



DOORS WIDE OPEN  
RENEWING FOR THE FUTURE

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN JOSE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 4, 2021

Greetings from your spiritual home,

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you have a spiritual home here at First Congregational Church of San Jose, United Church of Christ. I have been on staff for 18 months as Minister of Pastoral Care and Connections and a member for 17+ years. I am happy to reach out to you, members and friends of our congregation, both near and far.

This year we voted to renew and improve our 54-year-old sanctuary. The theme for the Capital Campaign to fund the project is *Doors Wide Open—Renewing for the Future*, and I am inviting you to participate along with me. This theme of *Doors Wide Open* is especially apt as we plan to make our sanctuary wide open to expanding worship ideas as well as community programs. Most importantly we are planning to make it accessible to all who want to participate in worship.

I hope you'll take the time to look through the enclosed material and feel free to contact the campaign administrators, Lorraine Casto and Brian Link, with any questions at [dwo@firstccsj.org](mailto:dwo@firstccsj.org). You will see we have structured the financial commitments over a three-year period (4 payments = initial plus three annual) so please take that into account. Every gift is important. Return your letter of intent to the church office with your donation plans.

How is God calling you to participate in this exciting campaign to provide "extravagant welcome" for everyone in our community? While the amount of your capital campaign pledge is important toward our overall goal, what matters most to me is that your gift comes from a place of anticipation, hope, and trust in God's ability to provide beyond our wildest visions. Please prayerfully consider your own contribution in light of other obligations, then make the most generous pledge possible without reluctance or compulsion, "for God loves a cheerful giver" as the apostle Paul writes.

Let me leave you with the very next verse: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8). May it be so, now and always!

With hope and anticipation,

Pastor Penny V. Phillips  
Minister of Pastoral Care and Connections