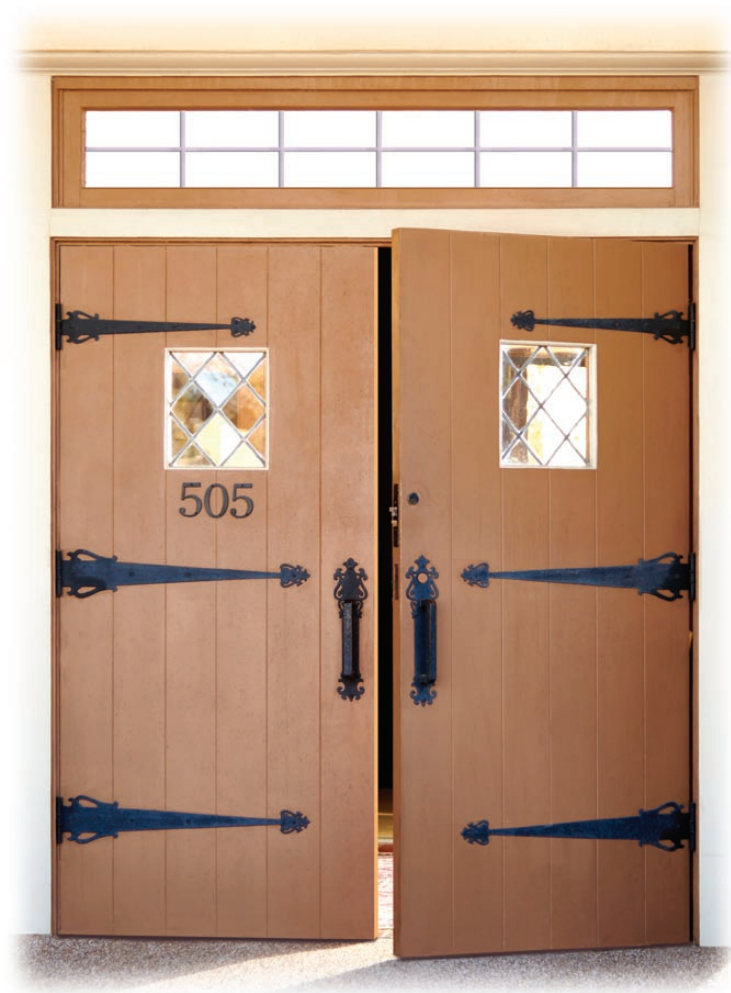




A Place for All



CAMPAIGN GUIDE

First United Methodist Church of Waxahachie



A Letter from the Pastor

Our vision at First United Methodist of Waxahachie is to make not only more, but even better followers of Jesus Christ. We want to *reach out* to people in our community, to help them *connect* with God and our church. We want to provide spaces, opportunities, and ministries to help them *grow* in their relationship with Christ. Finally, we want to *help people live as those sent* — sent into the world as followers of Jesus who continue the process of reaching others with the life-changing message of God's love and grace. We want all persons to be welcomed into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

If we are going to meet the needs of the present and prepare for the opportunities of the future, we need to update and upgrade our facilities. We are decades behind in providing a means for all people to access our building. An elevator is vitally needed. We have added two worship services in the past year (Modern Worship and Alpha Spanish language), but these are held in a converted and borrowed Sunday School class / reception hall.

Our second floor in the main building has not been significantly updated since the 1950's. This is where most of our children's ministry happens; we want our Children's ministry space to reflect the high level of priority we give these programs in our Church. Our building lacks a central gathering spot to serve as a hub for congregational life.

Our **A Place for All** campaign calls us to take the next step toward fulfilling the vision of making and growing disciples. We are not just trying to raise money! **A Place for All** is mainly about our spiritual growth as individuals, families, and a congregation. It's about making ourselves useful for God's purposes. Knowing our church is embarking on this effort, I invite you to commit to praying: "God, what do You want to do through me?"

With God's help, what's outlined above is an achievable goal. This campaign is our next step in accomplishing God's dream for us. Our vision remains about people. A building is merely a tool, but it's a very important tool in accomplishing the vision. Let us pray that God will use us to reach others in the same way God has used others to make us part of God's work and kingdom.

