

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org March 2020 churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 53 - Issue 3

Special Meeting

The Church Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting after worship on **Sunday, March 15th**. The subject at hand is to vote on granting Reverend Truman E. Parker Pastor Emeritus status. Please plan to attend this very short but important meeting.

Lenten Disciplines

Wednesday Lenten potluck and meditations

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 4th**, we will have 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, we will begin the Lenten meditation, which will be based on *The Way* by Adam Hamilton. Travel with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Fascinating video from his personal travels to the Holy Land give you a “first-person” experience while his biblical wisdom and historical knowledge provide thoughtful and insightful commentary.

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. We do have books available in the office, should you want one. The suggested donation for the book is \$12 to help defray costs. However, Pastor Gary will provide a book to any who would like one, but cannot afford the donation.

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. Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 5th**.

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 5th**.

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

Women’s Fellowship potluck and meeting for March will be held on **Friday, March 13th** at **noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Betty Ashcraft is the hostess. Programing will be done by Betty Ashcraft and Nancy Sobien. ALL women of the church and their female friends are invited to join us as we “SPREAD JOY!” and Share the Joy of sharing.

Bible Study

Women’s Bible Study will be **Wednesday, March 11th** and **Wednesday, March 25th** at **11:00 a.m.** in the Pastor’s office. We are continuing to study *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Chapter questions are available from the office. All women 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.

Flowers and Fellowship

If you indicated on your Time and Talent pledge card that you would like to host a Fellowship Hour or provide flowers for the altar, there are sign-up sheets on the table at the back of the Sanctuary for this. Pick a Sunday or two (or three!) that works for you, put your name on the line so it’s reserved for you and that’s all there is to it.

If you have any questions about either of these ministries, contact one of the women in Women’s Fellowship or the church office.

Saturday night, March 7th

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 8th**. Be sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks **ahead** Saturday night before you go to bed.

No Sunday School

Due to Spring Break, there will be no Sunday School on **Sunday, March 22nd**.

Remember our shut-ins

When you have a moment, pray a blessing on our shut-ins and semi-shut-ins and maybe drop them a card or give them a call. If you would like to know who they are, please contact the church office.

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.

Mountain Proclamations on the Website

If you would like to access any church newsletter that has been issued over the last 12 months, you can access them on the church website on the "Newsletters" page. Our website address is www.mhfirstcongregational.org

Thank You

From the Giving Tree Committee

"Please accept our sincere thanks for your generosity in support of this project. Your donation of time, talents, energy, supplies and money made it possible for our group to provide holiday gifts and winter clothing for over 540 children for the 2019 season. Thank you again for supporting the Giving Tree. This project would not be possible without your generosity. Wish you all the best in 2020!

*Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce
Giving Tree Committee*

Acolyte Robes

The cleaning and upkeep of the Acolyte robes has truly been a community effort. Thank you, Ann Carlin, for getting some of them to the cleaners to be cleaned and pressed. Thank you, Oledeen Bermensolo, for doing the repairs on those that needed it and to Linda Thomsen for cleaning and pressing the ones that Oledeen repaired. Our Acolytes will look wonderful in their refreshed robes. A sincere and grateful thank you to each of you.

To Eddie Bush

We have a snow removal service that clears the big parking lot when it snows on Saturday or Sunday. But no matter when it snows, you can count on Eddie to be here to remove the snow from the office side of the church so staff and visitors have safe passage from their vehicles to the building. Thank you, Eddie, for looking out for all of us.

Rick and Mariah Parks

Thank you, Rick and Mariah, for the donation of "The Last Supper" picture that is now hanging in the hall by the Choir Room. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Joe B. and Mildred McNeal

Thank you to Joe and Mildred McNeal and the Black History Committee for the wonderful potluck provided after worship on Sunday, February 16th in observance of Black History Sunday. We were all treated to barbecue chicken, spicy sausage and peppers, beans, dinner rolls and, of course, cake. No one left hungry! Thank you, Joe and Mildred and the Black History Committee! Thank you to all those who pitched in to help set up, serve and clean up afterwards. The many hands were much appreciated.

Children's Moment

Thank you, Betty Ashcraft and children of the church, for a very special treat on Sunday, February 16th. For the Children's Moment, we were treated to two songs sung by the kids, under the direction of Betty Ashcraft with the help of Aaren Brumley and Barb Fogleman. They all gave a delightful performance and they had just learned their songs that morning! Great job, everyone.

Looking Ahead

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 6 – 9th**. 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 Thursday, April 2nd**. 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 beginning **March 1st**, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

Spring Clean

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, April 4th, 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 Candy, Please?

The Christian Education Board has *plenty* of eggs. But they are all empty. **Between now and Sunday, April 5th**, 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 – mini sized 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 5th**. Any and all help is welcome.

Thank you for your continued generosity with this annual event.

Holy Week/Easter

Palm Sunday, April 5th, 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 8th

Thursday, April 9th at 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meager Meal in the Fellowship Hall – not a potluck.

Friday, April 10th at 7 p.m. Good Friday Service, at Christian and Baptist Church, located at 265 N 4th East.

