

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **April 2022**

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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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 and Easter

April 10th, 11 a.m. Palm Sunday – concluding One Great Hour of Sharing offering and the Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

April 14th, 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday service. This *will not* be a Meager Meal. We will hear The Story and have prayer and Communion

April 15th, 7 p.m. Good Friday worship at First Congregational

April 17th, Easter Sunday, 7 a.m. Easter Sunday *Outdoor, acoustic* Sunrise Service, weather permitting

NO *Easter Breakfast or Egg Hunt* – this might change, so watch your bulletins and *In the Loop*

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

These Days

The *These Days* devotional booklets for April through June are available on the long bulletin table or from the office.

These are provided by a generous donation from Helena DeWeerd in memory of her husband, John and son, Jeff.

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 are on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

Lenten Disciplines

Wednesday Lenten meditations

We have been exploring the book *Unrevealed Until Its Season*, by James C. Howell. We will conclude this study on **Wednesday, April 6th at 7 p.m.**

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 10th**. 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

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering 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.

Pastoral Relations

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.

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 April will be on **Friday, April 8th at 12 p.m.** The hostesses will be Nadine Roberts and Nancy Sobien. At 1 p.m. Terri Pobst-Martin will speak on "Scammer Awareness."

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Bible Study

BOOK: The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis

Dates: Thursday, **April 7 and 21**

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.

Annual Rummage Sale

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

The *tentative* 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.

Are you graduating this year?

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? Please let the church office know by **Wednesday, April 13th.**

First Congregational Church *Scholarship*

If you are graduating from high school this year and plan to go on to college, contact the church office, a member of the Diaconate Board or a member of the Women's Fellowship to get a Scholarship application. **These are due by Thursday, April 28th.**

The Big Blue Bucket

The Church Family has been wonderful about remembering to bring items in for the Big Blue Bucket that we collect food, household items, and hygiene items in for the Grace Food Pantry. Thank you so much!!

As always, please remember to pick up one or two extra items for Big Blue when you do your own household shopping. Personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies are as welcome as food.

The 2022 Church Directory

The 2022 Church Directory is done and printed. You may pick your copy up from the office during the week or from the bulletin table on Sunday.

If you are a shut-in or live out-of-state and would like a copy, please call [(208)587-4969] or email (churchinfo@mhfccucc.org) the church office and let us know if you would like an electronic copy emailed to you or you would like to have a hard copy mailed to you.

Thank You!

Tree Trimmers

Thank you, Eddie Bush, Lee Wright, Gene Mussler, and Richard Broemeling for the incredibly hard work of trimming the trees along the west (office) side of the church. They no longer try to reach out and touch your car as you drive by. This makes backing out so much easier, too. Thank you, guys, so much for the hard work.

Ukraine Relief

On Sunday, March 13th, we took a special offering for the people of Ukraine. This offering will be sent to the national office, which in turn will forward it on to those working to provide relief for those most in need.

Even though it was time-change Sunday and attendance was low, we still gave \$1,470. Your love and solidarity are, as always, beyond amazing. Thank you so much for your generosity.

From Joe and Vickie Armstrong

“Dear Church Friends

Thank you for your support, all the cards, phone calls and messages are much appreciated! Joseph and I are trying to be hopeful. Joseph is being proactive and researching clinical trials, etc. But, we are impressed with the doctors at the St. Luke’s Cancer Center. We have another biopsy to go for certain diagnosis as to spread or not.

Thanks again,
Vickie and Joseph”

Vacation Bible School

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 third week of June, please contact Betty Ashcraft or the church office or sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin table. Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity to bring Christ’s light to the children of our community.

Collectibles

Collectible stamps and postcards have been given to Lee Wright. He would like to find a good home for these. If you or someone you know collects stamps or postcards, please see or call Lee Wright.

