

## All Things Possible Milestone Celebration

Sunday, May 21, was a certainly a day of celebration. As the sanctuary filled, we could feel the joy and excitement in the air as we gathered to worship God together in one 9:00 a.m. worship service. Worship centered us for our All Things Possible Milestone Celebration as worship centers all we do. Pastor Chris reminded us in the sermon that throughout the campaign, God has been “calling us out- outside these walls, outside our comfort zones, out into the street, out into the world... that we came into this space to breathe in, to train our eyes to see, in order that we might go out into the world to see God at work, to join in God’s work in Christ, to live and love in joy and peace with all – *all* – our neighbors.” We are called to be authentically engaged in the community through mission and outreach, and the All Things Possible Capital Campaign has helped us place more emphasis on both.

After we sang the final hymn *Let Us Build a House* and the sanctuary was filled with the words “All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place,” updates on the All Things Possible Capital Campaign were shared. We heard how our space has been transformed to be more inclusive and reflect the hearts of our congregation. We saw through the “cardboard stories” how lives have been impacted. We learned how families have been welcomed and found a church home, how members of all ages can serve together side by side on 2NDSAT events, how people can participate more fully in worship with the hearing loop and more accessible pews, and how the campaign has also transformed those outside our walls through adult and youth mission trips.

We have \$2,067,140 pledged toward the All Things Possible Capital Campaign, and we learned that 82% of those pledged dollars have been received for a total of \$1,699,540. The next phase of renovations with new paint, countertops, and flooring are underway downstairs and will continue upstairs later this summer and into fall. Hearing loops are planned for Wilson Hall and the Barr Conference Room which will continue the theme of making the facility more accessible. All are welcome to be part of the campaign through ongoing pledges and one time gifts. The quicker we receive the contributions, the quicker we will be able to complete other projects identified in the campaign.

As we concluded our time in the sanctuary, the celebration moved to Wilson Hall for food and fellowship. Joy continued to abound in the faces and the conversations of all ages. There is much to celebrate both within the campaign and in the life of our congregation. During Sunday School, we celebrated our choral scholarship students who have brought so much to our community this year both in worship and during the musical gathering for our children. Sunday School meant promotion time for our youth and children as we celebrated their promotion to the next grade which is especially exciting for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders as they were welcomed into the youth group. Just as children continue to growth, we continue to grow as disciples and God continues to work through us.

The words from the closing of Pastor Chris’ sermon on this Sunday are good to hear again, “So here we stand, at the mid-point of the campaign, and so much has been done. Newness abounds, in brick and mortar, in our hearts, and in our connections to this community, and the global community. So, what now?” It is a good question for each of us as followers of Christ and as a congregation. Join us as we continue praying, “Lord, what do you want to do through me?”