

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org April 2020

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 53 - Issue 4

Staying Connected

The office will be open the regular hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

As of this writing (March 30) there will be **no worship through Easter Sunday**. There may or may not be worship on Sunday, April 19th; Federal guidelines are changing daily. Please watch the website and your emails for changes. Those of you who do not have email, we will be contacting you by phone.

The office is trying very hard to stay connected with all of our members. There are phone calling teams and emails going in all directions. If you have an email address and **you are not getting emails from the church**, please email the church at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org from your preferred email address. It's possible we missed your email or it was input wrong in the contact list. It's very important to stay connected at this time.

Stay safe, look after one another, trust God and wash your hands.

Church Projects

We budgeted \$25,000 for church building projects this calendar year. Our first priority was to do something with the siding on the east (parking lot) side of the building. We have wood slats on that side and mostly stucco on the others. The building was last painted seven years ago at a cost of approximately \$8,000, with much of that going for caulking and other preparations to the east side wood slats. The east side is already getting in bad shape while the rest of the building shows little, if any, wear. The Trustees have approved a proposal by Bideganeta Construction to replace the wood siding with stucco. This cost will be between \$24,000 and \$25,700 depending on the condition of the subsurface behind the slats. Construction is scheduled to start the week after Easter and take two weeks to complete. Donations are appreciated.

Lenten Disciplines

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering has begun! This year's theme is *More Than We Can Imagine*. Watch the bulletin and website

(Events page) for offering ideas. You may mail your offering to the church, donate on-line at www.ucc.org or bring it by the office.

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

During this time of involuntary hibernation, if you have items for The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering you may drop the items off at the church office or put them in the UPS box outside the entry doors on the west side of the building.

This very different, and uniquely 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 El-Ada for distribution to the disadvantaged in our area.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

There will be no Women's Fellowship for April.

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be postponed until all in the group feel comfortable coming together again. Watch your emails for updates on this.

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

While the Annual Spring Clean which was scheduled for **Saturday, April 4th**, has been cancelled, anyone who wishes to come to the church and weed flower beds or do general pick up around the *outside* of the church is welcome to come on out. Any and all help is much appreciated.

Easter Lily Dedications

With Easter services being cancelled, we will not be doing Easter Lily dedications at this time

Holy Week/Easter

Palm Sunday, April 5th, has been cancelled

Thursday, April 9th Maundy Thursday Meager Meal has been cancelled

Friday, April 10th Good Friday Service has been cancelled

April 12th Easter Sunday,
NO Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
NO Easter Breakfast
NO Easter Egg Hunt
NO 11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

Annual Rummage Sale

The Women's Annual Rummage Sale has been postponed. A new date has not yet been set. You now have *plenty* of time to clean up those garages, attics, sheds, and closets. This should be an awesome sale when it happens!

Are you graduating this year?

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? Please let the church office know by **Wednesday, 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 Thursday, April 30th**.

The Big Blue Bucket

The Church Family has been wonderful about remembering to bring items in for the Big Blue Bucket that we collect food, household items, and hygiene items in for the Grace Food Pantry. Thank you so much!!

At this time of financial insecurity for many, this ministry is more important than ever. If you have a donation, you may bring it by the office during office hours or put it in the UPS box outside the office wing door on the west side of the church.

As always, please remember to pick up one or two extra items for Big Blue when you do your own household shopping. Personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies are as welcome as food.

Thank You!

Shrove Tuesday

What a happy and hungry crowd! Thanks go to:

- Pastor Gary for joining us, despite the commute! You inspire us all!
- Allen and Frank who flipped pancakes!
- Nadine, Sherry, and Eddie who decorated and prepared everything else!
- Jennifer who returned my Mardi Gras beads for use again in 2021!

Mollie Marsh

Paper! Wonderful Paper

A huge shout out to Frank and Mollie Marsh. On the morning of Thursday, February 27th, Frank came to the office bearing a case of 8.5 x 11 paper – the size we use for 95% of all our paperwork. The Marsh's timing couldn't have been better as we were getting a bit low.

Thank you, Frank and Mollie for thinking of the needs of the church family and filling that need.

New Chancel Shelf

Thank you to Eddie Bush and Lee Wright for replacing the shelf on the Chancel wall with a new shelf that is just a bit wider to more easily accommodate the items that need to go there. Thank you, Eddie and Lee, for this and all the other things you two do around the church.

Anonymous Donor

Thank you to the thoughtful member who donated the hand sanitizer dispenser that Eddie installed in the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen door, next to the serving table. At a time when nary a bottle can be found on the shelves, this was pretty close to a miracle!

Linda Thomsen

Thank you, Linda Thomsen, for the donation of small plant trays. These are much needed for the Easter Lilies and Poinsettias. Your donation couldn't have been better timed.

From the Ramsey Family

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our church family. We have been truly blessed by the outpouring of support and caring at this difficult time. We sincerely appreciate the food, cards, telephone calls, thoughts and prayers.

*Gratefully,
Linda Ramsey
Sandy & Dan O'Connell*

Phone Callers

To those who have made phone calls to folk who don't have email, **THANK YOU!!!** Keeping everyone connected during these isolated times is a priority. To date, thank you Gail Banner, Kelli Collett, Linda Thomsen and Doreen Solum for being on the ready to help keep our little world connected.

Looking Ahead

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 10th, 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 so much more than blankets.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be the week of **June 22 – 26**. We will be collaborating with Christian and Baptist and Grace Lutheran again this year. There will be a meet and greet of the counselors from Luther Heights Camp at the Combined Worship in the Park on **June 21**. Watch the newsletters, the bulletins and the website for more information to come.

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 2020 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.

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 **June 13th** at Carl Miller Park from 11 AM to 11 PM. We hope to see you there.

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

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Summer Job Opportunities

Pilgrim Cove Camp is now hiring for summer job positions. The dates of employment will be May 28th through August 10th. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary entryway or go to our website on the "Our Greater Community" page for more information.

Camps

Besides the usual Summer Camp for the kids, Pilgrim Cove Camp is having a **Grandparents Camp**.

This camp will be held **June 22 – 25**. Bring your grandchildren and join us for 3 nights in camp! Enjoy sharing family stories around the campfire, creating arts/crafts together and build memories both adult and child can share forever. In the mornings join in organized activities and the afternoons play in town or kayak and paddleboard in camp. With beautiful Payette Lake as the backdrop, you can't go wrong! Cost is \$150 per guest which covers 3 nights lodging, up to 8 meals, materials and waterfront.

We received feedback that some folks don't have time to come and be counselors or such but would be willing to come up for an afternoon. We would LOVE that! We just have to know in advance so we can do a proper background check. Think about how you can help out because nothing you do is too small!

As for Kids Camp staffing this year, we are in need of leaders and counselors. We are also looking for a nurse to stay at camp for the week (**Saturday July 11-Saturday July 18**).

The biggest need we have, of course, is for campers. This year we are doing a discount for registering early (by June 1st) \$325 instead of \$350 per camper. We are also offering a deal for families sending multiple campers, \$300/camper for households sending more than one. This rate is not an early registration rate but is applicable any time.

Pilgrim Cove Camp
Ph: 208.634.5555
www.pilgrimcovecamp.org
manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

In Loving Memory

*Randy Madison Ramsey
April 4, 1950 – March 10, 2020*

April Birthdays

2 – Roger Fogleman	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
17- Patricia Urbick	29 – Tony Deal

April Anniversaries

10 – Mike and Alice Keas

Special Angels for April

LITURGISTS (Linda Thomsen)

19 – Maurie Townsend

26 – Mollie Marsh

GREETERS (C.D. Houston)

19 –

26 –

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

19 – Jennifer Dillenbeck

26 – Linda Ramsey

USHERS (Heidi Harris)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

5 – Palms

12, 7 a.m. – Easter Lilies

12, 11 a.m. – Easter Lilies

19 – Linda Ramsey

26 – Linda Ramsey

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

From the Interim Pastor

From the Interim Pastor

“They gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability” (2 Corinthians 8:3).

In the eighth chapter of 2 Corinthians we find the Apostle Paul writing about an offering. Before he asks for it, he cites the generosity of other Christians. If ever there was a need for generosity in our culture, it is now. We hear of people hoarding toilet paper and filling their freezers when others are in need. One of the seven deadly sins is greed and the opposite of greed is generosity. I have found that the only way to fight this beast of greed when feeling that more is never enough, is to be generous by sharing and caring for others.

It is God’s nature to be generous and God has programmed nature to be generous. Everything in nature multiplies. Chickens lay eggs, trees give fruit, one head of grain multiplies a hundred times itself. God has nature giving whether it’s needed or not. God has created us to be givers

also. We fulfill our human and Christian destiny when we share with others.

Do you remember the children’s story of King Midas, everything he touched he wished would turn to gold. He got his wish. His eyes lighted with excitement as he touched eggs and watched them turn to money. One thing after another glittered and glistened as he put a finger or hand on them. Then he got hungry but when bread and meat became gold, he couldn’t eat this yellow mineral no matter how valuable. The greedy man begged for a return of things the way they were.

Christian joy in life resides more in giving than in getting. That is why Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Blessedness or happiness has a way of coming to those whose sins are redeemed, whose fears are healed, and whose guilt is forgiven. Jesus also promised, “Give and it will be given you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be given you. For the measure you give will be the measure you will receive.”

This story is told about an American soldier. Early one morning shortly after the end of WW2 a soldier was returning to his barracks in London. All around him was the ravaged ruins of the old country. A small orphan boy caught his attention. He was hungry and staring through a window of a bakery looking at the fresh baked bread and donuts. The soldier pulled his jeep to the curb and walked up to the lad. He let out a sigh as the baker pulled donuts out of the fryer.

“Son, would you like some?”

“I sure would” he answered.

The American soldier stepped inside and bought a dozen, had them placed in a bag and walked back and gave them to the hungry boy, “Here you are.”

He responded, “Mister, are you God?”

God bless you sharing and caring for each other and your support of our special offerings at First Congregational.

Pastor Gary Smith