



*FINISH***STRONG**

MOVING FORWARD IN GOD'S VISION



LETTER FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR PEOPLE

Dear Friends,

What do you picture in your mind when you think of Suntree United Methodist Church? Do you picture the incredible music offered in worship each week in the Sanctuary or the Worship Center? Or maybe you think of the deep friendships you have with the members of your Life Group or the care you have received from our Congregational Care office. What about hundreds of kids and adults singing and praising God at VBS or MADD Camp?

We have been blessed with an amazing community of faith over the last 39 years. One of the reasons we can do so many things as a church family and for the wider community is due to the beautiful facilities with which we have been blessed. Over the years, faithful members sacrificed to make our facilities a reality. Now we have the chance to be part of the next remarkable thing that God is doing at Suntree UMC.

We have launched the Finish Strong Campaign to drive down as much of our remaining building debt as possible. Once we have reduced our monthly mortgage payments, we will be able to redirect more of those resources into more life-changing ministry opportunities. Let your imagination run wild thinking about what we could do if we did not have to pay our building loan every month. Imagine more resources for ministry with seniors, teenagers, and children. Imagine additional resources for reaching more and more people with the love of Christ and partnering with God in the transformative, Kingdom work that God is doing in our community and the world.

What can you do? Dare to dream with us about what God has in store for all of us and for those who will one day call this church their home. Wholeheartedly seek God's will for your family's part in this campaign. Simply pray, "God, what do You want to do through me?" Then open yourself to hear the Holy Spirit's leading—and brace yourself for the amazing things God has planned.

**Grace and Peace,
Tim and Polly Pirlo
Campaign Chairs**

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

2002 NEW LOAN (BANK OF THE WEST)

Cost of Sanctuary, 2-Story Education Building, Cross Tower and parking*	\$3,500,000
Outstanding Loan from construction of Worship Center and 1st wing	\$1,376,000
Funds applied to the total debt	(\$376,000)
Total Loan (July 1, 2002)	\$4,500,000

**based on public records and available minutes from Church Council and Finance Meetings*

2011 REFINANCED LOAN (FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION)

Loan was refinanced with the Florida United Methodist Foundation	\$3,649,456
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2016 LOAN ADDITION

Cost of HVAC systems added to the loan	\$324,220
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CAMPAIGN DATA

1999 3-Year Capital Campaign Commitments**	\$1,487,000
2003 3-Year Capital Campaign Commitments**	\$1,242,000
2011 3-Year Additional Principal Campaign Commitments**	\$149,000

***actual commitments only (not final fulfillment)*

LOAN RECAP

Total Amount Borrowed since 2001:	\$4,824,220
Total Amount of Interest Paid:	\$3,500,000

2021 LOAN REVIEW (as of Jan 1, 2021)

Current Debt:	\$2,322,000
Current Monthly Mortgage:	\$22,950
Interest Rate:	4%

CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS

WHY SHOULD WE CONDUCT THIS CAMPAIGN?

There are two primary reasons:

- To apply good stewardship practices by focusing financial resources on God's work, not interest expense. Although our buildings are important tools for ministry, our mortgage debt is an obstacle to do what we believe God is calling us to do. By reducing our interest expense, we will be able to do more of the ministries the Lord has called us to do today, and for years to come.
- To offer Suntime UMC members a high value giving opportunity where every dollar given to reduce our mortgage principle will save significant dollars of interest expense.

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL NEED WE ARE ADDRESSING IN THIS CAMPAIGN?

The focus of the Finish Strong campaign is to address our current mortgage debt of \$2,322,000.

WHY NOT CONTINUE MANAGING THE DEBT AS WE ARE CURRENTLY (THROUGH THE ANNUAL BUDGET)?

We currently pay about \$22,000 from our annual budget, of which \$8,000 is interest cost. This represents 18% of our giving. This current debt ratio is higher than recommended and more importantly, it reduces resources that could be used to address important ministry needs.

