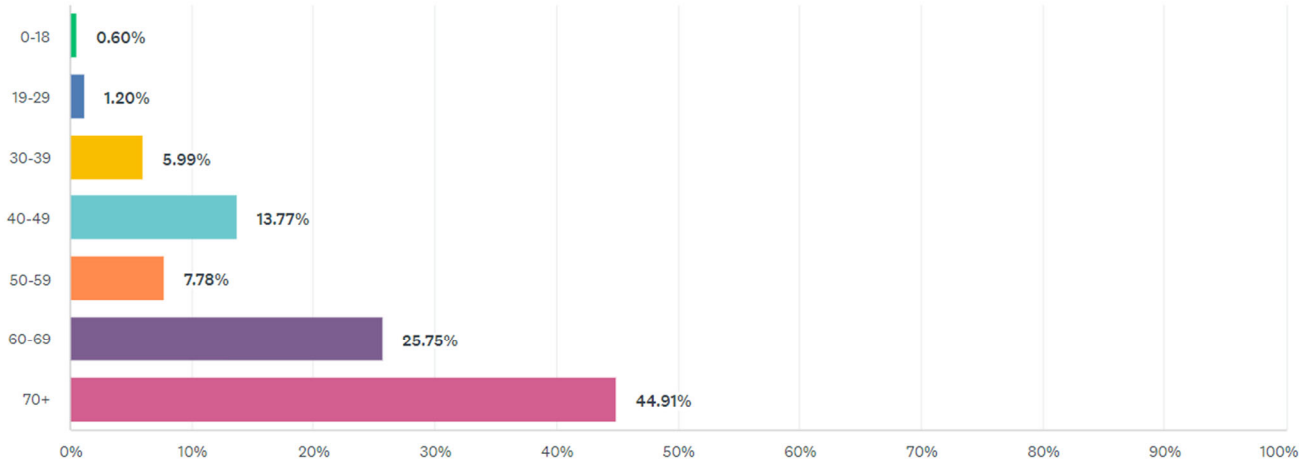


First UU Building Our Future Architectural Design Survey

June 2023

What is your age?

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0

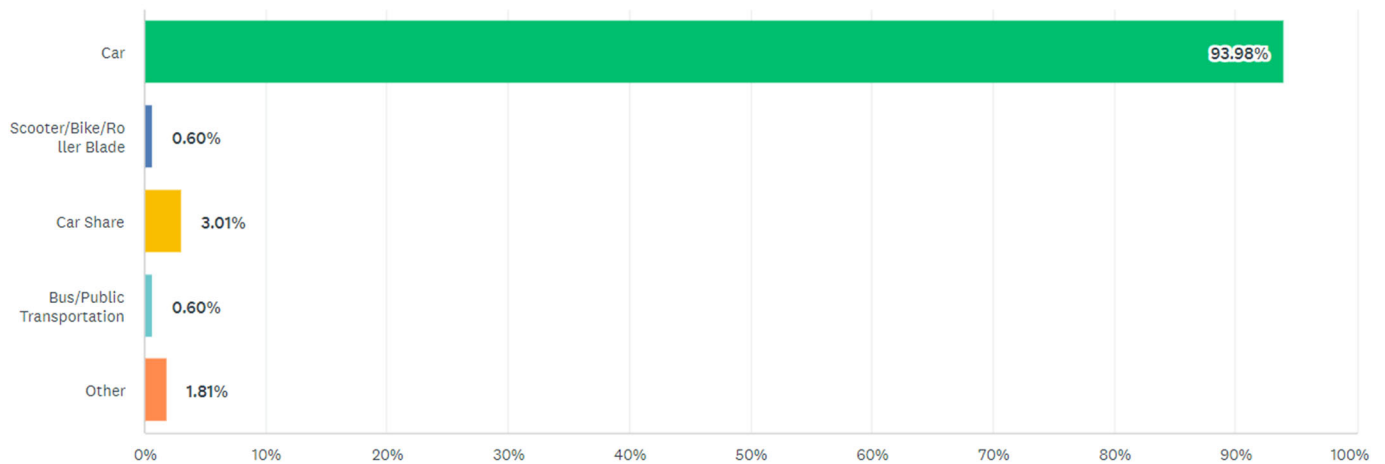


Building Our Future Architectural Design Survey - June 2023

🔍 (0)

How do you arrive to First UU?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 1

