


# MINISTRYUPDATE

Summer 2020

**ASSIST**  
CHURCH EXPANSION



*“Church planting is still the most effective means for advancing the gospel locally, regionally and globally.”*

*- Gary Rohrmayer*  
*Author, Church Planting Landmines*

*Main Street Church*

*Grace Fellowship Church*

*Three Creeks Church*



**Big Impact in a Small Community**



**Glossy Gives Way to Grit as We Serve Together**



**Enjoying God's Favor to Reach Our City**

**In Assist's short history, we have been honored to be a part of the launch of several new Charis Fellowship churches. We celebrate that three of these churches has established itself as a self-sustaining legacy church. Read their updates as well as the new church planting opportunities on the horizon as we help our fellowship become a movement.**



**I've learned to never underestimate the value of a simple conversation and how God might use it for the long-haul in helping us develop meaningful relationships.**

- Pastor Josh Kuck

## God Does Big Things With Small Acts of Faith

**Church planters today often choose fast-growing urban or suburban centers as their base for ministry. Josh Kuck chose the opposite; a small, highly-relational community in Michigan.**

From the time of their launch in September of 2017, Main Street Church in Chelsea has had the intention of being a church that reached deep into its community with the gospel, building long-term redemptive relationships.

Pastor Josh, along with his wife Andrea and their four daughters, moved to Chelsea in 2015 to begin laying the groundwork for what would eventually become Main Street Church. Now, near-

ly three years after their public launch, the church holds two services each Sunday morning with average weekly attendance between 200-250.

When reflecting on the previous five years of ministry effort, Pastor Josh shares one of his biggest lessons learned:

*"It takes a great deal of time fostering relationships, especially with unchurched people, to see the*

*Kingdom reward of the time, energy and love extended. We have to be dependent on God's timing, which is often seemingly slower than we might like to see things move."*

Nonetheless, the church has grown at a steady pace since 2017 and is consistently seeing unchurched people begin a transformative walk with Jesus.

You can learn more at:  
[www.MainStreetChelsea.com](http://www.MainStreetChelsea.com)





## Three Creeks Church Becomes a True Part of the City

**When Pastor Joel Trainer and his team from Movement Columbus launched their church in early 2018, they were outsiders attempting to make inroads for Jesus. In just two short years they are integrated into the city of Gahanna, Ohio.**

**“God is counting things that can’t be counted. I’m a competitive guy and it can sometimes lead me to focus too much on numbers and keeping score. But there is more in God’s hands that He is doing than I can count.”**

**- Pastor Joel Trainer**

A relentless pursuit to connect lost people to the Gospel is a necessary attribute for any church planter. Throughout his entire life in ministry, Joel Trainer has been driven to put himself in a place to be used by God. Today, that usefulness is being played out as he leads Three Creeks Church to be visible and relevant

ministers to the community of Gahanna, OH.

In just two years, Three Creeks has grown from a launch team of 40 people to a church of over 200, offering two Sunday morning worship opportunities. But more important than the size of Sunday services is the relative impact that Three Creeks is making in its community.

Pastor Joel reflects on the deep roots that the church now has in the city:

*“We have connections with the mayor and the school board superintendent. God has given us tremendous favor as we are now*

*often seen as the church for the future of our city.”*

Connect with Three Creeks Church at their website: [www.ThreeCreeksChurch.com](http://www.ThreeCreeksChurch.com)



## Church at the Well

Dayne & Ana Carraway  
Baltimore, Maryland

After transitioning out of his role leading the Student Ministry at Clinton Grace Brethren Church, Dayne and Ana embarked on a relocation to the Baltimore suburb of Towson, MD. It took many months for the Carraways to sell their D.C. area home and thus slowed the anticipated groundwork for planting a new church in Towson.



Now settled in a home in their new community, the Carraways are initiating new relationships and building the core team for the much-anticipated launch of Church at the Well.

With more than 1.5 million people in the Greater Baltimore area that do not know Jesus Christ, this is a tremendous opportunity for the Charis Fellowship to invest in reaching a city with the Gospel. If you would like more information about Church at the Well, if you would like to support this church plant financially, or if you would like to have the Carraways visit your church, please visit their website: [www.TheWellBaltimore.com](http://www.TheWellBaltimore.com)

## Contrast Church

Trey & Sarah Gilmore  
Grandview, Ohio

In a joint effort from Three Creeks Church and Movement Church, Trey and Sarah Gilmore will be leading the launch of a brand new church in the Grandview area of Columbus, OH.

A graduate of Judson University and Wesley Seminary, Trey is a long-time friend of Pastor Joel Trainer at Three Creeks Church. The Gilmores moved to Columbus in the fall of 2019 and began a church planting residency, coordinated by Pastor Mark Artrip at Movement Church.



Contrast Church will begin meeting together this fall with their public service launch to be held in mid-late January 2021.

The Gilmores are also excited to be introducing their first daughter, Junia to the world, born on June 5, 2020.

Find out more about Contrast Church at their website: [www.Contrast.Church](http://www.Contrast.Church)

# Church Planting is Not Just a Job. It's in Your Heart

**Scott Avey, Grace Fellowship, Brunswick, MD, reflects on the first two years as a new church**

*"I love these people and I love our mission and I can't imagine being anywhere else." - Pastor Scott Avey*

After launching its public services in an elementary school gym in February of 2018, Grace Fellowship has had its share of ups and downs. Church planting is not easy. It's not for the faint of heart. And it's not for everyone.



*"Church Planting starts off really glossy. But eventually you start to realize the room you're worshipping in smells like ham sandwiches and not everything works out the way you had planned it. That's when church planting requires grit. You have to dig to a deep place to remember your purpose."*

Pastor Scott sees the grit in his team as a tremendous gift from God. He is grateful for those that have stuck it out in difficult times.

The church has taken the COVID-19 season to reevaluate some options for their Sunday meeting location. At the time of this writing, their future in the elementary school is uncertain. But God has opened a door to a partnership with another local church and a shared location.

Another note of excitement for Pastor Scott is that they have seen an upswing in families with teenage students attending the church and this has allowed them to launch a student ministry to serve those families.

Please celebrate with us and pray for Grace Fellowship as they continue to seek the Lord's leading in all they do to reach their community for Christ.


Find out more at:  
[www.GraceFellowship.church](http://www.GraceFellowship.church)

But Pastor Scott and his team have weathered their storms, leaning into their call from God to bring life to the lost and purpose to the living. In fact, they feel that they were better prepared to deal with the interruption of the COVID-19 crisis as a result of the fact that they had already endured some sifting and refining.



# Helping Our Fellowship Become a Movement

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## Oceanview Fellowship Moves into New Portable Worship Location

**Indialantic, FL - This church plant, led by Bill Tweeddale, has moved into a meeting location that will accomodate their growth.**

Launched out of Suntime Grace (Jason Brown) in 2018, Oceanview Fellowship has been meeting in a fitness center in its target community. Quickly outgrowing the space, the owner of the fitness center relocated the gym in Spring 2020 allowing the church to move with it and to expand its ministry space for Sunday worship.

To contact this church plant or keep up with their ministry, follow them on Facebook:

**@OceanviewFellowship**