

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **May 2021** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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Drive-up Communion

For those not attending in-person worship, we will again be doing drive up Communion on **Sunday, May 2nd, from 10 to 10:30 a.m.** Just pull up in front of the overhang by the front entry and Pastor Paul and a member of the Diaconate board will meet you there and administer the elements to you.

Practicing Our Faith

The *Practicing our Faith* discussion group will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. ZOOM will be available for those who do not wish to meet in person just yet.

The Women's Bible Study group is participating in this discussion group for their Bible Study.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship meeting

The May Women's Fellowship meeting will be ***in-person!!!!*** Yay!

The Women's Fellowship **potluck** and meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at **12 p.m. on Friday, May 14th.**

Can't Create? Donate!

The question has come up more and more. "*Can we donate money for flowers instead of doing the arrangements?*" And the answer has always been a bewildered shrug of the shoulders.

We now have an answer!!! YES! You may donate money for flowers if you don't wish to do the actual arranging. The suggested donation for altar flowers is \$25 - \$30 dollars. The money will be used by one of our very talented volunteers to purchase flowers, do the arranging of them and placing them on the altar. Your name will go in the bulletin as the donor of the flowers.

Sign up now for your favorite Sunday! The sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the Sanctuary or you may call or email the office to see if your favorite Sunday is available.

Craft Days!

Craft Days in the Fellowship Hall will begin again on **Friday, May 21st at 1 p.m.** and will be every other Friday throughout the summer. Bring a craft of your choice to do while visiting with friends old and new. Please wear a mask.

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.

Giving Opportunities

Blanket Sunday

How does your congregation's support change lives?

Without your congregation's Blankets Sunday, Church World Service would not be able to offer

these blankets to others. When disasters strike, when temperatures drop, when sidewalks become home...you make sure someone is there offering warmth.

Imagine the possibilities...

Each blanket is only \$10, but the difference your congregation can make by providing blankets is inspiring.

\$250 Provides lightweight blankets for five families left homeless by a tornado

\$500 Provides warm blankets for a small women's shelter

\$750 Provides 75 blankets for a homeless street ministry

\$1,200 Provides blankets for an organization doing neighborhood outreach

\$2,000 Provides blankets for the beds in a temporary shelter following a hurricane

We will celebrate Blanket Sunday on Sunday, May 9th, Mother's Day.

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.**

Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship will be at 11 a.m. this year. A vote was taken through the month of March and the majority said that they would prefer to leave worship at 11 throughout the summer. We'll see how this works this year to determine if this is a permanent change.

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

AED Training

There will be CPR/AED training shortly. Dates to be determined dependent on class size. If you would like to sign up for this class, please contact the office. The maximum class size is eight people. More classes will be offered if there is enough interest.

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

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering went amazingly well this year! We were making up for what we couldn't get out and do last year.

There were **57** packages totaling **314** individual undergarments, plus 2 packages of Depend-style undergarments.

Thank you to everyone contributed to this worthy project. Your caring is most appreciated.

One Great Hour of Sharing

It was so good to be together again for Palm Sunday and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday March 28th. From Sunday and throughout the Holy Week, One Great Hour of Sharing offerings came in. By the time all was said and done, we collected \$610.87 to be sent to the national church office to be used in a myriad of ways.

Thank you all so much for your continued generosity to this world-wide beneficial offering.

Lenten Study

Thank you to Pastor Paul for leading the Lenten study on *Practicing our Faith*. It was a bit more challenging than "normal" studies as we did it in-person *and* via ZOOM.

Thank you to Ken Andersen for monitoring the computer and admitting the ZOOM attendees.

Thank you, everyone, for being open to new ways of doing things and being together as much as is possible.

Music

Thank you, Jennifer Dillenbeck and Doreen Solum, for your talent and creative versatility. When Doreen had to be out of town for a few Sundays, Jennifer and Doreen worked on recording the hymn accompaniment so that we could make a joyful noise unto the Lord – piano or not! Jennifer accompanied the recordings with her violin. Thank you both for all the time and effort y'all put in so our Lenten worship could have the music we love so much.



And a huge shout out to **Marlene Osborn** who came out of retirement to play the organ for us

on Easter Sunday. We've missed you at that organ bench, Marlene. Thank you for your dedication to the church family and your willingness to share your talent with us.

Spring Clean

Thank you!! to all those who showed up for the Spring Clean on Saturday, March 27th. Many have helped year after year, but we had some new ones, too. Yay! Thank you to Gene Mussler, Eddie Bush, Linda Ramsey, Nancy Sobien, Lars Hansen, Gail Banner, Wade Baumgardner, Frank Marsh and the boys and adults from Troop 57. These young men and their adult supervisors did trash pickup around perimeters of property and building and raked up excess buildup of pine needles and pine cones along east and west sides of property.

Scout youth

Mikey Nordin
Connor Nordin
Elijah Moseley
Bradley Mitchell
John Stephens
Eli Gallup
Jesse Gallup
Raymond Sheets
Tanner Thornsberry

Scout adults

Gene Moseley
Adam Mitchell
Monte Stephens
Verl Sheets
Mike Lawrence

Betty Ashcraft

Thank you, Betty Ashcraft, for always getting the sign board set up when the church has special events or worship services. This one act helps our community know what we are doing and that they are welcome to join in.

Grace Townsend

Did you see them? The palms? No, not the ones in the vases. The beautiful palm trees that helped adorn the chancel on Palm Sunday. **Thank you, Grace and Maurie Townsend**, for generously letting us use your palm trees to help bring the festive feel of Palm Sunday more to life. The trees are beautiful.

More Spring Chores

And could it possibly be Spring without the annual "Running up of the Sprinklers"? This is never just a simple flip of a switch. Something, somewhere has always sprung a leak.

Thank you Eddie Bush and Lee Wright for all the digging and root-cutting and line-splicing y'all do to get the church sprinkler system up and running. Your talents are invaluable.

Pilgrim Cove News

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, has arrived. 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. Jeremy 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.

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

Arwen Sybilla Thompson

April 16, 2021

Proud Grandmother, Rita Olson

Our Condolences

To Heidi Harris

on the loss of

Her mom, Pam Boomsma

To the Parks Family

on the recent loss of

Family members

In Loving Memory

Patsy Fay Reynolds

August 28, 1928 - April 18, 2021

May Anniversaries

1 – Gail and Roger Banner
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 13 – Marlene Osborn
5 – John Hiler 19 – Rose Ann Tagg
9 – Curtis Carlin 25 – Oledeen Bermensolo
13 – Pedro Celaya 28 – Jeremy Loosli
13 – Nancy Mason 29 – Kathy Mori

Special Angels for May

LITURGISTS (Diane Venski)

2 – Diane Venski
9 – Chris Paille
16 – Kevin Osgood
23 – Betty Ashcraft
30 – Rick Parks

GREETERS (not yet)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not yet)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

2 – Linda Ramsey
9 – Lars Hansen
16 – Nadine Roberts
23 – Jennifer Andersen
30 –

USHERS (Sandy O'Connell)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Heidi Harris)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

From Pastor Paul

Psst. A little secret... Pastors like calendars.

...Actually, we roll our eyes at them more than anything, but how grateful we are for their assistance in organizing our days, our schedules and appointments. We also value the bigger picture they provide, the flow of the weeks, the themes in the lectionary, the seasons of the church. In fact, before I write my commentary each month, I take a closer look at the weeks ahead, to see what we might be experiencing. I imagine where God might be taking us in the

time we share. I daydream about how we might be prompted to engage and respond. (And yes, that was a lot of “might be’s” in that sentence. You’ve probably all heard me say it by now: “We plan, and God laughs.”}

But with all the potential ways God might pull the rug out from under our order and planning, let me share it: this month, we transition from the season of Easter to the season of Pentecost.

Now, this is a rough summary, and certainly could be poked full of theological holes if given a critical eye, but here’s how I think of it: The season of Easter guides us to focus on our relationship with Jesus. Of course we’ve been there for a while already, as we walk with him and bear witness and wonder through Holy Week, but also in our acceptance and understanding of resurrection, and Jesus’s real and ongoing presence in us, and all around us. We’ve spent the past two weeks lingering on doubt, for example, and in the weeks to come, we listen as he teaches us. He tells us who he is (good shepherd, true vine), and he prays with us (“as he sent me, so I send you”, “I do not call you servants, but I call you friends”).

Then, with this understanding, acceptance, appreciation, and engagement of Jesus in our lives, we enter into the shared life of the church in the season of Pentecost. We live together, sharing both our unique experiences of life with Jesus in testimony and call, as well as our collective experience in shared ministry and congregational fellowship. Make sense?

But let’s remember all of those “might be’s” mentioned earlier... because welcoming Jesus into your life is no lackadaisical affair, and who really knows where we’re going and how he’ll guide us. The good news is, I think we’re ready. We felt God’s presence through Lent and into Holy Week. We’re making Jesus real in our everyday lives. We’re growing used to this new covenant we share—you’re becoming more familiar with this quirky new pastor, as he is with you. Ready to share your life with Jesus? Ready for Pentecost?

Annie Dillard once wrote: “It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets.” She also wrote: “Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke?”

I’m ready. Looking ahead on my calendar in anticipation. I hope you are too.

Keep in touch, Pastor Paul

May 2021

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. <i>Practicing our Faith discussion group</i>	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. <i>Practicing our Faith discussion group</i>	11 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Troop 19	14 12 p.m.. Women's Fellowship Potluck! and meeting	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. <i>Practicing our Faith discussion group</i>	18 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Troop 19	21 1 p.m. Craft Day	22
<i>Pentecost</i> 23 11 a.m. Worship Strengthen the Church offering	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					

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Troop 19	4 10 a.m. Quilters 1 p.m. Craft Day	5
6 10 – 10:30 Drive-up Communion 11 a.m. Worship	7 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	8	9	10 Troop 19	11	12
13 11 a.m. Worship	14 6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	15	16	17 Troop 19	18 1 p.m. Craft Day	19
20 Father's Day 11 a.m. Worship After worship: Christian Ed mtg.	21 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	22	23	24 Troop 19	25	26
27 11 a.m. Worship	28 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57	29	30			