

Mountain Proclamations

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

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

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Worshiping together again

This is completely dependent on Governor Little's announcement later this week. If we move into Stage One, we will worship –

Worship will begin on **Sunday, May 10th at 11 a.m.** *Please know that if you do not feel safe coming to worship, we understand and support you if you decide to stay home.* We will continue to email and snail mail the bulletin and sermons to everyone as we have been doing for the past few weeks, so you will have worship material should you decide to continue to shelter-in-place.

In an effort to comply with state guidelines for Stage One –

- We are asking that each person attending worship please bring and wear a facemask and observe social distancing. We will attempt to have some facemasks available, but there is no guarantee that they will be available. Please be prepared.
- Weather permitting, we will prop the doors open so no one need touch the handles. If the weather is cold or wet (doubtful!) an usher will open the door for you.
- The bulletins will be on a table as you come in for you to pick up. No greeter will shake your hand or hand you a bulletin.
- **NO NURSERY CARE WILL BE PROVIDED**
- Every other pew will be closed off to help facilitate social distancing
- The sign-in books will not be passed around. Only one person will note attendance.
- The bulletins will contain the music so you will not need to pick up the hymnals.
- We will not have any physical contact during the passing of the peace, nor will we move from our pew area.
- The offering plate will be on the table as you come in so you may drop your offering off either on the way in or the way out.
- There *will not* be Fellowship Hour after worship

- Visiting in the aisle or in the building is discouraged. You may chat in the parking lot for as long as you wish.

Some of this may sound a bit extreme, but this is what we need to do to keep each other safe and those we love at home safe.

Again – if you do not feel safe coming to worship just yet, please know that we understand and support your decision and you will be in our thoughts and prayers as always.

Exterior Siding Repair Project

At our annual congregational meeting we voted to replace the exterior siding on the east side of the building (next to the grass area). Trustees have decided to track “exterior siding” donations separate from regular “building fund” donations. If you care to financially support this important and needed exterior siding repair, simply note on your check or donation envelope “Exterior Siding”.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship meeting

Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for May has been suspended. It is still just a bit too early to feel completely safe. We are hoping to meet a time or two during the summer to catch up with each other and do some planning for how to “Spread Joy and share the joy of giving”.

Please watch your email, the bulletin, website and future newsletters for the newest updates.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume in the fall.

For those who have the book, *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr, please continue to read it and note three things that you would like to discuss when we meet 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.

Choir Practices

Bell and Chancel Choir practices and performances have been postponed until September.

The first choir practices for the 2020/2021 season will *tentatively* begin on Thursday, September 10th with Bells at 6 p.m. and Chancel and 7 p.m., in preparation for Rally Day on Sunday, September 13th.

Giving Opportunities

Blanket Sunday

“Dear Friends,

The past few months have been especially hard for people who were already vulnerable. But I want you to know that, even from home, you’re helping them. Because congregations like yours care throughout the year, CWS had enough blankets and hygiene kits to send a recent shipment to the Bowery Mission in New York City... **thank you for laying the foundation to keep love in motion even when the whole world stops!**

The Bowery Mission is a shelter that knows what to do in times of crisis. They’ve stood strong as a beacon of hope for neighbors during the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression and more recently, Hurricane Sandy. And ever since COVID-19 hit, their beds have been full every night; you’ve heard that unemployment is up, and shelters around the nation are feeling that in a very real way. As part of their response, the Bowery Mission started up a shower program. It can’t serve every person (hundreds of people come through the shelter a day) ...but they want to do as much as they can to promote safe hygiene.

With your support, the Bowery Mission now has enough CWS Hygiene Kits for each person so that even if they can’t shower, they CAN keep clean. You’ve also helped us get enough CWS Blankets to this shelter to keep neighbors warm and to provide fresh linens on a nightly basis. Karl, a staff member there, shares: “...through all of this we receive outpouring encouragement from our partners, donors, and churches - which we are so thankful for. **We couldn’t do it without the support system.**”

This is life-saving work. Thank you for being part of a faith community who keeps love in motion. If you or your congregation want to specifically support these COVID-19 responses around the nation/world, you can do so online through [cwsglobal.org/coronavirus](https://www.cwsglobal.org/coronavirus).

In the meantime, please let us know how we can pray specifically for your congregation

through [this prayer request form](#). I know we’re all feeling loss in this tumultuous time; my daily prayer for you is that Christ’s peace calms the storms of today.

Blessed to be serving alongside you in the ways we can,

Matthew Stevens
Director of Congregational Giving, CWS”

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 much more than blankets.

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. This offering embodies the wisdom, **“together we grow stronger.”**

Please continue to help the UCC expand its light by giving to the Strengthen the Church offering on **May 31, 2020**.

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*

May Church Council Meeting

Church Council members – please note that in light of our normal Monday meeting falling on Memorial Day Monday, the May Church Council meeting has been re-scheduled for **Monday, May 18th at 7 p.m.**

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 24th, begins our summer worship schedule with **worship at 10:00 a.m.**

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

Vacation Bible School

In an effort to keep our children and volunteers safe and healthy, **Vacation Bible School** has been cancelled for this year.

Thank you

Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

All the cancellations, suspensions, stay-at-home orders notwithstanding, a generous offering was collected for the Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering. There were 13 multi-packs and several single packs totaling 95 individual undergarments, plus 7 packages of Depend-style undergarments, as well as \$100 in monetary donations.

No virus is going to keep our congregation from caring for our community.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering came in over the course of Holy Week and beyond! A coin box here, a check there, an envelope slipped in the door. Considering that there wasn't the usual chance to bring our coin boxes up and stack them on the altar, we did pretty well.

