



BUILD THE NEXT 190 YEARS

Building a Firm Foundation Capital Campaign



How can you
continue the legacy of
First Presbyterian Church?

SUMMER 2025

[FPCMARIETTA.ORG/QUARTERLY](https://fpcmarietta.org/quarterly)

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Friends,

How does a church like ours end up in a situation where the roof leaks, the HV/AC is giving out, and the vans need to be replaced? The focus of this quarterly is the Building a Firm Foundation capital campaign, and within these pages you'll see what projects are already underway and you'll gain a better idea of why the projects yet to be completed are important. But first, why is this campaign necessary and why were such important maintenance issues not addressed before now?

Think about it like this: our facilities were built for and by a congregation of about 2,500 members. After 15 years of rapid and significant membership decline, when I started here in 2017, we had about 500 active members. So, here's another question: how does a church of 500 maintain a physical plant built for 2,500? The answer: not very well.

500 people cannot properly maintain a physical plant built and funded by the tithes and offerings of a congregation five times that size. The only thing a congregation of 500 can do to maintain a plant built for 2,500 is to address the most urgent needs. When the roof leaked, we patched it, we didn't replace it. When the AC went out, we did the same thing, and while our vans are less than ideal, we haven't complained before now, because there was no excess money in the budget to address anything other than the most basic maintenance of our church.

Now that you've heard all that, perhaps there's another question that you might be asking yourself. Why would a 37-year-old pastor raising a family in a perfectly stable church in Columbia, Tennessee uproot himself and his family to serve the Lord in a church that had declined from 2,500 to 500?

Plenty of my friends asked me that very question. "Joe, I know you grew up there, but how stupid are you?"

In 2017 as we moved back to Marietta, I knew there was a chance that I'd be coming down here to close the church that I grew up in. But I also knew that while the 500 who remained here were small in number, they were rich in faith. I answered the call back to First Presbyterian Church in 2017 because I believed that this church would recover from those 15 years of decline. I believed that the 500 left would multiply to an Easter service like the one we had just a few Sundays ago during which all the folding chairs were put to use.

In 2017 I dedicated myself to the future of this church—not the maintenance of this church, but the future. And now I'm asking you to invest in our future, so that when we have 2,500 people back on our membership role, they'll have a strong foundation to build their faith on.

Now is the time to contribute to this capital campaign.

Please join me in answering the call to invest in the future of FPC.



Listen to Joe's message here.

A simple, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe'.

REV. JOE EVANS, SENIOR PASTOR



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Building a Firm Foundation Committee Members

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Reagan Dean
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(Senior Pastor)
Rob Garcia
Bob Harper
Jerry Johnston
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(Associate Pastor)
Ann Watkins
Ben Witcher

FPC does an incredible job serving the community and supporting our members. We work hard to make the most of the financial resources provided through the annual budget.

However, there often aren't enough funds to cover all the necessary repairs, ongoing maintenance, and community support—and these needs continue to surface.

Because of this reality, Session has approved the Building a Firm Foundation capital campaign. The response so far has been inspiring: as of this publication, we've already reached half of our \$2 million goal! Thanks to this generosity, we've been able to begin a couple of key projects—roof repairs on the Speed Building and a renovation of the Youth Room.

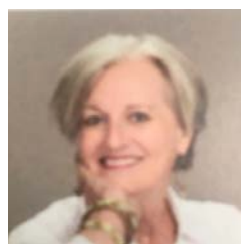
If you rarely venture beyond the Sanctuary and Great Hall, we encourage you to take a walk around the church campus. You'll see why the areas identified by the Property Committee are truly in need of repair or replacement.

We will only begin each project once the necessary funds are in hand, ensuring financial responsibility every step of the way.

Are we willing to give generously to make this church even more dynamic, welcoming, and equipped for ministry?

We trust the answer is an excited and emphatic YES!

BEVERLY KELLY & PAUL PHILLIPS
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS





FPCMARIETTA.ORG/CAMPAIGN2025



GOAL

\$2 MILLION



CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WITHSTANDS THE TEST OF TIME
ALLOWING US TO FOCUS ON WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP



RESTORE AND ENHANCE OUR HISTORIC SANCTUARY AS A PLACE
FOR ALL TO GATHER AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER



CONTINUE TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY



FOCUS AREAS

REPAIRS (pages 5-6)

Multiple critical repairs are immediately needed throughout the campus.

