

# Sugar Grove Church of Christ

FOR GOD & FOR NEIGHBOR

..... HISTORY & OVERVIEW .....



### SUGAR GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our mission is "For God & For Neighbor." We want everything we do to bring honor to God and our Neighbors, both those already apart of our community and those outside of it.

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# MISSION STATEMENT

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*Inspired by Matthew 22:37-40, our mission is  
"For God & For Neighbor." We want everything  
we do to bring honor to God and our  
neighbors, both those already a part of our  
community and those outside of it.*

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# OUR CORE VALUES

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**Community:** *We will honor God by loving and honoring one another. We will be a blessing to our neighbors by intentionally creating spaces that overlap our community with people in the world in order to proclaim Jesus and see them come to know Him.*

**Diversity:** *We will honor God by worshiping Him in a unified voice, made up of a wide range of expressions, stories, and experiences. We will be a blessing to our neighbors, without discrimination of any kind, in hopes of seeing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.*

**Generosity:** *We will honor God by remembering that He is the source of all that we have, and we will give thanks to Him by adopting a posture of generosity. We will honor our neighbor by intentionally including in our generosity those who are not yet a part of our family.*

**Service:** *We will honor God by serving those He has brought within our body, looking not only to our own interests but also to the interest of others. We will also honor our neighbors by intentionally serving our communities.*

**Transformation:** *We will honor God by consistently encouraging disciples to live lives that reflect the reign and rule of Jesus as they submit to God's will. We will honor our neighbor by meeting them where they are, remembering that everyone has a next step.*

**Worship:** *We will worship God by giving Him authority over every area of our church and honoring Him in all that we do. We will also love our neighbors by consistently presenting Jesus to them in the hope of seeing them one-day worship Him.*

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# WAYS WE ENGAGE

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**Operation Backpack:** *We help supply 90 backpacks filled with school supplies. This past year the backpacks went to five different schools in the area.*

**Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets:** *We partner with Iglesia Vida en Cristo to fill and deliver food baskets for the holiday. This past year we delivered 25 baskets for Thanksgiving and 35 baskets for Christmas.*

**Fall Festival:** *Members decorate their trunks and hand out candy, serve lunch, and conduct many other activities for the kids who attend. This is an outreach for Meadows Place community and is well attended by community members who are not otherwise affiliated with Sugar Grove.*

**Blood Drive:** *Quarterly blood drives are held at our church building. People from the church and Meadows Place both contribute to the drive.*

**Partnership with Second Mile Mission:** *Second Mile Mission is a faith-based, non-profit organization that serves Fort Bend County. They provide food, clothing, spiritual care, and classes to help neighbors get and stay out of poverty. We assist Second Mile by conducting food and clothing drives for them.*

**Partnership with Fort Bend ISD:** *Our partnership helps us have a reach within all the schools in the district as needs arise, such as for gas cards, gift cards for groceries, Christmas gifts, and hotel stays.*

**Partnership with Iglesia La Vida en Cristo:** *We regularly partner with a local missions-focused Spanish speaking congregation to serve the members of their community through food boxes during the holidays, home and building repairs, and hosting summer events, such as Vacation Bible School for their children. Our two congregations also come together quarterly to engage in table fellowship with one another.*

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# COMMUNITY DREAMS

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**During a vision brainstorming session, our congregation expressed these dreams for our church:**

*“We want to continue to be a central location for our community. We already host many groups such as Meadows Baseball meetings, a Boy Scout troop, an adoptive mom support group, and several others. We want to continue to partner with other organizations and churches to extend our reach in our community.”*

*“We want to influence and radically love our community, particularly the marginalized, to advance God’s kingdom and create more disciples of Jesus.”*

*“We want our membership to reflect our community’s diversity.”*



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# WAYS WE CONNECT

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**Sunday Morning Bible Classes:** *We have three adult Bible Classes meeting on campus, along with three children's Bible classes and a Youth class. Bible Classes are a great opportunity for members and guests to connect and dive deeper into the Bible.*

**Neighborhood Groups:** *These are a great way for members to grow in relationship with God and to connect to others. These are small groups that meet in homes and the church throughout the week.*

