

Dare To Pray

October 29, 2023



dare to
DREAM

Clarkston United Methodist Church

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Gathering Space



A multi-purpose space used for receptions, fellowship and gatherings

- Welcome Desk
- Sunday Fellowship
- Youth Finals Study Space
- Speaker Series Presentations
- Missionary Talks
- Mission Projects
- Meeting Space
- Piano Recitals
- Funeral Luncheons
- Handicap Accessible Ramp to the Sanctuary

PRAYER:

Holy God, thank you for welcoming each one of us, and thank you for places where we feel safe and loved. We pray for this space and for all those who gather here. May this space be a place of fellowship, friendship, and love. We pray that people will feel safe and welcomed when they enter. May they be connected to you and to each other. Be with those who gather here to talk, to learn, to grieve and to celebrate. May your presence be felt, and may all who enter remember that whenever two or more gather in your name, you are there also. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how we ensure that all who walk into this space feel welcome?

I wonder what hospitality might look like if we imagined every church activity through the eyes of someone who has never been here before?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Grand Hallway



A spacious thoroughfare and place for small gatherings, conversations and fellowship

- Access to All Areas of the Church and Offices
- Display Space for Confirmation Projects, Missions and General Information
- Elevator Access to All Three Levels of the Building

PRAYER:

Creating God, we give thanks for the extra space that did not exist before renovation. Some of us remember how narrow the hallways used to be, and we celebrate that there is now room for more people and more activities. Help us to continue to create space for new faces and new ministries in our church. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what other ministry could be hosted in this hallway?

I wonder what might change if we prayed, every day, for those who will enter the doors of Clarkston UMC for the first time each week?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Front Porch Coffee



Offering complimentary hot and cold beverages

- Coffee Hour on Sunday Morning
- Coffee Hospitality for Special Events and Youth Study Sessions

PRAYER:

God of Hospitality, let this place overflow with your blessings! We pray that Front Porch Coffee's ministry of hospitality is a beacon in our community. We are thankful for the relationships with local businesses it has fostered. We are thankful for the volunteers that make its ministry possible. We are thankful for its mission to connect people together by serving coffee, espresso, tea, hot chocolate, and more through the generosity of this congregation. May it continue to be a place of connection for all people. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

How many people could we connect to God, if Front Porch Coffee became as well-known as Starbucks?

What would it look like to have Front Porch Coffee open for all CUMC programs and events?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Offices



Front desk to welcome visitors and updated office space for clergy and staff members

PRAYER:

Bless these spaces of work O God. May they be havens for creativity, compassion, and study. May they enable our clergy and staff to do the work of ministry. Bless our staff and clergy with the courage to follow your guidance and lead your people. Give them new strength to build places of belonging and create community for all to share their gifts. May they hear your voice and respond to your call. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

What if anyone who comes into this office could be made to feel welcome and heard?

I wonder what I might do to support the administrative work that happens in the church?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Nursery



A safe, loving environment for our little ones

- Child Care Provided for Sunday Worship and Special Events
- Expanded Space for Quiet Time and Play Near the Sanctuary

PRAYER:

Thank you for the blessing of this amazing nursery space where our youngest congregation members spend time each Sunday. Thank you for the toys and equipment, which help us provide a safe and engaging environment for our infants and toddlers. Thank you for the caregivers working and volunteering on a regular basis, who make sure every child is cared for. Thank you for each child and the families who use our nursery each week. May the infants and toddlers of our church feel loved and supported as they grow physically, socially, and faithfully. May each family feel loved, supported and comfortable knowing their little ones are cared for as valued members of our church. In your name we pray, Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what it might take to have childcare offered at every CUMC event?

I wonder how to ensure we continue to have the means to maintain this space, the toys and equipment designed for infant and toddler enjoyment and safety?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Parlor



A special meeting room and prayer space, with beautiful view

- Gathering Space for Families During Funerals and Weddings
- Wesley Chimes
- Wesley Choir
- Bible Studies
- Staff Meetings
- Small Group Gatherings
- Updated AV Equipment for Virtual Meetings

PRAYER:

O God, bless this space and all who enter. This is a place where relationships are formed and deepened. In this room people join together in study, fellowship and the work of the church. May your Holy Spirit be felt by all who enter.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what new ways this room can be used to connect people to people and people to God?

