



# FEBRUARY

## A PLACE FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Finally!

Yes, it's really happening!

Construction (more correctly demolition) begins on Monday, February 18. By next week you'll find a dumpster on the State Street side of the church at that rarely used and (to many of you) unknown emergency exit near the Nursery. Say goodbye to the lower level as you have known it! Closets have been emptied; chairs, tables, and other furniture relocated; Worship Centers moved, and long unused "stuff" tossed.

The North Entrance (off the parking lot) construction will begin in late March, or when the ground is thawed. Until then, there will be only minimal inconvenience.

A few words from Proverbs, Philippians, and a Philosopher as A Place for All begins this phase.

"Humans plan; God laughs." That's in the Bible, albeit in a less cynical way: **Many are the plans in human minds, but the plans of God shall be established.** (Proverbs 19:21) Careful, detailed architectural and construction planning as well as financial stewardship are essential, and our leaders have done their due diligence... but there will be unknowns. When surprises happen over the next 8 months, let's keep cool heads and light hearts, and look to our Lakewood Construction experts for their wisdom, trusting that God is in this.

**Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray.** (Philippians 4:6) "Where will my Bible study meet?" "My parking place is gone." "What happened to that beautiful tree?" "What will we do about Easter Breakfast?" Prayers have surrounded our planning, our capital campaign, and our decisions about architecture, design, and safety. NOW is the time to pray for the safety of construction workers and for our cooperation with one another. And it's time we keep praying in gratitude for all who have or will give to the capital campaign which makes these changes possible.

**The church is not the building, the church is not the steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people.** That, of course, is from the song "We are the Church." The architecture and interior design of the building at 659 State Street isn't the only iteration which has ever been. In almost every decade since the original church building was constructed in the '60s, some renovation or addition or redecorating reflecting the needs of the times has altered the look and feel and function of this building. Our building reflects our mission and our congregation's personality. The aesthetics, the accessibility, the safety issues we are addressing now bring who we are and how we look closer together. We make these changes not just for fun, but because this is who we are!

This will be a chaotic, stressful, and exciting time. We're in it together! Let's not forget in the midst of it to have some fun!

Building Design Committee: *Jon Kreple, Bill Haines, Sandy Peterson, Larry Briggance, Chris Olney, Linda Knieriemen, Larry Grinwis*