



UNFINISHED

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

SERIES GUIDE

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OUR **UNFINISHED** VISION

We are prayerfully and humbly entering into a two-year generosity initiative at First Christian. This season of our church will be like no other. God is not yet finished with us as individuals, and He is not yet finished with us as a church. During this season we will seek to live out uncompromising faith, unprecedented hope, and unrelenting love as we continue to declare that God's mission is for everyone!

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)

Throughout the 43-year history of First Christian, God has made a way where there was no way. And we believe that He's not done with us yet, far from it. Even as we adjust to post-pandemic living, there has never been a more urgent need for FC to move boldly and to trust completely. The times are challenging, but without a doubt, **WE'LL SEE HIM DO IT AGAIN!**

Because of God's story of faithfulness, we are embarking on a season in our church unlike any other – one that will require openness to God working intensely **IN** us and **THROUGH** us in new levels of **FAITH** and **GENEROSITY**.

As God's **UNFINISHED PEOPLE**, we are asking God to continue shaping us into His image as we grow deeper in our surrender to Him.

As part of God's **UNFINISHED STORY**, we are asking God to continue using First Christian as a powerful conduit for advancing the gospel one relationship and one neighborhood at a time. Until heaven and earth are one and Christ returns, **WE ARE UNFINISHED!**

Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, we know God has more for you. We believe the most life-changing, influential, and personally engaging days of your life are still ahead. During this season let's seek to live our **UNFINISHED** stories in Christ to declare God's mission is for everyone. Excited to be on this adventure with you!

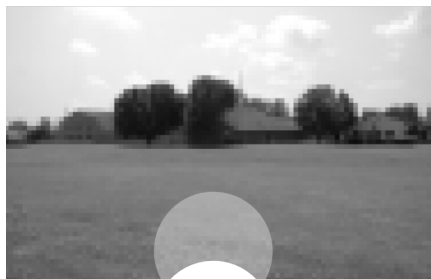
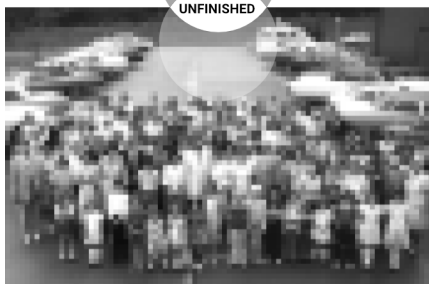
Blessings,

Kevin

FIRST CHRISTIAN

...has a heritage of committed Christ-followers purposefully living God's mission since May 20, 1979.

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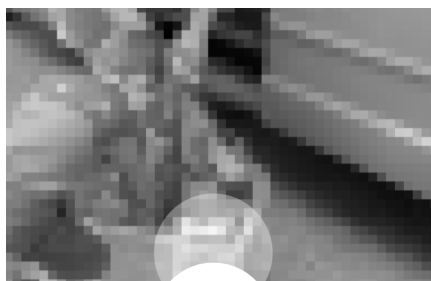
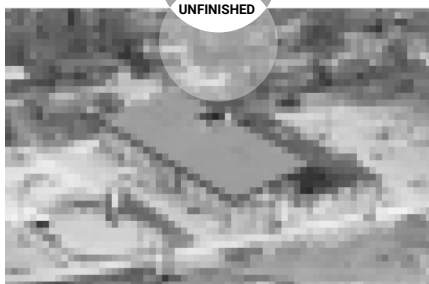


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...expanded their footprint and created an anchored presence in Southwest Indiana nestled between schools.

...became the hands and feet of Jesus to hundreds of families in the aftermath of the '05 tornado.

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...in partnership with local schools, delivered food to families most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

...is dedicated to helping families at all stages of life grow in faith.

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...engages in worshipping God with a whole-life passion.

...relationally connects kids to Christ's grace.

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...creates shared experiences for the next generation to grow into faith.

UNFINISHED PEOPLE

The Primary Goal during this UNFINISHED season is 100% engagement.



