

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org April 2021

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 54 - Issue 4

Holy Week and Easter

April 1st 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday service. This *will not* be a Meager Meal. We will hear The Story and have prayer and Communion

April 2nd 7 p.m. Good Friday worship at First Congregational

April 4th Easter Sunday,
7 a.m. Easter Sunday *Outdoor, acoustic* Sunrise Service, weather permitting

NO Easter Breakfast or Egg Hunt

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Drive-up Communion

11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

These Days

The *These Days* devotional booklets for April through June are available on the long bulletin table or from the office.

These are provided by a generous donation from Helena DeWeerd in memory of her husband, John and son, Jeff.

Practicing our Faith

As those of you who have been participating in the Lenten study know, we did not get through the entire book. Many have expressed a desire to continue the study and that's what we will do.

We will continue to meet every Wednesday beginning Wednesday, April 7th at 6 p.m. to continue the study. We will also continue to offer ZOOM to those who wish to join virtually.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to be able to have Sunday school in person again and to welcome Maddi, Ben, William, and Jillian Beauchamp to our class. We are studying the scripture in Matthew that tells the story of Jesus's last days with readings, songs, and dramatizations. Sunday school will end May 16 and we will present the students with attendance certificates during the church service. Due to

COVID restrictions, we will not have a cake during Fellowship Hour.

Applications are being taken for nursery attendant during worship service. It is a paid position. For further information, contact the office or Betty Ashcraft.

Vacation Bible School is cancelled again this year because of the uncertainty of the COVID restrictions. However, we do hope to have a special something for the kids in August before school starts.

The Easter egg hunt will be replaced with Easter bags for each of the children attending either Sunrise or Worship service.

Thank you to all parents and grandparents who lovingly bring their children to Sunday school. Our journey in Bible study takes on new meaning with the perspective of these engaged young minds. Betty Ashcraft is the lead teacher and is assisted with one other leader. Pastor Paul does drop in joyfully!

The Christian Education Committee

Betty Ashcraft, Susan Mussler, Joyce Allgood, and Marlene Osborn

The Pastoral Relations Committee

We are pleased to announce the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee: Todd Paille, Gail Banner, Grace Townsend, and Lee Wright.

The Pastoral Relations Committee works hard to improve the communication, interpretation and understanding between the congregation and the pastor. They define areas of potential conflict that need to be addressed before the conflicts become a more serious issue. To fully implement conflict management, the Pastoral Relations Committee works within an atmosphere of confidentiality, while communicating open and honest feelings of church members to the Pastor.

The Pastoral Relations Committee also gives the Pastor an avenue to reflect his concerns, hopes, ambitions and frustrations. This allows the Pastoral Relations Committee the opportunity to help the congregation understand the expectations and priorities of the Pastor.

The Pastoral Relation Committee is not a legislative body. They do not make policy or vote on behalf of the church. Their sole responsibility is to support and maintain an open relationship between the Pastor, the church staff, and members of the congregation.

If you have a suggestion, problem, complaint, grievance, criticism or compliments, please feel free to contact the Pastoral Relations Committee. They are here to foster two-way communication to enhance relationships within the church.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

The April Women's Fellowship meeting will be via ZOOM at 11 a.m. The link for the meeting will be sent out a few days before. If you would like to be included on this mailing list, please send an email to the church office from your preferred email address:
churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will again be participating in the *Practicing our Faith* discussion group taking place Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. ZOOM will be available for those who do not wish to meet in person just yet.

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.

Annual Rummage Sale

You have *plenty* of time to clean up those garages, attics, sheds, and closets. The Women's Fellowship is considering a *Fall* Rummage Sale. Much depends on how we progress with the pandemic.

Are you graduating this year?

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? Please let the church office know by **Wednesday, April 14th**.

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 29th**.

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!!

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.

The 2021 Church Directory

Now that we have a settled pastor, we are looking at getting an updated Church Directory put together.

If you have changed addresses, phone numbers, family members, etc. within the past 18 months, please be sure to contact the church office with that new information by **May 3, 2021**.

Thank You!

