

SPECIAL POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Priority List
- Lent Recit-  
als
- Worship -  
March
- Hospitality
- Priority List
- One Great  
Hour of  
Sharing

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# THE *Congregationalist*

VOLUME 29

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## From the Moderator: Mic Dawson

### Spiritual Gifts

“There are different gifts but the same Spirit. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

This was the scriptural basis for the Church Council retreat held in February as we considered several questions:

1. What do we do well?
2. What are the primary values for you of what it means to be church in downtown Billings, Montana?
3. What things are absolutely essential for us to do/to be church?
4. Is there anything essential for us to be church that we are missing?
5. If our church were doing more of this, what would we see, hear, smell, taste?

There was a great deal of discussion on how boards and committees would look like in relation to these questions, with further questions:

1. What values do we want to be a part of every board and committee at Billings First Church?
2. What changes in our church, or the broader church, require committees or boards to be constructed differently?
3. What functions do we want every board and committee to perform?
4. How would every committee and board serve the whole church?
5. How would new people become active and informed in participating in committees and boards?
6. How a great idea would (agreed by everyone that it is a great idea) travel through from an individual or a committee to gain approval by the whole of the church?

A lot to think about in a short time span but as indicated there will be more thought, prayer and discussion as we move to rebuild our church. Take some time, consider the scripture passage and the questions. How would you answer them? We'd love to know!

## Lenten Recital Series and Soup Luncheon

Our annual FRIDAY NOON LENTEN RECITAL SERIES. Programs are as follows:

**Friday, March 4** Barbara Gulick, Organist

**Friday, March 11** Palma Wolverton, pianist

**Friday, March 18** Karen Poling, pianist, Brad Brown, baritone soloist, & Students from St. Charles Indian Mission School

Recitals begin at 12:05 in the sanctuary. A soup and bread luncheon will be available following each program in the parlor/library of the church. Soup is catered by Soup and Such. Suggested donation \$5.00.

## Rev. Michael Mulberry, Sr. Minister

In a recent article in *The Christian Century*, Duke Divinity Professor Will Willimon, penned a profound article titled, "Why leaders are a pain: truth-telling in the parish." In that article, Willimon shares how issues facing church leadership are quite different than they were fifteen to twenty years ago. Caregiving is always less costly than leading, Willimon believes, and so caregiving will always be what faith leaders default to as a way of avoiding pain for themselves and for their congregations. Here is the struggle though. Willimon knows that the Living God will never be served by the church and the church will never survive if the church does not see the necessity to continually reposition and refit itself.

Just yesterday I received an email from a parishioner I deeply respect blaming me for his personal unhappiness and sadness and for the current state of affairs in church life. I walked away from the letter very aware of how much hate and vitriol there is for me presently in this congregation. The tone of the letter rhymed with much of the rumor and innuendo getting back to me from the congregation.

"If only Mike Mulberry had not arrived at our church, we would now be the thriving and bustling church our historically wise and sage leaders have provided for us in their direction. Attendance would be up. The budget would be solved. And the worship would be personally meaningful for everyone in attendance almost every Sunday morning."

What strikes me about that critique is it is the same one I receive from an anonymous evangelical caller every time my picture appears in the paper. He usually calls at about 10:00 p.m. certain that I will not have the opportunity to respond. And he tells me that I and the church I lead are failures because we do not have the markers of his evangelical church, the one just across town in Billings.

I can easily smile and delete his messages when he calls. He does not share my values to recognize that being a Christian always has the word "cross" within it. The word "cross" knows that failure, and struggle, and pain, and change are part of the journey. But when the people you give your heart to and deeply respect offer the same narrative--that gets into your bloodstream. You reflect on what more you could have done. You read each word over and over again to see what you have been missing. You cry in embarrassment that love and leadership and hard work are seen as intentional attempts to harm a community.

I believed, as I took this job and as Willimon says in the article, good leaders have to tolerate great pain. And there are so many pastoral leaders who want instead a congregation's adoration. I will have to tolerate pain. That's just how it is. The only way my pain can be lessened in the process is if the congregation decides to share in it.

