

# *Mountain Proclamations*

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

[www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org)

July/August 2021

[churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

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## *Revised COVID response policy*

While there is no perfect solution to the COVID question, after the church family and friends voted at the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, it was decided that the new COVID response policy is as follows:

Masks are not required for those that are **fully vaccinated**. Other social distancing procedures will stay in place for now. **Anyone who is not fully vaccinated is requested to continue wearing a mask**, and anyone who is vaccinated but not comfortable without a mask may, of course, continue wearing one.

We request that no one be questioned as to why they are wearing a mask or why they are not wearing a mask.

Thank you for all your patience while we continue to work out the details of what is best for our particular congregation.

## *Fellowship Hour*

At present, we are not planning on having Fellowship Hour for July or August. It will be discussed at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Church Council, which is *after* this newsletter goes to print.

Should we decide to move forward with Fellowship Hour for July and/or August, an announcement will be made through the usual channels – at worship, in the bulletin and in the *In the Loop*. At that time, sign-up sheets will become available for you to pick your Sunday to host.

## *Church Directory 2021*

The Church Directory for 2021 has been printed. They are ready for pick up from the church office or the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Mailing these out does not qualify for the bulk rate due to many factors too boring to go into here. **However**, if you absolutely cannot pick one up from the church – you are a shut in or you live out of town – please contact the church office and we will arrange to have one either delivered to you or mailed to you.

## *Flowers for September – or any month*

If you would like to provide or set out flowers on the altar for September (or any other month), check the sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office to pick your Sunday

And, don't forget . . .

## *If You Can't Create, Donate!*

You may donate money for flowers if you don't wish to do the actual arranging or purchasing. 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.

## *Wednesday Night Book Study*

We are continuing to do a book discussion group on **Wednesday nights at 7 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Our current book is *Breakfast with Buddha* by Roland Merullo. This group is open to all who would like to join in the read and discussion – or just listen.

## *Summer Craft Days*

Mark your calendar for **July 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **August 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** for Craft Day. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at **1 p.m.** to work on crafts with friends, old and new, in the comfort of the Fellowship Hall – with air conditioning! **This is not a closed group, so bring a friend! The more that merrier!**

## *Help with the Rose Garden*

We are looking for folks who would like to give about a half hour once a week to pull weeds in the Rose Garden. You probably won't have time to pull *ALL* the weeds, but every little bit helps. You don't have to sign-up, just show up at your convenience. If you aren't sure what to do or what needs to be done, check with Lee Wright, Linda Ramsey or Gail Banner

## *Summer Music*

With the Chancel Choir taking their well-deserved summer break, it would be wonderful to have other musicians or singers add to our worship time by sharing their talents with us on any given Sunday during the summer.

If you or someone you know would like to share this talent with us, please contact Jennifer Dillenbeck or the church office to let us know which Sunday you would like to do this.

## *Women's Fellowship*

Women's Fellowship is taking a break for the summer.

We will meet again in the Fall. Watch the September newsletter, the bulletins, and the *In the Loop* for the date of our next potluck and meeting.

## *It's nomination time*

Have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running smoothly? Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees, please contact the church office at (208)587-4969 and we will give your name and number to the Nominating Committee and someone will contact you.

## *Want to be part of our history?*

The "Church" is more than the building our congregation comes together in to worship and celebrate the gifts and blessings bestowed on us by God. The "Church" is the people who make up our congregation; a congregation that is ever changing and growing.

What would you like the future generations of our congregation to know about you? Do you enjoy sewing, fishing, coaching, teaching, volunteering? Do you work for social and political cause? What is important to you?

It would be an honor to be able to share your thoughts and values with our future selves. If you are interested in contributing to our historical record, please send/deliver your message to Kitty Singleton or the church office.

## *Vacation Bible School*

At the time that a decision on VBS had to be made, things were still fairly uncertain. Therefore, in an effort to keep our children and volunteers safe and healthy, it was then decided to cancel Vacation Bible School. We know things changed for the better rather quickly, but we felt at the time that this was the best course of action.

## *Pilgrim Cove Camp news*

The Ladies of St. Johns invite you to the Pilgrim Cove 2021 Women's Camp, **Aug 10-12, 2021**

Body, Mind and Spirit

Join us for a few days of relaxation. Try some Yoga, enjoy the lake, do a craft, read a book, visit with old and new friends

Let us know if you can come.

