



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
410 East University Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78626  
p (512) 863-2370 f (512) 863-0602 www.fumcgt.org  
fumcgt@fumcgt.org

February 26, 2016

Friends and Neighbors of First United Methodist Church,

Last year we shared our vision for change and improvement here at First United Methodist Church (FUMC). We would like to provide an update and continue this conversation with our next steps.

As you know, we have a history of caring for the community in Georgetown. As one of the original board members for The Caring Place and founder of the Peanut Butter & Jelly Collection that supports the Meals on Wheels program, we have expressed God's love and generosity. We also have a warm and sharing relationship with children and families in the neighborhood through tutoring and mentoring, English as a Second Language classes (ESL), Backpack Buddies, Easter Egg Hunts, Vacation Bible School, The Learning Tree Preschool, the annual Pumpkin Patch and many others. We host over 300 gatherings and meetings each month, many of which are for community groups and organizations beyond our ministries. These include and are not limited to the Georgetown Friday Lunch Rotary Club, Troop #151 of the Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scouts Pack 151, Georgetown Assistance League, WBCO HeadStart Training, Williamson County Bee Keepers Association, Adult open-gym basketball, Alcoholics Anonymous, NA and Habitat for Humanity.

The numerous gatherings often result in parking overflow from church grounds and parking lots. There is high need for additional, accessible parking to continue serving the needs of all who are using the facilities, including those who are physically handicapped. With a community-minded spirit, we are working with the City of Georgetown to assess the opportunity to address this:

- A Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) was completed by R-K Engineering at the City's request to review the impact of closing 13<sup>th</sup> Street between Ash Street and Elm Street. Evaluation of this study indicates there is no negative impact on traffic flow.
- A Planned Unit Development proposal will include a net gain of approximately 90 parking spaces and an inviting community park and playground in what is currently 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Neighbors and community guests will be able to enjoy picnics in the park and a safe playground for younger, pre-school age children.
  - Pedestrian traffic will still flow through 13<sup>th</sup> Street between Ash and Elm St.
  - The house at 1302 Ash Street will be removed to make room for off-street parking and the park.
  - Utilities (sewer, water, gas and electricity) will be unaffected.

We will be able to provide neighbors and guests with a neighborhood park and playground as well as safe, accessible parking. Partnering with the community in this way, our historic church may also continue sharing the sacred space and facilities with even more people in the community for many more years.

We are inviting you to an open forum conversation in our sanctuary to discuss these plans and to share our vision on **March 10 at 6:30pm**. Please partner with us in this conversation.

Sincerely,

Wilson Morris  
Master Plan Committee  
First United Methodist Church, Georgetown

