



**Build.
Gather.
Grow.**

Capital Campaign News
First Congregational Church of Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Issue 2
March 2023

Upcoming Campaign Events

Launch Parties
Through March 26

**Gathering in the Spirit
Event**
March 30

Children's Art Day
Sunday, April 23

**Preaching & Learning
Hour:**
**Rev. Dr. Sheryl
Johnson**
Sunday, April 23

**Advance
Commitments
Event**
Thursday, April 27

All-Church Gala
SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, May 10

Commitment Sunday
Sunday, May 14

Celebration Sunday
Sunday, June 4

Stepping in and Stepping up. Get Involved!

I confess that when I was asked to Chair our capital campaign, I had to wonder, *"Why me?"* This was quickly followed by the thought: *"Why not? Why not say 'yes' to something that's so important in the life of our church?"*

After some thought and more discussion with Pastor Molly, I felt certain of one thing. I was being called to step up in leadership, learning, and commitment. In a similar way, each of us in the church is being asked to challenge ourselves to serve and to give in ways above and beyond the abundant expressions that already occur at FCCB, in so many ways, on a daily basis.

As part of our campaign, I'm hearing amazing stories about the living history of our church, and the ways in which it--and its members--have served the people of this community for generations. I'm also hearing people reflecting on what it means for us to raise our new building and imagine the ways in which we'll enlarge our capacity to gather and grow in and through it.

I have been astonished at how God is working in our midst to make our campaign a reality. Team leaders have stepped up with exceptional talent and enthusiasm, and so many people have already committed their time, effort, and creativity. Perhaps you have stepped up--seeking, volunteering, assisting, and serving. *Thank you!*

I invite you to get involved, and to join us as we embark on this journey together.

Sara Woods, Campaign Chair



“Gathering in the Spirit” Event March 30

**An Evening of Prayer,
Music, Movement, and Art,
Thursday, March 30
6:30-9:30 pm**

This Capital Campaign is not only about dollars and cents. It is a time for us to come together as a community to reflect on and work toward a common vision--a beautiful building that will meet the many needs of our church and community. As each of us prayerfully discerns how we will participate in this campaign, it is also important for us to gather in prayer as a community. We invite you to join your FCCB siblings for an evening of prayer, movement, music, art, and fellowship. We'll share simple refreshments, pray, dance, move, and create as we gather in the spirit. This is an



informal gathering, and you are welcome to drop in at any time and leave when you need to. Dress comfortably so you can move freely as the spirit moves you. Youth and children are welcome.

Dates and Times

March 11, 4 pm
Berkeley

March 11, 7 pm
San Pablo

March 12, 11:30 am
FCCB

March 17, 7 pm
Piedmont

March 21, 7 pm
Alameda

March 25, 10 am (Zoom)

March 26, 8:30 pm
Oakland

Sign up via Realm, on
Sundays at church, or
contact Julie Greer.

Launch Parties Provide Information and Inspiration

As part of our **Build. Gather. Grow** campaign, various folks are hosting small group meetings that will give you the opportunity to hear about the plans and purposes of our Capital Campaign. These gatherings will be held throughout March at a variety of times and locations (*see list, left*).

These meetings will be a chance to get to know one another better, and hear the latest information about our rebuilding process with time for questions and dialogue.



***No financial commitments will be asked for
at these gatherings***

RSVP by **signing up** at church on Sundays, **registering online** through Realm, or visiting the church website at www.firstchurchberkeley/capitalcampaign (which will then link you to Realm). You can also **call or email Julie Greer** with your preferred date/time and the number of guests (Julie.greer@me.com, 415-939-5857 cell).

Progress Report from Moe Wright

The construction of the new community building is continuing, despite the rain delays we have experienced since the beginning of the year. So far we have demolished the old building, and let some of the original foundation remain as a way to reduce costs, as well as to aid in shoring the perimeter of the footprint of the new building. Pilgrim Hall had a full basement level, which has mostly been filled in with imported, compacted base gravel. This step has allowed the excavation and forming of the foundations to proceed, even in wet weather.

All the sub-grade footings have been poured in two stages. The total concrete in place is a little over 200 cubic yards. Now the crew is working on the concrete stem walls, which will hold up the first floor. The building is designed to modern codes so the structure will contain both steel frames and wood shear panels. All of these pieces will be securely attached to the new foundation. If you look through the fence you will see a sea of bolts that will hold our building safely in place.



The general contractor doing this work is Taizan Builders. Misael Taizan leads his small company of mostly Latino workers. They are doing the foundation work, the framing, and the finishes. In addition, they will also oversee the other trades with the help of Patrick Sallee, a seasoned construction manager.

The next big concrete pour will be in early March—and after that the wood frame begins, and we will all get to see the shape of the new building.

A Word about our Logo



*Ever wondered about the origin of our campaign logo? It's based on the **rose window** design for the new building! This rose window design was inspired by the windows in our sanctuary, with a modern twist. Look for this logo design on our campaign communications!*



First Congregational Church of Berkeley
2330 Durant Avenue
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Save the Date!

Plan now for a great celebration with the FCCB family! We'll gather at the Brazilian Room at Tilden Park!

As one of the culminating events in our ***Build. Gather. Grow*** campaign, a Celebration Gala is being planned for **Wednesday, May 10, 6-9 pm**. This event will bring us together for a spirit-filled time of food, fun, and inspiration. Delicious food and a wonderful program are planned.

Look for more information and your invitation to the "Party of the Year" in the coming weeks.

SEE YOU AT THE CELEBRATION!