



**Build.  
Gather.  
Grow.**

*Capital Campaign News*  
First Congregational Church of Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA

Issue 3  
April 2023

## Upcoming Campaign Events

### Preaching & Learning Hour:

**Rev. Dr. Sheryl  
Johnson**  
Sunday, April 23

### Advance Commitments Event

Thursday, April 27

### All-Church Gala *RSVP today!*

Wednesday, May 10

### Commitment Sunday

Sunday, May 14

### Celebration Sunday

Sunday, June 4

## Making Our Commitments— Key Dates to Remember

We're at that point when each of us will soon be invited to offer a financial commitment to our **Build. Gather. Grow.** Capital Campaign—a three-year pledge above and beyond our regular sustaining offerings. As we draw closer to making our commitments to help fund a portion of our new building, celebrate this opportunity to give from what has first been given to you. Our culminating campaign activities include:

### Thursday, April 27: Advance Commitments Gathering

Any member who wishes to make an early, inspirational financial commitment to our campaign is welcome to attend a hosted gathering. Please contact Nick Kukulan to participate.

### Wednesday, May 10: Festive All-Church Gala Celebration 6-9pm, The Brazilian Room, Tilden Park

A night of fun, food, and celebration with the entire FCCB family. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Reserve your space today! (*See details inside!*)

### Sunday, May 14: Commitment Sunday

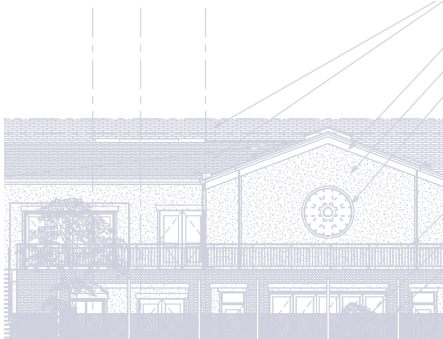
After prayerful consideration, each of us will decide on the amount of our financial commitments to our campaign. Pledges to our **Build. Gather. Grow.** campaign are above and beyond our regular sustaining giving. They may be contributed as a one-time gift or in weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments over the coming three years ending in May 2026. Bring your commitment card to church on May 14<sup>th</sup>—together we will make our commitments in worship then.

### May-June: Commitment Follow-up

Because we hope to have a 100% response to our capital campaign, we will reach out to those who have not made a commitment by May 14<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of these contacts is to answer any questions, provide information, and receive each household's pledge response.

### Sunday, June 4: Celebration Sunday

We will share the results of the commitments received to date and give thanks for God's abundance in the life of our church.



## **“Gathering in the Spirit” Event Enjoyed by Many**

On March 27 many folks enjoyed the wide range of offerings at the “Gathering in the Spirit” event in Loper Chapel, organized by Derek Tam and Nicole Naffaa. All enjoyed much music—singing, drums, guitar—and dance, along with yoga, art-making, poetry reading, meditation, delicious snacks, and more.

Thank you to all who participated in and organized this event!



## **Meet the New Community Building’s Construction Team by Moe Wright**



Our construction team meets every week to go over the schedule and the many details that go into constructing an up-to-date building. Shown in the picture are most of us. Missing from the picture is Lorenzo Llanillo, who is working with me to represent the church. Next to me is Laura Levenberg, project Architect with Siegel and Strain Architects. The big guy in the middle is Patrick Sallee—he is our construction manager and is hired by the church to oversee the whole project. On Patrick’s left is Misael Taizan. He is the general contractor who is responsible for all the construction. His daughter Lailani Taizan is the

project administrator for Taizan Builders. We are all standing in front of one of the forms of the tall stem wall that will hold up the first floor.

Taizan Builders is forming and pouring the foundation with their own forces. They will also do all the wood framing that will start in a few weeks. Patrick Sallee has worked with Taizan for many years and is on site daily to insure quality and coordination. Once the framing is complete this summer, the 20 or more subcontractors will come on site to install the plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and outside and inside finishes. The Taizan team and Patrick will stay on to supervise all that work. Our construction team is focused on getting the best product we can for the money available. We are very cooperative and supportive of one another. The church is not only going to get a good quality building in the end, but also one that will go through a collaborative construction process.



**Reserve Your Spot Today!**  
**Festive All-Church Gala Celebration**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 6-9pm**  
**The Brazilian Room, Tilden Park, Berkeley**

Close your eyes and imagine a favorite celebration in your life. Chances are that memory involves food and a wonderful time with those you hold dear. 149 years ago we first gathered our community. We built the current campus nearly 100 years ago. Members recognized that the building was not only for themselves then, but also served as a legacy for those who would come in the future.

