

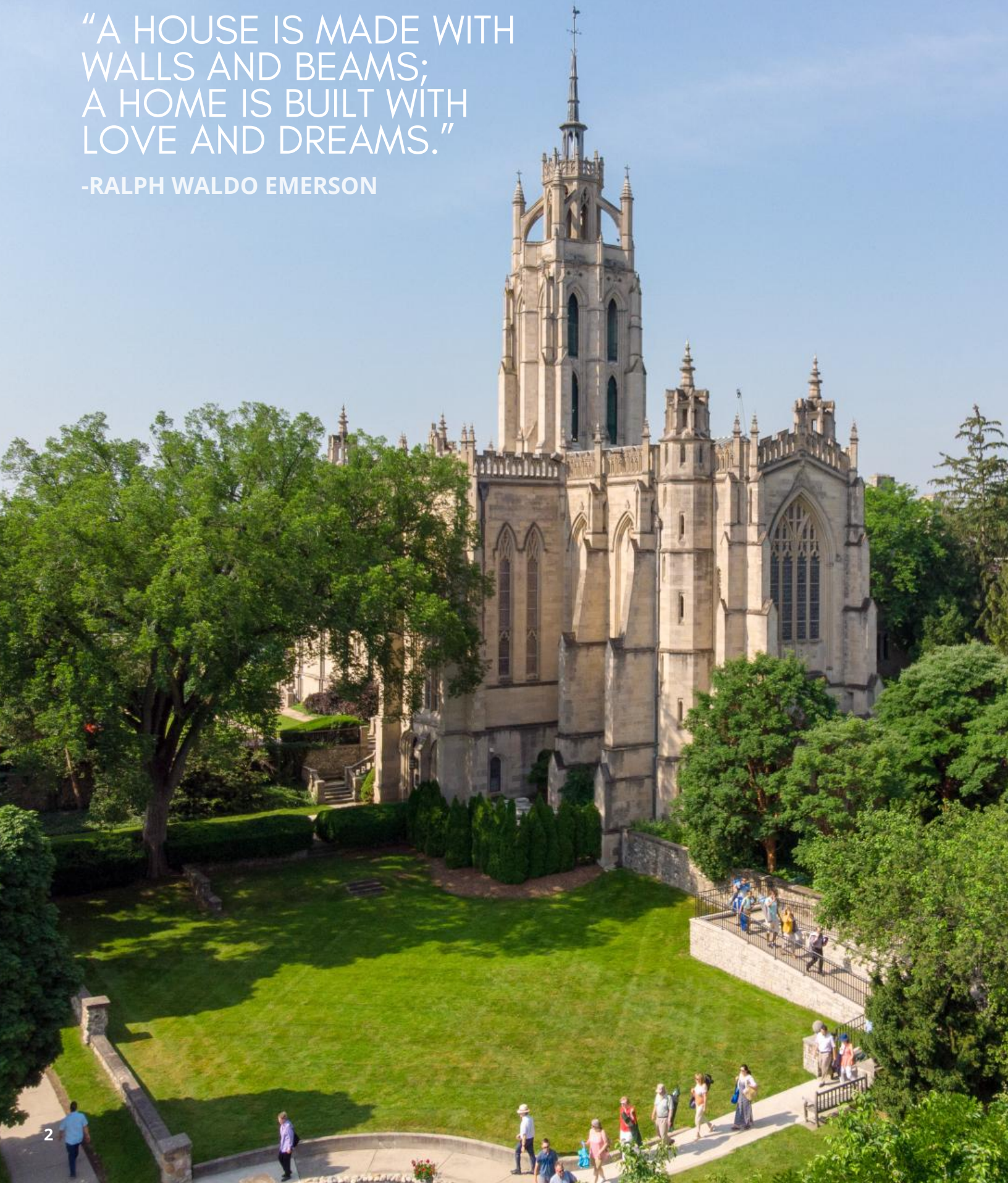


ANNIVERSARY & ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Kirk in the Hills

"A HOUSE IS MADE WITH
WALLS AND BEAMS;
A HOME IS BUILT WITH
LOVE AND DREAMS."

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON



DEAR KIRK FAMILY,

It has always brought me joy to know that a house sits in the center of our campus. If you look at the Kirk from Long Lake Road, you can see it nestled in there. On one side of the house sits the sanctuary and tower - a sanctuary built in the way of Scotland's Melrose Abbey and a tower that houses

an instrument boasting the most bells of any carillon in the world. The Abbey sits on the other side of the house. With classrooms, meeting space, a preschool, and Refectory, the Abbey was born from a fundraising campaign called "The Second Mile" led by faithful Kirk members in the early sixties.



But there, in the center, sits the house. It was donated by a man named Colonel George who had a dream that it would be, as he put it, "a temple worthy to be called the house of God." For seventy-five years now, George's dream has been our endeavor. Beyond the sanctuary, tower, and Abbey, the members of Kirk in the Hills have established endowments, completed renovations, secured art, designed lectureships, and created mission programs like Kirk Tutors and Accent Pontiac. Colonel George gave the house, but we have made it a home for all, and God has made a home in us.

As we embark on our 75th Anniversary Campaign alongside our annual giving campaign, we do so to press on as Emerson suggests - with love and dreams - in hopes to further make the house a home. With a successful effort, our church home will have what the fine old hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" suggests: "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

When Colonel George first presented his house to the work of the Presbyterian church, he said, "To give unto God material wealth that belonged to him in the first place, is minor to the giving of one's life in unselfish devotion, ministering in God's name and expounding Christ's gospel of love."

We are blessed to look back and be inspired by the generosity of the generations that came before us. I hope that when future members look back, maybe at the 100th anniversary, they will say the same of us. There is no limit to what we can achieve - if we all come together. **Let us ensure that Kirk in the Hills will always continue to be more than a house, but a place where all that search for Christ's gospel of love will hear and experience the words, "Welcome Home."**

Stay warm,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pastor Nate

STRENGTH FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW

At the Kirk, our legacy has been built by the hundreds of families that call this place home. As a church family, we find joy in the day to day work of supporting our mission and ministries both inside our walls and beyond. However, just like in your own family, with electric bills and kid's sports equipment, we, too, have day-to-day expenses that need to be met. Equally important to your everyday expenses is considering the future for your family by saving up for a repair or investing in a college fund.

Rooted in a deep and abiding commitment to our mission, this year we are taking decisive steps to meet the needs of our church for both today and tomorrow. In the famous hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," we are reminded of God's great goodness that gives us "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." It is with this in mind that we embark on a major fundraising effort to support both our Annual Giving and the 75th Anniversary Campaign.

STRENGTH FOR TODAY: **ANNUAL GIVING**

GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION

Support will be directed to funding all of the day-to-day operations, both in and outside our church walls.

HOPE FOR TOMORROW: **ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN**

GOAL: \$5 MILLION

Support will be directed towards a number of aspirational projects that that will expand our impact both within our church and in our community for generations to come.

WORSHIP

TODAY

Christ-centered worship is central to who we are here at the Kirk. Annual Giving helps to support the dedicated staff and pastors that help to shape our everyday worship experience and nurture our faith.

TOMORROW

As a part of the Anniversary Campaign, funds will be dedicated to the restoration of the organ and seeding a new Pastoral Endowment Fund.



MISSION

TODAY

We strive to be an outward-facing church, ready to reach out to those in need. Every year, we partner with families locally, regionally, and globally to provide resources and care.

TOMORROW

As a part of the Anniversary Campaign, funds will be dedicated to establishing a physical footprint in Pontiac for ongoing mission and ministry.



FORMATION

TODAY

At the Kirk, we are committed to providing spaces for faith formation. Annually, these opportunities include Sunday School, VBS, mission trips, adult small groups, and more.

