

Q & A: The Faith Walk Center

South Euclid, OH



1. What is the Faith Walk Center (FWC)?

The Faith Walk Center (FWC) is a proposed project of the First Baptist Church of South Euclid (FBCSE), a small congregation (about 125 people) located @ 835 Trebisky Rd in the northeast quadrant (Ward 1) of South Euclid. For more than 20 years, the church has maintained a vision of building a faith-based, community-use gymnasium/rec center on the heavily-wooded, back 4 acres of their property, which was deeded to the church for ministry purposes, and cannot be sold. The FWC will serve as an intergenerational, multi-purpose activity and recreational space for South Euclid residents, as well as those from surrounding suburbs of Richmond Heights, Lyndhurst and Highland Heights.

2. What is the planned building size, construction timeline and projected cost?

The desired size, style, and cost of the proposed FWC is still under consideration; at a minimum, the goal is for the center to include a full-size indoor basketball court, room for bleachers, locker rooms, classrooms, equipment storage space, offices, a commercial kitchen for banquet use, and an elevated circular walking track with lift. The estimated construction budget is between \$1-2 million, with an estimated annual operating budget likely between \$250-300K. A construction timeline will be determined once funding and building permits are secured. Once operational, the FWC is expected to employ between 2-5 people.

3. How will the FWC be funded?

An exact funding formula for the FWC is under development, and is expected to include a combination of already-designated funds, church member support, low-cost denominational or ministry-based financing, and traditional philanthropy. Naming rights and/or corporate sponsorships for the facility are also under consideration.

4. What programs and services will be available at the FWC?

A wide range of both free and fee-based programs and services are envisioned for the new Faith Walk Center, including:

Sports leagues, athletic classes, group and single exercise opportunities, senior walking club, boxing ring, child and adult dance (yoga, jazzercise, Zumba), (indoor) basketball, floor-ball, volleyball, tennis, archery, walking track (elevated), fitness room with equipment/weights, meeting rooms, a banquet kitchen for parties & receptions, after-school programming for youth and teens; homework club, tutoring, and other misc. programs. Additionally, the building could be used for civic purposes such as emergency shelter, blood drives, food drives, election polling station, and other seasonal, large-group uses.

5. Who will be served by the Faith Walk Center?

The intended audience for the Faith Walk Center will include adults, families & youth, athletic league members, adjacent municipalities, schools, businesses, civic groups, and other individuals or groups which may wish to rent athletic, banquet or meeting space in the eastern inner-ring and outer suburbs of South Euclid, Richmond Heights, Lyndhurst and Highland Heights. Free and low-cost or subsidized programs of the FWC might serve single-parent families, teens, seniors, scouting groups, churches, private schools and non-profit or ministry-based groups needing meeting or athletic space.

6. What is the relationship between the FWC and FBCSE?

At this time, the FBCSE owns the land on which the FWC would be constructed. The land was deeded to the church for ministry purposes and cannot be sold. A separate non-profit organization (501-c-3) has been formed to plan, construct and operate the FWC building. This organization has a separate board of directors and separate finances from the FBCSE. The FWC project is therefore envisioned as a partnership between the two entities. An IRS letter identifying the FWC as a separate legal entity from the FBCSE is available upon request.

7. Does the FWC have a religious purpose?

The FWC will not serve primarily as a new religious worship space, but is envisioned as community engagement facility that would provide a safe, wholesome and family-friendly recreation atmosphere for community members-youth, families and seniors. To best serve the community, some faith-based programming, such as adult and youth mentoring, Bible study, vacation Bible school and retreats, may be offered. The space would also be available for other community, church or ministry groups to rent, for meeting, athletic or religious purposes.

8. How can I support the Faith Walk Center?

Please take our Recreation Survey available online, to let us know what kind of programs & services you'd like to see at the Center: <https://surveyplanet.com/5718b9ef1ddcdb6e63df6f27>. Thank you! The FWC is also accepting tax-deductible contributions for the construction of the new facility. Your gift will be held in a designated investment account at KeyBank, allocated only to FWC design and construction, and refunded to you if the center is not constructed. Mail your gift to: The Faith Walk Center, 835 Trebisky Rd, South Euclid, OH 44143. Your gift will be promptly recorded and a tax-receipt will be issued to you.

9. Who can I contact for more information about the FWC?

The contact for the proposed Faith Walk Center is President Emily Chaloux: 440.749.9146 or emilyh1017@yahoo.com. To contact the church or Pastor Bruce McLaurin, call 216.381.1164 or bgmc2000@gmail.com. To visit online: <https://www.facebook.com/faithwalkcenter/> or the church website: <http://www.fbcse.org>.