

BUILDING OUR FUTURE, TOGETHER

**"Look, I have set before you an open door,
which no one is able to shut."**

Revelation 3:8a



**A vision for the future of
Cheney United Methodist Church**



CHENEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To Seek, Serve, and Share Jesus Christ

Opening Our Doors Wider

"Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut." (Revelation 3:8a)

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus speaks these words to the church in Philadelphia, not about a building, but about an opportunity for faithful ministry. We believe God continues to place open doors before the church today. This project is our prayerful response to the opportunities God is opening in Cheney and beyond.

When I first arrived at Cheney United Methodist Church in 2022, I quickly fell in love with this congregation and with this building. Not because it is perfect, but because it is alive. Every Sunday, around 40–50 people stay after worship for coffee, conversation, snacks, and often lunch together. With an average worship attendance of about 70 people, our Fellowship Hall regularly reaches its capacity.

During the week, community organizations meet in our different rooms (upstairs and downstairs) recovery groups like AA and Al-Anon find hope, children and single parents receive help through the WIC office in the basement, people stretch their body in a yoga group, at TOPS people get support in losing weight and living healthier, seniors laugh together at Sassy Senior Society and every Tuesday and Thursday 30-40 people get a meal in community through Meals on Wheels. For many of our neighbors who attend groups here at Cheney UMC, this building is not first a church they worship in, it is a place where they receive support, friendship, meals, recovery, or hope. We are grateful that Cheney United Methodist Church has served this community for generations.

We are committed to fulfill our Mission: **To Seek, Serve and Share Jesus Christ** while welcoming every person who walks through our doors. Our congregation believes the church exists not simply for itself, but for the community God has called us to love. In the last two years, we have experienced new energy. Families have joined our congregation. Students from Eastern Washington University have become part of our church family. Our worship has become increasingly creative, inviting people into conversations about faith through Bible study, community events, and even movie-themed worship series that help connect the Gospel with everyday life.

We are grateful for where God has brought us.

But with this renewed ministry comes an important question:

Will our building allow us to continue growing into the church God is calling us to be?

Our church building has faithfully served Cheney for decades. It has sheltered countless worship services, Baptisms, funerals, weddings (just recently again), meals, meetings, and moments of transformation.

Today, however, we face a challenge we cannot ignore. The 4th Street window wall has reached the end of its life and must be replaced to ensure the long-term safety and stability of our church building. This is not a cosmetic improvement or a project we simply wish to do. It is essential. Before we can dream about tomorrow, we must first address what is failing today.

Opening Our Doors Wider - The Why

Because the 4th Street window wall must be replaced, our Church Council began asking an important question. If we are already making this significant investment, should we simply rebuild what existed before or could we use this necessary project as an opportunity to strengthen our ministry for decades to come?

As we studied the 4th Street window wall, we discovered that the project naturally opens the possibility of addressing one of the greatest limitations of our building: a Fellowship Hall that has become too small for the ministry God has already entrusted to us.

Over the past four months, the Church Council, together with the architectural team at FUSION, and with input from church members and many who regularly use our building, has dreamed together about the future of this place. Through listening sessions and careful planning, a common vision emerged. The plans you will see in this booklet are the result of those conversations. This project is much more than a construction project.

It is an investment in our future:

- An investment in **accessibility**.
- An investment in **community**.
- An investment in **faithful stewardship of God's creation**.
- An investment in **future generations**.

We are not simply preserving a building. We are creating space where lives can continue to be changed through the love of Jesus Christ.

Our mission isn't changing. Our building needs to.

This journey begins with our window wall that must be replaced. But it doesn't end there. It is about taking a necessary repair and transforming it into an opportunity to create a church that is more welcoming, more accessible, equipped with electric doors and an ADA restroom, and better prepared to serve Cheney for generations to come. Ultimately, this isn't simply about concrete or construction. It is about making room for the next family, the next student, the next recovery group, the next child, and the next person searching for hope.

In the following pages, we invite you to explore the vision, learn about the different phases of the project, and prayerfully consider how you might become part of this next chapter in the life of Cheney United Methodist Church. Together, we can open our doors even wider.

Thank you for your time reading through this. Thank you for all you do and give to this church and the Cheney community already. And thank you for your love and prayers for this community.

In Peace,
Pastor Damian

Rev. Damian Carruthers
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Phase 1: Securing Our Building

From Vision to Reality

The vision described on the previous pages takes shape through four interconnected parts of our construction project. For planning purposes, we call them Phases 1–4, but they are ultimately parts of one larger vision for Cheney United Methodist Church. The phases give us the flexibility to move forward step by step if necessary. Our hope, however, is to raise enough support to complete as much of the entire project as possible.

On the following pages, you will see what each phase will accomplish and how each one helps prepare our church building for the ministry of today and generations still to come.

PHASE 1: Securing Our Building

Our most urgent priority is the failing window wall facing 4th Street. This first phase addresses an essential structural need and protects the building that has served generations of worshipers, neighbors, and community groups. In fact, this wall is where this entire project began. Before we can build toward the future, we must care faithfully for the building entrusted to us today.

Phase 1 is about more than replacing a failing wall. The approved design gives the 4th Street side of our church a new and welcoming appearance, with a smaller window, a new cross, and—most importantly—an entirely new accessible entrance to the lower level of our building.



Architect's rendering: 4th Street with new window wall, cross, and accessible lower level ramp entrance.

Phase 1: Continued

The existing ramp, which approaches the building from the right (east) side and does not meet current accessibility standards, will be removed completely. In its place, a new ramp will lead directly from the parking lot (left/ west side) to a new entrance on the front of the building, where no entrance currently exists. This will provide easier access to the lower level, where our music ministry and many community activities take place. And because 4th Street is our actual address, this project will do more than repair a wall. It will transform this side of our church into a true entrance: accessible, visible, and welcoming.

An entrance that says, “Come in. You are welcome here.”

But that is not all. Rebuilding the wall and creating a new entrance also opened the door to another opportunity: reconfiguring and narrowing the existing staircase in this area.

By doing so, we can create an entirely new room on the upper level, directly accessible from the welcome area outside the sanctuary. For those familiar with our building, this new room will be located where the choir closet is today.



This new space can become a nursery and family room—a welcoming place for families with young children on Sunday mornings, but also a quiet and private space for anyone who may need a moment away from the sanctuary. During a memorial service, for example, it could provide family members with a place to gather, breathe, or have a moment to themselves.

Architect's
rendering of
Window Wall
Interior



Phase 2: Making Room for Community

Expanding the Fellowship Hall & Creating an Accessible Restroom

Our Fellowship Hall is one of the most-used spaces in our church. It is where we eat together, learn together, laugh together, welcome community groups, and build relationships.

Phase 2 will significantly expand the Fellowship Hall, create a new fully accessible restroom, and relocate the janitor closet. The result will be a larger, more functional space that better serves our congregation, our ministries, and the many people from the wider Cheney community who walk through our doors.



View from the
(west) Parking
Lot Entrance

So, what will actually change?

As you can see in the design, two rooms currently adjacent to the Fellowship Hall (the room we call the Library, with its big brown sofas, and the current Nursery) will become part of an expanded Fellowship Hall. The new room created in Phase 1 can then become our new Nursery and Family Room, while also providing some of the comfortable seating and quiet space that our Library offers today.

The additional space in the Fellowship Hall will make a noticeable difference. During Coffee Hour, potlucks, receptions, community gatherings, and other events, we will have room to leave enough tables and chairs in place without crowding the main walkway through the Fellowship Hall. It means more room to gather and more room for everyone to move through the space safely and comfortably.

