



# *A New Song*

**FIRST METHODIST**  
UNITED & OPEN

**Lord, what do you want to do *through me* to fulfill your vision for First Methodist?**





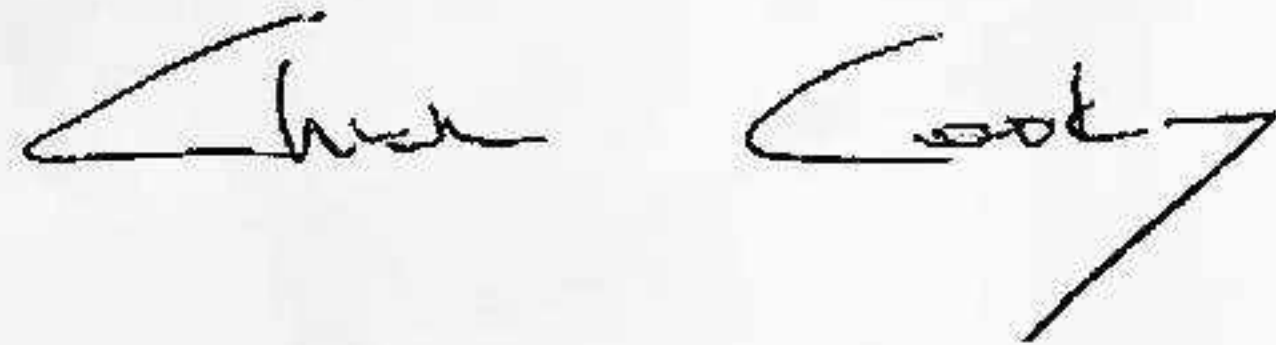
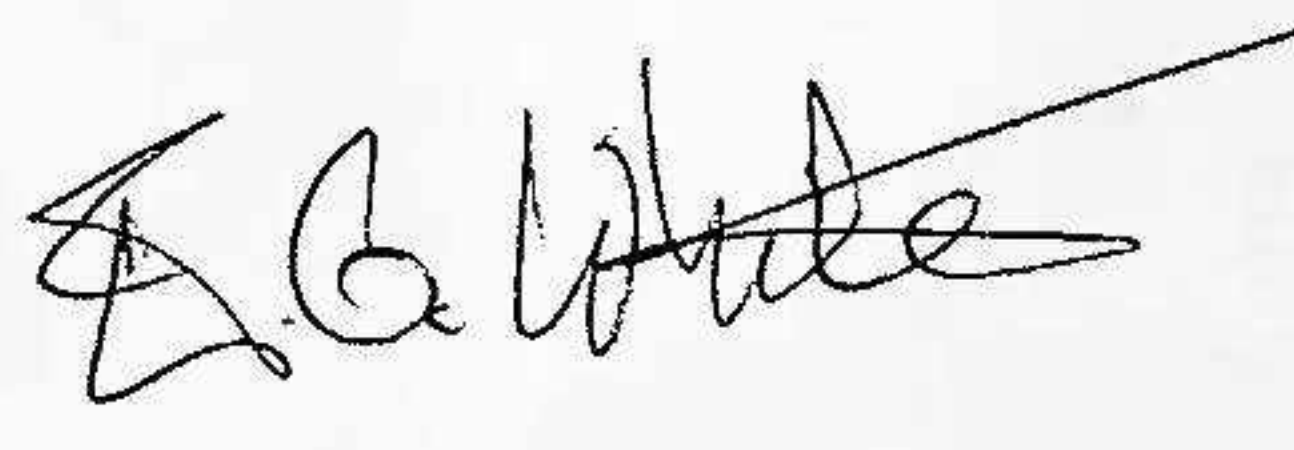

Dear Friends,

We are so excited to be leading *A New Song*, our capital campaign! Through this campaign our church will move boldly into God's preferred future as we prepare for ministry now and for generations to come. The Governing Board has established the following priorities for *A New Song*:

1. To ELIMINATE the remaining debt incurred to build the Wesley/Education Wing
2. To PAY for the restoration of the pipe organ
3. To GIVE an extravagant gift to missions
4. To START a facility endowment to help pay for future facility repairs

A more complete explanation of these goals is included in this booklet. As your Campaign Directors, we hope you will join us and your Governing Board in earnestly praying our centering prayer, "Lord, what do you want to do *through me* to fulfill your vision for First Methodist?" and then give as God leads.

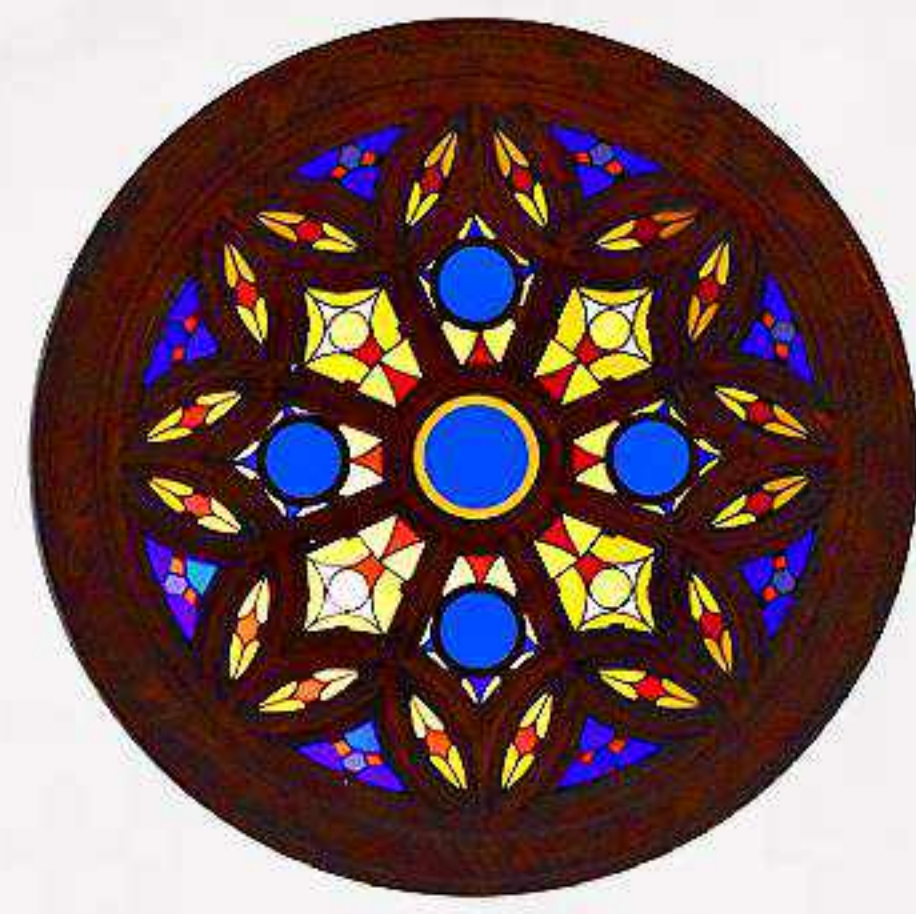
Blessings,

Chuck Cooksey, E.G. White, Maika Arthur  
*A New Song* Campaign Directors

**Lord, what do you want to do *through me*  
to fulfill your vision for First Methodist?**





## *A New Song* FIRST METHODIST UNITED & OPEN

**What is *A New Song*?** It is the theme of our capital campaign. Its purpose is to eliminate our building debt and to raise the funds to pay for the restoration of our pipe organ. An extravagant gift to missions and beginning a facility endowment are also goals.

**Will First Methodist incur any long-term debt?** A short-term loan was necessary to begin the repairs and restoration of our organ. Our goal is, through your gifts to *A New Song*, to not only pay for the organ restoration but also to pay off our decades-old building debt.

**Will any proceeds go to missions?** Yes, our tradition has been to give proceeds from every campaign to a mission or missions outside our church. Shalom/Beacon is an example of a ministry that was started from a capital campaign gift made by our church. After the debt, organ restoration, and campaign costs have been paid, an extravagant gift will be made from the campaign proceeds.

**When and where will I make my commitment?** On February 25, we will offer our estimate of giving cards. Your gifts and/or estimate of giving form may be sent before this date.

**How will giving to *A New Song* affect my tithe or offering?** *A New Song* is not our annual stewardship campaign. Your regular tithe or offering should not be impacted. Our tithe (10%) or offering should always be our first priority. *A New Song* is an opportunity to give sacrificially above our regular tithes or offerings.

**What is sacrificial giving?** To sacrifice is to give something of importance so that something of greater significance may occur. At its heart, sacrificial giving begins with prayerful discernment as to what God is asking us to give.

**How will the commitments be paid?** It is up to you. Commitments may be paid from now through December 31, 2027. Gifts may be given weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly or in any way that is most convenient for you.

**May I give other assets?** Assets that can be converted to cash such as real estate, stocks, bonds, life insurance, and other securities are excellent ways to give. Gifts of appreciated assets may have additional tax benefits to the donor. Many people are also using retirement assets for their charitable gifts because of the tax benefits possible. Please consult your tax adviser to see what opportunities apply to you.

**How much am I expected to give?** The only expectation is that each person pray, "Lord, what do you want to do *through me* to fulfill your vision for First Methodist?" and go where God leads. While the amounts will obviously be different for everyone, our hope is that each person will give generously and sacrificially.



# WHY ARE WE HAVING A CAMPAIGN?



Every generation has the opportunity to take a step in faith that prepares a church for the future. The leadership of First Methodist believes *A New Song* is that opportunity!

It is our opportunity once and for all to liberate our church from debt – the long-term building debt and the short-term organ restoration debt – and begin to sing *A New Song*!

## Why is First Methodist in debt?

In the late 1990's our congregation realized that we were outgrowing our space and outliving our aging Wesley Building. In response to the many needs present then and anticipated for the future, First Methodist took a courageous step in faith and replaced the Wesley Building with an expansive addition. Portions of the existing structure were also renovated to connect to the new addition. The Wesley Wing/Education Building contains classrooms for all ages, office space for staff, and a Great Hall for fellowship, in addition to providing accessibility to all floors of the building by elevators.

**The Wesley Wing/Education Building** enabled our ministries to grow and provided ministry opportunities that would not have been possible otherwise. The only problem is it also added significant debt. For more than 20 years funds have been diverted from mission and ministry to pay the principal and interest on this expansion. It's time to move beyond debt and, in doing so, to fund our ministries more fully!

*One generation will  
praise your works to  
the next one,  
proclaiming your  
mighty acts.*

**Psalm 145:4 CEB**

**Restoring the pipe organ** – A year ago, it became obvious that our organ could have a catastrophic failure at any moment. Losing our organ would be disastrous for both our music ministry and classic worship. Our organ has not had an extensive renovation for more than 50 years. The organ restoration could not be delayed any longer! We began restoring the organ in 2023, and it will be completed in 2024. A successful campaign will ensure that the short-term debt required to begin this restoration does not become a long-term debt that will impact our ministries in the future.



