



DOORS WIDE OPEN  
RENEWING FOR THE FUTURE

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN JOSE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 20, 2021

To my FCCSJ Church Family and Friends:

***Now is the time*** for all of us to join together to throw the doors of our church wide open and offer a truly extravagant welcome, both physically and spiritually, to everyone in our broader community.

In June of this year, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to approve the Sanctuary Renewal design and to move forward with a capital campaign to fund the project. This seminal commitment to renew our sanctuary embodies core church values and will serve the needs of our church and community well into the future.

Removing multiple safety hazards and providing ADA-compliant access to the entire sanctuary space extends our *extravagant welcome* to everyone regardless of age or mobility. Opening up the chancel area with a flexible design and new lighting systems will allow the sanctuary to support a much wider range of activities by groups both within and outside of the church. Sharing this beautiful and renewed sanctuary with others is an important act of *stewardship*. It broadens the type and number of groups that can use the sanctuary, expanding our *outreach* by increasing the connections that we can make with our surrounding community.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be one million dollars, and almost one-third of that amount has already been raised. We have an incredibly talented capital campaign team that is driving a very impressive program designed by Jill White, our consultant from the UCC Capital Campaign Services. Their dedication, energy, and enthusiasm make me very confident that we can achieve our fundraising goals.

I ask each of you to prayerfully consider making a generous donation to this transformative initiative in the life of First Congregational Church of San Jose. Please plan to participate in one of the small group meetings to learn more about the campaign. Every single gift, no matter the size, will make a difference in the life and ministry of FCCSJ. Your gift can be made over a three-year period and can be made in many ways, as explained in the enclosed "*Ways to Give*" document.

I am grateful for your faithful support of the church and look forward to gathering with you on November 21 to celebrate the successful conclusion of this campaign of *Renewing for the Future*.

With great hope,

Charles Weidmann  
Moderator, First Congregational Church of San Jose