Phase 2: Continued

One of the most important improvements in Phase 2 will be the creation of a new, spacious, accessible restroom. Our current accessible restroom is tucked away near the church office and has a heavy door that can make access difficult. The new restroom will be easy to find, easier to enter, and designed with enough space for people using walkers or wheelchairs, as well as parents caring for babies and young children.

Ultimately, Phase 2 is about something simple but important: making room. More room around our tables. More room to move. More room for community. And more room for everyone to feel that they belong.

View of the
Fellowship Hall
from the Sanctuary
entrance



View from the old
library area

Phase 3: Creating a New Energy Efficient Entrance

You might wonder why we are considering a new entrance on the parking lot (west) side of the church. After all, the entrance we have now works and already includes a good accessible ramp, which we will keep. But there are several issues we need to address.

First, the stairs leading down toward the parking lot present a safety concern. They have been identified as a tripping hazard and need to be addressed—not only because of the potential liability for the church, but much more importantly because we want everyone who enters our building to be able to do so safely.

Second, our current entrance opens directly into the Fellowship Hall. Every time the doors open during our cold winters or hot summers, outside air comes directly into one of the most-used rooms in our church. A vestibule would create a buffer between the outdoors and the Fellowship Hall, helping us reduce energy loss and use our heating and air conditioning more efficiently.

And finally, while we already have an accessible ramp at this entrance, we do not have automatic doors. For someone using a wheelchair, walker, or other mobility device, reaching the entrance does not necessarily mean that opening a heavy exterior door is easy.



View from the
parking lot



View from the
ramp into the
vestibule

Phase 3: Continued

The presented design brings all of these needs together in one redesigned entrance. A new vestibule will extend the entrance outward and provide automatic doors, a more energy-efficient transition into the building, space for coat racks, and a new flow into the Fellowship Hall.

As you can see in the rendering, the inside of this area will also look very different. Where the current exterior entrance doors are located, there will instead be windows, and the new vestibule will create a more intentional and welcoming entrance into the Fellowship Hall.

This phase isn't simply about making the entrance look better. It is about making it safer, more accessible, more energy-efficient, and more welcoming.

When we say, "Everyone is welcome," we want our building to say it, too.

View standing in
the door of the
vestibule



View standing on
the stairs looking
at the vestibule



Phase 4: Updating Our Sanctuary Lighting

Our sanctuary is the heart of our worshiping life. It is a place of prayer, music, preaching, celebration, grief, baptism, communion, weddings, memorials, and countless sacred moments.

When the Board of Trustees invited the congregation to share feedback about our building a while ago, one concern appeared on multiple survey forms: **the lighting in our sanctuary.**

There are currently several dark areas that can make it difficult to read the bulletin during worship. The lighting in the choir area is also limited, making it challenging for some choir members to read their music. In addition, several of the spotlights illuminating the altar and piano area are located so high above the sanctuary floor that changing a light bulb safely requires special equipment.

Updating the sanctuary lighting would provide more consistent and effective lighting throughout the worship space, making it easier to read, sing, lead worship, play around during special worships series and participate fully. It also will be more energy efficient.

We also want to be clear: this is not the most urgent part of our construction project. Unlike the failing window wall, our sanctuary lighting does not represent an immediate structural need. But as we began looking comprehensively at our building with the architectural team, we wanted to explore this opportunity as well.

If our fundraising allows us to complete Phase 4 along with the other improvements, we can address a concern raised by our own congregation and enhance the sanctuary that has held and will continue to hold so many sacred moments in the life of Cheney United Methodist Church.



If you have any questions about the phases please feel free to reach out to our Board of Trustees, especially our chair Patti Sooy and board member Nelson Cordill.

Summary: More Than a Building

Four phases. Many different improvements. But one shared vision.

This project began because a wall is failing. Along the way, however, we discovered an opportunity to do more than simply repair what is broken.

