

REACH QUARTERLY UPDATE

As I reflect on God graciously providing 4050 Main Street to Citylight Church, I've been considering the biblical significance of gathering together each Lord's Day for corporate worship. The Lord has provided Citylight with so much more than just a building. He has provided Citylight Church with a place to gather for God's glory on the Lord's Day, which Christians have been doing for thousands of years.

It's astonishing when you consider how powerfully significant it is to gather together each Sunday for corporate worship.

- **When we gather together, we display our love for and unity in Christ.** The Lord Jesus said that the world will know we are his disciples if we have love for one another (John 13:35). The Lord Jesus also prayed that his people would be one so that the world will believe that the Father sent Him (John 17:21). We display our love for and unity with one another as we gather weekly to worship the Father together.
- **When we gather together, we encourage one another in Christ.** The author of the letter to the Hebrews wrote, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25). Gathering weekly to worship with one another is one of the most significant ways that we encourage one another.
- **When we gather together, the word of Christ dwells richly in us.** Paul writes to the Colossian Church, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). When we gather for worship, the word of Christ dwells in the church richly through preaching so that we can respond in worship.
- **When we gather together, our weary souls are comforted.** In Psalm 42, the Psalmist's soul is downcast, but listen to the way that he comforts himself: "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him" (Psalm 42:11). The Psalmist comforts his downcast soul with the declaration that he will gather with God's people for worship again.
- **When we gather together, we remember the gospel.** When we gather together for worship, the Lord's Supper helps awaken us from our gospel-amnesia so that we can remember Christ together. As the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11, we eat the bread and drink the cup together in "remembrance" of Jesus Christ.
- **When we gather together, we sing to the glory of God.** At the heart of our weekly gathering "is singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (Ephesians 5:19). "Sing!" is the most common command in the Bible, and we obey this wonderful command when we gather weekly to lift our voice to the glory of God.

There is nothing in the world like going to church. I thank God for your generosity toward the Reach Initiative. You're helping people from many backgrounds and stories gather as a church for years and decades to come!

Yours in Christ,

MATT COHEN

Lead Pastor

OUR GOALS

100% *engagement*

We are inviting everyone who calls Citylight Church their home to give themselves first to the Lord, to embrace Reach, and to make a faith-filled generosity commitment

raise **\$4.8 M**

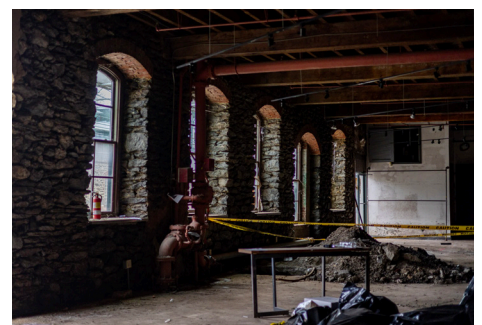
We believe God is calling us to raise the funds necessary for Citylight to secure a new, long-term facility for our congregation, while continuing our mission of making disciples of Jesus.

OUR PROGRESS



\$2,996,894.03

**GIVEN TOWARDS OUR
2 YEAR 4.8 M GOAL**



PROJECT UPDATE & PRAYER POINTS

On December 2, 2022, we closed on the property at 4050 Main Street in Manayunk.

In January, many in our congregation gathered at an on-site open house to see, pray and step into the facility. It's a large, beautiful building and will take a great deal of improvements to make it functional and hospitable!

We've been working with an architectural and engineering team to design the facility. Some highlights of the early design are **parking on the first level of the building** as a flood proofing measure, and on the second level, **a sanctuary that seats 465 people, a dedicated children's ministry wing**, and three adult education classrooms.

After a vetting process, Citylight has officially contracted with a construction company that is guiding the overall process. This partnership and expertise helps guide and check budgeting as the building is designed.

Why would we go to all this trouble to restore a dilapidated building in the heart of our town?

When God's people gather regularly for worship, entire communities are transformed, and God receives the praise he deserves. Restoring this building on Main Street is a sign of that spiritual restoration we pray for in our city and ensures that God's people will be gathering for worship here for generations to come.

There are two ways you can be a part of what God is doing in Philadelphia. The first is by prayer. Here are some big bold believing prayers I've been praying lately, and I'd invite you to join me.

- Please pray that the pricing sets come in under budget so we have no delays moving into the construction phase of the project.
- Please pray for God's ongoing financial provision. I've been personally praying that the Lord would blow us away, perhaps even providing so abundantly that we could build the phase 2 expansion of the project right along with phase 1.

In addition to prayer, every donation to Citylight Church supports this work. If you would like to learn more about the Reach initiative and efforts to raise over \$4.8M, you can go to CITYLIGHTPHILLY.COM/REACH. If you'd like to give toward this project, you can give online at CITYLIGHTPHILLY.COM/GIVE.

TIM SHUTES

Executive Pastor

MINISTRY UPDATE: APRIL BAPTISMS

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Romans 6:5)

On Sunday, April 2, Citylight Church celebrated nine baptisms! What's amazing is that this represents nine individuals whose lives have been changed by Jesus, publicly declaring that before our church family and others who gathered with us.

In Citylight's practice of baptism, individuals share their testimony of how they came from death to new life in Christ prior to participating in the actual baptism. This is our opportunity to witness both the ways that we can relate to the work of Christ in every story, while also admiring the beauty of how the Lord individually meets us and draws us to new life in him. As always, there was a beautiful diversity in the stories that were shared. One woman, already a covenant member of Citylight, shared how she was discipling a new Christian and encouraged her to be baptized. This new Christian asked her about her own baptism, to which she sheepishly responded that she hadn't been baptized as a believer but instead was baptized as an infant. This resurfaced something she had already begun wrestling with: a conviction that she should be baptized as a believer. What's amazing is that, immediately after her baptism, the new Christian she'd been discipling was also baptized! In addition to this story, there were stories of those who came to know Jesus through recovery from addiction, as well as those who grew up in strong Christian homes but strayed and have since returned.



Each story was unique, and yet each story was the same. It was the same God who rescued each one from being dead in their sin and brought them to new life in Jesus. What a beautiful truth to witness!

PAUL FULLER

Pastor of Care