What is the most difficult in this whole conflict though is the remembering of a search process when members of the search committee and the congregation spoke to me about the need for significant change. Some staff and congregational members even whispered that they thought the church would certainly die within a few years. The interim minister, Rev. Tom Hall, did not paint a rosy picture. At that time, everyone seemed to know that the current course could not continue.

When I arrived, I saw a church "siloed" into age groups. I knew I was in trouble because almost the whole congregation had made peace with that. Kim Harris will tell you that I forbid her from telling the youth that what they did was "their worship" on Wednesday nights. I pushed, cajoled, and hounded all of the staff to build relationships intergenerationally and outside our community, to broaden everyone's perspective, because I believe in the church as Paul describes it in I Corinthians 12. As I heard the distrust beginning to build, I knew I was in even more trouble.

All the while, I sat through staff and Church Council meetings where I was told that the budget was in emergency mode, we were down to barebones. Again and again, it was stated that all we could do was cut staff. I was also assured that cutting staff would lead to wholesale departures of a group within the church. So I knew that cutting staff was not an option.

Before I even arrived, I was amazed at the huge amount of money the church had agreed to take from the Endowment Fund to save the general budget. It did not correspond with how I had encouraged Endowment Funds to operate at former churches or even Endowment Funds I had set up at my previous church. Those were used for concrete missions and ministries.

Sometimes I feel shock and even whiplash that less than two years into my ministry here people might suggest that I have diverted the church from its return to “glory years.” Not only because of the state of affairs before I arrived, but because I have a passion for facilitation, team building, and mutual work. I get far more satisfaction encouraging others than I do completing the work myself. Yep, I will take over when it is left to me. But I would rather work it out together. I think that is reflected in the recent leadership I offered at the Church Council retreat, why I am a good fit on the Native American Council, and how I share the good news of Community Innovations.

Here is what I am willing to do and why I thought this church called me. I am willing to lead. And I recognize that can be a painful process. Teresa Kennedy resigned, and I know that is creating deep pain for many of you. *She* resigned with promises from the Personnel Committee that nobody would be fired or their salary cut because of evaluations this year. Yes, cuts were being countenanced because of budget deficits. But not because of evaluations.

Many times when a new Senior Minister is called, the rest of the staff is let go. That is not done because the Senior Minister is somehow lacking in collegiality or wants “his or her” people in place. That is done because a staff, that has become comfortable with how things are, will bristle under a senior staff person who holds them accountable in new ways and wants to help them imagine how things might be.

My belief is that if you want me to cater to individual happiness and desire, I will not be able to lead. It is as Willimon wrote in the article,

*In a class on clergy leadership, one of my colleagues asked the students, “What is the most important thing pastors offer congregations?”*

*A seminarian replied, “Just to be present with people—listen, love, and stand with them.”*

*“That’s not good enough,” snapped back this professor of pastoral care. “You must have the courage to be a Christian caregiver. You can’t do that without being a truth teller. Individuals and congregations can’t get better unless somebody cares enough to help them hear and respond to the facts.”*

*Rabbi Edwin Friedman, author of A Failure of Nerve, contends that empathy is the great enemy of pastoral leadership. Empathy can be a form of pastoral self-protection, disguised as the desire to shield others from pain.*

I know there is much more hate, vitriol, and pain waiting for me out there. I do not expect it to be easy. I will not be perfect, particularly as the stress and the emotion push in on me. But I do want to lead and fulfill the original call I believe God had for me in this place. In the end, I may be too damaged in your minds to go forward. At the least then, I hope I will prepare the way for a new leader who might put the facts before you and tell you the truth. Shalom, Mike

## Youth and Young Adults

We had a somewhat of a low key month with our youth in February! The older youth after spending so much of their youth group time in December/January preparing for the 12th night feast finally got back to having 'normal' youth group with some great discussions. At one of our Wednesday nights we spent some time doing a reflective meditation on the Tim McGraw song Humble and Kind. We have posted the song and meditation on the Facebook page, join us in the discussion.

