

Green Notes: It's a Solar Power Party ... In Your Honor

You're invited to a party! In fact, you're the guests of honor!

On Sunday, Oct. 2, the Green Team is hosting a chili dog extravaganza following worship to celebrate the installation of solar panels atop our building.

We'll have hot dogs, chili and all the toppings, chips, veggies, deviled eggs and desserts – all served on the front lawn of our historic church, with a healthy side of fun and fellowship.

Worship starts at 10:30 a.m. and will feature brief remarks by members of the Green Team and a prayer of consecration for our solar installation by Pastor John Daniels. Lunch will follow immediately after the service, at about 11:30 a.m.

There will be surprises throughout the morning, and lots of information – including a new slideshow – about solar power and the 66 panels that will now provide 80 percent of our building's electricity.

And, of course, we'll give thanks to all the individuals, groups and businesses that made this miracle happen in just eight short months. Our congregation enthusiastically supported the fundraising campaign that netted the \$18,353 needed to meet our required 30 percent match. The Methodist Church's Mountain Sky Conference contributed \$1,000 to the cause, and our contractor, SBS Solar of Missoula, donated \$1,500 of its time and expertise. AND NorthWestern Energy brought what seemed like an impossible dream to reality by awarding First UMC a \$46,323 grant from its E+ Renewable Energy program.

After nearly 150 years of worship on Main Street in downtown Missoula, Methodists are again leading the way, putting our faith into action.

Please join us at 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, Oct. 2 to celebrate. Worship will be followed by a chili dog extravaganza on the front lawn, displays in our Narthex, and fun and fellowship for the whole family! The sun is shining on Missoula Methodists!