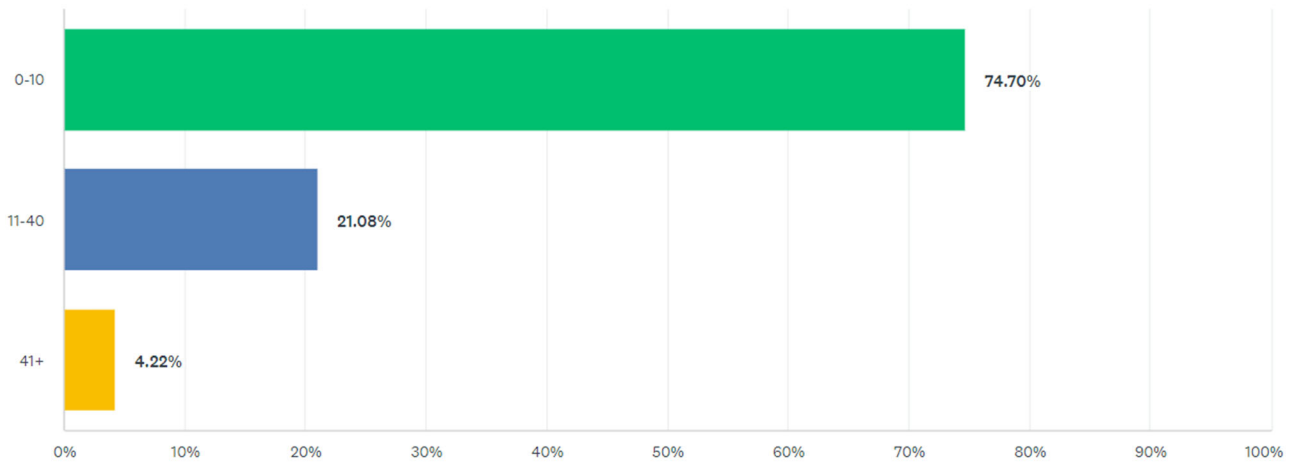


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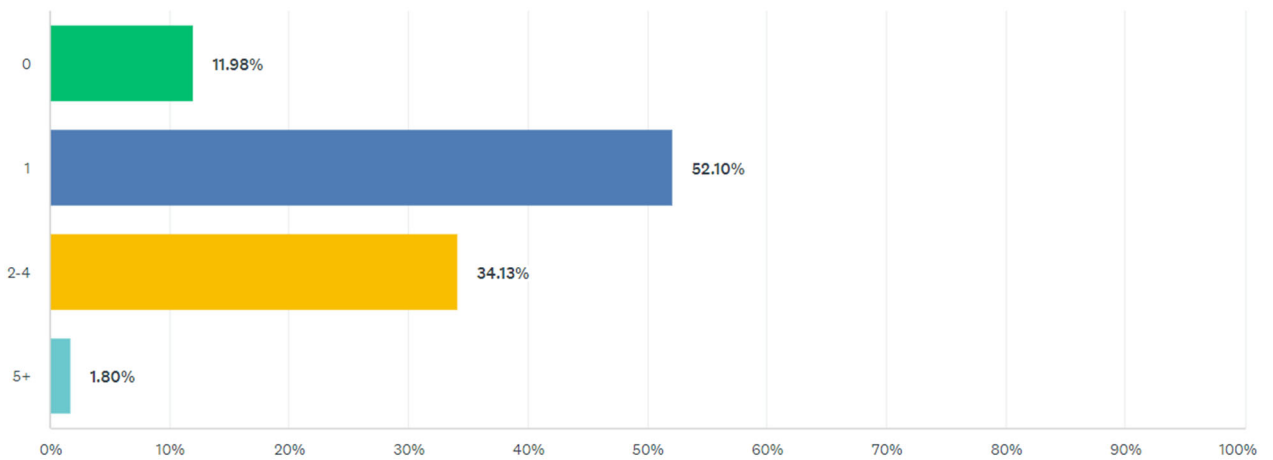
On average, how many livestream services do you attend per year?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 1



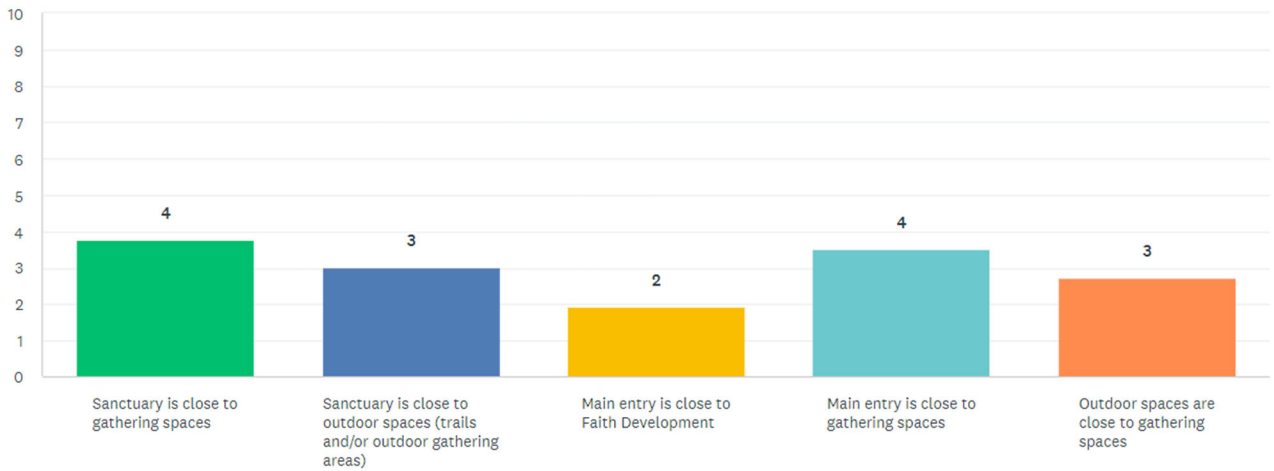
On average, how many times do you come to the church building per week?

Answered: 167 Skipped: 0



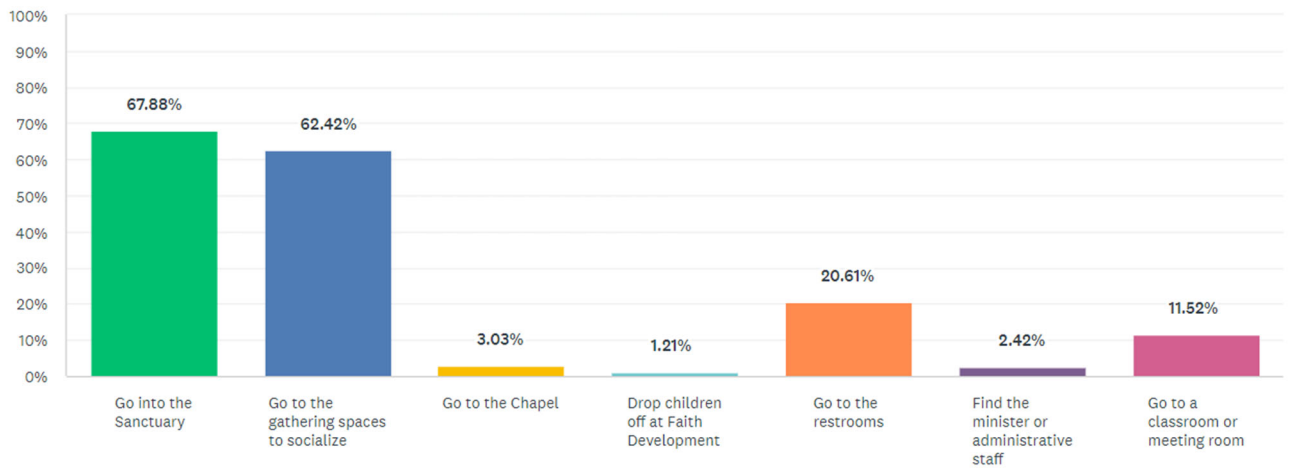
For First UU's new building, rank in order of importance:

Answered: 157 Skipped: 10



What do you do when you first arrive at First UU? Select all that apply.

Answered: 165 Skipped: 2



How do you want the new building to feel? Try to avoid using architectural materials in your answer (e.g., wood, metal, stone, etc.). Describe how you'd like to "experience" the space(s) emotively.

- Answered: 161
- Skipped: 6
- I'd like more light and windows and to be able to see outdoor spaces. I like color and prefer more natural (wood) to stone.
- wood
- Open, welcoming, safe, bright,
- Welcoming, comfortable, quiet
- I'd like it to feel comfortable like a good friend's home, but should be marked clearly on guiding my path to where I'd like to go. Lots of natural light.
- I want the building to feel like nature is being brought indoors. Lots of natural light while utilizing the beautiful property the building will sit on.
- A comfortable, open space in the entryway where conversation can be easily heard and chairs are available to sit in. Odor - free. Gathering spaces have comfortable seating for small or large groups with good acoustics. The sanctuary needs to be a quiet space for reflection, music and the spoken word. Traffic noises can not be heard.
- Open, welcoming, with natural light, and views to the outdoors.
- Brings nature in and sets a mood for reflection. I want the sanctuary to be a blank space (simple and light-filled) to allow the spoken word and music to fill our minds, inspire us, and be a place that feels "sacred". I want the gathering space(s) to be a bit more separated, so sound doesn't spill over and can be places of joy and spontaneity with enough space to enter, move about, and mingle. It would be nice to have "niches" where people can still be with others, but have quieter opportunity for dialogue. Open corridors, making movement through the church easier.
- Natural. Warm. Inviting. Airy. Bright.
- I want to arrive in a beautiful, open space that allows for socialization and greets me with hope and optimism. No clutter!
- Open, welcoming, warm, friendly
- Warm, natural, gentle, friendly, positive, family oriented, open
- Open, but warm (not cold or industrial), clear way finding, accessible, eco-conscious design, strong and inviting connections to the natural world
- Welcoming and cozy...(warm and inviting) with a bit of modernity and "new age" look and reminiscent feel!!
- Warm, inviting, safe, communal
- Friendly & sense of community
- Peaceful
- Welcoming, connection to nature, not confusing
- Lots of light, feeling of warmth, comfortable seating, room to talk
- Bright, cheerful, lively. In tune with nature and the seasons.
- Peaceful. Pleasant. Soothing. Artful. Beautiful spaces. Encompassing. Connected to nature. Welcoming. Having warmth. A fun place to be.
- A lot of natural light, views of the property
- Open, welcoming.
- Welcoming
- Open, welcoming, light, connected to outdoors
- Open, inviting, light and airy, wood used to add color and texture, lots of windows, modern, natural stone (not like the bricks we have now) to bring a bit of nature into the buildings outside
- Lots of natural light, open, calm, tranquil. Danish hygge feel
- Warm, welcoming, contemplative, connected to nature
- Light, airy
- Light, airy
- Warmth, brightness, natural, openness, relaxing, not overly loud, calming
- Welcoming and warm.
- Open, flow, natural, gathering centered
- Relaxing, open and spacious, lots of natural light, views of greenery.
- Open to the outdoors, lots of glass, full of light
- Open and welcoming. single floor access, Natural Light. Simple design.
- Bright, clean and warm.

- Inviting/welcoming; natural/efficient lighting; easy to navigate; comfortable for all ages; sanctuary should have good acoustics (especially for music) & be usable for a variety of functions- lectures, concerts, forums, etc.; respectful of energy efficiency; multiple bathroom options with at least one bathroom with a shower in case we need to host guest/sanctuary family.
 - I would love to have a building that feels welcoming, calm and open.
 - I want it to feel open (metaphorically and literally), welcoming, soft/gentle (the opposite of a castle feel), and light (metaphorically and literally).
 - Warm welcoming open
 - Relaxing but not dull. Colors that are interesting to the eyes but restful to the mind. I am disabled and would appreciate a space that is not stressful to people with physical challenges. This is not just about people in wheelchairs or walkers having ramps or elevators - but about people who are less physically agile being able to get from their car to various parts of the building without feeling embarrassed, in pain or exhausted.
 - To be warm & welcoming so people feel a sense of community.
 - I want it to feel like the St. Paul church.
 - I would like the building to welcome in the outdoor scenery wherever possible and to allow people to enter the sanctuary from the back and not the front.
 - I would like it to feel sunny, connected to the outside, open, more accessible.
 - spacious, uncluttered, calm, communal and inclusive. Non-institutional. Joyous. A sanctuary surrounded by nature.
 - Welcoming, light, not overly crowded
 - welcoming, peaceful, engaging, inviting
-

How might this new building help build community (First UU, Rochester, and beyond)?

- Answered: 141
- Skipped: 26
- I think the new building could make more people feel welcome through being more accessible. I'd like to not have the main entrance have so many stairs and also less stairs for getting to the sanctuary.
- Amateur musicians encouraged to be part of the church. I am glad we have great professional musicians. It would be nice if they encouraged other instrumentalists that are not professionals to be part of the church instrumental music.
- There is a divide between the old guard and the new members who are younger and more likely to be gender queer. I hope this new building project will unite us in a common purpose. If we're going to be welcoming, we're going to get bigger. This is a good thing.
- Provide a place for community events
- Since we are a safe sanctuary it should have an apartment inside its walls, and a kitchen that can serve more than just our congregation.
- Having a multipurpose space that can be transformed into various sized spaces can provide an opportunity for both larger and smaller groups in the UU and beyond to come together in community.
- Gathering spaces are comfortable, produce a sense of safety and inclusion. These spaces are also sound-proof from one another so large groups (20 - 30 People) can meet at the same time without disrupting each other.
- The new building should be visible to the public, with well defined entrance.
- We need to have a space large enough to host important community meetings. We also need enough smaller conference -type rooms to welcome in opportunities for groups to meet. Walking paths and a community garden would be nice. We need a big commercial type kitchen so in the future we can consider helping to feed our own and the larger community!
- Bring in people for concerts or meetings and have them be so impressed by our building or materials they come back for services or other church activities.
- I see it as a gathering space for all of us for fellowship, spiritual growth, and community engagement, where people feel safe and supported, nurtured and inspired. Perhaps an art gallery with rotating artists? A space for musical performances of all sizes... A place people enjoy spending time in.
- Create a positive image of UUism, be visible, attract people to visit and learn more about UU.
- It needs to be a welcoming space where people want to be and remain comfortably:
- Presenting an inviting face to the neighborhood and those passing on either main street
- It could be better for many things: services, weddings, perhaps a preschool, a community garden, a place for musical events, etc.
- Encourage non members to feel welcomed
- Better visibility will hopefully bring in more members. Also, if the sanctuary is designed with weddings and other ceremonies in mind as one of its uses, we could draw in people who want to have a multicultural wedding and would rather have it in a church rather than a hotel or a courthouse. Meeting spaces for social justice groups would help bring more local organizations into the team.
- If a building looks welcoming, and not too out of the ordinary, people may more easily "come and see" what it has to offer. Ease of getting into a building will encourage people who have difficulty with mobility, like older members, keep attending activities.
- Flexible gathering spaces for events
- I think the people build community and the building provides the space for people to connect and do the work of building.
- Host more people and activities
- Offering a variety of spaces for community activities big and small – different classrooms, performance spaces, rehearsal rooms, meditation/worship rooms, etc. I think that Bethel Lutheran is a good model for this.
- Having more than one gathering place. Not everyone is a raving extrovert and wants to spend time in a loud, crowded space trying to hear the people next to you.
- Opportunities for shared spaces with preschool/day care, community garden, welcoming and acoustically-oriented space for events, easily accessible for all levels of ability to attend community-wide events/politically-related efforts/film screenings/discussions/etc
- gathering spaces welcoming
- gathering spaces welcoming
- Provide a good acoustic space for musical performances, bring in evening speakers of interest, daycare space during week?
- Being welcoming and warm. Identifying community needs and creating a response. Initiating responses.