We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and He is calling us to take our relationship with Him to new heights.



UNFINISHED STORY

The Secondary Goal to continue living out the two³⁹ promise is \$5.92 million over two years.

“The promise (of forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ) is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Loud our God will call.” Acts 2:39

UNFINISHED for the One: \$3.42 million

This amount represents our ministry operating budget for the next two years as we pursue God and reach the lost. We will not compromise in our day-in, day-out ministry.

UNFINISHED for the Community: \$2.5 million

This amount will enable us to provide needed and ongoing improvements to our facility and significantly reduce our long-term debt. Reducing our debt enables us to effectively focus resources toward existing local partnerships and establishing even more community relationships.

An UNFINISHED story of love

What began at creation has unfolded in every generation before Jesus and every generation since Jesus – the ever-expanding and deepening story of God’s love for us. We are an essential part of this unfinished story of love. Our love for God and others is why we prayerfully partner in the Holy Spirit’s movement of people from unbelief to belief.

GENEROSITY DISCIPLESHIP

A PATHWAY IN THE GRACE OF GIVING

Generosity Discipleship is the intentional process of growing in financial giving to the Kingdom of God. As we move forward in our giving journey, the focus is on the condition of our hearts and the continual transformation of our lives to be more like Christ. Progression along the path represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice. As you evaluate your current state of giving, thinking about where God is leading you, celebrate God's movement each step of the way.



Initial Giver

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time out of a response to God's Word. This is someone who makes a financial contribution and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift. They experience the initial joy of putting Jesus' words into action.
(Matthew 7:24)



Consistent Giver

A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of generosity as a disciple of Jesus. Whether they are giving online or in person, consistent givers are experiencing the joy of excelling in this grace of giving.
(2 Corinthians 8:7)



Priority Giver

A Priority Giver is someone who understands that all things were created by Christ. All things are created for Him, through Him, and to Him. This giver places such a significant priority on their giving that it drives their spending and their saving, as opposed to their spending and saving driving their giving. They experience freedom in serving “one master” and declaring Jesus is first. (Matthew 6:19-24 and Colossians 1:15-20)



Surrendered Giver

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes that Christ surrendered His whole life for us, and therefore desires to surrender their whole lives to Him. This giver would say, “My giving is not just changing my spending and saving. It’s also changing me!” They evaluate everything they’ve been blessed and entrusted with, aligning all things in a posture of surrender (homes, cars, real estate, etc.). (Ephesians 5:1-2)



Eternal Giver

An Eternal Giver is someone who sees their generosity through a lens of impacting others beyond short-term needs and programs. This giver has been captivated by the conviction to leverage as much as they can “to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” They make all decisions (big purchases, savings, giving, relationships, areas of service) in light of how it will affect their eternal impact. (1 Timothy 6:18)



UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

Commitment Weekend
March 5, 2023

UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

\$	What I/we would normally give in a year (regular giving, special projects, etc.)
+\$	My/our expanded annual generosity as part of the UNFINISHED initiative
=\$	X 2 years
	↓
	\$
Gifts from my/our stored resources	+\$
	↓
MY/OUR TOTAL TWO-YEAR UNFINISHED COMMITMENT	
\$	

March 2023 – March 2025

SPECIAL NOTE: On Sunday, March 12, our students are hosting a lunch to raise funds for summer trip expenses and engage with you in their spiritual journey over the Summer of '23. This event is not accounted for within the UNFINISHED commitment. Thank you for your continued generosity to our students and the greater mission of God through FC.

