

Mountain Proclamations

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

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

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New Mask Policy

Beginning immediately, for now, it has been decided that, if you are **fully vaccinated**, you may take your mask off *once you are seated in your pew*. If you need to get up during the service and when the worship is over and we begin to leave, please put your mask back on. Please know that you may wear your mask throughout the service, even if you are fully vaccinated, if this makes you feel more comfortable in crowds. Those who have not been vaccinated are requested to continue to wear their masks even in the pews. In respect for people's privacy, we request that no questions are asked of either mask wearers or non-mask wearers. Thank you for your support and patience as we work out the most loving way to make this transition.

Special Congregational Meeting

The current mask policy was not the original mask policy proposed to the Church Council. The original proposal did not get a unanimous vote. Therefore, per the Church By-Laws, Article V, paragraph 8, the Church Council decided to put the original proposal to a congregational vote.

This Special Congregational Meeting will be held **after worship on Sunday, June 13th**. Votes will be done on private ballot cast at the meeting.

Below is the original proposal that we will be voting on.

“Based on current [as of May 24, 2021]: CDC, Presidential, and State guidelines for wearing masks, I move that we change our guidelines to state that: Masks are not required for those that are fully vaccinated. Other social distancing procedures will stay in place for now. Anyone that is not fully vaccinated is requested to continue wearing a mask, and anyone who is vaccinated but not comfortable without a mask should 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.”

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

Craft Days!

Craft Days in the Fellowship Hall for the month of June will be on **Fridays, June 4th and 18th 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.

Drive-up Communion

For those not attending in-person worship, we will again be doing drive up Communion on **Sunday, June 6th 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.

Women's Fellowship!!

Women's Fellowship will be having an in-person potluck and meeting on **Friday, June 11th at 12 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Night Book Study

We hope to keep book studies ongoing throughout the year, drawing upon recommendations from all of us. Our next book (recommended by two members of the church) is *Breakfast with Buddha*, a novel by Roland Merullo. If you're interested in joining, let us know. Also, let us know if you're interested in joining via Zoom. We can make that work, too.

We have changed the meeting time to 7 p.m.
and we are still meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Our current schedule is that we will finish *Practicing Our Faith* on Wednesday, June 2nd and begin *Breakfast with Buddha* by Roland Merullo on Wednesday, June 9th. A few books will be available at the first meeting, so if you don't have time to get your own, we will have some. Donations to offset the cost of ordering these books will be accepted. Ten dollars should be sufficient.

This group is open to all who would like to join in the read and discussion – or just listen.

Flowers for July and August

If you would like to provide or set out flowers on the altar sometime during the month of July and/or August, check the sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office.

Also, don't forget . . .

Can't Create? Donate!

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.

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.

It's nomination time

If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees in **2022**, please contact the

church office at 587-4969 and we will give your name and number to the Nominating Committee and someone will contact you.

Reminder!

The July and August editions of the *Mountain Proclamations* come out as one edition.

If you have any information, articles, or Special Angels to be included in the **August** edition as well as the July one, please make sure that it is into the office by **1 p.m. Thursday, June 17th**. Bring it in during office hours (10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday), call it in (587-4969), or email it to (churchinfo@mhfccucc.org.)

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.

Thank you

To the Church Family

Thank you, Church Family, for your immense patience as the church leadership navigates through these very unique times we are all going through. Thank you for your input, ideas, faith, and continued support. We are all learning how to do life in these ever-changing times and your walking with us through it all is of great comfort.

Acolytes for the 2020/2021 Sunday School Season

It's been a very challenging year for worship services, but the kids were awesome at stepping up to be Acolytes when the time came for them to do it again.

Thank you to Devin and Heather Osgood and Hunter Dillenbeck for opening and closing our worship services with the lighting of the candles for the 2020/2021 season. If any names are missing from this list, please know that your participation is much appreciated.

It's the little things

If you've ever been in the office when the pocket door was closed and anyone tried to open it, you'll understand.

Thank you, Eddie Bush, for attaching a *much* better handle to the pocket door that affords Pastor Paul privacy when talking with someone. The new handle makes opening the door so very much easier. Thank you for sharing your creativity in problem solving.