**The Gamers:** *This group meets weekly from 10:00 to noon to play domino games. All ages are welcome.*

**Prayer Warriors:** *We have an active prayer ministry that loves to spend time praying.*

**Cafe Ministry:** *Baristas, our friendly volunteers, are trained in all areas of the cafe. They work before and after church. This is a great way to meet people, particularly guests.*

**Worship Ministry:** *Our worship team has a heart and passion for worship with a variety of vocal and instrumental giftings.*

**Door Ministry:** *These volunteers greet all those entering our doors providing the first contact for those entering the church and set the tone for a great worship experience.*

**Children Ministry:** *We desire to provide a safe and caring environment where kids discover the Bible and learn that worship is fun! Our hope is for kids to understand the love God has for them and to learn how Jesus is their rescuer and Savior.*

**Live Wires:** *Our Live Wires' ministry exists to help preteens to safely move from simply knowing God to knowing what God says about them and the world! Our hope is that each preteen moves into their next stage knowing what the word of God says and how to apply it in everyday life.*

**Youth Ministry:** *Sugar Grove Youth exists to embody the love of Christ by showing students that they are deeply loved by God. Our hope is that students come to a saving faith with Jesus and grow in his likeness and character.*

**Preaching Team:** *In our time of transition, we have been fortunate to have a talented group of people who love to study and preach the word to our congregation.*

**Guest Connections:** *These volunteers meet with first time guests, answers questions, take them to a meal, and help them get plugged in. They can be found at the New Here Start Here area on Sundays.*

**Tech Team:** *This is a great team for those who like to work behind the scenes. The team helps on Sunday mornings with slides, sounds, and video.*



# OUR HISTORY



2015



2016



2016

## KEY MOMENTS IN OUR HISTORY

### THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN AND MEN

The elders of Sugar Grove Church of Christ affirmed that in all roles, and positions of leadership, women and men are scripturally qualified, spiritually blessed, and directly called to use their spiritual gifts to build the kingdom of God. The role of elder is still reserved for men.

### DOUG ROBINSON

Doug Robinson joined our staff as the lead minister. In February 2022, he was called to a new career. We continue to have a good working relationship with Doug, and he still creates our graphic designs.

### SUGAR GROVE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Sugar Grove Christian school closed in May and our partnership with Arrow Academy began in the Fall.

### 1990-2018:

100 years of combined experience at Sugar Grove



The roots of Sugar Grove Church of Christ reach back to the 1960's when two church families agreed to combine into one church. In the 1990's, Sugar Grove Church of Christ began to look for a new home to create a permanent space for the church in a part of Houston that allowed the church to maximize its reach. Through many twists and turns, God blessed us with our location today, 13.5 acres in Meadows Place. Every step of the way He has been faithful and blessed us beyond anything we could ever ask or imagine.

God has blessed us financially to be able to own our own building and facilities debt-free, and we've been able to use our campus as a blessing to the Meadows Place community. God continues to use this building and land to bring transformation to Sugar Grove.



