Gather Us In
HERE IN THIS PLACE

Christ Presbyterian Church
530 Tuscarawas Street, West
Canton, OH 44702
Phone: (330) 456-8113
cantoncpc.org
Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

“Here in This Place” – Hymn No. 401
Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal
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Over the decades Christ Presbyterian Church has become known throughout the region for gathering people in for deep and meaningful worship. Out of that has grown strong programs of teaching, mission, prayer, and fellowship. As we move further into the twenty-first century, worship remains at the core of who we are and what we do, and continues to nurture our vibrant life together. Here in this place, we are still gathering in!

Each congregation met the challenges of their time with building updates and expansions of 1870, 1912, and 1951. Those updates and expansions are serving this congregation well. Now, as we approach our 200th anniversary in 2021, we find ourselves challenged to consider how our space will serve, not only us, but generations to come. Today we are called to re-imagine our building:

- for gathering in people for worship who deeply value congregational participation, liturgy, and the Gospel proclaimed in Word and song in an environment that fosters community;
- so that people of all ages and abilities who desire to gather in are able to park, enter, and navigate the church with ease and equality;
- to greet all people who gather here with the warmth and security Christ offers to us.

In short, the call is to honor our Reformed tradition and respect the beauty of our building even as we re-imagine the space so that all generations that will gather here are welcomed into an environment that focuses the body, mind, and spirit on God’s grace, Christ’s call to discipleship, and the Spirit’s urging to serve.
This Brochure will help you better understand the specific calling of Christ Presbyterian Church: how we, together, can ready ourselves for a vibrant present through our contributions to Stewardship 2019/2020. It is with these gifts that the church is able to provide for its staff, and sustain its ministries not only to members of this congregation but to the community of brothers and sisters that surround us. This Brochure will also help you to understand how we can prepare generations to come for a vibrant future. Our fundraising goals are substantial, yet the words of Jesus continue to resonate in my heart and soul: “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” I ask you to consider the awe-inspiring challenge and opportunity that God gives us here, and I pray you will join me in making sacrificial gifts that speak of the grace of God ever active in your life.

In Christian love,

Dave
Pastor Dave
Several months ago, Zev Rosenberg taught a series in Westminster Hall on Torah – the first five books of the Bible. One Sunday, he focused on passages in Genesis where God spoke to Jacob and said: “I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you, and kings will come from your body. The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you. Then God went up from him at THE PLACE where he had talked with him. Jacob set up a stone pillar at THE PLACE where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. Jacob called THE PLACE where God had talked with him Bethel.”
It suddenly became clear to me that this event – God speaking to a human person like me – was monumental and my mind has been greatly consumed with the question and personal meaning of THE PLACE. It helps me understand the passion Jews have for their PLACE, their temple.

And it quickly became clear that THE PLACE where God thoughts seem to go beyond my hearing and into the very depths of my being is this PLACE, Christ Presbyterian Church.

That THE PLACE is critical to Biblical understanding was made clear when I did a little research – with the help of my Bible app – and learned that THE PLACE is a point of reference in the Old and New Testaments at least 149 times.

THE PLACE – THE PLACE – THE PLACE

It is in this PLACE that we worship regularly.

Like Jacob of old, this is THE PLACE where God speaks to each of us at different times, in different ways, and for different purposes. It is, in a real sense, our Bethel.

Yes, THE PLACE is critically important – and THE PLACE for many of us is Christ Presbyterian Church in a PLACE called Canton.

“And it quickly became clear that THE PLACE where God thoughts seem to go beyond my hearing and into the very depths of my being is THIS place, Christ Presbyterian Church.”

John Mulligan
What are we trying to accomplish; what is our goal?
A We seek to re-imagine and fully equip our church space to better serve as an inviting place for the seeker and the sojourner, to better serve those in need, and to partner with others in faith and ministry... community servants/activists, government officials/employees, and first responders who do their work in and around Canton.

Improved accessibility into and through our church has been identified as a high priority – briefly, what is being planned to address this concern?
A Initial plans include the installation of a covered entrance, an elevator, and additional ramps throughout the church’s interior. Furthermore, a relocation of the administrative offices to a location near the west (main) entrance to the church is also in the initial plans, which should add increased security. None of these initial plans in any way negatively impact our ability to accommodate ministry partners, e.g., Tiqvah, and other guest groups. In fact, these changes will enhance our ability to accommodate them.

