



Our New Season
— **BUILDING COMMUNITY** —

From Our Campaign Co-Chairs . . .



First Presbyterian Church has been a part of our family's life for 33 years. We have seen it grow and change for our members and the community it serves. We recognize the building needs to be updated so we can continue growing our mission in the community for generations. It is incumbent upon current members to dedicate their financial resources to the future of First Presbyterian just as members have done for nearly 200 years. This capital campaign offers each of us the opportunity to prayerfully consider all the church has provided for us and what we can do for others. We enthusiastically dedicate our gift to this future.

~Harvey and Mary Beth Stephens

*"I give thanks to God
with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your
wonderful deeds."*

~ Psalm 9:1

I am so excited for this renovation project. It is needed for our multigenerational congregation and for our diverse community. The best part is how we partner with our community in ways such as the help desk, food pantry, micro pantry, and more and we remain a vibrant church family such as our presence with the Q+ community, fantastic musical events, and fellowship . Our church is a marriage of our dynamic past and our ever present future. The best is yet to come...

~Anne Mayberry

I feel privileged to be part of the Capital Campaign; the project will enable First Presbyterian to reshape itself for the future, once again. More doors will be flung open allowing our neighbors and community to experience the caring and friendly nature of our congregation. More space will be accessible to provide mind, body and soul sustenance for the congregation, for the community beyond our red doors. These are exciting times and they are ours!

~JoAnne Durkee

Dear friends,

Our New Season: Building Community is building excitement in our congregation!

The vision of transforming our building into an accessible, beautiful, and healing space is inspiring. We are reassured by the overwhelming agreement on our need for an elevator. We hear the commitments of our congregation to partner with neighbors to build new possibilities. We feel joy when dreaming of singing, working, praying, serving together to fulfill God's purposes for our church. By creating accessible, hospitable spaces, we are better able to build relationships within and beyond our church. In these ways, our new building helps us build community!