WORSHIP (pages 7-8)

Live stream technology updates allow everyone to be able to join in from all over the globe.

YOUTH (pages 9-10)

Our youth are the future and keeping their spaces up to date helps keep them engaged.

COMMUNITY (pages 11-14)

As we repair our own space, we want to enable our community to hold spaces for all.



Repairs

Rain Mitigation Projects

Speed Building Flat Roof Replacement

(Phase 1 has started and Phase 2 is being quoted)

Holland/Cotten/Patton Buildings Roof repair/replacement

Sanctuary Storm Windows & Gutters

Cotten Building 2nd Floor Classroom Restoration

Van Replacement (x2)

Holland Building Hot Water

in conjunction with the Youth Space Renovation

Sanctuary/Speed Building/Central HVAC Replacement

(Speed Building HVAC currently inoperable)

WiFi Thermostat Control

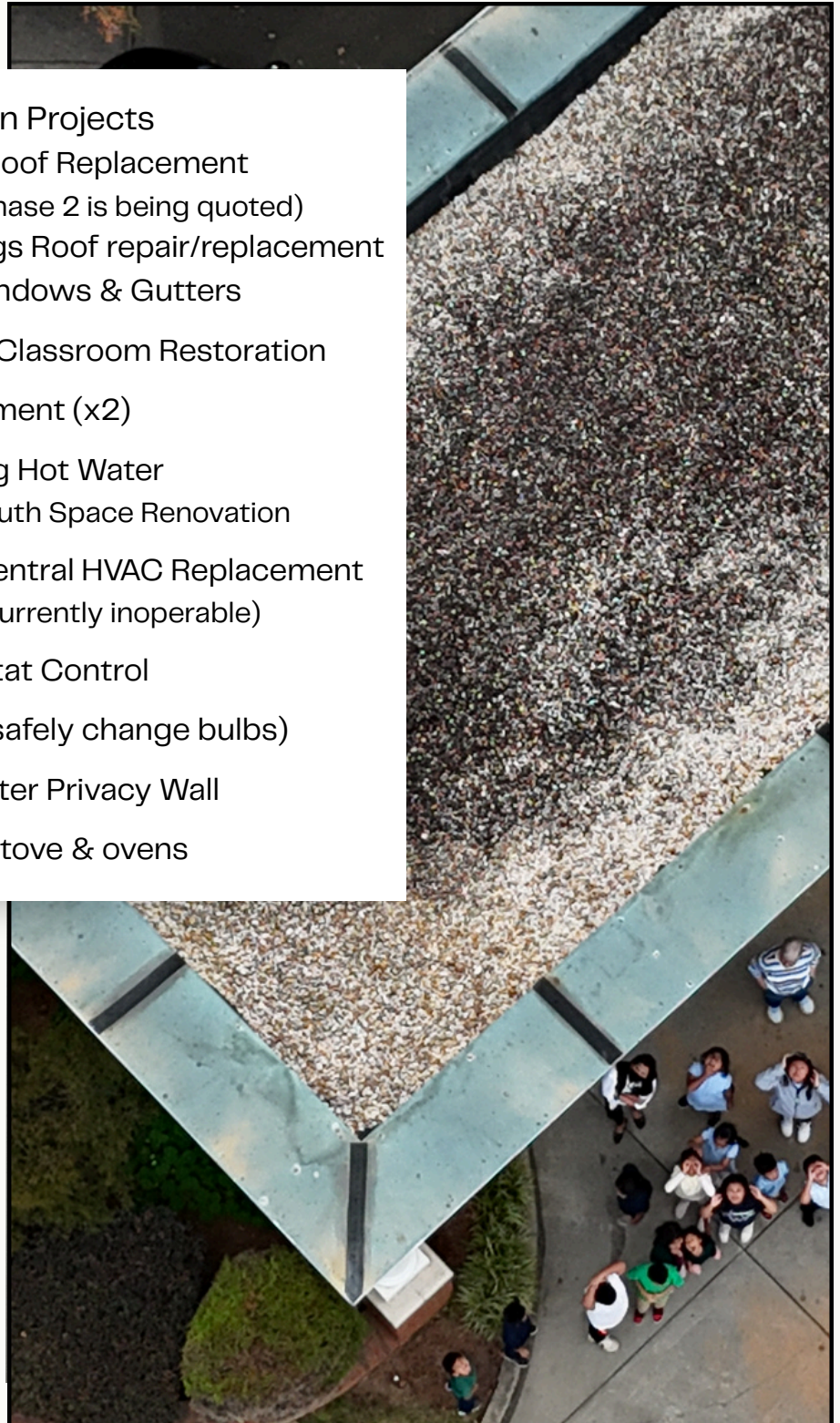
Scissor Lift (so we can safely change bulbs)

Rebuild the Dumpster Privacy Wall

Kitchen: replace stove & ovens

We want you to understand and believe in these repairs as much as we do! Thank you for your gifts to the Building a Firm Foundation campaign. We appreciate your stepping in to keep our church and its missions alive for many generations to come.

—Kirk Maassen, Property Chair





Did you know our church campus is comprised of five connecting buildings with over 70,000 square feet, ranging in age from 3-plus to 18 decades old?

We already have had to replace the flat roof over our heads in the 33-year-old Speed Building, which has exceeded its life expectancy by 8 years. We soon will replace the flat roofs over the Speed Building portico and drive-through, which have dry rot. The very leaky roof over the Holland Building, which is estimated at about the same age, will be next.



Our 24 — yes, 24 — heating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, including 2 boilers, keep our enormous spaces climate-controlled around the clock, but one is inoperative and needs a costly condenser coil to adequately cool a counseling center NAMI will establish in the Speed Building's lower floor.

Each of these 24 HVAC systems has individual thermostats and we need to convert all to wifi-enabled electronic thermostats to keep them running smoothly and cost-effectively. The Sanctuary's obsolete HVAC system also must be replaced because of its age and we can no longer replace the freon.

Our 30-year-old appliances—including the stove and double ovens—need replacing for both safety and performance. By doing so, we will be in a better position to serve the needs of our ministries and community.



On her last long trip, Hope, our 13-year-old van (the youngest of the two), didn't make it after a catastrophic tire failure and she had to be shipped back for repairs!

The Youth Group, the FPC ensembles (who bring music and joy to senior living communities throughout the area), and fellowship groups like Jubilee rely on our vans regularly to travel together. We are now in need of ones that offer easier access for all passengers and have space to transport equipment. We have already invested in one "new to us" van, which means we are better able to fellowship together and to serve the community.

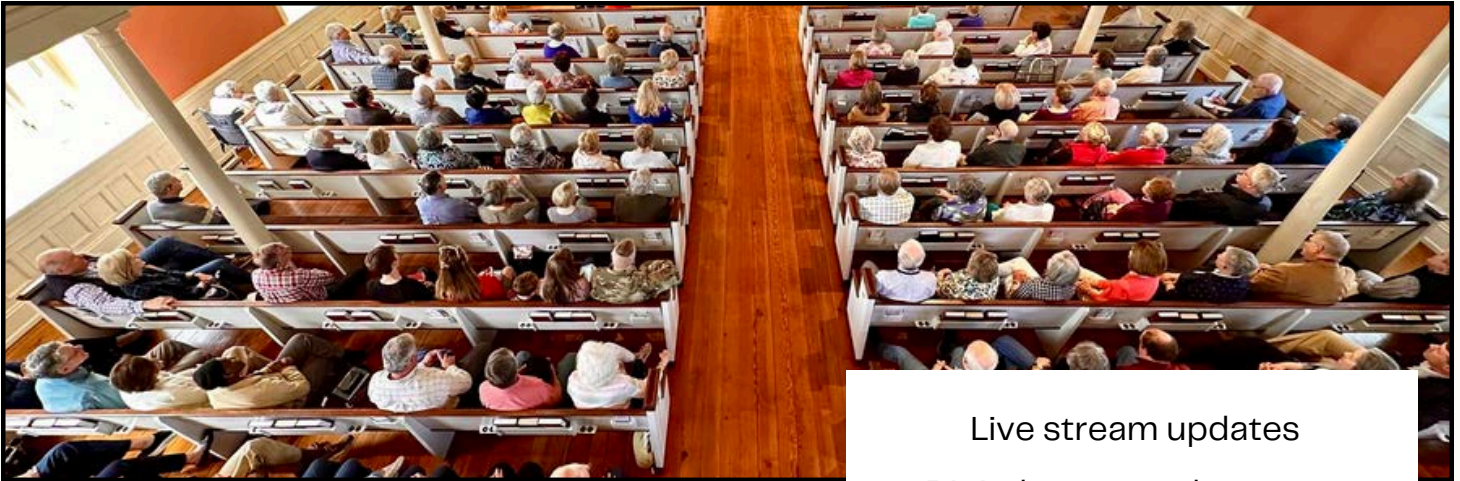


Here are other priority items on our list:

- An indoor scissor lift for the Great Hall to help us change burned-out lights. (We have more than 500 lights around our campus, many of which have been converted to efficient LEDs. Our old scissor lift has to be kept outside, unprotected from the elements.)
- Renovations to children's Sunday school and preschool rooms on the 2nd floor of the Cotten Building.
- A new privacy wall around our dumpster. (The old one is about to collapse!)
- New storm windows for the Sanctuary. (Have you sat next to a window there in winter or tried to look out the window? It's time.)
- A new hot water heater in the Holland Hall basement to accompany the Youth Room renovation.
- Gutter repair and replacement to mitigate water damage on the outside of the Sanctuary.



Worship



Live stream updates

Digital organ replacement

Sanctuary screen update

Live streaming expands FPC's reach beyond geographic limits, allowing members who travel or live far away, to stay connected. It fosters inclusivity and accessibility by incorporating features like captions and transcripts for those with hearing loss, vision impairments, and language barriers. Overall, live streaming enhances community engagement, supports vulnerable members (like those incarcerated) and broadens the Church's ministry.

I was first introduced to FPC Marietta whilst on holiday in Georgia by Joshua and Rachel Price. My friend Dee and I were mesmerized by the entire service. The choir, the campanologists, the message, the service. Amazing! And afterwards, the friendliness of the people astounded me. Right at this moment I knew this was the church for me and mine.

Joshua advised me that we could join the services online from home, and my family and I started watching. I once asked if a particular hymn could be sung and it was! We sang "How Great Thou Art" in Marietta GA with you from London.

My granddaughter Harriet on being asked if she wanted to be baptized, responded "yes, but only at Uncle Josh's church" and so she joined the FPC family, being baptized on July 21, 2024. We had family and friends watching from various places around the world, but, sadly, on this day the streaming did not work. We had plenty of pictures, wonderful memories and I must admit I had a little laugh when asking Rev. Joe Evans if he could repeat the service. It was a beautiful day.

Since then, my family and I gather in our sitting room and watch the service on YouTube. Harriet likes to guess who will be preaching and joins in with the prayers and sings. Along with us, she is learning the word of God from her church family in America, people whose values we wish her to aspire to. Live streaming offers us inclusivity—Harriet can join in, in "real time" or watch the service later, making it easier to fit worship into family routines and still maintain spiritual growth. We watch the baptisms, laugh at the mischievous little ones who play in the background, and we feel as if we are there, amongst you all. Without the streaming service we could only be with you all once a year.

*We want to thank each and every one of you for making the live streaming possible.
With much love, Tula Heyes (London, England)*



In March 1958, a new Presbyterian church began holding worship services on Powers Ferry Road in southeast Marietta. That holy ground—John Knox Presbyterian Church (JKPC)—was made possible with strong support from First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, including many charter members who were “volunteers” from FPC.

Sixty-seven years later, FPC is again supporting JKPC by enabling Sunday morning worship services to be livestreamed into the JKPC sanctuary.

This capability not only helps as JKPC seeks a new pastor, but also aligns with its vision of becoming a “21st Century Sanctuary.” FPC has temporarily loaned its expertise and AV equipment to demonstrate church-to-church livestreaming. Improvements to FPC’s livestreaming through this capital campaign will further strengthen a long-standing, inspiring partnership. —Steve Bennett, John Knox Presbyterian

My husband, Bill and I sold our house and made a move to Winnwood Retirement Community during the “Covid Era” in December 2020. There, an active group of people attended FPC’s virtual church service each Sunday. Soon our Sunday School Class, the Explorers, was using Zoom to have classes, so we were totally reliant on “virtual religious services.” We were delighted to find ourselves in an active community that figured out a way to worship at FPC.