What is our campaign goal; how much of an investment will this require of us?
A A goal of $2.5 million has been set for this project. The budget for this effort will ultimately be contingent upon the generosity of our congregation as evidenced by the overall response to our Gather Us In Campaign. Based on our fund raising consultant’s firm’s past 20 years of experience; the consultant’s analysis of our church’s financial reports; and the level of buy-in already present, as demonstrated by church members’ comments offered during the firm’s generosity audit, our church has the necessary generosity potential to fund many of these objectives.

Will we be able to designate that our gift be used for a specific architectural change or ministry?
A The architectural changes made to our church will be based on priority of ministry need, as identified by the order of our objectives, and the...
response to our Gather Us In Campaign. Assuming that we attain our generosity potential, designated gifts may be honored. However, if the overall success of the project requires a redirection of some of those gifts, we may come back to you with alternative requests.

Q **Will our gifts to this project be considered as charitable contributions, and may they provide us with certain tax advantages?**

A Perhaps, as contributions will be made to Christ Presbyterian Church. However, there have been significant changes made to the Internal Revenue Code in the past year. So it is always best that tax experts be consulted in these matters. Those age 70 ½ or older may designate gifts to this project as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD’s). Many IRA’s are eligible for QCD’s. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCD’s can be counted toward satisfying required minimum distributions (RMD’s) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Also, QCD’s don’t require the taxpayer to itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means one may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving. Again, it is always best that tax experts are consulted in these matters.

Q **What are the significant dates for our Gather Us In Campaign?**

A 04/21/2019 (Sunday) – Campaign officially begins.  
05/05/2019 (Sunday) – Start of week during which advanced commitments may be made.  
05/19/2019 (Sunday) – Pledged commitments received during worship.  
06/02/2019 (Sunday) – Rejoice in the results.  
06/09/2019 (Pentecost Sunday) – First Fruits Sunday to receive initial gifts.  
2020 and 2021 – Construction

Q **Over what period of time can we make our contributions to meet our pledge?**

A 3 years – 06/09/2019 to 06/30/2022

Q **At this time of the year, is the church conducting both its Annual Stewardship Campaign and a special Gather Us In Campaign for the Spirit and Space project?**

A Yes, the church is conducting its Stewardship 2019/2020 Campaign and the Gather Us In Campaign.

Q **Who can we contact if we want more information?**

A Refer to the church’s Home Page, and click on the Spirit & Space icon for more information. You may also contact Mr. Jerry Norton, chair, Spirit & Space Team at gs_lmnorton@juno.com or call (330) 497-2771.
Generous Giving

HOW TO DISCERN YOUR COMMITMENT

Determining how much to commit to the Gather Us In campaign is a personal choice. No one can make that decision for you. As you prayerfully discern, we encourage you to:

Reach out to God.
Prayerfully seek God’s guidance as you make your commitment decision.

Evaluate your resources.
Truly consider everything God has put under your stewardship.

Nail down the specifics.
Determine specifically how your resources can be used to compile a generous contribution.

Educate yourself.
Consider “out-of-the-box” ways that you can increase your contribution.

Walk by faith.
Determine your best commitment and trust God to help you successfully fulfill it.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO FOLLOW

Practice Priority Budgeting
Many families may choose to rearrange their financial priorities. By identifying “unnecessary or less important” expenses that are currently in the budget, the family may free up funds that can become part of their Gather Us In commitment.

Redirect Present Expenditures
Some families may have short-term expenditures or loans that will soon be settled. Once these expenses are paid off, the funds, which are already a part of the budget, can be redirected to the Gather Us In campaign.

Increase Giving with Increased Income
Sometimes a family may be aware of an expected bonus or an upcoming increase in income. These families can choose to plan on including these increases in income in their total Gather Us In commitment.

Donate Assets
Some families may have stocks, bonds, or other securities that have appreciated in value. These assets can be included in their Gather Us In commitment. There are potential tax advantages to this type of transaction. Therefore, before making a contribution of this type, we encourage you to consult your CPA, tax attorney, or financial advisor. You may also wish to consider the church in your estate planning.
ONE LAST CONSIDERATION

Making a contribution to Gather Us In is not primarily about giving money to the church. It is about taking an active part in the effort to bring about the VISION God has given us. It is about making an offering that will be pleasing to Him. Before your final decision is made, evaluate the commitment you are planning by considering these questions:

- Does the amount I am contributing require me to trust God?
- Does the amount I am contributing represent a genuine sacrifice for God?
- Does the amount I am contributing accurately express my level of thanks for the ways Christ and His church have blessed my family?

GET CREATIVE!

