

FORWARD

Faith in Motion—Growing Together



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF OCEAN SPRINGS

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WELCOME TO FORWARD

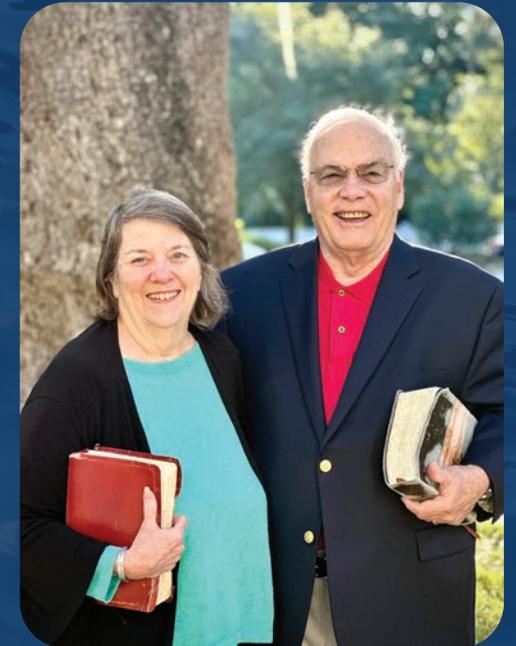
When we think about what it means to be a part of First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs, it's hard to not think about the legacy of God's faithfulness to this community through this church over the last 140 years. First Pres has been a gospel light to the city of Ocean Springs for a long time.

Over the last two years, we have seen our family of faith grow by over 25 percent. Our youth and children's programs have more than doubled in size since early 2024. Our impact in the community continues to expand, and it's exciting to think about what God has in store for us as Ocean Springs continues to grow.

Accommodating our current attendance and future growth comes with challenges. We need to invest in facilities and technology, eliminate the remaining mortgage on one of our buildings, and make preparations for continued maintenance on the seven buildings that we have on our historic campus. Maximizing our campus for ministry growth and excellence in every area is what this FORWARD Initiative is about. Being able to do that over the course of two years with no financial debt is an important part of being prepared for what God wants to use us for next.

The pages of this book will detail the scope of the things we want to accomplish through this FORWARD Initiative. I hope you can see in these many projects the breadth of the work of God's hand in our midst. This is a house that the Lord is building and the glory of it is not in the projects themselves, but in the lives of the people of every generation in whom God is clearly at work. I invite you to take delight in what God is up to at FPCOS and join us as we move FORWARD together into what comes next.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. -Psalm 24:1



*"What does the church mean?
Everything."*

- Jim and Mary Jo Douglas

CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY

The Challenge

Last fall we explored the idea of building an additional structure on campus to support growth in our youth programs. Though we ultimately decided that a new building was too expensive, we knew that we needed to address the additional space needed for continued growth in our youth program. But we knew there were other things to address as well: parking, which can be challenging even on a regular Sunday; technology upgrades that are necessary to improve both the in-person and online worship experience; and a desire to eliminate the remaining mortgage on the Jackson Avenue office. These projects were necessary not just to support our current needs, but to prepare FPCOS for the next 4-5 years of growth.

The Approach

The Session has adopted a plan to upgrade and renovate our existing facilities with an investment that is less than a third of the cost of a purpose-built structure. This approach has the added benefit of addressing all of the areas of concern we identified, while providing more growth potential and flexibility in the way the campus can be used in the future.

The proposed projects total \$1.9M and fall into four general categories: Youth, Worship, Mortgage and Maintenance.

- Youth - \$790,000
- Worship - \$260,000
- Maintenance - \$475,000 (*includes \$250K Deferred Maintenance Fund*)
- Mortgage - \$375,000

The intent is to have most of the work completed within 12 months from the start of the initiative and to front-load those projects that have immediate impact for Youth. All projects would be completed and paid for within 24 months.

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

-Malachi 3:10



PROJECT SCOPE

- **Harbor House.** Renovate the Harbor House to maximize usable space in this 3300 sq ft building that serves as the primary youth gathering space. This involves opening walls to create more space, adding a covered/screened porch and expanding the deck.
- **Chapel.** This building is used for worship by our youth, as a Faith Foundations classroom and overflow worship space. Without changing the historic look and feel of the structure, we plan to improve the A/V capabilities, move the HVAC system to create a better worship experience and update the seating to accommodate a 50 percent increase in capacity.

- **Education Building.** Paint the exterior and repair roof. Paint the Fellowship Hall and entry areas to match paint on first floor and stairwells. Replace rotted windows and shutters. Remodel kitchen, replacing non-functional stove, adding freezer space and extra storage to support youth requirements and allow for expansion of other ministry activities. Upgrade A/V system to allow Fellowship Hall to work more effectively for large meetings and events and expand its usefulness for other ministry activities. Replace worn tables and chairs.



- **Sanctuary.** Replace aging technology with up-to-date components. Expand broadcast capabilities. The changes will improve the overall worship experience in the Sanctuary, in overflow and streaming to support growing online participation. With upgrades to the Chapel, this has the potential to expand the capacity of our Sunday morning worship activities.

