

FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
*of La Grange*

# FORWARD IN FAITH

JOSHUA 1:2

*"Moses My servant is dead; so now arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."*

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to embrace  
Great Commandment love which fuels  
Great Commission living.

## VISION STATEMENT:

Our vision is to provide a place to  
belong, a path to become, and an  
opportunity to believe in the life-  
changing gospel of Jesus.

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We aren't giving to  
FBC; we are giving  
through FBC!

# FORWARD IN FAITH

In the book of Joshua, Joshua is commissioned by the Lord to lead the people of God into the promised land. In Josh. 1:2 we find these words:

“Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites.”

Simply said, the Israelites were to move Forward in Faith. God is still calling His people to move Forward in Faith.

Years ago, and over several years, FBC was looking for a place to relocate, to expand, and to increase her ability to reach La Grange. Through much prayer, patience, and diligence, the people of FBC faithfully waited for God's provision. Then, through a sovereign act of God, FBC was provided the land on 71. God had prepared and given the land to FBC. FBC had to go and possess the land. Under the former pastor's leadership, FBC began the process of building the wonderful facilities that we now see. FBC moved Forward in Faith.

As with the Israelites, challenges arose. In 2018, a tornado came through and destroyed one building and severely damaged another. FBC was committed and continued by moving Forward in Faith. They continued to believe and trust that the Lord had given them this land and they were to possess it. The Lord blessed in mighty ways and a completely new building was built, the damaged building repaired, a parking lot, and so much more was put into place....and it was all paid for!!

As with the Israelites, there was a change of leadership. The people of God had to follow Joshua, not Moses, into the promised land. The Lord led the former pastor to another place of ministry, and Pastor Justin stepped in as interim. His first message was from Josh. 1. FBC was to continue to press on, cross the Colorado and move into the land. Then, in the providence of God, the Lord led me to be the pastor of FBC. I quickly realized one of my responsibilities was going to be to complete what other Godly men and women had started. We prayed and sought the Lord and He led us across the Colorado River to relocate our body and take full possession of the land. We continued to pray and seek the will of God, and the Lord led me to Eccl. 3:3b. From this I knew we were to continue to build. Because of God's grace and His Spirit moving in the people of FBC, the Lord fulfilled His Word, and we continued to build. The last building was begun, and we simply have continued to move Forward in Faith.

Here we are now, the vision realized; God's faithfulness on glorious display. It is at this time, we have yet another opportunity to move Forward in Faith. He's provided abundantly every single step of the way, and He will not fail us now. We serve a faithful God, so that's why we can move Forward in Faith. All we have to do is continue to trust His leading and respond accordingly.

The Forward in Faith journey will most likely be the largest step of faith we have taken. We are asking you to move forward with us, seek the Lord with all of your heart, and see how He may be asking you to move Forward in Faith. Whatever He asks and wherever He leads, we can trust our God as we move Forward in Faith.

This is really not about the building of buildings, but it is more about the building of the body. It's not about raising money, but about raising disciples. That always requires faith. Here's what I know: every time we move Forward in Faith, the Lord has proven His faithfulness. I'm excited to see how He will provide!

Dr. Steve Brown,

Pastor

# FORWARD IN FAITH EXPLAINED

What we're asking of the Lord

PRIMARY  
GOAL:

100%  
PARTICIPATION

Our primary goal is 100% participation. We deeply desire for everyone who calls FBC home to open themselves up to the Lord and have an amazing encounter with Jesus as it relates to generosity and stewardship. We desire that 100% of our people become stewards of God's resources, to tithe (10%), and to learn to be generous people. We desire that everyone learn to trust God to provide as they step out in faith.

Our secondary goal is to be debt free by paying off our \$1.2 million loan through generous giving over the next 2 years.

SECONDARY  
GOAL:

\$1.2 MILLION



## 1. Pay off the loan.

At the end of our building project we will have a loan of approx. \$1.6 million. We have been praying and will continue to pray that the Lord will sell our other buildings located on South College St. We are looking for at least 400K from the sale of the buildings to go toward the loan. We hope for much more!

We want to be free from debt within 2 years (or sooner) so that we can put more emphasis on missions and ministry.

## 2. To pay for other expenses.

Some other expenses related to the new building are also included in the Forward in Faith initiative. Those include:

- Cabinets and counter tops in workroom, and bookcases in offices
- Play ground equipment and fencing
- Kitchen and Basketball goals in Pavilion
- Furniture in foyer
- Misc

## 3. To help us finish the task the Lord put before us.

The Lord called us to this location and to build. We want to be faithful to finish what the Lord asked of us.

# **CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**





CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS:  
PICTURES AND TIMELINE OF PROGRESS



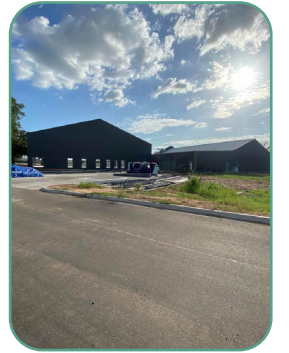
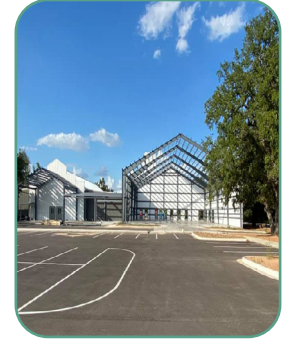
2018  
Tornado



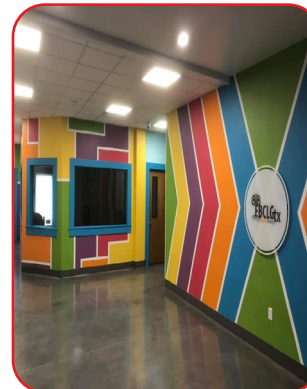
Rebuild  
Begins



CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS:  
PICTURES AND TIMELINE OF PROGRESS



2021  
Easter








“

**Sometimes we give until it hurts; the Lord wants us to give until it feels good. He loves a cheerful giver.**

”

A photograph of a person's legs and feet as they descend a staircase. The person is wearing dark pants and dark sneakers with white laces and white soles. The staircase has a dark metal railing on the right side. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A large, semi-transparent green rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

“Faith is taking  
the first step  
even when  
you don’t see  
the whole  
staircase.”

Martin Luther King, JR.

Let’s pray that the Lord would use these  
next 2 years to grow our church family in  
faith through our generosity!



# HOW WILL YOU **MOVE** FORWARD IN FAITH?

## PRAY & FAST

Prayer and fasting are crucial when it comes to hearing from the Lord and discerning how to move Forward in Faith. Over this next season, we are asking you to go before the Lord and ask Him what He would have you do. Ask the Lord what He wants your generosity and giving to look like. We also want you to fast (if able). Fast for a meal, a day, or a few days. Fasting most often means a water-only diet. In fasting, we deny ourselves, and during the time we would eat, we ask the Lord for His direction concerning how we will move Forward in Faith.

## READ

Over the next few weeks, we are asking you to read over the following passages and begin to prepare your heart for our upcoming series entitled: "Forward in Faith."

1 Chron. 29:1-13

1 Tim. 6:6-10; 17-19

Luke 16:1-13

Mal. 3:8-10

## REFLECT

During your time of praying and fasting, reflect often on what the Lord is saying. Spend some time reflecting with your family and friends, sharing what the Lord is saying to each of you. Spend time in solitude and silence simply listening.

# THE FOWARD IN FAITH JOURNEY

Stewardship, giving, and generosity are all a part of discipleship. The path to becoming more like Jesus is filled with continual opportunities to grow in these areas. Becoming like Jesus means that we must step out and move Forward in Faith in whatever Jesus calls us to do. The journey to moving Forward in Faith may look like one of the following kinds of givers:

MOVE  
FORWARD  
IN FAITH



THE FOWARD IN FAITH JOURNEY

## FORWARD IN FAITH

INITIAL GIVER



### WHO

This is the person who decides to give to FBC for the first time and trusts God and FBC with their gift. During our Forward In Faith initiative, some will take their first step forward by making their first gift to the Kingdom through FBC.

### WHY

Jesus said that it is better to give than receive. We want people to begin to know the joy Jesus is talking about.

