

**SHARING
OUR FAITH.**

**SECURING
OUR FUTURE.**

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR
CHRIST CHURCH**



**CHRIST
CHURCH**
WINNETKA

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

God of Mercy and Compassion: Your Scripture teaches us that You loved the world so much that You gave, that through Your Son we might have life forever. Our forebears at Christ Church have been faithful to those words by giving us a community and campus that is a testimony to that love. Supply us now with all that we need to build on that legacy for the future so that we, and the world, may know the goodness and peace which your presence provides, through Jesus Christ, who lives eternally with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Dear Friends in Christ,

The nature of our Christian faith is that it is born out of two elemental ingredients: tragedy and hope. The immeasurable tragedy of Jesus' crucifixion is given voice clearly in the prologue to John's Gospel: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." (John 1:11, NRSV) On the third day after that loss came hope. It arrived from a place that no one expected, a place of fear and darkness and pain everywhere, both physical and spiritual. Once again, as happens throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, God's love for us transcended the event itself. Though Jesus foretold this grace, his followers believed it when they could experience it themselves.



Our own story at Christ Church is similar. Both the first wooden church given to us in 1876, and the stone church that followed in 1905, were born of the tragedy of death: John Garland's wife in the first instance, and the Hoyt family's loss of a daughter and a mother and her children in the latter. From those human tragedies emerged not a monument or an endowment, but a community, a community of people who, by receiving this gift and vowing to build on it, expressed naturally and faithfully, the belief that hope is more enduring than current events.

Since those moments over one hundred years ago, we have had at Christ Church the chance to let our hope outpace the hard moments in life, to let our hope transform us from people who see only the outcomes in this world to a people who see ourselves as part of God's creation, connected to others inside and outside our community, and to the world itself. It was not an accident that our forebears, just a few short years after completing the complex at 470 Maple Street, constructed our Churchyard next to the place we receive communion and baptize our children. Rather than let the earthly accomplishment of a new building or the enduring force of a stone church speak to their faith, our community wanted to establish a faith that included those who have gone before us.

Now it is our turn, my friends, to make a gift that will bless this generation and help secure the future for the generations that follow. We are asking you for this gift so that we may mimic the sacrifices and vision of one hundred and forty-four years of others doing the same for us. We are asking because the need to grow our endowment and modify our buildings to today's standards will help us serve God in current and new ways. We are asking because after more than two years of conversation in our 2040 work, we believe that this is the time, especially in the midst of a tragic pandemic, to make a clear statement about the hope that is in us as Christians. We are asking because, "God so loved the world, that he gave..." It is presumptuous of me, of us, to expect a gift. Thank you for your thoughtful prayer and discernment. We know that you will use your customary good judgment to determine at what level God is calling you to participate.

In hope,

The Rev. Christopher Powell
Rector

EST. 1876

THE STORY OF CHRIST CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF SEEKING AND BUILDING COMMUNITY.

Christ Church has a history of boldly adapting to the changing needs of our congregation and the communities we are called to serve. From our founding as a mission church in 1876 to the established parish we are today, Christ Church has always embodied a spirit of growth and community engagement.

The legacy of past generations who built the Christ Church that is our home today is most visible in the story of the expansion of our property and buildings over time. But at its core, it is a story of continually responding to our call to love and serve God's Kingdom by putting faith into action. Responding to this call has guided the people of Christ Church for over a century as they have worked to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with one another, to grow together in faith and service, and to draw others around us into relationship with God and each other.

Christ Church is once again trusting God and looking to the future as together we consider the question:

“How is God calling Christ Church to serve the needs of a changing world?”

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Whether you have been a member of Christ Church for only a brief time or for many years, you know that we are more than just a group of people who gather on Sunday morning for worship. We are a family of faith, a diverse group of Christians from different spiritual backgrounds and faith journeys who are deeply connected by a genuine sense of community and a strong call to serve. We share a palpable gratitude for God's grace, and an insatiable desire to share that grace with others.

We currently enjoy vitality and growth in membership, ministries, and faith. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have much to be grateful for.

But Christ Church, like many churches, is once again at a pivotal moment in its history. While we are currently blessed with stability, the world around us, and consequently the role of the church, is changing, and we are called to respond.

As stewards of the future of Christ Church, God is calling us to think intentionally about how we invest in our vision for the future now, to not only preserve and grow our current strengths, but also respond to the evolving needs of our parish, the community, and the world.

OUR VISION

We seek to deepen our faith and grow God's Kingdom by expanding our capacity for life-transforming ministries and inviting new forms of community that bear witness to a loving God's presence in our world.





To make our vision possible, we are taking concrete steps to ensure that our church is resilient for the future. If we are to continue to support our members seeking to live into God’s great commandment to love God with our hearts and our lives now and in the future, then now is the time for us to:

- 01** **Discern** how we are called to share the love of Christ and grow God’s Kingdom in our community, diocese, and world.
- 02** **Strengthen** our Church’s financial foundation so that we have the resources to adapt and respond to a changing world.
- 03** **Modernize** our Church’s physical assets to be safer, more accessible, more flexible, and better able to respond to the needs of the communities we serve.
- 04** **Sustain** the mission and ministries that are fundamental to our relationship with God and one another, while also expanding our capacity to serve.

Our Church, while abundant in community, fellowship, ministries, and love, is not well-positioned to address unforeseen challenges. We must prepare ourselves for our future to ensure Christ Church can serve generations to come. As we commit ourselves to a process of ongoing discernment that seeks to reveal God’s dream for Christ Church, we invite you to join us by making a gift that will help secure the legacy of our beloved church for future generations.

Now is the time to invest in our future – while we are strong.

Through extensive community feedback and prayerful reflection, Christ Church leadership has decided to embark on a **\$5 million capital campaign** to provide a solid foundation for future growth.

STRENGTHENING OUR ENDOWMENT

\$3,000,000

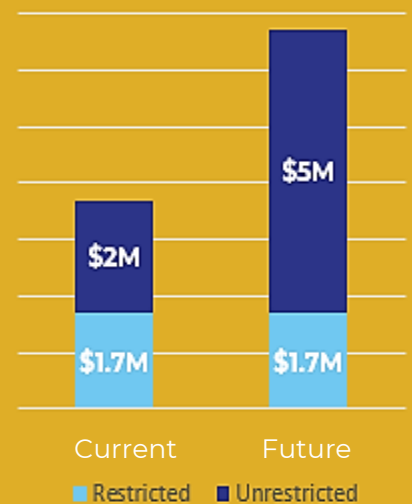
At Christ Church, we are the beneficiaries of the generosity of those who have come before us. Many have responded to the call to invest in the mission and ministry of the church by making a financial gift to the Endowment Fund. We are grateful for their past stewardship of our many gifts. Now it is our turn.

OUR CURRENT ENDOWMENT

Christ Church currently has a total endowment balance of \$3.7 million. Of that total, \$1.7 million is restricted, or has a defined purpose. The remaining \$2 million is unrestricted. For a parish of our size and aspirations, it is vital to grow the portion of our endowment fund that is unrestricted so that we are better prepared to respond to unforeseen challenges and future opportunities.

OUR FUTURE ENDOWMENT

Best practices dictate that a church should have an unrestricted endowment fund that is three to four times the size of the annual operating budget. Our future health and stability depend on strengthening our endowment. Our goal is to grow the unrestricted endowment fund by \$3 million, increasing it to just over 3 times our annual operating budget, leaving a lasting, durable legacy for future generations.



If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that we cannot know what the future will hold. In times of great uncertainty, one thing is certain: Christ Church will respond to the needs of our community and the world around us, leading with Christ's love in a world that so desperately needs a message of hope and healing. This is what sets our community apart, and why we must invest in our sustainability and growth today.