April 12th 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

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale for 2020 is scheduled for **Saturday, April 25th**. Now is the time to start cleaning out those garages, attics, basements, storage units, and spare bedrooms for those gently used items that help the ladies make this sale possible. If you have any questions or would like to lend a hand – men or women – please contact Linda Miller or Betty Ashcraft.

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

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.

Hopefully we can get a whole bunch of campers, former and new this summer. AND we would love to have a bunch of new volunteers (camp

fees are covered for volunteers) to come up and enjoy the week on the lake.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Ph: 208.634.5555

www.pilgrimcovecamp.org

manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

Birthdays in March

2 – Patrick Harris	15 – Nick Dillenbeck
10 – Lucille Gregory	18 – Bob Roberts
11 – Genara Toy	19 – Jay Townsend
11 – Zoey Pearsall	20 – Mary Ethel Langfitt
12 – Betty Celaya	23 – Mickie Betts
14 – Bobbi Kelly	25 – Rita Olson
14 – Jean Leonard	25 – Sylvia Sisneros
29 – Matthew Houston	

Anniversaries in March

8 – Mollie & Frank Marsh
28 – Gloria & Leon Gaub
31 – Mildred & Joe B McNeal

Special Angels for March

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

1 – Rita Olson
8 – Betty Ashcraft
15 – Polly Sanders
22 – Mollie Marsh
29 – Grace Townsend

GREETERS (Diane Venski)

1 – Judy Case
8 – Patti and Gary Getner
15 – Kelli Collett
22 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
29 – Diane Venski

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Mary Ann Hamilton
8 – Heidi and Allen Harris
15 – Kay Eilebrecht
22 – Nancy Sobien and Rita Olson
29 – The Bush Family

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

USHERS (Lee Wright)

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Linda Miller
8 – Linda Miller
15 – Frankie Guerre
22 – Nancy Sobien
29 – Sherry Bush

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

From the Interim Pastor

This Season called Lent

Some view Lent as a Catholic period where it was first celebrated but most Christians today see it as a time for self-examination and preparation of our spiritual lives for Easter. Did you know that Lent was recognized before Christmas? Lent dates back to the third century. The word Lent is related to the word "lengthen" and bears a relationship to the spring of the year when the days lengthen because we receive a longer time of light.

The church decided that Lent should last forty days beginning with Ash Wednesday and conclude on Saturday, the day before Easter. If you count the days between the two you will find it does not come out to 40 because the Sundays are not counted. Why forty days? Because forty is a sacred number in scripture. Moses was on Mt. Sinai for forty days receiving the Ten Commandments; Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness. He was in the tomb for forty hours before being resurrected.

That is the history of Lent but what it means to us and how to celebrate Lent is more important. I'm sure you have heard jokes about giving up something for Lent, like cauliflower or giving up exercising. There is a benefit to giving up something but the important point for us is discipline. It is a time for us to work on our spiritual lives by saying no to self and yes to God. We recall Jesus' words, "Deny yourself, take up your cross and come, follow me." The denial of self is saying no to that which makes us less than what Christ wants us to be. Then saying yes to Christ and follow after his example and teachings to create us after his likeness.

So as the Lenten Season begins I invite you to join me in spiritual disciplines to enhance our lives. It could include our Wednesday evening study; daily Bible readings and devotionals; worship each Sunday in Lent and on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; doing something special for someone in need.

It is a joy and honor to serve you.

Pastor Gary Smith

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st Sunday of Lent 1 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	2 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	3	4 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 <u>Lenten Study</u> 7 p.m. Venture Crew	5 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	6	7
DST Begins 8 2nd Sunday of Lent 8 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	9 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting 7 p.m. BSA	10 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Voting	11 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 <u>Lenten Study</u> 7 p.m. Venture Crew	12 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and Meeting	14
3rd Sunday of Lent 15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After Worship – Special Congregational meeting	16 7 p.m. BSA	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 Lenten Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	19 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	20	21
4th Sunday of Lent 22 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	23 7 p.m. Church Council	24	25 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 Lenten Study	26 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	27	28
5th Sunday of Lent 29 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Christian Ed	30 7 p.m. BSA	31				

April 2020 (this calendar subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 p.m. LAST Lenten Potluck 6:30 LAST <u>Lenten Study</u> 7 p.m. Venture Crew	2 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	3	4 9 a.m. Spring Clean – all are invited to lend a hand
Palm Sunday 1 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion OGHs offering Maurie Townsend Offering	6 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	7	8 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	9 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meager Meal 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship mtg. 7 p.m. Good Friday worship at Christian and Baptist	11
Easter 12 7 a.m. Sunrise service 7:45 Breakfast 8:15 Egg Hunt 11 a.m. Worship	13 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting 7 p.m. BSA	14	15 7 p.m. Venture Crew	16 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	17	18
19 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	20 7 p.m. BSA	21	22 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	23 1 – 5 Rummage <u>Sale set-up</u> 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	24 1 – 4 Rummage Sale set-up	25 8 a.m. – Noon Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
26 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship A.W. Christian Ed meeting.	27 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	28	29 7 p.m. Venture Crew	30 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19		