GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR AND CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Community United Methodist Church has enjoyed a rich history of continuous service and growth since the early 1950’s. What an amazing journey it has been over the years. In the early years of our congregation, the CUMC family met in places like the Fire Station, the Community House, a Quonset hut, and even held worship services in the hallway at Kempsville High School, before building the first sanctuary in 1954. As our community began to grow, so did God’s ministry. Our proposed building improvements will enable CUMC to continue to grow by providing a much needed upgrade to our older and outdated HVAC systems that will be more energy efficient.

Today, CUMC has 2,000 members on the roll and on many Sundays we see 300 in worship between the two morning services and our online campus. It is a joyful church that truly is reaching people for Christ. Yet, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Do we invest in our future and celebrate our journey together or do we wait to “see what happens?” What will our legacy be? We believe the time has come for our church family to take care of the maintenance and upgrades that are essential for a vital, mission focused future.

Over the next few weeks, you will hear more about our plans for the future and how you can take part in a bold way. Please begin to pray each day at 3:20 the Faith In Our Future prayer. This is an exciting time to be a member of Community!

Rev. Scott Rimer, Senior Pastor and Andrew Kissell, Campaign Chair

CAMPAIGN CASE STATEMENT

Community UMC is conducting a 36-month capital funds campaign to raise $500,000 for the replacement of heating and air conditioning systems in both the sanctuary and classroom buildings, including planning and construction documents. We will also reserve 20% of raised funds for any urgent requirements that may emerge during the 3 year campaign.

These long awaited improvements will create a more inviting and comfortable worship and learning experience and will also position our church to expand ministry and mission opportunities to the community in the years ahead.
“FAITH IN OUR FUTURE” PRAYER

We thank you Lord, for your Word, assurance, and knowledge of blessings received. We ask for your continued guidance to increase and provide an inviting environment that nurtures missions and offers a future with hope for all.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

♦ What exactly is the campaign designed to accomplish?
The campaign is designed to set up a fully funded capital account for significant HVAC repairs & replacements and a contingency fund for unforeseen repairs.

♦ How will the congregation and community benefit from the proposed improvements?
We will have a facility that will provide a comfortable space for worship and missional needs.

♦ I heard that it may take as much as $2,500,000 to make all the improvements needed. Why are we seeking only $500,000 in this campaign?
The committee assessed our congregation’s giving trends and realized $500,000 would be an attainable goal. We recognize this will start us off on the right foot to accomplish many urgent repairs and will require a follow-up phase to address other needs.

♦ When was the last campaign and how was the money used?
The last campaign was in the mid-2000s to pay for social hall and office spaces.

♦ What is the current mortgage debt and how is it being paid?
We retired the mortgage in 2019 but we are paying down a $50,000 Line of Credit taken out in 2022 to help cover the remaining cost of the roof.

♦ Why are we having a campaign now in the midst of an uncertain economy?
The needs are now. We have inefficient HVAC systems well past their useful life requiring regular expensive repairs and service. We project a 20% savings in utility costs with new efficient and electronically integrated HVAC systems.

♦ Will this campaign affect our yearly ministry budget?
The capital campaign is designed to minimize the ongoing spending freezes that negatively impact our operational budget.

♦ Have we considered getting a mortgage loan and using the campaign to retire the debt?
The congregation worked hard to pay off our last mortgage and we would like to honor that sacrifice by avoiding a new mortgage.

♦ How do we plan to address our kitchen needs?
Most of the kitchen appliances remain serviceable and we will have a separate fundraiser on June 10, 2023, to take care of those appliances that need replacement in the near term.
COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS ABOUT WHAT COMMUNITY UMC MEANS TO THEM

When I settled in Kempsville in 1979, I attended Community UMC because of the location. I immediately became a member because of the warm, Christian atmosphere. It continues to offer opportunities to learn, grow, and serve. The entire musical department provides wonderful blessings. Margaret Knight

CUMC is not just a building but a place you can go to feel safe and loved. Everyone is there to experience the love of Jesus. CUMC’s steeple is a beautiful beacon welcoming all to come in and feel like family while listening to the word of Jesus. Douglas Arterburn

Community UMC is a beautiful building where my friends have gathered for worship, to study God’s word, and serve others for many years. These people have been my support and comfort in times of joy and sadness. They’ve become my extended family. Alva Chopp
IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN DATES

- Sunday, February 26, 2023 - Campaign launched at 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Services followed by leadership luncheon

- Monday, February 27, 2023 - Pledge Packets mailed to all members

- Sunday, March 26, 2023 - Commitment Sunday
  Combined Worship Service 11:00 AM followed by churchwide luncheon

- Sunday, May 7, 2023 - First Fruits Sunday
  36 Month Pledge Period begins

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

HOW CAN I GIVE TO THIS CAMPAIGN?

There are many ways to make charitable gifts:

- Gifts of cash from current income or savings
- Gifts of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
- Life insurance options
- Real Estate
- Retirement Assets
- Estate Plan Gifts
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Donor Advised Fund
- Private Foundation
- Endowments

Always seek professional counsel for the best strategy in making substantial charitable gifts.

WHO IS SERVING ON THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE?

Andrew Kissell - Campaign Chair
Megan Dunn - Campaign Administrator
Rev. Jannette Clavez - Associate Pastor of Congregational Care
Rev. Scott Rimer - Senior Pastor
Rev. Teresa Woodworth - Associate Pastor
Diane Frascella - Leadership and Events Team
Sherry Zaneski - Campaign Prayer Team
David Collins, John Elliker - Communications Team
Rev. Burt Brooks - Campaign Consultant

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Email the Campaign Committee at FaithInOurFuture@cumcvb.org