

### STEPPING FORWARD IN FAITH

On Easter 2018 we celebrated Christ's resurrection in our new, beautiful, long-awaited sanctuary, the result of an incredibly successful *Forward in Faith* campaign that also created wonderful, welcoming fellowship space and a remodeled kitchen. **Your amazing capital campaign giving of \$1,295,782 over three years made it all possible!**

With the onset of the coronavirus in March 2020, we had to interrupt our *Forward in Faith 2020* campaign to pay off our mortgage by June 2023 and renovate the rest of the church campus. It was our intent to free CPC to focus on mission and ministry by eliminating the debt and enhancing our buildings serving children and youth. **What would happen to our high hopes?**

Now, two years later, with our *Forward in Faith 2020* campaign still on hold, by the grace of God and the faithfulness of our church family, **we are still on target to eliminate our debt by summer 2023** – at a cost of \$75,000 less than we had estimated! This is due to:

- your remarkable giving to the first campaign!
- 20 church households who made incredible advance commitments of \$465,000 to our 2020 campaign and began paying those pledges immediately!
- many more who kept right on giving even though they had not made a pledge!

**Our advance commitment pledges alone are on track to pay off the debt by June 2023!**

Paying off our debt by next summer saves \$362,000 of the half-million dollars in interest we would have spent and frees us from the burden of paying debt for the next fifteen years!

***Praise God! And thank you, thank you, thank you!***

### THE NEXT STEP

With the elimination of the debt well within reach, it's time for the rest of us to reignite *Forward in Faith 2020*, complete our original plans, and finish strong by **creating welcoming space for children, youth, and families:**

Our thriving preschool is an outreach to the community and a source of income, and our education building hosts the young families we seek to draw to CPC. While we did take advantage of the pandemic to refloor and repaint several children and youth rooms (spending \$18,000), **our education and preschool buildings are still dated.**

**It is vital that we fund the planned *FIF 2020* renovations to both buildings:**

- Painting, flooring, window treatments, lighting, furniture, bathrooms.                      **\$178,000**
- Creating a beautiful playground adjacent to the church to welcome families, both our own and our neighbors                      **40,000**
- Updating the landscaping around the new playground to match the beauty of the rest of our church campus                      **10,000**

***Needed to invest in God's future at CPC:                      \$228,000***

**We also have an opportunity to strengthen our annual budget during the 3-year campaign payout period.** While our giving to *Forward in Faith* is in excellent shape (see above), our annual operating budget is in uncertain condition. Giving decreased significantly during the pandemic though a generous response to a year-end appeal in June 2021 considerably narrowed the gap last year. This year, despite another deficit budget, giving during the first six months (July through December) is ahead of what was expected. While we are guardedly optimistic about the FY2022 outcome, we are still unsure how that will turn out. We also recognize that it's normal for giving to the operating budget to remain relatively flat during the three years of a capital campaign.

**Thus, giving to *Forward in Faith 2020* beyond what's needed to update our campus will supplement our annual operating budgets from 2022/23 through 2024/25.** In the happy circumstance that giving to the operating budget returns to normal, the session will review paying off the solar panel loan with any excess funds.

### ***PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER A WONDERFUL POSSIBILITY***

Our consultant tells us that in campaigns like ours, usually

50% of giving comes from advance commitments

50% comes from the rest of the congregation.

Two years ago, 11% of our households pledged \$465,000 to *Forward in Faith 2020*.

Imagine how our campus would be updated and our ministry strengthened if the remaining 89% of our congregation's households match the \$465,000 pledged by our lead givers!

This won't be a walk in the park... it will take sacrifice. But 43 of our congregation's households must believe this is possible, because *they have already made unpledged gifts of \$99,536 to Forward in Faith 2020*. These gifts are in addition to those made by the 20 households who made advance commitments! These generous folks were so excited about finishing strong that they didn't even wait to be asked!

With such committed leadership the rest of the congregation only needs to raise \$365,000 to match the 20 advance commitments. Doing so means CPC would have

- the \$228,000 needed to renew our campus
- another \$137,000 to strengthen our church's budget during the three years it will take to complete the campaign. This would mean \$45,000 each year to supplement our operating budget, which would be a 10% increase over our giving last year.

However, matching the leadership pledges of \$465,000 is not the goal for the rest of *FIF2020*. **Our goal from the very beginning of this journey in 2017 has simply been for our entire congregation to pray each day from now through Commitment Sunday on April 10:**

***Dear Lord, what would You do through me to accomplish Your vision in our church?  
Help me discern a sacrifice for our campaign that is meaningful and joyful. Amen.***

We have learned that if we simply pray this prayer, we can trust that we will have more than enough to do what God is calling us to do.

**The *Forward in Faith 2020* pledge card you will soon receive asks for both a 1-year pledge to the 2022-23 operating budget and a 3-year pledge to the capital campaign.** Thus there are two important ways you can advance Christ's kingdom through CPC as part of *Forward in Faith 2020*. Both begin by offering the simple prayer above, and then either:

- Make a generous, three-year pledge to the capital campaign which will complete the renewal of our campus and support our operating budget, and maintain your current pledge/giving to the church operating budget for 2022-23

**OR**

- If now is not the time to participate in the capital campaign (or if you've already made that pledge), please consider a generous increase to your pledge to the operating budget to support the vital ongoing ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church.

*We recognize that times continue to be uncertain, and that each person's financial situation is unique. We are grateful for what every household contributes, through your gifts of time, talent and treasure, to make Christ Presbyterian Church a place for grace.*