

## From Our Campaign Chairs...

As Powell United Methodist Church reaches its 200-year anniversary, the congregation is buzzing with excitement and anticipation for this momentous occasion. The theme of “Great is Thy Faithfulness” embodies the spirit of unity, faith, and service that has defined the church’s long history. As we reflect on the past two centuries of worship, ministry, and community outreach, we are inspired by God’s continued guidance and blessings upon our church family. This milestone anniversary provides a reminder of the privilege of serving as God’s instruments of love and grace in our community and world. With hearts full of gratitude and enthusiasm, we look forward to celebrating this significant event with joyous festivities and renewed commitment to serving others in the name of Jesus Christ.



As we honor our past, we look to the future, striving to keep our church strong and vibrant for generations to come. To secure this future, the capital campaign, “Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow,” is a crucial initiative aimed at ensuring financial health, vitality, and freedom to pursue with greater vigor the mission of the church with hope of becoming debt-free for the first time in nearly 40 years. By actively engaging with members of the congregation and encouraging generosity, the church can alleviate its financial burden and focus on furthering its mission and outreach programs. This campaign showcases the dedication and commitment of the congregation to secure a solid financial foundation, ultimately allowing for future growth and sustainability. Through strategic planning and effective communication, the church can set ambitious goals and inspire members to contribute generously towards debt reduction. The success of this capital campaign will not only improve the church’s financial health but also bring our congregation together as we invest in our future.

Our church founders had a shared vision and it is a position of strength today at PUMC! Our bright hope for tomorrow can be built as we pray this prayer daily, “God, what do you want to do through me?” We listen for the answer with open hearts as we anticipate the goodness in store for each of us and those we have yet to meet.

In Gratitude,  
Todd Hardesty  
Kathy Perry  
Tom Sieber

### *A Note from Pastor Justin:*

For 200 years, Powell United Methodist Church has been a beacon of faith, hope, and love in this community. Generations before us built this church on a foundation of faith. Now, we have an opportunity to strengthen that foundation for the future.

Our *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign is about more than just paying off debt—it’s about freeing our church to dream bigger, serve more boldly, and make an even greater impact. By coming together, we can ensure that the next generation inherits a church ready to grow, thrive, and transform lives for years to come.

I invite you to join me in this exciting journey. Let’s celebrate our past, grow together in the present, and build a future filled with bright hope.

Pastor Justin

## Campaign Structure and Logistics

### **How long will the capital campaign last?**

The public phase of the campaign will begin on March 9th and go for 5 weeks with Commitment Sunday being on April 6th. Pledges will be collected over a 3-year period. This timeframe allows us to reach our goal while giving members flexibility in their giving.

### **How will the church ensure transparency during the campaign?**

Transparency is a cornerstone of the campaign. Regular updates will be provided through meetings, emails, and reports in worship. Progress reports will keep the congregation informed every step of the way.

### **What happens if we don’t reach our fundraising goal of \$2 million?**

All funds raised will be used to pay down as much of the debt as possible. Every contribution will still have a meaningful impact on our financial future.

## Future Vision

### **What ministries or projects could benefit from resources that would be freed from debt payments as a result of this campaign?**

Based on surveys and feedback from the congregation, we have identified four key areas - Children and Youth Ministries, Mission and Outreach, Worship and Music, and Staff Recruitment and Retention - where additional resources will help better respond to the real needs in our world, invite new people into a relationship with Christ, and ensure that our ministries continue to flourish. At the same time, we recognize that our ministry context will continue to evolve, and by the close of the campaign in three years, we may discover new opportunities and priorities. We are committed to listening to your feedback and following God’s guidance so that every investment aligns with our calling and makes a meaningful impact on our church, our community, and our world.

### **How does this campaign support the long-term vision of the church?**

This campaign positions the church for growth and sustainability, enabling us to respond to emerging ministry needs while ensuring we remain a vital presence in the community for future generations.