# ELIMINATE THE DEBT

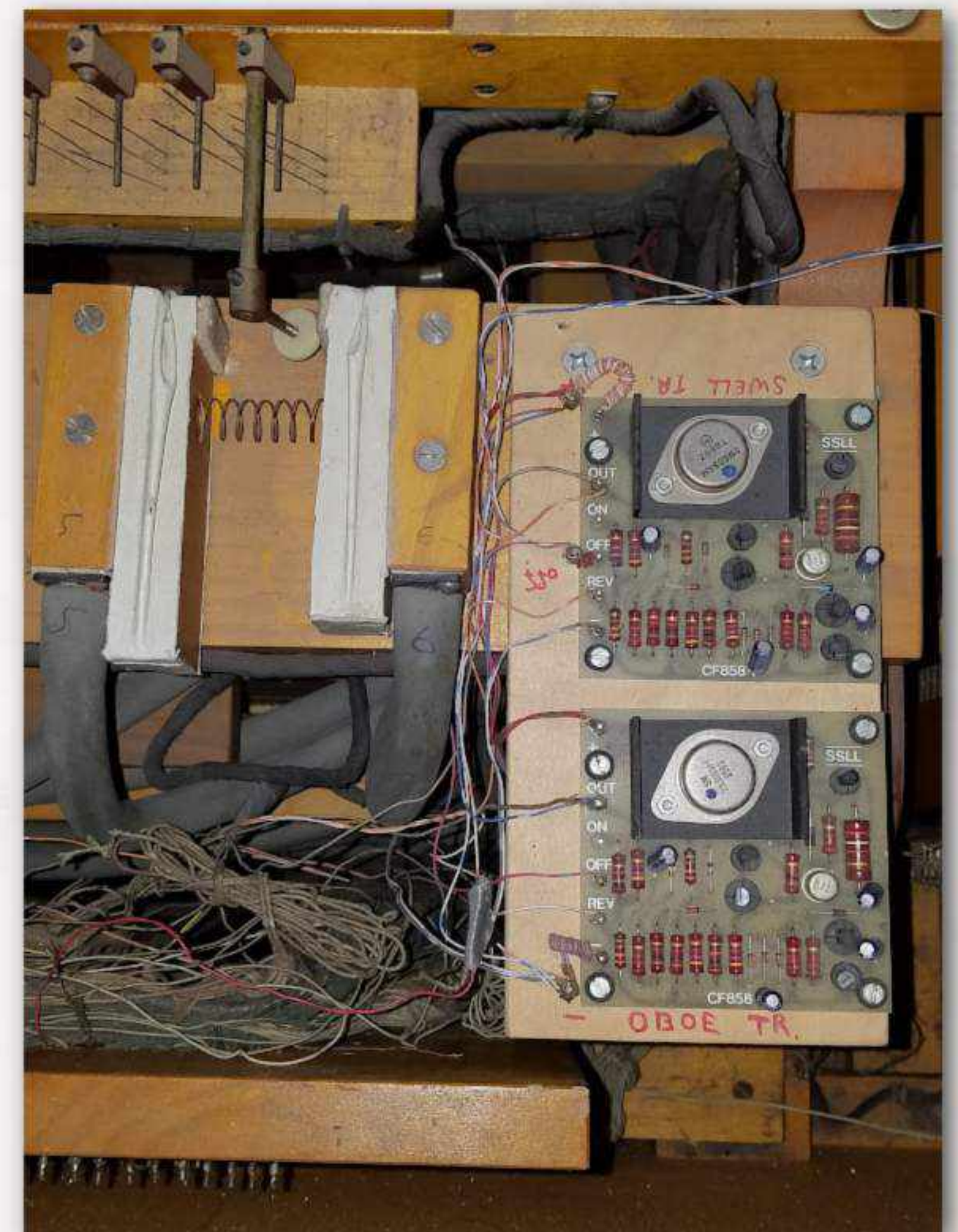