We also had our annual Sweetheart Dinner where we had a wonderful evening with a presidential theme and beef stew and cherry cheesecake. We also had wonderful entertainment that included some amazing singing, great instrument playing, beautiful dancing and hilarious comedy! The youth raised \$770, thank you to everyone for their support in bringing food, serving in the kitchen and all those who came out and supported the evening! We are truly blessed by the endless great support this community gives to our youth!

To end the month the older youth had their mystery event at Crooked Line Studio where they spent the afternoon working together building and creating collages about and for each other! Everyone got to go home with their own personalized collage that embodies their personality through the eyes of each youth group member!

March is again gearing up to be a great month! Just for this month we are having our Family Fun night the 3rd Friday of the month!! We will be going to Steep World on Friday, March 18 from 6-8 pm. There will be free climbing and they will have the ropes and belays out for rappelling. Cost is \$10/climber which includes shoe rental. Nonclimbers are free. Please RSVP to Kim or the church office by Thursday, March 17 at noon.

Our Older Youth mystery event will be the third Sunday, March 20, 3:30-5:30 pm. Further details will come out at a later date.

We will have our annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 20 at First Church. This year is going to be a little different. We will be having the breakfast after church instead of before and we will be serving upstairs in the narthex/library. Come join us for a great pancake breakfast, cost is free will offering.

We will be starting a young adult book group to meet the first Sunday of the month starting April 3. Our first book will be Love Wins by Rob Bell. The church will purchase a copy of the book for this first month if you let Kim or the church office know you would like a copy by March 1. The book group will meet 5-7 pm at Kim's house. Please contact Kim if you are interested!

Don't forget to join the youth for dinner on Wednesday nights at 6 pm, we are still looking for people to provide dinners in April and May. Contact Kim if you are available to provide dinner!

## Hospitality

Whenever I have been a visitor at a church, the most uncomfortable times have been coffee hour and Passing of the Peace. Have you recently been at a coffee hour where you did not know anyone? It is difficult, at least for me, to pretend that I am comfortable standing with my coffee cup ALONE, pretending that I am comfortable, enjoying myself, fitting in when I AM NOT.

It is also difficult during Passing of the Peace to feel comfortable. It is easier for me when I am a visitor in a staid, solemn church in which people automatically pump each other's hands and say what they are supposed to say, "The peace of Christ be with you."

The problem comes when I am in a church in which people are not at all staid and solemn. . . in a church in which people are obviously comfortable with each other and are hugging and giving secret signals and asking about each other's kids. . . In cases like this, I tend to shake a few hands and then sit down and hope the whole deal will be over soon. I tend to feel like I stick out, like I am the only one who doesn't know 25 other people to hug. . .

So what helps in such a situation? Well, it helps me if someone (anyone) comes up and genuinely is friendly. . . talks to me about who I am, who they are, what work they do, what they like to do outside of work, what I do for work, what I do outside of work, where we are from, etc. . . There inevitably is something interesting that we both like or have an opinion about. If that happens, I start to feel comfortable, "in," and before I know it, the Passing of the Peace or coffee hour is over and I am wishing it weren't.



## Lenten Wednesday Studies

### Important Dates This March

3/4 Lent Recital Series~ 12:05 pm  
 3/8 **Diaconate Meeting** 7:00 pm Library  
 3/11 **Lenten Recital~ 12:05 pm**  
 3/15 **Council Meeting** 7:00 p.m. Library  
 3/16 **Lenten Study 6:00pm~** Billings First  
 3/17 **Primetimer's Dinnertime** 5:30 p.m. at Gusick's , rsvp to church office.  
 3/18 **Lent Recital Series~** 12:05 pm  
 3/20 **Palm Sunday & Youth Pancake Breakfast.**  
 3/24 **Maundy Thursday~ 7:00 pm**  
 3/25-27 **Church Open for Easter Vigil**  
**Sign up in Narthex**  
 3/27 **Easter Sunday!**  
 3/28 **Office Closed**

### Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. through Lent

"Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants." With that seven-word maxim, US-based journalist Michael Pollan distills a career's worth of reporting into a prescription for reversing the damage being done to people's health by today's industrially driven Western diet. Pollan offers an answer to one of the most urgent questions of our time: What should I eat to be healthy? Join us for this movie and a great meal and good soup and bread.

