



Countdown!
38 days
First Service
June 7th

the Bridge

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: Space :

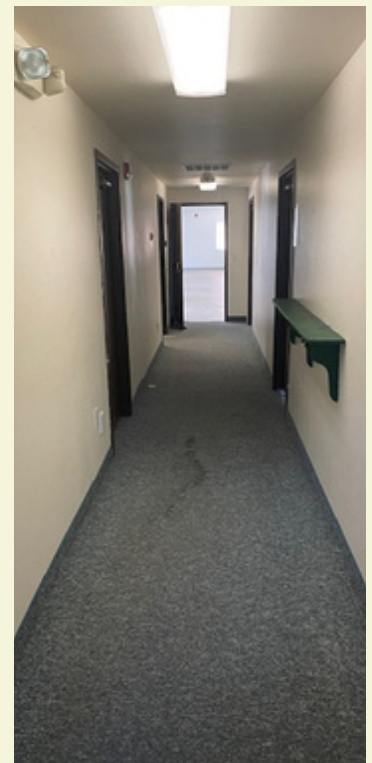
and May the Fourth be with you (ouch)...

Since we're coming up on the beginning of May (our last month at Church St!), I just couldn't resist. And, since I will be away for 2 weeks (and over this year's Star Wars holiday), Janet Dunstan will be filling in as Editor-in-Chief for the forthcoming issue. *This* issue is packed with so much stuff; I don't even know where to start. There is so much going on, but we will be ready come June 7!

In this issue, we have an essay from Jenny Dewey with some thoughts on our new 'space', more volunteer and kitchen opportunities and our regular FPC update on all things going on (it's a lot, as usual). A **new feature** is a list of completed projects (on Page 3). Also, an opportunity to carpool starting in June.

As always - send in your ideas, suggestions, questions - contact us at TheBridge@UUGrassValley.org - we look forward to hearing from YOU!

This one's jam-packed, so buckle up! - while you sit back, relax, and enjoy...



SPACE

by Jennifer Owings Dewey

Space. What exactly is space?

Outer space? Inner space? Space aliens?

Everybody is positive they know about space aliens, saying there aren't any. Like space in general, this is an unanswered question.

Meaning: it remains to be seen.

Also remaining to be seen is how certain spaces in UUCM's new building will be used.

I was eight or nine when my father announced we kids could do whatever we wanted with our bedrooms. This was a happy day. I had plans for my room, grand schemes to make the space my own. The first thing was painting the walls. My favorite color was yellow, so I painted all the walls bright yellow. We had pueblo-style fireplaces. I painted human footprints coming out of the fireplace, going across the wall, and exiting one of the windows.

My father came to see what we'd done with our rooms and he was astonished and pleased by the overwhelming brilliance of my yellow walls. He laughed at the black footprints. He told me he was proud to see how I'd turned my room into a "space fun to live in," adding he liked how I'd made my space "personal."

This was my first experience making decisions about space. At the time I didn't realize I was taking control and deciding things I might regret.

I never regretted my choices.

How to use the spaces we are about to occupy brings back this memory.

Moving from a small space where people feel crowded to a space much larger can be intimidating. Questions arise. Answers are not always straightforward. People agree and disagree and what appears obvious becomes obscure.

Making decisions ahead of time is all very well, but decisions made by a community of people get complicated. The complexity goes hand-in-hand with feeling intimidated. There is no chance of unified agreement in every instance.

On the plus side, excitement and enthusiasm motivate the majority of UU-ers. The need for a new space has been felt for a long time. Now we have it, and now we figure out how to make the best use of it.

Imagination, inventive minds, enthusiasm and determination add up to making good choices and decisions. Confidence has a lot to do with this. There will be stumbling along the way, disagreements, hurt feelings, but in the long run the space we now have will bring out the best in us.

Just like yellow walls and black footprints.

Volunteer Corner

I will not take up your time with personal musings or ask if you are spontaneous or planned. I will just cut to the ask:

Please try and volunteer for at least one of these upcoming Cleaning Days:

Tuesday May 5, 2-5

Thursday May 7, 10-1

Monday May 11, 11-2

Thursday May 14, 12-4

Thank you in advance for your service,
Laurie Bell, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@uugrassvalley.org



Laura Harter has scheduled another kitchen tour and a BUNCH of cleaning and prep dates. Contact her at: lauraharter117@gmail.com

Opportunity to Carpool

Ruth Edwards is proposing starting a group to carpool from Church St to Squirrel Creek for those that used to walk or need a ride.

Contact Ruth at:
ruthjoedwards@hotmail.com

What's Done!

Here's a list of items that have gone (mostly) from the To-Do list to the To-Done list:

- The painting is complete in the Admin and Family areas.
- The lighting in the Social Hall has been upgraded, as has the foyer.
- The handrails and chair repair are indeed works-in-progress.
- The lights in the foyer are now controlled by a switch in the foyer.
- There is no longer a water pressure tank in one of the bathrooms, leaving room for more storage.
- There is now a way to shut off the water to the entire building. There had been one before, but it was almost impossible to turn and would still have let ~50 gallons of water flood out in case of a leak.
- It's old news, but the entire back portion of the building – everything other than the Sanctuary – has a new roof!

We'll let you know more as more of these tasks are completed in the next few weeks.

VOLUNTEER !



News from the FPC (Facilities Preparation Committee)

A lot of what used to be Planning has moved into Preparation - actual doing!

First off, we would like to make a point of emphasis. During the planning for our new church, one of the unquestionable top priorities has been to make it as accessible as possible for our Zoom attendees. Just because we don't see your faces, shake your hands, or hug you on Sundays does not make you any less important.

Work continues on the subfloor, making it as level as possible before the new floor coverings go in. Loud and dusty, but so important in the long run.

Lighting upgrades have happened in the Social Hall, making it much less dim, more bright and happy.

The kitchen crew - oh my gosh what an amazing amount of work is going into cleaning and organizing it! The bad kitchen news is that we won't be bringing the old dishwashers with us - they won't fit. The good news is that the sanitizer is being brought into functional condition and will do what we want just fine. Those of us who've worked with a sanitizer know how amazing they can be.

For the significant number of us who are hard of hearing, you'll be happy to learn that we will be installing an assistive listening system.

We continue to salvage damaged chairs from the dubious pile that was left us. While the sanctuary will be furnished with two different types and colors of chair, all of them are already paid for!

Window coverings are under assessment. Many of them were damaged, but a church-wide replacement may be outside of our budget. We will be looking room-by-room to see which ones have an immediate need. (The unquestioned need is for the front office/Siobhan's area. In the lovely morning sun, it's blinding!) Bids are being gathered, considering both single-cell honeycomb and metal miniblinds.

The electrical system throughout is being evaluated and upgraded as necessary. Many of the plugs were installed incorrectly or are broken. The switch for the lights in the foyer is now - in the foyer! And when we're done, all of the outlets will be labelled with which breaker they go (which will also be correctly re-labelled.)

The grounds crew continues to clean up, pile up, and burn up. They will also soon be removing some trees that are dangerous. In case you missed reading it elsewhere, their efforts have already made a huge difference in our insurance coverage.

Alec MacLean

[Send your suggestions NOW!](#)

[Questions? What would you like to know?](#)



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