After a move to Atherton Place in 2021, Bill suffered more health setbacks and moved into Memory Care at Arbor Terrace in January 2024. We are now totally dependent on livestream.

Suffice it to say, we are so very grateful for the technology and know-how that allows us to be part of our church. While we would love the opportunity to worship with you in person, we can still hear and feel the presence of God. Just like the Roman road and the Gutenberg Press did centuries ago, our technology allows God’s word and work to spread to those who might be isolated, or worse, never have the opportunity to learn about God’s Word. —Carol Callaway, FPC Elder

We lost Bill between the writing of this article and its publication and grieve with his family, grateful that virtual worship kept him connected to his church in the last days of his life.

When the current organ was installed in the Great Hall, digital chips for tuning, processing, and emulating the sound of a grand pipe organ were in the early stages of development. Yet some of the acoustical qualities available then produced a tonal quality so historical, it sounded as if they came from actual pipes!

Just as we’ve seen significant advancements in other areas of technology (I saw a guy using a remote control to park his car in the FPC parking lot the other day), organ technology has improved dramatically. A new chip design creates sounds that are truly alive, emanating from a state-of-the-art sound system. And the computer controlling it all fits in the palm of your hand.

A new organ doesn’t just improve sound quality, it increases worship participation and draws more organists to explore its tonal possibilities. Imagine our singing, choir, and orchestra with the retirement of an organ that has sung its best song, and the arrival of one opening endless musical possibilities. —Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts





Youth room renovations
in Holland Building &
Cotten Building

Youth room furnishings

Youth room technology

The youth program at FPC is a transformative space where young people are encouraged to take ownership of their own faith journey. Through meaningful relationships, thoughtful discussion, and service-driven experiences, students are empowered to ask big questions, grow in their understanding of God, and live out their beliefs with confidence. It's more than just a youth group—it's a community where faith becomes personal, leadership is nurtured, and each student is equipped to shape their future with purpose, grounded in the love and truth of Christ.

—Meredith Renaud, Youth Advisor



The design for the youth space embodies the sense of community, with the flow of spaces offering moments of compression and release.

The chosen colors and textures of finishes provide a safe and welcome experience.

—Andrew Payne, designer and architect

A well-designed youth room fosters connection, comfort, and creativity.

With space to relax, interact, and grow spiritually, youth are more likely to participate, build friendships, and develop a strong sense of belonging within the youth group. The photographs to the left show the designer's rendering of the youth space and three "sneak peek" photos of the new room!



I have bonded a lot with everyone. No one ever gets left out, either. Everyone is so good at interacting and being social, even getting some of the less social people to open up. It really does feel like a family, and we all collectively make connection with God.

—Callie Morrel, student

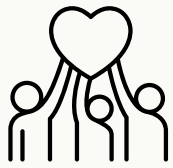


I've met a lot of my friends through youth activities. I've gotten to know youth better by going to the weekly meetings and activities like Montreat and Road Rules.

—Enzo Jensen, student

Youth Group is a great place to get to know people outside of school. I like the games and contests, and we have some really good conversations. I am very excited about the youth mission trip to Puerto Rico this summer.

—Evan Rubio, student



Community



Emmanuel's Village:
Construct & install tiny home

MUST Ministries:
Support emergency housing, supplies &
services during cold weather

Cobb County DFCS & Center
for Children & Young Adults:
support young adults aging out
of Georgia's Foster Care System

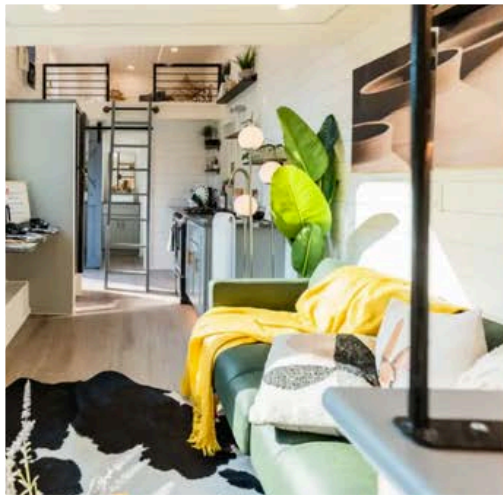
Why include a mission tithe in a capital campaign?