Your gift will not only help secure the financial future of Christ Church. It will ensure that future generations can breathe new life into vital ministries by answering, **"We will, with God's help,"** to the challenges of an unpredictable and rapidly changing world.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

\$1,500,000

Our parish has been blessed with an abundance of physical gifts that invite and welcome all who are seeking community. As we continue to discern how God may be calling us to respond to the needs of a changing world, our buildings allow us to dream boldly about inviting new communities and expanding life-transforming ministries. We are blessed with this opportunity to utilize these treasures to develop new dimensions for Christ Church. To accomplish this bold task, there is work to be done.



Architectural rendering of the new accessibility entrance at 470 Maple Street

Our desire to repair and modernize the buildings entrusted to us by the saints who came before us speaks to our desire to preserve our best opportunity to serve as we are called in the challenging days ahead. Our 90-year-old buildings fortunately serve us well, and historically we have only needed to invest in them when absolutely necessary. It is necessary now.



OUR PROJECTS

The specific projects we undertake are concrete and fulfill our desire to reach into our past and out to our future for the benefit of a kingdom that is both invisible and the thing most real. In the words of our Rector, “We want to wear out these buildings doing God’s work.” To do that, we need to raise \$1,500,000 to fund the projects listed to the right.

01

BUILDING UPGRADES, SAFETY, & ACCESSIBILITY

In order to ensure our facilities are safe, accessible, and secure, we must update and repair our buildings. To accomplish this, we will:

- Ensure our buildings are access and safety compliant to better serve more in our community and be more welcoming
- Repair the roof and buildings at both 470 Maple Street and Church-on-the-Hill
- Upgrade our facilities to increase the flexibility, responsiveness, and usefulness of our buildings, not only to serve our own needs, but also to help us implement our vision to welcome broader communities in our diocese and the world around us

\$1,280,000

02

LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS & PLAYGROUND

- As we dream about what else we can do to secure our future, a plan has been developed to update, preserve, and enhance our magnificent Churchyard at Church-on-the-Hill. In addition, 470 Maple Street is overdue for landscaping improvements
- We also believe that continually attracting new, younger families with children is critical to the ongoing vitality of our Christ Church community. A playground at Church-on-the-Hill will provide a safe place for the children of the parish, and the community around us, to connect with our church

\$220,000

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

\$500,000

Whether we are serving at A Just Harvest, hosting Family Promise in our church, welcoming Rummage shoppers to 470 Maple Street, or mentoring the residents of Grace House and St. Leonard's House in Chicago, the Christ Church community is united by our Baptismal Covenant in our desire to share the Gospel of Christ through example, by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Support our Ministry Partners

In 2021, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will particularly challenge our ministry partners that count on our financial support. We are called to continue to sustain those ministries as they struggle to sustain the lives of those who are faced with the effects of poverty, joblessness, hunger, and COVID-19. This year, we will designate some of these dollars to fill the gap in grant funds that we could not raise through Rummage due to the pandemic.

Create a Fund for the Future

As we look further into the future, we are called to love our neighbors and seek justice in new ways as we deepen our commitment to growing our faith by growing in service. We will create an enduring fund to enable future discernment of new ways to respond to our call to love and serve all of God's people in our immediate community, across our Diocese, and around the globe.

Scripture calls us to tithe 10% of our treasure to serving God's kingdom. Accordingly, 10% of campaign funds, a total of \$500,000, will be set aside to address these needs.



*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

WHY NOW?

The future is not given to us; we must create it. No church - even ours - can survive without looking forward to tomorrow today, especially while we are stable and strong. Creating our future depends on our willingness to invest now, before we are weakened by the changes and challenges that are putting increasing pressure on churches like ours. As stewards of the mission and ministry of Christ Church, God is calling us to invest in this future for the benefit of those who follow. Please consider joining us, in faith, as together we respond to this call to secure the future of Christ Church.

PRAY for the mission and ministry of Christ Church

Share our faith and **PLEDGE**

PARTICIPATE to secure our future



2 Corinthians 9:7

“GOD LOVES IT WHEN THE GIVER DELIGHTS IN THE GIVING.”

Translation by Eugene Peterson, *The Message*



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