YouTube Technician

Thank you, Eddie Bush, for being here every Sunday morning to record the worship service and then taking the time to post it to YouTube to help keep the church family connected and blessed. Your time and talent is much appreciated!

Snow Removal Crew

Eddie Bush, Frank Marsh and Lee Wright are the men behind the shovels when the snow falls. Thank you guys for clearing the sidewalks and entryways to make our way safe.

From Duluth, MN

“Dear First Congregational Church,

We enjoyed a wonderful meal in our new t-shirts at the Duluth Grill in Duluth, Minnesota. Our potato magnets are looking great on our refrigerators. We were very very happy to meet all of you and receive these kind gifts. Thank you so much. You are welcome to come see us in Duluth MN whenever you come this way.

Linda Bray and Sue Hall”

St. Patrick's Day Treats

Thank you to the Leprechaun who left shamrock cookies on the Pastor and secretary's desks on St. Patrick's Day. They were much appreciated. Always thought this was a sweet job!

Mollie Marsh and Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship would like to extend their gratitude to Mollie Marsh for her solo fundraising event in honor of Lee Wright's pet dog, Sasha. Sasha passed over the Rainbow Bridge in February. Mollie baked sweet breads and offered her pickled asparagus for sale.

Three hundred dollars was raised and donated to the Mountain Home Animal Shelter in Sasha's name.

Such a sweet thing to do! Thanks so very much, Mollie!

Editor's note: Thank you, Women's Fellowship, for supporting Mollie in her kindness and generosity and being the vehicle for such outstanding thoughtfulness.

ZOOM Technician

Thank you to Ken Andersen for showing up on Wednesday evenings to set up the monitor in the Fellowship Hall for the ZOOM participants in the Lenten discussion group. Your help is invaluable in keeping the church family connected.

Doreen Solum

Thank you, Doreen, for taking the time and effort to pre-record the music needed for two of the weeks you would be gone. It was such a nice addition to the worship service.

Jennifer Dillenbeck

Thank you for sharing your considerable talent adding to the music while Doreen was gone. The addition of the violin was pure genius and beautiful to hear.

Harold and Sally Henderson

Patrice, Harold and Sally's daughter, says her parents are feeling a bit lonely and isolated. If you could drop them a card or a short letter, they would truly appreciate it. Phone calls are a bit difficult for them right now. Here is their address:

Harold and Sally Henderson
650 S. Arbor Lane #122
Meridian ID 83642-3021

Looking Ahead

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 9th, 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.

Summer Worship Time

For some, this will be good news; for others, not so much.

After three weeks of collecting votes on whether to continue to change the worship time to 10 a.m. from Memorial Weekend to Labor Day weekend, the final vote and decision is in.

It has been determined that worship hours ***will not*** change in May as it has in the past. ***We will remain at 11 a.m. worship all through the summer.***

Like so many new things, we will try this and determine how well it did or didn't work *after* summer.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Pilgrim Cove Camp is doing as well as expected after last year's cancellations. We've refinanced at a lower rate and received enough to pay our bills without overextending our credit. Our new Camp Manager, Jeremy Force, will be arriving in April, which is earlier than anticipated. He will be brought up to speed on this summer's activities and then start getting things ready to open the camp in May.

Camp Work Weekend will be May 21-23 and Memorial Day Weekend. Bring your work clothes, bedding, and spit kit, along with a healthy can-do attitude. Food and lodging will be provided. Once Jeremy is there, he will put together a worklist, so we'll know what else to bring with us.

There will not be a UCC Kids Camp this summer. While we have very few kids attending this camp, this year we've had very few adults/counselors step up to work the program and to get it set up. While that is unwelcome news, we do have most of the summer booked (mostly carryovers from last year) and most of the weeks are full. We'll have to see what restrictions are placed on this summer to see how well we do and what the rest of the calendar will look like. Hopefully, we'll know by the end of April.

To reserve a bed and food for the work weekend, call the church office at (208)587-4969 or email us at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org.

Questions about camp? Contact Ken Andersen. His cell number is in the Directory or ask the office.

