

Chart of giving suggestions

Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Total
\$10	\$43	\$130	\$520	\$1,560
\$20	\$87	\$260	\$1,040	\$3,120
\$25	\$108	\$325	\$1,300	\$3,900
\$30	\$130	\$390	\$1,560	\$4,680
\$40	\$173	\$520	\$2,080	\$6,240
\$50	\$217	\$650	\$2,600	\$7,800
\$60	\$260	\$780	\$3,120	\$9,360
\$75	\$325	\$975	\$3,900	\$11,700
\$100	\$433	\$1,300	\$5,200	\$15,600
\$200	\$867	\$2,600	\$10,400	\$31,200
\$300	\$1,300	\$3,900	\$15,600	\$46,800
\$400	\$1,733	\$5,200	\$20,800	\$62,400
\$500	\$2,166	\$6,500	\$26,000	\$78,000
\$750	\$3,250	\$9,750	\$39,000	\$117,000
\$1,000	\$4,334	\$13,000	\$52,000	\$156,000

*We hope that each member, friend, or associate of First United Methodist Church of Hightstown will uphold us with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness during this time and forever.*

Pastor Sammy Arroyo

First United Methodist Church of Hightstown

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# Bridging Our Future Through Faith-Lift It Up!



## Information Brochure

## Campaign 2019

## First United Methodist Church

## Pastor's Letter



I am always amazed when I hear stories of people who had to overcome great barriers to achieve what they wanted to do. For example, I can think of one day when Jesus was teaching at a house in Capernaum and it was packed; there wasn't space even on the outside of the house! Let us read the amazing story of what happened that day: Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to

Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:3-5)

Here we have a man with a disability that wanted to come closer to Jesus, but there were many barriers between him and the one who could bring healing to his body. What is amazing in the story is that we see four men who loved this paralyzed man so much that they were willing to do whatever it took to bring their friend to Jesus so he could have his miracle. I can see them talking among themselves saying: "The room is packed, there is no direct access to Jesus for our friend, so let us carry him all the way to the roof, then we make a hole and lower him down."

And we see in the story that it was the faith of these four men that brought forgiveness and healing to the paralytic. I always wondered if later they paid for the repairs of the roof, but what is more important, for them what mattered was for their friend to have access to Jesus.

We are re-launching our Capital Campaign with a new name: Bridging Our Future Through Faith - Lift It UP. Through this campaign we are inviting you to become one of the four friends who helped the paralytic to come closer to Jesus. As we reflect in the coming weeks what it means to be a welcoming and better accessible church for all people, let us also reflect on how our acts of faith will bring salvation and healing to many in our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Sammy

## Spiritual Growth

By undergirding this campaign with your prayers we will all grow spiritually. We, as a committee, hope that each and every person will pray daily for the work that is being proposed; that each person will give not just financial donations but will give of themselves, for we are reminded that "all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us".



## Conclusion

In conclusion, we hope that each member, friend, or associate of First United Methodist Church of Hightstown will uphold us with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness during this time and forever. We sincerely hope that you will be a partner in this endeavor and will join us in making these changes not just for change sake but for the greater good of all and to glorify God.

How to determine your financial gift.

First spend time in prayer.

Determine your dollar amount. (use the chart to help you determine the amount)

Take that dollar amount and determine whether you will give it weekly, monthly, etc. (again the chart helps break it down for you.)

Spend time in prayer.

If you would like to give a gift other than cash, that will be an option on the estimate of giving card given out in March of 2019.

## Missional

We will continue to offer many mission opportunities and will be better able to house such programs as Little Beavers and Methodist Madness with a redesigned doorway and kitchen area. Housing a Soup Kitchen where those who attend must climb down stairs will make it easier for them to get to the dinner . Our missions will have a chance to grow with the improvements included in our plan.



## Fellowship

Fellowship activities will be easier to have when we have an elevator to get people to the event. The ability to get to any planned event will greatly help us in being in fellowship with one another. No more split coffee hours with some people being isolated upstairs. The possibilities are endless with the renovations that are in our plan.



## Multigenerational

This church is and has always been proud to have many generations fellowshiping together. At this time we must isolate some of our older congregants because of our inability to get them from one floor to the next. This is a concern and we hope that with all of the work being done through the **BFF Lift It Up** campaign we will once again enjoy all generations fellowshiping together.



## History

Starting in a tavern in 1785, First United Methodists of Hightstown have played an important part in the history of our town.

After agreeing that a tavern was not the proper place to house a church service, the small congregation moved to Milford (Etra) There they met in the Joseph Hutchinson home. As time went on Mr. Hutchinson built our first church building near the site of the Etra cemetery.

Once the congregation started to grow it was decided that a move back to Hightstown was in order. The Hightstown Methodists built a Quaker style building on Stockton Street, across Church Street from our present building. As that too became too small for the growing congregation, a more traditional style church was constructed in the middle of the block. Growing too big for this building it was decided in 1898, after much debate, to build our present building and the plans were purchased, for \$1, construction was begun and by December of 1898, the building was completed. Rev. Mitchell, the pastor at the time, declared that in order to move into the building it had to be debt free so after three services on a cold day in December the money was raised mainly by having people dedicate our beautiful stain glass windows in memory of loved ones and the building was opened for use in January of 1899. Unfortunately in November of 1998 we were faced with a major setback to our congregation, our building was declared in imminent danger of collapse. This closing had a major impact on many local groups as the doors were closed to all for the next 3 years. During the time of rebuilding we took a leap of Faith and ended up doing 2.5 million dollars of renovations to open the doors again. All work was completed and the bill was paid in full.

## History Con't

This money came from many different sources; grants, pledges, bequests and outside help. All of this was made possible because we put our trust in God and He provided. As we plan this next step in our history we are more aware than ever how much the building is being used. We house many different groups and the building is used every day of the week, well into the night. Again, we are taking a leap of Faith and hope to complete the next phases of renovations without debt.



Tavern where we began.



Present day church.

## Our Plan

Our plan is to begin on the main level. We recognize the need for more bathrooms on this level. With that in mind we are going to reconfigure the main level Narthex area, replacing the existing bathroom with two bathrooms, one ADA handicap approved bathroom, redesigning the Nursery, choir room, Carlton Room and hallway. Also in this part of the plan we will have restoration work done on our beautiful stained glass windows. Our windows are a focal point of the building and are in need of restoration so that they may be enjoyed for many more years. Next we will be building a new entryway at the parking lot entrance which will include stairs to the main level, stairs to Fellowship Hall and stairs to the third floor. Along

## Plan Con't

with the new stairs we will be adding an elevator to aid those who need a way to access our building. Adding an elevator will enable many of our congregants who cannot navigate the existing staircases to be included in all fellowship events. It will also allow easier access to the building for all the people who use our fellowship hall as their meeting space. Finally we will need to do work on the kitchen area as the elevator will open into the present kitchen area. A stove and oven, sink and refrigerator will be part of the plan as will a pantry and storage area.

### Location

Our location makes a perfect place for groups to meet. We are centrally located and are a cornerstone of the community. This makes it important to make this building accessible to all. We need to make sure that the people who attend church or attend one of the many meetings can safely enter our building. By building an elevator we are ensuring that our building can continue to be the hub of activity that it is today.



### Welcoming Atmosphere

The addition of two new bathrooms one of which will be an ADA handicap approved bathroom and redesigning our Narthex will enhance our already welcoming atmosphere. A redesigned entrance with a more open Narthex area and more efficient use of the space will increase the ways we can welcome our members, visitors and those that use our building to house their meetings.