

Dear Church Family,

Cornerstone is the theme chosen for our campaign to be in ministry and mission through the church in these exciting days ahead. It is based upon Matthew 21:42 where Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22:

*"42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:  
'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?'"*

Searcy First is built on Jesus Christ, the stone rejected by the builders, who has become the cornerstone of the Kingdom of God. Searcy First has been here since Searcy began. This church has been part of the foundation of our community. We are not leaving. We will be here as a mission outpost for the Kingdom of God until the Lord returns. We believe we are called to build on the foundation, Jesus Christ. We believe we are called to build on the foundation of those who have gone before us these past 182 years. We have a deep and rich heritage. Moreover, we have a compelling future as the people of God.

Our hope is that you will begin to pray right now, "Lord, what do You want to do through me," through Cornerstone? If everyone in our church will start right now to pray about God's will, then something God-sized will happen among us.

In a few days you should be receiving a call from a member of the Cornerstone prayer team. Part of their assignment for the call is to share information about Cornerstone, the vision of our church and answer any of your questions. However, the principal reason for their call is to ask you to make the campaign a matter of daily prayer. Under no circumstances will they be asking you for money. They are calling to be sure you know what is going on, to solicit your prayers and to inquire of any way the church can pray for you.

The days ahead are some of the most critical in the history of our church. It is my great hope that we will come together in prayer and respond in such a way that all will see the hand of God in our work. Please pray with me and work with me toward that goal.

Standing On The Cornerstone,  
Rev. David Orr



304 N. Main Street • Searcy, AR 72143 • (501) 268-5896  
www.searcyfumc.com

# CORNERSTONE

Reaching our community from the corner of Main and Market



## The Need for the Project

Searcy First United Methodist Church is at the heart of Searcy. The adult education wing, known as the '47 building, houses the core ministries and functions of Searcy First. UMW, committee work, church council sessions, district events, Good Timers, PALS, vacation Bible school, Bible study groups, wedding and showers, Connection are all examples of functions & events this building houses.

The brick and mortar of the buildings on our campus do not make up our church. However, our facilities are a critical part of connecting and equipping individuals with God's grace through the love of Christ in order to transform lives and serve others. This is our mission as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

With our proposed new building we will be able to provide an after-school childcare program for the children of our community from kindergarten to 3rd grade. We would also repurpose Pyeatt chapel to be a central location for gatherings. Additional space will also be available for new Sunday school classes and small groups to meet future growth of our church. Enhanced entrances and a covered portico will be added along with an emergency exit for the classrooms in the 1976 building. The 3rd floor of the Children's Education building will be finished out to be used for our youth. The proposed new building will provide a connection point for our community where we can offer programs and ministries that will meet needs of people whom we are called to serve.

To remodel the existing '47 building would cost more than new construction and would not allow us to use the space for growth.

Not only is Searcy First United Methodist Church physically located at a cornerstone of our community, we believe we are called to be a spiritual cornerstone and we must improve our facilities in order to continue our many outreach ministry programs. We have a team of people in our church praying and leading us in this project. However, our success will only be determined by the sacrifices of our church family. Our church is blessed with a history of faithful people who have met the challenges of the past in order to serve others. Together, it's our time to respond to the challenges set before us so that future generations will benefit from our faithful generosity.

## Cornerstone Timeline

**April 15**  
**Gratitude Sunday**

We will gather to express gratitude to God for the blessings of our church family.

**April 29th**  
**Ministry Sunday**

We will gather together to celebrate the life-changing ministries of the church and hear stories of lives changed by God through the church.

**May 13**  
**Celebration Sunday**

We will gather together in one combined service for one of the greatest parties in the history of our congregation!

**May 20th**  
**Commitment Sunday**

In response to God's leading, we will gather to offer our three-year commitments to support the vision of the Cornerstone campaign.

## FAQs

### What are the challenges with the current '47 building?

The '47 building is in desperate need of a replacement. Despite extensive expenditures that have been made in the last 10 years, we still face:

- mold problems throughout the building
- failed/failing plumbing
- failing wiring
- 3rd floor vacated for safety concerns
- water damage due to architectural/structural/plumbing failures

### What are the space features of the proposed building?

The new building will have a total of 16 new rooms. We currently have 10 active Sunday school classes. One room will serve as a nursery on Sundays and will be used during the week for the after-school program. Another classroom on the 1st level will be used for the after-school program. The new structure will also feature a bride's room which can function as a classroom as needed. The repurposed Pyeatt chapel is an additional 1300 square feet which can be used for social gatherings both formal and informal.

## Why should our church commit to this building project?

The '47 building costs the church thousands of dollars in monthly repairs yet still we are not able to make vast improvements to the 70 year old structure that resolve the numerous architectural failings. This plan replaces that existing building and allows for growth within that space which is the Cornerstone foundation of our church.

## What ministries benefit from this new building?

This proposed building will benefit all existing ministries of Searcy First United Methodist Church, as well as provide more opportunities for which we currently do not have the space or infrastructure to accommodate.

## How much will the building cost?

Preliminary cost estimates are 4.9 million

## Lord, what do You want to do through me?

### Pray

In the weeks to come, each household is asked to pray for guidance, seeking God's will in determining their role in this crucial time in our church. As you pray, you will discover what God has planned for you, your church family, and this campaign. When praying, reflect on our campaign prayer, "Lord, what do You want to do through me?"

### Praise

Praise God for the endless blessings He has given to Searcy First United Methodist Church. Praise God for the current ministries and the potential ministries because of this campaign. Praise God for future opportunities He will bring and the lives that will be touched.

### Plan

The campaign team is prayerfully planning the future of our church. Each member of our church family is invited to plan and pray for God's guidance. Plan to be involved. Plan your calendar around these special events that are designed to provide information and celebrate the campaign. Plan to be part of the future God has intended for Searcy First United Methodist Church.