

# RISE & BUILD



**THE GOD OF HEAVEN  
WILL MAKE US PROSPER,  
AND WE HIS SERVANTS  
WILL ARISE AND BUILD...**

NEHEMIAH 2:20

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**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH** is called by the God of all grace  
for the **TRANSFORMING OF LIFE** in middle Tennessee—  
spiritually, socially, and culturally—through the power of the gospel,  
from Franklin to the nations of the world—all to the glory of God.

# LOOKING FORWARD

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

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Grace and Peace to you in Jesus!

Have you noticed? God is doing something beautiful and amazing in and through Christ Community Church, transforming lives here and around the world through the Gospel. That's not new but it sure is beautiful. Thousands have come into the services and ministries of C3 and found their lives positively changed through the power of the gospel proclaimed in clear and bold messages, as well as in caring ministries of mercy pioneered and supported. For more than thirty years now, the God of all grace has been telling his story of redeeming mercy in and through you. We see the fruit of that work across Franklin and all around the world.

**But that story has just begun.** What if the most amazing chapters are yet to unfold? What if God is stirring something new and beautiful to deepen his work in us and extend his work through us?

Let's talk about the next thirty years. Imagine with me a time down the road from today, after I'm gone, and a new pastor has just arrived here with his family. Someone is going to ask him what others asked me: "What do you do here in Franklin?" When he replies that he's the new pastor of Christ Community Church, I want to know what people will say next.

You know what I heard and we've enjoyed a good laugh about it. When I answered, "I'm the new Pastor at Christ Community Church", people immediately said to me, "Oh! I used to go there!" What will the new pastor thirty years down the road hear? **What we do today writes the words to that answer.**

I hope it sounds a little like this: "This church changed my life... this church loves our city... I'm thankful C3 sent me to seminary and to the field where we've planted ten new churches...C3 welcomes questions and honors doubts, pours into our students...I was baptized there...I met Jesus there...I was married there, surrounded by unwavering community throughout my whole life...they cared for me when I had nowhere to go...this is home."

For an answer like that to be given thirty years from now, it'll mean that together, out of the ashes and the pain of some of the most difficult chapters, coupled with grateful hearts for the beauty and the grace of our story, and with renewed dedication inspired by the sacrifices others made for us, we decided to **RISE & BUILD** something of beauty and substance that was not for us, but for the glory and cause of Jesus. It'll mean that we decided to make costly sacrifices that would fashion an offering to give to him, a vessel put into his hands for the spread of his love to our city and our world.

The past thirty years weren't all easy and the next thirty won't be either. God weaves together the beautiful and the painful to create a tapestry of witness to his own suffering and love. He uses our brokenness to magnify his beauty. He uses our willingness to sacrifice to show the world his faithfulness. He uses us, not only at our brightest and shiniest, but at our most fatigued and battle weary, making our weaknesses opportunities to display his power. We've seen this time and again. This isn't about what we can do, but rather about what God can do in his people, trembling, but faithful.

Christ Community Church has never hesitated to take up the impossible in the name of the Savior. Inspired by the sacrifices made before us that created so much we enjoy now, it is time for C3 to take up the call to follow Jesus sacrificially again. Filled with gospel-inspired hope and trusting in God's faithfulness, it is time for us to **RISE & BUILD**.

- PASTOR DAVID CASSIDY

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# LOOKING BACK



## NOVEMBER 1986

Christ Community Church is founded by Pastor Emeritus Scotty Smith, particularized as a PCA (Presbyterian Church in America) church in Franklin, Tennessee.

## JANUARY 1987

The church begins meeting in the Historic Downtown Franklin Chapel on the corner of Third Avenue and Church Street.

## OCTOBER 1990

As the community is quickly growing, the church expands into surrounding buildings, moving into the old First Baptist Church building where every seat - even the choir loft and window seats - is filled!



## Throughout the 1990s

Community ministries such as Storehouse Ministries, GraceWorks, Mercy Community Healthcare, and New Hope Academy grow. New churches in neighboring communities are planted: Strong Tower, Good Shepherd, and West End Community Church.

## OCTOBER 1999

After our successful "Growing by Grace" Capital Campaign, Christ Community Church breaks ground on our current property at 1215 Hillsboro Road.



