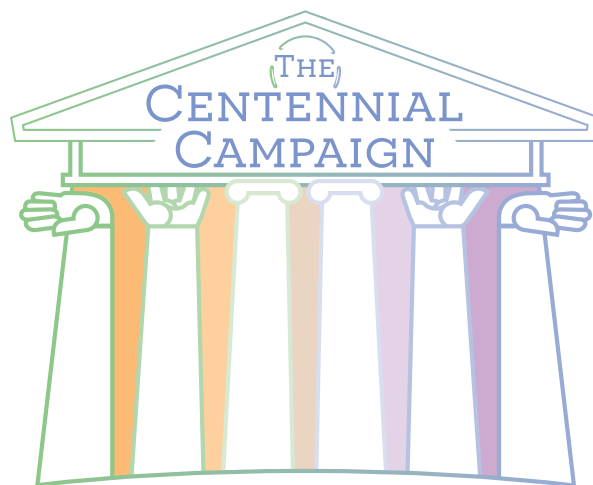


Campaign Guide



A Firm Foundation for the Next Century

Belmont United Methodist Church

Letter from Pastor Paul

Dear Belmont Friends,

At Belmont's first worship service in 1910, Dr. Wilbur F. Tillett, Dean of the Vanderbilt School of Religion, closed with these words:

"I trust that however beautiful a temple may one day be erected in this part of the city, the members will always remember that the mission of every one of Christ's followers is to strengthen the (people) of the world."

For more than a century, Belmont has lived out that calling. Through faithful witness and service, this congregation has helped shape Nashville, our denomination, and communities far beyond. Because of Belmont, our city is more compassionate, more just, more welcoming—and more reflective of Christ's love.

This legacy is not accidental. It has been built, generation by generation, through a deep commitment to serving others. For more than 75 years, Belmont Weekday School has cared for Nashville's children. Justice For Our Neighbors was born in one of our classrooms. We have opened our doors to immigrant congregations in need of a place to worship. Each week we offer worship services in English and Karen. We were among the first churches to host Room in the Inn. For years, we have shown up at Pride as a visible witness of God's inclusive love, and today we are one of the largest Reconciling congregations in the Southeast.

These are just a few expressions of a much larger story—one rooted in grace, courage, and a willingness to follow where God leads. I invite you to spend time in the foyer learning more about this story—where we have been and where we believe God is calling us next.

Belmont has shaped each of us, forming us into more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. And now, we stand at the threshold of a new century. Who can imagine all that God might do through this church in the years ahead?

What we do know is this: the world still needs places like Belmont. Places where the Good News is proclaimed—that God is love. Places where every person knows they are beloved, where questions are welcomed, where young people are embraced, where justice guides our actions, where worship inspires, and where authentic community is built.

Connie and I are deeply committed to The Centennial Campaign because we believe Nashville needs Belmont's witness—not just for today, but for the next 100 years.

I invite you to join us in prayerful discernment. Ask God, "What do you want to do through me as a member of Belmont?" And listen for how you are being called to help shape lives and make a difference in the years to come.

Grace and Love,



Pastor Paul



Letter from Co-Chairs

Dear Belmonters,

Every time you open a bulletin at Belmont, you see printed in black and white a statement of our faith community's commitment to Jesus's example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality. As God loves us, we are called to love and serve in the name of Christ. This commitment has taken us to many places, from Malawi and Mexico to Edgehill and the State Legislature. For more than a century, God has worked in and through this church, sometimes quietly, sometimes dramatically, with each generation benefiting from the one that came before.

Those prior generations have provided us with an incredible foundation, both figuratively and literally, to be what we are today. The spiritual foundation remains incredibly strong, but we have neglected our physical plant. Our roofs, our windows, our restrooms, our stained-glass windows, and our electrical and audio systems are in dire need of repair and renovation. Deferred maintenance is increasing disproportionately each year. These expenses and our ongoing debt service are diverting funds that could be used to better sustain and grow our ministries.