Welcome to the World!

Amelia Loosli

*Born to Jeremy and Mickie Loosli and big sister
Joclyn on Thursday, March 4th*

In Loving Memory

*Lucille Wilson Gregory
March 10, 1924 – February 27, 2021*

Our Condolences

*To Nancy Martin
On the loss of her son,
Lawrence Crowell Martin
Passed March 12, 2021*

*To Lori Levisé
On the loss of her husband
Kenneth Lee Levisé
Passed March 22, 2021*

April Birthdays

2 – Roger Fogleman	20 - Barbara Fogleman
6 – Rose Pearsall	22 – Linda Miller
15 – Char Kaufman	23 – Orville Thomsen
16- Mildred McNeal	24 – Emma Duty
16 – Stephanie Osgood	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 (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

4 – 11 a.m. Maurie Townsend
11 –
18 – Jennifer Dillenbeck
25 – Susan Mussler

GREETERS (None)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not yet)

USHERS (Diane Venski- Sunrise/Rick Parks
rest of the month)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

4 – Easter Lilies
11 – Linda Ramsey
18 – Doreen Solum
25 – Lars Hansen

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Lee Wright and Sandy
O'Connell)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

From Pastor Paul

As I write this, I'm dreaming and scheming creative ways to bring Holy Week's worship experience deeper into people's hearts. It's a bit tricky, arriving as I did in the first week of Lent, and not having the time ahead to know the people or the resources available. I wish I had that extra time to explore the options with the Diaconate and the Music Team...

...but I write this not to complain, rather compliment:

Friends, this church we have is cool. Really cool. I've had that time to get to know you, and I'm here to tell you that you have good people in every aspect of this church. Gifted and caring and creative people. Awake and engaged and thoughtful people. I know this now, and it motivates me to dream big in ministry and worship, knowing all around me are creative and supportive people.

Yes, sure, it is easy for a pastor to say "dream big" with respect to his own hopes and dreams, but here's the most important part: that applies to you, as well. You have the same resources I do. You have good people in every aspect of this church ready to be wind in the sails of the ways God is nudging you toward YES in your own faith life and ministry. Ministry is not a spectator sport. Let the music bring you out on the dance floor. No one is judging.

Most likely, by the time you read this, you will have smelled the white lilies of Easter and (if we plan worship right) felt the hope and wonder that comes with Resurrection. Take that deep breath and receive! It is in you...

...Here's the thing: it is in you *tomorrow* as well. And the next day. And next Thursday at 3:45, and Tuesday morning when you're making coffee and Friday evening when your head finally hits the pillow. Resurrection doesn't happen only when you walk in those church doors or sit in the pews. God's YES of Resurrection is in every breath. And the good news is that you are not alone. We share it. We support one another. We say YES.

Keep in touch, friends! Pastor Paul

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	2 7 p.m. Good Friday service	3
Easter 4 7 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Worship 10 – 10:30 Drive-up Communion 11 a.m. Worship	5 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	6	7 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	8 No Choir practices 7 p.m. Troop 19	9 11 a.m. Women's Fellowship via ZOOM	10
11 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	8 6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	13	14 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	11 No Choir practices 7 p.m. Troop 19	16 10 a.m. Quilters	17
18 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship A.W. Christian Ed. meeting	15 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	20	21 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	18 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	23	24
25 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	22 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	27	28 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	25 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Troop 19	30	

May 2021 (This calendar subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m. Sunday School 10 – 10:30 Drive-up Communion 11 a.m. Worship	3 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	4	5 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	6 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Troop 19	7 10 a.m. Quilters	8
Mother's Day 9 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Blanket Offering	8 6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	11	12 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	11 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Troop 19	14 11 a.m. Women's Fellowship via ZOOM – subject to change	15
16 10 a.m. Last Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	15 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	18 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. voting	19 6:30 p.m. Practicing our Faith discussion group	18 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Troop 19	21	22
23 11 a.m. Worship	22 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	25	26	25	28	29
30 11 a.m. Worship	Memorial Day 31 Office Closed					