- Visual impact, defines our values. Might bring interest as a result. Available for general public to use as meeting place, as it would be easy to find and remember.
 - It would be great to have rental space that the community could easily use for both private events (baby showers, birthday parties, and public events - fundraisers, meals, etc), land could be used for farm plots for disadvantaged farmers, could there be a setup to host families seeking sanctuary?
 - Again easy access for handicapped. Make it functional for underserved communities to use it as an access point. Functional bathrooms that are easy for children as well as adults with disabilities to access. Place to create a sanctuary for undocumented workers. Place to offer seniors a place to hangout. Place for a underserved daycare
 - Needs a welcoming exterior with good signage.
 - Design should be practical for potential variety of uses- offices; education; rentals for events/speakers/ non-profits; built so it would have other potential buyers besides a faith community if we'd ever have to sell the property.
 - Having enough space in the building and grounds for things like meetings and events.
 - Having a larger church where we can welcome new people in and have large holiday services would be amazing for our community and the Rochester community as a whole. It would be great if we could even have something like a daycare or outside organizations rent our space for events during the week. That would connect Rochester with us and allow us to serve our community in new ways.
 - I don't believe a new building will help. The people in the building are the ones that will build the community here.
 - A beautiful and welcoming meeting place where people from diverse religions, cultures, spiritual paths and vocations can gather in safety and acceptance could make a huge difference to the UU Community and the Rochester area at large!
 - offer free space for support groups such as AA
 - It should be easy to find, welcoming, and have space for large gatherings and extra space that could be rented out.
 - A large and welcoming lobby where a wall doesn't block the view of a fireplace if one should be built. I attended a Girl Scout camp every summer for years where the mantel over the fireplace read: "Here let the fires of friendship burn." A similar wonderful verse should greet the eye of all who enter.
 - I would love to have large enough gathering spaces where community groups can meet.
 - With an open kitchen and ample storage space/cabinets, easier to gather for meal events; special occasions. Open to Rochester community events such as readings, poetry slams, concerts...will add community exposure to our church.
 - It will not just be the people but the space will hopefully be inviting as well, a place that feels comfortable, meditative
 - -By being a welcoming space -By having spaces for meetings, projects, communal eating -By having a kitchen that can serve the broader community
 - Children should feel loved and excited to be here; adults should have their curiosity piqued; UU would be a community resource (both in programs and in physical offerings like meeting rooms, gardens, kitchen, housing) for equity and spiritual growth.
 - attract young families!?
 - Draws others to it because of the work we do and the happiness/respect of all who enter the space; a feeling of solitude, of beauty and calmness there for all who enter
 - Besides being welcoming and comfortable for regular services, the space could/should be available for related community social and informational events.
 - It could be used as a community gathering space, a welcoming space for folx who are excluded elsewhere
 - Share space with others. Childcare or education for example. Yoga classes. Tai chi area maybe.
-

How could a new building encourage the congregation to grow and welcome newcomers?

- Answered: 144
- Skipped: 23
- Having the gathering spaces closer to the sanctuary maybe?
- As I mentioned above. Church instrumental music is important to many of us and participation, not just cheering for the great professionals we have. We are very lucky to have such great professional musicians.
- Being welcoming comes from the congregation not the building. That said, as a newish member, improved signage helps new folks feel at ease in a new space because you can figure out where things are. It was 6 months before I was 100% sure which were the clean and which were the dirty coffee mugs
- Provide a place for people to meet and relax
- Enter the sanctuary from the back. Make it handicapped accessible. Have a crying room/nursing room in the sanctuary. Have little people tables and chairs in the sanctuary to keep families together during worship while still having a nursery.
- Utilizing the outdoor space as well as the indoor space and connect the two will help provide that sense of connection with nature.
- Newcomers can see the entrance to the sanctuary so they know where to go. Children have spaces to play indoors and outdoors within their parents' eyesight.
- Open the building to community events.
- Having space that can be rented out for events/concerts allows people to explore the church without commitment. within the main gathering space it is nice to have areas where groups within the church can locate themselves on a Sunday, so congregants can wander by and chat. Also having an outdoor space that could host smaller "fairs" or informal concerts, perhaps close to walking paths & community garden, would allow people to get a feel for who we are. I know larger churches have space to rent out to small churches attended by immigrant or BIPOC communities (such as a smaller chapel) that would create ties outside of ourselves. Similarly, renting out RE space during the week to a childcare center could also help serve this purpose.
- See above.
- Have a large kitchen and dining room where the congregation or community could be served, where we could come together to learn and support each other.
- Appear friendly and open, family oriented appearance
- It must be a space where everyone (generally) wants to stay for a Sunday morning
- Having a large entry area to allow people to talk and interact without feeling claustrophobic
- Aesthetically pleasing, easy to navigate, connection to nature, bigger than current building (!)
- Room to mingle
- It's a little like repotting a plant: when a plant outgrows its pot, you put it in a bigger pot so it can continue to grow and not become root-bound. A large, welcoming space that doesn't feel constricted or overcrowded will increase the probability that visiting newcomers will come back and stay.
- As the congregation feels better about the building, they may be more inclined to invite friends and others to come. Come more often themselves and their families.
- Visibility to roads, energy efficient, welcoming gathering space
- BY providing a beautiful, welcoming space with room to meet our needs.
- Larger gathering spaces
- Provide an attractive space that provides community engagement and opportunities for community activities/rentals beyond just for church members
- 1. By having windows it won't look like a windowless strip club. 2. more meeting spaces would HOPEFULLY encourage more education classes and adult classes on Sundays 3. Having a dedicated welcome center where people can CHOOSE to approach and get information rather than walking into a gauntlet of people who force them into signing a visitor sign in thing and get a nametag. It gives them a sense of choice before feeling that they have COMMITTED to UU
- Accessibility and ease of navigation/flow, abundant parking for folks with mobility issues and young families, additional spaces in (or connected to) the sanctuary for families/nursing mothers to feel more comfortable and included.
- easy access, few steps or easy lifts
- easy access, few steps or easy lifts
- Having enough room for growth- in sanctuary, commons, RE, parking lot, bathrooms, etc. Multilingual signage.
- Being larger leads to more space to make it friendly to newcomers.
- The impact of space and ability navigate in the building, could bring people to return. I cannot imagine that a new building would welcome people better than we do so now, this is a human concept.

- Clear signs, gender neutral bathrooms, maintaining a fragrance free space for those who have allergies/sensitivities,
 - A large vestibule where someone new can enter and be greeted if they want too, but can also sneak in if they don't want to be greeted. An easy place to put coats. Sanctuary that promotes quiet meditation when entered, and provides good acoustics.
 - Good parking, clear and welcoming signage, welcoming gathering spaces with good treats.
 - Location, expanded parking and new building might attract new people, but it's how newcomers connect with members & church programming that is what is most important.
 - Having enough space in the sanctuary and commons. Enough parking spaces. Also, the ease of getting to the building.
 - Making the space more accessible to people of all types (less levels), making the space easier to navigate (i.e., making the sanctuary easier to find, or on the same level as the entrance even), and having larger spaces (including bathrooms, meeting areas, classrooms, the kitchen, the sanctuary, and even the parking lot). We need a welcoming environment, but we also need a space people feel like they have space in too.
 - Newcomers will find us. And once they get here it will be roomier
 - See above
 - Have multipurpose rooms that can be rented. Some people rented space then were curious about church, once they were in the door & met nice staff. Good coffee(like we have).
 - Plenty of gathering space
 - As few enclosed and awkward places as possible (like the current coat room and name tag boards. An entrance that fits the seasons but still lets people in. A spacious and well-planned kitchen that also lets people in.
 - Providing a welcoming space for the community to have meetings/social events/etc will help introduce ourselves to newcomers.
 - Inviting landscaping yet building visible from the street. Ample parking and open green space. Education wing with movable walls and spaces, plus an innovative, explorative playground (Oxbow Park has created one), Trails Peaceful entryway and foyer, easy access -ramp, low rise steps. Smooth traffic flow.
 - Just by being less crowded, airier, easier to reach/identify new faces. We tend to clump/cluster now with lots of backs facing folks when they enter the building. It's not very welcoming unfortunately.
 - Multiple gathering spaces based on: purpose, utility, age of users, etc
 - The design should flow, inviting the visitor in. Open enough that it's obvious where the classrooms are, where the office is, where the sanctuary is, etc.
 - People are drawn to open and inviting spaces.
 - Messages in many places about "you are welcome here"; a feeling of being drawn in; of lightness
 - Comfortable RE area/wing, easy access to sanctuary, comfortable and changeable sanctuary seating, good lighting and acoustics.
 - As we plan the building, we can think about how to make the space as shareable as possible.
 - Not sure
-

What makes a beautiful building?

