

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

an UNFINISHED midpoint series

Series Guide

UNFINISHED

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

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OUR UNFINISHED VISION

We are prayerfully and humbly continuing in a generosity initiative at First Christian. This season of our church is like no other. God is not yet finished with us as individuals, and He is not yet finished with us as a church. During this season, we are seeking to live out uncompromising faith, unprecedented hope, and unrelenting love as we continue to declare that God's mission is for everyone!

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)

UNFINISHED

This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)



In February 2023, we began a two-year UNFINISHED initiative anchored in the belief that **God is not finished writing His story in us and through us**. Our primary goal throughout the initiative has been 100% engagement - every person and every family prayerfully listening to God's leading and responding in faith. Our secondary goal has been the advance of our mission through raising \$5.92 million. We boldly stepped out in faith-filled prayer, being responsive to the Spirit's leading, and He has not disappointed!

As God's **UNFINISHED PEOPLE**, we are asking Him to continue shaping us into His image as we grow deeper in our surrender to Him. Because of God's faithfulness to us, we are learning to trust Him as He calls us daily to remain faithful to Him.

As part of God's **UNFINISHED STORY**, we are asking Him to continue using First Christian as a powerful conduit for advancing the gospel one relationship and one neighborhood at a time. The more we recognize that we are an unfinished people with an unfinished story, the more our prayers become focused on His mission to seek and save lost people. Let's pray for His kingdom to come **until heaven and earth are one and Christ returns!**

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we know God has more for you. We believe the most life-changing, influential, and personally engaging days of your life are still ahead. During this season, let's seek to live our **UNFINISHED** stories in Christ to declare that God's mission of moving people from unbelief to belief is for everyone. Until His kingdom has fully come, may His will be done **on earth as in heaven!**

Blessings,

Kevin



Values of FC Newburgh
uphold

Table 3

- Family-oriented
- Bible-centered
- #1 The Word is our foundation!!
 - Our goal is to lead more people to Christ and not grow #s.
- We are a praying church
- We are the Hands and Feet (community service) of our Community.

WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

In January of 2023, First Christian Church was undergoing a renewal within our leadership related to culture, mission, and the kind of church we are becoming. We had been intentionally fostering strategic partnerships with leaders across the nation and our vision had grown. After a significant season of prayer and conversations with many advisors, we knew God was not finished with us as an expression of His heart for the world.

Our PRIMARY GOAL: 100% Engagement

We imagined every family at FC growing in a healthy relationship with God and money

We imagined the impact of everyone at FC learning to trust God's provision in everything

We imagined the gospel's reach resulting from everyone at FC moving from unbelief to belief in every area of life

Our SECONDARY GOAL: \$5.92 million in two years

\$3.42 million to resource what we do daily as a church on mission to partner in the Holy Spirit's movement of people from unbelief to belief in every area of life (this amount covers our annual operating budget for 2 years)

\$2.5 million allocated for continued development: reduction of our long-term debt and ongoing improvements to an amazing and aging campus

At the beginning of the year our FC families had opportunities to celebrate our values and write out their prayers for this Unfinished season. We also rejoiced in what knew God would do with our faithfulness through this church to His glory!



**WHAT GOD
HAS DONE**

More people have said 'yes' to Jesus Christ! 34 people have made the decision to place their trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. People from every generation have confessed their faith in Jesus.

We've grown in average weekly attendance. Attendance has grown and surpassed 500, representing a 10% gain. Our vision is to see a double-kingdom impact within the next 3-5 years. We have our eyes on being twice the size we are right now...we definitely have the space for it!

God has used each of us to resource His mission and year one of Unfinished was amazing. **Fifty-two families prayerfully made a first-time investment in God's kingdom by saying 'yes' to contributing and worshiping God through their finances.** Not every gift was big, neither was it weekly in each case, but God continued to invite people to trust Him to provide as they began their giving journeys. Everyone has a story, and every story has a starting point when it comes to giving.

God did so much through our purposeful generosity that we were able to make our entire 2024 principal payment on our building loan in January.

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they of tell your mighty acts." Psalm 145:3-4

Each lightbulb on the Two39 wall represents a confession of belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The next generations are watching and talking about God's work of salvation.



BORROWED HEARTS

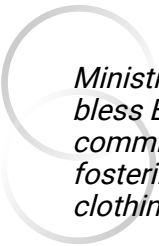
**WHERE WE
ARE GOING**

As we enter the second year of our UNFINISHED initiative, we have much to look forward to and much to do. The good news is we are not in this alone. Each of us has a contribution to make and each of us can be used by God to expand His kingdom. We are still UNFINISHED.