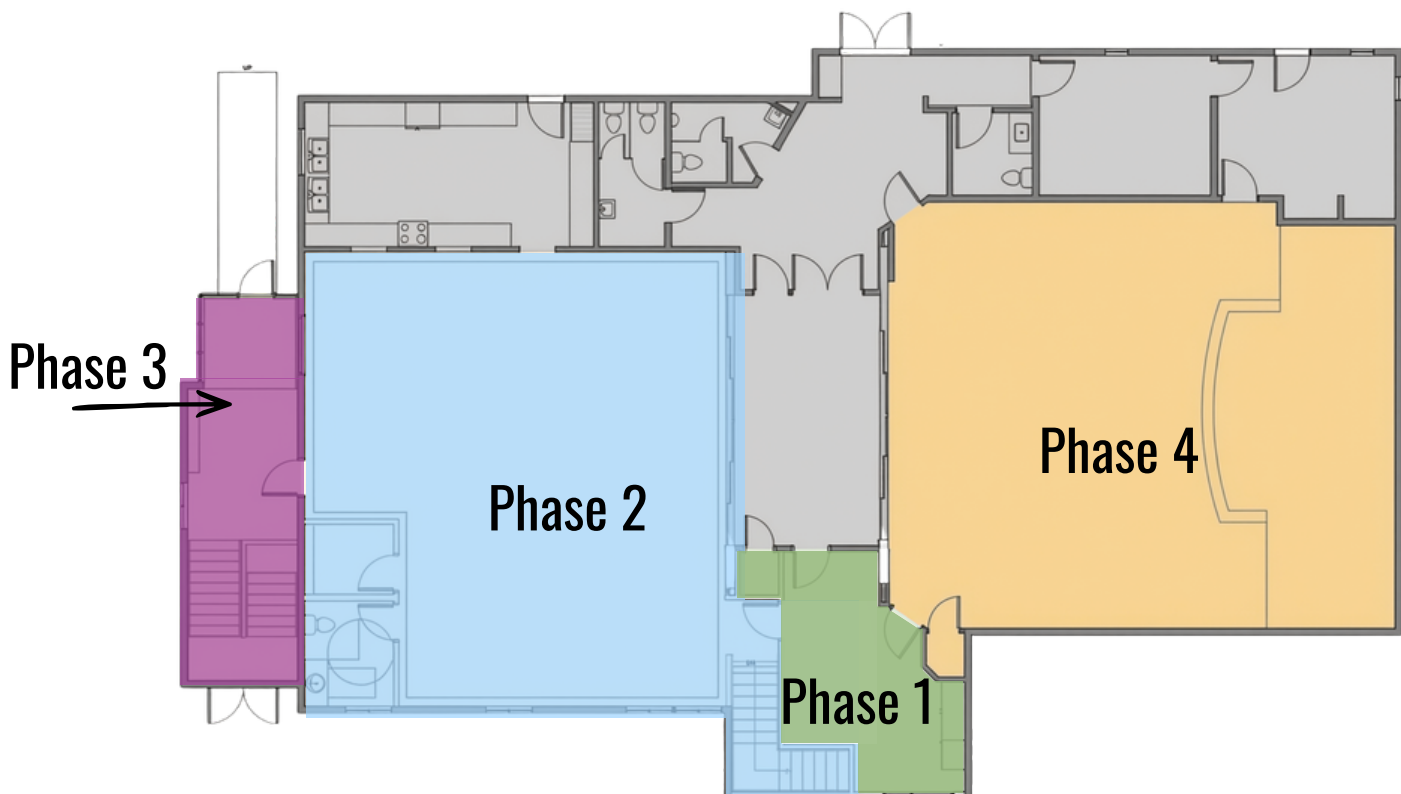
We have an opportunity to make our church more accessible. To create more room around our tables. To provide safer and more welcoming entrances. To improve the place where we worship. To care faithfully for a building that serves not only our congregation, but to many people throughout the Cheney community.

Ultimately, this project is not about walls, ramps, restrooms, doors, or lights.

It is about people.

We have inherited a building that generations before us built, cared for, and adapted for ministry in their time. Now it is our turn to care for it and to prepare it for the ministry that is still ahead of us. We cannot accomplish this vision without your help.

The following pages explain our fundraising goal and the many ways you can be part of making this project possible. **We are not asking everyone to give the same amount.** We are asking each person and household to prayerfully consider what they can give, above and beyond their regular giving, toward this shared vision. Every gift matters. Every person can be part of the story. And together, we can build for the future.



Our goal is ambitious: \$400,000.

For a congregation our size, that is a significant amount of money. We know that reaching this goal will call for all of us together and many kinds of gifts. Some may be able to make a significant gift at the beginning of the project. Others may be able to give a smaller amount each month over several years. Some may find that donating appreciated stock is the best option for them. And others may have an idea, some time, or a particular talent they can use to help us raise funds. **There is a place for all of us in this campaign.**

Ways of Giving**1. Make a One-Time Gift**

You may be in a position to make a one-time gift toward the Building Fund or pledge a specific amount that can be given at the beginning of the project. These early gifts are especially helpful because they allow us to determine how much of the project we can undertake and reduce the amount we may need to draw temporarily from other church resources. No gift is too small to matter, and every gift designated for the Building Fund will be used toward this construction project

2. Give Over Time

You do not need to have thousands of dollars available today to make a meaningful contribution. Let me give you a personal example. Currently, I give approximately 5% of my income after taxes to the General Fund of Cheney UMC. That regular giving matters to me because it supports our staff, ministries, utilities, worship, and everything else that keeps our church going. At the moment, I cannot significantly increase that regular giving, and I do not have a large amount of money set aside that I could simply give to the construction project.

But I can do \$50 more each month.

If I pledge an additional \$50 per month to the Building Fund for three years, that becomes: **$\$50 \times 36 \text{ months} = \$1,800$** . I can do that.

And imagine that just 20 people make that same commitment: **$20 \times \$1,800 = \$36,000$** . Suddenly, \$50 a month becomes \$36,000 toward our project. That is the power of giving together.

A multi-year pledge also helps our church plan responsibly. Knowing what has been committed over the next several years may allow us to move forward with more of the project while responsibly using available church resources in the meantime.

Your amount does not have to be \$50. Maybe for you it is \$10 a month. Maybe it is \$25, \$100, or \$200. The question is not whether everyone can give the same amount.

The invitation is simply this: What can I faithfully contribute?

3. Give From Your Retirement Account

For some members, another meaningful (and potentially tax-advantaged) way to support our Building Fund is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA.

When the requirements for a Qualified Charitable Distribution are met, the amount given directly to the church is generally excluded from your taxable income. For those who are required to take annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), a qualified charitable gift may also count toward that requirement.

This can be a wonderful way to make a significant contribution to our Building Fund without using money from your regular monthly income or savings.

Because tax rules and individual circumstances vary, please speak with your financial advisor, IRA custodian, or tax professional before making a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Be sure to designate your gift for the Cheney UMC Building Fund so that it is used specifically for our construction project.

4. Give Through Stocks or Other Securities

For some households, giving appreciated securities may be an especially helpful way to support the project. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) can be transferred directly to Cheney United Methodist Church. Depending on your individual circumstances, donating appreciated securities may allow you to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated value while also receiving a charitable deduction, subject to IRS regulations.

Cheney UMC has an established process for receiving these gifts **through our Morgan Stanley account**. Because account information and individual financial circumstances require some additional care, we have prepared a separate Giving Through Stock Donations guide with step-by-step instructions and contact information. To receive the form please contact our Finance Chair Roger Bertsch or Pastor Damian.

If you are considering a gift of securities, we encourage you to speak with your financial or tax advisor about what is appropriate for your situation.

5. Help Us Raise It!

Giving money is not the only way to help us reach our goal. Maybe you have an idea.

