



COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST



REimagine

A COMMUNITY OF GENEROSITY + LOVE + SERVICE



"As I walked into the church recently, it was HOT and HUMID outside. When I walked through the doors I felt the coolness of our church. It was wonderful and calmed my soul: perfect for a time to worship. My mind was free to experience God in this place. But I also thought of all that went into getting that cool air." – Andy Upham

For years we have been shackled to an old boiler system that was generating an outrageous monthly utility bill. Once that system was all but dead the church took on the task of finding a better replacement. We voted and moved forward with adding this new zoned electric system. We have now seen a month-over-month reduction in the utility bill by HALF! We did not miss a day of ministry in this building with the addition of the new system, and that is saying a lot. Our building is used almost daily, and each evening there always seems to be something happening. We are BLESSED to be able to provide a building for so many ministries.

Obviously, it has taken time and money to keep our building open, available and welcoming in all weather conditions. We have taken on some debt to install the new system. We also have plans for more upgrades to the building in the very near future.

This booklet has a lot of great information about our plans for the building. We encourage you to read it in its entirety.

This fall we are conducting the REImagine Campaign to eliminate the debt and renovate the building to help more people experience the true freedom and victory that can only be found in Jesus Christ. He is the only One who can satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts.

So, what can WE do? We can wholeheartedly seek God and ask Him, "God, what do You want to do through me?" The God who made us, the God who loves us, and the God who frees us is able to do "far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). Through prayer, God can do even more than we can even imagine.

Let us continue to proclaim the name of Jesus and be a people of persevering faith and obedience to the God to whom we owe everything.

Thanks be to God!

Andy Upham
Chairperson
REImagine Campaign



Curtis Olsen
Lead Pastor
Community UMC





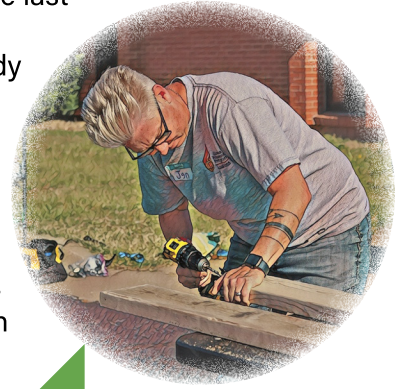
Community Impact

Called to Love, Led to Serve

For over 67 years, CUMC has been a place where God's hope and grace welcome all people. We celebrate the many missions, ministries and partnerships that have made this such a dynamic place for making and inspiring disciples of Jesus Christ. Over the last decade, CUMC has launched new ministries to help at-risk children and youth in our community, made improvements to facilities, and seen steady growth since the pandemic, with new people continuing to connect.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

By hosting the Columbia chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, CUMC continues to help this worthy nonprofit achieve its objective: to ensure "NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!" Through countless volunteer hours and donations, CUMC has helped to provide more than 150 beds to children in our community.



"The reason I got into (Sleep in Heavenly Peace) is my wife and I are foster parents. She works in the public schools, so we constantly see the need for kids to have a safe place to sleep. Parents just sometimes don't have the resources that they need. It's a cool organization to be a part of!" – Jennifer Reese, CUMC member



Food for Thought School Partnership

Food for Thought is a ministry that serves the students (330) and staff (65) at West Boulevard Elementary School. The main components of the program are providing a healthy snack for students every day, organizing classroom holiday parties three times a year, and providing encouragement to the staff in various ways. The students, over 80% of whom qualify for free/reduced lunch, are better able to learn when they aren't hungry, and the staff greatly appreciates our efforts to enhance the lives of their students.

"At one of the parties last year, a 4th grader commented to a CUMC volunteer 'This is one of the best days of my life.' The teacher, seeing the surprised look on the volunteer's face, responded that many of the students come from challenging circumstances and aren't used to having many extras. I believe this ministry is a true example of being the hands and feet of Christ and loving our neighbors." – Jim Hogan, CUMC member & Program Coordinator

Tags of Hope

Our partnership with Tags of Hope enables members of CUMC to serve mid-Missouri foster children and their families. Through donations of new and gently used clothing, shoes, books, toys, and other household items, and through delivering those donations, our dedicated volunteers are helping to empower children and teens, enabling them to select items they love that fit their individual style, size and personal needs. Last year alone, Tags of Hope reached more than 100 children in the Columbia area.



"One case that really struck me and still sits on my heart was a 14-year-old boy who came in, and I told him he could pick a [a certain number] of shirts and pants. Then I stepped back to let him shop ... and he's just standing there kind of blank right in front of the rack of clothing. I said, "Do you need some help?" And he stood there, and he's like, "I don't know what I'm doing. I've never picked out my own clothes. Some of these basic life experiences that we take for granted, these children haven't had." – Christi Farmer, CUMC member & founder of Tags of Hope



Connect Youth Ministries

Our youth group currently has between 40-50 participants and is growing! In addition to developing in their faith through weekly Youth Group and annual Confirmation classes, youth are also participating in service opportunities, fun outings and a number of summer programs. Mystery Week, where youth to spent 1/2 day serving and 1/2 having fun, and the Magic Church Bus Tour were successful new additions this year. UNITE2025 provided an opportunity to meet with other youth from around the state.

"The biggest impact I am seeing right now is the willingness of youth to step up and lead! Two of our students led Morning Bible Study, and four led the call to worship at UNITE this year. Youth are offering to do the opening prayer at the 9:30 service and a group enjoyed leading a song at 9:30. They are also serving in the children's ministry, operating the livestream and serving communion each month. I love seeing them lead and serve in the church!"

– Nancy Cooper, CUMC Youth Ministry Director



Projects List

In 2024, the Community UMC Church Council created two teams of faithful members to help discern future plans for CUMC: the Building Team and the Long-Range Planning Team. Through the work of these dedicated individuals, several areas of focus have been identified.

Building Team

- Identified the physical building's most-pressing current needs, including:
 - HVAC updates (project begun and projected to be completed fall 2025);
 - Lighting updates; and,
 - Basement bathroom additions.

Long-Range Planning Team

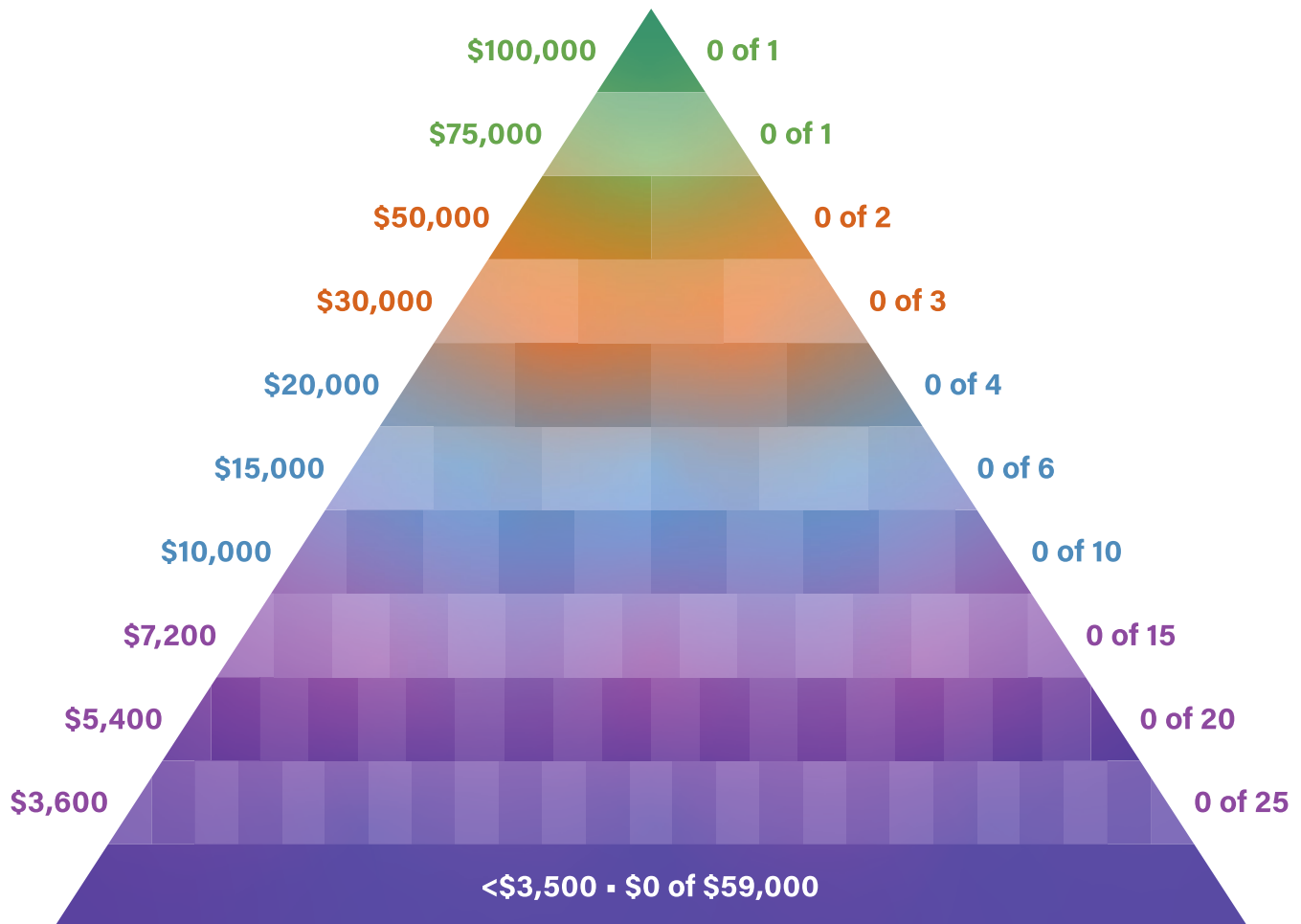
- Reassessed the long-range plan established approximately 15 years ago.
- Considering space utilization, current ministry needs and a survey of church leaders, this team identified several potential renovations, including:
 - Updating the Worship Center;
 - Renovating the 500 wing for learning and youth spaces;
 - Adding a restroom to the children's area; and,
 - Updating the Fellowship Hall (using previously given funds designated to the building).

Due to the urgency of the need for HVAC updates, upon the Church Council's request, Commerce Bank approved our loan of up to \$1,000,000 to pay for the HVAC update and other projects as ultimately approved by the church.

God has richly blessed Community United Methodist Church with wonderful facilities, and has also provided faithful members with incredible creativity and servant hearts who continue to launch new ministries to serve God and our neighbors in Columbia and beyond. Now is the time to faithfully continue improving our facility to further this legacy of loving each other well in Christ's name. This plan will support our ministries for the next 3-5 years, and continue to focus on our goal to minister with at-risk children and youth by improving each of the spaces for children and youth.



Campaign Goal - \$1,000,000



“God, what do You want to do through me?”

Important Dates - REImagine Campaign

- 📅 September 28 - Gratitude Sunday
- 📅 October 5 - Ministry Sunday
- 📅 October 12 - Prayer Sunday
- 📅 October 19 - Sacrifice Sunday
- 📅 October 26 - Commitment Sunday and Celebration
- 📅 November 23 - Announcement and First Fruits Sunday



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the REImagine Capital Campaign?

The primary purpose is to repay the \$800,000 loan we secured from Commerce Bank for the new heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the church building. Our Church Council and Long-Range Planning Team have recommended a goal of \$1,000,000, which will allow us to:

- Pay off the \$800,000 Commerce Bank loan by 2028.
- Provide \$50,000 to support housing initiatives with Love Columbia (local) and Rainbow Network (international).
- Address additional needs in our facility (create new dedicated space for Youth Ministry on the main floor, update paint and lighting in the Worship Center and provide security and hospitality updates on the west end of the building).

Why can't we cover the HVAC loan in our annual budget?

The interest on the loan will be paid from the general operating budget with the savings realized from decreased utility costs. Including the principal of the loan would exceed our annual operating budget of approximately \$825,000 and require us to reduce our current ministries and missions.

Didn't we just have a capital campaign?

Our last campaign, which successfully eliminated our debt, was held 10 years ago.

Can I support the capital campaign by redirecting some or all of my gifts from my current giving?

We are, of course, grateful for all gifts. However, it is essential to acknowledge that to achieve the campaign goal of \$1,000,000 and cover an annual operating budget of approximately \$825,000, the need is for gifts above and beyond the current level of giving for the three-year campaign period.

Why did we need to replace the HVAC system?

Our old boiler (50 years old) and air conditioning system required constant repairs at \$5,000 per year in addition to over \$10,000 per month in utility costs. Experts have warned us that future repairs would not be possible. In addition, the old system could not be updated to work with newer operating systems, resulting in the facility being too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. Engineers estimate that these upgrades will help us realize up to 50% savings on monthly utility bills and fewer repair costs.

Why are we including support to our ministry partners in this campaign?

Community UMC is committed to missions, and making an impact beyond the walls of our church building should be a part of any capital campaign. Since the building focus of the REImagine Campaign is on HVAC, CUMC leadership chose to focus on housing, both locally and internationally. We are partnering with Love Columbia to sponsor an apartment in their Love Forward Homes and will continue to work with Rainbow Network on the communities they are building internationally.

How will gifts to the campaign be used as they come in over the next three years?

The plan is to allocate each individual gift as follows:

- 10% to the missions projects (up to \$50,000 total);
- 15% to non-HVAC CUMC building projects (up to \$150,000 total); and,
- 75% for the HVAC loan.

Once the totals for missions (\$50k) and building projects (\$150k) have been met, all further proceeds will go to the HVAC loan. In the event that we exceed our \$1,000,000 goal, we will explore further projects.

Is this the best time to conduct a campaign with concerns about the economy?

There are several reasons for moving forward now.

- The old system required significant costs to repair and was becoming obsolete.
- Our loan with Commerce Bank was negotiated when rates were lower, saving considerable interest costs.
- A recent feasibility study showed strong support for a campaign.

As a church, we understand that there is never a time to conduct a campaign that is perfect for every person/family, and, as always, we will be sensitive and understanding of those who may not be able to participate financially.

What if we raise less than the goal?

We believe our congregation has the capacity to meet this goal. If we do not, the Church Council will review the results and recommend how gifts to REImagine will be applied. Possible options include extending the current campaign or conducting a new campaign in 2028 to fully meet the goals that we have set.

Is my commitment to this campaign in addition to my regular giving to the Annual Operating Budget?

Yes. Your ongoing giving is needed to maintain our current budget, which includes operational expenses, salaries, current ministries, facility upkeep and outreach. A commitment to REImagine should be over and above regular giving and considered a sacrificial, or second-mile, gift.

Can assets other than cash be contributed?

Yes! There are many ways to give, such as offering shares of stock, bonds or commodities, or by making a gift through a charitable IRA rollover. Ask an accountant or financial planner if some of these methods may have positive income tax benefits for you.

What are my giving options?

You can give weekly, monthly, annually or through a one-time gift. Options include checks, ACH through your bank, online through the church's website and stock transfer. All contributions to the church are considered tax-deductible. Please designate gifts as "Capital Campaign" or "REImagine" so they can be recorded properly.



Mission & Vision

Our Mission

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

CALLED TO LOVE; LED TO SERVE

Our Core Values

- Inviting
- Growing
- Serving
- Transforming

Our REImagine Campaign Prayer

God, what do You want to do through me?



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