



Volume 2
September 2, 2026

A Place for You

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

September 12 Work Party

Whether you prefer working with a screw driver, a vacuum cleaner, or a shovel, we invite you to join us on **Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.** to help maintain our new home. We are re-starting our congregation's longtime practice of monthly work parties. In the future, we may have separate days for landscape work and facilities-related work, but on September 12, we will tackle both.

It's a fun, low-stress way to pitch in. Coffee will be provided, and we welcome simple snacks.

If you have any questions, contact Alec MacLean of the Facilities Committee (calecm@gmail.com) or Landscape and Grounds Team leaders Marlene Bottenfield (tumblingcrkfarm@gmail.com) and Shannon Dooley-Miller (Shannondooleymiller@gmail.com).



Photo by Jim Bair

Sound Advice

Ever notice how lively—okay, downright “echo-y”—the music room can get? The Facilities Committee, along with other stakeholders, is working on a plan to change that. We're proposing acoustic panels, curtains, and a rug or two to soften the space and make it more welcoming for music, conversation, and everything in between.

We're starting small: this is a pilot project. If it works well in the music room, we'll bring the same treatments to the social hall next.

The proposal will be discussed at a joint meeting with Art & Aesthetics and Music on September 20, and we're hoping to move forward quickly after that. Stay tuned!

Capital Campaign Update

Our community is generous. Not only did you raise the money to buy the Squirrel Creek campus outright, leaving us with no debt, you also provided the funds to make needed repairs and improvements prior to our inaugural service on June 7.

Even after buying the campus and making the initial repairs, we expect to receive almost \$500,000 more over the next three years. These contributions were pledged as part of our three-year capital campaign (March 2026 to March 2029). Your pledge payments will allow us to fund our highest priorities. Right now, we have \$90,000 available to tackle the most crucial items. Based on the information you gave us during the capital campaign, we expect almost \$120,000 more to come in by the end of our first campaign year next March.

On top of this, you have also funded our reserve to cover increased operating costs for three years!

Both the generosity of this community and our continuing delight in and gratitude for our spacious new home are inspiring to me.

Gail Schulz, Facilities Committee Finance Person



Questions or Comments for the Facilities Committee?
Contact us at FPC2@uugrassvalley.org.



The Work Continues!

The Facilities Committee has been busy over the past two months. Here are a few highlights:

- We developed a **3-year budget** with priorities for improvements and repairs.
- We contracted with a company to **pave** the area immediately outside the social hall (it is a trip hazard).
- We contracted with a **landscaper** to handle ongoing brush removal, tree trimming, and other work. This will allow our landscape volunteers to focus on the big picture, including developing a picnic area.
- In response to concerns about sound quality in both the music room and the social hall, we have begun working on some **acoustic improvements** (see article).
- Marty Moore of Moore Plumbing has been investigating our **plumbing and septic issues**. For some reason, the flow is being obstructed. To diagnose the problem, Marty sent a camera down our sewer lines, and Alec MacLean joined the effort with a plumbing snake. Resolving the problem will require some digging. After that, we can upgrade our toilets as needed and tackle a few other plumbing concerns.
- Mike Tipton has volunteered (hooray!) to **build a cabinet** that will allow us to install our two dishwashers from Church Street in the kitchen. This will help with clean-up after our Sunday social hour and other events.
- Our **intrepid volunteers** have recently dealt with two toilet overflows, installed holders for sanitary waste in most bathrooms, dealt with a failed pipe under the dish sanitizer during the Sunday social hour, and arrived at night to turn off our well after a pipe ruptured and flooded our front yard (thank you, Alec MacLean, Carol Richey, and Beth Karow).
- We have also finished a number of **items left over from the initial preparation work**, including electrical, internet, lighting, and sound system issues, plus the installation of a new garage door. We have spent more than \$13,000 on these final "move-in" projects.



Photo by Jim Bair

Going forward, we plan to work within our budget and established priorities in order to get the most out of your contributions.



A Place to Hang Our Coats

The Facilities Committee is teaming up with Gwen Eyemann and Andy Dooley-Miller to reimagine the room next to the foyer as a true multi-tasker: AV storage, coat room, and even a "cry" room, all in one space.

Here's a fun challenge for you: how many linear feet do you think it takes to hang 75 to 100 coats? And once you've got your guess, here's a harder one: how many people do you think can comfortably hang up their coats in that room at the same time?

We'll be sharing the answers (and the plan!) soon. Watch this space!



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