

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org March 2022 churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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Our COVID policy

Masks are *not* required for those that are **fully vaccinated**. Other physical 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.

Please do not come to worship if you are not feeling well.

Fellowship Hour

In February, we began visiting in the Fellowship Hall with no food or drink. While it was a bit tentative at first, visiting in the Fellowship Hall did get some traction.

The Church Council feels that we can now safely serve beverages – coffee, tea, punch – during Fellowship Hour. If you are interested in helping with this during March, please contact the office and we'll get you signed up.

Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar or donate \$25 - \$30 to have them provided, please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary or call the church office.

Ash Wednesday Worship

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 2.

Lenten Disciplines

Wednesday Lenten meditations

We will begin our traditional Wednesday Lenten Meditation at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 9th.

We will be exploring the book *Unrevealed Until Its Season*, by James C. Howell. "Author James Howell believes in the power of song to teach spiritual truths. 'Hymns embed faith into the marrow of the soul,' he writes.

Reflecting on well-loved hymn phrases, Howell helps readers discover who God is and what following Jesus means.

The weekly themes include Praising God, Hymns About Jesus, Hymns of Forgiveness, Hymns of Vision, Hymns of Beauty, Hymns of Holy Week, and Hymns of Easter. Howell ponders phrases from hymns old and new, such as 'Be Thou My Vision,' 'Hymn of Promise,' 'All Creatures of Our God and King,' 'For Everyone Born,' 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,' 'Lift High the Cross,' and 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.'"

There will be 10 books available or you may purchase your own. These books are free. If you wish, you may make a \$10 donation to cover costs.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering will begin on March 2nd. This year's theme is *Love Remains*.

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to *One Great Hour of Sharing*, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, *Love Remains*.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor. 13:13

A giving suggestion calendar and coin boxes are available from the church office or the bulletin table. Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 10th**.

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also begin **Sunday, March 6th** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 10th**.

This 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 distributed to the disadvantaged in

our area through one of the agencies that work with folks who need the help.

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, **April 10 – April 14**. 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 7th**. Office hours are from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Email is always welcome for the dedications – churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Forms for dedications will be on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary beginning **March 6th**, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship theme this year is "*The Power of Prayer*". The Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for March will be on **Friday, March 11th at 12 p.m.** The hostesses will be Betty Ashcraft and Vickie Armstrong.

Bible Study

BOOK: The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis
Dates: Thursday, **March 10 and 24**
Time: 10:30am
Location: Adult Sunday School room
COVID Precautions: Personal distancing, masks, and "please do not to attend if you are sick".

If you are not on the Women's Bible Study email list, email the church office at the below email address to be added to the mailing list: churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Saturday night, March 12th

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 13th**. Be sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks **ahead** Saturday night before you go to bed.

Sunday, March 13th

Pilgrim Cove Camp Sunday

On **Sunday, March 13th**, we will be celebrating Pilgrim Cove Camp with the help of Pilgrim Cove Camp Director, Jeremy Force. Jeremy will

be joining us all morning, starting with talking to the Adult Sunday School class at 10 a.m. and then sharing with all of us at the 11 a.m. worship. Please show a warm First Congregational welcome to Jeremy at either or both of these times.

Are You Watching?

There has been some discussion as to whether or not our YouTube ministry is an effective ministry.

Please, if you are worshiping with us via YouTube, let us know. You may drop a simple email at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org or call us at (208)587-4969 to let us know that you want us to keep it going. If we are feeding just one person's soul, that's enough to keep us going. Thank you so much for your help with this.

Pastoral Relations

Happy Anniversary to us all!! Pastor Paul has been with us now just over a year. Let us know what you think!

The Pastoral Relations Committee – Gail Banner, Phil Miller, and Lee Wright – would love to hear your thoughts about how this first year has been with Pastor Paul. You may contact any one of them by phone or email to let them know – good, bad or otherwise. If, for any reason, you wish to stay anonymous, you may put your note in the UPS box outside the West Entrance by the office.

If you need the Committee's contact information, please get in touch with the office.

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.

Vacation Bible School

It may seem a bit early, but with all the planning it takes, it's not early at all!!

As we contemplate doing Vacation Bible School this summer, it would be wise to know if we are going to have the people we need to give the kids the best experience we can.

If you would like to help with Vacation Bible School, tentatively planned for the first week of June, please contact Betty Ashcraft or the church Office by March 20th, before their March Christian Education Committee meeting. Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity to bring Christ's light to the children of our community.

Thank You

The Townsends

Thank you Maurie and Grace, for the donation of 3 reams of paper. We are very grateful for this donation. It helps make the office budget go so much farther. Thank you!

Scouts!

A big Thank You! to Cub Pack 57, Troops 57 and 19, and Venture Crew 57 for joining us on Scout Sunday, Sunday, February 6th. It was wonderful having all of you with us and the Valentines from the Tiger Pack was a "sweet" touch. We look forward to seeing each of you again any time you wish to join us.

Video recorders

Thank you Ken Andersen, Eddie Bush, Keith Narey, and Kevin Osgood for continuing to record and post our worship service on YouTube. This allows our church family and friends to enjoy worship when they can't be here in person. Thank all of you for the offering of your time and talent to the Church Family.

Doreen Solum

Thank you, Doreen, for stepping up as our accompanist on the few occasions when one was needed on short notice. As always, we are blessed by your talent and generosity.

Upcoming Events

Spring Clean

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, April 9th, 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.

Holy Week/Easter

Palm Sunday, April 10th, 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, April 13th

Thursday, April 14th at 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship

Friday, April 15th at 7 p.m. Good Friday Service here

April 17th Easter Sunday,
7 a.m. – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
To be determined Easter Breakfast/Egg Hunt
11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

Annual Rummage Sale

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale for 2022 is . . . ON!!!

The plans for the Annual Rummage Sale are: setting up on Friday, April 29th from 1 – 4 p.m. and the Sale will take place on Saturday, April 30th from 8 a.m. to noon. Finally! We can clean out those closets, cupboards and attics for a good cause.

All help is welcome. Contact Nancy Sobien or Gail Banner if you can lend a hand setting up, taking down, or with the sale itself.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

The next meeting of the Pilgrim Cove Camp Board will be **Saturday, March 12th**. If you have any questions for the board, please contact Ken Andersen

Below is a list of 2022 camping programs and opportunities to serve. For more information or questions, please call or email Jeremy Force, Camp Manager at (208)634-555. Email: manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org.

Idaho Association Meeting, April 22 – 23, 2022, all members, cost TBA

Spring Work Weekend, May 20 – 22, 2022, anyone, cost – FREE

Summer Youth Camp, July 10 – 15, 2022, 3rd – 12th Grade, cost - \$275

Family Camp, July 29 – August 1, 2022, anyone, cost – TBA

Women's Retreat, August 9 – 11, 2022, adult women, cost – TBA

Grandparent's Camp, September 9 – 11, 2022, Grandparent/grandchild, cost – TBA

Fall Work Weekend, October 14 – 16, 2022, anyone, cost – FREE

Note: Scholarships are available from the church for the Youth Camp.

In Loving Memory

Genara Toy
March 11, 1939 – February 13, 2022

Our Condolences

Elaine McCalley on the loss of her daughter-in-Law

Rita Olson on the loss of her mother

Birthdays in March

2 – Patrick Harris	15 – Nick Dillenbeck
4 – Amelia Loosli	17 – Chris Rowl
6 – Lori Levis	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 (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

6 – Gail Banner
13 – Betty Ashcraft
20 – Heidi Harris
27 – Jennifer Dillenbeck

GREETERS (Diaconate Board)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Modified)

NURSERY ()

USHERS (Sandy O'Connell)

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

6 – Nadine Roberts
13 –

20 – Vickie Armstrong
27 – Gail Banner

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Heidi Harris)

From Pastor Paul

As you read this, we are entering the season of Lent. It's worth taking a moment to where we came from and where we are going:

-First we spent time in the season of Advent. Advent is a time of anticipation. Put bluntly: *we live troubled lives and we long for hope and light*. It culminates with the birth of Jesus (the light of the world).

-We then spent time in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a time of appreciation and acceptance. *Put bluntly: we realize who Jesus really is, and accept that he is the hope and light we've been longing for*. We become closer to God because we walk with his Son.

-Now we're going to spend time in the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation. Put bluntly: *this story is HUGE, and has the power to change our lives forever, if only we can make ourselves ready to hear it!* In Lent, we're preparing ourselves to hear the whole story. Not only who Jesus is, but how he became Christ.

Often we talk about "giving up" something for Lent. I want to tell you, no matter what you might "give up", you are not making God love you more. God already loves you wholly, with a depth that our mortal minds cannot possibly comprehend. Do you know who you are showing love to during Lent? Yourself.

My best advice for Lent? Give up all things that distract you from being your true self...your best self. And be ready to have your life changed. God is at work through his Son.

I read this recently:

The Elimination Diet:

Remove anger, regret, worry, resentment, and blame. Then watch your health and life improve.

That sounds like a good Lenten practice to me.

We'll have Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services. I encourage you to attend them all—not just 'cause I like you and all—but because each day is a part of our preparation. Each day brings us closer to God, because each day makes God clearer in our busy heads. This story, this time, can change your life.

Keep in Touch,
Pastor Paul

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Shrove Tuesday 1 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Group	Ash Wednesday 2 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	3 9 a.m. Breakfast* 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	4 10 a.m. Quilters	5 7 – 9 MHAA
1st Sunday of Lent 6 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	8 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Voting	9 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	10 9 a.m. Breakfast* 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	12 7 – 9 MHAA SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD AT BEDTIME
2nd Sunday of Lent 13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship DST BEGINS	14 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	15 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	16 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	17 St. Patrick's Day 9 a.m. Breakfast* 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	18	19 7 – 9 MHAA
3rd Sunday of Lent 20 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After Worship – Christian Ed mtg.	SPRING 21	BREAK 22 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion 7 p.m. Church Council	-----23 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	-----24 9 a.m. Breakfast* 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	-----25	26 7 – 9 MHAA
4th Sunday of Lent 27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 7 Troop/Crew 57	29 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	30 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	31 9 a.m. Breakfast* 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19		*Fellowship Breakfast will be at AJ's for the month of March

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Fellowship Breakfast location for April to be announced					1 April Fool's Day 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	2 7 – 9 MHAA
5th Sunday of Lent 3 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	4 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	5 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	6 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	7 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	8 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	9 7 – 9 MHAA
Palm Sunday 10 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship OGHS offering and Underwear Offering Conclude	11 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	12 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	13	14 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service Bells TBA 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	15 Good Friday 7 p.m. Worship	16 7 – 9 MHAA
Easter 17 7 a.m. Sunrise Service TBD Breakfast / Egg Hunt 11 a.m. Worship	18 7 Troop/Crew 57	19 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	20	21 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	22 Earth Day	23 7 – 9 MHAA
24 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	25 7 Troop/Crew 57	26 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion 7 p.m. Church Council	27	28 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	29 Rummage Sale set-up 1 – 4 p.m.	30 8 a.m. – noon Rummage Sale 7 – 9 MHAA