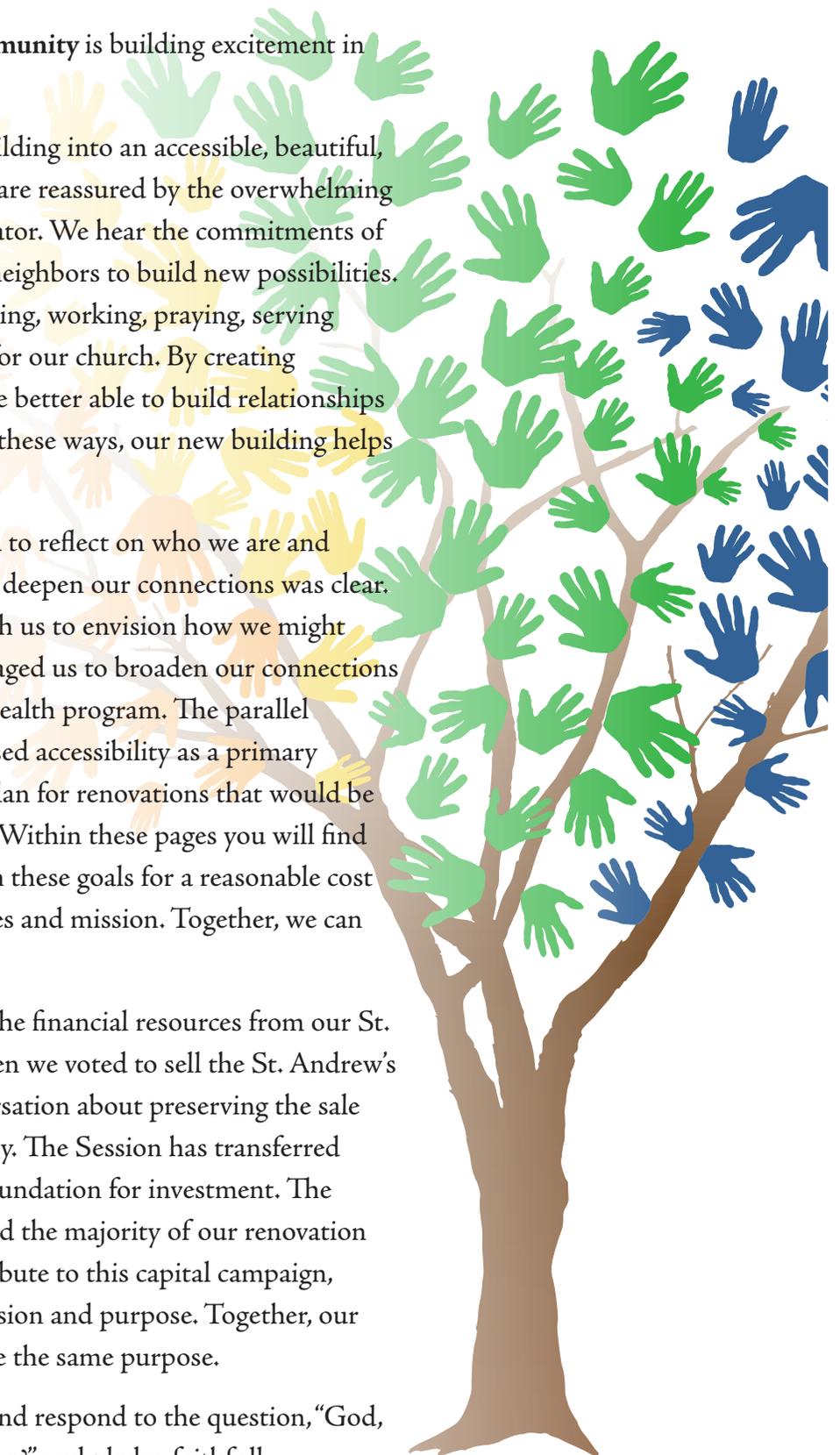
When our members have gathered to reflect on who we are and where God is calling us, the call to deepen our connections was clear. When community leaders met with us to envision how we might better use our facility, they encouraged us to broaden our connections with arts, education, history, and health program. The parallel visions were striking! With increased accessibility as a primary goal, members worked to draft a plan for renovations that would be welcoming, flexible, and beautiful. Within these pages you will find our most up-to-date plans to reach these goals for a reasonable cost that support our ongoing ministries and mission. Together, we can make these dreams reality.

These dreams are possible due to the financial resources from our St. Andrew's investment income. When we voted to sell the St. Andrew's property, we had significant conversation about preserving the sale proceeds to support future ministry. The Session has transferred these funds to the Presbyterian Foundation for investment. The investment income earned will fund the majority of our renovation project. We ask members to contribute to this capital campaign, because we support the church's vision and purpose. Together, our contributions and investment serve the same purpose.

God calls us to search our hearts and respond to the question, "God, what do you want to do through me?" and pledge faithfully.

May Our New Season build community,

Pastor Susan Hillson



Our Prayer For You

Building Faithfully

God who loves us, scripture tells us:

“For everything there is a season and a time for every manner under heaven.
...A time to break down and a time to build up.”

We are entering a new season – a time for both breaking down and building up.

We break down with honor and gratitude
structures that have served us well for many seasons.

We will build up new spaces that will honor you
and serve our growing community for many seasons to come.

With joy, we enter Our New Season – Building Community.

Following God

God who guides us, we confess that we approach this new season
and the journey ahead with a mixture of excitement and wonder.

May we not run ahead of you in our excitement,
may we not lag behind because of our doubts.

Lead us, Good Shepherd, through the mountains and valleys of this new season.

Your presence before us gives us confidence, strength, and courage as we follow you.

Blessings

God who blesses us, may our community be the blessing you call us to be,
advocating for love, peace, and justice for all people and your creation.

And may we, with this new structure, build community and bless our neighbors
by being a people and a place committed to worship, celebration,
compassion, and sanctuary for all who enter.

Amen

Important Dates

October 17
Gratitude Sunday

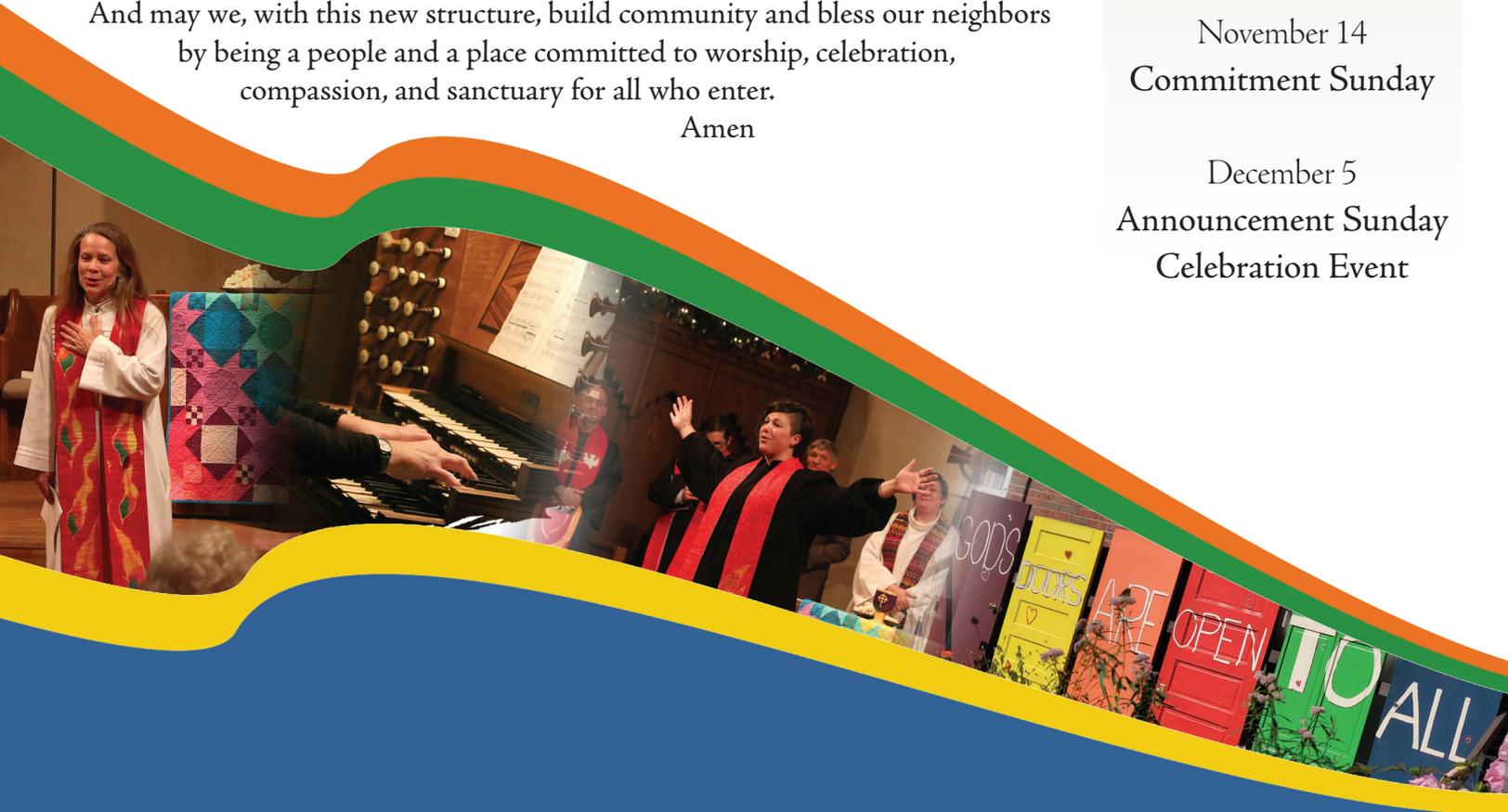
October 24
Ministry Sunday

October 31
Prayer Sunday

November 7
Generosity Sunday

November 14
Commitment Sunday

December 5
Announcement Sunday
Celebration Event



Rooted

First Presbyterian Church is a historic downtown church, dedicated to ministry with our neighbors for nearly 200 years. We treasure our connections across time, which have built community, shared art, sung praise, and served the wider world. We value our Lincoln family history, beautiful stained glass, inspiring organ music, and our leadership roles in Springfield and beyond. We have been called to address our neighbors' needs and have recently doubled our commitments to feed and care for others through our Samaritan Ministries.

One significant tradition is nurturing collaborations with community partners. When the 1908 anti-Black race riot inspired the creation of the NAACP, founders met at First Presbyterian Church. When the Islamic community began gathering in Springfield, their members met at our church. When the need for free health care arose, we formed and housed Health First, a free health clinic, twenty years ago until it outgrew the space and became the Central Counties Health Center. When the Illinois Symphony Orchestra needed a performance space, we shared our love of music. These partnerships create a place of welcome, reflecting God's hospitality.

Reaching

As a community of faith, we are excited to listen for God's voice and discern our ministries' future! As members and friends, we reach out to one another, to our neighbors, and toward holy visions of love and justice in new ways.

In the past four years, we have shared our space and nurtured both health, education, and creativity by welcoming The Joy of Movement dance classes for those with Parkinson's, the Hands and Feet Clinic, the World Affairs Council, the Road Scholars, theater rehearsals, music recitals, antiracism training, and the Garvey-Tubman Arts camp.

By reaching out, we are healing, growing, leading and experiencing transformation as disciples of Jesus. Our members' and staff's developing gifts include creativity, vision, open-mindedness, and grit. An example of these gifts is the joy we shared in the ordination of the first LGBTQ+ candidate as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in our presbytery. These faithful efforts are made possible by our congregation's generosity and augmented by the St. Andrew's investment income.

With community leaders, we dream of more new partnerships to use our facility to better serve our neighbors through education and youth development, fine and performing arts, heritage tourism, rental space for meetings, and social services.

Renovation

Our current facility's limitations can be overcome. Some exciting possibilities can create accessible, functional and beautiful space by:

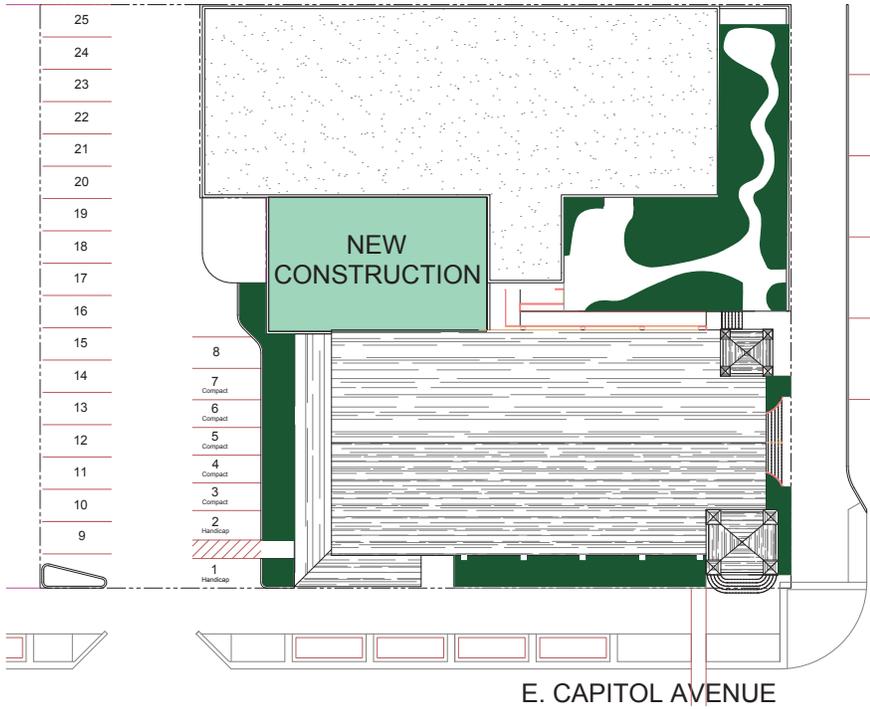
- ~ Removing the deteriorating 1920s' section of the building;
- ~ Building new accessible entrances from the parking lot;
- ~ Adding an elevator to increase accessible space from 12,000 to 32,000 square feet;
- ~ Updating our kitchens and Samaritan Ministries to allow us to break bread and build community;
- ~ Creating flexible classroom, lounge, and chapel spaces for future generations.