**MEADOWS PLACE PRESCHOOL**

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

**STAFF CHANGES**

**NEW LEAD MINISTER**

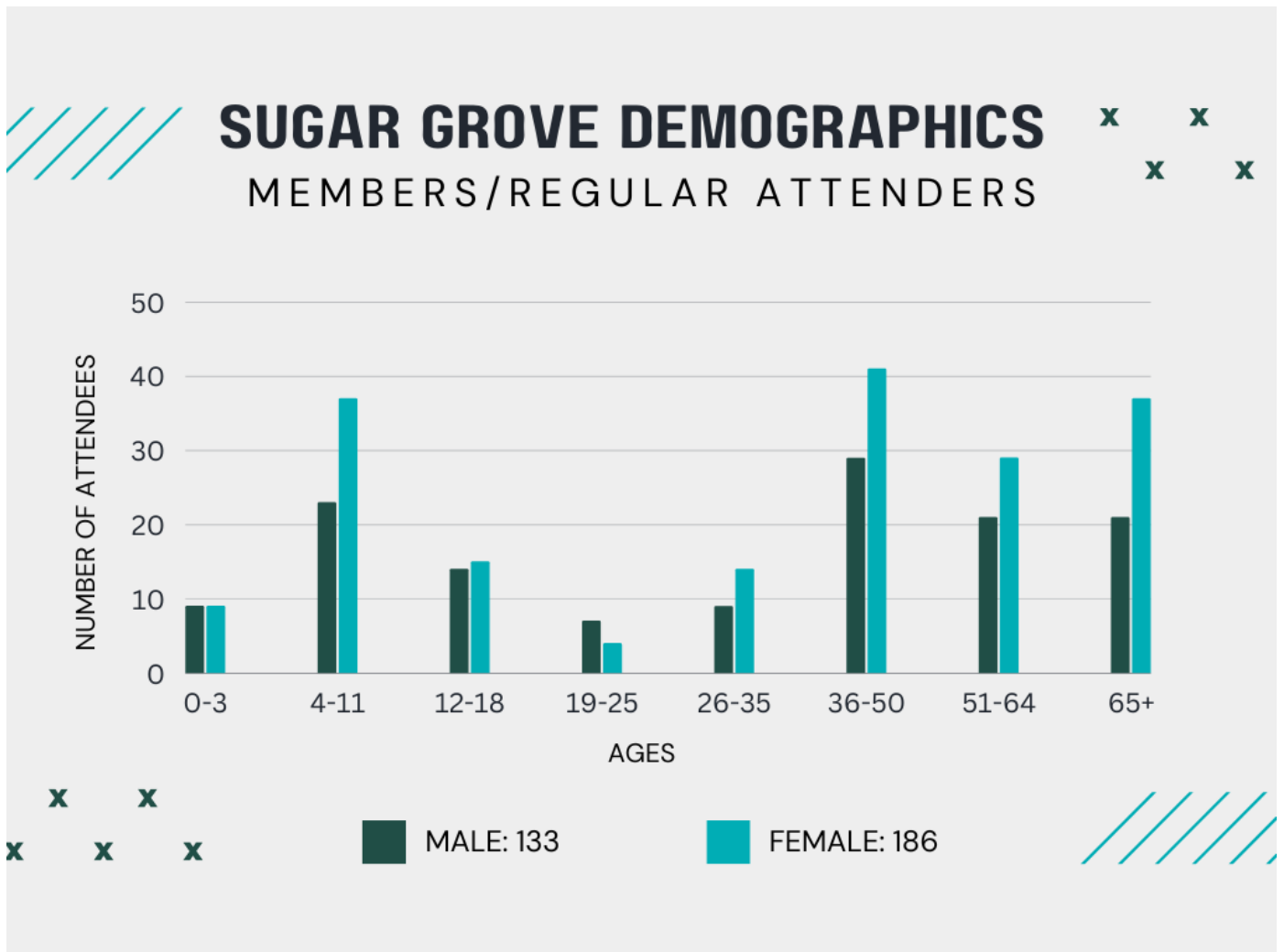
Meadow Place Preschool began. Meadows Place Preschool is located inside Sugar Grove Church of Christ and they seek to inspire hearts to grow, learn, and love through Christian education, exemplary teachers, and a variety of activities.

Sugar Grove Church of Christ brought in instrumental music, to be sung along with accapella music, in a singular worship service, called community worship.

Due to many staff changes Sugar Grove Church of Christ found ourselves in a season of transition and looking for a new lead minister.

The search committee completes the process of searching for and hiring a new lead minister to lead our community into what God has next for us.

# CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS



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# OUR COMMUNITY

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*Sugar Grove Church of Christ is located in Meadows Place, Texas, a small municipality southwest of Houston – the 4th-largest city in the U.S. The City of Meadows Place is surrounded by numerous communities in Fort Bend County, which is, statistically speaking, America’s most diverse county.*

*Fort Bend County’s population is fairly evenly divided between Caucasian, African-American, Latino and Asian residents, all of which have impacted our local culture and cuisine.*

*Sugar Grove is unique because it’s the only church in Meadows Place and has a powerful Christian influence on the little town of about 4,700 residents. Meadows Place neighbors participate in Sugar Grove activities like the Fall Festival, VBS, quarterly blood drives, and old-fashioned kickball games in McGrath Park.*

*Because the home of Sugar Grove is less than ¼-mile from U.S. Highway 59, many Sugar Grove members live in nearby places like Houston, Sugar Land, Stafford, Richmond, Pearland, Missouri City, and Sienna.*

*Unique attractions like the Space Cowboys minor league baseball, Brazos Bend State Park and its observatory, and the Sugar Land Town Square are popular places for shopping, eating and entertainment.*

*A wide variety of higher education options are available in Greater Houston, including the University of Houston and its satellite campuses, Rice, Texas Southern, Houston Christian, St. Thomas, Houston Community College, and Wharton County Junior College.*

# MEADOWS PLACE

**DATA SPECIFIC FOR MEADOWS PLACE, WHERE SUGAR GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS LOCATED.**

**TOTAL POPULATION:**  
4,700

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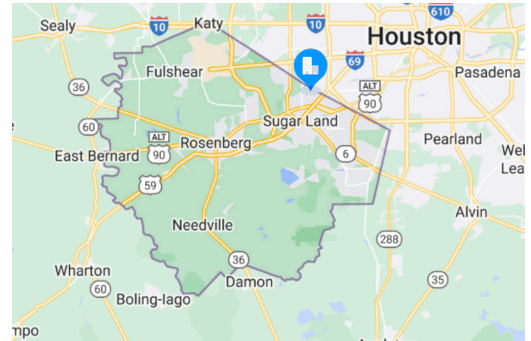
**POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

- WHITE:** 51%
- AFRICAN AMERICAN:** 13%
- ASIAN:** 16%
- HISPANIC OR LATINO:** 17%

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**HOUSEHOLDS, SIZE, INCOME AND VALUE**

- AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE:** 2.6
- AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** \$76,563
- MEDIAN HOME VALUE:** \$200,000



 City Location



 Church Location

# 2020 CENSUS

**FORT BEND  
COUNTY DATA  
FROM THE 2020  
CONSENSUS**

**TOTAL POPULATION:  
858,527**

**POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY**  
**WHITE: 53.4%**  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN: 21.9%**  
**ASIAN: 21.6%**  
**HISPANIC OR LATINO: 25%**

**HOUSEHOLDS, SIZE,  
INCOME AND VALUE**  
**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD  
SIZE: 3.09**  
**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD  
INCOME: \$102,590**  
**MEDIAN HOME  
VALUE: \$287,500**

**EDUCATION:**  
**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA-17.8%**  
**COLLEGE, NO DIPLOMA-18.9%**  
**ASSOCIATE DEGREE-7.5%**  
**BACHELOR'S DEGREE-46.55%**  
**GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL-34.6%**



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# A STATEMENT FROM OUR ELDERS

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*Thank you for looking at Sugar Grove Church of Christ.*

*We believe the church is a gathering of God's people who are sinners saved by grace through faith through the blood sacrificed by his son, Jesus Christ. We also believe that God's forgiveness is available to all who are willing to feel a sorrow for their sin that leads to repentance (change in their lives) and an acceptance of Jesus as their Lord and Savior and a commitment to follow Him and His teachings.*

*We believe that **God is our provider** in all things. He has provided us with many talented leaders and family members that serve Him and those around us.*

*We believe that **God is our protector**. He protects us from the grip that Satan can have on each of us. We pray and trust that God will protect us from Satan's many temptations.*

*We believe that **God is our power**. He fills us with His Spirit and transforms us into the people He has declared us to be in Christ Jesus. He is always with us, leading us and guiding us on our journey with him. He heals our hearts, and through his power our lives are turned around.*

*We believe that **God gives us power through prayer**. We are praying for each of you that read this and are interested in God's work at Sugar Grove. We pray for God's wisdom and strength to bless you and guide you in your walk of faith. We pray that God will lead you to where you can best serve our Lord.*

*We would love to share with you how God has changed our lives and leads us daily. We would love to hear your story too. Whether our time together will lead you to a position at Sugar Grove or not, we look forward to the opportunity to get to know you and to celebrate God's love together!*

