



MINISTRY

Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church



YEAR

July 2023 - June 2024



WITNESS

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Truth without love is compromise, but love without truth is condemnation. We will continue to boldly proclaim God's love and the truth of the Gospel to a lost and dying world.



Top to Bottom:
Pastor Rob prays for God's presence
on Easter Sunday; the Critch family
before Sunday service; attendees
worship during Kingdom Come

Letter *from* Pastor Rob

Dear Church Family,

Every day I spend as your pastor, I am reminded how much God is doing through our church and how privileged I am to serve alongside you. I was struck by a common theme I heard in the testimonies of several of our new members who shared that finding Coral Ridge was like coming home. In Galatians, Paul writes of belonging to a household of faith. One component of belonging to that household of faith is the call to not grow weary in our mission.

We are surrounded by people in desperate need of hope and answers. Our culture continues to decline around us as people run after things that will never satisfy. **As a church, we are committed to stand as a beacon of hope in an upside-down world.** We have the only answer that a lost and longing generation truly needs.

As I mentioned in a recent sermon, the fate of many churches after bowing to the changing tides of cultural demands is to, quite simply, not exist. Coral Ridge is committed to not compromise the message of the Gospel or soften the truth found in scripture. Truth without love is compromise, but love without truth is condemnation. We will continue to boldly proclaim God's love and the truth of the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

In direct contrast to the image of a dying world, we are experiencing at Coral Ridge a time of great growth and new life. At this year's Kingdom Come Conference, a dear friend of our church, Dr. Albert Mohler, talked about how Coral Ridge is uniquely poised to impact our culture for the sake of God's Kingdom. He commented that one sign of a healthy church is the need for more nursery workers on Sunday mornings. If you have been



attending services with us consistently, you will have experienced first-hand the joy of welcoming new covenant children into our church family through baptism. As we continue to raise the next generation on the foundational truths of scripture, we look forward with great expectation to what God will do through our church in the coming months and years.

Enclosed you will find a card that details how you can support Coral Ridge. **I ask that you prayerfully consider a one-time gift before June 30 to help us finish this ministry year strong. The many ministries of Coral Ridge would not be possible without your faithful support.** When you give financially to Coral Ridge, you give hope! I am grateful for your partnership as we equip Gospel-centered, culture-shaping Christians from generation to generation.

For Christ and His Church,

Rob Pacienza
Senior Pastor

Equipping parents to encourage **faithful growth** in their children is an important part of how we raise up the **next generation** and why we place such a strong emphasis on **parent involvement** in Communicants Class. This year we had **14** children complete the Communicants Class and take their first communion before their church family.

“

We loved that the classes were designed for the parents and students to participate together.

Lisette Novar



Growing Walk with the Lord

The Novar Family

“As a Christian family, we decided to remove our children from public school to attend Westminster Academy. **We wanted their faith to be the main focus.** Our daughter, Sarina, told us she wanted to receive Christ at the 2023 Easter service. We pursued Communicants Class and baptism as the next steps in her growing walk with the Lord.

Communicants Class is direct and breaks the content down in a way that children can understand. We loved that the classes were designed for the parents and students to participate together. **Going to church is one thing, but understanding the doctrine is what is really important.** I wish I had gone through this class when I was a kid.”



Angelina Mesquita prays during Communicants Class

“Communicants Class has helped me grow spiritually and helped me better understand my faith. I learned how much I really knew about God and if I would be with him in Heaven one day.”

Isabella Mesquita
6th Grade Communicant

A photograph of three young girls, Ellie Sirois, Reese Shealy, and Serena Furno, standing together and smiling. They are wearing bright red, zip-up choir robes. The girl on the left is holding a palm frond. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in similar robes, suggesting a church service or choir practice. The overall mood is joyful and celebratory.

70

kids participated in
Children's Choir this year,
using music to instill a love
of God's Word in
their hearts

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Left to Right: Ellie Sirois, Reese Shealy, and Serena Furno participate in the choir on Palm Sunday

7,778

attendees heard the Gospel
presented through
the 2023-2024 Concert
Series season



“What a wonderful time of worship.
It was like a small piece of Heaven!”

Teuta Baxter, Member



Top: Michael W. Smith performs to a sold-out crowd at the first show of the 2023-2024 concert season

Left: Matt and Christie Casa perform the duet, “Do You Hear What I Hear?” during the 2023 Christmas Spectacular

Middle: Isabella Volkert and Karlynn Cordano serve as Westminster Academy Student Ambassadors during a concert

Right: Lidia Blatz performs at the Patriotic Concert, a night honoring past and present servicemen and women and celebrating the freedom our nation offers

"Growing up, my mother always went to a gospel church. When times were tough, Mom would go to church. But then my mother stopped going to church, **so at five years old I got up and walked myself to church each week.** I had been attending Catholic services with my husband and knew it wasn't the right fit. I was at my dentist's office one day and I could see out the window a sign in front of Coral Ridge advertising an upcoming concert. **We came to attend the concert and just loved it.** We have been attending since then and are looking forward to becoming members."

Sheila Basile
New Member

Casey Kunmann sings
"Let It Snow" during
the Christmas
Spectacular, which
welcomed **3,705**
attendees

CONCERT SERIES



Coming Home

The Gonzalez Family

“ My wife and I have really seen the Lord’s hand throughout the eight years we’ve been together, a journey that started right here at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. It is an answer to prayer to bring our firstborn child back here after six years on the West Coast and raise him up as part of the next generation for the Kingdom of Christ. We get to fulfill our family’s spiritual calling to lead worship and use music to glorify the Triune God.

There is such a rich and vibrant history to step into, not only of liturgy and theology, but of music and the arts. We believe that the Lord is going to do great things for his Kingdom in the next generation, and we hope and pray that Coral Ridge’s impact in that can be a true reflection of his grace, his glory, and his Gospel.

Miguel Gonzalez
Director of Contemporary Worship



8,810
attendees and online
viewers worshiped with
us for Christmas services



The Koornneef family worships together on Easter Sunday

"I happened across your church when looking at YouTube videos of pipe organs. We live in Scotland and recently moved to a new church where one of the traditions practiced is that Psalms are sung, but with no musical accompaniment. Listening and watching your services helps fill that gap in our worship. My wife and I now watch and listen each Sunday evening to your traditional service. Keep up the good work and keep posting your services!"

David McLeish
Livestream viewer from
Isle of Skye, Scotland

In 2024, the restoration of the Ruffatti Organ was officially completed. Grammy-winner Paul Jacobs performed at a rededication service.



10,417

attendees and online
viewers joined for
Holy Week



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Top: Bobby Dukes volunteers with the construction crew at the Habitat for Humanity home sponsored by Coral Ridge

Middle: Sandy Murch collects donated sports equipment at Christmas for First Priority Game Day

18,000

meals provided to individuals in Broward County through our partnership with Hope South Florida



FIRST PRIORITY GAME DAY

133

high school students served on local and international mission trips this year

350

Christmas presents and Bibles donated and delivered to children in Broward County public schools



"My trip to Cuba was the most spiritually transformative experience I have ever had. Sharing the Gospel with so many children and seeing their excitement brought me to tears."

Nicole Wendt
Institute Intern

CUBA MISSION TRIP

275

children heard the Gospel through the Hope for Kids evangelism curriculum

1,250

people received Thanksgiving dinners that were donated and delivered by Coral Ridge volunteers at our annual Feed the Block food drive



Corey Casoria and Dayami Escobar help deliver Thanksgiving meals

“

Sunday School has helped encourage me in my faith as well as **deepen my understanding of scripture.** Often, I can't fit all my notes on one page! I'm thankful to Mr. Vidal for leading all of us in knowledgeable conversations about our Savior.

Coral Chapels
7th Grade Gangway Student

Coral Chapels prays with other girls during the Created for a Purpose event



SUNDAY SCHOOL

“Jack and I were immensely blessed to attend the Sunday School class on marriage! Having the class taught by couples who have been married for a while allowed us to hear not only all the wonderful aspects marriage brings, but struggles that may come as well. Jack and I are getting married in August and this **prepared us well for having a Christ-centered marriage where the focus is on him first.** We are thankful for all the couples who took time to lead each week!”

Allison Gartman
Sunday School Participant



Lucy Knapp attends the Ladies of Grace widow's luncheon

"I've been a widow for eight months. I told my Bible study group that if anyone ever needs me, give me a call because I have plenty of time to talk. One of the ladies in our group, who is caring for her husband with Alzheimer's, took me up on that. We decided she would call every morning at 8:45 to pray together. I was ministering to her, but over time I've realized that she's ministering to me with her beautiful and heartfelt prayers. I'm thankful for this church and the opportunities to be with godly women."

Lucy Knapp
Women's Bible Study Leader

Intentional Design

Charlotte Himmelrich

"I have been attending the women's Bible study for the past two years and noticed that our lessons seemed to repeatedly reinforce what was being taught from the pulpit on Sundays. I asked our leadership team about this and was delighted to find out that this was intentional and that the same thread of teaching was also being incorporated into our children's and youth teaching. **I am so grateful that the Coral Ridge teaching teams put so much thought, detail, and preparation into equipping us and deepening our understanding of scripture.**



Middle: Becky Alexy, Claire Broeman, Meghan Broeman, and Brielle Broeman attend the Created for a Purpose women's event
Below, Left to Right: Eleanor Escobar, My Hien Domeika, Janell Penha, and Judy Gehler join in a worship song during a women's event



WOMEN IN THE WORD



Coral Ridge has brought a firm foundation to my children's faith that is carried into our home and every aspect of their lives. The truth of God's word lives in their hearts and will allow them to stand firm in their faith as they grow.

Joel Pelland
Member



PK4 boys play together in their Children's Ministry classroom before service

Life-Changing Mentorship

Nick and Caitlin Stauffer

"The ministries at Coral Ridge have profoundly impacted both my wife and me. The young adults ministry in particular has been instrumental in fostering meaningful relationships with individuals who share our beliefs and are in a similar stage of life. **In an era where young married couples striving to lead Christ-centered lives see increasingly scarce, the young adults ministry has been a beacon of hope for us.**

Our involvement in a small group has provided a unique opportunity to delve deeply into scripture within an intimate setting. Through robust discussions and thorough exploration of the text, we have uncovered new layers of meaning and grown spiritually. Moreover, the women's study has been immensely valuable to my wife. She has forged deep connections with supportive friends who serve as dedicated prayer partners in her journey. **The older women in her circle have also taken on mentorship roles**, which has been incredibly fulfilling to witness.

We are so grateful for the ministries of Coral Ridge and how they have enriched our lives and marriage."



Night of Worship attendees gather in prayer



Pastor Rob kicked off a semester of Evangelism Explosion training with all Westminster Academy seniors. These graduates will begin their college journeys with the training to **boldly and effectively share their faith.**

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION

“

Keenagers luncheons have truly been a joy and blessing to my heart.

Carol Neal, Member



Don and Ann Murphy



Keenagers events provide our senior adults with creative and intentional ways to stay connected in church community.

KEENAGERS

35

Baptisms

129

New Members



I had seen Coral Ridge and Dr. Kennedy on television growing up. When I moved to South Florida, I decided after trying many churches to visit Coral Ridge in person. I came on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and heard Pastor Rob preach unapologetically on abortion. For a man in this cultural climate to take a stand like that from the pulpit sold me on this church. That was the day I decided to join Coral Ridge.

Autry Pruitt
New Member



Parenting in the Pew

Brad and Elizabeth Haring

"It feels imperative in a post-truth society to cultivate within the hearts of our little ones a deep desire for truth. Not merely a concept of relativity, but the embodiment of Truth found in Christ alone. For every moment of our lives we are presented with a choice; will we allow ourselves and our families to be led astray and bound by lies or do we choose to believe the truth and live in the freedom it brings? **Our children are faced with making this same choice.** What freedom it brings their little hearts becoming unburdened by the practice of discernment, even in seemingly small moments. And how liberating when they hear it poured forth from the mountaintop of a

Sunday morning church service! **What a gift we give our children inviting them to witness truth boldly proclaimed,** not only from the pulpit but in every greeting, every song, and with each confession as the people of God gather to worship. When our children know Jesus as the Truth and recognize truth in scripture as the highest form of reality, they are freed to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We are thankful that Coral Ridge has continued to speak truth for our children and for all children."





Rob Pacienza interviews
Dr. Albert Mohler for
The City of God Podcast



21,977

All-time podcast downloads

626,093

Total views on social media

The City of God Podcast

Just over a year after its launch, The City of God Podcast has experienced incredible growth and expanded reach. This podcast boldly confronts secular culture while defending Christianity and welcoming an impressive list of guests, including **Riley Gaines, Alveda King, Eric Metaxas, Doug Wilson, Carol Swain**, and many more.



Josephina Mejia practices her recital piece with her instructor, Susan Dodd

93

students enrolled with **The Diane Bish Center for Music and the Arts**, learning to further the Kingdom through their God-given talents

STANDING FOR TRUTH IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD



**At this year's Kingdom
Come Conference, 1,230
participants united to
strengthen their faith
and advance the
Kingdom of God with
renowned speakers.**



KINGDOM COME

Left to Right: Nicole Wendt, Grace Johnson, and Nicole Monteleone welcome attendees; Tim Tebow joins as one of our keynote speakers; Munier Jallad and Olfat Ayad check in at registration

The Institute for Faith and Culture really showed up with speakers that directly impacted my faith. I learned how to listen to others' opinions and how to challenge those opinions without shutting down the conversation.

Blair Critch

I loved every minute of the Kingdom Come Conference. It was a great experience for younger Christians trying to find their way in the world.

Jocelyn Kippes

It was three days of overflowing wisdom and encouragement as we Christians face the challenges of bringing our faith into culture. I was encouraged and better equipped after leaving.