WE ARE UNFINISHED in our growth. No matter how long we have been in our faith journey, there are always opportunities to grow as we continue to move from unbelief to belief in every area of life. Numerous resources are available at FC to help you move - from small groups and Sunday morning classes to Right Now Media and Ramsey+, we want to equip you for growth.

WE ARE UNFINISHED in our reach. God has given each of us a relational reach zone - an area of life where we encounter people who are far from Him. As we engage with the people around us, we have a story of hope to share and we have the Holy Spirit as our guide. There will be a variety of opportunities to learn more about relational evangelism this year including our BLESS strategy.

WE ARE UNFINISHED in our generosity. As we continue to recognize that God gives us everything we need, we must remember that He provides for others through our generosity. As we live out our faith through our giving, the result is needs being met and God's kingdom mission expanding.



Ministry teams are coming together to bless Borrowed Hearts, an organization committed to resourcing families fostering kids. Borrowed Hearts helps with clothing, hygiene items, food, and more.



**WHAT IS
YOUR ROLE**

Throughout the last 12 months, God has done amazing things through First Christian. He has given us every reason to trust Him, and we have responded by honoring Him with our first and best.

New Commitment

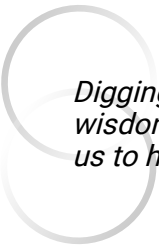
Perhaps you recently joined our church family and are wondering, "What is the UNFINISHED Initiative?" Or, maybe you have been here for awhile and have not stepped into the UNFINISHED journey. Unfinished is for anyone who calls First Christian Church their home. Our hope is that everyone at FC will join together, push back the resistance of this world that says "now isn't the time," and confidently step into the joy of giving.

Finish Strong

For those who have made a commitment a year ago, perhaps this journey has been more difficult than envisioned. Maybe you went to a completely new level in your generosity and are still adjusting your life to your commitment. Maybe you have experienced job loss, job change, or unexpected financial expenses. We encourage you to persevere to finish strong in the journey you began. We know the Lord will faithfully provide all you need to honor your commitment.

Increase

After a season of prayer, God may be calling you to trust him with a greater commitment and increased generosity. Generosity is not a one-time event; it is a journey. Consider asking yourself these questions: Am I still giving in a way that challenges me? Am I still trusting Him? As you pray, ask yourself if He is inviting you into another step of faith with an increased commitment.



Digging into the Bible for guidance and wisdom always encourages and challenges us to honor God in our finances.

GENEROSITY DISCIPLESHIP

A PATHWAY IN THE GRACE OF GIVING

Generosity Discipleship is the intentional process of growing in financial giving to the Kingdom of God. As we move forward in our giving journey, the focus is on the condition of our hearts and the ongoing transformation of our lives to be more like Christ.

Progression along the path represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. As you evaluate your current state of giving, thinking about where God is leading you, celebrate God's movement each step of the way.

Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word. This is someone who makes a financial contribution and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus' words into action.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of generosity as a disciple of Jesus. Whether they are giving online or in person, consistent givers are experiencing the joy of excelling in this grace of giving.

"But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

Priority Giver is someone who understands that all things were created by Christ. All things are created for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience freedom in serving “one master” and declaring Jesus is first.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole life for us, and therefore desires to surrender their whole lives to Him. This giver would say, “My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It’s also changing me!” They evaluate everything they’ve been blessed and entrusted with, aligning all things in a posture of surrender (homes, cars, real estate, etc.).

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Ephesians 5:1-2

Eternal Giver is someone who sees their generosity through a lens of impacting others beyond short-term needs and programs. This giver has been captivated by the conviction to leverage as much as they can “to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and will to share.” They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact.

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” 1 Timothy 6:17-18

UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

Commitment Sunday
March 3, 2024

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

☐ I AM NEW TO UNFINISHED

I would like to make a 12-month commitment to the UNFINISHED generosity initiative in the amount of:

\$

*This includes my regular giving over the next 12 months as well as my expanded giving and stored resources.

