

The History—First Farragut United Methodist Church

In 1983 First Farragut United Methodist Church was chartered, becoming the first new church to start in Holston Conference in more than 20 years. One of our key goals was to serve as church family for those who were moving to the Farragut area and did not have their extended family and friends nearby. We began meeting in the small auditorium of Farragut High School and within a few years built what is now Click Funeral Home in Farragut. Significant growth occurred through the years leading to a need for a larger space to house the people of God during worship and small group gatherings. The leadership of the church began seeking guidance as to what God's plans were for FFUMC. Through much prayer, discernment, and sacrifice it was determined that God was leading the church to relocate and build the facility we now enjoy.

After selling the church's original property to Click Funeral Home, purchasing a new site, and building the current facility, the church incurred \$5.7M in debt. Through the sacrifice and commitment of the people of FFUMC the total debt has reduced to \$1.7m. Friends, that is an *amazing* accomplishment! There have been many challenges over the years, including the economic downturn of 2008, five pastors within 13 years, and most recently the devastating effects of a pandemic. Despite those challenges FFUMC remains a vital influence for the Farragut community and fulfills its goal of being "family to families" in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Reality

Yet, the reality is with \$1.7M in debt hovering over us we are hindered in many ways. Despite that debt God has done unimaginable things through you but imagine how much more God could do without the debt. The principal of the current mortgage payment is met through "capital gifts," meaning offerings made above operating giving, and the monthly principal amount is approximately \$10,000. The interest on the debt is around \$5,500 a month and is paid directly from operating giving (the general mission and ministry budget). In total, about \$66,000 a year of our operating budget is directed toward interest. **Imagine how much more we could do to reach our community when the debt is eliminated!** What ministries could we support? How could we meet the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of our community for the sake of Jesus Christ? What families, from youngest to oldest, could we share the love of Jesus with? What facility improvements could we make that we've needed? What technical worship upgrades could we do? The Apostle Paul tells us that God is able to do far more than we could ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). The possibilities are endless!

The Future

The leadership of FFUMC is once again dreaming God-sized dreams as we begin a capital campaign to continue to retire the debt burden. FFUMC is embarking on a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with actively promoting the sale of approximately four acres of our 17 acre site. The four acres are part of the undeveloped portion of our property, lying on the east side. They comprise the frontage acreage, where it is believed the bulk of the value of that land lies. There is an extensive process outlined in the UMC to ensure a marketable sale of land and we are in the beginning phases of following that process, including appraisal, assessment, analysis, etc. Detailed information about that process will be presented to you as we work through it. We believe strongly that a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with the sale of the property will significantly move the church forward and get us much closer to the finish line of eliminating the capital debt.



This past Christmas Eve a young man who recently moved to Knoxville had no family with whom to spend Christmas. A person of FFUMC invited him to worship and he is beginning to assimilate in the church.

A first-time family, who's child had asked why we celebrate Christmas decided it was time find a church home. Their words after visiting were, "this seems like the kind of place we're looking for." Those are just a couple of examples.

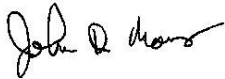
Many of you have your own reasons and relationships connected to FFUMC that drive your passion and commitment.

The Possibilities

In the coming weeks you will be asked to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to “imagine the possibilities.” On Sunday, March 27, we will have an opportunity to pledge our estimated giving for a two-year capital campaign toward retiring our debt. This endeavor is not about paying the bills, it’s about daring to dream. **We’re asking you to be a part of where God is leading FFUMC in the future.**

Often, we don’t understand God’s dreams for us because we don’t ask God’s dreams (James 4:2-3). We don’t know where exactly God may be leading but we know God is calling us to make disciples of Jesus Christ who love, grow, and serve. Significantly reducing, eliminating, and servicing the debt is a step in following where God is leading.

Thank you FFUMC for your generosity through the years. Your sacrifice and faithfulness have ensured we continue to share the love of Christ in our community and beyond. We’re excited about our future. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to **imagine the possibilities.**



John Morris
Lay Leader



Ondie Reese
Lay Leader



Rev. Martha Scott
Pastor



imagine
the possibilities