



# Growing Our Ministries to Glorify God



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

# A Message from Our Pastors

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We are always filled with awe when we catch glimpses of God's activity among us. We have watched people who did not know the love of Jesus Christ find it in our midst, and come to be baptized and unite with our fellowship. We have seen the love of Christ through our hands as we have offered caring ministries to one another in times of grief, illness, and special need. We have seen the love of Jesus extended beyond our community as we have given of our time and money to be in mission to help others and we have watched friendships develop that will last a lifetime.



In worship, in Sunday School, in Vacation Bible School, in our music ministries, in our mission trips, and in every facet of our life together, we have felt the Spirit of God lifting us and opening us to the transforming power of God's Word. We are blessed to serve in this place and time.

Truly, God's transforming power can bring reality to our dream of **Growing Our Ministries to Glorify God**. It is in that spirit and with that expectation that we embark on our capital campaign. Through our discipleship, worship, and service, we are sharing the love of God. At the heart of these ministries is our desire to honor God and celebrate God's wonderful nature. We desire to serve the needs of others in the name of Christ.

This campaign calls us to be partners in a two-phase project designed to meet the challenges of our ever-expanding mission at First Church. Our aim is to improve our church facility so that we can make stronger disciples, create more engaging worship, and offer greater service to our community and world. All of this will be for the Glory of God.

In one of his letters to the Church, the Apostle Paul offers this important counsel: "You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity will prove you are obedient to the good news of Christ." (2 Cor.9:13) Vital ministries are sustained by the gifts we give. We know that it will take the generosity of many of God's faithful here at First Church to accomplish the purposes of this campaign. We are trusting God to guide our giving. We are committed to doing our best for the work of Christ.

We believe that we are writing a new chapter in the life of First Church. Inspired by those who have gone before us, we are now ready to take a faithful step into the future God has planned for us. We are **Growing Our Ministries to Glorify God**.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Dawes".

Pastor James T. Dawes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory A. Rapp".

Pastor Gregory A. Rapp



# Responding to God in Faith



With great foresight, prayer, and sacrificial giving, the members of First Church in 1928 built a new church on Chocolate Avenue. For more than eight decades in downtown Hershey, the people of First Church have continued to make sacrificial responses that ensured vital worship and loving service for thousands of families in our community and around the world. In 1998, our congregation answered the call and took steps to accommodate the growing ministries at First Church through building renovation and expansion. It is time to continue the renovations and expansion in order to further facilitate ministries at First Church.

It is our hope that First Church will live up to its heritage by glorifying God and serving the needs of people in the twenty-first century. We want to create a future worthy of our past, so that eighty years from now the congregations of First Church will still be serving others in the name of Christ. After seven years of strategic planning, we are ready to begin a capital campaign to raise money for projects that will enhance worship and ministry. The current campaign is for Phase I and is further outlined in this brochure. The goal of Phase I is “**restoring** our facilities for ministry.” After the necessary funds are raised for Phase I, Phase II will begin with the goal of “**expanding** our facilities for ministry.”

## Goals for Phase I: Restoring Our Facilities For Ministry

- † Improve flexibility of worship space through chancel modifications
- † Improve accessibility for people with disabilities and the elderly in both chancel and congregational seating areas
- † Improve fire safety through new doors into the nave
- † Improve acoustics by opening the archway in the chancel, with additional benefit of improving visibility of the large stained glass window
- † Improve electrical wiring and lighting in the chancel area
- † Replace our deteriorating 50+ year old organ



Please prayerfully consider your response to this campaign. We hope that you, too, will step out in faith. Improving our church's facility will help us to grow our church's ministries through worship, discipleship, and service.

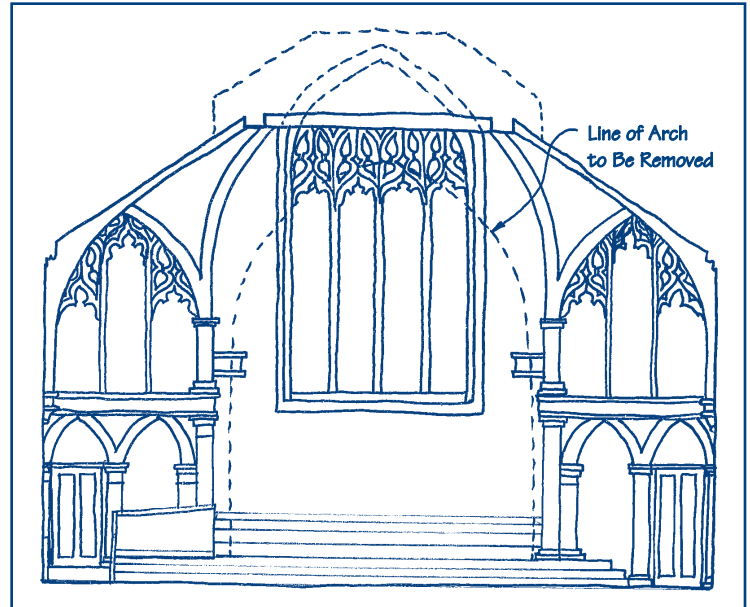
## Growing Our Ministries to Glorify God!



