

GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT

The garden committee had a very wet year- not much need for the watering system that Leo Martineau had installed in 2022. Leo made some improvements to the watering system – thank you Leo. The city engineer did an assessment of the granite wall and indicated it was structurally sound, but it needed some patching/repairs. We asked that those repairs be done in the fall after the garden was done blooming. The lattice work was installed on the neighboring porch – thank you Earl Kooperkamp who installed it and Linda Wentworth who gave the church the lattice work. Mulch was put down throughout the garden – thank you Beth Hilgartner for donating the mulch and thank you to Jim Willis who helped deliver the mulch. The overgrown bushes in the “sign” bed were removed and some annual flowers were planted to fill that space. Beth Hilgartner has designed a new arrangement of flowers for this bed and made some suggestions about plant rearrangement in other areas-thank you Beth for sharing your expertise and this work. Jim Willis kept the lawn mowed- thank you Jim. A decision was made to have a granite bench installed and to look into getting the lawn area smoothed over (and possibly reseeded) but not leveled. Leveling would cost too much. Garden committee members – Nancy Hanson, Christina Hirsch, Joy Packert, Marjorie Strong and Linda Webster did a great job of keeping the weeds at bay throughout the garden and making sure the gardens looked amazing – thank you to all of them. It is also important to note that the gardens do serve an important purpose for our community. While working in the garden, there were several people who stopped and told me how much they appreciated the gardens and how beautiful they were – the young man who said he walks by every day and can’t wait to see what new blooms there are – or the woman who lives at Tilden House and misses her garden and walks over to see our gardens.

Goals for 2024:

1. Smooth the lawn out and possibly re-seed depending on cost.
2. Plant the flowers in the “sign” bed per Beth’s plan.
3. Purchase and install the granite bench.
4. Re-arrange plants through the gardens per Beth’s suggestions.
5. Improve weed control around church.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Willis