



1892 2017
125TH ANNIVERSARY

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 18, 2016

FUPC Members, Friends, & Alumni:

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection in this Easter season, I wanted to invite you to join in our upcoming celebration and re-dedication of First UP's building and grounds on June 12th during and immediately following the 10am worship service. Please save the date! We hope that some alumni and friends from afar may be able to join in – if you plan to come, please RSVP at info@fupc-cambridge.org. It will be a joyous time of praise and thanksgiving, testimonies, and feasting together in God's presence.

What an adventure the *Rebuilding Walls* project has been over the last year! The renovations reached substantial completion on March 6th, 79 days later than planned, but the improvements were worth the wait. We thank God for faithfully shepherding us through the construction phase of this historic initiative. And thank you for responding so generously—your prayers, pledges, and encouragement have been instrumental in the renewal of this house of prayer for all nations and generations. The building is now accessible and much more serviceable and hospitable. This important tool for our ministry and mission is already better supporting our efforts to uphold the “great ends” of Christ's church.

We continue to see more folks in our local community finding their way here as congregational revitalization continues to parallel the rebuilding of our physical presence. Easter Sunday was a rich and festive time together with nearly 100 young and old worshippers rejoicing in the resurrection. New Christian formation initiatives for K-4 kids and adults are underway and have been very well received. A ministry of meals for homeless young adults—a vital part of the church's mission for the last couple years—will be strengthened by a fully functional kitchen. A new Simple Meal Wednesdays dinner and fellowship gathering will start in late April. We anticipate reaching out to internationals, hosting Bible studies for young adults, and other such uses of the building in the months ahead. Please keep this ongoing renewal of the church's ministry and mission in prayer.

As we begin Year 2 of our 3-year capital campaign, the sacrificial giving by God's people has been remarkable—\$685,000 has been pledged by 63 individuals or households, with \$418,000 fulfilled to date. And yet the need is still great. When all the construction and related bills are paid we'll have a mortgage of \$600,000 and ~\$290,000 of pledge income to service that debt over the next 2 years. Factoring in interest owed to the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, we're currently expecting ~\$340,000 of debt to carry into our operating/mission budget when the current pledge total has been received in full and the campaign officially concludes in Spring 2018. That's at the very upper range of the debt we were projecting. **If you are able to make a first-time pledge or an additional pledge, that would be so appreciated and impactful!** Please visit our website to find out the different ways you can give.

More than anything, we want to thank you all immensely for your partnership in this Nehemiah ministry of rebuilding walls. 2017 will mark the church's 125th Anniversary and we are excited to begin a new chapter of worshipping the triune God and bearing witness to his marvelous love and grace in Jesus Christ as we go forth in the power of the Spirit to serve our neighbors in Cambridge and beyond.

We'll hope to see you at the celebration on June 12th!

In Christ,

Kevin
for the Session

P.S. You'll find some pictures of the newly renovated spaces on the website home page and capital campaign page www.fupc-cambridge.org; Little Folks Fellowship (LFF) preschool moved back in March 28th and is enjoying it's new (old) home!

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