## Historical and Contextual Questions

### **How did the church acquire this debt in the first place?**

In short, the church grew and successfully lived into its mission of reaching new people. This growth resulted in the need for expanded facilities to support worship, ministry, and community outreach. To meet these needs, the church undertook three building projects in 1990, 2000, and 2006, with a total cost of \$8,240,000. These projects provided the space and resources necessary to serve a growing congregation and continue the work God has called us to do.

### **What financial steps is the church taking to avoid similar debt in the future?**

The church is committed to responsible financial stewardship, including maintaining a balanced budget, building a reserve fund, and prioritizing debt reduction. This campaign will also strengthen our financial foundation, reducing the need for future borrowing.

# *Campaign Calendar*

March 9: Gratitude Sunday

March 16: Ministry Sunday

March 23: Prayer Sunday and  
Prayer Walk Event

March 30: Generosity Sunday

April 6: Commitment Sunday



## Strength for Today...

We provide many discipleship opportunities for children, youth, and adults to grow together in faith. Hundreds of adults and youth serve God through hands-on ministry and mission beyond our church (locally, nationally, and globally). PUMC preschool is an outreach ministry that ministers to children in our community. We help those struggling to get by in our local community through our partnership with People in Need, Common Ground Free Store, Family Promise, and more.

In addition to our strong community presence, we diligently maintain and improve our facility, ensuring it remains a welcoming and functional space for all who come through our doors. We strive to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, recently completing a significant parking lot project, regularly replacing HVAC units, and more projects to maintain comfort and efficiency. We accomplished these improvements and ongoing maintenance efforts from the annual operating budget without the need for additional financial appeals to our congregation. Our commitment to responsible stewardship allows us to focus on our mission and ministry. As those before us, we strive to be faithful and steadfast to provide a solid foundation for our church today and for years to come.

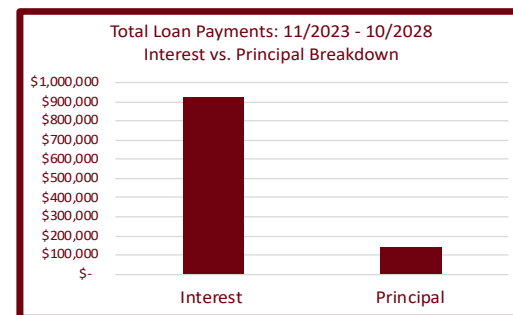


## Our Burden

We have experienced continued growth since we moved to our new church home. With this growth and the necessary expansion of our facilities came debt. The total cost of building projects was \$8,239,209.04. Our current debt is just over \$2.5 million. Our annual payments on that debt are \$212,483 (\$17,707 per month). This is 17% of our annual operating budget.

People have faithfully and sacrificially given so we can connect more and more people to Christ. For nearly 40 years, we have made payments on our building debt. Every dollar we have spent to service this debt is a dollar not spent on other mission and ministry opportunities. We have the strength to remove the cloud of debt that has kept us from our full potential.

Our current loan will need to be refinanced in October, 2028. We would still owe \$2,422,083 at that time, and the refinancing expenses would be about \$20,000. Between November 2023, and October 2028, of the \$1,062,411 we will make in total payments, \$922,060 (87%) will go toward interest, while only \$140,351 (13%) will go toward reducing our loan principal.



The goal isn't just to be debt-free. As we reduce our debt, we will be in a stronger position to partner with God for the next chapter of Powell United Methodist Church's life and ministry. Our community will continue to grow in the future. Will we be set free from our debt so we will have the resources to continue to reach our community with the good news of Jesus Christ?



## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Campaign

#### What is the purpose of the "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow" capital campaign?

The purpose of the campaign is to reduce the church's debt. This will free resources currently directed to interest payments to instead expand our mission and ministry to our community and beyond.

