



“Prepare the way of the Lord” (Mark 1:3)

“Covid changed the church, and many aren’t going back”
(WSJ, November 13-14, 2021)

“I guess you guys aren’t ready for that yet, but your kids are gonna love it.”
(Marty McFly, Back to the Future, 1985)

December 2021

Greetings!

One sign of needing to retire is quoting from a movie that is 36 years old! “Back to the Future” came out in 1985- the year before our oldest son was born and eleven years before we came to Christian Temple. It was an iconic film, starring Michael J. Fox as the young Marty McFly whose travel back to his own past threatens his current existence. Connoisseurs of the film may remember that Marty sheepishly offers the above line just after finishing a screaming guitar solo played in front of a stunned, 1955 pre-rock-and-roll student body.

The second quote is a little more current. It comes from the headline of a Wall Street Journal article earlier this fall that makes the point that the past twenty- and counting- months have changed the church, in many ways, for the better.

And the first quote most of us know. The Gospel of Mark quoting the prophet Isaiah announcing that God is about to do a new thing.

While these quotes come from vastly different sources, they all announce a truth that has never been more apparent than it is now: **things change**. And while different isn’t always good, the past 20 months tells us that good can and does come from different.

We have known this in the church since its beginning. Jesus of Nazareth couldn’t possibly have imagined renaissance era Roman Catholic Cathedrals any more than ragtag congregations on the edge of the American frontier could have imagined live streaming worship. But here we are.

This year “Back to the Future” isn’t just a movie title. It is also the name for our 2021 year-end financial campaign. Its name implies that, as Christian Temple enters a new era of ministerial leadership, it does so with an array of exciting options for offering ministry. Back to business won’t do. Neither will back to normal. We are all going back to the future. And the best way to enter that future will be to do all we can TODAY to be on the kind of sound financial footing that will maximize the tools for ministry at our disposal.

People of God, we have had a great run together! And, if there is any gratitude for the past we have shared, let’s pour that gratitude into this effort to make sure that one thing we can count on about the future, is that Christian Temple will be in it. And “the kids are gonna love it!”

Shalom,

Rick

(More information on back!)



HERE ARE A FEW MINISTRIES YOUR GIFTS TO “BACK TO THE FUTURE” WILL MAKE POSSIBLE
OUR GOAL OF \$14,000 IS ATTAINABLE IF EVERYONE PARTICIPATES

1. Underwriting the expenses necessary to maximize the chances for a smooth transition in ministerial leadership

Calling a new minister can be costly, but this year there is nothing more important than doing this well. There will be costs associated with the search process including travel expenses for potential candidates, congregational events, and administrative costs. In addition, we have envisioned a short period next year when the ministry of the new person (or persons) will overlap with the ministry of our retiring pastor in order to facilitate a smooth transition.

2. Purchasing equipment and providing staff that will allow us to reach around the world with our live streamed worship service and other congregational programs

This year we have used some of the funds we received from our PPP loans to purchase the equipment necessary to live stream our service, an essential for the church going forward. While we have most of this equipment purchased, we haven't finished the project yet, and there will certainly be expenses that crop up. Your year end gifts will help us meet these expenses. AND, while we have been very fortunate to have several volunteers who have helped us ramp up our streaming presence, we can't count on that for the future.

3. Maintaining robust worship and mission programs, and restoring the programs that were put on hold during the pandemic

During the pandemic two areas of congregational life became even more important than they normally are. Our worship life is, now more than ever, the way the world sees who we are. And, our capacity to be generous in offering funds and programs for those hardest hit by life's challenges strikes a cord with present and potential members of the community. Additionally, we will need to reinstate our children's ministry programs that have been suspended due to the pandemic.

To make a gift, either mail it to the church office in the enclosed envelope, drop it in the offering plate, or go online to our website www.christiantemple.org and click on the DONATE tab.