## Throughout the 2000s

We faced outward again planting City Church in East Nashville, Parish Presbyterian in Franklin, and Crossroads of the Nations in Nashville. On campus, Mustard Seed Preschool opened and Stewards Garden was launched.

## JUNE 2012

After 25 years of faithful service to the Lord, to the Lord's people, and to our community, Pastor Scotty Smith retires and Interim Senior Pastor Tony Giles begins serving us as we searched for our new pastor.

## MAY 2014

The Lord produced fruit from our time of prayer and searching, providing a lead pastor for our church. Pastor David Cassidy is installed on Sunday, May 4, 2014.



## Throughout the next few years

Our Student ministry relaunches as C3 Students, our Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) forms, and the Nashville Presbytery's first Deaconesses are elected by our elders and the congregation to serve our community.

## OCTOBER 2014

With the desire to create a strategic plan for mission on our property, the Session approves the formation of the Strategic Planning Committee.

## JUNE - AUGUST 2015

Immediate needs on the Elementary wing are addressed with renovations funded and completed.



## JANUARY 2016

The Strategic Planning Committee recommends creation of a Master Plan for stewardship of the property that God has entrusted to us; the Session approves formation of Master Planning Team.

## SPRING - SUMMER 2016

The Master Planning Team begins evaluating the property with architects and engineers, conducting surveys and info gathering sessions from the congregation and leadership to consider programmatic needs and identify objectives. The Design and Aesthetics Team is created to establish campus standards.





## OCTOBER 2016

The Prepare the Way Campaign successfully raises funding to create a master plan, build up our emergency fund, and address critical needs.

## JANUARY 2017

Our campus-wide Master Plan - setting the parameters, direction, and sequencing for the physical development of the campus - is completed, presented and approved.

## FEBRUARY 2017

The Church called to 100 Days of Prayer - the KNEEL Prayer Campaign - seeking wisdom on how best to move forward.

## JULY 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

An independent firm conducts a feasibility study to examine our congregational health and readiness for new undertakings. After the results are presented to the Session and Diaconate, they take a month to pray.

## JANUARY 2018

The Diaconate and Session approve plans to proceed and pursue a capital campaign to embrace the identified objectives.

Evaluations clearly identified the need and willingness to support the immediate development and work on:

- a Youth Lodge for C3 Students
- continued renovation of existing facilities with a view toward a greater welcome, fellowship, and educational space, and the need to complete long-delayed improvements to the worship space

## SPRING 2018

Architectural plans and renderings are presented to the congregation; strategy work for stewardship of the project begins.

## SUMMER - FALL 2018

The Building Committee continues planning and zoning work with the City of Franklin; prayer and deeper organizational work continues.

## SEPTEMBER 2018

The Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen APPROVES our development plan and PASSES our rezoning request, necessary for the approval of the development plan.

## JANUARY 2019

The RISE & BUILD capital campaign to fund our identified objectives is launched.

**From the beginning, this process has been led by hard-working, talented, and dedicated C3 members.** This has been a lengthy, intentional, and careful process, one marked by attention to detail, patient waiting on God, and much prayer. Leadership has been deeply committed to listening to the desires, questions, and concerns of our members, and committed to the future mission of C3 being fully integrated with our city and surrounding neighborhoods.

While we have many steps to take, and many months ahead of patient, prayerful, careful planning, we are overwhelmed with gratitude as we reflect on how the Lord has brought C3 to a place where we can consider these possibilities.

**Let us thank God for the opportunity to be part of what he is doing in and through Christ Community Church.**



# WHAT'S NEXT

Seeking to address the identified areas of need, keep our past promises, and move forward as the Lord has directed, we are initiating the **RISE & BUILD** campaign with the following areas of focus, to be addressed in phases as the Lord directs and funding permits.

## 1.

### **STUDENTS: REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION**

We all know our students need a dedicated space to call home. Building that space is critical to the future as it is not only every nation that must be reached, but every generation as well. We promised to do this ages ago and it's time to fulfill that promise to **RISE & BUILD**.

#### **BUILDING A YOUTH LODGE**

The design and form of the Youth Lodge was created to accommodate the functions of the ministry – needing a space for both large group and smaller group gatherings, needing “hang space” and recreation areas, needing space for worship, etc. Many have also noticed that the Youth Lodge looks like a home. Knowing that many youth now don't experience a stable picture of home, the goal of this design was to create a space that felt like home, that students could call home where they felt welcomed and loved.

