

Mountain Proclamations

a publication of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Mountain Home, Idaho

www.mhfceucc.org

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churchinfo@mhfceucc.org

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Changes for the Children

We are now asking that the children of the church sit with their parents or grandparents during church services. The Coloring Table in the back of the church has caused some disturbances as there is no one to supervise the children. We hope that there will soon be enough children to restart our Children's Church, but until then, the children are quite welcome to worship with the entire church family in the Sanctuary.

Thanks,
Christian Education Committee

Lenten Disciplines

Wednesday Lenten potluck and meditations

On **Wednesday, March 13th**, we began our traditional Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Meditation. Beginning at **6 p.m.** we will share in a potluck supper. Please bring food to share and your place setting, if possible. Beverages will be provided.

At 6:30, begin the Lenten meditation, which is based on the book *Who is This Man?* By John Ortberg. This five-session, DVD-based, small group Bible study reveals how Jesus made an inescapable influence on our world and you will learn how you can make one, too. Please feel free to join in at any time.

There will be a DVD and book. The book is **not** a necessary component of the study, because the DVD and discussion will cover the things in the book. If you would still like to order a book, please contact the office. The suggested donation for the book is \$10 to help defray costs.

One Great Hour of Sharing

“More Than You Can Imagine...”

Hurricane Maria caused unimaginable damage in Puerto Rico. Who would believe that so much infrastructure, electricity and housing were destroyed? People's lives and families were disrupted.

For Edda, a woman who lives in a house once belonging to her parents, the thought of losing her childhood home to the storm was unimaginable. Hurricane Maria left the roof of

her house in such bad shape that water was leaking through her home every time it rained. To make matters worse, Edda's husband had recently undergone knee surgery. She had to put towels and buckets around the inside of the house so he didn't slip or fall on the wet floors.

Edda couldn't fix her roof by herself and because of the surgery, her husband couldn't either. They could not imagine how the repairs on their home would happen. They could not imagine that strangers would come and help them with a good roof that could weather the next storm.

Thanks to the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR), and help from four amazing volunteers, their roof was fixed in four days. Edda was grateful for the help because it wasn't possible for her to do it alone.

Lydia Rosaly, with IEUPR shared Edda's story, and like Edda, Lydia is thankful for our support, and walking with them towards a holistic long-term recovery.

Your support provides more than we can imagine. Thank you!

Please give generously! For more information, go to: www.onegreathourofsharing.org
www.ucc.org/oghs

We will take this offering on **Palm Sunday, April 14th**. Coin boxes and suggested-giving calendars are available on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 14th**. This very different, and oddly named, offering accomplishes a wonderful and not often thought of service for the disadvantaged in our community. Any time during Lent, bring in new packages of *any* type of undergarments - socks, underwear, t-shirts, foundation garments - for any age group or gender. When all the offerings are collected, they will be taken to St. Vincent De Paul or El-Ada for distribution to the disadvantaged in our area.

Easter Candy, Please?

The Christian Education Board has *plenty* of eggs. But they are all empty. **Between now and Sunday, April 7th**, please bring in your donations of Easter candy. Your donation needs

to be nut-free, individually wrapped and small enough to fit in a plastic egg – fun size is best.

If you would like to help fill all those eggs we have with all the candy you bring, we will be filling eggs after worship on **Sunday, April 14th**. Any and all help is welcome.

Thank you for your continued generosity with this annual event.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for March will be held on **Friday, April 12th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Linda Miller and Kay Eilebrecht are hostesses. Terri Jones is providing the worship. ALL women of the church are invited to join us in this day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be **Wednesday, April 10th and Wednesday, April 24th at 11:00 a.m.** in the Pastor's office. We are continuing to study *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer. Feel free to join us as you can. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

If you wish to be placed on the Women's Bible Study email list, please send an email to the church office at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org.

Spring Clean

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, April 13th, beginning at 9 a.m.** This event is open to *all* members/attendees of the church, not just the Trustees. Come on out and help clean windows, woodwork, the nursery, and weather permitting, the flower beds. Bring your favorite cleaning equipment and come join the fun.

Easter Lily Dedications

If you would like to dedicate an Easter lily this year, you may bring it to the church any time the office is open during Holy Week, **April 15 - 19**. If you would like your memorial or honorable mention to be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletins, please have that information to the church office by **1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16th**. Office hours are from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Email is always welcome for the dedications – churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Forms for dedications will be on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary. Please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

Holy Week/Easter

Palm Sunday, April 14th, regular worship time of 11 a.m. This is when we will take the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and conclude the Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering.

NO Lenten Potluck and Meditation on Wednesday, April 17th

Thursday, April 18th at 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meager Meal in the Fellowship Hall – not a potluck.