Wednesday, March 2: First English Lutheran

Wednesday, March 9: Mayflower

Wednesday, March 16: Billings First



Family Promise has moved into its new day center! Come to the open house at the **Family Promise Fortin Foundation Day Center** Saturday, March 4, from noon to 4 p.m. located at 10 26<sup>th</sup> Street South. It is beautiful and practical. Office space. Classroom and counseling. Like that. Each family will have their own bathroom and space for belongings.

This Sunday I will have a thank you letter to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for everyone to sign, thanking them for generously providing the Day Center at their church building while the program was getting started.

We have Family Promise on the following dates this year:

May 1 to 7  
 July 31 to August 6  
 October 30 to November 5

I'll try to remind you.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our hosting in February such a success. We were prepared for four families. We made up all of the beds and set up the Sunday School rooms to look just like bedrooms. Then lo! Three of the families moved into their own places!

I call that success! Setting up and taking down the rooms takes less than an hour with help from everyone. We usually get four or five people from First United Methodist Church helping us.

Special thanks to Vivian Smith who prepared breakfast for the final Saturday. She has been an enthusiastic participant in our church's role in Family Promise, as well as an active new participant in our Sunday worship. I couldn't find Vivian's phone number anywhere to tell her that we had just one person for breakfast that last day, so she came and couldn't find anyone! I promise that won't happen again!

## Mayflower Circle

Mayflower Circle will meet March 15, 2016 at the Conference Office 2016 Alderson Ave. The meeting begins at 1:00 pm. the program will be “Missionary to Billings” by Emma Kerr-Carpenter. Guests are always welcome and you are encouraged to bring a friend. Call Myrle Theimer at 245-3650 with questions.

## Spiritual Director-In-Residence

Last month I wrote about spiritual practices that we have covenanted together to observe, more specifically spiritual practices that build community, and I asked for additions from the congregation to the list that I started. Having received none, I’ll continue with an addition of my own—the practice of wisdom. We are all gifted with what Parker Palmer calls an inner teacher. When the Women’s Spiritual Growth Book Group read and discussed Richard Rohr’s “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life,” we learned that our “wisdom gene” doesn’t kick in until sometime in our second half of life. With the demographics of our congregation, we should be very wise indeed! What is wisdom? At the very least it is making decisions and acting with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment. Recently the Tuesday morning book group finished reading and discussing Sarah Bakewell’s “How to Live: A Life of Montaigne.” We discovered that wisdom is also knowing how to live so that we are at peace with ourselves and with others. Several books in the Hebrew scriptures—Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon—are referred to as Wisdom Literature. Sharing wisdom from one generation to the next is part of our Judaeo-Christian heritage. As our congregation walks through a discernment process concerning our future mission and ministry, practicing wisdom becomes an important spiritual practice, particularly in regard to being open to and seeking new knowledge gained from our changing culture.

On Sunday, March 6, Women’s Sunday, the choir will sing an anthem based on the wisdom of St. Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord.  
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.  
Where there’s despair let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let there be light,  
Where there is sadness, let there be joy,  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
And it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

I am available for spiritual direction, as desired. Please contact me at 259-3622 or [bjgulick@bresnan.net](mailto:bjgulick@bresnan.net).

**Barbara Gulick, MRE, DASD**

## Gratitude from Rev. Michael Mulberrys

First, I want to thank all of the people of our church who participated in making Margaret Ping’s memorial service a powerful and memorable day. Our staff members were integral in giving extra time to set up, alleviate anxiety, offer their talents, and even give way to Mayflower’s leadership to honor Margaret in a way that was fitting, mutual, and loving. Thanks to Breanna Rolandson, Kim Harris, Barbara Dobesh, and Laura Blodgett for how they navigated a path that made it all come together. Our staff works beyond hours all the time for our church. This was above and beyond in working surplus hours for another faith community.

Thanks also to the Church Council for all of their investment in our retreat weekend and putting your trust in me to lead you out. Your hard work in preparation, hard work to build consensus, willingness to listen to one another, and love for your church were in full display. I am grateful.

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Briana Price Owen Norsworthy	<b>2</b> Jase Norsworthy Jr.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> M.A. Bellingham Angus Fulton	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> John Degges	<b>12</b> Sara Howland
<b>13</b> Terra Price	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Cathy Brown	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Doug Barnes Karen Hyvonen	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Susan Arneson Donna Forbes
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Kay Bartlett	<b>22</b> Troy Krieger Nick Hingle	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Tom Howard	<b>25</b> Fran Oland	<b>26</b> Bess Redlund
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Mark Lubbers Dan Struckman	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Mike Mulberry</b>	<b>31</b>		

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Become a friend of "Billings First"  
and get important information online and updated daily!

# Billings First Church

## First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC)

*Theologically progressive, radically inclusive,  
committed to justice!*

310 N. 27th Street  
Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 406-245-6477

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E-mail: [firstchurch@firstchurchbillings.org](mailto:firstchurch@firstchurchbillings.org)

An "Open & Affirming/Peace with  
Justice" Church

### Our Staff

**Rev. Michael Mulberry, Senior Minister**

**Kimmie Harris, Youth/Young Adults**

**Laura Blodgett, Chancel Choir**

**Jo Lokken, Melody Choir**

**Barbara Dobesh, Organist/Pianist**

**Steve Plaggemeyer, Assistant Organ/Piano**

**Susan Ogden, Parish Nurse**

**Jan Duffy, Bookkeeping**

**Breanna Rolandson, Administrative Assistant**

**Barbara Gulick, Spiritual Director-In-Residence**

### Our Ministers

**Every member of the congregation!**



*Your March Congregationalist is here!*

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## Worship Highlights~ March

With Lent will bring a series of story sermons. Stories have this incredible, open-ended power to understand symbols and metaphors in a way that is both individual and collective. I hope it might also open up all of our faith stories to hear what you need to hear during this Lenten season.

At the end of March, comes an early Holy Week and Easter. We will once again offer a Maundy Thursday service which has us sharing communion, washing feet, and praying in the garden as a way of taking us through holy story. We continue with story in an eco-justice Stations of the Cross through downtown Billings at 12:00 p.m. If you are willing to be a reader, please let Rev. Mulberry know.

On Good Friday evening, we will begin an Easter Vigil in the chapel that goes to the morning of Easter Day. Sign-ups in half hour intervals for that holy time will be posted closer to the date. Come to show solidarity with Christ, when all is night and the world mourns. Reading, listening, and visual material will be provided for this time.

Finally, come in Easter joy to our Easter Day service on Sunday, March 27. It is a time to break fast but remember and take in what our fasting has taught us during these 40 days in the wilderness.

### Fourth Sunday of Lent~ Purple

March 6, 2016

The Beginning of UCC Women's Week~ Rev. Barbara Archer leading and organizing the worship service

### Fifth Sunday of Lent~ Purple

March 13, 2016

*Daylight Savings Time begins! Spring forward: turn your clocks ahead.*

Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32: "The Older Brother Speaks" Liturgist-Marcy Brown; Scripture Reader: Evan Page

### Palm/Passion Sunday~ Red

March 20, 2016

Scripture: 19:28-44: "Weeping Over Jerusalem" Liturgist-Mary Jane Taylor; Scripture Reader: Emma Kerr-Carpenter

### Maundy Thursday~ White

March 24, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Moving through the night service: Older Youth and Diaconate lead us out in Communion, Footwashing (bring socks and shoes easy to remove), and Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### Good Friday~ Stripped of Color

March 25, 2016, 12:00 p.m.

Joint Service with other communities moving through the downtown area.

Eco-Justice Stations of the Cross moving through the downtown area to make the last hard road of Lent real in our lives and in our community. Join us outside the church to begin.

### Easter Vigil

Friday, March 25 to Sunday, March 27

Sign up for half-hour intervals for as long as you want or for multiple times to keep vigil and be in solidarity with God in Christ as we mourn, encounter the silence, and expectant waiting for new life. Call the church office to sign up for times from Friday, April 3, 2:00 p.m. to Sunday, 7:00 a.m. (approximate sunrise).

