



# Love Unbound, How Sweet the Sound!

**A NEW SONG FOR THE NEXT CENTURY**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is Love Unbound?** *Love Unbound: How Sweet the Sound* is a **vision** and a **ministry initiative** funded by a capital campaign. Over the past two years, our leadership and staff have been prayerfully discerning our vision for the future — especially in a moment when polarization and disconnection have left so many people feeling unseen and alone. Out of that discernment, Love Unbound has taken shape as a faithful response, rooted in our calling to **Connect with God, One Another, and the World** through **Feeding Bodies and Spirits**.

**Q: Why are we doing a capital campaign?** This capital campaign will allow us to live into this vision and launch this ministry well. Funds raised will be used to resource three areas: **Our Worship** (the restoration of our Austin pipe organ), **Our Space** (updated gathering areas, sanctuary sound and lighting, and a renewed playground), and **Our Ministry** (the three-year launch of the Agapé Music Center). Each area reflects who FPCY is and what the larger community most needs from us right now.



**Q: We just completed a capital campaign in 2021. Why another one so soon?** *Because the need is urgent — and because we are uniquely positioned to answer it.* The 2023 Surgeon General’s report named social isolation a public health crisis. For people of faith, this is a spiritual crisis, as well, that is having a profound impact on our communities and civic life. At the same time, traditional “third places” are disappearing in our rapidly changing, disconnected world. A “third place” is a space distinct from home and work where connections are made, relationships built and real community is formed. This corresponds with the ongoing decline in church engagement and the increase in societal discord and division. As we reflect on the changing world around us and discern a sustainable way forward, we know that FPCY has always been a congregation that meets its moment with faithfulness and imagination. This is our moment. At the same time, our 35-year-old pipe organ needs restoration and upgrading. *This is a perfect convergence of capital need and missional calling.*

**Q: What is the Agapé Music Center?** *The Agapé Music Center is a new ministry* — not a program, not a business, but a ministry of “neighbor love.” It is FPCY’s answer to a community starving for connection, offering a welcoming space where people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs can come together through music. Built on the foundation that defines everything FPCY does — radical hospitality and the conviction that every person deserves to belong somewhere — the Center will offer music lessons, classes, rehearsal space, camps, concerts, and community events. It will do this by using the spaces we have available in our building without disturbing our other ministries. Our doors will be open wider than ever, to more community members than before with a clear message: *You are welcome here — exactly as you are. We’ve made a place for you.*

**Q: What does Agapé mean?** Agapé is a Greek word for the highest form of love, a selfless, unconditional love that prioritizes the wellbeing of others without expecting anything in return. The Bible tells us that God is love/Agapé (1 John 4:8). We see this love most clearly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 3:16). This is how God loves the world and how we are called to love God and our neighbor (Mark 12:29-32).





**Q: Is this a commercial venture? Is FPCY going into business?** **No.** The Agapé Music Center is and will remain a church ministry, governed by Session and guided by FPCY's mission, not market demand. Some programs will charge modest fees; others will be offered on a sliding scale or with full scholarships, so that no one is turned away for financial reasons.

**Q: Could it become financially self-sustaining?** **Yes** — and that is part of the plan. The three-year campaign runway gives this ministry the time and resources to grow into sustainability without pressure to generate revenue before it is ready. Over time, program fees, donations, and grants will support its ongoing work.

**Q: Who will run the Agapé Music Center?** The Center will be overseen by a board and a part-time program coordinator who handles scheduling, communications, volunteer coordination, and partnerships, under the guidance of Session. Programs will be led by contracted teaching artists and musicians — not permanent staff. This light-footprint model keeps overhead low and the ministry flexible and responsive.

**Q: What happens to the organ while it's being restored?** After a joyful Bon Voyage party on April 12, our Austin pipe organ will be carefully removed and transported to Austin Organ Company in Hartford, CT. During the restoration period, we will worship with the help of a digital organ loaned to us by Austin, and we will welcome our renewed organ home with equal joy when it returns.



**Q: Who oversees the campaign and the allocation of funds?** The campaign is led by a dedicated team of congregation members and guided by the Session of FPCY. All funds will be held and disbursed by FPCY under Session oversight, in accordance with the campaign's stated purposes. The congregation will receive regular updates throughout.

**Q: What happens if we exceed the campaign goal?** What a wonderful problem to have! Any funds raised beyond our goal will be placed in a purpose-restricted reserve and split equally between supporting FPCY's worship life and the Agapé Music Center ministry. These funds will be held and deployed as approved by Session, ensuring that any additional generosity continues to serve the heart of this campaign.

**Q: Does my capital campaign giving replace my regular giving?** **No.** Capital campaign gifts are above and beyond your regular annual pledge. Annual giving is the lifeblood of FPCY's day-to-day ministry — staff, programs, and everything that makes this place run, that makes it a “third place” where we all grow together in faith. The capital campaign is a separate, dedicated commitment for a defined purpose and period of time. Your regular giving remains your *first priority*.

**Q: What if I cannot give a large gift?** *Every gift matters — truly.* There is no minimum. Commitments of all sizes, given faithfully over time, are what make this vision possible. If you are moved to give, we are grateful, whatever the amount. If you are uncertain, we invite you to pray first and let that prayer lead you.

**Q: What if I have more questions?** *Please ask!* Reach out to any member of the campaign leadership team or speak with Chip or Tami. No question is too basic, and no concern is too small.