TOMORROW

As a part of the Anniversary Campaign, we hope to amplify our intentional spaces of community by adding a prayer path, repairing the terrace, and building an outdoor worship center.



CAMPUS CARE

TODAY

Our facility is an incredible legacy gifted by those who came before us. Annually, funds are dedicated to those who care for this beautiful space of worship.

TOMORROW

As a part of the Anniversary Campaign, funds will be dedicated to installing a comprehensive security system and enhancing the columbarium.

HONORING OUR HOUSE OF **WORSHIP**

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." **John 4:23-24**

At the Kirk, we are committed to providing a sacred space for every heart to experience God's transforming love. As a church, we believe true worship is the greatest invitation for us to draw closer to God through spirit-filled music, heart-felt prayer, and the proclaimed Word of God. As a part of these campaigns, special care will be given to ensure these key components of worship are upheld for years to come.



STRENGTHENING OUR MUSIC FOR TODAY

Worship is central to who we are at the Kirk. Music has the power to move us, speak to our hearts, and help us to draw closer to God. Each year, our annual dollars go towards supporting all of the worship leaders that guide our weekly worship and broadcasting services that help to reach our extended family in the community.



"The fantastic music program has been our children's, and in return, our main conduit to the Kirk. Those little angelic voices, nurtured by the music ministry, helped connect our family to the great families of the Kirk and our place in God's family."

- JENNIFER GRAFF

RESTORING OUR ORGAN FOR TOMORROW

Our organ serves as the primary instrument of worship and helps to support our 20-member Chancel Choir, our boys' and girls' choirs, and over 50 children and youth in our musical program. Each year general funds are dedicated to the tuning and upkeep of the organ with endowed funds being allocated for special performances and guest musicians. While helpful in maintaining the current organ, a major restoration is needed to ensure that we will have a quality instrument for years to come. As a part of this Anniversary Campaign, we will be making an investment towards a portion of the repairs needed to restore the organ.



SUPPORTING OUR STAFF FOR TODAY

The Kirk has a vibrant community of faith, one that is shaped and guided by our pastoral leaders. Our pastors help to care for all of our families through every stage of life including our greatest celebrations of births, baptisms, and weddings as well as our moments of loss and grief. A large portion of our Annual Giving goes towards ensuring fair compensation for our leaders.



"The Kirk has been incredibly blessed for its first 75 years with outstanding leaders who have dedicated themselves to share the gospel through Christian formation and outreach and mission."

- BOB BECK, CLERK OF SESSION

ENSURING STRONG LEADERSHIP FOR TOMORROW

For nearly 75 years, the Kirk has been blessed with incredibly strong and visionary leaders who have helped to shape the spiritual foundation and formation of our congregation. As we look ahead, the Kirk remains ever-committed to engaging in spirit-led worship and transforming lives for Christ. Through the Anniversary Campaign, a seed investment will be provided to establish a new endowment fund to help support our pastoral leaders.

By establishing a Pastoral Endowment Fund, we can help cover the annual compensation of our pastors for years to come and free up annual dollars to be reallocated towards ministry and missions. While this initial investment will not be enough to cover all the annual compensation of our pastors, we intend to grow this fund over the next 10-25 years to fully cover our pastors' remunerations in perpetuity.

MISSION

MISSION-DRIVEN IMPACT

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you visited me." **Matthew 25: 35-36***

Through Jesus' ministry, God made a home with us, and we see him extending this sense of "home," especially to those who are most vulnerable. God calls us to be in relationship with our neighbors, sharing the grace he has lavished on us. As a community of faith, we remain grounded in our mission to be an outward-facing church, one that is ready and willing to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES FOR TODAY

For over 25 years, Kirk in the Hills has been an active partner in ministry both globally and locally—especially in Oakland and Wayne counties—by providing tutoring, music programs, food, and more. Through our many partnerships, we have learned that meaningful ministry is relationship-driven and ever-evolving. Each year as a part of Annual Giving, dollars are dedicated to supporting our local children, youth, and families in a variety

of efforts. Our active partnerships with Accent Pontiac, Kirk Tutors, Lighthouse, South Oakland Shelter (SOS), foster care agencies and many others, have allowed us to successfully address issues such as food insecurity, housing, education, clothing, and furniture each and every year. Because we believe our Kirk family extends well beyond our four walls, we are committed to bettering the lives of families in our greater community every single day.