Looking Ahead

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 8th, Mother’s Day**. Each \$10 donation provides one warm blanket. For more about what Church World Services does, go to www.cwsglobal.org. They do so much more than blankets.

Summer Worship Time

Summer worship time will remain at 11 a.m.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

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.

UCC Northwest Regional Women’s Retreat XIII

The UCC Northwest Regional Women’s Retreat welcomes women to Salishan Resort on the Oregon coast for our regional retreat November 4, 5, and 6, 2022. Explore the website at www.nrwr.org for information on speakers, workshops, the venue and registration. You may contact Carol Kiriluk with questions at ck5.maple@gmail.com, or any member of the committee as listed on the website.

Change of Address

Ann Parker and Paul Taggart



Our Condolences

*Ken Andersen on the loss of his brother-in-law,
Vern MacArthur*

April Birthdays

2 – Roger Fogleman 20 - Barbara Fogleman
4 – Vickie Armstrong 21 – Jim Tagg
6 – Rose Pearsall 22 – Linda Miller
15 – Char Kaufman 23 – Orville Thomsen
16- Mildred McNeal 25 – Billy Roeder
16 – Stephanie Osgood 26 – Debi Deal
17 – Jennifer Dillenbeck 26 – Linda Thomsen
17 – Patricia Urbick 29 – Tony Deal

April Anniversaries

10 – Mike and Alice Keas
30 – Jim and Rose Ann Tagg

Special Angels for April

LITURGISTS (Heidi Harris)

3 – Frank Marsh
10 – Susan Walker
17 – Heidi Harris
24 – Lori Levisé

GREETERS (Diaconate Board)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – WE NEED HELP HERE!

3 –
10 –
17 –
24 –

USHERS (Lee Wright)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

3 –
10 –
17 – Lilies
24 –

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

From Pastor Paul

Y’know, Lent is a time when we focus on the things that keep us from being fully present with God in our day-to-day life—the ways that we’re not in touch, the ways our faith is less than what we want it to be.

Problem is, in our culture (perhaps all of humanity?), when we focus on where we “fall short” in our goals, we tend to hear a voice of judgment. That voice is inside of us, but it has been honed and toned throughout the years by people in our lives that have judged us.

We all have them. Most of us still have them now. I sure do. Maybe it is a family member, a classmate, a co-worker, a former partner, a church member (have you found yours yet?), but in this process, the narrative that we’ve heard from them becomes the narrative we hear in our own heads.

But guess what? It’s not God’s.

I’ve said before and I’ll say it again and (if there is a day of judgment) I will stand before God and repeat, over and over: *God’s love is more immense and more beautiful than my mortal mind can possibly comprehend. All I can do in my prayer and my life is to ask God to guide me toward that love. Give me just enough, God. Give me what I can handle. Sure, I’ll mess it up, misinterpret, be misguided, but I’m going to try. I am going to try.*

Friends, we will get to alleluia... in our faith, in our lives. We will, if we want it, rejoice. We will know our Savior here and we will know our Savior as we pass beyond this mortal time.

But we will never celebrate if all that we focus on are the voices of judgment.

Silence them... the voices that told you that you’re are “not good enough” or “you’ve done it all wrong.”

Silence them, because they are drowning out the gentle and empowering words of love that come from God.

*Keep in touch, friends,
Pastor Paul*



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April's Fellowship Breakfast will be at Wingers					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

May 2022 (subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	2 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	3 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	4	5 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	6 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	7 7 – 9 MHAA
Blanket 8 Mother's Day 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	9 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	10 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	11	12 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	14 7 – 9 MHAA
15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	16 7 Troop/Crew 57	17 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	18	19 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	20	21 7 – 9 MHAA
22 10 a.m. LAST Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	23 7 Troop/Crew 57	24 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion 7 p.m. Church Council	25	26 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells (?) 7 p.m. Choir (?) 7 p.m. Troop 19	27	28 7 – 9 MHAA
29 11 a.m. Worship	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion				