FORWARD

for the next generation

The Forward Initiative

Building a Strong Foundation for the Next Generation

Our community is changing right before our eyes.

Approximately **3,500 new homes are expected to be built each year in Hernando County, potentially adding more than 17,000 homes by 2031**. Many of those homes are planned or already being built **within five miles of our church.**

That means the next generation isn't somewhere far away.

They're becoming our neighbors.

Behind those thousands of new front doors will be families raising children, students looking for belonging, and people searching for community and hope. We believe God has positioned our church in the middle of this growth for a reason.

The Forward Initiative is about preparing today for the ministry opportunities of tomorrow. We are strengthening our campus, investing in the next generation, and preparing our church to continue **bringing the hope of Jesus to Hernando County** for years to come.

These projects are not the mission. **They help make the mission possible.**

1. Reaching People

Creating a Welcoming and Accessible Campus for Our Growing Community

As our community grows, thousands of new families will be putting down roots in Hernando County. Many will be looking for schools, friendships, community, and places where their families can belong. We want our church to be ready to welcome them.

Our campus should clearly communicate that we are here, that there is a place for them, and that we are ready to help them take their next step.

Improving our signage, exterior appearance, landscaping, and Connection Center will help people find us, feel comfortable when they arrive, and know where to go once they walk through our doors.

These projects are not simply about making our church more visible or attractive. They are about **removing barriers and creating clear pathways for people to encounter Jesus, build relationships, and become part of the life of our church.**



Projects

- New signage on Highway 19
- Painting the exterior of the building
- Landscaping improvements
- Connection Center inside Building A
- Café Space Remodel

Why This Matters

Before someone attends a service, joins a group, or hears the Gospel on our campus, they first have to find us and feel comfortable walking through our doors.

With approximately **3,500 new homes expected each year**, we have an incredible opportunity to introduce ourselves to thousands of new neighbors. We want our campus to make a welcoming first impression and communicate something simple from the moment people arrive:

You are welcome here. There is a place for you.

2. Strengthening Our Ministry Infrastructure

Building the Practical Foundation Needed for Future Growth

Preparing for growth means taking care of more than the spaces people see on Sunday morning.

Behind every worship service, ministry event, outreach opportunity, children's program, and weekday activity is a network of facilities and resources that makes ministry possible.

As our church serves more people, the infrastructure supporting those ministries must be safe, dependable, organized, and prepared to grow. Addressing these practical needs now will help us care for our existing campus, use our resources more effectively, and prevent facility limitations from becoming obstacles to future ministry.

These may not always be the most visible Forward projects, but they are an important part of building a strong foundation.

Projects

- Workshop and storage facility across the street from Building C
- Parking lot improvements, including resurfacing, repairing the damaged area, retaining-wall work, first-time guest parking, and wayfinding signage
- Replacing the ceiling can lighting in the Worship Center



Why This Matters

Healthy ministry requires more than great programs and welcoming spaces. It requires safe access, functional facilities, dependable infrastructure, and room to store and maintain the resources used in ministry every week.

As our community expands, we want our campus to be prepared to serve more people without sacrificing the quality, safety, or effectiveness of the ministries already happening here.

Preparing for the future means strengthening the foundation today.

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3. Enhancing Our Worship Environments

Creating a Place Where People Can Gather, Worship, and Encounter Jesus

Our Worship Center is one of the primary places where our entire church family comes together. It is also where many guests will have their first meaningful experience with our church.

That environment should be welcoming, comfortable, and equipped to help people engage with worship and clearly hear the message of Jesus.

Updating the carpet and seating will refresh the room and create a comfortable environment for our church family and guests. Improving displays, stage lighting, and audio equipment will give our ministry teams dependable tools to communicate clearly and effectively.

The goal is not simply to modernize a room.

The goal is to create an environment that supports the mission taking place inside it.

Projects

- Worship Center carpet
- Worship Center chairs
- Worship Center displays and stage lighting
- Refurbishing, repairing, or replacing audio equipment



Why This Matters

Every week, people enter our Worship Center carrying different stories, questions, burdens, and hopes.

Some have followed Jesus for decades. Others may be walking into a church for the very first time.

As thousands of new families move into our community, we want to provide a worship environment that is ready to welcome them and effectively communicate the Gospel for years to come.

A refreshed, reliable, and distraction-free environment helps us keep the focus where it belongs:

Worshiping God, hearing His Word, and responding to the hope of Jesus.

4. Investing in Next Generation Ministry

Building Engaging Environments Where Children Can Know and Follow Jesus

Reaching the next generation is at the heart of the Forward Initiative.

Our children are not simply the future of the church. **They are an important part of the church today.**

The spaces we create for them communicate how deeply we value children, their families, and their spiritual development.

Our nursery, preschool, and elementary environments should be safe, welcoming, engaging, and designed to support age-appropriate ministry. Redesigned check-in areas, refreshed hallways and classrooms, improved worship and teaching environments, upgraded stage lighting, and dependable equipment will help us create spaces where children are excited to participate and parents feel confident bringing their families.

And as our community grows, this investment becomes even more important.

Thousands of new homes mean thousands of new stories. Many of those homes will become places where children grow up, families establish roots, and the next generation of Hernando County begins taking shape.

We want to be ready for them.



Projects

- Complete redesign of the preschool and nursery foyer and check-in area, along with corresponding hallway and classroom updates
- Major improvements to the elementary worship and teaching space, including environmental upgrades, stage lighting, and refreshed equipment

Why This Matters

When we invest in children’s ministry, we are investing in far more than rooms or weekend programs.

We are creating environments where children can encounter Jesus, learn God’s Word, build meaningful relationships, discover that they belong, and begin developing a faith that can shape the rest of their lives.

We are also communicating something important to the parents who walk through our doors:

Your children matter here. Your family matters here.

With more than **17,000 new homes potentially coming to our county by 2031**, we have an extraordinary opportunity in front of us.

The next generation isn't somewhere far in the future.

They're growing up all around us.