



A LEGACY

OF

FAITHFULNESS





This is an extraordinary time to be a follower of Jesus Christ at Concord United Methodist Church. We find ourselves in the present moment as blessed beneficiaries of a rich past that is pointing us toward an exciting future of unlimited ministry potential. Dating back to 1865, Concord Methodists have faithfully looked toward God and his vision for our church creating a legacy of faithfulness. Over these 150-plus years God has blessed us with tremendous resources for ministry, most recently with the addition of the East Wing which opened six years ago. Much of our new growth and future ministry potential is located in this highly-utilized, multi-purpose space.

The worship center that is home to our two contemporary worship experiences has become a catalyst for bringing new members into the church by providing a beautiful, acoustically designed space for worship. Since our first worship in the new space in May of 2011, over 650 persons have joined our church, there have been 95 baptisms, and well over 100 students have made professions of faith through confirmation. Additionally, it is a perfect space for children's musicals, spiritual growth opportunities such as our men's and women's event, Advent by Candlelight, and other signature events. The East Wing is home to our growing Student Ministry Department where our youth come together for worship, to learn about their faith, and to grow into faithful disciples of Jesus.

But the East Wing is far from a Sunday-only facility. The worship center has welcomed groups from outside the church such as area high school sports team banquets, Holston Conference leadership events, and AP testing for Farragut High School, plus dozens of other groups and events that have blessed our community. The East Wing is frequently a staging area for transforming mission events like the annual Mission Blitz that last year saw over half our worshipping congregation deployed in ministry during one long weekend. We are discovering what our Concord Methodist ancestors learned long ago. When we step out in faith, God will bless our efforts in ways we never imagined.

Additionally, we made significant renovations to our sanctuary to enhance our legacy of excellent traditional worship. The chancel area was expanded to provide space for our orchestra and other large ensembles. The overall chancel height was lowered to create greater intimacy and communication between worship leaders and the congregation. Included in the renovations was a major upgrade to our audio system and the addition of video capabilities. The result has been a vital and growing worship ministry in our traditional sanctuary.

Now is the time for us to live into the legacy of faithfulness that has paved the way for our present ministry and all that is to come. That is why we are celebrating this rich ministry heritage with a capital funds campaign called, ***A Legacy of Faithfulness***. This campaign will cover the next three years as we continue to pay for this ministry-rich facility. Consider this—conservative estimates based on the last six years suggest that during the course of this three-year campaign, over 44,000 people will gather for worship, 350 seekers will join our church, there will be 50 baptisms, 80 students will be confirmed in the faith, and literally tens of thousands of people will be impacted by our missional outreach. Additionally, thousands of people from our community will be blessed by our facilities as they gather for various events.

Each of us has an awesome opportunity to make a difference and take our place with the faithful Concord Methodists who have gone before by stepping out in faith to secure a sound financial future for the Concord Methodists who will follow. While we can't all make the same gift, we can all make the same sacrifice. Will you join me in praying this prayer, daily: "Lord, what would you do through me in light of this campaign?"

I thank God for you, your family, this community, and the privilege of serving next to you. God has blessed our church beyond measure and I believe we will continue to be a blessing to our community and beyond. I can't wait to see what God will do next through his people at Concord United Methodist and the legacy of faithfulness we pass on to future generations

Larry Trotter
Senior Pastor



A Brief History

Concord UMC has a rich heritage of being a blessing to the community. In 1865 four members of Muddy Creek Methodist Church (now Martel UMC near Lenoir City) traveled in the rain by horseback to the home of John Stone in Concord to discuss establishing a Methodist Church in the rapidly growing community. From that humble start by a group of visionary Methodists, they met in a Presbyterian Church until the decision was made in 1916 to build their own facility. In the next four years, land was donated, timber was cut, and contributions were received by traveling from home to home on a mule. In 1920, the first service was held in the new Concord Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Since that time, visionary Methodists at Concord have launched a number of renovations and new additions to our facilities and conducted successful capital funds campaigns to secure the necessary resources. Looking ahead, we have a tremendous opportunity to continue the legacy of faithfulness that we seek to live into every day. Our mission statement, *Sharing Christ, Serving Others, Growing in Faith* underscores our commitment to meet people wherever they are on the discipleship journey and help them become the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and beyond.

Where we are – by the numbers:

Impact (since opening in 2011)

- over 44,000 worshipers annually,
- 650 new members,
- 95 baptisms,
- over 100 youth confirmed,
- tens of thousands impacted by missions

Investment

- \$6.4 million, total cost of building, property, and sanctuary renovations
- \$3.6 million, highest loan balance
- \$2.2 million, current loan balance
- \$21,000, current monthly payment (\$15K – principle, \$6K – interest)
- 2029, rate of loan maturity at present payment schedule

Concord has always been a visionary church that is eager to accept the challenge to dream God-sized dreams. We are also a generous church that believes that God is the giver of all good gifts and we respond to his goodness by giving back to him and his kingdom. We give because we trust that God will take care of us and, in turn, take care of those around us. Jesus said when we do anything to help the least in our community, we have done this act of mercy for him. When we give to continue to fund the infrastructure necessary for ministry to the least, the last, and the lost, we are giving to the God who loves each of those persons and knows them by name.





When we came to Concord United Methodist Church in 2003, we were simply searching for a United Methodist church close to where we lived. However, what we discovered was so much more than that! At that time, the membership at Concord was getting ready to vote on whether to expand the campus at our current location or move to another vicinity. We were privileged to be part of that vote and, along with the faithful members of this church, take ownership in the huge step that Concord was taking. Being able to be part of the growth of the church and live out our faith through the many ministries here at Concord has been a meaningful part of our lives over the last 14 years. We have had the privilege to worship with you in both traditional and contemporary services, be challenged by great pastors and teachers, serve with you in local mission opportunities, support international mission efforts, facilitate classes, lead groups, and yes, even serve joyfully on various committees. In all endeavors we are reminded of how fortunate we are to be in a thriving church focused on sharing Christ, serving others and growing in faith. As a result, we are determined to provide the same opportunities for others. We hope you will join us in supporting the effort to retire our current debt and provide the path to future growth and opportunities for our community within and outside the walls of Concord United Methodist Church.

Blessings,

Sabine & Dennis Collins

A Legacy of Faithfulness Chairpersons



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Concord United Methodist Church

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