

As we focus on **OUR MONEY STORY** during this season, it's important to remember and re-tell our Collegiate/Wesley Money Story. It's helpful to be reminded of what we've already talked about, what's happened since, and what's coming next. Here's a brief summary; you'll learn more detail at the **information sessions** later in October and November. Take a look. Ask questions. The story continues to unfold.



Where we've been

The Church Council held information sessions in the Fall of 2023 presenting the state of CW finances. Repeated years in which expenses have exceeded income threaten CW's future.

Through those discussions, the following next steps were identified:

- Increase giving
- Identify grant funding possibilities, including maximizing Endowment gifts
- A capital fundraising campaign, primarily for the parking lot
- Commission a site evaluation study to identify ways to make the best use of our existing real estate and to clarify the potential for any sale or other disposition of properties.

What's happened since

- Through increased generosity and expense management, we ended 2023 within \$15,000 of breaking even—a huge improvement from our projected \$90,000 loss.
- Pledges for 2024 increased 11% over 2023 levels, with half of our pledging households increasing their giving.
- Wesley Foundation received more funding from the Iowa United Methodist Conference than expected.
- The urgency of our parking lot project was mitigated by a \$15,000 seal-coating project to tide us over.
- Cancellation and renegotiation of our property insurance coverage consumed substantial staff and leader time.
- Our pastoral transition interrupted momentum on some 2023 plans.

What's coming next

- This *Our Money Story* financial giving campaign—seeking to raise more than \$750,000 toward our 2025 budget!
- Proposals have been requested from consultants who would perform the site analysis. We expect the site study to be completed by April 2025.
- In the coming months, our leaders and members will continue to explore our purpose, future, and direction as a church. *You* are part of CW's ongoing story.

Join a 2024 Information Session:

Wednesday, October 23, 6:30 p.m., Wesley Hall

Sunday, October 27, 9:00 a.m., Forum Class and Student Lounge (two groups)

Sunday, November 10, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary