



# GIFT

## Growing It Forward Together

GIFT Update

November 18, 2020

Dear Church Family,

In 2017 the Growing It Forward Together (GIFT) Team was formed to meet the needs of the Church. At that time statistics showed that adequate parking was needed to grow the church. In addition, we wanted to make structural improvements to address handicap accessibility issues. The team brainstormed and came up with a list of projects that we thought would cost approximately \$330,000. This amount included paying back a loan made to the church by the Eaton Foundation of \$92,350. This loan was used to purchase and clear the 500 State Street property.

The GIFT Team felt that they did not have the expertise to raise that kind of money and subsequently hired the United Methodist Foundation to conduct the fund raiser. Based on interviews with the congregation the Foundation felt we could only raise \$270,000. At the end of the fund-raising campaign pledges of \$208,000 over a three-year period were received.

During the first year of the campaign (2019) we repaid the Eaton Foundation loan. Through the end of October we have received \$48,015 of the \$60,127 pledged for 2020. Currently we have \$68,257.24 on hand. Another \$65,000 is pledged for 2021. We have been informed by a few individuals that they will not be able to meet their pledge this year.

The GIFT Team did not have the expertise to do the engineering and contracting work. Therefore, upon recommendation of the United Methodist Foundation we hired Fred Watts as our project architect. The initial estimate for the paving the new parking lot was \$67,000 and another \$2000 for lighting and electrical outlets.

We put the parking lot project out for bid late in the fall of 2019. We were shocked that the first bid proposal was for \$98,000. Additionally, that bid did not include lighting or landscaping. This was far more than we felt we could afford.

Then came the COVID pandemic which brought everything to a screeching halt for about 6 months.

Early this fall we submitted the parking lot project for another round of bids. The next proposals came back at \$116,000 and \$136,000! We asked Fred Watts why the quotes came in so high. He gave us the following reasons:

- Cost of materials is increasing and will not decrease
- All contractors are busy, and they are charging top dollar. (As time moves forward, we could get a break.)
- Contractors are having problems maintaining employees

In view of these high quotes the GIFT Team does not believe we should proceed with the parking lot as planned.

We are working with the We Care Food Pantry to install a handicap accessible ramp in the southeast corner of the Fellowship hall. This ramp will help We Care move food back and forth from the food pantry to the Fellowship Hall. The ramp will also provide handicap access from the Fellowship Hall to all the classrooms on the

lower level. We Care has pledged up to \$10,000 towards this project.

We are also working with the Eaton Foundation to put handicap accessible doors with actuators in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary. This gives handicap accessibility to the entire top level of the Church. This project is being considered as a memorial to Doliver Pierce.

Additionally, the COVID-19 crisis has changed the way churches worship. Most church experts predict that the dramatic drop in worship attendance precipitated by the pandemic will become permanent. Churches that return to 70% of their pre-COVID in-person attendance will be doing well. (That is about where Baden UMC has been through September and October.)

In view of these events the GIFT Team believes we should reevaluate our plan. Obviously, our goal is to wisely use the resources we have to give our church the best opportunity for future growth.

The GIFT Team recommends that we pursue the following items:

- Installing the handicap accessible ramp in the Fellowship Hall
- Installing handicap accessible doors with actuators in the northeast corner of the sanctuary
- Installing handicap accessible doors with actuators in the Fellowship Hall entrance on State Street
- Modify a first level restroom to make a unisex handicap accessible restroom
- Modify a second level restroom to make a unisex handicap accessible restroom

(Note: The above changes would make the entire church handicap accessible using both entrances. There would still be no interior handicapped access between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors.)

- Scale down the parking lot to 6 handicap accessible spots with the remaining lot staying as grass and/or gravel
- Install lighting and electrical outlets for the entire 500 State St lot.

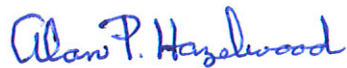
The GIFT Team wants to thank you for your generous support up to this point. We hope that this update gives you an idea of the activity that's been happening behind the scenes and some of the road blocks we've encountered.

We are convinced that the Lord still has a wonderful plan for Baden United Methodist Church and our desire is to discern that plan and move forward with joy, hope and strength. We also believe that there will be abundant life after the pandemic is passed.

We humbly ask for and encourage your input. The GIFT Team has tried to be as thorough as possible, but we make no claim at omniscience. If you have an idea please let us know. You may be God's instrument of inspiration for your church.

Thank you again for being a part of the Growing It Forward Together Campaign.

Sincerely,



Alan Hazelwood, GIFT Chair



Patty Meehan, GIFT Treasurer



Ray Smith, GIFT Secretary



Rev. Jim Young, Pastor



# GIFT

## Growing It Forward Together

February 2, 2021 Addendum

Dear Church Family,

Since the previous letter was written we have received a few quotes for the ramp in the Fellowship Hall and the northeast entrance to the sanctuary. It is the intention of the GIFT Team to move forward on those projects.

The initial quotes for installing handicapped accessible doors in the Fellowship Hall came in prohibitively high. Consequently, we're asking our architect to rethink that design.

As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, the GIFT account has over \$91,000 on hand with about \$4,000 of outstanding engineering work yet to be billed. THANK YOU again for your faithful giving. The Team is working hard to be good stewards of all that God has given us.

Finally, we received very limited feedback from our previous letter. If you have any thoughts or ideas about needed improvements please contact any of the GIFT Team members.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Jim