#### **YOUTH LODGE FEATURES**

- Dedicated D-Group Rooms
- Large Group Gathering & Worship Space
- Basketball & Volleyball Courts
- Fire Pit
- Game & Shared Activities Space
- Open Kitchen
- Indoor / Outdoor Gathering & Meeting Porch
- New Furniture
- Exterior Grill Area
- Exterior Access to Restrooms

“

**One way you know that you belong is when there's a place that's been prepared for you.**

That's something that we're missing right now. God is always preparing a place for his people, from the garden that he spent time preparing in the beginning. Even now, Jesus says that he's preparing a place for us. That's how we know how much we mean to him. I feel like we can do that for the youth by preparing a place for them.

**Brian Haworth**

*Parent and Small Group Leader*





“

What’s an incentive for an adult without children in this ministry to care about this ministry?

**Caring about the next generation.**

The verse that has stuck with me the most is *1 Timothy 4:12* – “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” Paul is challenging Timothy, saying not to let anyone look down on him because he’s young, but set an example for other believers in speech and life. He’s saying not to worry about it, God will be with him, just go out and preach God’s word. That’s the opportunity we have with these kids in our care.

**Tony Van Belkom**

*Small Group Leader*

The thought of having a Youth Lodge for C3 Students and for the community is amazing. It’d be a place where we can really **finally belong**.

**Addie Grace Leggett**

*Current Middle School Student*

A new facility would be like a home. What’s a family without a home? I think having a new space, **a place for students to call home** is important. It’s important to cultivate faith in students’ lives.

**Langley Seibert**

*Former Student, Class of 2017*

It’s a place where students can come, where they can feel like they belong, where they can feel valued, where they can **invite friends**. My hope is that the lodge can become home – not just for the teenagers at our church, but also those in the community of Franklin.

**Jayme Amick**

*Middle School Coordinator*

# WHAT'S NEXT

“

This church is rooted in people having really **authentic, transformational worship** experiences. And for every individual that's expressed differently. My goal, my great desire, my prayer for this church is that we walk in, and we are overwhelmed by a space that allows us the freedom to worship the way that God has created us to.

**Scott Cash**

*Worship Lead Director*

## 2.

### **WORSHIP & CONNECTION SPACES:** KEEPING OUR PROMISES FOR MUCH-NEEDED IMPROVEMENT

Over the years, we've done our best to maximize our Worship Center to serve those who gather to glorify God and sit at his feet, but this space was originally designed to be a gym. We promised to improve it years ago, but it didn't receive much-needed updates in some of the lean years, and those improvements must be made now. Yes, there will be more to do on worship spaces in the years ahead, but we must do what we can do now. Improvements are needed to the spaces serving our children as well - those with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week at Mustard Seed Preschool. Gathering spaces additionally need basic improvements for better accessibility and new family restrooms. We promised to do this and it's time to keep that promise to **RISE & BUILD**.

### **WORSHIP SPACE IMPROVEMENTS**

The plans for our Worship Center are primarily updates to better equip the space spatially and acoustically for worship services and special events.

- Floor Structure Repair & New Flooring
- New Adaptable Sound System
- Expanded Stage
- New Green Room
- New Prayer & Nursing Rooms
- Upper Mezzanine Seating (North & South)
- New Acoustical Wall & Ceiling Finishes
- New Vestibules for Acoustics
- New & Improved Lighting
- New Coffee Prep
- New Communion Prep
- New Storage

### **MAIN BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS**

- New Men's and Women's B-Wing Restrooms
- New Family Restroom & Renovation of Existing Restrooms
- Nursery and Preschool Area (A-Wing) Access to Adult Restrooms
- Dedicated Mustard Seed Preschool Entrance
- New Preschool / Elementary School Playground
- New Sinks in Elementary Classrooms (C-Wing) and Playground Access

# RISE & BUILD

RISE & BUILD is a God-sized project  
and God-sized mission.

The total cost to do all of this is \$10 million.  
**Our campaign goal is to raise as much as we possibly can.** The plan is modular; we have projects that we can do for less and for more. Seeking to address the identified areas of need and keep our past promises, we will move forward in phases as the Lord directs and funding permits.