GIFT CHART

TWO-YEAR GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would have you give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool – let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity for God’s Kingdom as we seek to give it all for Him.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	One-Year Gift Level	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$ 500,000
1	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$ 250,000
2	\$150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 300,000
3	\$100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 4,167	\$ 300,000
7	\$ 75,000	\$ 37,500	\$ 3,125	\$ 525,000
10	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 2,708	\$ 650,000
15	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,083	\$ 750,000
18	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 1,458	\$ 630,000
20	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 1,042	\$ 500,000
25	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 625	\$ 375,000
32	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 417	\$ 320,000
40	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,750	\$ 313	\$ 300,000
50	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 208	\$ 250,000
Many	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,250	\$ 104	\$ 270,000
TOTAL GIFT GOAL				\$5,920,000

“...for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)

ONE FUND INITIATIVE

You may have been part of church campaigns previously where you were asked to give a second gift “above and beyond” your usual gifts to complete special projects. At First Christian these have been used to make new buildings and ministries possible. In the past, you gave that gift to the “Building Fund” and you also continued to give to the “General Fund.” This type of giving is potentially confusing to people who either don’t have a baseline for their “usual giving” or who aren’t able to really celebrate the total giving at FC in one single number. We believe we’re all on one mission—“prayerfully partnering with the Holy Spirit in helping people move from unbelief to belief in every area of life.” Therefore we are moving forward in a One Fund Initiative that recognizes every dollar is on the same mission.





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UNFINISHED PEOPLE. UNFINISHED STORY.

Genesis 12:1-3

God called Abraham to a life he could not yet see - to a path that was "unfinished" - and did not give him the complete road map. What questions do you think Abraham may have had when He was called to trust?

In what ways do you find it difficult to follow God when you don't have all the details?

Where do you look for security when life is uncertain - family, friends, money, career, talents and abilities? How do these things fall short of God's security?

Is there anything that prevents you from being able to follow wherever God leads?

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Has God ever called you to follow Him in something where you didn't know if you would have all you needed?

Have you ever been reluctant to follow God's leading?

In what ways have you followed God out of obligation and not from a spirit of generosity?

What would it look like for your journey of generosity to inspire others in a way that honors God and draws more people to Him during this UNFINISHED season? In what ways do you need to change in regard to your generosity?

Genesis 15:1-6

For the majority of Abraham's life, he and his wife were unable to conceive a child. But when Abraham was in his 80's, God revealed to him that He would indeed give him a son. And not only a son, but offspring that would number the stars in the sky.

Is there a circumstance in your life where you have seen God move in a way that previously seemed impossible? What was your response?

Is there a circumstance in your life where you are still waiting for God to move?

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16

Why do you think God changed Abram and Sarai's names?

Have you ever felt “named” by a situation or circumstance of your past that inhibits your trust in God’s promises for your future?

How might God be trying to give you a “new name” as He asks you to trust Him in the path forward?

Genesis 22:2-18

Abraham waited 100 years for a son and God tells him to sacrifice Isaac on an altar. If you were Abraham, what would your reaction have been to God's command?

Why do you think Abraham obeyed without objection?

Are there areas of your life that would be more difficult to sacrifice if God asked you to lay them on the altar?

Are there things in your life that you view as “yours” and not a gift from God?

Luke 9:23-25

What does it look like to lose your life for the sake of Christ?

Do you consider yourself to be fully surrendered to God? If not, what is holding you back?

Acts 4:23-31

When have you prayed for something that needed “big bold prayers” and faith to trust that God was at work even when you couldn’t see the details?

What circumstances in your life have required a season of committed prayer?

How have you seen God work in you through your season of committed prayer?

When you think about our UNFINISHED story as a church and our \$5.92 million goal, what is your prayer for yourself, your family, and our church?

This UNFINISHED story is not about raising \$5.92 million dollars.

This UNFINISHED story is about 100% of us going before God and with a bold faith, a humble spirit, and a sacrificing heart seeking God's plan for our generosity.

It is about 100% of us being fully engaged and committed to Kingdom growth. This step of faith for First Christian is the largest thing we have ever done as a church. It is going to change our church and it involves risk we are willing to take in light of God's Word and God's leading. We believe that God's work in us is unfinished and that He is calling us to take our relationship with Him to a new level. We are excited to see God move in ways we haven't seen before and we are trusting Him to the finish line.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

PREPARING FOR COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Spend some time thinking about the financial commitments you currently have.

