [ecfa.org](http://ecfa.org).



# HORIZON STAFF HOUSING SUPPORT PROJECT

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A home that is stable, assured, and fulfilling is one of the most important contributors to the health and success of a family in a community. Unfortunately, the cost of a home in our valley, to buy or rent, has risen to a prohibitive level.

For several years now our leadership has been praying, dreaming, and collaborating with similar organizations around the nation to find a long term solution to the challenge of helping staff navigate this challenge..

The result is simple: **The Housing Support Project**. Support may take several forms including rent assistance, low interest loans, deposit assistance, or a fractional ownership program.

We see a lot of benefits to a flexible housing expense support system for our staff including:

- A custom fit for each family's needs
- Property value appreciation for purchasers
- Less expensive than purchasing and maintaining multiple parsonages
- No property ownership liabilities for the church
- Opportunity to support staff who already own homes

We have already saved \$600,000 toward the Horizon Housing Support Project and are considering further funding plans in the future. Feel free to reach out to us for more information if you're interested in learning more or supporting the horizon project.



## BYLAW CHANGES

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The OBJC Bylaw document is a critical guide for the ministry of the church.

It is only changed by the recommendation of the elders and a vote of the membership (Covenant Partners). In 2024 the elders are recommending a few updates, most of which are for clarity and simplification. You can visit [ohbejoyfulchurch.org/bylaws](https://ohbejoyfulchurch.org/bylaws) to click a link for the redline version of the bylaws where you will find a new numbering system, additions to the Trustee section related to ECFA accountability, and some clarification on alignment with our statement of belief for our leadership.





## A REPORT FROM YOUNG ADULTS PASTOR WHITNEY GILLIAM

**As the saying goes - God has a sense of humor.** If you told me 7 years ago when I moved here to Crested Butte that I would be working in full time ministry at Oh Be Joyful Church I would've laughed at you! But here I am, over 5 years into ministry, looking back at what God has done and excited about what He will continue to do.

Starting out as a member of the young adults group all those years ago, I got to experience the community for myself first before diving into leadership. It has grown and changed a lot since then, but I remember feeling a sense of “home” at OBJC. A thing I hadn't felt at a church in a long time! And the young adults group was integral to why I ended up staying in Crested Butte longer than a season. I didn't want to leave the people!

If I could describe where the young adults are now it's this: a desire for spiritual depth and commitment to fostering community. It pumps me up to see the “student section” (aka: front right rows of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings) full of eager young adults ready to worship and learn.

The young adults group has also continued to grow in number over the last couple of years. This is nothing I've done, but evidence of God's work and the young adults inviting and welcoming others into our community. The prayer moving forward is for the young adults group to have a commitment to service - whether that's volunteering with Young Life, Sunday mornings, or other opportunities. The other prayer is for generational relationships to be fostered in the church, and that the older generations would pour into the young adults so the young adults can then pour into younger generations.

## STAFF YEARS AT OH BE JOYUL

Tyler H.	
Renee S.	
Whitney G.	
Scott W.	
Eric E.	
Luke L.	
Jessica T.	
Cari F.	
Peggy K.	
Evan S.	
Tyler S.	
Molly H.	



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