

# Mountain Proclamations

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

[www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org) March 2021 [churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

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## Pastor Paul is Here!

As many of you already know, Pastor Paul is now here and in the office. He's truly looking forward to meeting each and every one of us.

You may drop in to visit with him during office hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or schedule an appointment with him for a time outside of office hours.

He may be contacted at the office (208)587-4969, [REDACTED]

## !!!Back to in-person worship!!!

*We are back to in-person, physical distance worshiping.* For those who feel they are not ready to be in a semi-crowded room, we will record the worship service (not live-stream) and it will be posted on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4te-AbJS-hGeUS6c1cmVA/>) by about 3 p.m. on Sundays.

## Drive-up Communion

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> is Communion Sunday and we will, again, offer the drive-up Communion to those who wish to partake of the elements, but do not feel ready for in-person worship. This will be on **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** out by the front entrance overhang. Pastor Paul will meet you at your car as you pull up and he and a member of the Diaconate Board will administer the elements to you.

## Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School for the children will begin again on **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> due to Spring Break.

## Lenten Disciplines

### *Wednesday Lenten meditations*

We have begun our traditional **Wednesday Lenten Meditation at 6:30 p.m.** There is *no* potluck this year.

We will be exploring the book *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of life for Searching People* by Dorothy C. Bass. If you need a book, let the office know, or you may order your own in the format you like best.

While the book is very good and informational, Pastor Paul will set up this meditation so that those who either don't like to read a lot or haven't been able to get the book, yet, can join in. It will also be set up so that you can join in anytime; you don't have to be at *every* Wednesday study if that's not possible with your schedule.

We are doing a hybrid meditation – we will have in-person meditation in the Fellowship Hall and also be conducting it via ZOOM for those who would like to attend, but do not wish to be in-person just yet.

## *One Great Hour of Sharing*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering has begun! This year's theme is *Let Love Flow*. A giving suggestion calendar and coin boxes are available from the church office or the bulletin table. Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**.

## *The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering*

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also begin **Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**.

This very different, and oddly 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 meeting for March will be held on **Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.** via ZOOM.

## *Bible Study*

Women's Bible Study will be participating in the Lenten Meditation taking place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Please see the Wednesday Lenten Meditation article.

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](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org).

## *Saturday night, March 13<sup>th</sup>*

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks **ahead** Saturday night before you go to bed.

## *Flowers and Fellowship*

We are not quite ready to do Fellowship Hour in March, but as more and more folk get their immunizations against COVID, the closer we get.

Flowers are another story. We are now worshiping in-person again and flowers for the altar are still needed. Please look at the sign-up sheet on the long bulletin table to select your Sunday in **April** or call the office to sign up for your Sunday to set out or provide flowers.

## *Easter*

### *Holy Week/Easter*

**Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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 Meditation on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

**Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.** Maundy Thursday Meager Meal in the Fellowship Hall – not a potluck.

**Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.** Good Friday Service here

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunday,  
7 a.m. – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service  
No Easter Breakfast or Egg Hunt this year  
11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

### *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, **March 29 – April 2**. 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 1<sup>st</sup>**. Office hours are from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Email is always welcome for the dedications – [churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

Forms for dedications will be on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary beginning **March 7<sup>th</sup>**, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

## *Spring Clean*

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## *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. There are also those who are not quite ready to be out and about due to COVID. 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.

## *Thank You*

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

We are overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity as we leave First Congregational. A big thank you to all who took part in our last service to make it so special: the choir, bell choir, Jennifer on the violin and all the members of the congregation who gave their support both in person and online. Thank you for all the lovely departing gifts; from the holy socks to replace holey ones, to the beautiful quilt, lovely flowers and plant, the restaurant gift card, honorary plaque and the cherished memory book that will hold all the cards and notes from the members of this wonderful congregation. Thank you for two years and 2 months of great fellowship and worship together. God bless each and every one of you in your journey of faith.

*Sincerely,*  
*Gary and Robbie Smith*

## *Eddie Bush and Ken Andersen*

Ken Andersen and Eddie Bush have been the talent behind the YouTube worship videos. Ken did the live worships and Eddie has been doing the recorded and posted worships for us. Without these gentlemen, we would be reading bulletins and sermons and singing hymns in more isolation than we already are.

Thank you, Eddie and Ken, for the offering of your time and talent to the Church Family.

### *To Eddie Bush*

For those of you have tried to call the office in February, y'all know that the connection was less than ideal. Eddie spent an afternoon trouble shooting our phone lines and discovered it was *not* our phones! Yeah! Then, bless him, he spent time on hold, I mean on the phone, contacting CenturyLink to come fix the problem. Thank you Eddie for the enormous amount of time and talent dedicated to keeping the phone lines up and going.

### *A Refresher on COVID protocols for Worship*

- We are asking that each person attending worship please bring and *correctly* wear a facemask and observe physical distancing.
- The bulletins will be on a table as you come in for you to pick up.
- Every other pew will be closed off to help facilitate physical distancing
- The sign-in books will not be passed around. Only one person will note attendance.
- 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 back of the Sanctuary is discouraged. **We will open up the Fellowship Hall for *standing (with distance) visiting.***

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.

### *Annual Rummage Sale*

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale for 2021 is . . . put on hold again this year. Will it take place sometime this summer? At this

time, it is not likely, but that could change. We'll keep you posted!

## *Pilgrim Cove Camp*

Dear Members of the Idaho Association:

It is with a grateful heart that this year is quickly ending. The Foundation Board which oversees Pilgrim Cove Camp has worked diligently this year to complete improvements at Pilgrim Cove during a summer with few camp users due to the pandemic.