We are excited to launch The Centennial Campaign because we believe it is about more than buildings — it is about our mission and values. Restoring the beauty of our sanctuary and Thomasson Hall and retiring our debt will allow us to do what those before us did for us — lay a firm foundation for the next century so we can grow as a community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor. We hope you will join us in this campaign through your prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Anna & Phil

Anna and Phil Cramer
Centennial Campaign Co-chairs



Mary Kaye and Louis

Mary Kaye and Louis Jordan
Centennial Campaign Co-chairs



Campaign Team



Pastor

Paul Purdue

Chairpersons

**Phil and Anna Cramer
Louis and Mary Kaye Jordan**

Honorary Co-Chairs

**John Collett
Ken Edwards**



Coordinators

**Marlene Alvarez
Sara Christi
Arnell Willis**

Communication Leader

Gretchen Napier

Affinity Groups Leaders

**Pam Auble
Mike Engle
Charlie Warfield, Jr.**

Lead Gifts Leaders

**Bill and Amy Cooper
David and Tandy Jarvis
Pat and Kathy Nevill
John and Lori Pearce**

Advance Commitments Leaders

**James and Jennifer Bagwell
Susan Bradford
Lucien and Amy Geise
Gary and Kim Hawkins**

Celebration Leader

**Wes Gallant
Carolyn Primm**

Prayer Leaders

**Melissa Eckert
Lori Pearce
Connie Purdue
BJ Taylor**

Gratitude/Ministry Leaders

**Nate and Laura Dickinson
Heather Harriss
Hunter Wade
Matt Webb**

Students/Children Leaders

**Emma Bushong
Amy Cooper**

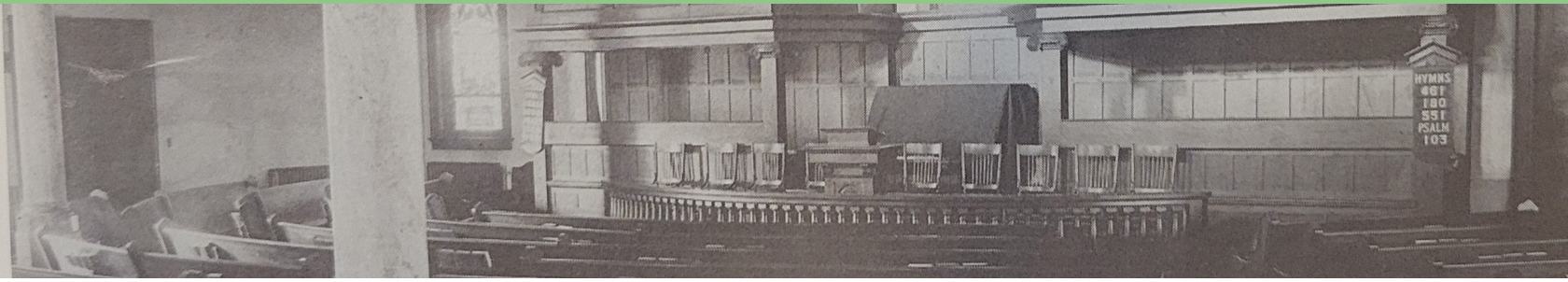
Reach Team Leaders

**Tommy and Judy Lewis
Jerry Park**

Response Team Leaders

**Dick and Kay Bowers
Phil Duke
Jeff and Kim Sheehan**

Building on a Century of Faith



More than a century ago, Dr. Jesse Lee Cuninggim—president of the Nashville Methodist Union—recognized a quiet but important shift. Families were moving toward what we now know as Hillsboro Village, and a church was needed in the heart of that growing community. In 1910, Belmont United Methodist Church was born in a simple one-room wooden chapel on Acklen Avenue with just 35 faithful members. This small gathering of believers quickly grew into something much more—a vibrant, enduring community of faith.

By 1916, that growth led to the construction of a beautiful sandstone building with four stately columns, now known as Thomasson Hall. Just over a decade later, in 1929, our beloved sanctuary opened its doors—a stunning Greek Revival space designed by architect George D. Waller and filled with the light of Jacoby Art Glass windows. For generations, these sacred spaces have held our stories: baptisms and weddings, funerals and celebrations, quiet prayers and joyful song. They have shaped our lives.

As Belmont continued to flourish, new spaces were added in the 1950s to support a growing church. In 2006, the Community Center expanded our reach even further.

Today, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment. In 2023, we began a Strategic Stewardship Initiative to thoughtfully consider how we care for the spaces entrusted to us. Through prayer, reflection, and careful study, one truth became clear: our sanctuary and Thomasson Hall are not simply buildings, they are the heart of Belmont. Yet time has taken its toll. Maintaining these historic structures has become increasingly costly, and their needs are growing more urgent.

To better understand the path ahead, we engaged Centric Architecture to assess the condition and preservation needs of these cherished buildings. We also partnered with Horizons Stewardship to evaluate how we might responsibly meet the financial demands of this work. After much prayerful discernment, the Administrative Board voted in February 2026 to move forward with The Centennial Campaign.

This campaign is about more than restoring buildings. It is about honoring those who came before us—their faith, their sacrifice, and their vision—and ensuring that future generations will have a place to gather, to worship, and to belong. Now, we invite you to be part of this next chapter. Your support will help preserve the sacred spaces that have shaped countless lives and will continue to do so for years to come. Together, we can carry Belmont's legacy forward—faithfully, thoughtfully, and with hope.

Preserving Our Historic Buildings

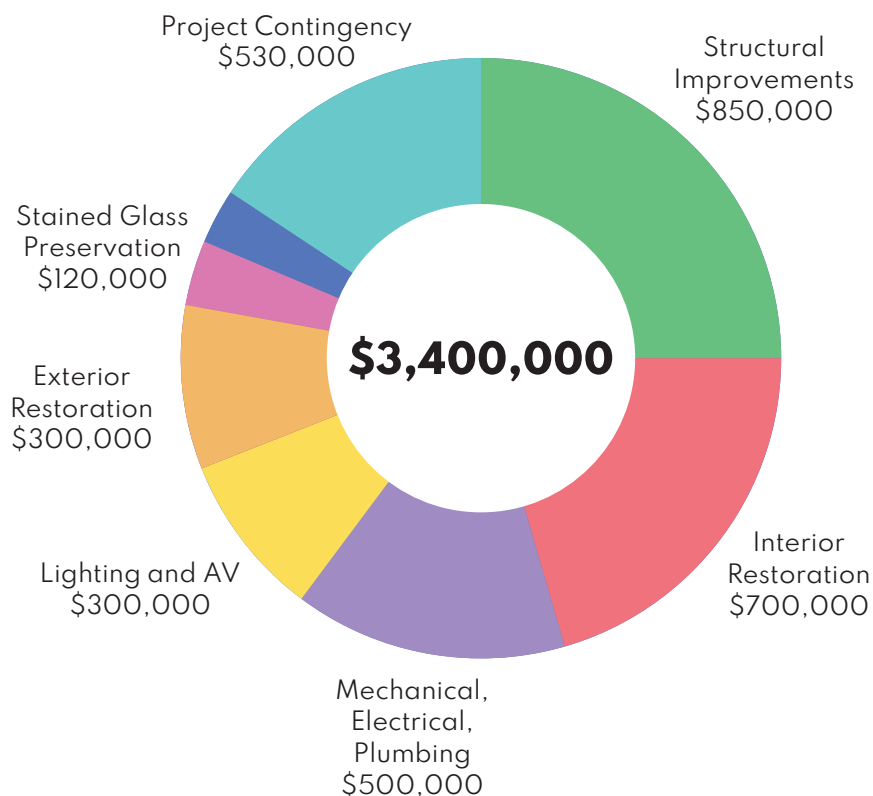
Caring for the Spaces That Shape Our Faith

The Centennial Campaign focuses on caring for the spaces that have shaped Belmont's life of worship and ministry for nearly a century while preparing them to serve the next generation. The work centers on the Sanctuary and Thomasson Hall, the heart of Belmont's shared life, where several key renovations and improvements will strengthen both the structure and the experience of these spaces, protect the integrity of our buildings, restore the beauty of our sanctuary, enhance our worship experience, and improve accessibility.

The Centennial Campaign is more than a construction project. It is an expression of faith, hope, hospitality, and stewardship. It is an opportunity to repurpose mortgage and maintenance into ministry. As we renew our physical spaces, we are also renewing the ways we live out our mission together.

Structural Improvements ~ \$850,000

- Replace seven failing roofs over three years
- Repair cracks in the choir loft and stairwells
- Reinforce the choir robe room structure and finishes
- Install new steel footings and columns to support Thomasson Hall



Preserving Our Historic Buildings

Interior Restoration ~ \$700,000

- Replace carpet in Thomasson Hall
- Restore plaster walls and ceilings throughout the Sanctuary
- Refresh woodwork and architectural details
- Repaint key interior spaces
- Repair and replace damaged windows and panes
- Complete targeted Sanctuary repairs and flooring updates

Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing ~ \$500,000

- Repair HVAC systems and cooling tower
- Replace outdated, ungrounded electrical systems in key buildings
- Address critical plumbing needs
- Improve elevator systems and accessibility

Lightning and Audio Visual ~ \$300,000

- Upgrade sanctuary lighting
- Improve audio throughout the Sanctuary

Exterior Restoration ~ \$300,000

- Restore masonry
- Refresh exterior paint

Stained Glass Preservation ~ \$120,000

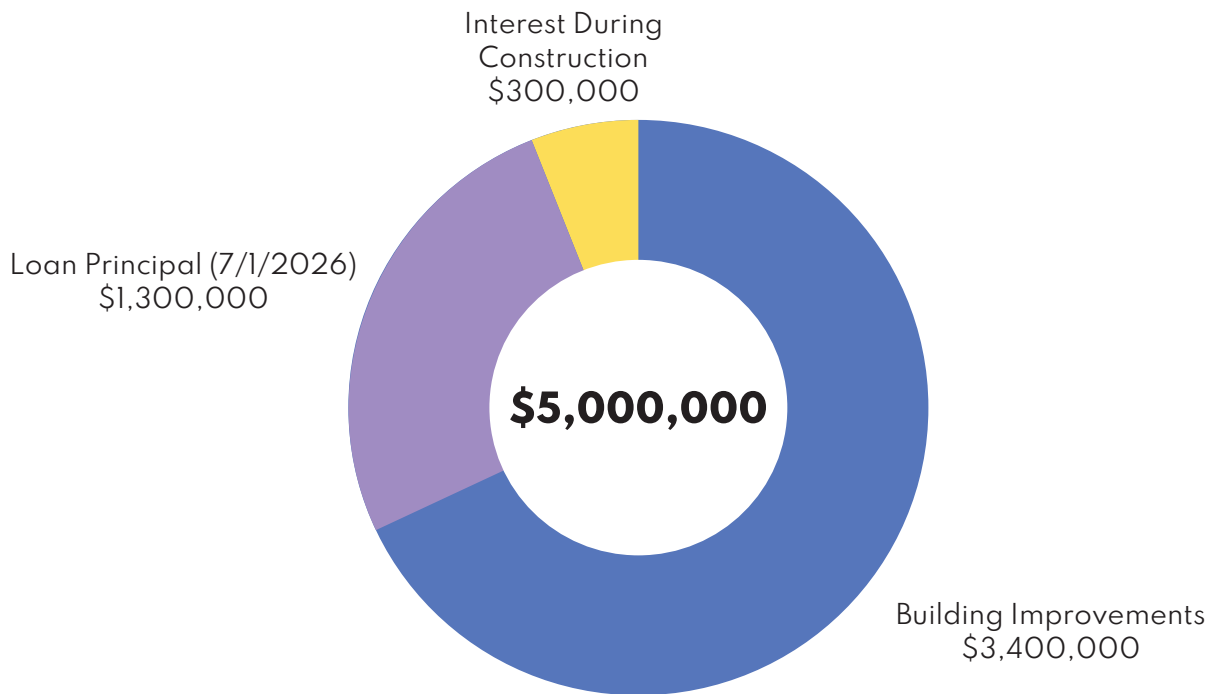
Accessible Bathroom ~ \$100,000

Project Contingency - 20% ~ \$530,000

A contingency to allow us to respond responsibly to the unexpected challenges that arise when caring for nearly century-old structures.

Total Projects: \$3,400,000

Paying Off Our Debt



The campaign will also eliminate Belmont's remaining debt from the construction of the Community Center. Beginning in July 2026, Belmont expects to carry approximately **\$1.3 million in remaining debt** on the current term loan.

This current debt will be combined with temporary loans so that the projects may be undertaken on a timely schedule rather than being dependent on campaign pledge receipts. Our Finance Committee and banking partners are creating a financial plan that includes these planned receipts and financing needs. This plan will continue to be updated as project costs and campaign commitments become clearer and will be shared with everyone.

At the end of 2030, our goal is that all projects will be completed and all debt fully paid. Retiring our debt will free approximately \$228,000 each year that Belmont can direct toward staff, ministry, and programs rather than mortgage payments.

Timeline

CAMPAIGN MILESTONES

RENOVATION MILESTONES

DISCERNMENT & PREPARATION – 2023-2025

Laying the Foundation

- Strategic initiative begins
- Feasibility study + leadership input
- Campaign plan approved

- Campus assessments completed
- Structural, systems, and cost analysis
- Initial project scope defined

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH – SPRING & SUMMER 2026

Inviting Commitment

- Campaign announced to congregation
- Commitments made
- First gifts received (June 2026)

- Financing plan finalized
- Key designs completed (accessibility, entry improvements)

PHASE 1: CRITICAL REPAIRS – LATE 2026

Addressing What Can't Wait

- Active giving continues

- Begin roof replacement over 4 years (2026-2030)
- Structural repairs of Thomasson Hall
- Electrical upgrades
- Mechanical system upgrades
- Accessible restrooms construction begins

