

Buildings and Grounds Report for 2026

2025 was another busy year for B&G and we certainly could not have accomplished all we did without tons of help from lots of folks. There are too many to thank everyone individually here but there are a few that should be singled out. Mike Gugel, Rev. Christe, Carl Foltz, Josef Zimmerman and Melody Ellert put in countless hours either working in the building or on the grounds. Last year was a continuation of efforts to spruce up the building in anticipation of a new Minister. Just about every painted surface of the building was updated with new paint. But prior to this untold numbers of holes, dings and cracks in the drywall were repaired as well as wallpaper removed. There was a lot of organizing and cleaning in many areas, as well as new artwork installed. Electrical work was completed to allow for installation of TVs in the library, Choir room and the middle school/high school room. We also had all of the carpets in the church cleaned.

In an effort to be more accessible we redesigned the dais to add a ramp and increase the size of the stage area. In addition to this we reconfigured the risers to accommodate the larger choir. The whole dais was then recarpeted.

Outside the building we had some problem areas repaired in the parking lot and driveway. We created and maintained a labyrinth in the front yard again including adding a sign pointing to the entrance. There was also a tremendous number of hours spent weeding, mulching, trimming, transplanting and raking in the garden beds. We are always looking for additional help with these tasks. Finally, in conjunction with the AEJ we planted a white oak tree in the front yard. With the severe drought conditions we experienced last summer and fall we are not sure if it will survive or not. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

We have also tried to keep working toward maintaining our Green Congregation status. Once again we did not have the funds necessary to purchase a battery powered mower. This has been a priority for us for several years, but it keeps getting put on a back burner by more pressing financial issues. We have requested that a designated fund be created for this purchase, but money that was saved has either been reappropriated or unable to be added at all. Trading in the old gas mower, which is over 30 years old, and upgrading to a battery powered mower would be a serious step toward maintaining our Green Congregation status. If the gas mower gives up the ghost, we will find ourselves in the unfortunate position of possibly having to pay a contractor to mow for us, which would be a huge, unexpected expense, or doing an emergency purchase. That would be in the \$5,000-\$6,000 range.

Submitted by Co-Chairs Jim Reeder and Danny Swim