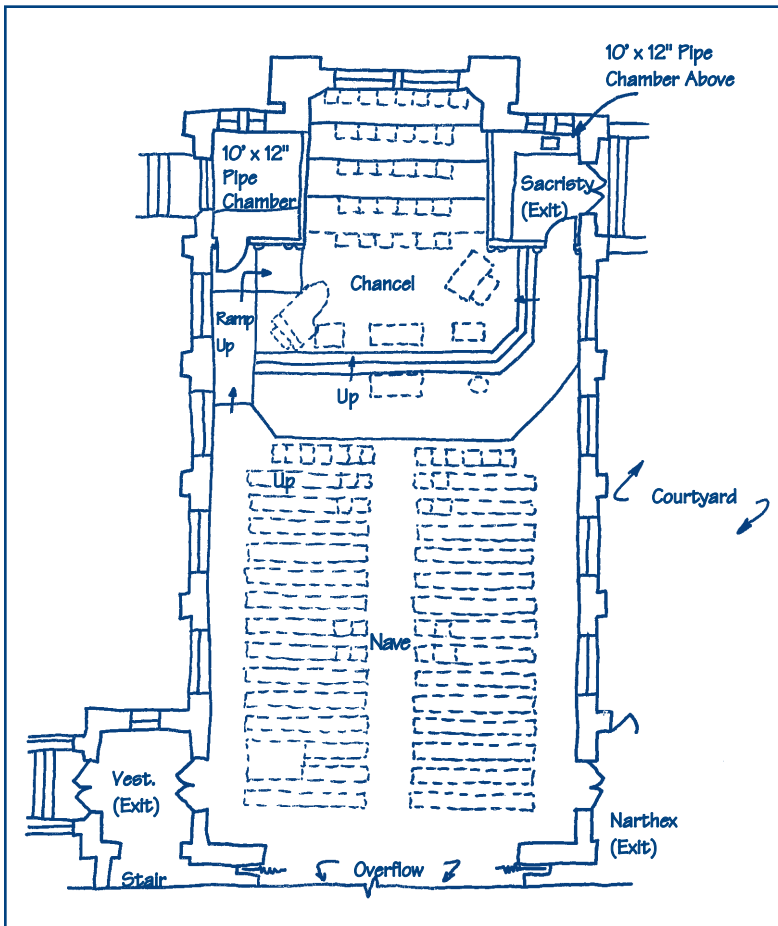
# Cost Estimate for Phase I: \$1.1 million

## Chancel and Nave Restoration Plans

- † Remove chancel rail and extend staging area to create flexibility for different worship services, youth groups, and musical ensembles
- † Add accessibility ramp to altar to aid people with disabilities and the elderly
- † Install flexible seating in front-row pews to accommodate wheelchairs or additional seating during heavily attended services
- † Replace doors into nave to comply with current fire safety codes
- † Reshape front archway for improved acoustics and improved visibility of front stained glass windows



Architectural sketches of proposed worship space changes by Arthur Funk and Sons.



# Cost Estimate for Phase I: \$1.1 million

*continued*

## *Organ Replacement Plans*

The pipe organ has been the instrument of choice in worship for centuries. It is a versatile instrument with varied sound colors and a wide range of volume, allowing it to accompany the congregational song, accompany the choirs, and provide voluntary music all without the need for amplification. Although many people associate the pipe organ with traditional worship, it can be used in the same way as a synthesizer for contemporary music.

In 2002, a committee was formed to address the problem of the aging pipe organ in our sanctuary that has been deteriorating and malfunctioning. Additionally, it has antiquated electronics that present a fire hazard. It was determined that this organ is not of sufficient quality or condition to warrant reconditioning. After careful evaluation, the committee recommended that the best choice for First Church would be to build a new pipe organ.