Make a list of financial commitments that go beyond a one-time payment but have a specific time commitment. (For example - a home mortgage, car loan, school tuition, etc)

Make a list of other ongoing financial commitments such as subscriptions, extra-curricular activities, health-related items, etc

Make a list of miscellaneous financial expenditures such as vacations, recreation, entertainment, etc.

If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial spending, what would they say you value?

Do your finances represent what you think or say you value?

When you think about the financial commitment you are planning to make for the UNFINISHED initiative, where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments to be able to fulfill your UNFINISHED commitment? What if you wanted to raise your UNFINISHED commitment? What would that require?

Are there any barriers or situations that could prevent you from fulfilling your UNFINISHED commitment?

What type of spiritual impact do you think you might see in your life as you honor your UNFINISHED commitment over the next two years?

How will your own spiritual growth influence your relationship with your family, friends, coworkers, and others you interact with on a daily basis?

UNFINISHED FAQs

ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

PRAY. Seek God's guidance for what He is asking of you in this season. Prepare your heart to hear His voice, listen to what He says, and be willing to respond.

TALK ABOUT UNFINISHED WITH SOMEONE ELSE. Have a conversation with your family, your small group, or a friend about what it means to be fully engaged with the mission of discipleship and generosity.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO GROW IN FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. As we are discovering that we are all Unfinished, we are also realizing that there are areas of our lives that need an intentional focus for growth. When God reveals those areas, be obedient and trust His work in your life.

BE WILLING TO MAKE A SACRIFICIAL COMMITMENT OF GENEROSITY. In order to reach our Unfinished goal, we are seeking 100% engagement from every individual or family. That means, we all evaluate the way we currently use our time, talents, and money and we look for areas that we could make sacrifices in to follow God's leading.

PREPARE TO BE AMAZED AT WHAT GOD WILL DO. We serve an awesome God who loves us and the people around us. He designed the church to be the catalyst for Kingdom growth and He is not limited by things of this world. He can do what we can't even imagine and we are looking forward to watching Him move in unprecedented ways through our collective Unfinished commitments.

BE IN ATTENDANCE ON COMMITMENT SUNDAY, MARCH 5th. This special time of worship will be a defining moment for our church and we don't want you to miss this significant moment in our faith journey.

WHAT WAYS CAN I GIVE TO UNFINISHED BESIDES CASH?

You might have some stocks, property, or other stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give out of during this time. Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards the Unfinished Initiative. Please contact Mary Lehman at mlehman@fcnewburgh.com if you have questions about non-cash generosity.

HOW DOES MY GIVING FOR CIY FIT INTO UNFINISHED?

We have a tremendous ministry partner with Christ In Youth (CIY). For this summer's trips we have kept that contribution piece apart from the UNFINISHED generosity initiative. These summer trips shape faith convictions and next steps in our students as they engage God's mission. Our students are hosting a lunch after service on March 12 to help cover their trip expenses. Thanks for supporting the next generation of Christ-followers.

HOW LONG IS MY UNFINISHED COMMITMENT?

We are asking for a two-year commitment, which is 24 months of giving. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our UNFINISHED Commitment Weekend on March 5, 2023, and will culminate in March of 2025.

MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Contact us at 812-858-5000 or email Holly at hgillespie@fcnewburgh.com.

PRAY PERSISTENTLY

Pray that God will work in the hearts of people at First Christian and that we will listen with the intent to respond.

COMMIT FULLY

Be part of the 100% engagement by saying YES and encouraging others to do the same.

CELEBRATE LOUDLY

God is going to do amazing things in your life during this season. Share His handiwork enthusiastically with those around you.

GIVE GENEROUSLY

Live and give in a way that stretches you to take your faith to a whole new level of generosity.



KEY DATES

February 19 – **Advance Commitment Night**
March 5 – **Commitment Weekend**