

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **May 2022** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 54 - Issue 5

Special Congregational Meeting

Notice from the Trustees

The Board of Trustees received a request from the Music Committee to increase their budget from \$2400 to \$10,000. The current budget was approved at Budget Meeting in January. Changing the budget will require the church members' approval in another Budget meeting. **This new Budget meeting is planned for Sunday May 1st.**

Please plan to attend so we have a quorum. If you have questions or need more information, please contact any Trustee after Sunday Service.

*Thanks,
Roger Fogleman, Trustee Chair*

Pastor Paul's Announcement

Announcement from Pastor Paul after Sunday's Service (04/24/22)

I want to give you all the announcement, together in the congregation, that this weekend I sent a letter (below) to our leadership team announcing my 90-day notice of resignation as Pastor of First Congregational Church.

It is always a challenging decision, but I made this choice based on covenant. The direction of leadership in this church, and the leadership I can provide as an ordained minister, could not be in covenant with one another anymore. There are many other things I would love to share, but what I'd really love to do is talk uniquely to each and every one of you, and I invite you to call, write, or arrange a meeting so that we may share that conversation.

For some of you this will be a disappointment, and for some of you this will be a relief. Please know that I hold all of you in my heart. It has been my great privilege to be your minister.

-Pastor Paul

April 22, 2022

To: Church Council
From: Rev. Paul VanAntwerp

Please accept this letter as my 90-day notice of resignation as Minister to First Congregational

Church of Mountain Home. I will spare you any summary statements here. For some of you, this will be a disappointment. For others, a relief. I invite you, and any member of the church, to contact me directly for more information. I would be happy to talk to you.

Please know that members of leadership are already in contact with our Conference Minister, Tyler Connoley, and that the conference is invested in assisting the church through this transition.

I ask that you keep this letter confidential until Sunday, so that I may share this in person with the whole congregation.

Sincerely,

Paul VanAntwerp
paulvanantwerp@gmail.com
218-349-0143

"Normal" Fellowship Hour Returns

Beginning with **Sunday, May 1**, we will return to our "normal" Fellowship Hour with beverages and snacks! If you are interested in hosting a Fellowship Hour in June or helping in May, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the back table in the Sanctuary.

Mother's Day

Join us **Sunday, May 8th**, for our traditional Mother's Day celebration of the women of the church.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship meeting

The Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at **12 p.m. on Friday, May 13th**.

This is open to all the ladies of the church.

Can't Create? Donate!

If you do not wish to do the actual arranging of the altar flowers, you may donate \$30 to the Women's Fellowship and they will do it for you. 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.

Blanket Sunday

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created – to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, (like us!) our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

We will celebrate Blanket Sunday on Sunday, May 8th, Mother's Day.

Last Sunday School Celebration

On **Sunday, May 22nd**, we will celebrate the last Sunday School class for the season with cake at Fellowship Hour. Thank you, Christian Ed. Committee!

Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship will remain at 11 a.m. Communion will be served on the first Sunday of June and August during the summer and there is no Sunday School Sunday, September 11, 2022.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School for K-6 is scheduled for **June 20-24, 9:00-12:00**. Exploring the life of Jesus through Bible stories, skits, crafts, activities, and science. Snacks will be served, too. A program at the end of the week for the families to enjoy and share a hot dog. Pre-registration can be done at the church office or by calling (208)587-4969. If you would like to help with Vacation Bible School, 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.

Thank you

From the Heart

What a wonderful and gracious congregation I'm so pleased to be a member of. I can't say "Thank You" enough for all the heartwarming phone calls and lovely cards I've received due to my recent illness. This journey has taken me through nuclear medicine protocols and major surgery. It appears they got it all and it hadn't spread. Your loving prayers and well-wishes mean so much to me and Sue during this difficult time and I'm now on the road to recovery. Hope to be back in church soon.

*In Christ's Love,
Wade Baumgardner*

The Rose Garden Elves

Thank you Gail Banner, Linda Ramsey, Judy Case, and Lee and Kyle Wright for all your hard work on the Rose Garden. It looks lovely!

Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering went quite well again this year! There were **62** packages totaling **199** individual undergarments, 3 packages of Depends undergarments.

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

One Great Hour of Sharing

For the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday April 10th, we collected **\$552.00** to be sent to the national church office to be used in a myriad of ways. Thank you, Everyone, for your generous concern for those near and far.

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

Spring Clean

Thank you!! to all those who showed up for the Spring Clean on Saturday, April 9th. Many have helped year after year, but we had some new ones, too. Yay! Thank you to Gene Mussler, Eddie Bush, Linda Ramsey, Lars Hansen, Gail Banner, Lori Levis, Kevin Osgood, Lee and Kyle Wright, Roger Fogleman, Judy Case, Frank Marsh. I'm fairly certain some names have been left out, but please know that your contributions are very much appreciated.

We also wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Scouts from Troop 57 who helped with Saturday church cleanup. Specifically, the following scouts: Conner Nordin, Mikey Nordin, Isaac Barton, John Stephens, Connor Mattern and Zane Richins.

They were most helpful with trimming of the lilacs and various trees and loading of the debris for haul to the dump.

To Card Elves

Many, many people’s lives have been touched by our Card Elves. Thank you so much, Card Elves, for bringing light to people’s lives. The love you spread is a blessing to all.

To Anita Christianson

Thank you, Anita Christianson, for the time spent keeping in touch with our church members. Your love and care for the church family and friends is truly touching.

From Jan Jensen

Jan Jensen would like to thank the Women’s Fellowship for the beautiful Easter Basket they gave her. It was filled with wonderful goodies that brightened her day so much. Thank you all for your thoughtful work.

To the Women’s Fellowship

This Easter Basket and many more could not have happened without the love and dedication of the Women’s Fellowship. They put together a total of 17 such baskets for our shut-ins and those who need a little extra care. Thank you, Ladies for being God’s hands and feet.

Easter Card

Thank you goes out to Ken Hill, from Bend Oregon, and Kitty Singleton, from St. Louis, Missouri, who have remembered their church family with Easter cards. Thank you, Ken, and thank you, Kitty, for remembering us. We remember you both often.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Joshua Roeder who will graduate from Washington State University on May 7, 2022, with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Accounting and Management Information Systems – Cum Laude. Way to go, Josh!!!

Pilgrim Cove News

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.

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.

Questions about camp? Contact Ken Andersen.

A Community Service

Here is a website that offers a huge variety of help for a number of areas in life, broken down by zip code.

www.findhelpidaho.org

Upcoming Events

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, June 5, 2022.**

Change of Address

Charles Taylor



Directory Corrections

Mary Ann Hamilton – phone number



Beth DeVore



Condolences

*To Elaine McCalley
on the loss of her Grandson*

In Loving Memory

*Orville Thomsen
April 23, 1927 – April 21, 2022*

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
- 31 – Patricia Urbick and Chris Rowl

May Birthdays

- 4 – Gene Mussler
- 5 – John Hiler
- 9 – Curtis Carlin
- 13 – Nancy Mason
- 13 – Marlene Osborn
- 14 – Pedro Celaya
- 19 – Rose Ann Tagg
- 25 – Oledeen Bermensolo
- 28 – Jeremy Loosli
- 29 – Kathy Mori

Special Angels for May

LITURGISTS (Linda Thomsen)

- 1 – Heidi Harris
- 8 – Rita Olson
- 15 – Kevin Osgood
- 22 – Polly Sanders
- 29 – Susan Mussler

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

- 1 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
- 8 – Mollie Marsh
- 15 – Mollie Marsh
- 22 – Christian Education - Cake
- 29 – Mollie Marsh

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

- 1 – Beth DeVore
- 8 – Mildred McNeal
- 15 – Helena DeWeerd
- 22 – Susan and Richard Broemeling
- 29 – Barb Fogleman

USHERS (Curtis Carlin/Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

From Pastor Paul

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

-John 20:21

I'm writing this just a few days after Easter. I'm sitting in a chair, just had my morning coffee and did my morning centering prayers. I'm thinking about breakfast. I'm nursing a head cold. Is this just another day? Is this just another commentary—another batch of words to share? Is it just another week to go through the motions? Is it just another month in the life of the ministry—the life of the church?

It's a few days after Easter. Resurrection. Jesus appears to the disciples. He says "peace be with you"—over and over the resurrected Son of God opens his mouth and the first words out are "peace be with you." He is crucified, resurrected, and then appears before us saying "peace be with you" ...

I'm thinking it should be more than an ordinary day, an ordinary week. With resurrection, nothing is the same again.

Jesus had a way of pushing people out of their comfort zones. Religious legalism, status and prestige, social norms and expectations—he upset more than a few apple carts in his ministry. He still does.

Jesus still has a way of pushing us out of our comfort zones. No matter how much we're inclined to go through the motions, the day to day, the predictable, that is not our way as Christians. Because, with resurrection, nothing is the same again.

Nothing is the same, because we now know light shines through the darkness, hope through despair or complacency. We know our greatest fears are no match for God's love. We know God's love wins.

We know that God is doing a new thing through Jesus Christ, and we, as the followers of Jesus—are the new thing. Think God's gonna let us sit in our comfort zones of the steady, predictable, and ordinary? No matter how much we want to turn away from change and growth, God will be nudging. Because with resurrection, nothing is the same again.

So be ready, friends, for the way God is nudging you. Be ready for Jesus to make you a little uncomfortable. But trust. Remember the first thing Jesus always says is "peace be with you." I believe him.

I'm ready for the nudge. Ready to follow His call.

Pastor Paul

May 2022

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	4 Book Group TBA	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
<i>Blanket</i> 8 Mother's Day 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	9 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	10	11 Book Group TBA	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 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting	18 Book Group TBA	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 7 p.m. Church Council	25 Book Group TBA	26 9 a.m. Breakfast 7 p.m. Troop 19	27	28 7 – 9 MHAA
29 11 a.m. Worship	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31				

June 2022 (Subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Book Group TBA	2 9 a.m. Breakfast 7 p.m. Troop 19	3 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	4 7 – 9 MHAA
5 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	6 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	7	8 Book Group TBA	9 9 a.m. Breakfast 7 p.m. Troop 19	10	11 7 – 9 MHAA
12 11 a.m. Worship	13 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	14 Flag Day	15 Book Group TBA	16 9 a.m. Breakfast 7 p.m. Troop 19	17	18 7 – 9 MHAA
19 Father's Day 11 a.m. Worship	20 7 Troop/Crew 57 ←-----Vacation	21	22 Book Group TBA Bible	23 9 a.m. Breakfast 7 p.m. Troop 19 School	24 -----→	25 7 – 9 MHAA
26 11 a.m. Worship	27 7 Troop/Crew 57	28 7 p.m. Church Council	29 Book Group TBA	30 9 a.m. Breakfast 7 p.m. Troop 19		