

WESTFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Foundations of Hope
A Case for Support

In many respects the Church is losing its place in communities across the country. This includes the Mohawk area. What was once the center of community life has been relegated to second place behind school sports, recreation, etc. What was once the guiding light for our society has been relegated to second place behind internet resources, progressive ideologies and an “anything goes” approach to life.

The church has lost influence not for lack of effort but as some might say, “Its inability or unwillingness to keep pace with society in terms of technology, facilities, and relevant, exciting ministry.” *Foundations of Hope* is the first step in Westfield’s commitment to twenty-first century transformational ministry...ministry that addresses the social, recreational, physical, family, aging, emotional and spiritual needs of our community.

This is a monumental task but it is consistent with our storied 213 year history. As stated in the 1953 publication of Westfield history, “Our church has changed as needed to meet the varied conditions of each generation, while standing unchanged in its purpose of declaring the Gospel of Salvation to mankind.” The text goes on, “...as we appreciate the value of the great heritage that is ours, we realize the obligations resting upon us from which we can never free ourselves...we must remember “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children.” (Proverbs 13:22)

The components of the five year ministry plan for Westfield Presbyterian Church are outlined below. We believe this plan will enable us to increase our community impact by providing ministries that connect people to the church in ways that are exciting and meaningful for them. The proposed building provides facilities that will be needed to carry out this plan.

The multi-purpose ministry center will give us the ability to accommodate more people at our community meals and special events such as the Christmas Dinner Theater. Our young people will have an appropriate place for recreation and sports programs, concerts and plays. Community and church sports leagues will be possible. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity and challenge of beginning a senior’s ministry that will provide socialization, fellowship, meals, health screening and a place to exercise and walk year round.

Remodeling our existing building will provide additional classrooms which will accommodate current Sunday school classes and provide space for new offerings on Sunday morning. Our new rooms will be updated so that they are learning and ministry friendly for teachers and young people with accessibility to Wi-Fi and other technology.

A new gathering area will say “welcome” to visitors and covenant partners alike. The new space will encourage fellowship and accommodate a welcome center. The expanded narthex will address safety concerns and improve flow from the east wing to the west wing. New lighting will provide a bright welcoming entry way. As we know security is a significant concern for all of us, especially parents. The remodeling will be designed to provide oversight and

security for all our young people and give parents the assurance that their children are well cared for. One way this will be accomplished is to move the nursery area closer to the sanctuary which will allow parents to meet the needs of their children in a timely manner.

Technology will be updated and expanded. We now live in a technologically savvy and dependent world. We do not want to do away with our traditional way of doing things but it is important that we be relevant in presentations. Today up to date technology is as important to relevance as content. This applies to worship, the classroom, and other ministry activities.

Foundations of Hope is designed to facilitate ministry and make a visual statement about our family of faith. In short:

- It says that we care about people and want to meet people at the point of their needs.
- It says that we are committed to being more than a place for worship on the weekends and meetings during the week.
- It says that we are so convinced in and committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are willing to take the risk to be a dynamic force for Christ in our community.

The cost of construction and renovation is 2.5 million. This is undoubtedly a daunting undertaking. In that light we do well to remember the words of St. Ambrose, "In the Gospel we are taught to have faith and not draw back from doing those things which are above our human strength. Hope is an incentive to labor." And the words of scripture, "Now to him who is able to abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen" Ephesians 3:20-21. Please begin praying today, seeking God's guidance and wisdom to discover what God wants to do through you to accomplish this great task for your church.