

Green Notes: Weekly Updates from First UMC's Green Team

Missoula Recycles 1 Million Pounds of Glass!

Wow! Wow! Wow! Have you heard the good news? In just three years, Missoula's Recycling Works has collected and recycled more than 1 million pounds of glass. And First United Methodist has been part of that effort from the start!

"The success of this organization would not be possible without you and the Missoula community rallying around our mission, so thank you!" the hardworking Recycling Works team said in announcing the million-pound milestone. "We appreciate the time you take to recycle each and every clean bottle and jar."

And here's more good news: Our congregation's participation in the glass reuse program continues to grow. In the past two weeks, we've added two new names to our roster: Cindy Thiel and Janet McMillan. Welcome Cindy and Janet! And thank you to the 37 other First Church families who participate in the program.

Now let's bump up our participation to 50 First UMC families and friends. (You don't need to be a member of our church to participate in our collection program!) If we reach that mark, we can cut the per-family cost by \$1.

Here's a little history to remind you how the program started:

About three years ago, Recycling Works approached the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative with a proposition. If local churches collected glass from their congregations, Recycling Works would provide the collection bins and on-site pickup service.

First Church's Green Team signed on immediately, and our congregation responded! We've gone from one collection bin to two to three. And we can continue to add more bins as participation increases. What we appreciate about the program is Recycling Works' dedication to reuse all the glass collected.

Over the years, they've found a network of industries in Salt Lake City that reuse our glass: for composite decking, road bed aggregate, new bottles, and insulation. Every pound of glass deposited in our gray and red bins is reused. And glass is 100 percent recyclable; it can be recycled endlessly without loss in quality of purity.

To join First Church's program, contact Sherry Devlin by phone at (406) 546-1016 or by email at sherrydevlin@gmail.com. The cost is \$5 per month per family. Our collection bins are located in the backyard of the Missoula Symphony Office, next door to the church. Remove the lids, but labels can remain. Simply rinse out the glass, and it's ready for recycling. Colored or clear glass is accepted. Thank you, First Church, for making this program such a success!