The generous offering of the church family came to \$585.37, a bit more than the initial donations for last year. Y'all done good!!

Lenten Potlucks and Study

We didn't get to meet often for our Lenten potluck and meditation, but a shout out to our hostesses for the few we got to have.

Thank You Kay, Nadine and Kellie for manning the Wednesday Lenten potlucks in early March. You ladies are awesome! Stay Well! Without your hospitality there would be no fellowship.

Thank you, Rev. Gary Smith, for getting us started in the study of *The Way*. Many were able to take their books home and continue on their own thanks to your generous donation. Thank you for your devotion of time and knowledge to prepare and deliver the meditations we were able to have together.

Blankets for Police Cruisers

Even while keeping social distancing, the Women's Fellowship has donated 20 blankets to the Mountain Home Police Department for their patrolmen to have available in times of crisis.

Linda Ramsey and Kelli Collett made and attached labels to each one with our church's name on them and a comforting Bible verse.

Thank you, all the ladies of Women's Fellowship, for your continuing care for our community.

Kelli Collett

Kelli Collett made somewhere around 20 facemasks and donated them to the church family. Many people have come to get them for themselves and family members. Thank you, Kelli, for your care and generosity.

Pilgrim Cove News

Dear Pilgrim Cove Camp Family:

It is with heavy hearts that we are announcing that there will be no UCC Youth Camp, Grandparents Camp, Summer Blowout or May Work Weekends during the summer of 2020. Pilgrim Cove Camp, its management and board of directors, above all else, are striving to create a safe environment for our campers and our entire beloved camp family. Reaching this decision was very difficult for all of us. It is nearly impossible to imagine a summer without these camps and incredibly sad to realize that we will not be able to gather together on this beautiful lake at a time when we need each other the most.

Please know that we will be working together over the next few weeks to determine a plan for keeping our youth campers connected during the summer months. Keeping our community intact is of utmost importance to all of us. Likewise, the camp staff is dedicated to protecting the health and vitality of our shared ministry at and through Pilgrim Cove Camp. We encourage you to keep watch for future announcements on our website and on our Facebook page (@Pilgrimcove)

The Women's Retreat, Wright Family Camp, and New Plymouth Family Camp are still scheduled at this time.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you may have. We wish you peace and good health.

Blessings,
Kari Roberts, Manager

Pilgrim Cove Camp
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@pilgrimcovecamp
manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

This will be a particularly hard year for Pilgrim Cove Camp. If you would like to help our camp make it through this time of financial uncertainty, please send your donations to:

Pilgrim Cove Camp
P.O. Box 867
McCall, ID 83638

Or go to their website as listed above in their signature block above to donate online. Thank you so much for keeping this important part of our church family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have any questions about Pilgrim Cove Camp, you may contact Ken Andersen, our church's Pilgrim Cove Camp representative.

May Anniversaries

- 1 – Gail and Roger Banner
- 3 – Beth and Leonard DeVore
- 5 – Carrie and Billy Roeder
- 5 – Jay and Karen Townsend
- 9 – Merrilee and John Hiler
- 20 – Joyce and Harris Allgood
- 27 – Kristy and Jim Blanksma
- 27 – Linda and Orville Thomsen
- 31 – Patricia Urbick and Chris Rowl

May Birthdays

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

Special Angels for May

LITURGISTS (Diane Venski)

- 3 – Mollie Marsh
- 10 – Heidi Harris
- 17 – Betty Ashcraft
- 24 – Diane Venski
- 31 – Rick Parks

GREETERS (Rick Parks)

- 3 –
- 10 –
- 17 –
- 24 –
- 31 –

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

No Fellowship for May

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

- 3 –
- 10 –
- 17 – Nadine Roberts
- 24 – Nadine Roberts
- 31 – Nadine Roberts

USHERS (Linda Thomsen)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Rick Parks)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

Interim Pastor's Page

In this time of pandemic and economic hardship we all are in need of sources of strength and encouragement. One of those sources of strength is our community of faith. Just when we need one another we are advised to shelter in place. My hope and prayer is that we might soon be reunited and express our love and support for each other. While separated we will continue to uphold one another in our prayers. I want to share with you a prayer that has been most helpful to me. It was written by Rheinhold Niebuhr.

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as a pathway to peace. Taking as he did this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.”
May it assist you during this time.

Pastor Gary

Both of these calendars are subject to change

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 NO Worship	4 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting	5	6	7 All Choir practices are rescheduled until September	8 NO Women's Fellowship potluck/meeting	9
10 Mother's Day 11 a.m. Worship With social distancing – no Fellowship Hour	11 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting	12		14 All Choir practices are rescheduled until September	15	16
17 11 a.m. Worship With social distancing – no Fellowship Hour	18 7 p.m. Church Council	19		21 All Choir practices are rescheduled until September	22	23
24 10 a.m. Worship With social distancing – no Fellowship Hour	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26		28	29	30
31 Pentecost 10 a.m. Worship With social distancing – no Fellowship Hour						

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. Troop 57	2	3	4 7 p.m. Troop 19	5	6
7 10 a.m. Worship with Communion	8 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting 7 p.m. Troop 57	9	10	11 7 p.m. Troop 19	12	13
14 10 a.m. Worship	15 7 p.m. Troop 57	16	17	18 7 p.m. Troop 19	19	20
21 Father's Day 10 a.m. Combined Worship in the Park – subject to change	22 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop 57	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Christian Ed meeting	29 7 p.m. Troop 57	30				