

# ZWINGLI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Rev. Lance Smith - *Pastor*



July 15, 2021

Dear Friends and Members of Zwingli United Church of Christ,

As you may or may not have noticed, we had to do some emergency excavating on our property this month. This was due to a break in a drain line which carries water from the springs under our Church away from the building. The system in place has been working for many years but the drain line broke, undermining the soil under our east side driveway. The pavement caved in and water was shooting from the surface. Unfortunately, our system did not comply with 2021 State Laws and our drain had to be routed across the Parking Lot.

Building and Grounds had been working on bids and ideas to upgrade or replace our Parking Lot for several months prior to this drain line issue. Fortunately, we had not moved on paving the lot and drive before this issue occurred! Paving is a major expense to our Church and there are some facts that you all need to know to help us make decisions on the Parking Lot and driveway. Our Parking Lot is mostly Chip and Seal, a light coating of tar covered with gravel repeated in several layers.

## **Chip and Seal**

Chip and Seal is less expensive in the short term. Each seal costing far less than paving. Our Parking Lot has served us way beyond its life expectancy. If you walk across our Parking Lot you will find it is covered with cracks and places where lines have been buried. The original intent and purpose of Chip and Seal is a continual process. It is meant to be reapplied periodically to maintain the surface. Those of you who travel county highways know that on about a three-year rotation, those roads are Chip and Sealed. This makes for a usable surface.

There are also some problems with Chip and Seal. The biggest, it is not a permanent fix. Others include: loose gravel on the top is tracked and carried away on shoes and tires which ends up in our cars and the Church or is thrown by lawn mowers. The surface is also compromised each time we plow snow or add salt/sand for ice and snow removal. Gravel is eventually pushed off the lot.

## **Paving**

Paving is a mixture of tar/asphalt and gravel that has been super-heated and bonds more tightly. The surface is finished and is more permanent. The surface would be resistant to ice and snow removal, both chemical and physical. It would also need to be sealed periodically for a longer life. That sealing process is more like a coat of paint applied to the surface and what I am hearing needs to be reapplied every 5 years. This can be done commercially or by volunteers. The cost for the sealing would range from \$.15 -.23/square foot depending on who and how it is applied.

## **Building and Grounds**

After speaking with paving contractors and acquiring rough estimates, the committee decided to look at all the options possible for our resurfacing. The only company that will Chip and Seal is the County Transportation Service. The committee acquired a bid for Chip and Seal through the Village. We were surprised when the person who formulated the bid also gave us a bid for paving.

**The Paving Option** was recommended by everyone who quoted as well as village service workers as the best option for our Church.

### **Asphalt Paving**

The bid includes removal of existing materials, regrading for surface water drainage, and replacing with asphalt paving. The pavement will need sealing every five years. (Currently, we are waiting for bids which we will share at our meeting. We know that they all will exceed \$48,000.)

As this expense would exceed the maximum spending for the Consistory to approve for a project, we need to call a Special Meeting of the Church membership. We are asking you to attend a Special Meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 1, following the Worship Service in the Sanctuary of Zwingli UCC. Please plan to attend as we determine the future of this project!

Pastor

Consistory Pres.

Building and Grounds Chair

Lance Smith

Sheri Wichser

Buck Walls