

NorthWestern Energy Awards First UMC \$500 Rebate for New Sanctuary Light Bulbs

Our heartfelt thanks – and bright, shiny praises – go out to NorthWestern Energy for providing Missoula First UMC with a \$500 rebate for the costs we incurred earlier this year while installing new energy efficient light bulbs in the sanctuary.

In late April, Winton Kemmis led a team of volunteers that replaced all 180 light bulbs in our sanctuary's 24 large hanging fixtures. He estimated that the next-generation LED bulbs brighten our sanctuary by 30-40 percent, but use a fraction of the energy. The new bulbs burn 13.5 watts of electricity while providing the illumination of a 100-watt incandescent bulb.

As the new bulbs were making their debut, First UMC's Green Team did a bit of research and discovered NorthWestern Energy's E+ Electric Lighting Rebate program. With Winton's help, the Green Team submitted a rebate application in early June. Total cost of the light bulb replacement was \$1,400; NorthWestern typically provides a partial rebate.

In early August, we got word – and then a check – for \$500, which will reimburse First UMC for part of the costs incurred during April's light bulb project. Thank you, NorthWestern Energy!

Plus, we will reap the benefits of a well-lit sanctuary and lower electricity usage – and bills – and lower our carbon footprint. Hurrah for fiscal and environmental responsibility!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the rebate application: Winton Kemmis, Scott Derenburger (Western Montana Lighting), Leslie Lindley, Carole Addis and Sherry Devlin.

Where should we look for energy savings next? Share your ideas with Green Team co-chair Jim Gillison by email at james.gillison@msn.com.