Our church's Finance Committee has been working with the Presbyterian Foundation (our investors) and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP, our lender) to assess how much we can afford. We have reviewed several scenarios, and the recommendation is that a total cost of \$5.4 million would be a "best fit." We have shared this figure with the architect (The Samuels Group) and the builder (O'Shea Builders) in our construction management model, which requires them to meet our price. They will work with us to design a facility combining our vision with the best value.

Both congregational and presbytery approval will be required for a loan to help fund this project. By joining in these efforts, you can help us build faithful spaces that nurture our relationships with God and one another.



Site Plan



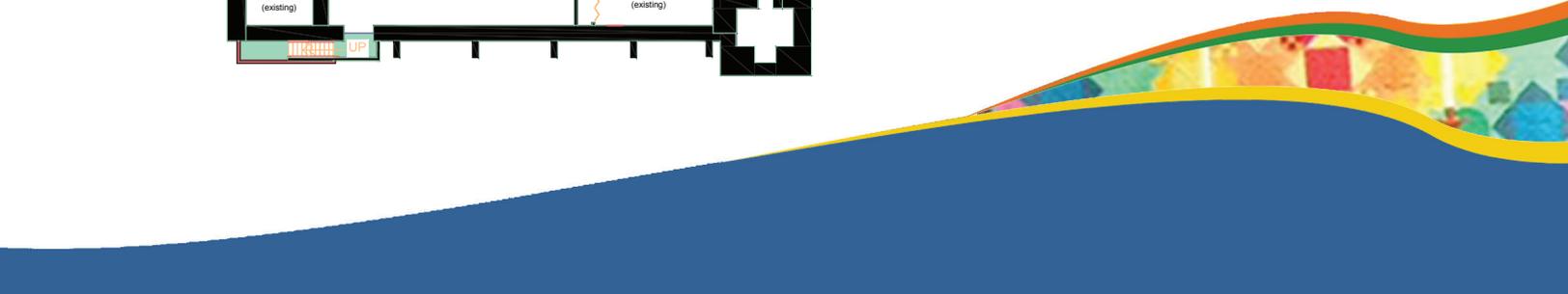
- Remodeling
- New Construction
- Garden Areas

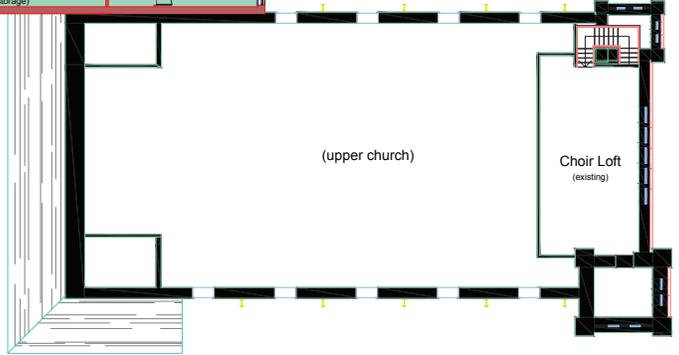
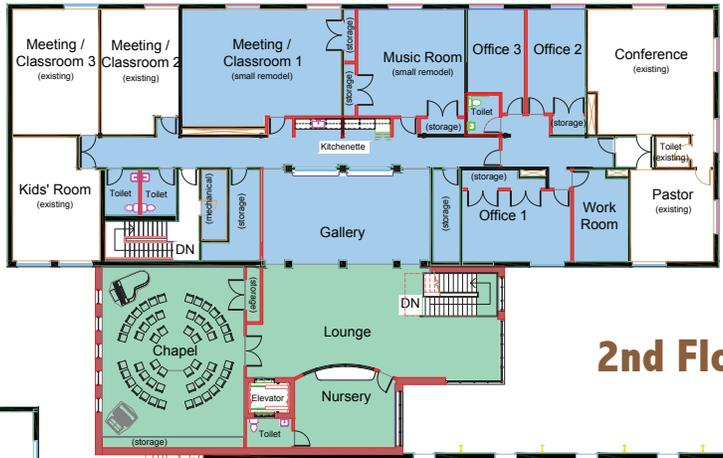


