SEPTEMBER 2026 | VOL.17

The Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LIFESPRING CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Are you ALL IN @ LifeSpring?

GATHER

We gather because worship matters. Sundays are not just an event we attend; they are a rhythm that forms us.

How to Gather:

- Attending Sunday worship regularly.
- Bringing your family and inviting others to join you.
- Participating fully in worship, communion, prayer, and teaching.
- Making Sunday worship a regular rhythm, not an occasional option

Hebrews 10:24-25

GROW

We grow because following Jesus is about becoming more like Jesus. Spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident.

How to Grow:

- Spending regular time in Scripture and prayer.
- Participating in a Life Group, Bible study, or other discipleship environment.
- Practicing the rhythms and habits that help us become more like Jesus.
- Taking intentional next steps instead of becoming comfortable or spiritually stagnant.

Colossians 2:6–7

GIVE

We give because everything we have ultimately belongs to God. Being All In means offering Him more than our money.

How to Give:

- Using your gifts and abilities to serve through LifeSpring.
- Giving your time to help meet needs in the church and community.
- Practicing consistent, generous, and sacrificial financial giving.
- Looking for ways to use what God has entrusted to you to make a difference in the lives of others.

1 Peter 4:10

GO

We go because Jesus never intended His church to stay inside the building.

How to Go:

- Serving people and meeting real needs in our community.
- Building intentional relationships with people who may be far from Jesus.
- Sharing your story and talking naturally about your faith.
- Seeing wherever God has placed you as a place where you can live on mission.

Matthew 28:19–20

A Word from Tim...

Generosity: Funding the Mission God Has Given Us

When we talk about generosity at LifeSpring, we aren't simply talking about paying bills or meeting a budget. We're talking about obedience, discipleship, and our willingness to financially support the mission God has placed in front of us.

Our mission at LifeSpring is to join God in the restoration of a broken world, and every week we see that mission taking shape in practical ways.

Through **Whiz Kids,** adults from our church invest in children at North College Hill Elementary, helping them academically while building relationships that remind those kids they matter.

On Thursday nights, through **Blacktop and RESET,** we create a place where students and families can belong, build relationships, and encounter people who genuinely care about them.

We continue working alongside **Finneytown schools,** helping meet needs for students and families when circumstances become difficult. Sometimes that means providing resources. Sometimes it simply means showing up and reminding a family they aren't alone.

And that's only part of it.

Every Sunday, we create environments where people can hear the gospel, worship together, grow in their faith, and take another step toward Jesus. Children and students are being discipled. People are being baptized. Families are being cared for. Groups are gathering. Leaders are being developed. Mission partners are being supported locally and around the world.

That ministry doesn't happen accidentally. It happens because **people pray, serve, lead, and give.**

Generosity is one way followers of Jesus demonstrate that everything we have ultimately belongs to God.

Scripture calls us to put Him first with our finances, not simply give Him whatever is left over.

Giving through the church isn't a membership fee or payment for services we receive. It's an act of worship and obedience.

I want to speak directly to our church family. We have people who consider LifeSpring their church home, attend regularly, serve faithfully, and are deeply connected to what God is doing here, but simply aren't financially giving to the church.

Paul writes, ***"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 9:7***

Following Jesus includes how we handle our money. Financial generosity is part of trusting God with every part of life.

We also want to be transparent about where we are as a church. The cost of ministry has increased considerably. Health care, insurance, utilities, maintenance, supplies, technology, and other operational costs have all become more expensive.

We have worked hard to be responsible with what God has entrusted to us and will continue evaluating our budget carefully. But there is a point where reducing expenses means reducing ministry.

If generosity doesn't increase, we will need to make **considerable cuts to our 2027 budget,** potentially affecting ministry programs, staffing, community outreach, and other areas of our mission. I don't share that to create fear or guilt, but because you deserve to know where we are.

If LifeSpring is your church home and you currently aren't giving, start. If you already give consistently, pray about whether God may be asking you to **increase your generosity.**

Remember what our giving represents: another child with a Whiz Kids mentor, another teenager showing up Thursday night, another family receiving help, another person finding hope, and another opportunity to **love and lead someone one step closer to Jesus.**

That is what we're investing in. And I believe it's worth it.

Godspeed,

Pastor Tim

IMPACT UPDATE



International Friendships, Inc.
Focus: To extend life-changing hospitality and friendship to international students out of reverence for Jesus

IFI Cincy partners with universities, churches, and Christian volunteers to build friendships and offer hospitality to international students, scholars, and their families. They provide practical support and opportunities for social, cultural, and spiritual connection.

LifeSpring has partnered with IFI Cincy since its founding in 2004. Members serve as conversation partners, host dinners, and lead Bible studies with international students at the University of Cincinnati. Through this partnership, LifeSpring helps extend God's love across cultures and around the world.

Furniture Fest Helps Welcome International Students

IFI recently hosted "Furniture Fest," an event designed to help provide furniture and household items for international students as they settle into their new homes. Over several weeks, generous donations of furniture and home goods were collected in preparation for the event.

On September 19, IFI was able to provide much-needed furniture and household items to 50 international students representing countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Japan, Mexico, Ukraine, and many others.

The event was also an opportunity for students to serve one another, with more than 10 international students volunteering throughout the day.

Furniture Fest was a great example of how practical acts of generosity can help international students feel welcomed, cared for, and connected as they begin life in a new country.









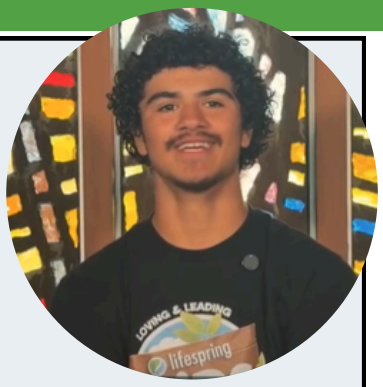
International FRIENDSHIPS

Want to know more info about our Global Partners?
Scan the Q.R. code or visit www.lifespringchristian.org

LSCC - Global Impact

FAMILY NEWS

MY PART IN [HIS]TORY



My Part in [HIS]TORY

All year long, we've been studying God's story—beginning with Creation—and discovering something amazing: we are part of that story, too!

Throughout the Bible, story after story, we see God using His people to accomplish His purposes and draw others closer to Him. Through ordinary people, God has shown His love, His power, and His desire to restore us and turn our hearts away from sin and toward Him.

Kenny Sommerfield shared his story with us recently. His story is a powerful reminder that God works through community and faithfulness. From a basketball event to baptism to leadership, we see how one person's journey can inspire another's.



Your story matters too! We would love to share your story with our LifeSpring community. If you feel led to share with us, contact Dalton at danstead@lifespringchristian.org and Tim at tdunn@lifespringchristian.org.

You can also go to https://vimeo.com/1228838212 to watch the message from 9/20 and to see Kenny's story.

Upcoming Events:

October

10/1- Weekly Prayer Gathering (Thursday Mornings)
10/1- Reset Students (Thursday Evenings)
10/4 - MOHI Child Sponsorship Campaign Ends
10/7 - Ladies Dinner Out
10/9-10/11 - Reset Students Fall Retreat
10/11 - Men's Ministry Football Watch Party
10/25 - Backstage Pass

GENEROSITY REPORT:

Financial Update (thru August)

YTD Budget:
$723,247

YTD Actual Giving:
$697,045

Difference:
-$26,201

WAYS TO GIVE:

mail
1373 W. Galbraith Rd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

online
lifespringchristian.org

app
Church Center App

in-person
Drop in an offering box in the auditorium

Go to lifespringchristian.org for more information on upcoming events & more!