- Answered: 152
- Skipped: 15
- Light, color, and having comfortable open gathering spaces. I would love to see a new playground that is easier to get to and visible.
- Connection with Nature
- Open space, welcoming seating, matching color scheme, natural light.
- Standing out as distinctive and also fitting into it's environment
- Flat roofs look like an institution to us. Have an eternal flaming chalice at the church. Have building match the environment, wood, stone and steel roof and super energy efficient.
- On the interior, having open spaces, that provides a sense of calming makes a beautiful building. Simple, practical, welcoming. An exterior that utilizes the surroundings and makes a statement about who we are.
- Good structure, some curved lines in the interior. Stained glass windows. Fabric wall hangings that are seasonal. Use of native woods in the trim and accents.
- Landscaping, open windows, coordinating colors and textures.
- Simplicity. Light. Experience of the natural world outside. Ease of moving through the church and clear way finding. Landscaping that allows people to be outside in nicer weather. For the latter, perhaps pergola or overhang + tree plantings to provide some protection and shade.
- Gorgeous design, using attractive natural materials to have form fit the function.
- Light, art, space, and nature. Places for quiet contemplation and places for rowdy celebration.
- natural Light, open spaces, views of nature
- Use of wood and stone. It is common here to use limestone in building. That is nice, but using a lot of wood creates a warm and natural impression. Wood can be cheaper than many other materials, is environmentally very "green" and is remarkably fireproof. Modern composites, ie, engineered timber is strong and stable. Wood is sustainable, reduces the carbon footprint by nearly half when compared to concrete and steel. Since wooden buildings are lighter than concrete and steel ones, they can have smaller foundations. Engineered timber is fire-resistant since it is stable even when charred. So - that's my pitch for wood!
- A lot of natural lighting and interesting structure to captivate and hold a sense of wonder
- Natural setting that accentuates the warmth of the congregation. Art work. Ease of access.
- Natural materials, set into the landscape (a la Frank Lloyd Wright), allows light in and views out, proportioned correctly
- Light, unique structures
- How about NOT bricks or cinder blocks?! LOL Seriously, though, a lot of woodwork and natural materials, graceful curves instead of blocky shapes, lots and lots of natural LIGHT!!!
- While beauty is certainly in the eye of the beholder, caring, compassionate, and "good" people help make a building beautiful. Also a building that looks pleasantly unique, functions well with the internal environment (heating, cooling, bathrooms, ect.), and feels right, and with some lovely art.
- Organic flow with landscape, low profile, integrated renewable energy sources
- I appreciate a natural light, a view of nature, and elements like wood, stone, metal and fabric in our materials.
- Natural sunlight
- good design, open, natural materials, people-centered, fit for purpose
- Curves, it looks more like nature and is inviting than straight lines and sharp corners. At least from the outside.
- Abundant natural light (and/or alternatives to downward/fluorescent lighting), openness and accessibility, warm-feeling/looking building materials, excellent acoustics
- inspiring architectural design, use of light.
- inspiring architectural design, use of light.
- High ceilings, natural light, windows (stained glass and clear), artistic details on hardware or carpentry, natural wood and stone, spaces built with kids' needs in mind for RE wing.
- I'm not an artist or an architect. I know beauty when I see it. I trust the judgment of those more skilled than I am.
- Ah.... color, light, gentle shapes with plants and flowing space. Various glass and high quality woods used in construction. A sense that thoughtfulness was given to design even if it meant losing some wishes, for solid belief in the beauty of the building. Practical, easy to maintain and a simplicity that catches ones attention, as interesting and ever so useful.
- Natural light, warmth, natural materials
- Good temperature control, natural light, bringing the outside "natural" world inside, natural colors, energy efficient design.
- Clean lines with open architecture.
- Inviting grounds/landscaping; good lighting; space for colorful accents, comfortable seating/spaces for smaller groups; cleanliness; simplicity; efforts to conserve energy and use sustainable sourcing;

- Having a 'green' building with lots of natural light.
 - Having a functional, open, light, and accessible building makes a building beautiful.
 - People
 - Colors, textures, ambient lighting and sound, ease of access, comfort, landscaping, windows with natural views and sunlight, accessible nature areas with seating
 - Wood floors, art, rich upholstery, Kind welcoming people
 - Clean lines, a variety of materials
 - Good and kind people, of course, and then how the building honors its natural surroundings. How it invites that inside.
 - Lots of windows and a connection to the outside.
 - natural light, physically and visually open to nature, clean lines, accessible for all, good acoustics for both music and speech.
 - The materials, the colors/textures, the occupants, the lighting, the atmosphere
 - Harmony of design with function; good balance between hard and soft surfaces; utility.
 - wood, windows, art, gardens....with attention to detail.
 - natural materials, open to natural light
 - One that flows with the neighborhood and nature. Plenty of parking. A one level structure that is easy to enter.
 - Lightness and spaciousness, warmth from textures, comfort able seating, beauty from the colors and textures, lack of being cluttered, simple decorations with the chalice represented in several spaces, pictures of nature, textures of nature (tree bark, stones) fireplace
 - Easy access into and within spaces, good lighting and acoustics, combination of materials that are practical and elegant but not overstated.
-

Additional comments or continuing your thoughts from above.