Friday, April 19th at 7 p.m. Good Friday Service, at Christian and Baptist, 265 N. 4th E. *This is a change from the March newsletter.*

April 21st Easter Sunday,
7 a.m. – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
7:45 a.m. – Easter Breakfast given by the men of the church
8:15 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt
11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

Annual Rummage Sale

Donations and Rummage Sale Set-up

Since this is the **only** rummage sale we do all year, clean those closets, basements, attics and garages well! Then bring your donation-worthy, gently-used items to the church. Set up this year is going to be **Thursday, April 25th, 3 to 5 p.m. and Friday, April 26th, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.** Or you can drop your donations by the office anytime the office is open.

Please remember, we cannot take any items that would cost the Women's Fellowship to dispose of if they don't sell. This would include any old tires, hazardous chemicals (this includes paint), or old electronic items – old computers, televisions and the like.

Any help that you can provide with set up, during the sale, or taking things down after the sale will be very greatly appreciated. Contact Linda Miller or Terri Jones to schedule your help time.

The Sale

The Annual Rummage Sale will be on **Saturday, April 27** from **8 a.m. until noon**. Come browse through the gently used treasures. Support the church and do a little wardrobe make-over, home redecorating or even spoil the kids or grandkids a little without breaking the bank. Come early and bring a friend.

Are you graduating this year?

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? Please let the church office know by **Monday, April 15th**.

First Congregational Church *Scholarship*

If you are graduating from high school this year and plan to go on to college, contact the church office, a member of the Diaconate Board or a member of the Women's Fellowship to get a Scholarship application. **These are due by Friday, April 26th**.

Changes to the Sanctuary

In an effort to maximize the use of the chancel area of the sanctuary, the trustees are considering removing the altar from the wall.

This will accomplish a number of things. The altar will become a free standing and movable altar that will allow for greater flexibility in use of the chancel area. The step (or riser) under the altar can then be removed. This will enable the bell choir more room for their performances without the fear of tripping over the step.

Based on better use of the front of the church and the added safety, the trustees believe that this change is in the best interest of the congregation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any member of the Trustees.

The Big Blue Bucket

It's a little hard to remember the Food Pantry when we are not in the midst of "eating holidays", however, the Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran still has plenty of customers. Please pick up one or two extra items for The Big Blue Bucket when you do your own household shopping. Personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies are as welcome as food.

Thank You!

Paper! Wonderful Paper

One sure thing that makes life easier on a secretary is knowing there's plenty of paper in the cupboard for all the things the office needs. On that note - Thank you to **whoever** it was that left the donation of legal sized (8.5 x 14) paper in the UPS box around February 27th. This is the size we use for the newsletter. Thank you to the **generous soul** who left a whole case of 8.5 x 11 copy paper by the church door on the morning of Thursday, March 7th! And also a big Thank you

to **Tony Deal** for giving 2 more reams of paper to the office. With the Directory going out, this came in very handy. Everyone's thoughtful consideration of the Church's everyday needs is most appreciated.

Eddie Bush and Lee Wright

Notice anything different about the old baseboard heaters in the Sanctuary? What? You don't see any baseboard heaters? That's right! Eddie and Lee removed them and replaced them with paneling that they matched just about perfectly with the rest of the Sanctuary. Thank you, Eddie and Lee, for all your hard work and dedication of time and talent.

Blanket Sunday

"Dear Friends at First Congregational Church,

This winter, the phrase "polar vortex" was scary enough for those of us who have warm shelter and blankets. But imagine how scary it was for families living on the streets as they tried to find an open door, warm fabric...anything to get them through those deadly temperatures.

When your congregation participates in **CWS Blankets**, you stock shelters and community organizations with tools to respond to these fears. You open doors. You cover neighbors in warmth. You give hope for survival. Because congregations like yours reached out, **we were able to provide over 54,000 blankets in the United States alone last year!**

Thank you for generously watching over your global family,

Matthew Stevens
Director of Congregational Giving
Church World Service"

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 12th, Mother's Day**. Each \$10 donation provides one warm blanket. For more about what Church World Services does, go to www.cwsglobal.org. They do much more than blankets.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be the week of **July 13 – 19**. We will be collaborating with Christian and Baptist and Grace Lutheran again this year. Watch the newsletters, the bulletins and the website for more information to come.

Summer Camp

Summer camp will be the **July 7th through the 13th**. If you have youth or know youth from 3rd grade to 12th grade who are interested in camp, the cost this year will be approximately \$350.

If you would like to be a counselor or a counselor-in-training, please contact the church office and we will pass your name and contact information along to this year's camp coordinator.

Relay for Life

As everyone knows Curtis and I participate in the Relay For Life, and this year is no different. Curtis and I have officially started our fundraising for the 2019 Relay For Life season, and we are hoping that we can count on the support of our wonderful and loving church family. No donation is too small for this worthy cause.

Here is why we participate in the Relay For Life. Curtis was a cancer survivor of 7 years when his cancer came back May of 2017. He underwent 8 grueling weeks of radiation and has been cancer free since then. We also lost our son-in-law Nicholas Tomsic October 19, 2017 to cancer. We Relay for many reasons, but our main reason is so others, such as Curtis, can have many more birthdays. Please help us to help the American Cancer Society rid the world of this dreaded disease called cancer. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, please see Curtis or I either before or after church every Sunday until the Relay which takes place on August 3rd at Carl Miller Park from 11 AM to 11 PM. We hope to see you there.