#### How much money are we aiming to raise through this campaign?

We currently owe about \$2.5 million on our debt. While paying off the entire amount would be an incredible blessing, an analysis from Horizons, our campaign consultant, indicates that \$2 million is a reasonable goal for the campaign. Achieving this goal would bring us closer than we've been in decades to being debt-free, paving the way for greater mission and ministry.

#### How will the funds be used?

The funds raised in the campaign will go directly toward paying down the principal on our existing debt.

#### How does this campaign align with the church's 200th anniversary?

As we celebrate 200 years of ministry, we recognize the faithfulness of those who came before us and honor their legacy by ensuring a strong foundation for future generations. This campaign allows us to not only celebrate our past but also invest in the promise of many more years of transformative ministry ahead.

#### How are we paying for our work with Horizons, our Campaign Consultant?

Horizons is compensated through a flat fee, not a percentage of what we raise. We covered the initial feasibility study costs from our church's general fund, and a separate gift will pay the remaining fees for their services. This means that every pledge made during the campaign will go directly toward reducing the principal of our mortgage, ensuring that none of the funds raised for the campaign are used to cover consulting fees.

### Stewardship and Giving

#### How will this campaign affect regular giving to the general fund?

We are asking everyone to consider a special gift to the campaign that goes above and beyond their regular giving. Our annual ministry budget is essential. It sustains our ongoing programs, worship, and community outreach efforts day-to-day. If circumstances limit you to choosing between campaign giving and regular support, we respectfully ask that you continue prioritizing your ongoing giving to the general fund. The general fund is the foundation of our church's ministry, and your faithful support ensures we can continue serving our congregation and community.

#### What is expected from individual families or members in terms of contributions?

We ask every member and family to prayerfully consider how they can contribute. Gifts of all sizes are welcome, and the campaign will provide guidance and examples to help members understand how their generosity can make a difference.

## Debt and Financial Details

### What was the original cost of our buildings?

The total cost of the three building projects completed in 1990, 2000, and 2006 was \$8,240,000.

### How much of the principal of that debt has been paid off?

\$5,696,000 of that principal has been paid off, leaving a remaining balance of \$2,544,000. This does not include the interest payments over the years. This progress reflects the dedication and generosity of our congregation over the years.

### Why does the church have a variable, rather than fixed rate, loan?

Fixed-rate loans are very uncommon in commercial lending, as variable rates are the industry standard. While some variable-rate loans adjust annually, ours adjusts every five years, providing more stability over time. We continue to evaluate our options to ensure responsible financial management.

### What is the current interest rate?

Our current interest rate is 7.38%, which was adjusted in October 2023 as part of the loan's five-year adjustment schedule.

### Could the church have refinanced when rates were lower?

Prior to the scheduled adjustment in 2023, the church had a favorable 4.25% rate. Refinancing earlier would not have provided a substantial financial benefit, especially when factoring in the costs associated with refinancing.

### Are there prepayment penalties on our loan?

No. As a result, every dollar we contribute toward paying down the principal goes directly toward reducing our debt, allowing us to make progress faster.

### How much of our annual budget currently goes toward debt payments?

Our 2025 budget includes \$212,483 in mortgage payments out of a total of \$1,271,200 in expenses. This means that nearly 17% of our annual budget will go toward servicing our debt.

