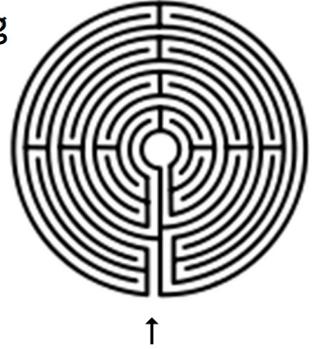


Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church  
**PERMANENT OUTDOOR LABYRINTH INSTALLATION**

A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project and Gift to the SMUUCH Congregation & Community

**What is a labyrinth?**

- An archetypal form of meditation that involves walking, visualizing and/or tracing an ancient design. Labyrinths are made up of one path that winds back and forth from an entry point to the center.
- If you take a pencil and follow the path of this labyrinth, starting at the bottom, you can follow it all the way to the center. From the center, follow the same path all the way back out.
- A labyrinth is not a maze because there are no wrong turns.
- In the past 4,000 years and on every continent, labyrinths have been painted on pottery, inlaid in medieval cathedral floors, and outlined on grass with bricks like the one we will have at SMUUCH.
- There are at least 22 labyrinths in the Kansas City metro area (none currently in Lenexa) - on church grounds, at wellness centers and retreats, in schools and back yards.



**Why are we installing one at SMUUCH?**

- It is a quiet spiritual/meditative practice and will help extend our ministry.
- Labyrinth practice is sometimes credited with helping the decision-making and healing process, because the turns help balance right- and left-brain functions.
- It can be a metaphor for pilgrimage -- reaching and returning from a desired destination. When several people walk at the same time, it is a metaphor for life with the meetings and partings you encounter on your life's journey.
- SMUUCH members dreamed of an outdoor labyrinth when we purchased the spacious Pflumm property in 2011, and it is part of the Grounds Master Plan.
- It will be dedicated on Saturday, May 6, 2017 as a gift to the congregation and community on the culminating weekend of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Where will it be?**

- In the broad greenspace along Pflumm, between the north and south parking entrances. It will be 60 feet in diameter with a stone bench in the center circle, in the design shown above. Plantings will add privacy and beauty.

**How You Can Help!**

- Donations of time and money gratefully accepted. Volunteers will be needed to help in many ways, including brick decoration and laying nearly 2,000 bricks into the prepared labyrinth design in late fall 2016. Put "Labyrinth" on the subject line of checks. Questions? Contact Carla at [dempugs@gmail.com](mailto:dempugs@gmail.com).