*Thank you & God Bless,
Ann & Curtis Carlin*

April Birthdays

2 – Roger Fogleman	17- Patricia Urbick
4 – Randy Ramsey	20 - Barbara Fogleman
6 – Rose Pearsall	22 – Linda Miller
10 – Leonard DeVore	23 – Orville Thomsen
15 – Char Kaufman	24 – Emma Duty
16- Mildred McNeal	25 – Billy Roeder
16- Hailey Townsend	26 – Debi Deal
17 – Jennifer Dillenbeck	26 – Linda Thomsen
	29 – Tony Deal

April Anniversaries

10 – Mike and Alice Keas

Special Angels for April

LITURGISTS (Tony Deal)

7 – Tony Deal
14 – Rita Olson
21, Sunrise – Cara Grindle and Amy Sowden
21, 11 a.m. – Heidi Harris
28 – Bid Sanders

GREETERS (Heidi Harris)

7 – Mimi Carlton and family
14 – Gene and Susan Mussler
21, Sunrise – Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster

21, 11 a.m. – Ramona Yrazabal and Oledeen Bermensolo

28 – Linda Thomsen and Heidi Harris

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

7 – Linda and Phil Miller
14 –
21, Sunrise – Easter Breakfast
21, 11 a.m. –
28 – Jennifer Dillenbeck

USHERS (Diane Venski)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

7 – Gail Banner
14 – Linda Miller
21 – Easter Lilies – Linda Miller
28 – Linda Miller

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

From the Interim Pastor

GODISNOWHERE

How did you read the title of this article? Psychologists tell us the way we interpret things affect our attitudes and actions. One reading of it is God is no where. There are times we humans feel that way. When sickness, accidents, tragedy occurs, we often ask, "Where was God?" This thought was also present in the Bible. When Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, died, they said to Jesus, "If you had been here our brother would not have died." When Jesus was crucified he cried out from the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Those disciples who denied, betrayed and ran away were saying by their actions God is no where. On Easter morning when the stone was rolled away from the tomb, the angel proclaimed, "He is not here."

But the angel's message continued, "He is risen." In other words, "God is now here." Mary discovered that fact in the garden when she met Jesus face to face. Those fearful disciples meeting behind locked doors would find that the risen Jesus was with them. Two despairing friends walking to Emmaus were surprised to find that the one walking with them was Jesus. Easter proclaims that God is now here. The resurrection confirms that God is here especially when we are going through our own trials. Make sure you join us in celebration of the fact that God is now here, with us, among us and in us.

Pastor Gary Smith

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Diaconate meeting 7 p.m. BSA	2 2 p.m. VBS meeting 7 p.m. Cubs	3 6 p.m. Lenten potluck 6:30 Lenten meditation	4 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell prac. 7 p.m. Choir	5	6
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 7 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship/Communion Welcome, Friendship Assembly #9, International Order of Rainbow for Girls	8 6:30 p.m. Trustees' mtg. 7 p.m. BSA 7:30 Search Committee	9 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	10 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. LAST Lenten Potluck 6:30 Meditation	11 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate NO Bell prac. 7 p.m. Choir	12 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting	13 9 a.m. Spring Clean
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 14 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship OGHS MTUO	15 7 p.m. BSA	16 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	17	18 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday meal 7 p.m. Choir	<i>Good Friday</i> 19 6:30 Good Friday Service at Christian and Baptist Church	20
<i>Easter</i> 21 7 a.m. Sunrise Service 7:45 Breakfast 8:15 Egg Hunt 11 a.m. Worship	22 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	23 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	24 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study	25 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate 3 – 5 Rummage Sale Set-up 6 p.m. Bell prac. 7 p.m. Choir	26 1 – 5 Rummage Sale set-up	27 8 – Noon Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
28 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Christian Education mtg.	29 7 p.m. BSA	30 7 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack meeting				

May 2019 (Subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell prac. 7 p.m. Choir	3	4
5 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	6 7 p.m. Diaconate meeting 7 p.m. BSA	7 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	8 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study	9 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell prac. 7 p.m. Choir	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting	11
<i>Mother's Day</i> 12 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	13 6:30 p.m. Trustees' mtg. 7 p.m. BSA	14 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	15	16 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell prac. 7 p.m. Choir	17	18
19 10 a.m. LAST Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship End of Sunday School potluck barbecue	20 7 p.m. BSA	21 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. VOTING	22 11 a.m. Women's Study 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Richard Mckenna Charter 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. RMC Graduation	23	24	25
26 10 a.m. FIRST early Worship	<i>Memorial Day</i> 27 Office Closed 7 p.m. Church Council	28	29	30	31	