- Answered: 76
- Skipped: 91
- Encouraging the staff that they are valued.
- I know some of the older members have some negative feelings towards all the young kiddos who have recently joined the church. These children are the future of the church. So many congregations are aging out. The sound of a baby crying, or a little kid being a kid is the sound of a church not dying. Welcome them! Cherish them! This is their home too!
- To encourage young families have a preschool during the week in the building with outdoor activities and play equipment.
- In Feng Shui, an extension of the building on the right side of the main door, represents an extension of the "helping people" bagua. I think that would be nice.
- There needs to be accessible storage so we can be organized and put things away easily to clean up quickly and find what we have stored equally easily. We want our kids to have spaces where they can play safely so we don't fret about them destroying our beautiful building!
- Thanks for asking!
- Thanks for the opportunity!!.....we'll see, eh?!
- :-)
- Open spaces
- The exercise with the blocks last Sunday was interesting, but I feel like the block model is too restrictive. We need to consider different shapes for each space, not just the size. For the sanctuary especially, I wonder whether a rectangle shape is really the best choice. I came up with some sketches and scribbles that had hexagonal or octagonal options for the sanctuary. Also, the block model wasn't easy for people to use when considering a two-level building (walk-out basement).
- Efficient use of renewable energy sources, e.g. geothermal, solar, wind.
- I'm curious/excited about the concept of having a "wide welcoming" entrance that stretches along a longer-than-usual section of the front of the building and then gently/openly directs folks to certain parts of the building. This would be in contrast with having two (or more) narrowly-defined entrances that might be confusing for new folks and/or continue our current issue of bottlenecking at the main entrance.
- Would like all electric building
- Would like all electric building
- I just can't imagine asking for hundreds of opinions as to what is desired. Good Luck!!
- If you are located in a remote place or far from public transportation don't expect new members to be very diverse. It's a built-in barrier for us who struggle with reliable transportation and has price
- Thank you!
- Question 5 is of little importance to me. I want the building to be accessible to all easily. I want all spaces to be accessible to all easily. The sanctuary is central to the church as far as I am concerned
- Building "wishes and dreams" should be stageable- some projects might need to be done later. We don't even know yet if this undertaking is "feasible" or what will happen with a capital campaign. Answers reflect input from 2 members (1 pledging unit)
- Having updated sound, light, and video systems would also be nice.
- I would love to see more windows and natural light in the church building.
- I would like to see us build a classic, New England church.
- Sorry, I couldn't figure out how to make #5 work. Its up & down arrows didn't respond as I wanted them to and the choices seemed to cancel each other out.
- Hopefully the seasonal silk hangings by former Rev. Dillman Sorrells can again celebrate our gathering.
- Good idea - suggest you keep asking for input since this will trigger more ideas you will want to harvest.
- I would hope that at least part of the building can be seen from the road (not overwhelmed by a parking lot) to draw people in. I find parking lots ugly and barren.
- Love to have a running fountain within the building to hear the sounds of the water; hope we have a labyrinth outdoors to walk
- I particularly like the high ceiling and acoustics of the current sanctuary. I assume the current organ will be moved to the new building and will be installed in a prominent location.
- It's important to welcome new members but also important to retain existing members. We need to remember what these folks want/ need as well. Memorial garden comes to Mind for example.
- Save our beautiful organ, with its surrounding wood.
- Areas for quiet, meditation. A really well laid out kitchen. A coffee hour area, more of a coffee house feel and not tables where everyone sits with the same people and others don't feel welcome or they sit alone.

- Integrate sustainable building/energy/design strategies throughout as much as possible; the land is stunning, vast, and a treasure- take advantage of showcasing the land assets we have and integrating them! Music is such a key element-- keep in mind a sanctuary space and other spaces with excellent acoustics
- we need to be environmentally conscientious and practical -- i.e., not flat roofs in MN, good insulation, etc.
- Please strongly consider materials that will be reclaimable or recyclable when the building eventually reaches its end.
- An accessible columbarium with some sort of shade to continue the current Memory Garden. It would have some physical element, seating and shade. It should not rely upon volunteers to plant and weed.
- I assume Faith Development is the new RE
- Please make the kitchen bigger, better use of space, commercial appliances, better flow to allow for more people to serve & cook in it. Also more storage.
- Find a way to relocate the existing stained glass windows into the new building.
- Time to leave the concrete fortress/castle and build an oasis
- I hope the sanctuary and building aren't too large for future generations to maintain (the congregation may get smaller).
- The concept of being Radically Welcoming starts at the curb and progresses to the Sanctuary. I think a simple and interesting building, surrounded with inviting public places is welcoming to those living at the margins. These folks might be LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, or folks experiencing disability, financial strain, or mental health crisis. We have an opportunity to make a real difference in Rochester, MN!
- The "building" should include exterior open space and natural areas.
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- The building should feel inspiring and welcoming at the same time.
- Beautiful building needs paid staff so each staff member does not get overwhelmed. Certified Kitchen Cook, indoor and outdoor maintenance, Social Justice program coordinator,
- Mentioned this to Ann briefly: because I know that the Muslim Community owns their cemetery plots at Oakwood East Cemetery on Viola Rd (east of Century HS w/i 1mi), if there's any way that any tiny element of our exterior church structure or any 'signage' keep that fact in mind, to convey some small sense that our church is supportive to them, as they take their loved ones to their final resting place at their Muslim-community owned area within Oakwood East Cemetery. (sense they'll be always driving by our church on that route)
- No more cinder block please. Please, please, please use environmentally friendly building materials and designs to limit both the carbon and environmental footprint of building the building and of using the building once built.
- Windows which show the environment, sky and meditative areas.
- UU values include care for the Earth and sustainable living. Incorporate environmentally friendly design features, such as energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems, natural ventilation, renewable energy sources, and sustainable materials. This aligns with UU principles and reduces the ecological footprint of the building.
- Things are hidden in the current building. I have never been up the stairs to the chapel. It is all compartmentalized and separate.

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