

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **May 2019** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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Search Committee Update

Here is the latest from your search committee.

To date, we have reviewed three applications but, unfortunately, did not find a good fit. Monday, April 8th, the committee met with Molly Carlson, our designated Conference Minister, to discuss our next step. This step will include an extended search beyond the UCC website. Rev. Carlson will also be doing a more in depth search on our behalf.

As we continue this process please keep our congregation and your search committee in your prayers.

AED installed

We now have an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) installed in the Adult Sunday school room/Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in taking a class from a certified instructor, please sign up with the office by May 15th. You will be notified when the class will be. The sign-up sheet is on the sign-up table at the back left of the Sanctuary, or call the church office.

In the between time, there is a short video that will give you an extremely brief overview of how this works. It can be viewed at <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=philips+aed+instructional+video&&view=detail&mid=7902A1D0CC543EDEBB987902A1D0CC543EDEBB98&&FORM=VDRVRV>

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship meeting

Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for May will be held on **Friday, May 10th** at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last meeting until September. Join us in this last hurrah 'til fall. Bobbi Bergh and Vickie Armstrong are the hostesses for this meeting.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be **Wednesday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 22nd 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.

May will wrap up this season's Women's Bible Study, but don't let that stop you from giving it a try. We will start back again in September.

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.

End of Sunday School Potluck Sunday

Sunday, May 19th will be the last Sunday school class for the summer. It has been a good year and Christian Education invites you to celebrate with a **cake** and a **potluck barbeque** after worship. If possible, please bring a dish to share and your own place setting.

All are invited to the table

Giving Opportunities in May

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.

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*

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 26th, begins our summer worship schedule with **worship at 10:00 a.m.**

Communion will be the first Sunday of June and August during the summer and there is no Sunday School during the summer months

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be the week of **July 15 – 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.

Thank you

Spring Clean

Thank you to all those who came out on Saturday, April 13th for our Annual Spring Clean. The list of names seems to have been misplaced, so we don't have a definitive list of who was here. You know who you are and please know that your work and dedication are valued beyond words. We would also like to say "Thank You" to Cub Pack 57 who picked up trash from around the church grounds during

their meeting on Tuesday, April 9th in support of our Spring Clean. You guys are awesome!

Again, thank you to all those who came out to clean, weed, dust, fix, pick up, etc. The church looks wonderful!

Everyday Clean

No denying that the Spring Clean is important and gets those annual cleaning jobs taken care of. Everyone who pitches in is most appreciated.

However, there is one person who keeps things clean and event-ready all year round.

Thank you, Linda Thomsen, for all your hard work, attention to detail and dedication to keeping the church clean and well supplied even with so many outside agencies using the facilities. We are very blessed to have you.

Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

El-Ada was most appreciative of the over 53 packages of undergarments (8 more than last year), totaling 278 (2 more than last year) garments received from The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering which concluded on Palm Sunday. Thank you so much, Church Family, for your care and concern for your community.

One Great Hour of Sharing

At last count, we generously gave \$548 to One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. This offering goes to help God's people the world over who are dealing with natural and man-made disasters as well as giving a hand up to entire communities to better their living conditions and their lives. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Lenten Potlucks and Study

Thank you, Social Committee, for being here every Wednesday during Lent to host the weekly potlucks as well as the Maundy Thursday Meager Meal. Without your hospitality there would be no fellowship.

Thank you, Rev. Gary Smith, for leading us in such an enriching Lenten meditation. Many good things were said about, and learned through, the study of *Who is This Man*, by John Ortberg. Thank you for your devotion of time and knowledge to prepare and deliver this meditation.

Easter Breakfast

The men of the church did our Annual Easter Breakfast with approximately 65 people in attendance. Everyone who attended had a great

time with great food & fellowship. I would like to thank the following gentlemen for helping to make the Easter Breakfast a huge success; Eddie Bush, Curtis Carlin, Tony Deal, Ken Hill, Joe McNeal, Gene Mussler, Maury Townsend, and Gary.

I would also like to thank my wife Ann for taking time out of her afternoon on Saturday, April 20th to help me set up the tables, and Diane Venski for helping to clean after the breakfast was over.

A big thank you goes out to Lee Wright for supplying the beautiful flowers that were used as centerpieces, adding even more color and beauty for those who attended the breakfast.

*Sincerely yours,
Curtis Carlin
Easter Breakfast Coordinator*

Easter Worship Services

The Easter celebration is a culmination of hard work and dedication by so many people. This year is no different.

The Bell Choir, under the direction of Mike Keas, played beautifully at both the Sunrise Service and the 11 a.m. Service. Thank you to all the members of the Bell Choir who worked so hard to learn the piece and then be here bright and early on Sunday morning to perform it for us.

The Chancel Choir was present at both services also, under the direction of Jennifer Dillenbeck, lending choral responses to the Sunrise Service and a glorious anthem at the 11 a.m. service. Again, this represents much time spent in practice for everyone.

Without Marlene Osborn on the organ and Doreen Solum on the piano, our songs of praise would not have been nearly as joyful. Thank you, Ladies, for your incredible talent and generosity of your time.

Thank you, both choirs and directors, for your dedication that some would say is almost the most important part of the service.