HOW MUCH MONEY COULD THE CHURCH SAVE IN INTEREST EXPENSE OVER THE COURSE OF THE LOAN WITH DIFFERENT AMOUNTS RAISED IN THE CAMPAIGN?

Eliminating our debt in full by June, 2024 could result in savings of between \$300,000 - \$400,000 of interest.

HOW WILL MY GIFT BE USED?

Every dollar given to the campaign will be applied towards the principle of the loan. This not only reduces our debt more quickly over the next three years but saves significant interest cost. The interest will continue to be paid from the annual budget.

WHAT WAS THE COST FOR CONSTRUCTING THE SANCTUARY/EDUCATION BUILDING?

Including furnishings, expanded parking, and the Cross Tower, the cost for the 2002 project was about \$3.5 Million.

WHAT ELSE IS INCLUDED IN OUR CURRENT DEBT?

- Worship Center Debt: When the 2002 building project was completed, the church still carried a debt of \$1,376,000 from the construction of the Worship Center in 1994. This was rolled into the new debt from the 2002 project into a permanent loan of \$4.5MM with The Bank of the West in July of 2002.
- HVAC Replacement: In 2016, \$324,220 was added to the loan to replace the HVAC systems for all our buildings.

WHO IS OUR CURRENT LENDER?

The loan was refinanced in 2011 with The Florida United Methodist Foundation for \$3,649,450 and currently scheduled to be completed in 2031. The interest rate is 4% (reviewed and set on a quarterly basis).



HOW WILL FUNDS RECEIVED BE APPLIED TO THE LOAN?

Once commitments to the Finish Strong campaign are made, the Finance Committee will create a plan which will fund the monthly mortgage principal payments first and then make additional principal payments as funds are available throughout the 3 year campaign window.

IS THE TIMING RIGHT FOR A CAMPAIGN WHILE WE ARE STILL IN A PANDEMIC?

While there is never a 'perfect' time for a campaign, the church leadership believes it is important to move forward now. Our debt is a significant burden on SUMC's budget and is impacting our ministries and our mission. It is critical that we address this need in 2021. Every dollar given reduces our long-term interest costs and frees up funds in our budget to address important ministry opportunities. We are grateful for more widely available vaccines as we begin this public phase of the campaign.

I AM NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY IN THE FINISH STRONG CAMPAIGN. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP?

We certainly understand that there are members who will not be able to make a financial commitment at this time, whether the reasons are related to the COVID health crisis or something else. We would ask that everyone pray for the ministry of this campaign and for the leadership who, with God's help, will guide us through this important program in the life of our church.

WHEN WILL OUR FINISH STRONG CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BEGIN? WHAT IS THE TOTAL GIVING PERIOD?

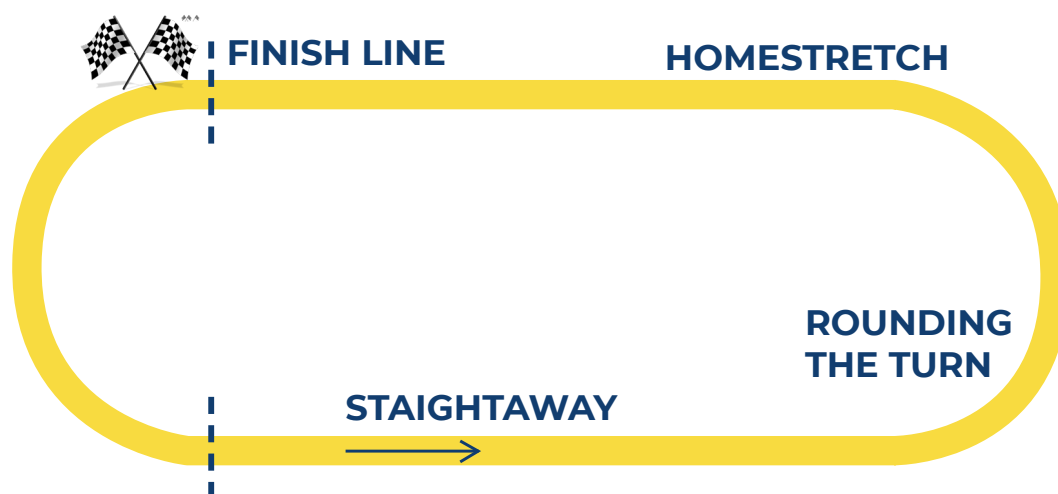
The giving period begins in June 2021 and continue for three years. This giving period stretches over four tax seasons, which may be helpful as you consider the timing of your gifts. Commitments can be made on whatever timetable each family determines is best for them.