- **Children's House Montessori School.** Replace rotted windows and paint exterior. Replace rotted sections of fence and gates.

- **Parking.** Increase parking by adding bumpers and striping to gravel lot. Changes will increase the number of available spaces by 20 percent, to a total of 180. Create seasonal, designated golf cart parking to maximize spaces available.

- **Mortgage.** Pay off Jackson Ave mortgage.



But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven.”

-Matthew 19:14

GIVING CHALLENGE

At FPCOS our mission is to know Christ and to make Christ known together. As a community of faith, we commit to lives of worship, discipleship, and engagement with God's kingdom mission.

Giving of our material resources to the work of the kingdom of God is a spiritual discipline. It is a discipline because it is not natural. We are naturally inclined to put our trust in our resources as the primary source of our security and peace.

I always found it a great irony that in America our money is stamped with, "In God We Trust." It may be a truer statement if our money were stamped with, "In This We Trust." Generous giving is a spiritual discipline because it forces us to put our trust in God. Generous giving is the discipline of not allowing money to become an idol in our lives. Generous giving is how we live into "In God We Trust."

God is glorified when we give. Faith grows when we give. The kingdom of God advances when we give. Giving is one of the ways that we know Christ and make him known together.

Grace and Truth,
Pastor Scott



Scott Castleman
Senior Pastor

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. -Psalm 127:1

GIVING PATH

The Giving Path is a tool designed to help each of us focus on the attitudes of our hearts. Each step along the path represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. These are not steps you ascend in order to get closer to God. Instead, they provide a very practical way for you to evaluate your personal perspective on generosity and to highlight opportunities to increase your discipline in this area (2 Corinthians 8:7).

Initial Givers are those who decide to give for the first time as part of a response to God's Word about giving, and faith in His provision for their needs.

Consistent Givers make a decision to give regularly as an exercise in spiritual discipline. Making a recurring gift online is often done by those who are learning the practice of consistency.

Intentional Givers begin to think about their giving in relation to the other things on which they spend money. For example, this type of giver begins to ask, "Why am I giving more to my streaming service - or other discretionary expenses - than I do to God?" This may be the point when givers begin to tithe, reflecting an intentionality about the percentage of their income they want to give to God.



Surrendered Givers are generous in a way that changes them. Their giving dictates the amount they spend or save, rather than allowing their spending/saving to govern the amount they give. Their perspective is that they are merely stewards of God's resources, and they evaluate their financial and resource decisions based on how best to have an impact on the growth of God's Kingdom.

LIVE OUT OUR MISSION

"First Pres is where I have grown in my faith the most. Giving is an essential part of living out our faith. The FORWARD initiative is a chance to help our church programs grow, for the church to unweight herself from debt, and for us to better live out our mission to know Christ and to make Him known together."

- The Roberts Family (Mark, Katy, James and Daniel)

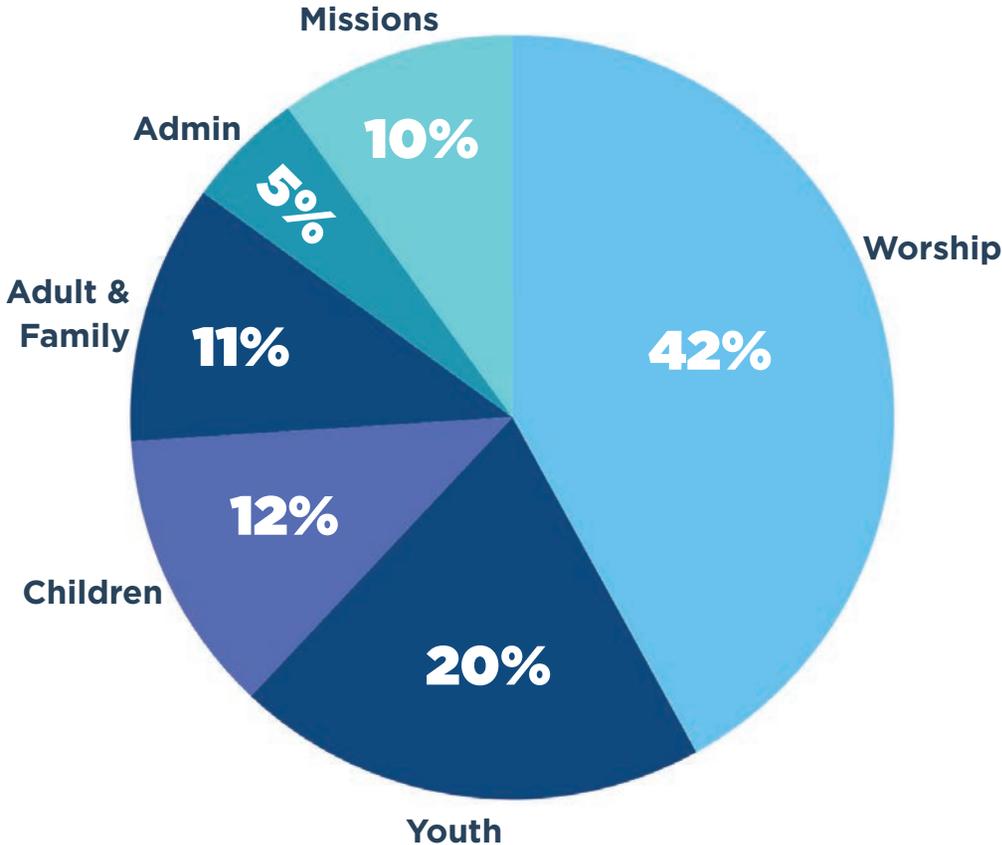


FINANCIAL PLAN

General Fund Giving

2019 Annual Giving	\$1,126,005
2020 Annual Giving	\$1,325,642
2021 Annual Giving	\$1,383,426
2022 Annual Giving	\$1,523,781
2023 Annual Giving	\$1,609,733
2024 Annual Giving	\$1,723,322
2025 Annual Giving	\$1,976,828

2026 Annual Giving*	\$2,100,000
2027 Annual Giving**	\$2,300,000
FORWARD Capital Projects	<u>\$1,900,000</u>
Total Ministry Budget for 2026 - 2027	\$6,300,000



*Calendar year 2026

**Calendar year 2027

THE STORIES OF FPCOS

"The youth group has played a huge part in shaping who I am and helping me to live as a child of God. The past few years have taught me so many things, like service, faith, and the importance of Christ-centered community. The leaders and members of the church don't just talk about serving the Lord; they live it out every day. The friendships I've built and the leaders who have poured into me and my family have given me a foundation I know I can build on for the rest of my life. Thank you for giving me a safe place to strengthen my walk with the Lord."

- Avery Adams, High School Senior



THE STORIES OF FPCOS



“First Pres has helped me find my church family again. Before joining three years ago, I was absent from the body of Christ for many years. I felt that I did not matter to the Body and I felt irrelevant. First Pres has shown me in many more ways that I can count, that I do matter. I am a valuable member of the Body of Christ. This is evident in the many ways God is using me to shine His glory, such as assisting with Faith Foundations, becoming a Stephen Minister and being ordained as a Deacon.”

- Wendy Lockhart

TWO YEAR

GIFT CHART

As you prayerfully consider how God may be leading you to give in this season, we invite you to use this gift chart as a discipleship tool. Let it serve not only as a guide, but also as an inspiration and challenge to grow in generosity for the sake of Christ's Kingdom.

# of Gifts Needed	Two Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Weekly Gift
1	\$750,000	\$375,000	\$31,250	\$7,212
2	\$375,000	\$187,500	\$15,625	\$3,606
4	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$8,333	\$1,923
8	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$962
19	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481
25	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$288
30	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$192
30	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$115
25	\$9,600	\$4,800	\$400	\$92
22	\$7,200	\$3,600	\$300	\$69
20	\$4,800	\$2,400	\$200	\$46
19	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$100	\$23

MY GIVING GOAL

Calculate here

What I normally give each year

+

My expanded generosity

=

x 2 years =

+

*Additional giving for the **FORWARD** projects*

=

Through my faith in God's provision, my intention is to give to FPCOS:



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. -Matthew 6:21

BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



"The body of the Church at First Pres showed me and my family love and compassion from day one and was very welcoming. Pastor Scott and First Pres have been pivotal in my walk with Jesus Christ. Since attending First Pres, my wife, two sons and I have all been baptized in the Holy Spirit. FORWARD is very important in the advancement of God's Kingdom. Without giving with a generous heart, it's hard for the church to do so. That's why it takes all of us as followers of Christ to do our part in giving to help advance the kingdom."

- Donald (DJ) Johnson

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are excited about the path that God has laid before us. This isn't about giving money to a specific project or goals—though we hope to accomplish a lot in the next two years. Our real hope is that this allows each of us to examine our hearts and live in such a way that generosity defines us as a church.

So what should you do next?

Pray. You might feel ready to give right now. That's great! But most of us will need time over the coming weeks to discern where God is leading. Spend time in prayer each day that we would continue to honor God through the ministries of FPCOS, and that he would give you joy as you consider the impact your contribution can have as we work together to build God's Kingdom.

Turn in your Giving Goal Card. This is a very personal journey for everyone. One person might make a \$500,000 contribution without changing their lifestyle, while another might give \$100 and have to radically adjust their spending for the next year. When you're ready, please complete your Giving Goal Card and submit it on or before Commitment Sunday, November 16.

Tell your story. Tell others why you believe in this vision and what financial discipleship means to you. Let your friends know why this is so important that you're willing to make changes in your lifestyle to give. Your story will challenge others to take a step in generosity—but only if you tell it!

KEY DATES



Spotlight Gathering



Commitment Sunday







For the latest news and updates on **FORWARD**, scan the QR code.

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