Could you organize a fundraiser? Host an event? Invite others to participate? Connect us with a local business or community partner? Do you have a talent, hobby, or creative idea that could become a fundraiser for the Building Fund? We would love to hear it!

If you have an idea or would simply like to help with fundraising, please contact Caren Lincoln, Chair of the Church Council, or Pastor Damian.

This is our project, and reaching our goal will take more than donations. It will take creativity, energy, connections, prayer, generosity, and a community willing to work together.

Commitment Sunday

On Sunday, November 22, we will celebrate a Commitment Sunday also known as Stewardship Sunday.

On that Sunday, we invite you to bring your pledge form with two separate commitments:

- **Your General Fund Pledge** supports the ongoing life and ministry of Cheney UMC —our staff, worship, ministries, utilities, outreach, and the everyday expenses that keep our church serving.
- **Your Building Fund Pledge** is an additional commitment specifically toward this construction project.

Keeping these commitments separate is important. Our building project prepares our facilities for the future, while our regular giving makes ministry possible every day.

The commitments we receive on November 22 will help the Church Council and Finance Committee plan our 2027 budget and determine what is financially possible for the construction project, which phases we can undertake, whether multiple phases can be completed together, and when construction can begin.

So between now and November 22, we ask you to do three things:

Pray. Consider. Imagine.

- **Pray** about how you might participate.
- **Consider** what you can faithfully give, whether as a one-time gift, a monthly commitment, a gift of securities, or another contribution.
- And **imagine** what we can accomplish together.

We are not simply raising money for a building. We are preparing a place for ministry, community, and welcome for generations still to come.

Building for the Future—Together.

Your Church Leadership

My/Our Financial pledges for 2027 to support the general budget and our Construction Project

NAME(S): _____

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we commit to supporting the mission and ministries of Cheney UMC in 2027 with a financial pledge to the general budget.

Financial Pledge:

- Weekly Contribution: \$ _____
- Monthly Contribution: \$ _____
- One-Time Gift: \$ _____

Please select one option and fill in the amount.

Ways to Give:

- Check or Cash: Place in the offering plate or send by mail.
- Online Giving: Available through our Cheney UMC App or Website.
- ACH Autopay: Set up a recurring payment through your bank.

Giving to the Building Fund for our Construction Project

I/we commit to supporting the construction project of Cheney UMC with a financial pledge to the building fund.

Financial Pledge:

- One-Time Gift (check/transfer from retirement acc.): \$ _____
- Give over time: \$ _____ per month for the next _____ years.
- Give through Stocks: \$ _____

Prayer and Presence

Your prayers and presence are invaluable to Cheney UMC's life and ministry. We invite you to hold the church and its mission in prayer and participate whenever possible, knowing these are also essential gifts to our community.

Thank you for your faithful support and dedication to our church. Please return this form via mail/email or drop it off at the church by **November 22, 2026.**
All financial pledges are confidential.

☐ Please check this box if you'd like to receive a Giving statement by the end of the year for your taxes or other purposes. Thank you!

☐ Please check the box if you'd like to learn more about alternative forms of financial gifting and pledging to CUMC such as naming our church as a beneficiary in your retirement plan (IRA, 401k, 403b, etc.) or designating a portion of your minimum required distribution from your retirement fund to the church.

This vision and fundraising campaign is presented on behalf
of the Cheney United Methodist Church Council, with
gratitude for the many people who have helped guide the
planning of this project.

Church Council

Roger Bertsch, Finance Chair

Pastor Damian Carruthers

Ronda Cordill

Mason Dress

Carol Kriegh

Caren Lincoln, Church Council Chair

Kathy Sawtells

Mary Jane Shervais

Patti Sooy, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Additional Project Leadership

Nelson Cordill, Board of Trustees

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can be part
of this next chapter in the life and ministry of Cheney
United Methodist Church.

Together, we are building more than a building.