In Christ,


Pastor

Dr. Kevin Tully, Pastor



FUMC church building on College St., 1905 – 1940

A History of Place

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place." (Acts 2:1)

For 170 years and in five different buildings, the people of First United Methodist Church of Waxahachie have come together as a solid community of faith and witness. In 1852, a mere 7 years after Texas announced its statehood, our first building was erected on East Franklin Street. Constructed of clapboards, the church was 16 x 20 square feet. This was a time of great growth in Ellis County and from the moment we opened our doors, we began to outgrow our space.

From its meek beginnings to our current church home, FUMC remains the largest Protestant church in the heart of Waxahachie to this day. The most recent structural addition to our church facilities was in 2000, with the building of the Family Life Center. Built with the anticipation of continued growth, the building included an upstairs area, yet unfinished, that would someday be designed to meet the church's future ministry needs.

In 2012, a comprehensive plan and architectural renderings were produced to improve the current facilities. However, due to cost, the plans were minimized and put on hold. Finally, in 2019, we began to refurbish the first floor of the church building, but other aspects of the plan have been left unfinished.

Just as the apostles gathered and received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, our community gathers in this place to worship. Though a church building is not required for worship, we believe that our building is a tool God uses to bring people together so that they might come to faith in Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

As our congregation grew over time, the physical space in which we gathered also grew. As the needs of our congregation changed, our space also changed. The accessibility of our building and the welcome of our members matter now more than ever. The time has come for our congregation to open the doors of our church even wider to include space for all people to worship and participate in this community of faith. We believe that now is that time to transform our building into **A Place for All**.



A Note from Our Co-Chairs

Dear Church Family,

What an exciting time to be a member of First United Methodist Church of Waxahachie! Over the years, our lives and those of our families and friends have been touched so many times and by so many people at our Church. We are truly blessed. We are growing and touching lives here in our community and across the world. As Campaign Chairs of A Place for All, we know that through God's light and love we will not only expand our space, but more importantly expand our ministries. We ask that you prayerfully consider your role in this campaign by joining us in praying, "God, what do You want to do through me?"

A Place for All is a campaign that will install an elevator at the Family Life Center, create a new worship center and classrooms on the second floor of the FLC, connect the two buildings with a sky bridge, renovate the second floor of the main building, create a new central gathering space for all, and pay off our existing debt. Through your generous support, our church family will live out the call of our mission statement to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our families support this exciting opportunity, and we believe in First United Methodist Church of Waxahachie and all that we can accomplish when we come together as one united church family.

Thank you for all your love of our church and please join us in supporting this exciting campaign.

Mike and Nancy Fenton

John and Janet Thornhill



*From left to right:
Mike & Nancy Fenton and
Janet and John Thornhill*



Campaign Leadership Team

Pastor:

Dr. Kevin Tully

Co-Chairs:

John & Janet Thornhill and Mike & Nancy Fenton

Coordinator:

June Bergeron

Strategist:

Don Smith, Horizons Stewardship

Advance Commitments Team Leaders:

Jim & Linda Beller | Kyle & Jennifer Beller | Mike & Liz Tull | Brad & Lorinda Yates

Affinity Groups Team Leaders:

Lee & Stacey Auvenshine | Rev. Val Stewart | Patrick & Becky Wilson

Celebration Team Leaders:

Mackey & Margaret Morgan | John & Michelle Wray

Communication Team Leaders:

Kelly Monson | Lydia Sims

Gratitude & Ministry Team Leaders:

Stephen & Felicia Bumgarner | Andy Truex

Lead Gifts Team Leaders:

Jerry & Shirley Chapman | Greg & Shan Nehib

Prayer Team Leaders:

Nick & Kayla Hester | David & Peggy Linguist | January Moore | Stan & Priscilla Parker

Reach Team Leaders:

Mike & Tina Cain | Rev. Val Stewart

Response Team Leader:

January Moore

Students & Children Team Leaders:

Stephen & Felicia Bumgarner



An Accessible Place

We're concerned that persons living with disabilities cannot access our second-floor education rooms. In the past year, we experienced firsthand the need for an elevator, as children in wheelchairs were unable to get to our second floor to participate in the children's ministry programs provided for them. A second floor available only by stairs means the area is inaccessible to some adults, as well. Providing access is a moral issue, not merely a legal mandate. Our planned elevator will be located in the Family Life Center and a skybridge will connect the two buildings, providing access to the second story of the main building and the Family Life Center. The elevator and skybridge are integral to our plans for the second priority of our **A Place for All** campaign: creating a modern worship and presentation venue on the second floor of the FLC.

A Worship Place

Over the past year, we expanded our ability to share Christ with our community. The Alpha (Spanish-language) service and the Modern Worship service attract different crowds than those in our traditional services. We now have four worship services each Sunday. Fidelis Hall has worked thus far as a worship space for these new services, but our Modern and Alpha services will soon outgrow their current venue, and we'd like to return Fidelis Hall to a place for funeral meals, receptions, and other more traditional church gatherings. **A Place for All** will create an attractive and functional space in the upstairs of the Family Life Center to house these two worship services, and will serve as a location for concerts, lectures, and a multitude of other gatherings. The upstairs will also have classrooms, restrooms, etc. When the FLC was completed in 2000, the upstairs space was left unfinished in hope that it would someday be needed – and that need is *now*!



A Gathering Place

The need for a "hub" of congregational life has never been greater. Currently our building lacks a central gathering space that draws everyone together before, after, and between worship services. The vision of **A Place for All** includes a central gathering area between the main building and Family Life Center. When the second floor of the Family Life Center comes online in the ways described above, that building will naturally become a more active area on Sunday mornings. The area between the two buildings will become the main place for gathering where people from all four worship services and Sunday school classes can mingle and socialize. It will also be an area where a variety of events can take place including meals, concerts, receptions, and special worship gatherings.

An Inviting Place

The second floor of our main church building, which is largely devoted to children's ministries, has not been renovated in decades. This area currently has original flooring, cinder-block walls and drop ceilings from the 1950's. We want the skybridge from the modern worship venue on the second story of the Family Life Center to lead to modern and inviting spaces for our children's ministry and adult classrooms in the main building.

A Debt-Free Place

The Phase 1 campaign from 2017 provided much-needed parking, outdoor lighting, needed air conditioning replacement and a more attractive front of our church property. The remaining debt from that campaign is \$669,000, with over \$60,000 going to principal and interest each year. Wiping out this debt means more ministry and service in the name of Christ.

A Place for All

Right now, our church is experiencing a growing momentum in our ministry. The timing could not be better to feed upon that energy and desire for inclusiveness in our church to launch this Capital Campaign. With two new congregations sharing our worship spaces, our church is growing and reaching new people for Christ, and the completion of these building projects will allow us to do even more. In Ephesians 2:20-22, Paul writes about how Christ brings people together as believers. He tore down our divisions to make us one family under God. Our church is *"built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."* With your involvement, help and support, we can position our church to welcome even more people into our family in the future, as we seek to create this dwelling place for God, **A Place for All**.





A Worship Place

A Place for All will create an attractive and functional space in the upstairs of the Family Life Center to house worship services, concerts, lectures, and a multitude of other gatherings.



A Gathering Place

The area between the two buildings will become a place where people from all four worship services and Sunday school classes can mingle and socialize.



An Accessible Place

Our planned elevator will be connected to the Family Life Center and a skybridge will connect the two buildings, providing access to the second story of the main building and the Family Life Center. In this image, the elevator will be in the corner of the building marked with the cross and flame.

A Place for All Campaign Projected Budget*

List of Priorities in Order of Importance	Cost Estimates
Finish out second floor of Family Life Center (includes classrooms, worship space, restrooms, etc. - approximately 12,000 sq. feet.)	\$1,800,000
New Elevator, elevator shaft, two sets of stairs, elevator well, and sky bridge	\$1,088,000
Refurbish and update existing second floor, main building	\$250,000
Porte Cochere, Pergola, and Outdoor Gathering Hub	\$418,333
Total Renovation Costs	\$3,556,333
Debt Reduction	\$669,000
Total Including Debt Reduction	\$4,225,333

We will undertake projects in the order of priority listed above and will remain within the amount of pledges received.

*Cost estimates are subject to unforeseen economic variables.

FAQ

We've done without an elevator this long. Why do we need one now?

Providing accessibility for all people is a moral issue. We want all people to have access to what we offer in Christ's name. Our faith calls us to a compassionate response and service to all.

If there was debt left over from our last improvement project, won't there be more debt left after this one?

No. The last project, though rightly called a "capital campaign," was done in-house and was a fundraising effort to pay for a pre-determined project to be completed regardless of money raised. We will limit expenditures for this campaign to the amount pledged by our people. If this means we are unable to complete all five facets of the **A Place for All** vision, we will focus on the top priorities.

Won't the outdoor gathering area be unusable in inclement and severe weather?

Yes. But mornings in Waxahachie are pleasant about 9 months out of the year, and the average number of rainy days is small. The space will function as a hub for many other types of gatherings besides just Sunday mornings. While it is not included in this phase of our planning, the possibility exists that it may become a covered space at some time in the future.

Can I shift my pledge to the regular, ongoing budget of the church to this campaign?

We ask that you don't. This campaign seeks to raise funds in addition to our normal operating expenses. It's important that we continue to fund our present mission and ministry.

Will the elevator and improvements to the Family Life Center affect the operation of our Funday School Preschool?

Yes, but only one or two classrooms. We will seek to make best use of Funday School's scheduled breaks, but at least a couple of their classes will be displaced for a time. We will do whatever is possible to help their ministry to continue to operate.

When will the work begin? When will it be completed?

There are several next steps, in this order: finishing architectural drawings with input from our staff and church leaders, gaining permits, receiving competitive bids, and then completing the work. Most of these can be done in short order, over the next couple of months. Supply-chain and building materials acquisition are matters beyond our control. If all goes well, we expect to begin within three months of the capital campaign completion and hope to complete the work within 10 months' time.

Will the work impact our regular, ongoing ministries? Won't the upstairs rehab affect the classes that meet up there?

Yes, the work will impact our ministries. However, we will seek to stage the work such that there is always an alternate location for classes to meet. For example, we'll move upstairs classes to the FLC during renovation of their areas and move FLC classes to the main building when that space is under construction.

How much are we trying to raise and how long is the contribution period?

We hope to raise between 2.8-3.5 million dollars or more over a three-year giving period. \$2.8 million is the amount required for the "absolute essentials of elevator, skybridge, and FLC upstairs completion" (items 1 and 2 of the listed priorities on pg. 9). Everything over 3.5 million will go to reduce our existing debt.

What is Your Place in This Campaign?

We are asking you to do three things: Pray, Engage, and Respond

Pray

Pray this prayer: "God, what do You want to do through me?" It is only through God that we will successfully reach our goals through this campaign effort. Please take time to pray deliberately and consider how God wants you to respond. Please accept this window cling as a reminder and thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Engage

We not only desire your prayers for this campaign, but we want your active participation and engagement as well throughout this process. There are multiple opportunities to engage along the way. Commit to coming to worship during this season, join a Sunday School class or bible study, volunteer with your fellow church members in one of our mission opportunities, and attend our many upcoming special Sundays:

February 27th – Gratitude Sunday: We are invited to express our gratitude to God as we consider the ways that God has impacted our lives for the better through our church community

March 6th – Ministry Sunday: We'll celebrate the life-changing ministries of our church and the inspiring stories of how individuals and families have been blessed by God through these ministries

March 27th – Celebration Sunday: We'll hear a special announcement about the status of the **A Place for All** Campaign. An all-church lunch and celebration will be held at 12:15 pm.

April 3rd – Commitment Sunday: Commitment cards will be received during worship as we offer the response God has led each of us to make.

April 24th – Announcement Sunday: We'll celebrate the faithfulness of God and the collective generosity of FUMC Waxahachie's family as we announce the grand total of the three-year commitments received.

Respond

Pray earnestly about how God wants you to give above and beyond your regular ministry in providing a sacrificial gift to help us build **A Place for All**. Boldly and faithfully respond to God's call for your participation. God does not call us to an equal share, but God calls us to an equal sacrifice. Only God can lead you into what would be a sacrificial gift for you. Gifts to the **A Place for All** Campaign are distributed over a three-year giving period.





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