View from parking lot



Reception area





FAQs

What is a capital campaign?

A capital campaign is a finite period when a church or other organization looks to its future mission and makes changes to make it possible. These changes are most often building new space, remodeling existing space, or retiring debt. The church invites all members to offer a second-mile gift above their regular giving to make this future mission a reality. In most cases, these changes and gifts occur over 3 to 5 years.

How can I help?

You can help by sharing your enthusiasm for this project, praying for our congregation, volunteering, and giving to the campaign.

How will this impact my annual giving commitment?

Your pledge to *Our New Season: Building Community* is beyond your regular annual giving. Pledges for both the capital campaign and the 2022 annual ministry budget will be dedicated on Commitment Sunday, November 14.

How will the church be impacted by construction?

Worship in the sanctuary and via zoom will continue without interruption. Worship in the Garden may need to move to another space in 2022.

What are the different ways I can give?

You can make contributions by check, through your bank, by using the church's web portal, or via text. You can also give appreciated stocks, mutual funds, and other assets. If you are over 70 ½, consult your tax advisor to see if you can use the required minimum distributions from your IRA to make your gift.

Why should I give?

We give to this renovation project for the same reasons we regularly give to our church. We give out of gratitude for what we have and what our faith means to us. We give because we believe God is working through this congregation. We give because someone else gave before us. We give because we have a vision of a church community that will outlive us in its mission and ministries. We give because our gifts, no matter the size, are meaningful.

How does the campaign goal relate to the cost?

The PILP analysis and Horizons Stewardship's feasibility study have both suggested the congregation's portion for this capital campaign could be at least \$750,000. While the need for a second capital campaign is possible, we are comfortable anticipating the congregation's portion being approximately 20 percent and the remainder coming from investment income.

Will I be pressured to make a pledge?

Absolutely not. Giving is a spiritual practice. We invite each person to talk with God about what God hopes to do through each of us.

Could the entire project be funded by the St Andrew's sale proceeds?

It could, if we were willing to spend part of the sale proceeds rather than investing for future ministries. The simplest answer is that members are invited to participate financially in this project because we believe in our congregation's ministry and want to support it. Investment income from the sale of the St. Andrew's building will fund the balance of the renovation.

The Church will borrow money from the PILP to finance the construction project rather than spending from investments because we can borrow at a lower interest rate than we are earning. We anticipate investment income will be sufficient to service the debt AND continue to provide operating funds to First Presbyterian Church as St. Andrew's has done for 20 years.

What's the impact of using money from the St. Andrew's investment income on the long-term financial stability of First Presbyterian?

Using investment income from the proceeds of the St. Andrew's building sale to finance the construction project does not reduce the long-term financial stability of First Presbyterian Church. The investment income can cover the loan payments and continue to provide operating income in an amount St. Andrew's previously provided the church.

What happens if the congregation doesn't fulfill their portion of the cost?

The short answer is the less we give, the smaller the reach of our ministry. The depth and breadth of our ministry and mission is a direct reflection of the contributions, financial and spiritual, made by our members and friends. We believe that giving of ourselves is a spiritual act and that by doing so, we are living faithfully and sharing God's vision with the wider community.

How will I be recognized?

If you are comfortable being recognized publicly, it will be our honor to do so! If you are comfortable not being recognized publicly, it will be our honor to do so!

How long do I have to pay my pledge?

Our New Season: Building Community capital campaign is planned for three years from the dedication of our pledges in November 2021 to the campaign's completion by the end of 2024.