EXTENDING HOSPITALITY FOR TOMORROW

Kirk in the Hills has built a foundation of strong relationships in Pontiac. Now, let's build a house for pilgrimage and innovative mission. Imagine a space where Kirk volunteers can gather for workshops, sort through food and clothing donations, and for youth groups to come and serve throughout the year. Based on the Pittsburgh Project and The Center in Baltimore, this new space would serve as a mission hub for many different programs and visiting service teams. By establishing a physical footprint in Pontiac, we hope to strengthen our commitment to the flourishing of this city for many years to come.



REACH

We envision the opportunity to house volunteers such as pastoral residents, local and international summer interns, and AmeriCorps volunteers for extended periods of time to serve Pontiac. Through their dedicated presence, we will be able to provide intentional outreach and support to children and families in our community.



"Kirk Tutors is a safe place for people to not be judged (on their ability), a place for people to not be afraid to make mistakes. From being tutored to now tutoring others, it has helped me to build relationships and learn how to find my own voice."

- LILI CHANEY, KIRK TUTOR



WELCOME

We will welcome our neighbors with Christian hospitality through food, shelter, clothing, and more. This building can be used as a warming shelter in the colder months and provide a sorting space for food, clothing, and furniture collected by Kirk members. All efforts will be made in collaboration with our local mission partners.



EQUIP

The Kirk House would primarily serve as an equipping space for youth groups from across the nation to learn about our work in Pontiac and to serve alongside us and our ministry partners. In addition, this multipurpose space will host mission conferences, church retreats, and community-wide workshops.

FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." **Romans 12:2**

Here at the Kirk, we believe faith formation is deeply rooted in relationships we foster with God and our neighbors as well as in the stories we tell ourselves and each other—stories of Jesus and our transformative encounters with him. Our faith is shaped and formed throughout our lifetime as we experience the warmth of relationships, power of stories, and growth of community.



"The biggest lesson I have learned over the years is that God will change you for the better. He will guide you to the right people who will bring out your best self...He sees the bigger picture and what is right for you."

- CLARE LLOPE, YOUTH ELDER

FORMING OUR FAITH FOR TODAY

Each year, special time and care is given to creating spaces for meaningful, intergenerational faith formation. Our children are introduced to stories of faith from the Bible during weekly Sunday school as well as in VBS; confirmation class and annual mission trips form and strengthen the faith of our youth; small groups help our young and older adults to be rooted in faith and community. Each year, your pledged offerings go towards supporting such efforts as well as to bringing in excellent speakers and so much more!



CREATING A WELCOMING CAMPUS FOR TOMORROW

We believe people experience God's transforming love in different times, ways, and places. The Kirk is majestic to the eye and yet, for some, it can offer an imposing presence. We want to be intentional about breaking down these barriers and be a church that will be nurturing and welcoming to all of our neighbors—both inside and outside. As such, we will be fully utilizing our property by establishing intentional spaces for building relationships, spiritual growth, and lively gatherings.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Here at the Kirk, we recognize the importance of prioritizing the formation of our youth and young adults. In partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary, the Kirk will serve as one of five "hubs" around the country to foster innovative and sustainable youth ministries. In addition, funds will be dedicated to building our relationship with Alma College by supporting their ongoing initiatives to grow the faith of our young adults.



Rendering of the new interior of the chapel.

PRAYER PATH: PHASE I

The prayer path will offer a space for individuals and families to walk, run, and push their strollers. Along the way, the path will incorporate intentional points of spiritual reflection, rest, and recreation. As the first phase of a multi-part project, this walkway is anticipated to stretch a mile long around the outermost edge of the Kirk campus.