PHASE 2: RESTORING OUR SPACES – 2027

Strengthening How Our Spaces Welcome and Serve

- Year 2 giving begins

- Plumbing improvements
- Sanctuary + Thomasson Hall restoration (plaster and painting)
- New flooring and finishes
- Stained glass restoration

PHASE 3: ENHANCING OUR WORSHIP – 2028

Elevating How We Gather, See, and Hear

- Year 3 giving begins

- Masonry repairs
- Exterior painting
- Lighting improvements
- Audio/visual upgrades

COMPLETION & CELEBRATION – 2029-2030

Preparing for the Next Century

- Final year of giving (July 2029)
- Campaign completed (July 2030)

- Thomasson Hall elevator modernization
- Final roofs replaced
- Final project completion



Note: Timeline based on completing infrastructure improvements before undertaking painting and other surface projects. As with any major renovation, project schedules and timeline may change if needed.



What is Your Place in This Campaign?

We are asking you to do three things:
Pray, Engage, and Respond.

PRAY

“God, what do You want to do through me?” Please take time to pray this prayer as you consider how God wants you to respond. It is only through seeking God’s guidance that we will successfully reach our goals through this campaign effort.

ENGAGE

We not only desire your prayers for this campaign, but we want your active engagement as well. Commit to coming to worship during this season, join a Sunday School class or small group study, participate in one of our mission opportunities, and attend our many upcoming special Sundays:

April 12 – Gratitude Sunday: “I am grateful to God for my church because ...” On this Sunday, we will all be invited to answer that question and express our gratitude as we consider the ways God has used Belmont to make a positive impact on our lives.

April 19 – Ministry Sunday: We’ll celebrate the life-changing ministries of our church and the inspiring stories of how individuals and families of all generations have been blessed by God through our ministries.

April 26 – Celebration Sunday: We’ll hear a special announcement about the campaign, receive instructions about making a four-year commitment to The Centennial Campaign, and be invited into a period of further discernment.

May 3 – Commitment Sunday: This day marks the commencement of a two-week period during which we will be invited to offer our four-year commitments as an act of worship.

May 24 – Announcement Sunday: We’ll celebrate the faithfulness of God and the collective generosity of the Belmont family as we announce the total of the four-year commitments received to date.

RESPOND

Pray earnestly about how God wants you to give above and beyond your regular offerings in giving sacrificially to help Belmont lay a firm foundation for the next century. Boldly and faithfully respond to God’s call for your participation. God does not call us to an equal share, but to equal sacrifice. Only God can lead you into what would be a sacrificial gift for you.

**Whatever the amount is, your gift matters. Your presence matters.
Your story matters. Together, we can honor our past, strengthen our present,
and build welcome for generations to come.**

FAQs

Why are we undertaking a Capital Campaign now?

There is currently widespread support for the campaign vision and agreement that Belmont's aging facilities and lingering debt are hindering ministry, accessibility, and future growth, and must be addressed now to preserve the church's mission and presence for the next generation.

Clarity is needed about the education wing. In five years, will I be asked to give again? What spaces exactly will be addressed in this campaign? What spaces exactly will not be touched through this campaign? What is the plan?

We are actively exploring options to redevelop the east end of our campus so that our facilities best meet our current and future needs. By inviting the right partners to join us on part of our property (perhaps the current imaging center property and part of the education building), we expect the value of that development to pay for our needs beyond this campaign (parking, better energy efficiency, renovated education rooms, etc.)

What happens if we fail to reach our financial target?

We will have to revise our work plan and make cuts where we can, or possibly delay projects, which would result in higher costs down the road as prices will likely increase.

What happens if we exceed the target?

If we raise additional funds we will be in a position to consider making additional repairs and renovations such as making Thomasson Hall windows more energy efficient, creating a more welcoming foyer and entrance area, painting Thomasson Hall and the foyer, modernizing the Iris room entrance elevator, and other needed projects.

When is the contribution period? When do we make our commitments?

To provide flexibility and creativity in the charitable giving, this four-year period is actually a 42-month period that encompasses four calendar years.

Does it matter how long I take to fulfill my pledge?

While you have a four-year window to fulfill your pledge, The Centennial Campaign will incur a significant portion of construction costs from 2026-2028. Any early gifts received will help reduce our ultimate costs by reducing loan amounts and interests.

What if I have additional questions?

If you have further questions, please contact Pastor Paul, Carrie Sherrill, Campaign Co-Chairs Louis and Mary Kaye Jordan or Phil and Anna Cramer.



God, what do You want to do through me?

Belmont
United Methodist Church



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