Blanket Offering

The donations from the church family on Sunday, May 9th for the Blanket Offering will provide over 68 people in crisis with a blanket to wrap up in or build a shelter with. Thank you so much for your donations of \$683.00. That's even more than last year. Awesome love!!

Lee Wright

Thank you to Lee Wright for providing the carnations that were given out on Mother's Day, May 9th. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated by many!

Gail Banner

Gail Banner was caught! She comes early in the morning to work on the loooooong front flowerbed out by the road. Thank you, Gail, for taking the time to help care for part of God's creation – and one of the first things folks see when the drive by our church home.

Office Fridge!

Thank you, Women's Fellowship, for the office mini-fridge. It's just the right size for coffee creamer and other incidentals that make hosting visitors a bit easier in the office.

New kitchen microwave

Again, thank you Women's Fellowship, from all those who use the kitchen microwave.

Women's Fellowship has purchased a new microwave for the kitchen that is much easier to use and much more powerful. Thank you, Ladies for taking such good care of the church family and friends.

Strengthen the Church

Thank you to all those who gave to our annual Strengthen the Church offering. Your generous support of \$217 will go toward helping church starts, new church programs and other faith-enhancing initiatives. Thank you for caring.

From Bell Director, Mike Keas

I would like to give a huge thank-you to the following members of our Bell Choir for all their hard work, patience, and flexibility this past year.

Alice Keas, Betty Ashcraft, Chris Paille, Doreen Solum, Dorraine Aggen, Frankie Guerre, Gail Banner, Jennifer Dillenbeck, Nancy Sobien, and Patty Dalrymple.

To be CDC compliant with social distancing, I divided the Bells into 2 separate Bell Choirs of 4 ringers each. With 10 Ladies wanting to ring, there was a rotating schedule after every performance. This allowed everyone to play as many times as possible. When they would rotate back in, it provided a fantastic learning opportunity for them as well. This was because they would not be playing the same bells as before. So that increased their experience and growth in reading and playing techniques with these different bells.

I am so glad that we are once again able to play and perform as a large Bell Choir. We all missed that very much.

It was only with this type of dedication and effort on their part to see the Bell Choir succeed, that we were able to perform for the Church this year.

Again, THANK-YOU from the bottom of my heart,
Mike Keas
Bell Choir Director

From Chancel Director, Jennifer Dillenbeck

During the last year, we have had some wonderful growth in the music offerings of our church. From Bluetooth malfunctions to experiments with sounds and small groups, to navigating singing with masks, we still were able to make beautiful music and share it with each other during the rough last year. This would not have been possible without the work of our amazing chancel choir members:

Gail Banner, Grace Townsend, Rose Ann Tagg, Nadine Roberts, Frankie Guerre, Nancy Sobien, Doreen Solum, Dorraine Aggen, Alice Keas,

Mike Keas, Lori Levis, Pastor Paul VanAntwerp, and Joseph Armstrong.

Our Pianists - Doreen Solum and Dorraine Aggen and our "in-a-pinch" organist – Marlene Osborn

The kids that joined the children's chorus on May 23rd –

Devin and Heather Osgood, Hunter Dillenbeck; Madison, Benjamin, William and Jillian Beauchamp, and Sunnie Marx

I thank each of you for your willingness, flexibility and excitement in facing the challenges, for bringing your voices and ideas to the table, and of course, for putting up with my last minute changes. I look forward to our adventures in the year ahead!

*Keep singing beautifully,
Jennifer Dillenbeck*

From a Grateful Church

A huge **thank you** to Jennifer Dillenbeck and Mike Keas for directing the Chancel and Bell choirs respectively (and sometimes interchangeably!) Without your excellent leadership skills, there would not have been a music program, particularly with all the adaptations that had to be made over the course of this year. Your versatility and creativeness were awesome and a true blessing.

Thank you to all the members listed in Mike and Jennifer's thank you's. Without your willingness to adapt and change and do things we've never done before, there **definitely** would not have been a music program. Directing thin air doesn't really produce a good sound. Your presence and your shared gifts made a trying time much more bearable as you gave us songs and melodies to carry us over the rough spots.