Materials provided: music, books, art, spiritual forms and reflection. All to be used for your time in vigil.

### Easter Day!

Sunday, March 27

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12: "All of us ascending" Special Music and Singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus!"

Liturgist- Ed Gulick; Scripture Reader: Natasha Potratz

## One Great Hour Of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs, and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

We will receive this offering on **Sunday, March 20**. If you cannot be in church that day, please send your check to the church with OGHS on the memo line or donate online at [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs).

## Steering Committee

Below is the work of Ed Gulick and Rev. Mike Mulberry. We presented this to Church Council for editing, feedback, and reflection. In turn, Church Council suggested that this work show up in *The Congregationalist* so that the whole congregation might reflect on people who might also be a part of The Steering Committee.

In effect, The Steering Committee is to be the liaison and interpreter for *the process*. The charrette seeks to include the *whole congregation* in the decision-making process.

### Steering Committee for Discernment Process with High Plains Architects

1. The Steering Committee will finalize with High Plains Architects its scope of work: the process, the roles various parties play, and the deliverables to the congregation at the end of the process.
2. The Steering Committee shall be able to communicate and interpret the process and resulting deliverables to the congregation.
3. The Steering Committee shall help facilitate the charrette.
4. The Steering Committee shall provide feedback for decisions that need to be made before and after the design charrette.
5. The Steering Committee shall be knowledgeable about the process and the outcomes and will work toward full transparency to allow for full participation.
6. The Steering Committee shall regularly report to Church Council and be responsible to Church Council.
7. The Steering Committee shall give regular updates to the congregation.

#### Guidelines for the Steering Committee:

- 5 to 7 people
- Someone realistic but visionary
- Constituencies that would be good to have represented
  - Buildings and Grounds
  - Endowment Committee
  - A gender balance
  - Someone who attends Church Council to provide inherent connection, interpretation, and transparency.

Suggestions Ed and I would make for the Steering Committee:

Tom Tully  
Bonnie Daniels  
Wayne Gustafson  
Cindy Crist  
Dan Cohn  
Amy Dunphy  
Lyla Dyer

Alternates: Virginia Bryan, Karen Stainton, Judy Burnam

We believe Mic Dawson would be the best person to make personal contact with these people.

## Priority List Update

Last year at this time, we had received enough input from the congregation to begin work on a capital congregational priority list. The time has come to reflect on that list and decide how we might want to move forward with a new list. Here is the former list with updates on our progress:

In no particular order:

- Van/mini-bus for seniors and youth
- Green Energy Building: congregation voted to take \$40,000 from the Endowment Fund to begin a discernment process with High Plains Architects.
- New choir robes (*This has been taken from the list as choir membership and leadership does not believe there is a need for new choir robes.*)
- Light for the grand piano (*A congregational member offered to purchase, but removed from the list as our music staff decided there was no need for this light at the time*)
- A new sound/video system for sanctuary and beyond: Breanna Rolandson and Rev. Mulberry sought out multiple, potential sound and video professionals to present before Church Council and staff. Three bids were presented and a final bid was sought from Sound Ideas. After receiving a final bid that looked nothing like the proposed bid, church leadership decided to go in a different direction and look outside the Billings' area. Poindexter's from Bozeman was brought in and presented multiple bids providing for a gradual upscaling of sound and video. Recognizing the need to update the wiring in the sanctuary, the lowest bid was accepted so that that the wiring update could take place as well. With the money not available to go to a video system and the number of times we were renting the video screen, Rev. Mulberry made a decision to purchase the screen at a discounted price.
- Outside church sign
- Church signage within our building
- Shelves for the sacristy
- Recruitment/Welcome campaign: As the Chair of Hospitality, Rev. Cheryl Stewart has provided a strong presence for increasing our formal welcome of visitors. In its retreat this past month, Church Council began outlining a plan to develop a much more systematic approach to recruitment and welcome.
- Powerpoint possibilities for sanctuary: With the money not available to go to a video system and the number of times we were renting the temporary fix of a video screen, Rev. Mulberry made a decision to purchase the screen at a discounted price.