### How did the rate increase from 4.25% to 7.38% affect our monthly interest payment and our loan principal?

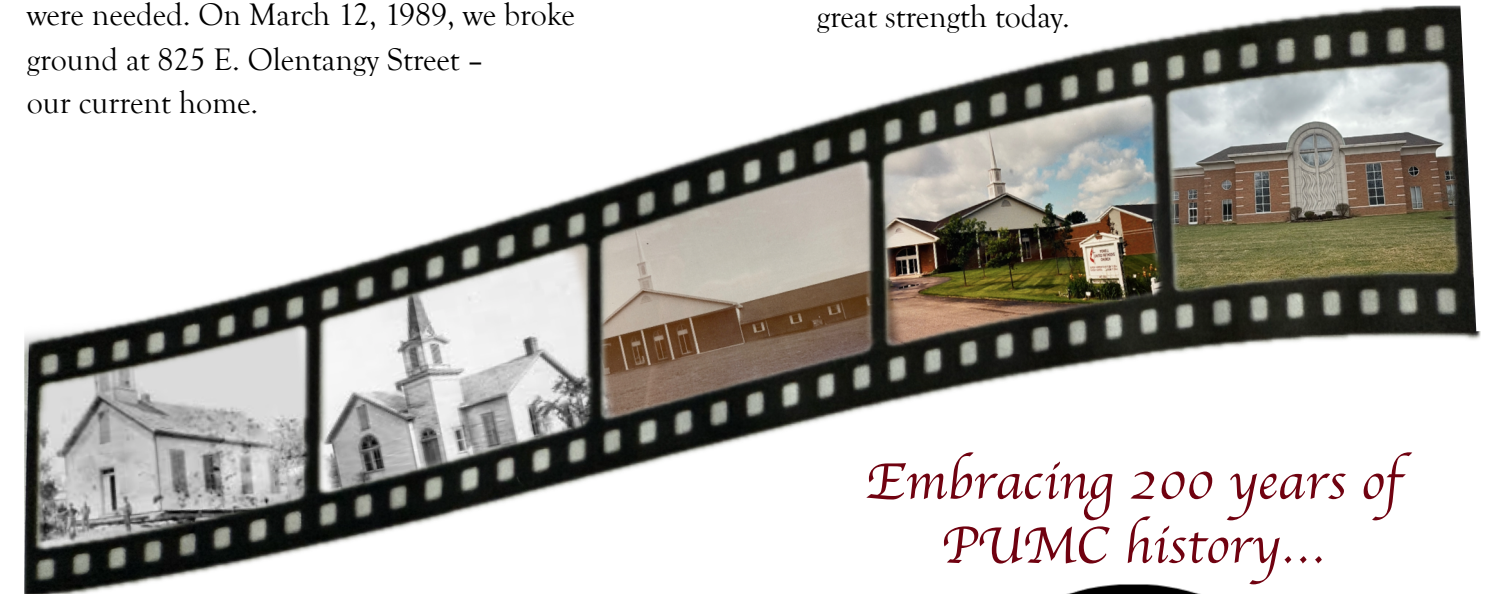
When our interest rate increased from 4.25% to 7.38% in October of 2023, the monthly interest payment portion of our loan increased by 73%, and the principal amount we are paying off each month dropped by 68%. The net result of these higher interest payments and lower principal reductions is that our principal balance which was \$2,562,439 in October 2023 will still be \$2,422,083 in October 2028.

### What if we didn't do a campaign?

On our current payment schedule for the five-year period between November 2023 and October 2028, we will make total payments of \$1,062,411, with \$922,060 (87%) going to interest and \$140,351 (13%) going towards reducing our loan principal. As of October 2028 we would still owe \$2,422,083 that would need to be refinanced, and the refinancing expenses would be about \$20,000.

## Great Faithfulness

For the past 200 years, Powell United Methodist Church has been ministering to the people of our community. Powell UMC has been faithful and steadfast. Early on, our church had about 25 people in worship each week. Their support built the spiritual foundation of our church today. For much of our history, we were a small country church impacting our community as we helped people connect with God and one another. Since its beginnings, the church and community have grown significantly. As this growth happened, the church knew that a new building and location were needed. On March 12, 1989, we broke ground at 825 E. Olentangy Street – our current home.



## Strength for Today...

Our church has remained a strong presence in our community. God continues to help us reach people of all ages, including young children and youth. We average just under 400 people in our three in-person worship services, with another 160 joining us online. This number doesn't include the 60+ children and youth who attend Sunday School each week. Our current attendance is more than 20 times our attendance for much of the time we were in our downtown Powell location. The foundation of faith from those who have come before us have provided us with this great strength today.

