

**From Sandra's Study**  
**Rev. Sandra Fees**

Our congregation is ready to take the next step. It's an important one. It's all about Building Connections. We are ready to create a vision for our future that includes how to make our church and house next door into one functional church center. This month (November 11 and 18 after church), members will see a five-year strategic plan, architectural drawings, and capital campaign efforts. And you will of course have the opportunity to offer your feedback. None of these plans should come as a great surprise. After all, this is work we have been doing together over the past year. The plans are based on your input.

Questions that are guiding the process include things like: What are the worship and educational needs of our current congregation? How can the facility be more accommodating to our growing membership, our growing number of children, and our desired way of being together? What are the realities of volunteerism today and how does that affect our staffing and organizational needs? What is our relationship to the larger world and how will we reach out to effect justice? How will we continue to grow our congregation in love, generosity, and members? All of these are important and interrelated questions that are built into the plans you will see.

Our religious community continues to be an exciting place to be. We have important decisions to make and an important mission to fulfill. May we make our choices wisely and with consideration of the great legacy we can offer our faith in the world. May we build connections that will last for generations to come.

Warmly,  
Sandra