

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

September 2020

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 53 - Issue 8

Worship in this interesting time

Since COVID protocols began back in March we have been trying our best to stay in touch with everyone and providing worship materials for personal worship. If you are not getting the worship materials either by postal mail or email and you would like to, please contact the office to get connected. If you would like these to be emailed to you, email the church office at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org from your preferred email address and you will be added to the email list. If you do not have email and are not getting the worship material in your mail box and would like to, contact the office so we can correct that.

Volunteer needed

Do you like to chat on the phone and keep in touch with church members? This ministry might be for you. It would be extremely helpful if we could get a volunteer or two to make phone calls to line up people to provide Altar Flowers. You can either fill the whole month at a time or make calls when the month has vacancies to be filled; whichever way works best for you. We have the list of names. If you think this is for you, please contact the church office to get things set up.

Last 10 a.m. Worship

Sunday, September 6th will be our last 10 a.m. Worship service for the season.

Office will be closed

Monday, September 7th, Labor Day, the church office will be closed.

Schedule change for Diaconate Board

Due to Labor Day, the Diaconate Board will meet on Tuesday, September 8th at 7 p.m.

Choir Practices Begin Again

Bell and Chancel Choirs will resume practices on September 3rd. Bell Choir will meet at 6pm and Chancel Choir will meet at 7pm.

In an effort to promote social distancing, we will be splitting in to small groups. Members who have expressed interest in participating will be notified via email when they are scheduled to

practice and perform. Anyone who has not been contacted but is interested in participating in musical activities should contact Mike Keas for Bell Choir and Jennifer Dillenbeck for Chancel Choir.

Rally Day and the Return to regular worship schedule

Sunday, September 13th marks the beginning of our Fall through Spring schedule and a new Sunday school year. **For the month of September, there will not be Sunday School.** October's Sunday School will be decided in late September.

Worship with Communion will be at 11 a.m. with the usual COVID protocols in place.

In the interest of keeping everyone safe and healthy, **there will not be a Rally Day Barbecue potluck this year.**

Communion for EVERYONE

Please read carefully - Communion will be served at the September 13th worship service.

Wafer is in a compartment on top. Another seal below the wafer separates it from the wine.

For those who are sheltering-in-place:

Self-contained, self-serve communion cups will be handed out, drive-through style, from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A masked and gloved member of the Diaconate Board will be out front handing out the communion set and Pastor Gary will be there to speak the words of institution over the cup. Please follow the cones to the place of pick-up.

For those who will be attending in – church worship:

You will pick up your Communion cup as you come in and save it for the regular communion service during worship.

For the Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting will be postponed until October 9, 2020 at 12 p.m.

Women's Fellowship Ronald McDonald House Project

Our Ronald McDonald House Boise project is finally complete! Over \$550 worth of gas cards and gift cards were delivered to the new Ronald McDonald House in August.

Women's Bible Study

We are hoping to start Women's Bible Study on September 9th at 11 am. We have several women interested in doing an in-person meeting at the Church and we would also offer to use a Zoom Meeting so that others at home can join in. We would have to have someone at the Church to set up the Zoom. Please let the office know if you would like to be added to our email list.

Craft Days Continue

Craft Days will continue through September on **Friday, September 4th and 18th at 1 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall

Treasures Report

As of August 15th we have received General Fund donations of \$69,078 and Designated Donations of \$9,269. That compares to \$78,666 in General Donations and \$5,912 in Designated Donations at this time last year. As you can see, total donations are down slightly from last year but we are doing much better than most other churches and other charities during these difficult times.

We have spent \$53,725 from the General Fund. As for designated expenditures: \$1,347 from Special Offering donations has been sent to the Conference: \$1,423 from the building fund was spent on the new entrance way flooring; and finally, \$25,710 was spent for replacing the siding on the East side of the church building. \$20,000 of that expenditure came from the Endowment Fund and \$4,760 from donations. We hope to receive further donations for the siding project, or donations to the Building Fund, to cover the remaining \$950.

Thank you all for generously supporting the church. Even though we are still financially in good shape, now is not a time to coast. One reason our financial situation appears as good as it does is because we have been blessed to have Reverend Gary as a part time interim minister. It will most likely cost thousands to bring in a new minister and their salary plus benefits will significantly increase our total expenses.

Thanks again for your generosity.
Eddie Bush
Treasurer

Search Committee Update

Since our last update much has happened.

In June, we interviewed a candidate via Zoom. Unfortunately, in less than a week, this candidate accepted a job elsewhere. We were disappointed.

In July we received two strong candidate profiles. The Search Committee decided to interview both. The Search Committee's practice has been, and is, to ask each candidate the same UCC interview questions during the 1st interview. These standard questions allow for a comparison between candidates, as well as, discernment about whether a second interview is necessary.

By the time you read this, each of the two candidates received in July will have been interviewed twice. The second interview allows both the candidate and the Search Committee an opportunity for a more informal exchange of ideas and assessment of compatibility.

Our next step will be to request a neutral pulpit interview.

We are grateful for your prayers, patience, feedback and support.

Your Search Committee,
Gail Banner and Ken Andersen, co-chairs, Mildred McNeal, Phil Miller, Chris Paille, Roger Fogelman, and Mollie Marsh

Bulletin Sponsors for 2021

It is time to start signing up to sponsor a worship bulletin for 2021. The sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the sanctuary starting the third Sunday of September, **September 20th**.

Choose the worship service you would like to sponsor and write your name next to that date; please note if you wish to remain anonymous. You may make your donation of \$10 any time before the end of 2021. Please mark your check for the bulletin date that you are sponsoring. If you have any questions about how this works, contact the church office at 587-4969.

It's nomination time

Have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running smoothly? Did you put on your Time and Talent card for 2020 that you would like to serve on a board or committee? Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees, please contact the church office at 587-4969.

Fellowship and Flowers in October

We need volunteers to provide Altar Flowers and possibly host Fellowship Hour for the month of October. If you have any questions about what this involves, please ask one of the women of the Women's Fellowship or contact the office.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin table in the Sanctuary.

Thank you

From El-Ada

“To the First Congregational Church-

We at El-Ada would like (to) thank you for your generous donation. Your kindness goes a long way in helping our clients succeed and we are forever grateful

Sincerely,
The El-Ada Team”

This is for the Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering.

Summer Music

Lots of variety this summer for special music. On June 21, we were treated to a special choral response by Mike Keas, Nancy Sobien, Gail Banner and Pastor Gary Smith.

On June 28th, Gary's friends, Gary and Keh McCracken delighted us with their music.

On July 5 Al Foster and Dorraine Aggen did a reading of “Grand Ol' Flag”

On July 26, The Bell Choir played a four bell piece for us. Thank you Gail Banner, Doreen Solum, Chris Paille, and Mike Keas.

On August 16 and 23, The Bell Choir treated us to another four bell anthem. Thank you Gail Banner, Betty Ashcraft, Dorraine Aggen, and Chris Paille, under the direction of Mike Keas.

Kelli Collett

Kelli Collett has blessed us with a beautiful banner for “Ordinary Time”, but this banner is anything but ordinary. It is a very peaceful scene with very interesting stitching. Thank you, Kelli, for blessing all of us, yet again, with your remarkable gifts.

Eddie Bush

Once a week, every week, you'll see him out there, mowing the lawn. Every once-in-a-while you'll see him working on the sprinkler system.

Thank you, Eddie, for keeping the lawn looking good and helping our church home look inviting.

Linda Miller, Linda Ramsey, Eddie Bush, and Lee Wright

The beautiful Norfolk pine on the chancel got a new pot to grow in! Thank you to Linda Miller for purchasing the pot and Linda Ramsey, Eddie Bush, and Lee Wright for providing the transplant operation.

Tree Trimming

Thank you, Eddie Bush and Lee Wright, for trimming the trees on the fence line at the east end of the parking lot. Thank you to Eddie, Lee, Gene Mussler, Mike Keas, and Frank Marsh for helping haul off all the limbs and clean up the area. Thank you for all that hard work.

Upcoming Events

Neighbors in Need

On **Sunday, October 4th**, we will take up our 2020 *Neighbors in Need* offering. Go to www.ucc.org/nin for all the details on what this offering does for our Neighbors in Need.

Pilgrim Cove Camp Closing Camp Weekend

Come join us at Pilgrim Cove Camp **October 2nd – 4th** as we say “Goodbye to the 2020 Summer Season!”

Bring your work gloves, chainsaws, rakes and strong muscles as we get the grounds ready for the winter season! Arrive Friday evening feel free to stay until after lunch on Sunday. We will serve 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

All lodging and meals will be provided. Just bring your own bedding, towels, personal hygiene items, and your work gloves / tools.

Pick a task and build a team or join others as we get the camp tidied up:

Blowing out the sprinkler and shallow water systems

Putting away watercraft

Putting away benches and outdoor tables

Clean up the waterfront area

Put the support beams up in Old Rice

Put away the meadow equipment

Putting away trash cans and flower pots

Cleaning and locking up cabins

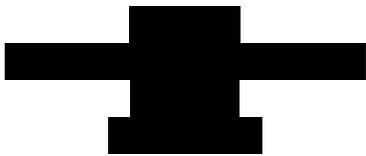
And many more tasks...

**This year we will be closing the camp from October 5th until May 1st, so everything needs to

be put away or shut off. We would love to see you if even for a part of the day.

Please contact Kari as soon as you get your calendar marked so we can make sure to have plenty food: manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org or 208-634-5555

New Address



Welcome, Little One!



In Loving Memory

Ruth Elaine Schreiner
28 July 1932 - 23 July 2020

Nancy Ruth Allen
November 2, 1931 – August 9, 2020

Our Condolences

Carl Case on the loss of his brother

September Birthdays

1 – Heidi Harris	16 – Sally Henderson
3 – Anne Parker	16 – Johnny A. Willis
8 – Nancy Martin	19 – Beth DeVore
12 – Jon Pentland	19 – Jordan Pentland
14 – Alvaree Venski	27 – Jennifer Andersen
15 – Carrie Roeder	27 – Benjamin Parker
	28 – Hunter Dillenbeck

September Anniversaries

12	Susan and Gene Mussler
14	Rose and Lawrence Pearsall
16	Cassie and Jonathan Pentland

Special Angels for September

LITURGISTS (Heidi Harris)

6 – Chris Paille
13 – Heidi Harris
20 – Susan Mussler
28 – Rick Parks

GREETERS (no Greeters for September)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not for September)

USHERS (Lee Wright)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

6 – Gail Banner
13 – Nadine Roberts
20 – Nadine Roberts
28 – Nadine Roberts

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (self-serve)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

From the Interim Pastor

What a crazy summer we have experienced in the way it has affected our social lives. I have disliked the expression, "Social Distancing". Hearing it causes me to think that we are not to communicate with one another. I prefer "Physical Distancing." At worship we have been using every other row of pews and sitting at least six feet from one another. The worship bulletins are picked up by the participants. Those attending have indicated feeling safe in this environment. Of course we respect those with pre-existing conditions taking special precautions and want you to know that we think of you and miss you. We look forward and pray that the day will soon arrive that we might be reunited.

Sunday, August 30th we will include in our service a celebration of Women's Suffrage. The theme of our worship will be justice for all and what that would mean.

Sunday, September 6 Labor Day Sunday
We will celebrate careers and invite members to bring a symbol of their work to church. The theme will be "Tools of our Labor."

Sunday, September 13 Drive-by Communion
At 10 a.m. we will offer drive-by communion for anyone desiring to receive communion but not able to attend worship. It is our way of including those who have not attended. The communion cup is sealed and has a wafer on top of the cup. The Deacon will bring a tray to your car and you will take it from the tray. I will offer the words of institution to each participant.

At 11 a.m. will hold our traditional service with communion. Each person will pick up your own communion as you enter the sanctuary.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office. I look forward to seeing you soon.

God bless!
Pastor Gary Smith

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	4 1 p.m. Craft Day	5
6 LAST 10 a.m. Worship	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 NOTE CHANGE: 7 p.m. Diaconate Board	9 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study	10 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	11 No Women's Fellowship	12
13 No Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	14 6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	15	16	17 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	18 1 p.m. Craft Day	19
20 No Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	21 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	22	23 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study	24 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	25	26
27 No Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After worship: Christian Ed. mtg	28 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	29	30			

October 2020(subject to change!!!!)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	2 1 p.m. Craft Day?	3
Neighbors in Need offering 10 a.m. Sunday School – maybe 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	4 5 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	6	7	8 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	9 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting - <i>maybe</i>	10
11 10 a.m. Sunday School – maybe 11 a.m. Worship	12 Columbus Day Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Trustees	13	14 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study	15 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	16 1 p.m. Craft Day?	17
18 10 a.m. Sunday School – maybe 11 a.m. Worship	19 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	20	21	22 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	23	24
25 10 a.m. Sunday School – maybe 11 a.m. Worship After worship: Christian Ed. mtg	26 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	27	28 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study	29 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	30	31 Halloween