TERRACE REPAIR & OUTDOOR WORSHIP CENTER

At present, the Refectory terrace is roped off and unsafe to use. We want to make sure our spaces are safe and secure for worship and other community-building experiences. To do so, we will be fully repairing the terrace as well as considering our options on how to provide a dedicated outdoor space to host weddings, outdoor summer worship services, Vacation Bible School, church picnics, youth group gatherings, and more.



CARING FOR OUR FACILITY

"They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built." **Luke 6:48**

Kirk in the Hills is a majestic, gothic-style church whose walls and windows detail the beloved stories of the Old and New Testaments. This space was gifted to us by the generations before and has stood the test of time as a church dedicated to sharing God's love and healing in our local communities and around the world.



PRESERVING OUR FACILITY FOR TODAY

Each year, we are incredibly grateful to the numerous hands that play a role in keeping our campus beautiful and safe throughout the year. While the current endowment helps to cover the majority of ongoing property expenses such as maintenance, repairs, and groundwork, annual dollars are dedicated to

supporting our sexton staff. This staff sets up for weekly worship and meetings as well as cares for the day-to-day custodial needs of the church. In addition, funds are allocated to ensuring the safety of the building throughout all seasons through snow removal, salting of the sidewalks, and the placement of security guards.

KEEPING OUR CAMPUS SAFE FOR TOMORROW

The Kirk is blessed to be home to a vibrant congregation, an excellent preschool, and weekly ministry groups. In addition, our facility holds several renowned pieces of art and artifacts. To ensure the security of these items and the safety of those on campus, a comprehensive security system will be installed throughout the building.

This security system will include the installation of cameras both inside and outside the building and will allow for increased communication throughout the campus. Security and safety of our staff, families, and visitors is a priority for us as we continue to expand our ministries.

ENHANCING OUR COLUMBARIUM FOR TOMORROW

We envision our church as a place of comfort for all those who are grieving or experiencing loss. On our campus, the Kirk columbarium provides an eternal resting place for many of our loved ones. To honor this place, we will repair and enhance the columbarium. In addition, a new garden will be created as a designated space for families who prefer to scatter the remains of their loved ones. A plaque will be mounted to denote the names of those placed within this area.



"The Kirk is not only our place of worship and fellowship but a home for our family through baptisms, preschool, Sunday School, confirmation, graduation, weddings, and even a sermon. The Kirk building and its people are our home."

- ROBIN & KEVIN BRINKS



SUPPORTING THE VISION OF THE KIRK

The 75th anniversary marks a milestone for our church and allows us to be reflective of all that has been done while also casting the vision for who we want to be as a church in the next 75 years. In it all, we remain clear-sighted of our mission: we envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love. As a church, we have the opportunity to live out this bold mission through both our Annual Giving and the Anniversary Campaign.

As a part of this effort, we have the opportunity to invest in our church and in changing the hearts and lives of our community. While unique in the projects they support, Annual Giving and the Anniversary Campaign are both vital to the longevity and legacy of the Kirk. With a successful effort, our church will have "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." By joining together as a people of faith and building partnerships with others doing good work, we can have a direct and long-lasting impact on the legacy of Kirk in the Hills.

To fully realize this vision, we are inviting all members of the Kirk to consider their own blessings and how they can give generously of their time, talents, and treasures. As such, we are asking for all individuals and families to help in three ways:

- 1 PRAY for your Kirk leaders as we work to bring about a successful campaign.**
- 2 PARTICIPATE as a leader at the Kirk. A project of this magnitude provides numerous opportunities for you to get involved and serve.**
- 3 PLEDGE a gift to Annual Giving and the Anniversary Campaign.**

It is in joining hands that we can truly leave a legacy of change for our church and our greater community. To learn more on how you can give a gift, please contact our Business Office at (248) 973-8009 or kbowman@kirkinthehills.org.





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