Nicole Avesani

Faith at the Center Institute for Faith & Culture

"The **Executive Roundtable** retreat was an outstanding opportunity for business leaders of faith to meet and discuss their successes, challenges, and growth strategies within a dynamic two-day format. It was a unique and much-needed forum for executives to share and collaborate on key cornerstones for their businesses, their families, and their communities **by placing God and their faith at the center of their calling in life.**

Under Dr. Robert Pacienza's leadership, detailed presentations, keynote speakers, and collaborative discussions revolved around our ability to support our families, new ways to positively impact our workplaces, and create additional avenues to serve others. I look forward to the next Executive Roundtable event as we continue to **expand the outreach** to meet the needs of Christian executives around the world!"

Chad Volkert
CRPC Member and Roundtable Participant





A Biblical Foundation

The Moraes Family

"We moved to South Florida from Brazil in 2022. We chose Coral Ridge because of the strong theological background. We were looking for the same faithfulness and passion for the Word of God that we had in our Brazilian congregation. **It is important for us to raise our baby, our treasure, in God's way, emphasizing Christian values against the culture we live in.** We are so thankful for Coral Ridge!"

"I can see the Coral Ridge steeple from my window at home, and when I'm fishing off-shore, I use the steeple as a guide to keep my bearings. There has to be a metaphor there somewhere! I started to attend and love hearing Pastor Rob speak each week."

Tom Carney
New Member

Renderings of the future Moss Center for Worship and the Arts



COMING SOON



Lifelong Impact | Dominique deBenckendorff

"The impact Coral Ridge has had on my life started many, many years ago. As a young 20-year-old with two daughters, I knew nothing about raising children or even about Jesus. I was scanning the radio for Christian programming and found a man with a very distinct voice, Dr. Kennedy, who I listened to regularly before discovering his television program. I fell in love with the whole service: the organ, the choir, and Dr. Kennedy's teaching. I started reading my Bible from cover to cover, teaching Sunday School, professing my faith to others, and 'bringing up my children in the way they should go.' Dr. Kennedy helped me raise my children and live as a faithful Christian with character and integrity.

Many years later, after an abusive divorce, another broken relationship brought me to South Florida. I ended up completely alone and in the darkest period of my life. I pleaded with God to save me from the abusive situation and help me find refuge. In 2022, I was scanning the radio while driving and heard a radio host discussing Dr. Kennedy. As I listened, the host mentioned Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale. **At that very moment, I was passing by the church on Federal Highway and knew that it was a sign I needed to visit the church.** When I walked in that next Sunday, I was overwhelmed to tears being in the place that I had seen on TV for so many years, and which had made such an impact on my faith and life.

Over the next few weeks, Pastor Rob spoke regularly about the Generation to Generation capital campaign and invited everyone to attend the wall breaking ceremony. I knew I had to be there. My faith was developed in this church and my children were raised remotely from this church and Dr. Kennedy's ministry. When we were given the opportunity to write something on the foundational walls of the Kennedy Fellowship Hall, I wrote the following: 'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it' Proverbs 22:6. This church has been an integral part of my healing from abuse and brought me back to my faith and knowing that God has been there with me the whole time. **Coral Ridge has truly changed my life in a 'full circle' way from generation to generation.** I now sing in the choir, am becoming a member, and can only hope and pray that one day my daughters and grandchildren will join me here."



Andrew Nichols, Bob Moss, Sandra Moss, Jen Pacienza, and Rob Pacienza in the future Moss Center for Worship and the Arts

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We couldn't be more excited to participate in this incredible campaign. We know this space will be used to transform lives for many years to come.

Sandra Moss
Member

GENERATION TO GENERATION



This year we launched **Phase 2** of our Generation to Generation campaign, which will allow our Next Generation ministries to continue reaching our community and impacting families for many years to come. Our new facility will include a **one-of-a-kind outdoor area for learning and play** that can be utilized by our Little Ridge daycare and Westminster Academy preschool children. This will allow us to provide intentional spaces to teach and play for our church families on Sunday mornings. The space is designed not only to take children through the metanarrative of the Bible, but will also **help them understand their involvement as a part of God's grand story.**



Top: Carole Sipowski celebrates a family baptism with her great-granddaughters
Middle: Henry and Edwin Hilborn enjoy snacks after a special Reformation Sunday service
Bottom: Breton and Wilson Holt head to Sunday morning worship

"Evangelicals are never going to have this acreage on Federal Highway ever again. **They're not going to build this ever again.** It cries out, 'There once was a civilization that would build that.' Now you understand why I'm all the more thankful when I'm here ... where the faith is continued, preached, thought, and where, yes, you **need more workers in the nursery.**"

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
President, The Southern
Baptist Theological Seminary





Gospel-Centered • Culture-Shaping



**CORAL
RIDGE**
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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