The New Rice bathrooms were remodeled and completed early in the summer with a combination of volunteer and some paid labor. The project was completed primarily with generous donations, both past and current.

The New Rice sitting room has been renovated with a new paint job, carpet, recovered benches, and attractive décor.

Our camp improvements are essential in order to upgrade existing facilities, attract business, and to keep visitors coming back. In my role as Operations Chair for the Foundation Board, I would like members of our nine member churches to consider helping underwrite some of our improvement expenses for recent upgrades. Sometimes it is easier to help finance the cost of one or more items than it is to write a larger donation check and it can be something definitive.

I am outlining below some of the expenses incurred in upgrading our New Rice sitting room and building. As a Christmas gift to camp, I hope you will think about adopting one of these items which have already been purchased and installed. By doing so, you would certainly be helping the camp through a financially challenging time. Many items were purchased at consignment stores.

All checks may be payable to Pilgrim Cove Camp and mailed to P.O. Box 867, McCall, ID 83638. Donations are tax deductible.

Here are a few of the items purchased: Fabric for New Rice bench recovering - \$200.00 End table and pictures - \$16.61 Decorative mirror - \$104.94 Wall art - \$76.51 & \$39.00 Full length mirror - \$164.29 Floral arrangement - \$19.26 Exterior entry light fixture - \$53.47 Coffee table - \$120.00 Clock - \$34.24 Picture on canvas - \$64.20 2 bear themed light fixtures - \$117.40 Room décor - \$48.08

I am thanking you in advance.

*Linda Hallock,*  
Operations Chair  
Pilgrim Cove Camp Foundation Board

## *Birthdays in March*

2 – Patrick Harris      15 – Nick Dillenbeck  
10 – Lucille Gregory    17 – Chris Rowl  
11 – Genara Toy        18 – Bob Roberts  
11 – Zoey Pearsall      19 – Jay Townsend  
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 (Heidi Harris)

7 – Heidi Harris  
14 – Rick Parks  
21 – Polly Sanders  
28 – Betty Ashcraft

### GREETERS (Not yet)

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not yet)

### NURSERY ()

### USHERS (Diane Venski)

### FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

7 – Lee Wright  
14 – Linda Miller  
21 –  
28 –

### PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

### COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

## *From Pastor Paul*

“When it comes to reading our Bibles,” one of my professors used to say, “there’s the ‘*what*’ and the ‘*so what*’.”

As a person that always wants to integrate my understanding into my actions (integrate my head to my hands and my heart, so to speak), I always appreciated that line.

So let me share with you the *what*: this month we follow Jesus in his travels. We hear him say to Peter “get behind me Satan!” and say to us “take up your cross and follow me!” We see him rail against the moneychangers in the temple, and listen to him shouting “stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” And if that’s not enough,

after we are wide-eyed from witnessing that intensity (all the exclamation points), we settle in and listen deeply, as he shares what is probably our most familiar scripture, John 3:16, speaks of his upcoming death...and sends our heads spinning, somewhere between comfort and challenge, with lines like: “where I am, there my servant will be also.”

Whew.

So the “*what*” of this month is that we walk with Jesus, heads spinning and eyes wide. As we walk, we learn to appreciate the intensity and majesty and divinity and wisdom of the person we follow. The “*what*”, is that we are the disciples on his heels, town by town...participants in the journey.

...But in this time, we also fall in love with him.

And that’s the *so what*. We don’t just follow as passive spectators, but we engage, and we feel, we integrate and we embrace. This matters. It matters because this month’s story ends as he enters into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and we know what happens then: we enter the sacred story of our Passion, and define our lives as Christians.

So my invitation to you this month is to follow Jesus—which, yes, any Pastor worth their salt is going to tell you, but I invite you to follow not in the abstract and ideological way we are used to, but in a full-contact way. Physically, mentally, and emotionally invested.

Is that fair of me to ask of you? Here as a new pastor, bringing (as any new pastor does) a new preaching style, a different energy, and unique presence—is it fair for me to ask in this time of so much change, that you be fully invested in the journey with Jesus?

Thing is, if we embrace this month—if we make ourselves completely devoted to follow him and become disciples of Jesus, we’ll be ready for what’s coming in April, which defines every other thing we’ll ever do as Christians in church together.

That’s the “so what.”

*Keep in touch, friends,  
Pastor Paul*

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	2	3 6:30 p.m. Lenten Meditation	4 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" 7 p.m. Troop 19	5 10 a.m. Quilters	6
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 7 10 a.m. Sunday School <b>10 – 10:30 a.m. Drive-up Communion</b> 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	8 6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	9	10 6:30 p.m. Lenten Meditation	11 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" 7 p.m. Troop 19	12 11 a.m. Women's Fellowship Meeting via ZOOM	13 <b>SPRING (your clocks) FORWARD ONE HOUR AT BEDTIME</b>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 14 <b>2 a.m. Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	15 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	16	17 6:30 p.m. Lenten Meditation	18 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" 7 p.m. Troop 19	19	20
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 21 11 a.m. Worship No Sunday School	22 7 p.m. Church Council ←-----	23 <b>Spring</b>	24 6:30 p.m. Lenten Meditation <b>Break</b>	25 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" -----→	26	27 9 a.m. Spring Clean
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 28 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	29 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	30	31 No Meditation			

# 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
<i>Easter</i> 4 7 a.m. 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 10:30 Women's Bible Study	8 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" 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	11 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" 7 p.m. Troop 19	16	17
18 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	15 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	20	21 10:30 Women's Bible Study	18 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A" 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	25 6 p.m. Bell "B" 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 Bell "A"	30	