God is graciously allowing us to participate in what he is doing in and through Christ Community Church, and it's going to take ALL OF US committing to prayer, sacrificial giving, and faithful obedience to the one through whom all things are accomplished.

**YOUR COMMITMENT COUNTS!**

Many centuries ago, a people who'd experienced deep joys and great sorrows faced a seemingly impossible challenge: out of the ashes of exile, they had to rebuild Jerusalem from the ruin and rubble of disaster. They were taunted by some cynics, "Are you going to do that with burnt stones?" Nehemiah's answer was resolute. "The God of heaven will give us success, therefore we his servants will rise and build." Nehemiah was right. The walls of Jerusalem did rise and the City of God was once again a beacon of hope and joy in a world of sorrow and pain.

Today, we have a mission that is no less beautiful, purposeful, and daunting. We can't ask 'What's in it for me?' but rather 'What's in it for Jesus?' We can be part of something right now that serves generations to come. The future is on the line. Thirty years from now, what we do today will have made all the difference in the world. Because the God of heaven is at work, because he is the Lord who does more than we can even imagine - we, his servants, can **RISE & BUILD**.

# HOW TO ENGAGE

- 1. PRAY** - Come before the Lord with an open heart, asking him to show you what generosity looks like. Pray for him to guide you and reveal to you how he wants to work through you at Christ Community Church and in Franklin.
  - 2. READ** - Read the living and active Word, participating in the weekly devotional that corresponds to the message each week. If you are traveling or homebound, you can listen to the Scripture readings and message on our website ([christcommunity.org/sermons](http://christcommunity.org/sermons)) or through our podcast (*C3 Podcast* - [christcommunity.org](http://christcommunity.org)).
  - 3. REFLECT** - As you read and pray, reflect on what the Lord is saying to you. Talk you're your family and friends and if you are married, talk to your spouse - discuss what the Holy Spirit is leading you toward.
  - 4. TAKE A STEP IN FAITH** - Trust Jesus and what he is calling you to give.
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# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

How might my gift change me and allow me to invest myself more meaningfully in this vision for Christ Community Church and our community?

Am I thinking in a way that is easy and effortless, or challenging and requiring more discipline to be selfless in response to this vision?

What things can I afford, but am intentionally choosing to live without because I am committing to give sacrificially? Can I postpone a desired vacation or new purchase in order to give more?

Can I order my financial priorities to better reflect the order of what I really love?

Am I thinking creatively about a comprehensive giving plan that represents what I am capable of giving?

What assets and resources could I use as a gift beyond my income?

Am I discovering a new joy in giving through this process, seeing giving as an act of worship?

Am I excited about the possibilities of what the Lord will do with the resources that he has entrusted to me when I dedicate them to him?

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# COMMITMENT CARD

On **February 24**, you will be invited to make a commitment to this three-year project during the Worship Service.

This **Commitment Card** is your opportunity to communicate how the Lord has led you to give to his kingdom work through RISE & BUILD.

You can indicate what you plan to give over the three-year period of the campaign, with options for how and over what schedule you have prayerfully decided to contribute. This card is vital, informing us of what to expect and how to wisely plan.

*Cards will be available beginning on Sunday, February 10 during the Worship Services.*

## RISE & BUILD

**I PLEDGE TO GIVE:** FOR NON-CASH GIFTS, PLEASE DESCRIBE.

**WEEKLY** FOR 156 WEEKS \$

**MONTHLY** FOR 36 MONTHS \$

**ANNUALLY** FOR 3 YEARS \$

**MY TOTAL THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT IS:**

\$

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

THIS COMMITMENT CARD IS A STATEMENT OF INTENT AND MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED.

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## GIVING

You may make your gifts and fulfill your commitment throughout the three years in a variety of forms and will receive a receipt of your tax-deductible gifts in accordance with IRS requirements.

You can additionally set up automated recurring gifts (automated debt transfer), give through donor-advised funds, or offer gifts of stock and gifts in-kind. Please contact the business office for questions and assistance, or indicate your giving preferences on your commitment card so that we may contact you.

