

When You Are Called, How Will You Answer?

The good news is out: the Mendon Presbyterian ministry is growing! More programs, increased membership and expanded missions have all been God's way of telling us we are on the right path. Now we are being asked to step out in faith as a way to meet our growing needs and continue our mission to lead others to Christ. Building a new facility is about more than finances. It's about opening your heart to the shape your life can take when you put God first.

The Call to Commitment

With God as your first priority, you learn to hear His calling. When Peter was asked to step out of the boat, he did so with the assurance that he wouldn't be asked to do the impossible, and he wouldn't walk alone. The building of a new church facility is a sacred opportunity. Together as a church family, we can do much more than any one of us can accomplish alone. Your ability to give begins with a willingness to give.

The Call to Prayer

Each household in our church is being asked to make a three-year commitment that is over and above regular giving. As you consider the abundance you have been given, please pray: "Lord, what do you want to do through me?" Through prayer and quiet reflection, you will discover how to give of yourself, your time and your wealth as we move forward. This spiritual journey will deepen your faith and lay the groundwork for spreading the teachings of Christ.

The Call to Action

God always asks His people to work hard. Your next step is to make a pledge. This is a personal and private decision based upon commitment, prayer and spiritual direction. Simply act on God's invitation to lead you in becoming part of this exciting new phase of Mendon Presbyterian Church. Your rewards will come in new opportunities for service, witness and giving.



"The community of Mendon Presbyterian Church is a very warm, friendly, welcoming family. It felt like coming home in part because of the music. We could feel the spirit of Christianity at work in this community of believers."

Sandy Huffman

Our Legacy

When considering your commitment to our new church, turn your heart toward the future. Our children's children will be the true beneficiaries of our efforts. Let's make them as proud as we feel about those who sacrificed for us.

- **1816** The First Mendon Congregational Society was organized at the home of Ezra Sheldon.
- **1827** The Meeting House, currently the Foggy Bottom, was dedicated as the church.
- **1840** A manse was built, now serving as the site of Benincasa next door.
- **1900** The current church building was dedicated.
- **1924** Electric lights were installed.
- **1954** The manse was sold and the funds were applied to the construction of Westminster Hall.
- **1998** 24 acres of land were purchased on the southwest corner of Cheese Factory and Route 64 for future expansion.
- **2003** The congregation voted to move forward to build a new facility.

For more about the church's history, check the website at www.mendonchurch.org or contact the church historian.

Our Vision for Mission

- Inviting all people to discover Jesus Christ and become believers, beginning a lifelong journey of faith as they develop a personal relationship with the Living Lord.
- Nurturing believers into disciples through Biblical study, worship, education, fellowship and spiritual growth. We teach His word, we sing His praise and we share in the joys and sorrows of our church family.
- Demonstrating the kingdom of God through life-service to others. We reach out in love with our time, talents, hearts, hands and prayers.



"When we first came to Mendon, we weren't steady churchgoers. But our pastor has a gift for preaching, and I have learned something from him every week. Through the gifted people in this church, I've also learned how to give of myself in service to others."

Tara Nickel

Building for the Future



Do you remember your Sunday school days? I remember mine. And sometime during those younger years I learned a song that taught me much about the Christian church. The song went this way ... *The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people. I am the church; you are the church; we are the church together!* What a surprise! I had always thought that the church was where the people gathered. I never realized that the church was the people who gathered. The people are the church, wherever they meet!

For more than 188 years the people of Mendon Presbyterian Church have gathered for worship, work and witness. Yet, during those nearly two centuries, the people have gathered in a succession of buildings, from a series of private homes, to a clapboard building, to a brick structure, to a cinder block addition. Each location was different, but the purpose of the people remained the same: to introduce men, women and children to Jesus Christ and to begin a lifetime journey with Jesus as Lord and Savior.

For the last century, we have gathered in a beautiful building. And when it could not accommodate the needs of our congregation, Westminster Hall was added. You see, a church building is like a suit of clothing for a growing child. While the clothes fit for a season, eventually, the child outgrows them and larger clothes must be acquired. The Mendon Church Family has outgrown its building ... again! Our present facility no longer meets the needs of our current congregation. And it cannot begin to satisfy the anticipated needs of a new century and a growing community.

Just as those who went before us a century ago built to prepare for those who would follow them, so too, we build for those who will follow us. On the threshold of the 21st Century, we are positioning Mendon Church to receive generations yet to be born. May all who come behind us find us faithful!

David L. Smith



Preliminary plans are shown.

Phase 2

How Our Future Will Look

Our church membership has increased more than 18% since 1991. Based on recent growth statistics, we expect to see an increase of another 21% in the next five years. Forty percent of the people in a five-mile radius of our church are unchurched. What a wonderful opportunity God has given to further His Kingdom through us! A new facility will attract others to share the joy of knowing Christ and encourage future growth by providing:

- **A larger sanctuary** to welcome newcomers. Our current sanctuary seats 137 and average attendance on Sundays is 170.
- **Fellowship room** for large events and community meetings.
- **Ample, safe on-site parking.** Parking is currently limited to around the building, on the street and through the field to the back lot. A larger membership means more cars!
- **Nursery and classrooms** to attract new families and increase program offerings.
- **Future expansion** for youth facilities such as a pavilion and ball fields.

It is in the giving that we truly receive the riches of God's blessing.
Acts 20:35

Phase 1

A Two-Phase Approach

Current discussions with our architect, contractor and consultant indicate that we need to take a phased approach in constructing our new church facility.

- **Phase I** will provide a large multi-purpose room for worship and fellowship, plus classrooms, offices and all the necessary site work (parking area, driveway, etc.).
- **Phase II** will consist of a dedicated sanctuary and an adjacent gathering space.

With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.

Mark 10:27