☐ I AM ALREADY COMMITTED TO UNFINISHED

My current two-year commitment is:

\$

At the midpoint of UNFINISHED, I would like to:

☐ Confirm my commitment to finish strong

☐ Increase my two-year commitment to:

\$

March 2023 – March 2025

GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would have you give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool – let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity for God’s Kingdom as we seek to give it all for Him.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	One-Year Gift Level	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$ 500,000
1	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$ 250,000
2	\$150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 300,000
3	\$100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,167	\$ 300,000
7	\$ 75,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 3,125	\$ 525,000
10	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 2,708	\$ 650,000
15	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,083	\$ 750,000
18	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 1,458	\$ 630,000
20	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 1,042	\$ 500,000
25	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 625	\$ 375,000
32	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 417	\$ 320,000
40	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,750	\$ 313	\$ 300,000
50	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 208	\$ 250,000
Many	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 104	\$ 270,000
TOTAL GIFT GOAL				\$5,920,000

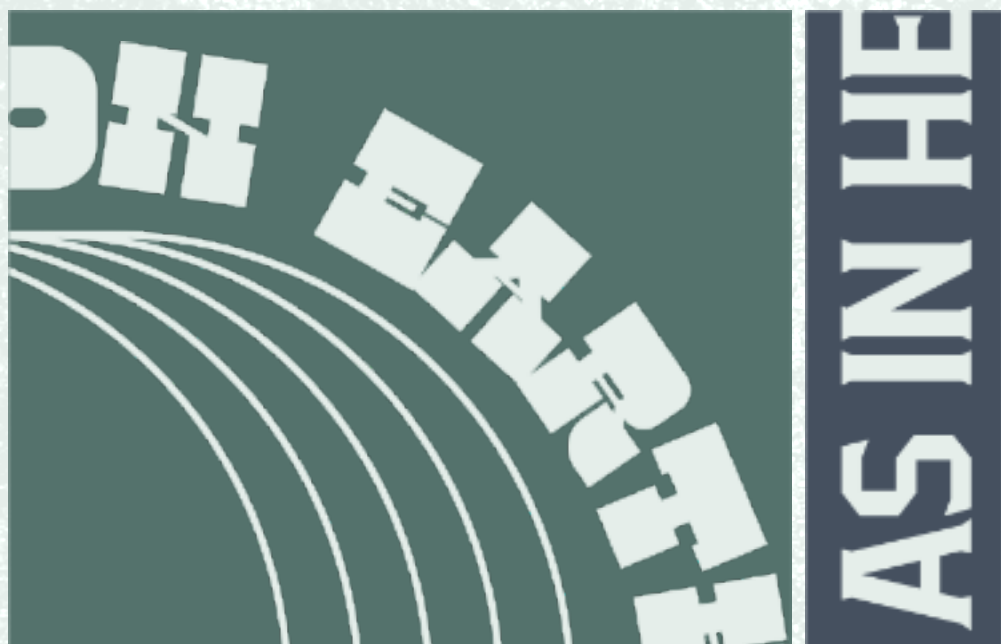
“...for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)

ONE FUND INITIATIVE

You may have been part of church campaigns previously where you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to complete special projects. At First Christian these have been used to make new buildings and ministries possible. In the past, you gave that gift to the “Building Fund” and you also continued to give to the “General Fund.” This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either don’t have a baseline for their “usual giving” or who aren’t able to really celebrate the total giving at FC in one single number. We believe we’re all on one mission—“prayerfully partnering with the Holy Spirit in helping people move from unbelief to belief in every area of life.” Therefore we are continuing forward in a One Fund Initiative that recognizes every dollar is on the same mission.







ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

AN UNFINISHED SERIES

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FATHER'S KINGDOM IS COMING

Week 1 Notes



How has your prayer life changed through the stages of your life?

What is your current approach to prayer?

When you think about generosity, how does knowing God is the activator influence the way you approach money?

Rewrite the beginning of the Lord's Prayer from Luke 2:2 in your own words (common, everyday language) as you understand it's meaning from this Sunday's message.

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come."

MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE, EVERYDAY

Week 2 Notes



When have you struggled to trust that all your needs will be met?

Has there been a time when you felt you were not able to be generous with your finances?

How have you seen God's faithfulness in taking care of you so that you can be generous to others?

Think of a time when have you been blessed by the generosity of others. Write out the key points you remember about how you felt before and after that blessing. How their generosity impacted what you thought of them.

Rewrite the following section of The Lord's Prayer from Luke 2:2-3: "Father, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread."

PRINCIPLES & INTERESTS OF THE KINGDOM

Week 3 Notes



Describe a time when you were more focused on gaining money and possessions than on seeing God's kingdom grow?

How has your money/possessions sometimes gotten in the way of your generosity?

In what ways do you need to trust God more in relation to your "stuff?"

Rewrite the following section of The Lord's Prayer from Luke 2:2-4: "Father, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

GOD, WHO IS GENEROUS TO A FAULT

Week 4 Notes



How have you approached asking God to be generous to you? Is it easy to ask with a humble heart? Do you have high expectations? Do you feel greedy asking God to bless you?

In what ways has God been generous to you?

What doors have been opened to you for the opportunity of being a blessing to others?

Rewrite The Lord's Prayer from Mathew 6:9-13: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

PREPARING FOR COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Spend some time thinking about the financial commitments you currently have.

Make a list of financial commitments that go beyond a one-time payment but have a specific time commitment. (For example - a home mortgage, car loan, school tuition, etc)

Make a list of other ongoing financial commitments such as subscriptions, extra-curricular activities, health-related items, etc

Make a list of miscellaneous financial expenditures such as vacations, recreation, entertainment, etc.

If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial spending, what would they say you value?

Do your finances represent what you think or say you value?

When you think about your current or new financial commitment you are planning to make for the UNFINISHED initiative, where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments to be able to fulfill your UNFINISHED commitment? What if you wanted to raise your UNFINISHED commitment? What would that require?

Are there any barriers or situations that could prevent you from fulfilling your UNFINISHED commitment?

What type of spiritual impact do you think you might see in your life as you honor your UNFINISHED commitment over the next year?

How will your own spiritual growth influence your relationship with your family, friends, coworkers, and others you interact with on a daily basis?

When have you prayed for something that needed “big bold prayers” and faith to trust that God was at work even when you couldn’t see the details?

What circumstances in your life have required a season of committed prayer?

How have you seen God work in you through your season of committed prayer?

When you think about our UNFINISHED story as a church and our \$5.92 million goal, what is your prayer for yourself, your family, and our church?

This UNFINISHED story is not about raising \$5.92 million dollars.

This UNFINISHED story is about 100% of us going before God with a bold faith, a humble spirit, and a sacrificing heart, prayerfully seeking God’s plan for our generosity.

It is about 100% of us being fully engaged and committed to Kingdom growth. Each step of faith we take continues to keep us in step with the Spirit. We believe God’s work in us is unfinished and that He is always inviting us to take our relationship with Him to a deeper level of trust. We are excited to see God move in ways we haven’t seen before.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

LIVING WITH A GIFT

Week 5 Notes



What are some things you have asked for in the past that God has graciously given?

What are some areas where you need boldness today as you approach God in prayer?

In what ways does your faith reflect God's character and in what ways does your faith need to grow?

What are some current opportunities you have to be generous and how might your generosity be used by God to grow his kingdom?

Rewrite The Lord's Prayer from Mathew 6:9-13, this time relating it specifically to financial generosity: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

UNFINISHED FAQs

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

PRAY. Seek God's guidance for what He is asking of you in this season. Prepare your heart to hear His voice, listen to what He says, and be willing to respond.

TALK ABOUT UNFINISHED WITH SOMEONE ELSE. Have a conversation with your family, your small group, or a friend about what it means to be fully engaged with the mission of discipleship and generosity.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO GROW IN FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. As we are discovering that we are all Unfinished, we are also realizing that there are areas of our lives that need an intentional focus for growth. When God reveals those areas, be obedient and trust His work in your life.

BE WILLING TO MAKE A SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT OF GENEROSITY. In order to reach our Unfinished goal, we are seeking 100% engagement from every individual or family. That means, we all evaluate the way we currently use our time, talents, and money and we look for areas that we could make sacrifices in to follow God's leading.

PREPARE TO BE AMAZED AT WHAT GOD WILL DO. We serve an awesome God who loves us and the people around us. He designed the church to be the catalyst for Kingdom growth and He is not limited by things of this world. He can do what we can't even imagine and we are looking forward to watching Him move in unprecedented ways through our collective Unfinished commitments.

BE IN ATTENDANCE ON COMMITMENT SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd. This special time of worship will be a defining moment for our church and we don't want you to miss this significant moment in our faith journey.

WHAT WAYS CAN I GIVE TO UNFINISHED BESIDES CASH?

You might have some stocks, property, or other stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give out of during this time. Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards the Unfinished Initiative. Please contact Mary Lehman at mlehman@fcnewburgh.com if you have questions about non-cash generosity.

HOW LONG IS MY UNFINISHED COMMITMENT?

The fulfillment period for your commitment will culminate in March of 2025.

MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Contact us at 812-858-5000 or email Holly at hgillespie@fcnewburgh.com.

PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Pray that God will work in the hearts of people at First Christian and that we will listen with the intent to respond.

COMMIT FULLY

Be part of the 100% engagement by saying YES and encouraging others to do the same.

CELEBRATE LOUDLY

God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Share His handiwork enthusiastically with those around you.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

Live and give in a way that stretches you to take your faith to a whole new level of generosity.



KEY DATES

March 1 – **Prayer Night**

March 3 – **Commitment Sunday**

March 17 – **Big Give Sunday**