### CHURCH OFFICE CONTACT:

Don Davis, Business Administrator  
615-468-2226; don.davis@christcommunity.org

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# IMPORTANT DATES

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27:**  
RISE & BUILD CAMPAIGN LAUNCH  
WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24:**  
COMMITMENT SUNDAY  
(BEGINNING OF THE 3-YEAR GIVING COMMITMENT)  
WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 10:**  
CELEBRATION SUNDAY

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**FEBRUARY 2021:**  
COMPLETION OF OUR RISE & BUILD CAMPAIGN



## **What are you asking me to do?**

First and foremost, we are asking you to pray and seek God's leading. Prioritize attending the Sunday Worship Services and prepare your heart to listen to God's Word, taking time to reflect on the messages that you hear each week and engage in the corresponding Bible studies. Talk with your family and friends about what the Lord is revealing to you.

Mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday on February 24, making plans to be part of this special Worship Service to celebrate how the Lord is working in and through us, and worship with our offerings. We trust that the Lord will direct on how he is calling you, personally, to make a sacrificial commitment.

We also ask you to prepare to be amazed. We trust that the Lord is working in your life, in our church, and in our community, and we look forward in faith to the tremendous impact that he will make through our commitments.

## **What is the 'right amount' for me to give, or for us to give as a family?**

The 'right amount' is the amount that God places on your heart to sacrificially give. Your commitment is a response in worship. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 that "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

## **What if I can't afford to give right now?**

RISE & BUILD is about your total, radical, sacrificial generosity to God's mission in and through Christ Community Church. We believe that God calls us to give in times of hardship just as much as he does in times of abundance, and what that looks like will be different for every person and family. We trust that God will direct all of us, calling us to surrender our lives completely in the area of giving and see that it is not something that he wants from us, but something that he wants for us.

Sacrificial giving may mean being challenged to sell things, cutting back in certain areas of spending, or even trusting God in faith by making a commitment that you don't quite know how to fulfill right now, but that you believe God will provide.

We would like everyone to be a part of RISE & BUILD so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another.

## **What if I am new to Christ Community Church?**

If you are new to our church, new to Franklin, new to faith in Christ, or still seeking answers, WELCOME. As RISE & BUILD is about moving forward God's mission through our church, we'd love to help you get to know our church and learn more about that vision.

We encourage you to attend our Welcome and Connection class on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how to connect. This is a great opportunity to get to know members and leaders in our community, ask questions, and let us know about where you are in your journey.

## **How were the design decisions for these plans made?**

With the primary focus areas for improvement identified by the Strategic Planning Committee and Master Planning Team, we selected Matheny-Goldmon Architecture + Interiors for master planning and architectural design. Using the information gathered from pastors, staff, leaders, and the congregation from meetings, discussion groups, and surveys, the team created designs and plans that meet the needs and goals outlined, and best serve the mission of our church and individual ministry areas.

## **Why is the Youth Lodge designed as a separate building, separated from the rest of the church?**

Pastor Charles Johnson explains, “Several people have asked – why a separate building? That’s a great question. I investigated this question by asking lots of Youth Pastors around the country that do have their own designated space. The prevailing thought was: if you have in mind non-Christian teenagers, or de-churched or never-been-churched teenagers, then you must have a detached youth facility as an entry point for them to be able to come into the church.” After much research and prayer, the decision to proceed with a separate space was made with the goal of welcoming our community’s teenagers, focusing on creating an easier entry point to welcome new neighbors and friends.

Additionally, as we see that adolescence is a time when our youth naturally, developmentally begin to pull away, a physically detached building gives them a safe space to accomplish this in a healthy way – a separated facility, yet connected to the strong base of the church, in order to love and support them in this phase.

## **Can we raise the much money above our annual budget needs?**

Evangelical churches typically raise around two to three times their annual giving in a financial campaign. After conducting a feasibility study with our congregation, consulting with our campaign advisors, and reviewing our full financial picture with projected planning, design, construction, and long-term costs, the Session has prayerfully considered and approved the goal. We believe that through radical generosity and sacrificial giving, we can move the vision forward.

## **Will giving to the RISE & BUILD campaign have a negative effect on funding for any current ministry areas?**

We will only proceed with construction if the fiscal requirements outlined in our Guiding Financial Principles are met, ensuring that we have the available funds to maintain our current ministry focus.