Tues dinner – Thurs Breakfast. Two nights, 5 meals - \$85.00

Contact: [manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto:manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org)

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Ph: 208.634.5555

[www.pilgrimcovecamp.org](http://www.pilgrimcovecamp.org)

[manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto:manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org)

As always, your tax-deductible gifts are always welcome. It has been a hard year, but we are still hanging in there. Any financial contributions are quite helpful. Send your contributions to:

**Pilgrim Cove Camp**

**P.O. Box 867**

**McCall, ID 83638**

## *The Big Blue Bucket*

Please do not forget the Big Blue Bucket while out shopping for your own household needs. Items most needed are personal hygiene items, second most needed are household cleaning items. These are items that cannot be gotten on the SNAP card. As always, thank you so much for helping those in need attain or maintain a higher degree of dignity.

## *Thank You!*

### *Strengthen the Church*

Through the generous donations of the church family \$218 was collected for the Strengthen the Church offering taken on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Your generosity helps spread the healing words of Christ.

### *Rose Garden Care*

The Rose Garden is an on-going project and Linda Ramsey, Lee Wright, and Gail Banner keep on going taking care of it. Thank you to all of you for the hard work that y'all do keeping our little patch of Heaven beautiful even in the hottest times of the year.

## *Going away for the Summer?*

You don't have to be out of the loop on what's happening in the church. Every Monday, the church website, [www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org), is updated with upcoming events. Just pull up the website on your mobile device or laptop and stay in touch even while you are away. You can even watch the Sunday worship on YouTube by clicking on our link on the "Ministries and Worship Video" page or going to our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4te-AbJS-hGeUS6c1cmVA/>

Also, please remember that expenses do continue throughout the summer. If you are going to be away for the summer and you don't want your pledge offering to fall behind, you can mail it directly to the office at:

First Congregational Church, UCC  
ATTN: Frank Marsh  
P. O. Box 659  
Mountain Home, ID 83647

## *Looking Ahead*

### *Rally Day*

Rally Day will be the second Sunday of September, **September 12<sup>th</sup>**. This marks the beginning of our Sunday school program with **Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Worship with Communion at 11 a.m.**

At this point, we do not know what Rally Day will look like. Sunday School classes will follow the protocols of the public school system here in Mountain Home. If they meet, we meet. Which protocols (facemasks, social distancing, etc.) will be used will be determined in August by the Christian Education Committee.

At this point, we do not know if there will be a barbecue/potluck. That determination will be made in August at the Church Council meeting.

## *Public Service Announcement*

The "Picnic in the Park" lunch program operates from noon to 1 PM weekdays at Carl Miller Park. Meals are available free for children ages 1 up to age 18. Adults can receive the same meals for a small fee.

The 2021 Summer Feeding program begins June 1st and concludes August 13th.

The food served is reviewed for nutritional value by the USDA and Mountain Home qualifies as an approved Summer feeding location. This program is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul but funded federally through the USDA.

## *July Birthdays*

1 – Vicki Eckenrod	17 – Paul VanAntwerp
5 – Dorraine Aggen	19 – Stephanie LaClair
7 – John Hooley	21 – Kelli Collett
8 – Terry Lindquist	23 – Carl Case
10 – Johanna Mori	23 – Chris Albright
12 – Ken Andersen	26 – CD Houston
13 – Roger Banner	28 – Ann Carlin
13 – Judy Case	

## *July Anniversaries*

10 – Nancy & Skip Sobien  
11 – Betty and Pedro Celaya  
21 – Genera & Henry Toy

## *Special Angels for July*

### LITURGISTS (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

4 – Heidi Harris  
11 – Phil Miller  
18 – Mike Keas  
25 – Jennifer Dillenbeck

### GREETERS No Greeters for July

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (not yet)

### FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

4 – Gail Banner  
11 –  
18 – Nadine Roberts  
25 –

### USHERS (Diane Venski)

### PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

## August Birthdays

2 – Jocelyn Loosli                      28 – Madilynn Carlton  
8 – Gail Corlett -Trueba            29 – Ramona Yrazabal  
12 – Nathan Parker                    30 – Frankie Guerre  
15 – Cynthia Van Blaricom        30 – Kenneth Hill  
20 – Kay Eilebrecht                  31 – Lori Albright  
25 – Jan Jensen                         31 – Marty Veldman  
27 – Sandy O’Connell

## August Anniversaries

3 – Debi and Tony Deal  
9 – Jean and Jay Leonard  
13 – Barbara and Roger Fogleman  
14 – Terri Jones and Truman Parker  
17 – Jo and Phil Gridley  
22 – Sally and Harold Henderson

## Special Angels for August

### LITURGISTS (Heidi Harris)

1 – Susan Mussler  
8 – Grace Townsend  
15 – Heidi Harris  
22 – Wade Baumgardner  
29 – Rita Olson

### GREETERS No Greeters for August

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (not yet)

### FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

1 –  
8 –  
15 – Nadine Roberts  
22 –  
29 – Frankie Guerre and Barrie Eskridge

### USHERS (Lee Wright)

### PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

### COMMUNION (Sandy O’Connell)

## From Pastor Paul

“But it’s a *dry* heat!” they tell me, as I drive down the road and the temperature on the dashboard thermometer reads one hundred and six degrees.

“Dry heat, yeah.”

I’m learning, friends. I’m learning to open my windows at night and close them in the morning. I’m learning to park in the shade and crack the windows. I’m learning to shut the curtains lest the late day sun begin cooking the bedroom comforter and place undue strain on the air conditioning. I’ve learned what a “swamp cooler” is (though I still think it sounds like

something you’d have while floating in a jon boat holding a catfish pole) and I’ve learned that, no matter how tempting it is, a person should not turn on his sprinkler system midday to run around in, lest his neighbors stare at him funny.

...And then they tell me, with a tone of ominous foreshadowing: *This is just June...wait until August!* I’m thinking now that the dog days of summer in Mountain Home bear a vague resemblance to the dead of winter in northern Minnesota. We shut up the house and settle indoors, reliant on HVAC systems for comfort. We do indoor things. Cooking and crafting, playing music, telling stories. And if this analogy is extended, one of the things that we do to endure and adapt to the cabin-fever of an inhospitable climate, is to gather with friends.

I’m thinking that the small conversations, after groups, after church, in chance meetings in the parking lot—all of the things we might otherwise relegate to terms like “chit-chat”—are really the heart and soul of Christian faith. We see one another for who we truly are. As we share our quotidian lives, we share our common humanity, our common joys and concerns, our hopes and dreams and wants and needs and, likewise, our desire to support and care for one another. We share, by doing all of this, in the great leap of faith that is Christianity. I once had a friend put it this way: “In my experience, hope comes from involvement and acts of solidarity which refuse to give into despair but insist on proclaiming (through word and deed) the truly Good News of Christ’s victory over the powers of death.”

Pretty sure he’s right. At least, I’m ready and willing and able to step into that “Yes” in my life. And it begins with the most basic and humble of actions. Sharing time with one another.

I want to offer those opportunities as we can here at the church. Come by the office on Tuesdays at 10:30 for the Lectionary study, or Wednesdays at 7pm for the book study. Join the group on Thursdays at 9am for breakfast at the Manhattan. Or just stop on by the office for a quick hello. Likewise, reach out to one another, well beyond the walls of this church.

So yes, the temperature will read one hundred and six. Yes, we’ll be closed in our homes in the dog days of summer. Yes, we’ll find things to do to occupy ourselves as we endure the inhospitable climate of this season. But...yes as well to the opportunity to gather and share, to remind ourselves and one another that we, indeed, are not alone. To remember that in our own connections, we bring forth the love and grace that is our Christ, here and now, “dry heat” or not.

*Pastor Paul*

# July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Troop 19 1	10 a.m. Quilters 2	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 3
Independence Day 11 a.m. Worship 4	Independence Day Observed – Office Closed 5	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 6	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 7	Troop 19 8	1 p.m. Craft Day 9	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 10
11 a.m. Worship 11	7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 12	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 6 p.m. AED Training 13	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 14	Troop 19 15	16	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 17
11 a.m. Worship 18	7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 19	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 20	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 21	Troop 19 22	1 p.m. Craft Day 23	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 24
11 a.m. Worship 25	7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 26	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 27	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 28	Troop 19 29	30	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 31

# August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11 a.m. Worship 1	7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 2	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 3	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 4	Troop 19 5	1 p.m. Craft Day 6	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 7
11 a.m. Worship 8	6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 9	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 10	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 11	Troop 19 12	13	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 10
11 a.m. Worship 15	7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 16	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 17	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 18	Troop 19 19	1 p.m. Craft Day 20	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 17
11 a.m. Worship 22	7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 23	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 24	7 p.m. Book Discussion Group 25	Troop 19 26	27	6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Mtn. Home Speaker Group (AA) 24
11 a.m. Worship 29	7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 30	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion Group 31				