

Our Vision

Beyond our walls lies a city and a surrounding community of nearly one million people. In a time when many feel disconnected and uncertain, we believe the way of Jesus speaks to the deepest needs of the human heart. Across this community are people who would find life in Christ and belonging in a church like Harvard Avenue. Christ is calling us to reach people with the life and love of Jesus.

We imagine a day when each Sunday the sanctuary is filled with 800 people gathered for worship. We see 150 children growing in faith in spaces created for them. We see 100 students discovering what it means to follow Jesus and finding a community that knows them by name. We see a church alive with energy and purpose, expanding its capacity to reach, serve, and love our community. To reach those God is bringing, we must make more room at the table. Those who came before us made room for us. Now it is our turn to extend that same welcome with courage, generosity, and open hearts.

We invite you to pray with us, asking how God may be calling you and your family to be part of this vision and the work God is doing for this generation and the generations to come.



**A Vision for the Future of
Harvard Avenue Christian**



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Making Space
at the Table



Who We Are



David Emery
Lead Pastor,
Harvard Avenue
Christian Church

On Sunday mornings at Harvard Avenue Christian Church, something beautiful happens. Families arrive, longtime members greet one another, and visitors look for a place as worship begins. Each week, multiple generations gather to pray, sing, reflect, and share communion at the table where Christ invites us to be fed and formed.

At the heart of our community is a shared commitment to follow Christ, rooted in Scripture and lived with humility and openness. We seek to be a welcoming and inclusive church where authentic relationships are formed, and people grow together in learning to live and love like Jesus.

This shared commitment is drawing people to Harvard Avenue. Children are growing in faith, families are strengthened, students are exploring discipleship, and adults are deepening a thoughtful and genuine faith for everyday life. As more people find their place in this church family, the table at the center of our life together is growing full.

A Season of Growth

In 2022, our average worship attendance was approximately 330 people each week. Today, more than 520 gather regularly, and on special days like Easter, more than 1,000 worshippers come together. This reflects significant and visible evidence of growth which in turn reflects that we have a growing number of people finding connection, community, and faith at Harvard Avenue which we believe will continue as others are invited into the life and mission of the church.

Our growth is evident across every generation. Participation in our children's ministry has doubled, growing from about 30 to 60 children each week, now representing nearly twelve percent of worship attendance. Our student ministry has also grown, with attendance increasing by 25 percent since 2022.

The Harvard Avenue campus also serves as a resource for the broader community, hosting as many as 40 groups each week, a reflection of the trust our neighbors place in our church.

Our Challenge

This growth has brought both encouragement and new challenges. Our traditional worship service is often filled to capacity, with additional chairs added, and at times, people standing along the back. Our children's ministry spaces are experiencing similar pressure as more families entrust their children to our church.

Imagine a young family visiting for the first time, arriving hopeful yet finding no place to sit, or children's spaces stretched beyond capacity. Or an older couple drawn by worship but unable to access seating comfortably or find a place to park. When a church reaches its limits, the unintended message can be clear: there may not be a place for them.

If we do nothing, these limitations will shape our future and limit our ability to welcome others. Rather than allowing our space to define what is possible, we believe this is a moment to respond with faith and vision to extend our welcome and make more room at the table.



✝ Making Space at the Table

To support the ministry already happening at Harvard Avenue and prepare for the future that God is opening before us, we are proposing several strategic improvements to our campus. Together, these projects will expand our capacity for worship, strengthen ministries for children and families, create welcoming spaces for connection, and improve accessibility across our campus.

Sanctuary Expansion

Expand the sanctuary to approximately 550 seats while refreshing the worship space, through updates to sound and visual elements. In addition to more seating, the redesign will create greater space and flexibility, improving movement, accessibility, and the overall worship experience.

Estimated Cost: \$4,500,000

Children's Classrooms and Playground

Create additional classroom and outdoor play space so children and families have safe, welcoming environments where they can grow in faith and experience belonging from the beginning. As our children's ministry continues to grow, these spaces will support learning, creativity, and relationships that help shape a child's understanding of God and community.

Estimated Cost: \$1,500,000

Hospitality and Gathering Space

Create a flexible gathering area for small groups, classes, and informal connections throughout the week, along with a welcoming space for newcomers. This space will strengthen relationships and help newcomers find a place to belong within the life of the church.

Estimated Cost: \$550,000

Activity Center Renovation

Enhance the Activity Center with upgraded sound and visual technology and improved gathering areas to better support large events and community use. During the sanctuary expansion, this space will serve as our primary worship location. With these updates, it will also support church events, fellowship meals, and outreach opportunities.

Estimated Cost: \$600,000

Parking Expansion and Accessibility

Expand and improve parking to better serve our growing congregation and community events. These improvements will increase capacity, enhance safety, and make access easier for all, especially seniors and those with mobility needs.

Estimated Cost: \$350,000

✝ Total Project Investment = \$7,500,000