## CONSISTENT GIVER



**WHO:** This type of giver is someone who decides to give something each week or on a consistent basis.

### **WHY:**

Becoming a faithful steward requires developing new habits and discipline. By giving something on a consistent basis, one can begin to grow in the discipline of giving and also increase the amount they are investing in the Kingdom of God.

**Helpful Hint:** Treat this as a normal expense in your budget. Schedule it and put it on your calendar as you would any other payment that you need to make. The point is that building a healthy habit of generosity takes discipline.

## INTENTIONAL GIVER/TITHER

**WHO:** This person realizes that God says to bring the tithe to the storehouse; and that he or she is to bring the tithe from the first fruits. A tithe is 10%, and the first-fruits means before taxes, before anything else, from the best! So this person gives 10% of their income on a weekly/monthly basis to FBC's general offering.

### **WHY:**

The early church set aside their tithe every week and gave it to the church (1 Cor. 16:2). A part of our vision is to provide a path for people to become all that God wants them to be. God's Word tells us that part of what it means to become a disciple is to regularly and intentionally give a tithe.



## SACRIFICIAL GIVER

**WHO:** This person begins to ask, “Am I giving in a way that requires even greater faith? Is my generosity changing me? Am I giving in proportion to how I have been blessed?” This person already gives a tithe, but then they give above and beyond the tithe and make sacrifices for the Kingdom.

**WHY:** David said, he wouldn’t give anything to the Lord that didn’t cost him something (2 Sam. 2:24). In the book of Acts we see people selling off houses and other things to give. God desires that we continue to grow as disciples, and we grow in stewardship as we become sacrificial givers.

THIS  
PERSON  
THEN GIVES  
ABOVE AND  
BEYOND THE TITHE  
AND TO OTHER  
THINGS OUTSIDE  
THE CHURCH  
BUDGET SUCH AS  
“FORWARD IN  
FAITH”

THESE  
GIFTS ARE  
TO BE PLACED  
IN THE SPECIAL  
“FORWARD IN  
FAITH” ENVELOPES  
or given online and  
marked as  
“FORWARD IN  
FAITH”

## EXTRAORDINARY GIVER



**WHO:** This person asks not what the Lord is asking them to give but what the Lord is asking them to keep. They want to release as much as possible for Kingdom purposes. They are people who try to live on 10% and give 90% away.

### WHY:

We see this kind of giving throughout the Bible. David supplied much of what was needed for the building of the temple. The widow gave all she had. The lady poured out an entire alabaster jar of perfume for Christ. Sometimes, the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, will call for a faith that gives extraordinarily.

### REMINDER:

You may not be led to give toward the loan repayment, and that is totally ok. We want to encourage you to simply move Forward in Faith and begin to give to FBC.

No matter where you may be starting, here are a few ways you can give:

- **Offering Envelopes:** These are located in the chairs. Simply fill out the envelope and place your dollar amount or check in that envelope. During the service, place that envelope in the offering baskets as they come around during the service or you can place the envelope in one of the boxes on the wall as you exit the service.

- **Online:** [fbclagrange.net/give](https://fbclagrange.net/give)  
Make a one-time gift or set up a recurring direct withdrawal.

TEXT TO GIVE: Text the word "Give" to 979-431-5131. Instructions for Text to give: To text a donation after the one-time registration, you can give immediately without having to re-enter any of your information.

Simply text the desired amount and the fund keyword to the above text giving number! (Ex: Text '250 building' to make a \$250 donation to the Building fund).

- **Office:** You can bring your gift to the church office during business hours (Mon-Thur 8 to 5pm)
- **IF YOU ARE GIVING TO FORWARD IN FAITH: PLEASE USE THE SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES, OR IF GIVING ONLINE, USE THE FORWARD IN FAITH DESIGNATION.**

## A few practical helps:

Develop and use a budget (we would be glad to assist in any way). Set a budget for what you need to live on, and then give the rest.

Set thresholds for giving: 0-50k= 10% giving, 50-100k= 15% giving, over 100k= 20%, etc.

Donate stock directly to FBC. Gifts of appreciated securities are a smart and simple way to maximize the effectiveness of your charitable giving. If stocks or mutual funds\* you've held more than a year have increased in value, you may want to consider using these assets - rather than cash - to fund your giving. By transferring ownership of your long-term stock to First Baptist La Grange you make a gift to support the ministry, avoid the capital gains tax you would pay if the stock were sold, and you may claim a charitable income tax deduction for the current fair market value of the asset.

Have your tithe and/or other giving auto-drafted the same day as your paycheck.

Cap all spending and ensure every additional dollar goes to the Kingdom.

Set a lifetime goal: What do you want to be able to give over the course of your life?

Engage in estate planning to accurately reflect your Kingdom giving priorities.

Leverage your journey of generosity to encourage and inspire generosity to the next generation.

### **A few practical helps continued:**

Cap all spending and ensure every additional dollar goes to the Kingdom.

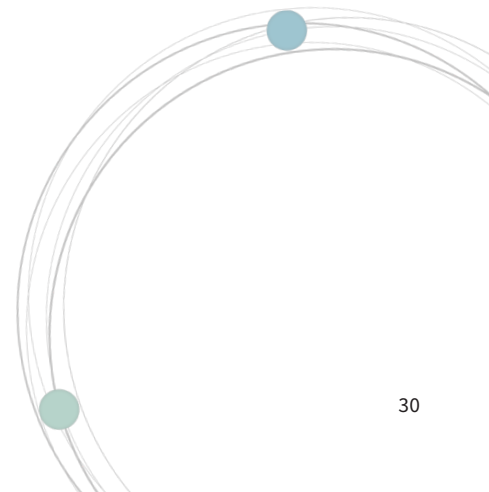
Set a lifetime goal: What do you want to be able to give over the course of your life?

Engage in estate planning to accurately reflect your Kingdom giving priorities.

Leverage your journey of generosity to encourage and inspire generosity to the next generation.

Determine if you have resources that God is asking you to release as a sacrifice? Can I cut the cable and give the money? Can I cut the grocery budget and give the difference? Can we cut down eating out and give? Can I forsake that vacation this year? Can I pick up a small side job and give it all? Do I have things I can sell? Is God asking me to give my raise to Him? Should I sell my second home? Do I have stock or savings that He is asking me to sacrifice? Is the Lord asking me to sacrifice my bonus or to sell some property?

\*Does not apply to tax-exempt retirement plans - (e.g., IRAs, 401(k)s, etc.)





## FORWARD IN FAITH INITIATIVE

Over the next 2 years, we are not asking for equal giving but equal sacrifice. We ask each person to pray, fast, and seek God's guidance on what they are to give using the commitment card on the next page. On Sept. 12, 2021 we are asking everyone to bring at least 10% (if able) of their total 2 year commitment on our **"FORWARD IN FAITH"** Sunday. For example, if I made a commitment to give \$2000 over the next 2 years, I would bring \$200. These gifts are to be placed in the Forward in Faith envelopes, or given online indicating "Forward in Faith." We are also asking everyone to bring their Forward in Faith commitment cards and place them in offering as well.

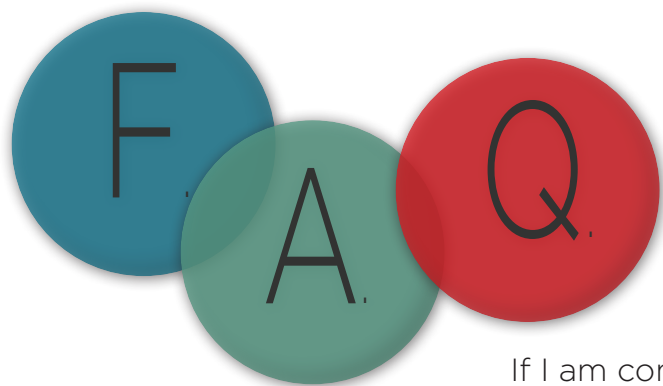
## FORWARD IN FAITH COMMITMENT CARD

FBC'S FORWARD IN FAITH GOAL:  
\$1.2 Million Over 2 Years

As you pray and discern how God would lead you to give during this time, allow this chart to be a discipleship tool. Allow it to be something that inspires and challenges you toward greater generosity for the Kingdom as you discern what it means to move Forward in Faith.

Gifts Needed	Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Total
1	500,000	250,000	20,833	500,000
1	250,000	125,000	10,417	250,000
1	100,000	50,000	4,167	100,000
2	50,000	25,000	2,083	100,000
2	25,000	12,500	1,042	50,000
4	10,000	5,000	417	40,000
8	5,000	2,500	208	40,000
12	3,000	1,500	125	36,000
15	2,400	1,200	100	36,000
21	1,200	600	50	25,200
24	600	300	25	14,400
28	300	150	13	8400
Total Gift Goal				1,200,000

**My/Our 2 Year Commitment** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sept 2021-August 2023)



If I am committing to Forward in Faith, how does this change my giving to missions, the general fund, other special offering, etc.?

During this 2 year period, we are asking you to continue to give your normal gifts to the general fund. We will continue to take up our other mission offerings, and we trust the Holy Spirit to lead each person in these decisions. We are trusting the Lord in that if we put the Kingdom first, He will provide what we need.

### What is being asked of me?

We are asking that you pray, fast, and seek the Lord's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear from the Lord, and then follow His leadership and do what He says. Talk with your family, friends, and growth group about what this commitment will mean for the next season of your life. We are asking that you make a sacrificial commitment to generosity-whatever it is that the Lord leads you to do. It may be to step out in faith and give something for the first time, to start tithing, or to give above and beyond. No matter, follow Jesus. We are also asking you to prepare to be amazed. We serve an amazing and faithful God. He's on the move, and we are expecting great things...only things that He can do. Please mark your calendar for our "FORWARD IN FAITH" Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021.

### • FORWARD IN FAITH: FAQs

Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give more towards Forward in Faith?

Be creative! Explore ways you and your family can give. You might have stocks, property, or other things of this nature. You may have resources stored up that the Lord has blessed you with in the past and the Lord may be calling you to give during this time.

How long is my commitment?

We are asking that everyone make a 2 year (24mos.) commitment. The fulfillment period will begin with our "FORWARD IN FAITH" day on Sept. 12, 2021 and it will culminate in August of 2023.

What if I don't have a job right now? What does that mean for my Forward in Faith commitment?

Forward in Faith is about total, radical, and sacrificial generosity to God's mission at FBC. It's about building our faith in our LORD JESUS! Although generosity will look different for every person, we believe the Lord calls us to give in times of hardship just as much as in times of abundance. Forward in Faith is really more about raising disciples than it is about raising dollars; it's about the heart. This may mean that the Lord will call us to sell things, pick up odd jobs or trust the Lord and move Forward in Faith even when we don't see how it's possible. Trust the Lord to provide as you seek ways to sacrifice and work towards that commitment. We deeply desire for 100% of everyone who calls FBC home to be a part of moving Forward in Faith so that we can all support, love, encourage and pray for one another as we all move forward together.