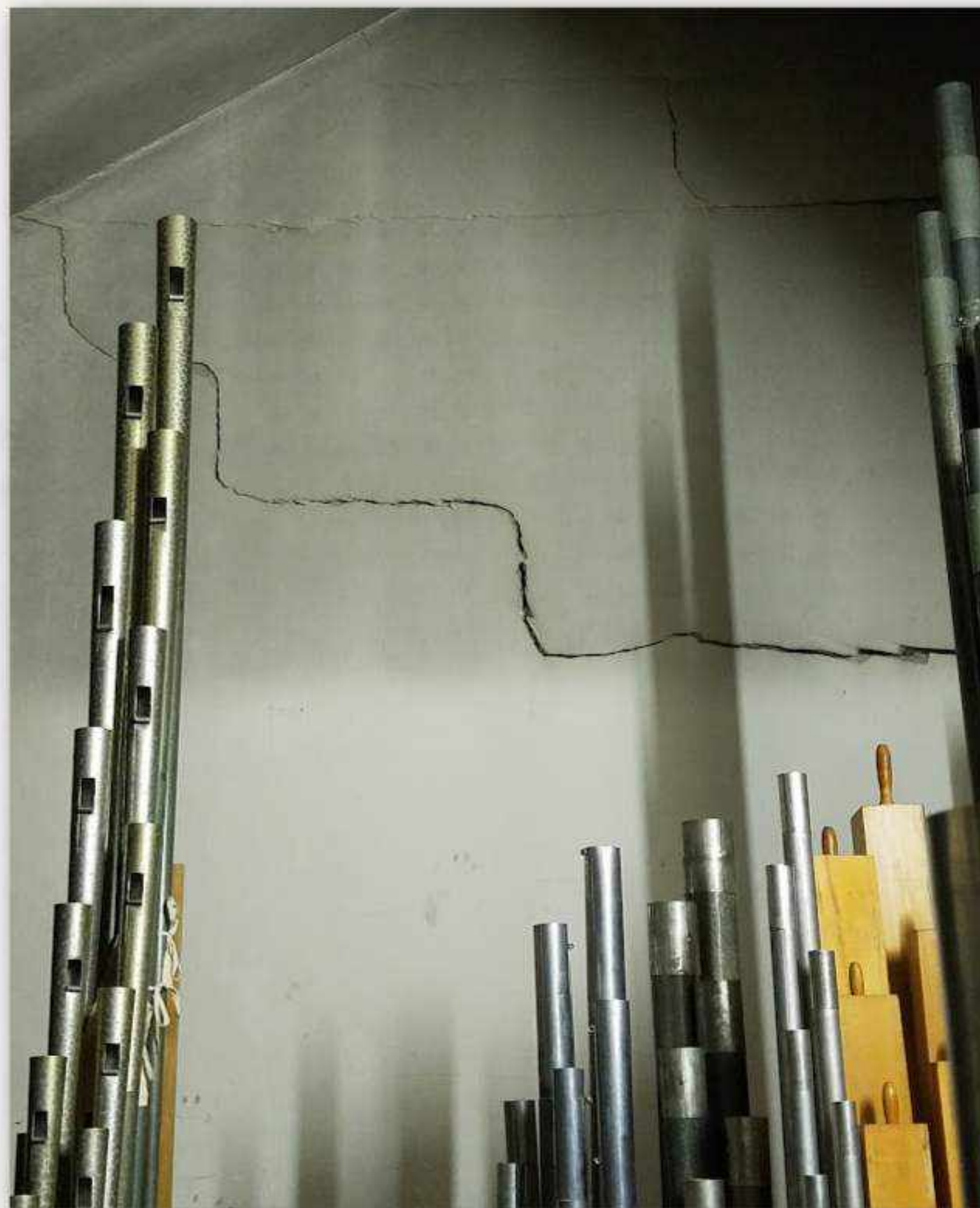


The Wesley Wing/Education Building and accompanying renovations cost more than \$5.2 million over 20 years ago. Through the faithful giving of this congregation, slightly less than \$600,000 remains. Thankfully, our Finance Committee renegotiated the loan in 2022 so our fixed interest rate on this debt is only 3.45%, but these payments continue to limit our ministry opportunities. Our goal through your gifts to *A New Song* is to eliminate this debt and liberate our church for greater ministry! We can't wait for the mortgage burning party!





# ORGAN RESTORATION



First United Methodist Church opened its doors at its present site in downtown Bloomington more than a century ago. Featuring Romanesque Gothic architecture, beautiful stained glass windows, and a specially designed, state-of-the-art pipe organ, First United Methodist Church was quickly dubbed "the Cathedral of Indiana Methodism." Tragically destroyed by fire a few years later, the building, windows, and organ were replaced in 1938.

Generations later, the organ continues to be the central musical instrument of First Methodist's music ministry. Our pipe organ and the accomplished musicians it has attracted to our church are the main reasons First Methodist Church is regarded as one of the finest music ministries in Indiana. The majestic music of our organ raises our spirits, lifts our minds and hearts, and inspires our lives. It moves us to tears, consoles our grief, enhances our joy, and stirs our imagination. Whether we are hearing the first chords and trumpets that announce Easter and proclaim "Christ Is Risen," the strains of Handel's Messiah during Advent and Christmas, or the gentle, melodic call of the Spirit each Sunday morning, the organ is an essential part of our traditions, memories, worship, and community. The impact of a windblown pipe organ leading the breath of the human voice in song cannot be appreciated until it is missing.



In 2023, First Methodist's Governing Board decided that we needed to move ahead and restore our organ. The restoration began in 2023 and we hope it will be complete in time for Christmas 2024!