Thank you all for boldly sharing your time, talent and creativity for our enjoyment.

Office Mice

Thank you to Lars Hansen and Mickie Betts for their faithful service every Thursday as they come in and fold worship bulletins for the Sunday service. They save me an amazing amount of time that allows me to tend to other things.

Linda Ramsey and Lee Wright

Thank you, Lee and Linda, for tending to the Rose Garden – cleaning it up after winter,

pruning and feeding, replacing when needed, and all the other things that roses require to return your efforts with a beautiful display of blossoms. Your work is appreciated by all who walk by this garden.

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, 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

Vacation Bible School

In an effort to keep our children and volunteers safe and healthy, **Vacation Bible School** has been cancelled for this year. We know things are changing for the better rather quickly, but we feel this is the best course of action for now.

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.

Pilgrim Cove News

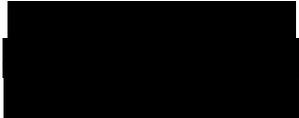
While there is no UCC Kids' Camp this year, the Camp is still going strong.

Our new Camp Manager is looking for employees for this summer season, (cook assistants, Lifeguards, general

maintenance/clean-up crews). If you'd like to help or know someone looking for summer employment, please let Jeremy Force know at (208) 634-5555.

Ken Andersen, Pilgrim Cove Camp Representative

Change of Address



June Birthdays

2 – Eliot VanAntwerp 19- Dustin Paille
3 – Wade Baumgardner 20 – Victory Gaffin
5 – Elaine McCalley 22 - Nancy Sobien
5 – Dan Mori 24 – Anita Christianson
9 – Leon Gaub 27 – Katherine Singleton
11 – Sherry Bush 28 – Diana Hooley
14 – Mimi Carlton 28 – Polly Sanders
19 – Gail Banner

June Anniversaries

22 – Polly and Bid Sanders
23 – Nick and Jennifer Dillenbeck
25 – Judy and Carl Case
29 – Heidi and Allen Harris

Special Angels for June

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

6 – Mollie Marsh
13 – Frank Marsh
20 – Jennifer Andersen
27 – Gail Banner

GREETERS (not yet)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not yet)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

6 – Joyce and Harris Allgood
13 –
20 – Lars Hansen
27 –

USHERS (Ann Carlin)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION – Linda Thomsen

From Pastor Paul

As we enter this season of Pentecost, this quote arrived in the midst of my studies:

“Too many churches have become mausoleums for the dead rather than coliseums of praise for a living God. They have lost the spirit of Pentecost! They have lost their enthusiasm. They have lost their joy for Jesus and find themselves suffering from what William Willimon calls “Institutional and spiritual Dry Rot.” If the Church is to survive the next millennium it must recapture some of the praise and enthusiasm it had two millennia ago.” — Carlyle Fielding

“Praise and enthusiasm” ... I write those words following a Pentecost Sunday’s service full of both laughter and tears. I write this after a great Bible study with people from very different perspectives offering testimony and listening deeply. I write this after a challenging meeting with church leaders discussing matters of faith and practice—and watched those same leaders model the Christian behavior of having challenging conversations, then getting up the next day and continuing to love one another. More? Yes...most certainly, I can fill a whole page of examples where “praise and enthusiasm” are present in our church, with the reminder to myself, and to everybody, that praise and enthusiasm are present anytime the Holy Spirit is alive and engaged in our ministry together.

...And I’d love to hear your list. Seriously. Send me a note or give me a call (or stop in and say hello), and tell me the places in our shared ministry where you feel, or witness, praise and enthusiasm—where you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in the time we share.

The goal in my longing to receive your list isn’t only toward understanding, it is toward creativity and inspiration. See, here we are, just after a time of worship full of praise and enthusiasm, and then we turn to summer, where (so I’m told) things tend to “slow down.” So I ask: How do we, as the shared body of Christ imbued with the Holy Spirit, sustain that praise and enthusiasm throughout the summer? Book studies, faith discussions, fellowship, “special music” ... others? Keep in touch, friends.

Pastor Paul

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 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting	12
13 11 a.m. Worship After Worship: Special Congregational meeting	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			

July 2021

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