IS A COMMITMENT TO THE CAMPAIGN IN ADDITION TO MY REGULAR GIVING TO THE CHURCH'S ANNUAL BUDGET?

Yes. Your current giving is needed to maintain our current budget, which includes operational expenses, salaries, ministries and debt service. Commitments to the "Finish Strong" campaign should be over and above one's regular giving. Please do not reduce your regular giving in order to make a commitment to the debt reduction campaign.

CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL BENCHMARKS

There is an anatomy to every race, terrains and turns that require different sets of skills from racers. Throughout this campaign we have set milestones to help us track and celebrate our progress.



STRAIGHTAWAY: \$1,000,000

By reaching this milestone we will have raised twice our expected mortgage payment.

ROUNDING THE TURN: \$1,250,000

At this point, our remaining debt will be under \$1,000,000

HOMESTRETCH: \$1,500,000

This would represent a million dollars over and above the regular mortgage.

FINISH LINE: \$2,230,000

Our debt would be paid entirely and we can move forward confidently in God's vision.

Not Equal Gifts, But Equal Sacrifice

Every gift is valuable and our prayer is for every church family to give to this campaign. The value of every gift is not important, but rather the sacrifice given.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Join us May 16 at Suntree United Methodist Church for Celebration Sunday. We will gather for a morning of worship to honor the impact that our church has had in the community of Suntree. Attendance is available in-person and online.

After worship there will be a drive-thru to deliver your Finish Strong campaign Commitment Card and receive a thank you gift and sweet treat!



The image shows a 'FINISH STRONG CAMPAIGN PLEDGE CARD'. The card has a white background with a yellow sun logo above the 'FINISH STRONG' text. To the right, it says 'CAMPAIGN PLEDGE CARD' and 'Lord, what do you want to do through me?'. Below this, there is a yellow box with text: 'After seeking God's will through prayer, I am / we are committed to the Finish Strong campaign over and above my / our regular offerings.' Below the yellow box, there are several lines for giving: 'I / We plan to give accordingly: \$ _____ weekly for 156 weeks (3 years)', '\$ _____ monthly for 36 months (3 years)', '\$ _____ annually for 3 years', '\$ _____ one time gift', and '\$ _____ gifts other than cash (approx. value)'. Below these, there is a line for 'Description of Assets' and a line for '\$ _____ total commitment'. On the left side of the card, there are lines for 'Name(s)', 'Phone', 'Address', 'City', 'State', 'Zip', and 'Email'.

FINISH STRONG CAMPAIGN PLEDGE CARD
Lord, what do you want to do through me?

Name(s) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____
Email _____

After seeking God's will through prayer,
I am / we are committed to the Finish Strong
campaign over and above my / our regular
offerings.

I / We plan to give accordingly:
\$ _____ **weekly** for 156 weeks (3 years)
\$ _____ **monthly** for 36 months (3 years)
\$ _____ **annually** for 3 years
\$ _____ **one time gift**
\$ _____ **gifts other than cash** (approx. value)

Description of Assets _____
\$ _____ **total commitment**

In the coming weeks you will receive a Campaign Pledge Card. This will allow you to pledge your commitment to this campaign over a three year period.

Your Campaign Pledge Card will:

- Empower Suntree UMC to operate with greater confidence.
- Ensure that there is funding for all of our ministries.
- Allow Suntree UMC to be better stewards of our funds.

God, what do you want to do through me?