Now, as we provide for our current ministry and create the future of FCCB through funding our new building, we recognize the value and strength of our church family and the many wonderful relationships we share at First Church.

And so, in celebration of all that has been and all that is to come at FCCB, the **Build. Gather. Grow.** Campaign Team is excited to invite you to a Gala event—for you and in honor of you.



**Build. Gather. Grow.**

Come celebrate at

First Church Berkeley, UCC's  
**Festive All-Church Gala**  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
6-9pm

The Brazilian Room, Tilden Park  
Wildcat Canyon Road at Shasta Road  
Berkeley, CA

All ages welcome! Festive attire encouraged! Enjoy abundant food, drink, dancing with a DJ, and socializing and celebrating with friends old and new.

Please RSVP by April 25th on Realm at [firstchurchberkeley.org](http://firstchurchberkeley.org) or contact [gala@fccb.org](mailto:gala@fccb.org) (Event is free; RSVP required)

 First Church Berkeley UCC

*Please mark **Wednesday, May 10** on your calendars as a night of celebrating our history, our current friendships, and our bright future with a beautiful, fun-filled evening. Together, we look forward to refreshment, renewal, and rejoicing within our community as we embrace the many wonderful relationships that make FCCB the vital church that it is. **Festive attire encouraged! All ages welcome!** Enjoy abundant food, drink, dancing with a DJ, and socializing with friends old and new. Indoor and outdoor fun!*

We will provide **childcare at FCCB**, if needed, for kids ages 18 months to 12 years; reservations are required on Realm when you register for the Gala. **Transportation** for those needing assistance will be available via buses to/from FCCB; reservations via Realm are required for this service, as well. (Childcare, transportation, and the Gala, **are free**). To reserve your Gala spot and other services, RSVP through Realm at [www.firstchurchberkeley.com](http://www.firstchurchberkeley.com), on Sundays at church, or email [gala@fccb.org](mailto:gala@fccb.org). *See you there!*

## Successful Launch Parties, and More Q & A

Throughout March we held a series of Launch Parties in members' homes, at the church, and on Zoom to give us an opportunity to learn more about our **Build. Gather. Grow.** Capital Campaign. These gatherings included campaign information, a wonderful video (thank you to Lorenzo Llanillo and all who participated!) featuring commentary from church leaders and members, as well as time for questions and dialogue.

About 106 members of the FCCB family attended. Organizer Julie Greer notes that member Ann Jensen summed it up well. Ann said the launch party she attended was *"filled with in-person intimacy that has been lacking for so long due to covid and fires!"*

Attendees had important questions and comments. Here below are some questions people asked—with answers!

**Q. *Is solar still in the plan? Is it part of the campaign?***

- A. Solar is not an official part of the campaign, but leadership understands that putting solar panels on our new building is a priority. The cost to add solar to the new building is approximately \$150-200k, which we could pay for out of "Grow Goal" funds if we reach the second stretch goal of the Campaign (e.g., raise more than \$1.4m).



**Q. *Do we plan to reach out to people and entities outside of our congregation as part of the fundraising?***

- A. Yes, we are in the process of reaching out to former staff, members who have moved away, tenants, and community organizations who care about our mission and values to invite them to join the campaign. However, we expect the vast majority of funds—>95%—to come from the current congregation.

**Q. *What happens if we don't meet our goals? Will we be in trouble trying to build even the basic building? Will we have another Capital Campaign to bridge the gap, or to add the desired enhancements such as the kitchen, AV equipment, and labyrinth?***

- A. We will not have a second capital campaign to bridge a gap. That is why we are asking people to give their very best gift now, to this campaign. This is the best opportunity we have to fundraise for our present needs and aspirations. Projects will only get more expensive in the future. We feel confident that we will be able to complete the basic permitted building (\$800k) with Capital Campaign gifts. If we do raise funds beyond the \$800k "Build" threshold, we will have to make do with the basic building.

**Q. *When is the building slated to be done?***

- A. We hope to move into the new building in the summer of 2024.

**Q. *Who is the library/workspace meant for?***

- A. Everyone: part-time staff who don't have offices of their own, members and friends, relaxing space for people waiting for others to get out of meetings and programs, and meeting space for organized groups.

**Q. *Will we be renting the space out to outside organizations?***

- A. Yes, we hope to earn at least \$25,000 in rental income annually from the increase in rental space.