



Generations
Building Joy!

From Our Campaign Co-Chairs . . .

I am excited to help organize this Capital Campaign. My experience of the last six years tells me that it's possible to live the truth that God's love is for EVERYONE. Our church has been a real blessing to me in my own faith journey. It is a joy to give back in gratitude by investing in the future of First Presbyterian Church and through it, the wider community.

~Linda Johnson

Our congregation has endured and thrived for almost 200 years. In that time, we have experienced great joy and loss, together. And together, we move forward, seeing the fruition of our hard work and dedication to each other and our community. We have been deeply moved by the strength of our bonds. This capital campaign is our opportunity to strengthen those bonds as we prepare for the future, asking, "God, what do you want to do through me?" Harvey and I are profoundly enthusiastic to share our gift for the next generations of First Presbyterian Church.

~Harvey and MaryBeth Stephens

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

~ Psalm 9:1





Dear friends,

Your dedication sustains our ministries, allowing us to reflect God's love, justice, and grace. Thanks to your faithfulness, we navigated the pandemic and successfully completed ***Our New Season – Building Community*** capital campaign, enabling us to begin construction. Our first capital campaign exceeded our goals, both in pledges and contributions. Well done! Now, as we begin our ***Generations Building Joy campaign***, we invite everyone to participate, regardless of gift size—every contribution is a blessing!

Why a Second Capital Campaign?

This faith-filled step is a commitment to a vibrant future:

1. **Sharing Ourselves** – For nearly 200 years, we've served the wider community through sharing our spiritual gifts in volunteering, hospitality, and partnerships.
2. **Sharing Our Facilities** – Our renovated, accessible spaces expand mission and ministry efforts in education, health, well-being, youth programs, music, arts, and history.
3. **Sharing Financial Gifts** – As past generations invested in us, we now invest in the future while preserving our principal investment in the New Covenant St. Andrews fund with the Presbyterian Foundation.

Moving Forward Together

A faithful campaign requires prayer, generosity, and commitment. Giving is a spiritual act—our response to God's provision and our commitment to the flourishing of First Presbyterian Church. Your faithfulness encourages us to worship, serve, and grow in meaningful ways. By renovating our space, we create a more accessible, hospitable church that strengthens relationships and fosters new collaborations. May God bless our efforts as we step into our third century of ministry.

With blessings of gratitude,

Pastor Susan Hill



Generations Building Joy!

Dear God,

Thank you for our foundations.

Thank you for our place in the community.

Thank you for the members of our church.

Thank you for our leaders.

Guide us to what you want our church to do.

Lead us to make more disciples for you.

Show us how to be good stewards of your blessings.

Help us to focus on the future, and to be a generation
who builds joy through our actions.

Amen.

Our Vision

The Capital Campaign's vision and purpose – ***Generations Building Joy*** – has been selected to reflect our congregation's long-term commitment to honor our rich history while at the same time reaching out to build community with our neighbors near and far. Our faith community treasures its background in community service and labor, social justice activities, and sharing our sacred space for community groups and projects. During the first capital campaign, our congregation has been faithfully exploring how God calls us to be a church that collaborates with our community partners for the future. As we conclude the first phase of our church renovations project, we are inspired by the JOY of our connectedness between past and future generations. With JOY, we commit our service and ministries to advance the will of God through worship, music, art, hospitality in sharing food and space, working to dismantle oppression, and seeking love and justice in our community and the world.

Eternal God, we know that no building can contain you. May First Presbyterian Church use our facility as a gathering place for people of goodwill and in respectful relationship with all creation. When we worship, let us worship faithfully. When we study, let us learn your ways of love and justice. May every meeting held here honor you and bless our neighbors so that this building may stand as a sign of your Spirit's work in the world and as a witness to Jesus' presence among us. Amen!

As each member prayerfully reflects and discerns their family/individual contributions to the ***Generations Building Joy*** Campaign, please trust the Spirit of God to lead you in your call to pledge. As our community moves into this new chapter of God's purpose for our ministries, please know that all contributions through talent and monetary gifts are needed to build a community for the future. God calls each of us to search our hearts and, in our consideration of giving, know that we are called to provide as we are able. Therefore, let the Breath of God lift you and answer the question: "God, what do you want to do through me?" and pledge faithfully.

Mark Your Calendar

March 9
Gratitude Sunday

March 16
Ministry Sunday

March 23
Prayer Sunday

March 30
Generosity Sunday

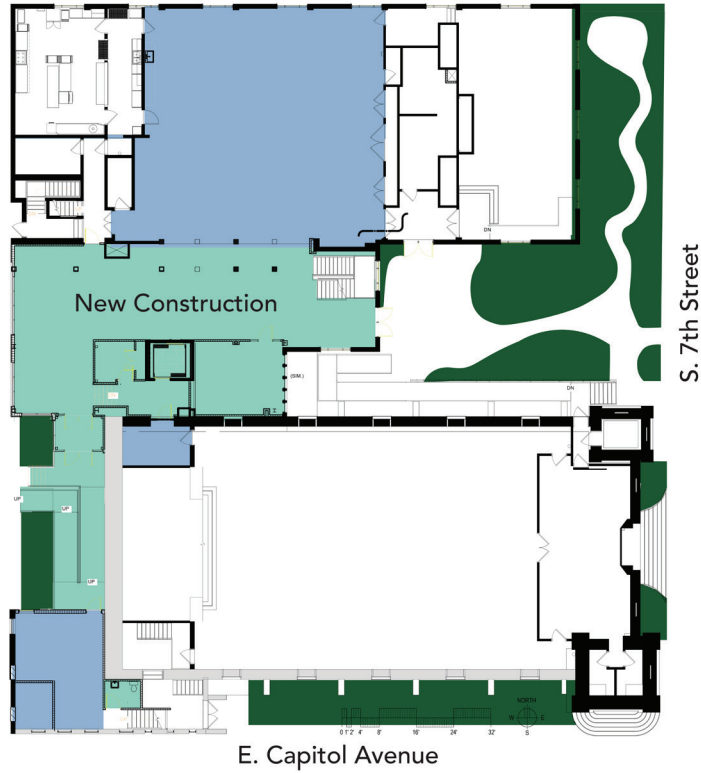
April 6
Commitment Sunday

April 20
Announcement Sunday

May 4
Campaign Celebration

Renovation Celebration
TBA when
elevator is installed

Site Plan



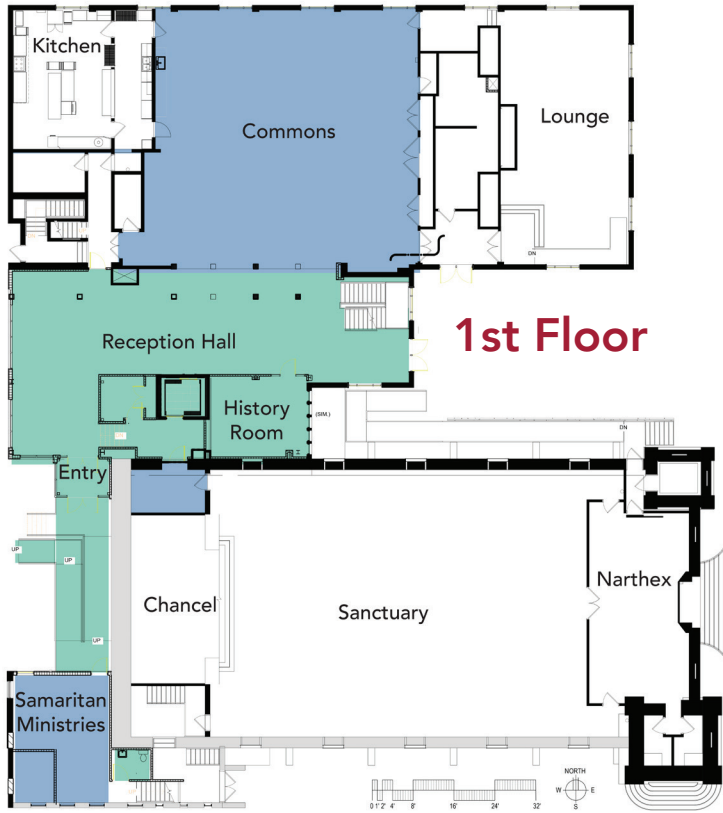
- Remodeling
- New Construction
- Garden Areas