*Embracing 200 years of  
PUMC history...*



God has been faithful. God blessed the move with incredible growth. Just ten years after moving into the new church, there was a need for more space. Powell UMC was faithful and in 2000, a wing with classrooms, restrooms, and a music room was added, and we outgrew our facilities yet again. In 2006, our new sanctuary was completed and continues to allow us to connect people to Christ.

*...answering the call to  
impact the next  
200 years.*

# God, what do you want to do through me?

As we journey together through our debt reduction campaign, and as you consider your personal commitment to this campaign, we ask that you join us in regularly praying the prayer that has been created for our campaign by our Prayer Team:

Faithful God, we thank you for the guidance and countless blessings you have given our congregation over the past 200 years. Now, as we embark on our third century, we ask for your inspiration. Help us respond effectively to the opportunities you put before us. Give us a willingness to be generous. Remove any hesitation we have and strengthen our resolve to do more in sharing the love of Christ with our community. We look with hope to the future and we renew our commitment to serve you, trusting your eternal love for us. All this we pray in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Equal Sacrifice...Not Equal Giving

For 200 years, PUMC has been blessed with abundance. We have been blessed with 200 years of ministry, a generous congregation supporting that ministry, and most importantly abundance from God. This year we are celebrating 200 years of connecting people with God. As those who have come before us, we have an opportunity today to deepen our discipleship and expand the ministry of our church. Our financial resources support that ministry.

Equal giving is never the goal at our church and is not the goal of this campaign. Instead, we come together as a church community - each sacrificing to support each other, our church and community, and to achieve God's vision. There is a role in the campaign for every member of the church. Each contribution deepens discipleship and enables us to succeed in the campaign. We encourage everyone to pray to discern God's will for your giving.

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

## Gifts Other than Cash

### WHAT ARE GIFTS OTHER THAN CASH?

- Gifts other than cash include stocks, bonds, annuities, property, and other assets.

### WHAT ASSETS COULD I GIVE?

- Appreciated assets held more than one year, such as publicly traded stocks, mutual funds, bonds, real estate, collectables, and other readily marketable property often provide tax advantages.
- Personal property such as automobiles, jewelry, and other items may also be given. There may be no capital gains tax benefits to these gifts, but the financial and spiritual benefits can be tremendous.

### WHY CONTRIBUTE GIFTS OTHER THAN CASH?

- The tax code is very generous toward this form of giving. Giving the asset directly to the church allows the church to sell the asset, thereby eliminating potential capital gain taxes to the donor. This also results in a larger gift to the church.

### HOW DOES THE TAX BENEFIT WORK?

- Itemized Deduction: The donor is allowed to include 100% of the market value of many of these assets as charitable contributions for tax purposes, if held more than one year.
- Because of its tax-exempt status, the church will receive the full market value, less transaction costs, at the time of sale without paying capital gains taxes.

### WHAT IF I SELL FIRST THEN GIVE THE CASH?

- You may be subject to capital gains taxes thereby reducing the after-tax proceeds from the sale (see example below).

	Sell First	Give to Church
Market Value	20,000	20,000
Cost Basis	-10,000	-10,000
Gain	10,000	10,000
Tax (assuming 25%)*	2,500	0
Church receives	17,500	20,000

\* Federal and State estimate

### HOW DO I GIVE ASSETS, SUCH AS STOCKS, BONDS, AND MUTUAL FUNDS TO THE CHURCH?

#### Asset Transfer Options

1. Contact the church office. We will provide you with the transfer instructions.
2. Contact your broker and request the transfer. You will be provided with stock powers and transfer papers to complete the transfer.

The United Methodist Foundation can handle asset transfers at no cost. If interested in this option, please contact the church office.

