

Action Plan

Church Infrastructure

- Ongoing meetings with the Finance Team; review budget and team restructure
 - Develop ideas for fundraisers
 - Apply for Grants for Church growth and improvements
- Identify church and the parsonage property needs and set a plan for projects. Tap into conference and UMC grants
- Ongoing meetings with Church Council Chair and Lay Leader to discuss the pastor's vision going forward
- Ongoing meetings Nominations and Leadership Development to fill open positions;
 - Met on 11/11/24; The next meeting to be determined contingent upon further clarification of those who have discerned to leave the UMC
- Meet with the Worship Team (music, communion, ushers) regarding worship moving forward; preparing for the members that may be leaving
- Check in with Life Group Leaders
- Update the Church Website and Social Media
- Meet with Children Youth and Parents
- Ad hoc Committee Meeting: Scheduling a meeting draft an outline in the St. Stephen church by-laws to oppose: Same-sex weddings/marriages and professing clergy of the LGBTQ+ community to pastor St. Stephens

2025 Theme: Operation Launch



Operation L.A.U.N.C.H. (is our mission to build a vibrant community rooted in love, unity, and purposeful action. Inspired by Nehemiah's incredible resilience. In this season I believe we are called to nurture relationships within our church while extending that warmth and hospitality to our entire community.

Our mission is far more than simply growing our church; it is about inviting others into a transformative relationship with Christ and demonstrating His love in tangible ways.

As we prepare to launch into new depths together, I encourage each of you to join me in doing so courageously, steadfastly remaining on the wall of hospitality, and creating a lasting impact that resonates with hope and grace for all who seek to know Him. Let's embrace this journey together!

L.A.U.N.C.H.

-Love: Foster a genuine love for God and others, ensuring that hospitality and care are at the forefront of our ministry. Much like Nehemiah's heartfelt concern for Jerusalem and its people, we will cultivate deep, Christ-centered relationships that build a strong and loving church family. This love extends to our community, creating a welcoming atmosphere where all feel cared for and valued.

-Act: Actively engage in outreach initiatives, demonstrating God's love through service and community involvement. Inspired by Nehemiah's decisive actions to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, we will organize collective efforts within our church that respond to community needs through service projects, food drives, or community clean-up days—inviting members to use their gifts for the benefit of those around us.

-Unity: Cultivate a unified church community that supports one another, echoing Nehemiah's rallying of the people to work together in restoring the city. Foster relationships of accountability and encouragement within the church, understanding that our strength lies in our unity. When we come together as one body, we can more effectively engage our community and attract others to join us in our mission.

-Nurture: Invest deeply in nurturing relationships both within the church and with our broader community. Just as Nehemiah nurtured the morale of the builders through encouragement and solidarity, we will implement mentorship and discipleship programs that equip our church members to grow in their faith. This nurturing spirit will extend to the community, engaging individuals in a way that helps them feel seen, heard, and inspired to explore their own spiritual journeys.

-Communicate: Equip individuals with the skills to communicate the Gospel effectively. Nehemiah's powerful communication skills inspired and motivated the people to take action. Effective communication will be an ongoing focus as we encourage church members to share their stories and invite their network to church events, fostering an environment where discussions about faith are encouraged and normalized.

-Hospitality: Maintain a robust wall of hospitality to welcome newcomers and foster a culture of acceptance. Drawing from Nehemiah's dedication to the well-being of his people, we will create an environment in our church that is inclusive and inviting. This commitment to hospitality will extend to our outreach efforts, ensuring that every interaction with our community reflects warmth and openness, whether through events, services, or personal conversations.

Building on Our Foundations As we implement the L.A.U.N.C.H. model, we recognize that our church, our relationships, and our community are deeply interconnected:

- - **The Role of the Church:** Our church serves as the foundation upon which we build strong relationships and connection points with the community. Church activities and programs will be designed to foster an interactive environment, strengthening our five key components while also enabling us to reach others effectively.
- - **Strengthening Relationships:** We will emphasize building relationships through small groups, fellowship gatherings, and purpose-driven events where members and newcomers can engage with one another. The connections formed within our church will empower us to serve the community more effectively, allowing us to act as a unified body.
- - **Community Engagement:** Beyond our church walls, we will actively participate in community-building efforts, engaging with local organizations and initiatives that align with our mission. By partnering with schools, charities, and other community entities, we can amplify our impact, showcasing God's love in tangible ways. We will strive to embody Nehemiah's legacy of servant leadership, taking the initiative to address community needs and demonstrating the hope found in Christ.
- **Conclusion** Through L.A.U.N.C.H., we aim not only to deepen our faith journeys but also to enhance the collective influence of our church in the community. Inspired by Nehemiah, we recognize the importance of establishing a strong foundation built on love, unity, and action. By launching out into the deep and staying on the wall of hospitality, we commit to fostering relationships that transform lives, strengthen our church, and uplift our community. Together, we aspire to be a beacon of hope, reflecting God's love and grace to all we encounter.

