

REACH and RENEW RECAP

Front entrance renewal work nears completion



Left: In mid-November, concrete was poured for the new ramp which will make the front entrance fully accessible for the first time. All the concrete work on the stairs is finished except for the top landing, which can't be done until the bottom pieces of the limestone columns are installed. These pieces are being fabricated by the stone supplier, and should be ready soon. In the meantime, the only building entrances open are Lathrop Street, University Avenue, and Garden.

The Reach and Renew Campaign at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Madison is a five-year initiative (2011-2016) to renew our health, renew our hospitality, and renew our home.

Reach and Renew efforts are continuing beyond 2016 as a result of a congregational decision to borrow funds to fulfill remaining R&R projects, in addition to other crucial repairs and upgrades needed in the building.

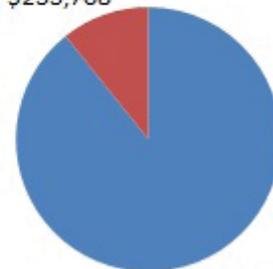
The front doors of the church are blocked while work proceeds, but soon the new steps and ramp will provide a much more aesthetic and welcoming face to the wider community.

More R&R photos, page 2

Pledge status as of 11-30-16 Current pledge total: \$2,173,297

■ Payments received ■ Not yet received

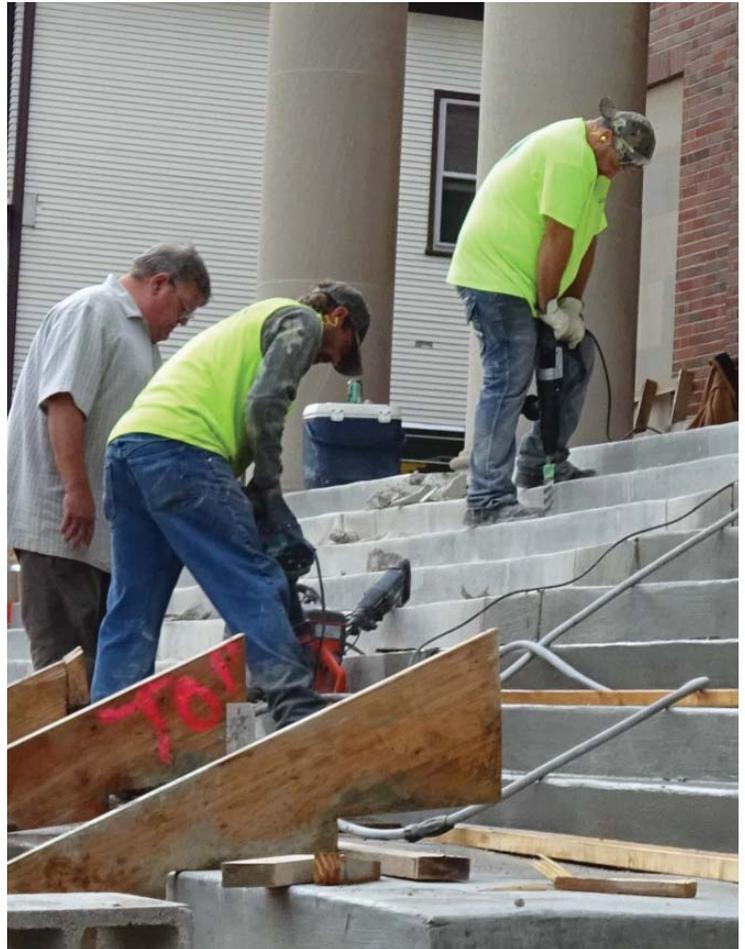
\$233,708



\$1,939,589

Preserve our past. Inspire our future.

The Reach and Renew Campaign seeks to **renew our health** by focusing on the congregation's worship, missions, and programs; to **renew our hospitality** by encouraging the use of our space by outside groups; and to **renew our home** by making upgrades in our building.



Above left: Workers are installing a new fire alarm system throughout the church in order to bring it up to code. **Above right:** In mid-October, the forms slipped when concrete was being poured on the center section of the front steps, so the steps came out wavy and had to be jackhammered before being repoured.

At right: Rick Raemisch, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, spoke at a September 23 event sponsored by the Prison Ministry Project, a recipient of R&R funds. Mr. Raemisch is the leading advocate for the reform of solitary confinement in this country. His op-ed piece in *The New York Times* about the night he spent in solitary has transformed the debate over the use of solitary confinement in American prisons. On September 23 there was also a showing of the HBO documentary *Solitary*, about a supermax prison in rural Virginia in which prisoners are held in eight-by-ten-foot cells for 23 hours a day. The film offers a rare window into life on both sides of the bars.

