

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

May 2026

Member of  CHARIS FELLOWSHIP



Pastor Jim Brown—jabrown215@yahoo.com

Crossroads is rejoicing in God's work through the Easter season! Three weeks before Easter Sunday, the congregation invited guests to Family &



Friends Fellowship. Visitors participated in a special worship service and enjoyed lunch together. Attendance was nearly fifty percent above average. It was a good way to connect with new friends! During the season, the church family gathered for a meaningful Threefold Communion service. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were also encouraging. Some guests have continued to attend regularly. Please pray for some to trust Christ for salvation.



Love Your Neighbor at the Memorial Day Parade Monday May 25 at 9am

This month Crossroads plans to reach out to neighbors at the Memorial Day Parade. The parade passes by the church facility. So the congregation plans to provide free water, hot dogs, pretzels, snacks and water ice. They plan for a face painting table where young families will be invited to Vacation Bible School. And, the team intends to pass out free Bibles, gospel tracts and invitations to Sunday worship. Please pray for meaningful contacts that lead to new life in Christ.

Crossroads is excited to send fifteen students to Camp Conquest this summer! Faith, who participated in STACC training last year, plans to serve as a counselor. William plans to grow in the STACC program this year. Some believing children are eager to attend; and some who need to trust Christ are registered. Camp is full of fun in an environment that differs from the city. But the biggest blessing is the spiritual change that occurs during that week. Recently, the congregation was encouraged when the director of Camp Conquest, Mike Gehlert, and his wife Yara visited Crossroads!



Could the Lord use you to help a student attend camp? Just mark your gift "Camp".



Thank you for supporting MetroGrace this month! Please include this cut-off with your next gift and use the back to indicate any changes to your contact information.

Name: _____

Enclosed is my gift to support:

- General Fund \$ _____
- Jim and Lisa Brown \$ _____
- Pete and Danielle Forshtay \$ _____
- Rick and Kristin Dobrowolski \$ _____
- Other \$ _____

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to be disproportionate than most rural or suburban churches. We had never had a deacon board until last year, when we chose two out of our number to serve in the area of the church's physical needs. Those two have proven to be a blessing, yet the needs were greater than they could fulfill.

So it was a distinct blessing this past month to install four more deacons to that number. Sitting in the transition meeting and knowing that, moving forward, they would take on the majority of physical needs so that our elders could concentrate on Word & Prayer ministry



The Blessing of Elders & Deacons

In the past 15 years of church-planting in Allentown, the Lord has always faithfully provided men who were qualified and desiring to serve as elders, who both saw to the spiritual and physical needs of the church family.

Being an urban church, physical needs seem to be disproportionate than most rural or suburban churches. We had never had a deacon board until last year, when we chose two out of our number to serve in the area of the church's physical needs. Those two have proven to be a blessing, yet the needs were greater than they could fulfill.

made that meeting one of the most encouraging that I've ever been a part of over my last 24 years of pastoral ministry. Pray that these individuals who have been set apart for diaconal ministry would love the people of Citylight and the surrounding community well. I believe that this is a massive step towards our church having an even greater Gospel effect on Allentown.



Pastor Pete Forshtay—peteforshtay@gmail.com

The Lord is using godly women in the Wissinoming neighborhood of Philadelphia! Katie Elliott (Left) moved to the city with her husband Anthony. After graduation from Grace College, they moved to Pittsburgh where Katie completed her Master's degree. When they moved to Philadelphia, she became a school counselor in one of the toughest neighborhoods in the city. Recently, they purchased their first home near the church where they are raising their daughter Josie.

Lee Wiedmayer (center) is a single woman who loves Jesus and animals. The Lord rescued her from the darkness of the occult and she lives to share His Light. She is always ready to serve. The Lord has been using her to help the congregation support the Whosoever Gospel Mission and Alpha Care, a pregnancy center in Philadelphia.

Danielle Forshtay (right) is married to Pastor Pete. She is a lifelong resident of Philadelphia and understands the city experientially. Danielle met Pete at Brethren National Youth Conference. They became pen pals. After Pete's first deployment with the Marines, they married. She moved on base and supported him during his second deployment. They returned to Philadelphia, started the church, and welcomed their daughter Pearl. Danielle has served in every aspect of ministry. And her career at Lockheed Martin has been a blessing to their family. Recently, she wrote an article for Charis Woman Magazine.



Thanks for all that you do to support our urban churches!