*Grace and Peace,  
Your Sugar Grove Elders*

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# PRAYER REQUESTS

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*For the last two years, our church has been in a place of transition. We intentionally slowed down, reflected, prayed, and considered before making any moves or other changes. Our church is now ready to bring on a new lead minister, someone we have been lifting up in prayer for the last two years. We went through one round of interviews in 2023 but ended up not filling the role.*

*In January 2024, the elders asked the five of us, Wanda, Richard, Peter, Kaya, and Casey, to form the search team for this position. Our group ranges in ages, in length of membership at Sugar Grove, and in various ministries we are involved in; however, we all deeply love this community and are eager to serve the people as best we can. We have been tasked with overseeing this process before giving our recommendations to the elders.*

*We are in constant prayer about this process and about all the candidates considering applying here. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for us as well, that we would have wisdom, discernment, and guidance from the Holy Spirit.*

*Whatever brought you to this document, we pray that God will continue to give you guidance in your own journey. May you come to know God's love more and more, and may that cause you to love others more deeply as well. Grace and peace be yours in ever increasing measures.*





**Sugar Grove  
Church of Christ**  
FOR GOD & FOR NEIGHBOR

## LEAD MINISTER JOB DESCRIPTION

**POSITION TITLE:** Lead Minister

**OVERVIEW OF THIS POSITION:** To serve Sugar Grove through helping us execute our vision (being For God and For Neighbor) and supporting and equipping fellow staff, ministry area leaders, elders, and congregation to fulfill our vision.

**SCOPE OF POSITION:** To work within the organizational structure, while passionately living and thriving in the God-breathed life of the congregation where relationship building, spiritual transformation, and glorifying God are the measures of success.

**REPORTS TO:** Elders

**POSITIONS REPORTING TO LEAD MINISTER:** Ministers, Staff, and Ministry Area Leaders (Leadership Team)

### REQUIREMENTS/ TRAINING:

- Bachelor degree required
- 5 year experience minimum working in a church or a faith based non profit
- Experience leading a team or staff
- Seminary or graduate degree preferred
- Willingness to continue education

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Works with ministers and ministry area leaders to clarify ministry goals and develop strategies in pursuit of our congregational vision of being “For God and For Neighbor” and upholding our six core values (Worship, Diversity, Transformation, Community, Generosity, and Service).

Leading, empowering, and shepherding the Leadership Team includes:

- Serve as the church's primary vision caster in coordination with the elders and ministry staff.
- Cultivate an inclusive environment among the Leadership Team by:
  - i. Delegating appropriate responsibilities;
  - ii. Inviting and listening to input from the Leadership Team;
  - iii. Mentoring and encouraging the Leadership Team to be responsive to congregational input; and
  - iv. Including all input in the decision making process.
- Organize and implement activities for staff development and team-building with the Leadership Team.





# Sugar Grove Church of Christ

FOR GOD & FOR NEIGHBOR

2. Plan Sunday worship in coordination with the Preaching Team and Worship Team. Participate in Sunday worship when not preaching and not on vacation.
3. Provide and participate in pastoral care including but not limited to, as reasonably available, such as making hospital & bereavement visits, officiating weddings & funerals.
4. Assist the elders in developing goals, objectives, and ministry strategies that will help us realize our vision, mission, and six core values as a congregation. Attend elder meetings when asked. The frequency and purpose of meetings between the elders and lead minister will be determined by mutual collaboration and agreement.
5. Maintain reasonable, weekly office hours, notifying office staff of location when out of the office.
6. Work with the Leadership Team to create a process for leadership development and expansion.
7. Partner with the elders to hire, train, supervise, and evaluate staff.
8. Oversee scheduling of church activities and the maintenance of the church calendar.
9. Oversee communication with the congregation.
10. Periodically meet with the Finance Manager and administrative elders to discuss finances and budget.

## **SELF CARE:**

Take care of yourself- spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. Create and maintain rhythms and boundaries you need during each season of your life so that you can be the healthiest version of yourself. Communicate any needs and boundaries with appropriate people.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

If interested in applying for the job please send your resume, cover letter, and links to preaching examples to [searchteam@sugargrove.org](mailto:searchteam@sugargrove.org), and someone on the church's Search Team will contact you.