

## **Morningside's Association with Family Building Blocks**

The association between MUMC and Family Building Blocks (FBB) will make a strong statement about our ability, as a church, to be an even more positive influence on our neighborhood and community and will make a huge improvement in the lives of many local children and families.

While many of the members of MUMC who are on committees which meet regularly are aware of our plans to partner with FBB, because of our continuing separation from each other, many of you have not been updated with the latest developments. Discussions and planning began in early 2020 but the pandemic delayed progress until early in 2021. Since then, with the approval of our Admin Council, we have signed a lease with FBB for the use of 3 of our classrooms by FBB teachers. FBB is paying for the modifications of the classrooms with new windows, laminate flooring and putting air conditioning in each of the classrooms.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this relationship involves our church kitchen. We are in the planning stages of a major modification of our church kitchen into a fully modern commercial kitchen which will cost between \$150-200,000.

Approximately 1/3 of this funding will come from our church women's group who have been fundraising for almost 10 years to facilitate such an upgrade and the remaining 2/3 will come from FBB. This kitchen will be used as a kitchen for FBB to prepare hundreds of meals a day (Monday – Thursday) which will be delivered to all their locations in the Salem area. Other than the 6am to 1pm (Mon-Thurs) timeframe, MUMC will have full use of this new kitchen and its amazing new equipment.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of our planning involves the placement of 2 modular classrooms on the east side of our property which will give FBB facilities with which to serve approximately 108 kids and families with special needs. These kids will be aged from infants to 3 years old. These units will be fully ADA compliant, and a fully fenced playground will be between the two classroom units. These units will be equipped with electricity, heat, sewer and water, and have washer/dryer capability. FBB is covering all the costs for these units.

The planning goals for all of this is to have it completed and operational by the time school starts this fall – therefore, it will be a very busy summer around MUMC this year. We will keep you posted with updates on our progress with the construction and hopefully by the time we are able to return to our normal church activities you will find things have changed in lots of wonderful ways.

MUMC Trustees