Following extensive research, the Letourneau Organ Company in Canada was identified as clearly producing a superior instrument compared to other builders and was, therefore, chosen to provide First Church with plans for a new organ. The original plans in 2007 needed to be re-evaluated due to concerns over escalating costs secondary to inflation and the devaluation of the American dollar. Through some of the chancel renovations outlined on the preceding page, cost reductions to the instrument were able to be attained without sacrificing quality of the instrument or the chosen builder.

The proposed pipe organ will help current and future congregations at First Church to glorify God in worship for many years.



*Conceptual drawing of chancel area  
by Arthur Funk and Sons.*

## Key Dates

**Saturday, September 13, 2008**  
*24-Hour Prayer Vigil*

**Sunday, September 21, 2008**  
*Campaign Kick-off Event*

Dinner 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. (upper parking lot)  
Program 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. (sanctuary)

**Sunday, September 28, 2008**  
*Commitment Sunday*



## How YOU Can Help

The success of our campaign rests upon the generous and sacrificial support of every church member and friend. There is no single amount that is appropriate for everyone. Some will be able to give more than others, but each of us should consider a pledge in accordance with our own abilities.

This is a personal decision that requires prayerful consideration. We have adopted a challenge for giving as outlined on this page. This is to help you plan your gift for our church's future.

Give after reflection and prayer.

Give within your means.

Give because of your faith.

Give because you are a responsible steward of God's gifts.

Give because you enthusiastically follow Christ and truly want to see God glorified through the ministries of First United Methodist Church of Hershey.

*Remember, the success of this campaign depends on YOU.*

### Faith Promise DISCIPLESHIP GIFTS

- \$ 96/wk. or \$4,800/yr. = \$14,400 3 yrs.
- \$ 64/wk. or \$3,200/yr. = \$ 9,600 3 yrs.
- \$ 48/wk. or \$2,400/yr. = \$ 7,200 3 yrs.
- \$ 32/wk. or \$1,600/yr. = \$ 4,800 3 yrs.
- \$ 24/wk. or \$1,200/yr. = \$ 3,600 3 yrs.
- \$ 16/wk. or \$ 800/yr. = \$ 2,400 3 yrs.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is a “Faith Promise”?

A Faith Promise is a regular contribution that represents a sacrificial pledge to the Building Fund.

## How do I pledge a Faith Promise?

You will be presented with a Faith Promise Card listing options for giving your Discipleship Gift. Please refer to the preceding page for the suggested Discipleship Gift levels.

## Can I just give, without signing a Faith Promise Card?

You could; however, we would not know how much to expect from your family nor would we have any idea of our projected income.

## Can I give as I am able without signing a Faith Promise?

Yes, you can do so. If a significant number of church family members choose this approach, however, we will not be able to proceed with the project at this time. As you can understand, a good knowledge of expected contributions is required to proceed.

## Can I give assets other than cash?

Yes. There are other ways available to you, such as property, stocks, or other tangible assets. Please contact the church office for further information.

## Will other types of donations be accepted?

Yes. Church members having access to supplies, materials, equipment, or services that could help complete the project are encouraged to come forward.

## Can I support our capital campaign in other ways?

Yes, especially with your prayers. You also might consider remembering our Church in your will or as a life insurance beneficiary.

## When will our program start?

Our program will start at the Kick-off on September 21. Commitment Sunday will be held on September 27.

## When will my contributions begin?

Contributions will start in October 2008. You will receive special envelopes to use in making your contributions.

## How long will the campaign last?

The campaign will cover a three-year period and is based on 150 weeks. You may, however, pay your commitment in full at any time.

## What will happen if we do not raise enough money to finance this complete project?

We will do only what we can pay for.

## May I change my Faith Promise later in the campaign?

Yes, of course. The future of any member is uncertain. Some may find themselves in better circumstances and be able to give more while others may face unforeseen situations that may cause them to lower their giving. The purpose of the Faith Promise Cards is to give FUMC Hershey an idea of how much we can expect to raise from our congregation. It is better for you to indicate the largest amount you will give rather than an amount you will easily exceed.

## Is this Faith Promise in addition to my regular tithes and offerings?

Yes, this is in addition to your regular contribution. Our annual budget is for carrying on the ministry of our church and does not include a building program.

## How much am I expected to give?

This is a personal decision for you to make only after prayerful thought, keeping in mind God's gifts to you. The information provided in this brochure is designed to assist you in making this personal determination.



*Mission Statement*

*We are a church of Jesus Christ,  
in which all people are welcome,  
every member is a minister;  
the world is our responsibility,  
disciple-making is our goal, and  
worship is our duty and delight.*

All photos (except historical photos) by Bill Fraley



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