I wonder what new and creative ways we might find to use this room?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Music Room



Music ministry for adult, youth and children's choirs and handbell rehearsals

- Chancel Choir
- Chime-in Hand Chime Choir
- Jubilation Ringers
- Celebration Ringers
- Youth Music
- Private Music Instruction

PRAYER:

God of all creation, we thank you today for your gift of musicians. ... Lord God we ask that you bless all who guide through the ministry of music worship. May musicians facilitate music that brings you glory. Music that transcends barriers that divide race, class, gender, denominationalism, ethnicity or geography. ...

Fill musicians with your light and love as they generously share with the world. Lord let all creation sing your praise and the host make music in your presence. Bless musicians as only you can. In your name we pray.

Prayer written by: Rev. Babette Chatman, Posted in Chapel, Prayer

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what it would be like to have groups of all ages rehearsing in this room every day?

I wonder what it would take to have a church orchestra?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Open Office



A workspace where our staff can collaborate, imagine and create together

PRAYER:

Loving God, every CUMC program and event gains blessings from this room. May this space continue to be one that empowers staff and laity in support of the ministries of our church. We pray this area will be used efficiently to inspire new ideas and programs and support existing ministry. We are thankful for this space! Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what new and creative ministry programs could be supported by this space?

I wonder what could be possible if we prayed for the ministries supported in this room every day?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Education Wing



Multipurpose space with classrooms for children's Sunday School and meeting space for church and community needs

- Designated, Secure Check-in for Sunday School
- Sunday School & VBS Classes
- Angels in Training
- Weekly Adult Fitness Classes
- Cherub Choir
- Outside Counseling Services
- ADA Restroom
- Kitchenette
- Sensory Tools

PRAYER:

God of searching, exploring, and healing, we thank you for this space that provides windows not just to the sunshine outside and the community in the gym, but to the world. We thank you for our children and youth who meet here on Sunday mornings to ask questions, wonder, explore and grow in faith. We thank you for the teachers that take the time to prepare lessons, and we thank you for the parents that make church attendance a priority. God, we thank you for this space that provides a place for various meetings throughout the week. A place to plan for the future, to connect, and to dream. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what a supportive mental health team, made up of clergy, mental health professionals, and laity would look like at CUMC?

I wonder what it would take to get new white boards in each classroom?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Library



Filled with educational resources, the library also offers a place for small groups to learn, connect, and grow in faith

- Books and Educational Resources
- Puzzle Exchange
- Bible Study Groups
- Meeting Place

PRAYER:

God of wisdom, thank you for words that guide us. Thank you for scholars and poets and those who think deeply. May we continue to learn and grow in faith, all the days of our lives. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder, in addition to the bible, what other books we should have in our library that would most impact our faith?

I wonder what it looks like to share current faith resources in unexpected ways?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Laundry Room



Washer, dryer, storage, emergency shelter needs, and support for week-long missions

PRAYER:

God of grace and glory, God of cleanliness and mess, God who created order out of chaos, we thank you for this laundry room. It is a source of convenience to our volunteers and staff during clean up after meals, funerals, and mission projects. It's a resource for those who need laundry services. We are thankful for the addition of this space and ask that you would bless all who enter this room, that they might feel your presence and peace as they serve you. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how we can use this space to serve the community?

I wonder what new things we can do because we have this resource?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Food Pantry



Providing food, toiletries and essentials to those in need in our community

- Monthly Client Intake with Dignity and Love
- Donations from Church Members
- Staffed by CUMC Volunteers

PRAYER:

God who multiplies fishes and loaves, thank you for helping us feed and help so many people. We give thanks that we can feed more than 100 people every month through our Food Pantry. We give thanks for the volunteers who make it possible. Remind us to give thanks for the food we eat, and help us to be generous so that all may have enough on their table and in their pantry. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how many more families we could serve if we had additional freezer and refrigerator space?

I wonder how this ministry might change or expand if donations to the Food Pantry doubled?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Room 148/149



Large room accessible via ramp or elevator, expanding our classroom options with the kitchen nearby

- Adult and Youth Classroom
- Bible Studies
- VBS Classroom
- Staging Area for Food Pantry

PRAYER:

Bless this room that is filled with possibilities. This space welcomes many adult classes and bible studies, as well as our Confirmation class. It is a place where people can journey to deepen their faith. These rooms also provide space to collect, organize, and prepare items for our Food Pantry. Oh God of infinite possibilities, thank you for providing us this space. May all who enter here grow closer to you in word and deed. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how this room could be used creatively to help people grow spiritually?

I wonder what unique classes and meetings we could offer in this space?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Fellowship Hall



Multipurpose area for high school youth programs, church and community events, bible studies, and Food Pantry intake

- Kitchen Access
- Adjacent to ADA Restroom
- Easy Access to Parking Lot
- Updated AV Equipment

PRAYER:

Amazing God, we are blessed by this place of fellowship. Vital ministries such as Confirmation, High School Youth Group, United Methodist Men, Women United, 50 & Over, bible studies, Optimists, and Clarkston Coffee Club use this space every month. We pray for the relationships and ministry that has happened, is happening, and will happen in this room. Let those who come to learn and freely receive the gift of faith, accept it with gratitude and develop it with generosity. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what new programs in this space would connect even more people to people and people to God?

I wonder what today's youth are searching for, and how could we make this space more attractive for our youth?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Kitchen



Utilized to prepare and serve meals for community and church-wide events, funerals, and celebrations

- Church Events
- Community Events
- Receptions
- Funeral Meals
- Utilized by Urban Vine as a Commercial Kitchen

PRAYER:

Holy God, bless the hands that work in this kitchen. Bless their efforts to feed people. May the food that comes from this kitchen nourish our bodies, as gathering around tables nourishes our souls. Guide those who work in this kitchen as they feed others. May they feel valued and loved. We pray that this kitchen might be used to bring joy and sustenance to your people. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how we might use our kitchen to help our community?

I wonder how we might create new ministries through the kitchen?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Showers



ADA Accessible restrooms and showers, available to those in need

PRAYER:

When we built these showers O God, did we realize how often they would be used? Bless all who come here to wash away the dirt and grime of life and ministry. May the warm waters remind them of the waters of their baptism, and the promise that your love is always with them. We thank you for this space that enables people to get clean when they have no power, when they need an accessible shower, when they spend the night at the church, and when messes have been made. Bless this space and all who enter. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how we might use this space to serve the community?

I wonder how this resource can enable us to think creatively?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Youth Classroom



A multipurpose meeting room

- Driver's Training Classes
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Vacation Bible School
- Youth Group

PRAYER:

We pray God for all who come to this room. We pray for those in recovery, that they might feel your healing presence. We pray for those learning something new, for youth and adults seeking to grow in their faith, that they may they draw closer to you. We pray for teens who are learning to drive, that they might make wise decisions, and that you would keep them safe. We pray for each person: for their safety, for their confidence, for their journey ahead. May they feel your presence with them. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what new ways this room could be used?

I wonder how we can make this space more hospitable?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Youth Lounge



A multipurpose gathering space that welcomes fellowship for church groups and community organizations

- Youth Group
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Adult & Youth Bible Studies
- Parents Circle

PRAYER:

God, we are so grateful for having the opportunity to work with youth in our community and to have dedicated leaders and volunteers along with a beautiful building and grounds to do our work. We recognize the importance of nurturing their faith, providing them with a safe and welcoming environment, and helping them grow in their relationship with you.

Lord, we ask for your wisdom and discernment as we plan and organize future activities and programs and we ask for the ability to connect with them on a deep level, to understand their needs, and to provide them the support and encouragement they need and deserve.

We pray for the leaders and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to serve the youth in our church community. Strengthen them and equip them with the necessary skills and resources to be effective mentors, role models, and messengers of your message. May they lead by example, demonstrating your love and grace in all they do.

We also lift up the youth in our community to you. Surround them with your love and protection. Help them navigate the challenges they face in today's world. May they grow in faith, character, and purpose, becoming strong disciples who impact their families, schools, and communities.

We also pray for the families of our youth. Grant them wisdom and patience as they guide and support their children. May they find strength in their own faith and be a source of encouragement and inspiration to their children.

Lord, we commit ourselves to you, knowing that it is through your power and grace that lives are transformed. May CUMC be a beacon of hope and a place of refuge and may all find acceptance, belonging, and deep connection with you.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what it would look like if we had so many youth, that we needed two church vans to take them to youth events?

I wonder what it would look like if we were able to offer presentations and speakers that focused on empowering parents and youth with tools to deal with anxiety, depression, grief, parenting teens, and positive mental health support?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Community Center



A space for large mission, recreation, and liturgical events

- Sports and Fitness Offerings
- Children's Community Basketball Clinics
- Youth Group Activities
- Mission Possible Fundraiser
- Funeral Luncheons
- Family Movie Night
- Clarkston Schools Real Talk, A Mental Health Workshop
- Church-wide Meals and Celebrations
- Good Friday & Maundy Thursday Services

PRAYER:

Holy God, thank you for this space that makes ministry possible. We pray for everyone who uses this room, from pickleball players and walkers to Girl Scouts and groups gathering for mission projects. May we continue to use this space to connect people to people and people to God. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what other activities or ministries could happen in this space?

I wonder what out-of-the-box uses God has in store for this room?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Parsonages



Housing for our Senior & Associate Pastors

PRAYER:

We give you thanks, O God, for these parsonages for our clergy and their families. We thank you for the resources that make it possible to provide these homes and the people who care for them. Bless our trustees, bless our clergy, and bless their families. May these houses truly be homes for our pastors and their families.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder how I might help care for the properties of Clarkston United Methodist Church?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Outside Area #1



Garage, Garden, Exterior Walkway, and Grounds

PRAYER:

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of nature surrounding Clarkston UMC, and for the land on which the church sits.

We thank you for the garage that provides storage. We thank you for the pathways from the Choir Room to the Sanctuary and the circle drive to the Narthex. We thank you for ADA access so that all may enter the building.

We thank you Lord for the gardens that surround the church, and for the volunteers who work to maintain these spaces.

God, we thank you for those CUMC dreamers that came before us. We ask for your guidance in dreaming today, and we pray for the dreamers yet to come. We trust you to guide us into the future. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what the congregation of CUMC, who built the church in this location over 50 years ago, would say to those who occupy it today?

I wonder what dreams our congregation today has for the CUMC congregation of 2073?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Outside Area #2



Little Free Pantry, Little Free Library, and the Fire Pit Area

PRAYER:

God of all, bless these spaces, where people can share books and food and time around a campfire. We give thanks for the ability to offer resources to the community. Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what ministry might be possible using these spaces in the future?

I wonder who might first connect with Clarkston UMC because of these resources?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Outside Area #3



Partnership with Schools & Neighbors

PRAYER:

God of all creation, you created us to be in community. From the beginning, you declared it is not right for us to be alone. You reinforced through your son, Jesus, that your greatest commandment was to love God and to love your neighbor. With this knowledge God, we thank you for all people who surround our church; those living in neighborhoods, those within listening distance of the church bells and those who share our parking lot. We thank you for the schools with whom we partner. We pray for the students, teachers, staff, and administrators. May we continue to listen to one another, support each other, and work together to fulfill your will for the world. In your loving name we pray, Amen.

DARE TO DREAM:

I wonder what it would be like if we were able to partner with the local schools to provide beginning of the year services, such as free haircuts, school physicals or new shoes?

I wonder what other ways we could collaborate with our neighbors?

NOTES & DREAMS:

Thank
You



Your prayers make a difference. When we join a United Methodist Church, one of the vows we make is to support it with our prayers. Thank you for keeping Clarkston United Methodist Church in your prayers. Your prayers make dreams become reality.



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