Lounge



Nursery



Questions and Answers

What is the goal of our capital campaign?

The goal of this campaign is for every member and friend of the congregation to participate and be a part of the future of First Presbyterian Church. Dollars raised are important, but it is more important for everyone to feel a part of the future of our church. We hope that everyone, after prayerful consideration, will want to participate in whatever way is best for them.

Also, we know that a meaningful aspect of our faith is looking to the future, trusting divine promises, and living into the peace and love and justice of God made real in the world. Sharing a vision for our church's future adds deeper meaning to our journeys of faith

Why do we need a second capital campaign? Our first campaign was very successful a second campaign allows our church to preserve the money invested with the Presbyterian Foundation. The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program prepared a cash flow analysis for the Finance Committee that showed a second campaign would permit the church to continue to use the income from investments to fund operations, pay the debt on the construction loan, and not use any of the principal invested with the Foundation. If we do not conduct a second campaign, principal would need to be spent and the future income for the mission and ministry of our church would be less.

What will the funds from this new capital campaign be used for? Are we adding projects or did something change?

The funds will be used to pay for the construction loan. Unfortunately, as often happens with construction projects, the costs have increased from the initial estimates. No new projects have been added, although we have had to make some additional repairs as we discovered damage during renovation. Also, inflation and the costs of materials and labor have increased significantly over the last three years.

Second, we always anticipated a need for a second campaign. Once we reviewed the increased construction costs and the cash flow analysis prepared by PILP, it became apparent that the second campaign is vital to preserving our investment for future mission and ministry of our congregation.

Can we just ask people to continue their pledges from the first campaign?

The second campaign, like the first, is for each member and friend to prayerfully consider how we can best assist the mission

of our church. After such prayerful consideration, if it blesses them, they are welcome to continue their pledge from the first campaign. We have many new members since the last campaign and welcome everyone to participate in the future of the church.

Why don't we spend principal from our investments?

Spending the investments is an option; however, it would then mean less money available in the future for our ministries and mission.

With organized religion on the decline in this country, how do I know my investment is a wise one?

Over history, the death of organized religion has been widely predicted and never fulfilled! Historically, our church has been at the forefront of serving the Springfield community in whatever way was needed at the time. As we begin our 3rd century as a worshipping community, we believe that we will continue to serve the Springfield community for a long while. Our new members and new ministries are inspiring to long time members. Your investment in this campaign permits the church to collaborate in ministry with our community partners and maintain our mission for decades to come.

Why are you asking me to participate?

This Capital Campaign for First Presbyterian Church is similar to other foundational campaigns. The foundation of our programs - art camps, Joy of Movement, our relationship to the Lincoln family, Habitat for Humanity are just a few. Many programs essential to the Springfield Community had their start because of our congregation. To move forward, to expand who we are without sacrificing our future, we need this second capital campaign. Supporting this campaign strengthens the foundations of our church - its buildings. But strong buildings that are empty aren't much to move forward with. Supporting who the church is - its programming and what it can do for our congregation and community - moves our church forward.

Any last message for me to prayerfully consider?

Our first capital campaign was enormously successful. However, no one could have anticipated the significant cost increases we have faced during planning and construction. While safeguarding our finances, we will safeguard the future of our congregation and our Church. That way, this community and we can continue the work of the generations before us. As we have been blessed by the vision of our predecessors, we trust our vision will bless future generations of joy!