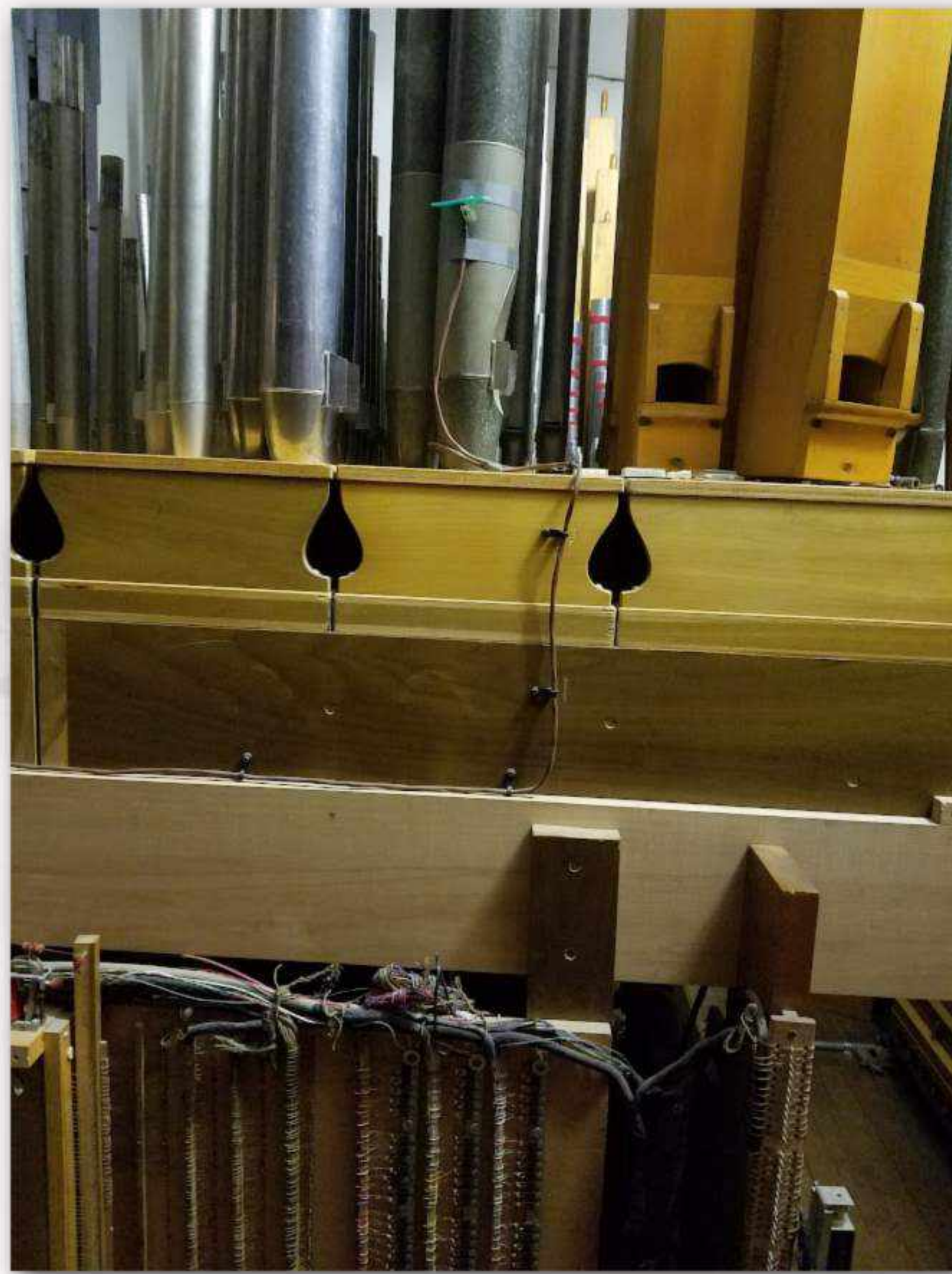


# WHAT IS PLANNED?

First United Methodist Church has already committed to a complete and comprehensive restoration of our beloved organ. Thankfully, most of our pipes do not need to be replaced, but the rest of the organ needs significant restoration and updating.

Reynolds and Associates, Inc., an experienced organ company based in Indiana, has been hired to oversee this restoration. When the restoration is complete, our organ will be ready for the next 50 years with very little need for anything more than regular tune-ups. The organ restoration will include:

- \* Replacing the already failed and failing console and related wiring
- \* Rebuilding and reorganizing the organ chambers, including replacing the peeling plaster walls with drywall
- \* Adding a zoned heating and cooling system in the organ chamber that will improve both sound and instrument longevity
- \* Repairing and replacing rotting and disintegrating wires, stops, and pistons
- \* Replacing the failing wind chests with simpler, easier to maintain, and higher quality components
- \* Cleaning, rescaling, re-voicing, re-regulating, and repositioning the pipes to maximize sound quality while minimizing future maintenance.



The cost of this historic restoration, including drywall, electrical updates, and zoned HVAC, will be almost \$1,000,000. By completing the entire restoration at one time, we will also save hundreds of thousands of dollars in incremental repairs, replacements, and maintenance. More importantly, First United Methodist Church and the entire community will once again have a reliable and beautiful instrument to lead our classic worship services and other musical events and ministries.



# GIVE AN EXTRAVAGANT GIFT TO MISSIONS

First Methodist will give an extravagant gift to missions after all the proceeds of the campaign are received. Once the amount of the extravagant gift is determined by the Finance Team, the Outreach Team will work together with the Social Justice Team to recommend how those funds are spent. The Governing Board will then approve both the amount and beneficiary of the gift. Our goal for this priority is to provide the funds necessary to make an extravagant difference to a mission or missions similar to what we did decades ago when we helped fund Shalom/Beacon. Our seed gift to Shalom/Beacon has had a dramatic and positive impact on our community.



## What is Shalom/Beacon?

Shalom/Beacon is a solutions-driven, antipoverty 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to aiding and empowering people experiencing extreme poverty, especially hunger and homelessness. This ministry was founded in 2000 because of our extravagant gift and the gifts of others. Our mission work with Shalom/Beacon continues. These pictures are from a recent project where a number of people from First Methodist helped with a new addition.





# START A FACILITY ENDOWMENT

Like our homes, our church facility always has maintenance and repair needs. Elevator issues, wood replacement, heating and cooling needs, plumbing and electrical repairs – something is always needed. After we pay for the organ restoration, retire our debt, pay for the campaign costs, and give an extravagant gift to missions, all remaining funds will start a facility endowment to help fund facility needs as they arise.



## WHAT ARE OUR FINANCIAL GOALS?

We have set three aspirational goals that we are calling Faith, Hope, and Love. At a minimum, we need to raise \$1.6 million, which is our “Faith” goal. That amount will pay for the organ restoration, eliminate the building debt, and provide a small gift to missions. If we reach our “Hope” goal of \$1.8 million, a generous extravagant gift could be made, and we could establish our facility endowment. If our “Love” goal is reached and we raise at least \$2 million, our facility endowment could be well funded for the future.



