1874 Building Project

Leaving Our Mark

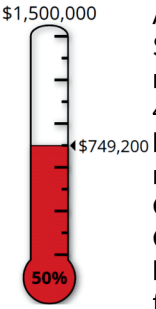
This week, construction officially begins on the 1874 Project, and it began with a beautiful story.

This past Sunday, during our "Reflect, Renovate, and Renew" gathering, 8-year-old Ethan, son of Todd and Jaime, was one of the first people to take a swing at our ceremonial demolition wall. It was joyful, playful, and hopeful, exactly the kind of moment we hoped would mark this transition.

But as ceremonial demolition continued, we discovered something unexpected. Hidden inside the wall were names, carefully written on the studs. They had been placed there in the 1980s, the last time that part of the Garden Level was reconfigured. Some were written by adults. Others were clearly written by children and among those names was Ethan's dad, Todd.

Suddenly, Ethan's swing became more than a fun construction kickoff. It became a generational connection. A father's name, written into the walls decades ago. A son, now helping begin the next chapter. A reminder that what we build, repair, renew, and offer to God is never just for us.

In a few weeks, structural steel will be delivered for this project, and we will have the opportunity to sign our names before it becomes part of the renewed building. Todd and Ethan, along with all of us, will be able to leave our mark for future generations, just as others once did for us. That is what this project is about. We are leaving our mark on what God is doing here at UMCG,so grace can keep flowing through this place for generations to come. And your generosity is making that possible.



As of this week, we have received $749,199.73 toward our $1.5 million goal. That means we are 49.9% of the way there, with 83 households already contributing or making commitments. Thanks be to God!

Our goal is participation from 300 households, so it is not too late to turn in a commitment or make a contribution. Every gift matters. Every household matters. Every act of generosity helps us renew this space for the ministry God is still unfolding among us.

Around the church, you will already begin to see signs of construction. Protective coverings are going up over windows. Construction barriers are being installed. Negative air pressure machines will help manage dust. Coffee hour locations and walking paths through the building will shift for a season. In other words, this Sunday gives all of us a chance to be newcomers together.

We will all be learning new paths, adjusting to new spaces, and figuring out where things are for a while. So let's be extra gracious, extra patient, and extra welcoming with one another, especially with anyone walking in for the first time.

Next week, full demolition begins. A dumpster will arrive near the 2nd Street entrance as crews begin gutting the lower level and preparing other areas for renovation.

The walls are coming down. The story is continuing. And God's grace is flowing through us!

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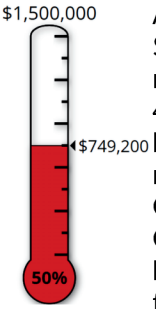

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Building Project Kickoff Event: May 24, 2026

PROGRESS NOTES 5/31/2026







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