

FORWARD *Together*

A FOUNDATION OF FAITH

In October 2024, we began a new chapter together, The Forward Generosity Initiative. It was more than a financial goal; it was a shared moment for our church to take what we were sensing each Sunday and turn it into a united commitment, to use our time, talent, and resources for God's mission through Good Shepherd.

With both faith and humility, our leadership set a goal to raise \$9 million over two years. We believed the Holy Spirit was leading us, but after so many seasons of starting and stopping ministry, it was easy to wonder if the goal was too ambitious.

But once again, God showed us what's possible when His people make plans with wisdom and then surrender them to His will. Through your generosity, we didn't just meet our goal – we exceeded it, raising \$9.4 million.

In true Good Shepherd fashion, those resources have already been put to work for eternal impact. Globally, we helped purchase land near the school and orphanage of Cherish Watoto in Kenya. Locally, we've begun reopening our café beyond Sunday mornings and made key staffing investments to bring new ideas to life.

We've also spent significant time discerning how to best steward our home at 1310 Shepherd Drive. That process led to a prayerful decision to move contemporary worship into the Sanctuary and traditional worship into the Worship Center. While Good Shepherd is far more than a building, we know our worship spaces are sacred ground. This decision honors the ways God has already moved in each space and creates room for continued growth.

As we look back on all God has done in this first year, we recognize that this is just the foundation. Every inch of our space tells a story of His faithfulness:

Lives have been restored here.

The sacraments have been received here.

Dark nights of the soul have been met with light here.

God is still moving, and He's calling us to move with Him. The decision to reimagine our spaces and continue forward in generosity is rooted in one shared hope: to bring the Good News of Jesus to a weary world, now and for generations to come.

That's why you'll continue to hear us say: the best days for Good Shepherd are ahead. This Forward Together series marks the next step in making that vision a reality, as we continue to serve, dream, and give together.

Pastor Greg Wenhold