

## We Have Done This Before

Generations before us have tackled monumental projects, from the original construction of our church building in 1868 and multiple renovations over the years, including the last major undertaking 25 years ago, which culminated in the construction of an education & administration building. Let us, like those that came before, rise to the challenge set before us, unite together, and restore our hope.



Photo by John Gisis, used with permission.

*"God of the past, present, and future,  
help us to restore our iconic steeple that stands strong  
in the middle of Rochester, just like our congregation.  
Guide us to help pass our legacy to future generations."*



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, NH**

**2025 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

## Who We Are



New church building built in 1867.



The first Methodist Chapel erected in 1826.

Since its founding in 1807, First United Methodist Church has been a significant part of the City of Rochester. People have attended FUMC for fellowship, community, and worship, united by the hope that generations have shared in the saving love of Jesus Christ. Today, we continue to rely on that foundation of hope and extend it outward.



## The World Is Our Parish

At FUMC, we embody the spirit of John Wesley's declaration that "the world is our parish" by serving as a hub for community engagement and outreach. Our church opens its doors to host numerous events and activities, ranging from local charity drives and educational workshops to regional gatherings and international mission initiatives. By providing a welcoming space for community organizations, we extend our ministry beyond the walls of the sanctuary, reaching people where they are and fostering connections that reflect Christ's love. These efforts not only address the immediate needs of our neighbors but also nurture values of compassion, service, and faith, impacting lives locally, regionally, and globally. Through these acts, we live out our calling to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

FUMC actively serves the community through a variety of impactful programs and partnerships, including:

- Rochester Fellowship Kitchen, providing meals 4 nights a week.
- Project Linus, offering handmade blankets to comfort children.
- AA Meetings, supporting individuals on their journey to recovery.
- Boy Scout and Cub Scout meetings, fostering leadership and character in youth.
- Red Cross Blood Drives, saving lives through blood donation efforts.
- Emergency backup facility for the Rochester Child Care Center, ensuring continuity of care in times of need.
- UNH Northeast Passage, supporting disabled student teaching initiatives.
- MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship), welcoming youth from the community to grow in faith and fellowship.

FUMC hosts a variety of annual and regular events that enrich and engage the community, including:

- The Annual Rochester Community Photography Show.
- MeCa Concert.
- The Annual Lights of Love, a cherished tradition of remembrance and hope.
- Granite State Choral Society and Granite State Ringers Concerts.
- Rochester Comic Book Day.
- Performances by the African Children's Choir, inspiring audiences with their music and stories.

# Our Steeple



We are one big family with a shared purpose to grow more Christ-like and to keep hope alive in our community and beyond. Our steeple is a physical manifestation of that hope. It draws our eyes skyward, helping us see the majesty of creation and a beacon of Christ's light in the world. It is a recognizable landmark and guidepost for members of our community to know where to find a community with inspiring worship and genuine fellowship.

It leads people to find a meal multiple times per week. Most of all it shows us that we have arrived home.



City of Rochester Logo featuring our Steeple

# Restoring a Beacon of Hope

In its current condition, the weathered spire, broken clock, and chipped paint cast feelings of doubt, despair, and shame. For us to continue to keep hope alive and feed the needs of Rochester, body, mind, & soul, we need to protect our structure from harsh New England weather. This includes a new roof, exterior finishes, and repairs to the interior due to years of water damage. Above all, we need to restore our steeple, which is a beacon of hope to many.

## Phase 1: Steeple Restoration



- Spire roof replacement
- Repair & replacement of wood rot
- Clock Face Replacement
- Scrape & repaint trim

**Estimated Cost: \$500,000-\$800,000**

## Phase 2: Roof Replacement

When a member of our congregation lifts their eyes in worship, we want them to be moved by the murals that have been in place since 1935, amazed by the detailed stenciling of the organ pipes or in awe of the sun shining through the stained-glass windows. We do not want them looking up at a water stain or flaking plaster. Our roof is essential to protect our space from the elements.

The roof of our main church building has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. The roof is a patchwork of old and new tiles, unmatched colors, and contains many slipped and cracked tiles. We have spent \$10,000 or more multiple times for roof repairs in recent years. A large portion of building fund contributions have gone toward the repair of our slate roof, leaving less available for other repairs or preventative maintenance.

Replacing the roof will be a gift for generations to come, as we will no longer need to invest in ongoing repairs or increase the risk of more interior damage.



**Estimated Cost: \$600,000-\$900,000**

## Phase 3: Other Repairs & Restoration

After the restoration of our steeple and the roof is replaced, we will focus on further protecting our interior space by addressing peeling paint and rotted exterior millwork. Not only will this restore the beauty of the outside of our church building, but it will also help keep water from causing interior damage.

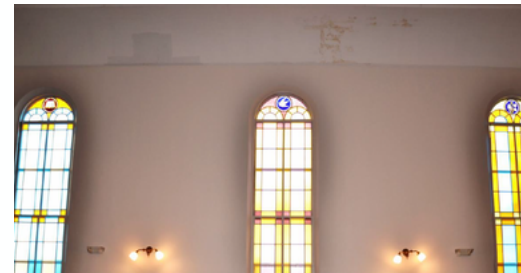
Once this is done and the interior of the church building is protected from the weather, repairs can be made to the sanctuary ceiling.

### Exterior Repairs

- Scrape & repaint trim
- Repair & replace rotted trim

### Interior Repairs

- Repair of plaster in sanctuary
- Repainting of repaired areas



**Estimated Cost: \$100,000-\$140,000**