Some families may seek more creative ways of securing funds to include in their Gather Us In commitment. For instance:

- Sell some collectibles (declutter) you’ve had for a while and donate what you receive for the items.
- Go out for dinner one less time per month and donate the savings to the campaign.
- Get a part time job and contribute your income from that position.
- Turn a hobby into a sales venue and contribute the profits.
- Give up certain indulgences like “gourmet coffee” or “sweets” and contribute the savings.
- Look for opportunities to earn “extra” money that can be included in your donation to the Gather Us In Campaign.
WAYS OF GIVING

Offering Plate Contributions

In your offering envelope, include your Gather Us In contribution check (Note: write “Gather” on the memo line) along with your Stewardship 2019/2020 pledge check (Note: write “Pledge” on the memo line). If you combine your contributions using one check, indicate on the memo line how much is to be allocated to the Gather Us In Campaign (“Gather”), and how much to Stewardship 2019/2020 (“Pledge”). If you do not use Numbered Offering Envelopes, you may use a pew envelope to make your Gather Us In Contribution. Be sure to write your name, the date, the amount of the contribution and “Gather” on the envelope.

Online Contribution

Our Online Contribution page includes the option to contribute to the Gather Us In Campaign.

FIRST TIME
I have not yet given to God through CPC, but I want to take this step.

INTENTIONAL
I consistently give to God through CPC, but I want to accept the challenge to become a tither.

TITHING
I faithfully give 10% of my income to God through CPC, but I sense God calling me to do more.

OCCASIONAL
I give to God through CPC, but I could be more consistent.

EXTRAVAGANT
I give beyond my tithe to God through CPC and continue to look for more opportunities to practice generosity.
Appreciated Securities
You may choose to contribute stocks, bonds, or other securities as part of your contribution to the Gather Us In Campaign. There are potential tax advantages to this type of transaction, but there are also potential penalties. Therefore, before making a contribution of this type, we encourage you to consult your CPA, tax attorney, or financial advisor.

“Over and Above” Giving
The effectiveness and success of Gather Us In depends on the members and friends of Christ Presbyterian Church making gifts “Over and Above” their current level of giving to the Stewardship 2019/2020. The most appropriate path to increased giving is the spiritual path: We set our hearts on things above. Our financial priorities are then guided by our spiritual priorities.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY...
Here are just a few examples of how a small change could make a very large difference over the course of three years!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>AVG. COST</th>
<th>156 WEEKS</th>
<th>75 FAMILIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cup of Coffee</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$468</td>
<td>$35,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Large Pizza</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$2,340</td>
<td>$175,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Round of Golf or Mani/Pedi</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$6,240</td>
<td>$468,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECTED COSTS
TOTAL THREE-YEAR GOAL
$2,500,000

= $250,000 TITHE TO CPC (MISSION FUNDING @10%)

+ $230,000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (ARCHITECT, ENGINEERS, ACOUSTICIAN, PROJECT MANAGEMENT)

+ $1,800,000 CONSTRUCTION (REHAB, NEW CONSTRUCTION, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT)

+ $220,000 CONTINGENCY (FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS NOT ANTICIPATED)
WE CAN DO THIS.  HERE’S HOW.

A project of this size necessitates special fundraising and over-and-above giving by the members of our church. We will talk more about that in the weeks ahead, but this is something we can do! The table below is a sketch of what it will take to accomplish our goals in the Gather Us In campaign.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gifts Needed</th>
<th>3 Year Commitment</th>
<th>Approx. Weekly Gift</th>
<th>Approx. Monthly Gift</th>
<th>Approx. Yearly Gift</th>
<th>Gift Level Total</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>$1,282</td>
<td>$5,556</td>
<td>$66,667</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$321</td>
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<td>$16,667</td>
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</tr>
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<td>$224</td>
<td>$972</td>
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<td>$6</td>
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<td>$334</td>
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<td>$500</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>$167</td>
<td>$16,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$2,500,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commitment Example

After prayerfully considering all the Lord has given them, a member family decides it can commit $14,000 from a savings account. They have an old painting that they can sell for $1,600 and then give that money as part of their first gift. They know that the wife always receives a bonus of at least $1,200 each year that they could commit for the three years of the campaign. Finally, the family wants to step out on faith to commit $75 per week above their regular tithes. This member family’s worksheet would result in a commitment of $30,900.

Current Gift
$15,600 given for Pentecost First Fruits Sunday

Incremental Gifts
$75 x 52 weeks x 3 years = $11,700 given over 3 years

Future Single-incident Gifts
$1,200 x 3 = $3,600 given as bonuses are received

Total Commitment to Gather Us In
$30,900

Commitment Card Example:

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF CARD

Stewardship 2019/2020
In grateful recognition that all one’s time, treasure and ability come from God, we/I pledge a TOTAL of

$______________________________
to the July 2019-June 2020 Stewardship Campaign

Please indicate giving frequency:

___ Weekly
___ Monthly
___ Quarterly
___ Annually

☐ I would like to receive offering envelopes

We/I want to help fulfill the Gather Us In vision by giving over and above my/our regular offerings

My/our TOTAL gift to the Gather Us In Campaign

$______________________________

Weekely x 156 weeks
Monthly x 36 months
Annually x 3 years
Other

Please bring this card with you to COMMITMENT SUNDAY, May 19, 2019 or return it to the church in the enclosed envelope.
“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”

Ephesians 3:20a
Week One
Your Only True Treasure

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

Read: Matthew 6:21

Apply: Jesus here tells us the most important lesson about money. Our heart, our desire and hope, is tied closely to our treasure. Our money and our heart go together. We all know that, of course, to some extent. But when Jesus calls our attention to this part of our character, he confronts us.

He alerts us to the powerful tug that material wealth possesses, an allure that makes us do and act and believe contrary to our Christian confession. We say that we live for heaven. Our pocket book shows us what we really live for. He calls us to examine where we place our money and our heart: earthly pleasures that fade away or eternal kingdom investments that last forever.

1. Where is most of your treasure? Is that where your heart is?
2. When you give, does that frighten you or excite you? Why?

Pray: For a renewed heart that tells treasure what to do, not more treasure that tells your heart what to do.

Do: Look at your bank statement and your credit card statements. Specifically, where does most of your money go? Are those your priorities?

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Week Two
The Motive

“I want to test the sincerity of your love. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” -2 Corinthians 8: 8, 9

Read: 2 Corinthians 8: 1-15

Apply: In one of the first recorded church fundraising letters in history, Paul appeals to one single motive for giving: the grace of Christ. Christians don’t give because they should (although they do) or because it frees their life from the idolatry of Mammon (although it does).

Christians give because they know that God gave everything, even his own Son Jesus Christ, for their sakes. Grace is the motivation for giving. Giving is a response to a gift of sheer grace. Just as those who are forgiven much also forgive, those who have been given much (peace with God, eternal life, the love of Christ, the indwelling Spirit, and more) give in return.

The Macedonians understood that grace so much that even in the midst of their own difficult circumstances they happily gave beyond their ability (8:1-4). They begged to give more.

1. Do you beg God to be able to give more than you do now? What is your goal?
2. What typically motivates your giving? Guilt, duty, expectation of God’s blessing or thankfulness?

Pray: For a renewed lifestyle that places a priority on giving.

Do: Give away some cash (not a check) this week, simply because you love Jesus. Don’t let anyone know about it or claim it on your taxes.

Week Three
Outgiving God

“Bring the whole tithe… test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” -Malachi 3:10

Read: Malachi 3:8-12

Apply: God dares you to trust Him in giving. He doesn’t simply command obedience. He shows us how wildly generous he is, how quick to give out his favor. Then he says: if you belong to me, do likewise. Giving is an adventure that is rewarding beyond your wildest dreams. The joy of trust flows into every area of our life: from finances, to career, to the future, to relationships, to hard times. When we live according to our solid grasp of God’s goodness, our whole lives are more free and steadfast. We gain a courage that can withstand trials when we believe that Jesus Christ is committed to fulfilling his plan of redemption in us.

As the late missionary Jim Elliot said, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose.” You can never outgive God.

1. How does this passage address Christians today? How does it address you?
2. What are some ways that God has acted in your life following greater commitment to him and greater offering of yourself?

Pray: For a renewed church that hungers to give and that sees God’s remarkable outflow of his favor.

Do: Take God’s dare. Give away at least ten percent of your pretax income. See what happens.
Week Four
Adventure

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”
-1 Chronicles 29:14

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Apply: David beautifully expresses a prayer of gratitude here in this passage. We too should marvel at even the ability to be generous. It is one of God’s good gifts to us, a sure sign of our understanding of His grace. Giving to God’s kingdom, laying down our earthly treasures at his feet, has no end. It is a roller-coaster ride through life, an adventure. And yet it is an adventure that is safe within the loving arms of the almighty God. Only the gospel of new life in Christ can sustain such a life-long experience. To paraphrase G. K. Chesterton: “Every person wants two things in life: adventure and security. Only in Christianity do you get both.”