- \* We have **FAITH** that this great congregation will give at least **\$1.6 million**.
- \* We **HOPE** that this amazing congregation will give **\$1.8 million**.
- \* We would **LOVE** to raise **\$2.0 million or more**.



# WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

Our goal is to reach our LOVE goal of \$2 million. What will it take? While the amounts will vary, we pray each person will be led by God to give generously, sacrificially, and joyfully. The following chart illustrates how similarly sized churches have raised \$2 million. Remember, commitments are over 200 weeks, 47 months, or four tax years (2024-2027). Every gift, regardless of size, is important and appreciated!

# OF COMMITMENTS	COMMITMENT AMOUNT	TOTAL
1	\$400,000	\$400,000
4	\$100,000	\$400,000
6	\$50,000	\$300,000
7	\$25,000	\$175,000
11	\$20,000	\$220,000
17	\$10,000	\$170,000
37	\$5,000	\$185,000
Remainder	Less than \$5,000	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,000,000</b>

Make prayer your priority. Pray for God to guide you and listen for God's guidance. Study the chart above and pray about a gift that will truly stretch your faith as you give generously and sacrificially.

Our goal is not equal gifts but equal sacrifice, so ask yourself this question: **If every person were to match not the quantity of my commitment but the quality of my commitment, would God's will be fulfilled?** Give God time to speak. Don't rush your decision. Go where God leads!

Questions? For more information on the campaign or ways to give, contact Rev. Lisa Schubert Nowling at [lisas@fumcb.org](mailto:lisas@fumcb.org) or call 812-332-6396 or contact our consultant, Pat Luna, at 334-202-9440 or [patluna@me.com](mailto:patluna@me.com), or E.G. White, Maika Arthur, or Chuck Cooksey, our campaign directors. We look forward to the opportunity to assist you in this important act of discipleship. We also recommend consulting with your tax advisor before making your gift.



# HOW MAY GIFTS BE PAID?

It is up to you! Gifts may be given weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly, in cash or with other assets (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.) now through December 31, 2027. Most people give in the form of cash, either upfront or in installments over the next 47 months or four tax years (2024-2027) as highlighted in the weekly or monthly charts below. These charts illustrate how even a smaller amount, given over time, can make a big difference!

WEEKLY GIFT	TOTAL GIFT	MONTHLY GIFT	TOTAL GIFT
\$10	\$2,000	\$50	\$2,350
\$20	\$4,000	\$75	\$3,525
\$30	\$6,000	\$100	\$4,700
\$40	\$8,000	\$150	\$7,050
\$50	\$10,000	\$200	\$9,400
\$75	\$15,000	\$250	\$11,750
\$100	\$20,000	\$500	\$23,500
\$250	\$50,000	\$1000	\$47,000
\$500	\$100,000	\$5000	\$235,000

**Securities:** Gifts of long-term securities (especially appreciated securities) are a popular type of gift. The securities may be individual stocks, bonds, or shares of mutual funds. In most cases, the full fair market value of securities will be allowable as a deduction regardless of how much the stock has appreciated, and it does not result in any capital gains tax. This is an important tax reward. The result: a charitable deduction is allowed for profits that have never been taxed to you and every penny of the proceeds goes to First Methodist.

**Retirement assets:** Many people are using retirement assets in their charitable gift planning because retirement account assets left to family members (other than your spouse) are often subject to higher taxation than other assets. One possible option for giving retirement assets, if you are 70 1/2 or older, is an IRA charitable rollover gift. Please consult your tax adviser to see if this opportunity is available.

**Other ideas:** Gifts of closely held stock, life insurance policies, real estate, precious metals, a remainder interest in a residence or farm, life income gifts, and personal property such as jewelry, art, or other items of value.





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For more information go to:

