



WHAT IS THE ASK?

We ask that you faithfully consider making a pledge toward the FORWARD campaign. The pledge is above and beyond your annual giving to the church and can be spread out over three years. You can enter your pledge online or fill out your pledge card and bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday; **February 19, 2023.**

Together, we can do this; through
our prayers, presence, gifts,
service, and witness.
Together, we can move
FORWARD.



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FORWARD

BUILDING ON THE ROCK

"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew
and beat against the house; yet it did not fall,
because it had its foundation on the rock." – Matthew 7:27



APEX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OUR STORY



Over 150 years ago, a small group of people called Methodists gathered in Apex, North Carolina. Slowly, faithfully, deliberately, these people built a church – both literally and figuratively. They built a physical structure to house worship and provide space for mission and ministries. They built a spiritual structure to bring people hope, healing, community, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Over time, this foundation has grown bigger, stronger, and more substantial than those who gathered back in 1870 ever could have imagined.

The single stand-alone sanctuary is now a sprawling campus that covers nearly two city blocks, with facilities totaling 82,876 square feet. The buildings include three worship spaces, 29 classrooms, four kitchens, a welcome center with coffee bar, a gym and a film studio. In addition to hosting our weekly adult, youth, and children's Christian formation programming, there is space for a preschool, a resource center with tutoring and immigration services, ministry space for Fiesta Cristiana, meeting spaces for support groups like A-Anon and Arch to Freedom (AA), classroom spaces used by BSA and Girls' scouting programs, an office space for Triangle Pastoral Counseling services, and program space for Canzion (a weekly Hispanic music school), Noah's Ark (a full-day childcare program), and Skip-its (a weekly jump rope group).

The congregation has grown to a church that now has more than 3,000 members, a worshipping community of 533 average per week (post-pandemic), a youth program with 140 in weekly attendance, a children's program with an average of 86 in attendance weekly on Sunday mornings, and a music program with 2 bands, 4 vocal choirs, and 5 handbell groups for people of all ages. Throughout the year, an estimated 352 adults are engaged in some form of class, bible study or small group.

Over the past few years, we have weathered some pretty severe storms. We have experienced the pandemic, the separation of the Apex UMC Family, and some serious financial strains. However, the Apex UMC rock remains strong.

The rock of Apex UMC is ready to move FORWARD. It is ready to build upon the work of the past in order to move FORWARD in faith. In order to do so, we need to reduce our debt by half. By bringing the debt down to an affordable level we can reach financial sustainability and keep our church foundational for generations to come.



TIMELINE

HOW DID WE GET HERE?



1990s	Properties acquired, parsonage constructed and sanctuary expanded.
1999	Completed the Christian Life Center.
2000	Remodeled Fellowship Hall #2. Cumulative debt was \$3.3 million.
2010	<i>Imagine the Possibilities</i> Capital Campaign raised \$1.9 million. Start multi-site.
2011 -2012	Removed Fellowship Hall #1, completed construction of the Discipleship Center, Crossroads, Worship Arts building, and a major renovation of the sanctuary, total cost \$6.9 million. Cumulative debt was \$8.3 million.
2014	<i>Claiming God's Future</i> Capital Campaign raised \$1.8 million. Cumulative debt was \$6.5 million.
2014-2020	Paid off \$1.3 million in principal debt.
2019	Multi-site becomes Cooperative Parish (Apex UMC Family of Faith).
2020-Now	Stopped principal payments – paying interest only. Cumulative debt today is \$5,184,089.
2021	Dissolution of Cooperative Parish (Apex UMC Family of Faith).



FIGURES

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS TO KNOW?



- Monthly-we are currently paying \$20,000 interest only.
- Our yearly interest & principal currently would be \$480,000 (if we were doing both).
- Resume principal payments no later than July 1, 2025.
- We have to pay all principal (current and deferred) \$5,184,089, by July 1, 2035.
- Our annual operating budget is \$1,965,363.

PROPERTY

WHAT ABOUT SELLING PROPERTY?

Church leadership is exploring the possibility of selling some underutilized property. Proceeds from a potential sale would be applied toward debt reduction and be in addition to the funds received from the campaign.