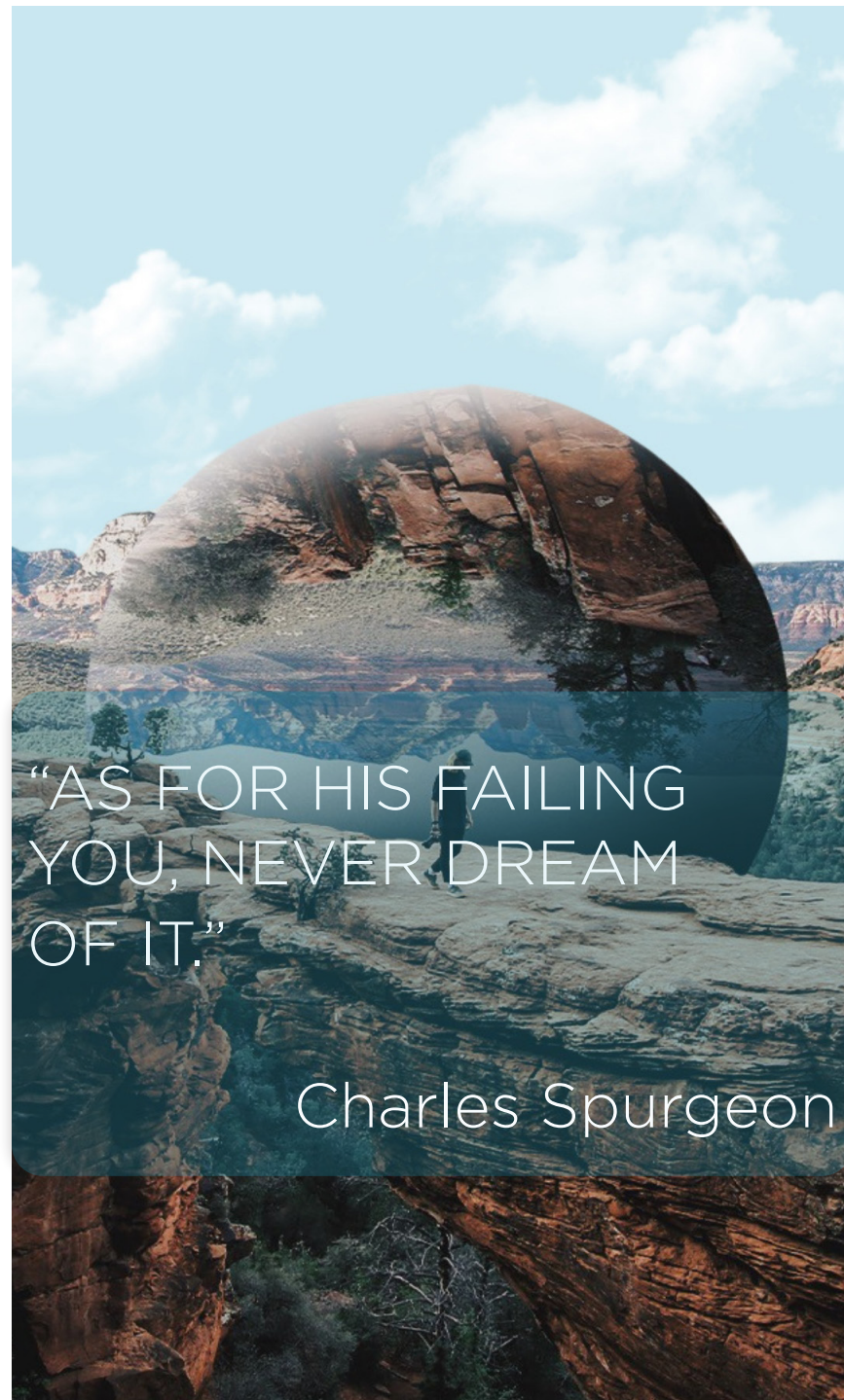


What if I'm severely in debt right now? Am I still supposed to give?

If you are currently making payments to pay off debt right now, we commend you and encourage you to continue to do so. We would be happy to help you on this journey by recommending financial coaching or helping with budgeting. We want to minister to you. Being in debt does not, however, excuse a person from giving. Giving is not about what God wants from you; rather, it's about what God wants for you. We encourage you to seek the Lord and follow His leadership. Please contact us if you need financial coaching; we'd be honored to help.

What if I am new here?

Welcome!!! Moving Forward in Faith is a way for you to advance the mission and vision of FBC so that the Kingdom can be impacted! We believe the local church is God's plan for reaching the world. We would love for you to make FBC your church and help us embrace Great Commandment love which fuels Great Commission living. We have a vision to provide a place to belong, a path to become, and an opportunity to believe in the life-changing gospel of Jesus. We want you on the team!



## SERIES GUIDE

# FORWARD IN **FAITHFUL** FINANCES



**Week 1** The Faithful Money Master  
(1 Chron. 29:1-13)

**Week 2** The Faithful Money Mindset  
(1 Tim. 6:6-10; 17-19)

**Week 3** The Faithful Money Manager  
(Luke 16:1-13)

**Week 4** The Faithful Money Mandate  
(Mal. 3:8-10)

# INVITATION TO FORWARD IN FAITH SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 12th

You are personally invited to our Forward in Faith commitment day on Sept. 12th as we come and celebrate moving Forward in Faith TOGETHER!