## One Approach To Achieving A Three Year Giving Total Of \$15,000

	Week	One Year	Three Years
Increase weekly giving	\$50	\$2,600	\$7,800
Match a portion of one family meal out/wk	\$25	\$1,300	\$3,900
Match cost of one coffee/wk	\$5	\$260	\$780
Match a portion of entertainment cost/wk	\$5	\$260	\$780
Match a portion of vacation budget		\$300	\$900
Match a portion of Christmas budget		\$300	\$900
<b>ONE YEAR TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,020</b>	
<b>THREE YEAR GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$15,060</b>

## Other Giving Strategies

**CASH FLOW GIFTS** Smaller gifts add up! By giving smaller amounts at higher frequencies-weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly large gifts can be reached in smaller steps. Using electronic funds transfers can be beneficial when making these gifts.

**DIVERTED FUNDS GIFTS** Freeing up funds that are currently going to other areas of spending allows a person to increase giving to God's work. Diverting funds from entertainment, dining out, dues, subscriptions, gifts, allowances, or transportation offers lifestyle adjustments that impact one's giving.

**DELAYED EXPENDITURES** Postponing major expenditures such as automobiles, home projects, or trips provides substantial giving opportunities.

**INCOME PRODUCING ASSETS** Interest income, payments from rental properties, or income from other assets provide a source for increased giving.

**SALE OF ASSETS** Sale of major assets, such as a house, car, land, or business provides available income for giving.

**RAISES AND BONUSES** Contributing raises and bonuses are also creative methods that can be used to increase giving.

### SPECIAL TAX-FREE IRA GIFTS

For those aged 70 ½ and older, it is possible to make tax-favorable charitable gifts from IRA accounts. A total of up to \$100,000 per year can be transferred directly from IRAs to one or more qualified charities, such as our church, free from federal income tax. There may also be state income tax savings. For those who have begun taking their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), donations given in this way count toward their RMD for the year of the gift. To donate from an IRA, it is important to make the donation directly from the IRA to the church. For those with check writing privileges on their accounts, this may be the most efficient way to make gifts directly from an IRA. Contact the church office or your tax advisor for more information.



**FREEDOM FROM DEBT** Looking ahead to the next three years, you may discover that debt obligations will be fulfilled. This frees up revenue for additional giving.

**UNIQUE SKILLS INCOME** Some people have marketable hobbies or skills that enable them to give from those new profits.

**CHARITABLE GIVING RESOURCES** Reviewing all charitable donations in light of their impact on the Kingdom of God affords a potential resource for significant giving.

**SAVINGS AND ANNUITIES** Savings for special projects, retirement, or a "rainy day" may offer a resource for increased giving. We often realize that a portion of our savings may safely be given to the work of God's Kingdom through our church.

**CORPORATE GIFTS** Business owners may be able to provide gifts-in-kind that may result in a stronger gift to the church and tax benefits to the donor.

## ...Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Reducing our debt will provide bright hope for tomorrow. Imagine, what are your hopes for the next 200 years of Powell UMC? What would it be, to be set free of debt? What if our annual \$212,483 in debt payments were redirected to ministry? What could we do with those kinds of resources to transform people's lives in the name of Jesus Christ? Imagine the possibilities....



Just as the song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" reminds us, God's provision is new every morning, offering us the strength to meet today's challenges and the hope to envision a future filled with possibilities. We have the strength today to provide financial freedom and a bright hope for tomorrow. 200 years ago, our small congregation of 25 people built a faithful and steadfast spiritual foundation that we enjoy today. We have an opportunity to continue that tradition for the next 200 years.

*"Those who came before us have placed the baton in our hands, and it's our privilege and honor to finish the race."*

Our church will continue to be a beacon of hope where everyone feels welcomed, loved, and empowered to make a difference.



By reducing our debt, we are not just securing a brighter future for our church but opening the door to countless opportunities to live out our mission in transformative ways.



Imagine celebrating our 200th year of mission and ministry by committing to cross the finish line in this relay. Those who came before us have placed the baton in our hands, and it's our privilege and honor to finish the race. Let us dream big and work diligently to reduce our debt to unleash our full potential and transform lives in Jesus Christ's name. Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow—let this be our vision and our prayer.

*This is God's House...and this is our House*