We do not expect the campaign to have an adverse effect on our normal operating or mission budgets as all giving commitments towards the RISE & BUILD campaign are made over and above regular giving. Historically, churches do not experience decreases in regular giving during a campaign as the overall focus on stewardship and opportunity to grow in our understanding of generosity stirs individuals and families to consider the total picture of their giving and be more intentional in both their regular offerings and campaign commitment.



### What is a Commitment Card?

The RISE & BUILD Commitment Card is where you can indicate what you plan to give over the three-year campaign period, with options for how and over what schedule you have prayerfully decided to contribute. This card is vital, informing us of what to expect and how to wisely plan expenditures. When the time comes to begin giving, a number of methods are available (giving online, by check, automatic checking withdrawal, etc.) with options for stocks and non-cash gifts as well. *For specific questions about giving methods, please contact Don Davis in the Church Business Office at don.davis@christcommunity.org.*

### Will I be able to change my 3-year commitment if I need to?

Of course! Unforeseen circumstances in the future may cause you to want to increase or decrease your giving commitment. At any time during the 36 month period, you can review or change your commitment.

### When do we expect construction to begin? How will it affect our current ministries?

The earliest that we anticipate being ready to “break ground” with any remodeling or new construction is this summer, which could allow the Youth Lodge to be completed for use the following summer. We anticipate the need to be flexible during construction but will make every effort to minimize disruption to our regular ministry schedule. While we will all experience small inconveniences at different times, having to use different parts of our campus as areas are improved, we are building the construction schedule to minimize downtime.

As construction of the new areas begin, there will be seasons when the flow of traffic coming and going into the building will be modified. However, no significant ministry change will take place.

We plan to communicate the schedule and update the congregation on the progress throughout the commitment and building phases.

### Where can I direct other questions that I have about the campaign?

Email [hello@christcommunity.org](mailto:hello@christcommunity.org) with your questions and we'll direct them to our pastoral and campaign teams. Look for our **RISE & BUILD Campaign Committee** on Sunday mornings to ask questions and learn more.

#### RISE & BUILD CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Todd and Teresa Hardy, *Directors*  
 Dan Ryan, *Committee Chair*  
 Don Davis, *Finance*  
 Lee McCroskey, *Education*  
 Dale and Debbie Jamison, *Prayer*  
 Tim Knight, *Advanced Commitment*  
 Natalina Marlow, *Communications*  
 Alex Ayers and Patrick Baggett, *C3 Kids*  
 Taylor Morris and Jon Reynolds, *C3 Students*  
 Mindy Brown and Mary Ann Garner, *Events*

#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

Steve Kuhn, *Chair*  
 Jayme Amick  
 Stephanie Cooper  
 Mark Holmes  
 Marie Morris  
 Cliff Smith  
 Alfred Stewart



**SEEKING  
WISDOM**

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**5 WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**During this 5-week journey, how will God speak to you?** How do we respond to RISE & BUILD? What can we do together above and beyond our human expectations?

We invite you to slow down and ponder a bit using the short devotional which follows. Perhaps grab some tea or a cup of coffee, and take 15-20 minutes each day to...

**CONSIDER** the scripture and the notes. Then,

**APPLY** what you've read; ask "How does this apply to me and my family in this season of our church?"  
And most importantly,

**PRAY.** And listen. Be still for a few minutes. It's OK to turn everything off.

For further reflection, we have provided **QUOTES** and more scripture references each week for those who are **DIGGING DEEPER**. And, as another option, we have a suggested **ACTIVITY** to more fully engage you, your family, or small group.

Above all, we encourage you to seek God's face through this process. Enjoy the journey!

**RISE & BUILD!**

Diana Batarseh  
Kelsey Cramer  
Mary Grace Gardner  
Lee McCroskey  
Sandy Wilson



## CONSIDER

READ NEHEMIAH 2:20

*(For a more complete picture, read Nehemiah 2:1-20.)*

<sup>17</sup> Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision.” <sup>18</sup> And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, “Let us rise up and build.” So they strengthened their hands for the good work. <sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” <sup>20</sup> Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem.”

What words or phrases “grabbed” me as I read? Pause a while with these.

## APPLY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

- What resonated in the sermon for me?
- How did God’s Spirit move Nehemiah’s heart and will with the need to rebuild Jerusalem’s wall for God’s Glory, and for the blessing of future generations?
- Do I sense the Spirit of God stirring my heart and will to join the C3 family as we expand our current space and build a new youth lodge?

## PRAY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

In a few moments of stillness, I quiet my heart and allow the God of all grace to enfold me in his love.

From a grateful heart I respond: *Thank you gracious God for all the ways you weave your faithful love into my life. Please give me a “Nehemiah heart” that trusts you for the courage to rise and build. For your glory I pray. Amen.*



## CONSIDER

READ HAGGAI 1:2-9

*Slowly read aloud through this passage.*

<sup>2</sup> “Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.” <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, <sup>4</sup> “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have sown much and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

<sup>7</sup> “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

What words or phrases seem to “shimmer” on the page for me? Sit a few moments with these.

## APPLY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

- How did the people of God struggle with what to seek first? How does this same issue show up in my life?
- In verse six, God called his people to, “Consider your ways.” This spiritual self-awareness is so essential God repeats his call one verse later.
- As I let the words “consider your ways” search my inward being for what I truly seek first, where do “off limits” signs appear? What would it take to remove them?

## PRAY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

In these moments of stillness, I rest in the fathomless ocean of God’s love. *Faithful Savior, You’ve always know my innermost ways, my highest priorities and deepest fears, and still you love me. Trusting in your boundless mercy, I ask for the courage to see clearly what I seek first. Show me myself little-by-little as I can bear it. In your strong name I pray, Amen.*





## CONSIDER

READ HAGGAI 2:7-9

*Slowly read aloud these three verses.*

<sup>7</sup> And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup> The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts. (English Standard Version)

*Now, read them in other translations.*

<sup>7</sup> And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup> The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. (King James Version)

<sup>6-7</sup> “This is what God-of-the-Angel-Armies said: ‘Before you know it, I will shake up sky and earth, ocean and fields. And I’ll shake down all the godless nations. They’ll bring bushels of wealth and I will fill this Temple with splendor.’ God-of-the-Angel-Armies says so. <sup>8</sup> ‘I own the silver, I own the gold.’ Decree of God-of-the-Angel-Armies. <sup>9</sup> ‘This Temple is going to end up far better than it started out, a glorious beginning but an even more glorious finish: a place in which I will hand out wholeness and holiness.’ Decree of God-of-the-Angel-Armies.” (The Message)

Do certain words or phrases “leap off the page” for me as I read? If they do, spend some extra time with these.

## APPLY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

- What are my strongest impressions as I consider the reckless generosity described in this week’s sermon? What excites me? What distresses me?
- When God declares that “the silver is mine and the gold is mine,” does this help realign my thoughts about all this? If so, how?

## PRAY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

In these moments of stillness, I relax into the boundless mercy and grace of God.

*Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I praise and thank you for the redemptive outpouring of your reckless generosity to me. As your child I long to resemble you, so I ask for a heart of increasing generosity, running-over and reckless. Amen.*

### > QUOTE

He means that He has given each one of His people some opportunity of glorifying Him. He would have you understand that everyone has got his own sphere – the poorest as well as the richest; that everyone has an open door before him, and may, if he will, show forth his Master’s praise. Your bodily health and strength, your mental gifts and capacities, your money and your earthly possessions, your rank and position in life, your example and influence with others, your liberty to read the Bible and hear the Gospel, your plentiful supply of means of grace – all these are your pounds. All these are to be used and employed with a continual reference to the glory of Christ. All these are His gifts. “Of Him come riches and honor.” (1 Chronicles 29:12).

- J.C. RYLE

### > ACTIVITY

Go to our church website’s “Our History” page ([christcommunity.org/our-history](http://christcommunity.org/our-history)). Scroll through the history of C3. Be mindful that our church is a part of the Church down through the ages. For more than thirty years, the God of all grace has been telling his story of redeeming mercy in and through you. We see the fruit of that work across Franklin and all around the world. But that story has just begun.

How do you connect with all those who went before you and worshiped here? What role can you play for future generations of believers?

### SERMON NOTES: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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### > DIGGING DEEPER

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

- PSALM 139:3-5

Is there anything God is not aware of in my life? Is there any place I could go or any situation that He does not completely understand? Does this mean He knows my financial circumstances and is able to provide for me?

## CONSIDER

READ 1 CHRONICLES 29:1-22

*Slowly read aloud through this scripture passage, specifically noting David's prayer:*

<sup>10</sup> Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. <sup>11</sup> Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. <sup>13</sup> And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

<sup>14</sup> "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. <sup>15</sup> For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. <sup>16</sup> O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. <sup>17</sup> I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. <sup>18</sup> O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. <sup>19</sup> Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision."

What sentences or words seem to clamor for my attention? Linger over these.

## APPLY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

- When I read David's words to God in verse 14, "For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you," what are my first thoughts? I can be ruthlessly honest since my Savior already knows my heart. E.g., "Whoa, wait a minute! I work really hard for my money."
- This week's sermon resounds the truth that when I am asked to give lavishly I am being called to follow God's example of redemptively lavish giving. As I listen to my innermost self, how do I respond? What attracts me? Where is there resistance?

## PRAY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

In this special time, I relax deeply into God's loving embrace.

*O Lord God, with David I proclaim that the greatness and the power and glory and the victory and the majesty and all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Fill me with eagerness to give freely and joyously with a heart that reflects yours. For your great glory I pray, Amen.*

### > QUOTE

A man came across three masons who were working at chipping chunks of granite from large blocks. The first seemed unhappy at his job, chipping away and frequently looking at his watch. When the man asked what it was that he was doing, the first mason responded, rather curtly, "I'm hammering this stupid rock, and I can't wait 'til 5 when I can go home." A second mason, seemingly more interested in his work, was hammering diligently and when asked what it was that he was doing, answered, "Well, I'm molding this block of rock so that it can be used with others to construct a wall. It's not bad work, but I'll sure be glad when it's done." A third mason was hammering at his block fervently, taking time to stand back and admire his work. He chipped off small pieces until he was satisfied that it was the best he could do. When he was questioned about his work he stopped, gazed skyward and proudly proclaimed, "I...am building a cathedral!" Three men, three different attitudes, all doing the same job.

### > ACTIVITY

**Dream big!** Go to our church website's "About Us" page ([christcommunity.org/about-c3](http://christcommunity.org/about-c3)) and read through our vision. What if the most amazing chapters are yet to unfold? What if God is stirring something new and beautiful to deepen his work in us and extend his work through us? What will people say thirty years from now about what God is doing at Christ Community Church?

### SERMON NOTES: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

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### > DIGGING DEEPER

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- 1 PETER 2:4-5

Thank You, Father, that you are building me into a spiritual house that you inhabit, transform and empower! Thank You, Father, that you will do the same and greater works in the buildings we are building for you.

*I want to be a part of your great plan to change lives, heal, perform miracles, restore and magnify your name in Franklin and beyond. Use the time, talents and the treasure you have given to me to build for you a place where you will do magnificent things!*

## CONSIDER

READ 1 KINGS 18:30-39

*Slowly read aloud through these verses.*

<sup>30</sup> Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. <sup>31</sup> Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” <sup>32</sup> and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. <sup>33</sup> And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.”<sup>34</sup> And he said, “Do it a second time.” And they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time.” And they did it a third time. <sup>35</sup> And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water. <sup>36</sup> And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. <sup>37</sup> Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” <sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>39</sup> And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”

What words or phrases seem to call out to me in this drama-packed passage? Focus on these a while.

## APPLY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

- This is the time to search my true motives for giving to our capital campaign. What do I want my primary motive to be? What would it take to get me there?
- In this week’s sermon, we noted that Elijah and the people built an altar, but only God could send holy fire. Do I want to erect more and bigger structures, or help the C3 family build an altar where the God of all grace can ignite life-transforming fire?

## PRAY

IN A TIME OF PRIVATE WORSHIP AND/OR IN A SMALL GROUP:

Once again in moments of stillness, I surrender my mind, heart and will into the nail-scarred hands of my loving Savior. *Father, Son, Spirit, only you send the redemptive fire that kindles everlasting life. I bow before you in adoration and praise as my heart sings with gratitude. I sense you working deeply in me, and ask for the grace to cooperate with the Spirit’s altar-building in my heart that you might light a fire of blazing generosity. All for the building of your glorious, eternal kingdom, Amen.*