Thank you to Amy Sowden and Cara Grindle for being Liturgists at the Sunrise Service and Heidi Harris for being Liturgist at the 11 a.m. service. **All** of our Liturgists, throughout the whole year, are very much appreciated. This commitment to the church family is part of what makes the church run so smoothly.

And, of course, Thank You, Rev. Gary Smith for guiding our spiritual lives with two separate sermons, one for the Sunrise Service and one for

the 11 a.m. We are blessed to have your leadership.

Phil Miller

Many thanks to Phil Miller for representing our church family at the Idaho Association of Churches meeting in McCall on Saturday, April 27th.

Pilgrim Cove News

Spring Work Weekends

The spring opening weekends for Pilgrim Cove Camp are **May 17 - 19** and **May 24 - 27**. We will have loads to do for sure. Our focus, of course, is getting the docks out and water on. We provide lodging and meals for all workers. It is a wonderful time of fellowship as well. To let us know you are coming up, so we have enough food and lodging, please call 208-634-5555 or email manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

Hope to see you soon!!

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 \$350. Registration forms are available in the office, from our website (www.mhfirstcongregational.org) or via email (churchinfo@mhfccucc.org). Registrations are due to Pilgrim Cove Camp by June 25th. Camp Scholarships are available. The amount available depends on the number of applicants. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is June 13th.

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.

Craft Day is Coming Back!

Mark your calendar for June 7th and 21st! Craft Day is coming back. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. to work on the craft of your choice with friends in the comfort of the adult Sunday school room – with air conditioning! At present, there is not a group project being worked on, but that could change. Just bring your favorite take-along craft and enjoy the fellowship. This is not a closed group, so bring a friend! The more that merrier!

Address Change!

Lucille Gregory
1130 N. Allumbaugh St. Apt 112
Boise, ID 83704-8793

May Anniversaries

1 – Gail and Roger Banner
3 – Beth and Leonard DeVore
5 – Carrie and Billy Roeder
9 – Merrilee and John Hiler
20 – Joyce and Harris Allgood
21 – Rick and Mimi Carlton
27 – Kristy and Jim Blanksma
27 – Linda and Orville Thomsen

May Birthdays

4 – Gene Mussler 13 – Marlene Osborn
5 – John Hiler 25 - Oledeen Bermensolo
9 – Curtis Carlin 28 – Jeremy Loosli
13 – Pedro Celaya 29 – Kathy Mori
13 – Nancy Mason

Special Angels for May

LITURGISTS (Maurie Townsend)

5 – Grace Townsend
12 – Jennifer Andersen
19 – Tony Deal
26 – Maurie Townsend

GREETERS (Tony Deal)

5 – Tony and Debi Deal
12 – Joe B. and Mildred McNeal
19 – Heidi and Allen Harris
26 – Todd and Chris Paille

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

5 – Gail Banner
12 – End of Sunday School Potluck
19 – Linda Ramsey
26 –

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

5 – Gail Banner
12 – Nadine Roberts
19 – Linda Ramsey
26 –

USHERS (Judy Case)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

Interim Pastor's Page

From the Interim Pastor-Gary Smith
I would like to share with you my philosophy of leadership. It is called "Servant-Leadership." Robert Greenleaf, retired AT&T executive coined the term servant-leadership to describe a kind of leadership that he felt was largely missing from organizations. It was Greenleaf's belief that leadership ought to be based on serving the needs of others and on helping those who are served, to become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous and more likely themselves to become servants.

He wrote, "The best leaders best serve the needs of others entrusted to them. Organizations most interested in serving the needs of others were most effective." The words servant, serve, and service appear in scripture more than 1300 times. Jesus is the best example of a servant-leader. He said, "The one who would be great among you must be a servant and whoever would be greatest must be servant of all."

Jesus chose to be a servant-leader. He had power to do whatever he desired but used his power for the benefit of others. Jesus understood the power in sacrifice. He taught us to give of ourselves in order to mature spiritually; to release our power of self-interest to make a difference in the lives of others.

I like the words of Albert Einstein, "A person starts to live when he can live outside himself." When we are able to go beyond our basic needs and see the needs of other and address them, then we become servant-leaders. This is true joy, being a servant of Christ, being used for his purpose.

This truly is a servant-church and I am honored to be with you.

Gary

May 2019

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	
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 5 – 9 ESA	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 12 – 2 p.m. Children's House Montessori graduation	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 7 p.m. Church Council – Note change	21	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	28	29	30	31	

June 2019(subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m. Worship with Communion	3 7 p.m. Diaconate meeting 7 p.m. BSA	4	5	6 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate	7 1 p.m. Craft Day	8
<i>Pentecost</i> 9 10 a.m. Worship	10 6:30 p.m. Trustees' mtg. 7 p.m. BSA	11	12	13 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate	14 Flag Day	15
<i>Trinity Sunday</i> 16 Father's Day 10 a.m. Worship	17 7 p.m. BSA	18	19	20 12:30 p.m. Family Advocate	21 1 p.m. Craft Day	22
23 10 a.m. Worship After Worship: Christian Ed mtg.	24 7 p.m. Church Council meeting 7 p.m. BSA	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship						