



Green Notes: Those Sanctuary Lights? They're Powered by the Sun!

As of Tuesday afternoon, our church's new solar power system was 100% energized! All that beautiful autumn sunshine is turning on the lights throughout our building.

In the days to come, we'll be able to see up-to-date power generation statistics on a computer monitor mounted in the Narthex, just outside our sanctuary. In fact, we'll be able to share a link with you so those same stats will be available at home.

In the months to come, we will provide written and from-the-pulpit reports on First Church's NorthWestern Energy bills and how our solar power is affecting the totals. We have already started collecting the bills as a baseline for comparison. Stay tuned for cost savings!

And, of course, it is critical that we conserve energy use in our building as much as possible – and find new ways to cut consumption. Be sure the lights turn off when you leave a room. Be sure you unplug any office or food prep equipment that's not being used. Help us search out new ways to conserve energy. You can email suggestions to Green Team members Carole Addis or Sherry Devlin at cjeanaddis51@gmail.com or sherrydevlin@gmail.com.

Again, many thanks to the entire congregation of First UMC, and to SBS Solar, NorthWestern Energy, the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church and all our friends and supporters across Missoula. Those 66 panels atop our building are a testament to our faith in – and commitment to – a healthy and livable future for our children and grandchildren.