1. Where does your ability to be generous come from? Were you always as generous as you are now, or have you grown in that area?
2. How do you live both adventurously and with security as a Christian?
3. As a community, how can we live with a greater sense of adventure?

Pray: For a renewed church that recognizes the adventure of the Christian life, the thrill of being a colony of God’s people in the world.

Do: What is one thing that you are frightened to do for God? Commit to praying for the grace to do that within the next six months. Unite with other Christians (in your small group of friends) to help each other complete your plan.

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Week Five
Praise to God

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion… your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” -2 Corinthians 9:11

Read: 2 Corinthians 9: 11-15

Apply: When we can bless others with our generosity, the praise goes to God. People who receive the generous grace of Christians are able to praise God “because of the surpassing grace God has given” (verse 14). They know that such a financial gift comes from an even greater source – the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Giving is just a part of a lifestyle of generosity. Christians always give of their heart, their time, their hope, and their prayers. As we close this study of biblical stewardship, we reflect on all the different ways that we can give of ourselves. Jesus died for us to set us free from this life of death. By putting to death the old, we take on the new life found in Christ. We trust that God will provide us the strength to be content in all situations (see Phil. 4:11-13) so that we can in turn sacrifice joyfully for the sake of the gospel.

1. Are you content enough in all situations to willingly be generous “on every occasion?”
2. How does giving of your financial resources encourage greater giving of your whole life to God?
3. Looking back, what has been the greatest lesson that you’ve learned? How do you think and act differently toward God?

Pray: For a renewed church, full of people with renewed hearts, that is free to risk everything for the sake of the gospel.

Do: Look for books on Christian stewardship to continue growing in your understanding.

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Most of this booklet focuses on the exciting plans to invest in the future of our church home. In parallel with this important endeavor, the core work for our church for next year is being planned. On Commitment Sunday, we will be asked to help build the legacy of our generation for this place, Christ Presbyterian Church, and to make our pledge to Stewardship 2019/2020.

Thinking about pedestrian stuff like the light bill, snow shoveling, and payroll when all of this other exciting activity is underway is kind of boring. But did you know that 77% of what we pledge to the annual budget goes to salaries and benefits for the talented and caring people we have on our staff?

What would our church be without the outstanding pastoral leadership we have in Pastor Dave and Pastor Michael? And Pastor Eldon, though part-time, is so gentle and caring, and so effective with our homebound and hospitalized friends. How fortunate we are to have Pastor Ben as our camp director with his love for Camp Wakonda and his inspirational leadership.

When he retires in the fall, David Kienzle will have built an amazing legacy of spiritual music and developed musical talent that is unmatched in many churches. We are blessed to have been able to engage the wonderful talents of Heather Cooper who is taking on the role of Interim Organist, and as of July 1, Britt Cooper as Interim Director of Music.

Think about the energy and commitment that Jennie George brings to our children’s programming and to all the other aspects of our church life that she touches. What a blessing she is! Our office staff in Don Weltlich, Diane Nave, and Caryn Smith is likewise very talented and caring, and immensely skilled at the administrative activities that keep this place humming. We have two very capable and hardworking custodians in Kurt Gottschick and Ron Pelger. They keep our church home clean, well maintained, and operational. Our part-time sound technician Brian Ohler, with his application of technology, has brought so many significant improvements to our audio/video experience.

We are richly blessed with these people who guide us, care for us, inspire us, keep us informed, and yes, even entertain us. The church is much more than the building. It is the people, both paid staff and members, who make this place what it is. It is critical that we all support them by renewing or increasing our current pledges in addition to pledging our sacrificial gifts to Gather Us In.

So, as we prayerfully consider how we can contribute to preparing our church home for the next 200 years, please let us also ponder our gift for the day-to-day running of this place in the coming year. Thank you.

Shalom.

In Christ,
Elder Nancy Irving
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21
Gather Us In Campaign Launch

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 - COMMITMENT SUNDAY, MAY 19
A daily Prayer Vigil organized by the Spirit & Space, Spiritual Awareness team

Meditation and Prayer Stations will be located in the Sanctuary after the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services, and at 6:00 PM on Sunday April 28

SUNDAY, MAY 5
A movie, “Ultimate Gift” and discussion will follow

SUNDAY, MAY 19
Commitment Sunday

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
Rejoice in the First Results Announcement

PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 9
First Fruits Sunday

2020 AND 2021
Construction

2021
Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Christ Presbyterian Church