We must repair the physical structure of the church in order to enable it's people to go out and facilitate the mission of the church. Without a new roof on the church, the congregation has no place to worship. Without a place to worship, the congregation has no place to hear the Gospel, which tells us to go out into the world and do the hands and feet work of Jesus Christ and the church.

—Rev. Joe Evans

Emmanuel's Village

The goal of this project is to transition families with children in Marietta City Schools from homelessness into stable housing within the district. While there is no priority order to the mission projects we have decided to financially support, Emmanuel's Village is the largest endeavor we wish to pursue.



A community of 10 tiny homes is proposed to be built on Cobb Parkway. It will consist of a mix of 24- and 32-foot tiny homes with 2 lofts, a full bathroom, galley kitchen, and washer/dryer.

The participating families will be offered housing for several months up to 2 years, if needed. The community also will feature a playground, gardens, and parking spaces.

Partnering organizations in this project include MUST Ministries, Glory Haus, Marietta City Schools, Family Promise of Cobb County, and several churches and construction companies located in Marietta.

After the initial utilities and infrastructure are installed, churches and other partnering organizations will be asked to provide the \$100,000 for each tiny home and connection to the infrastructure.

FPC Marietta also will take on the “adoption” of a family who lives in the home we will be funding as to provide emotional and spiritual support as needed.

The goal of this project is to be completed and have families in homes by the start of the 2025/2026 school year.



Cobb County DFCS and the Center for Children & Young Adults

Young adults that age out of foster care at 18 years old face challenges that most of our children encounter only without the support of a loving family.



These challenges include getting a job, managing personal finances, enrolling in and attending college, affording an automobile, etc.

However, the statistics surrounding young adults aging out of foster care are stark in comparison to those coming from supportive families: 97% of foster care youth end up in chronic poverty; 81% of boys aging out will spend time in jail; 71% of girls aging out will become pregnant before age 21; and 50% of aging-out foster care young adults will be homeless within 4 years.

As a congregation that values commitment to community, we feel as though FPC Marietta can take a larger role in supporting these vulnerable youth by partnering with Cobb County DFCS to host graduation celebrations and provide hygiene kits, gift cards, essential mentorship, and financial support.

We also endeavor to support the Center for Children & Young Adults (CCYA) by providing mentorship, supporting their independent living facility, and providing gifts cards for Uber/Lyft so that these youth can get back and forth to class and work.

The estimated financial contribution from the Building a Firm Foundation Mission Tithe is \$40,000.





MUST Ministries

MUST Ministries houses homeless individuals and families throughout the year at its facility in Cobb County. However, when we experience extreme cold and hot weather, there are 269 emergency beds available in Cobb County and 136 of those are provided through Hope House in affiliation with MUST. When these beds are all occupied, homeless individuals are pushed to a network of emergency shelters throughout the county.

FPC provides transportation between Hope House and the overflow shelter at Transfiguration Catholic Church. The BFF Mission Tithe will fund the additional costs associated with MUST and other emergency shelters when they are forced to operate under these extreme conditions.

The average additional cost per person per day is \$50. Our goal is to provide financial assistance for these organizations so that they might cover their costs for security services, meals, clothing, etc.

Our estimated financial contribution from the Building a Firm Foundation Mission Tithe is \$35,000.



TOTAL MISSION TITHE GOAL \$175,000

We have a responsibility, as Christians, to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Our decision to support these worthy organizations and service projects through our financial gifts and individual talents provides a positive example of how First Presbyterian Church of Marietta is taking a leadership role in our community. We humbly ask for your support in this mission.



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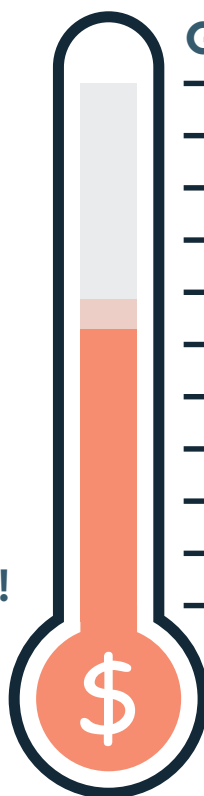
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PLEASE JOIN THE
CHALLENGE TO
REACH OUR GOAL!



GOAL: \$2 MILLION

\$1,115,918.35 PLEDGED

\$1,016,047.87 RECEIVED

as of 5/19/2025